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VOL. XXXII No. 8

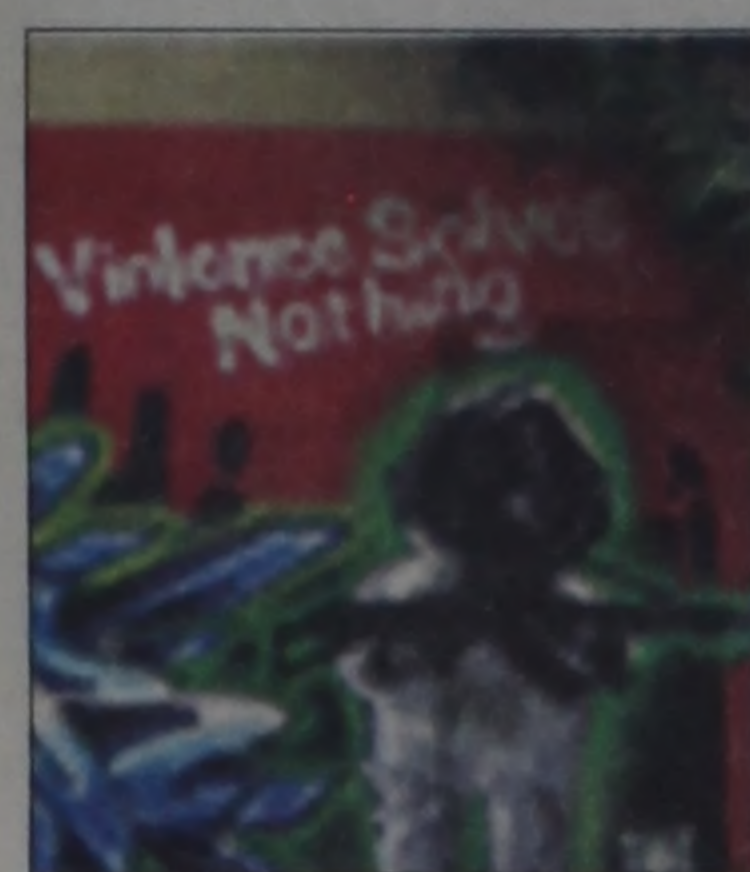
Week of Dec. 4-10, 2008

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## Civil Rights Groups Call On Nation To Confront Anti-Immigrant Hate

The Suffolk County, N.Y., murder of Marcelo Lucero, a 37-year-old Ecuadorian national who had lived in the United States for 16 years, has sparked a new level of concern



about hate crimes.

Six of the nation's leading civil rights groups have united to sound the alarm about the nature and impact of such incidents, particularly as they are targeting this country's immigrant population and persons of color.

The National Council of La Raza, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Asian American Justice Center, Anti-Defamation League and National Urban League conducted a video-streamed news conference Nov. 24 at [www.nclr.org/risinghate-crimes](http://www.nclr.org/risinghate-crimes) as an urgent "wake up call for America."

Janet Murguía, president and CEO of the NCLR, said that polarized debate over immigration has led to the increase in violence and hate groups targeting Latinos.

"And the key players in this wave of hate are found among elected officials and the media, especially talk radio and cable news," she said, mentioning by name such hosts as Lou Dobbs and Michael Savage.

Seven teenagers have been arraigned on gang assault and other crimes in the Lucero murder. Some are now facing new hate-related charges. They are also alleged to have attacked another Hispanic man who escaped a half-hour before Lucero was assaulted near the Patchogue train station.

Federal authorities including the FBI have investigated 750 incidents involving violence, threats, vandalism and arson against Arabs, Muslims, Sikhs and South Asians between Sept. 11, 2001 and March 2007. NAACP Washington bureau director Hilary Shelton said that now, while the nation should be celebrating the barrier-busting election of an African-American as its new president, "There are unfortunately those who are still living in the past, filled with hatred, fear and division." Last month the FBI released a report claiming, "Hate crimes involving race and religion declined by 1.3% in the U.S. last year." However, the same report showed crimes against Hispanics have jumped for five straight years, from 595 in 2003 up to 830 in 2007, with similar increases for Asians. The presidential election drew public attention to one form of race bias, while other animosities remain unharmed.

Referring to incidents around the country that rise and fall, AAJC's Priya Murty told Hispanic Link News Service, "We are supposedly in this post-racial state, but that has not been borne out." Noting that individuals often do not even report incidents, her group has documented many occurrences which attempted to associate the president-elect with Arabs, Islam, unchristian faith, and terrorism — all xenophobic digressions from reality, the group maintains.

## As Latinos tilt Democratic, can Texas stay 'red'?

When President Bush says so long to Washington on Jan. 20, he'll return to a much different Lone Star State from the one he left eight years ago.

Pickup trucks, Big Oil, and barbecue brisket still reign supreme, but this red state that helped deliver the presidency to Mr. Bush twice and his father once, and that catapulted GOP strategist Karl Rove to the national stage, is suddenly spotted with big pockets of blue.

Dallas is controlled by Democrats; Houston is in their hands, too. It's all largely because of the state's growing Hispanic population, which overwhelmingly sided with Democrats this year.

"The tide of demography in Texas is moving against the Republicans," says Cal Jillson, a political scientist at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. "All the major cities are Democratic and are likely to become more so over time."

The Pew Hispanic Center reports that Latino voters sided with President-elect Obama over Sen. John McCain by a margin of more than 2 to 1, helping Democrats win crucial states such as Florida, Virginia, Nevada, and Colorado. While the overall Hispanic turnout did not rise much — it accounted for 9 percent of the vote this year and 8 percent in 2004 — Latino support for the GOP dropped nine percentage points, according to Pew.

That has left Republicans panicking and Democrats drooling. Duncan Currie writes in last week's conservative Weekly Standard that Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R) of Florida says the GOP has a "very, very serious problem" because of diminishing Hispanic support.

Political scientists, sociologists, and activists say that concern reflects a keen awareness of what a growing and increasingly political Latino community could mean

in big, traditionally red states like Texas: Those voters could tip Democratic in future national contests.

"We are in the process of watching this remarkable shift," says

about 45.5 million, or 15 percent of the population. In Texas, Latinos make up about 36 percent of the population and about 20 percent of participating voters this year.

In Harris County, which includes Houston, 70 percent of people older than 60 are Anglo, while more than 75 percent of people younger than 30 are non-Anglo, notes Professor

While Hispanics are not a monolithic bloc, many began turning away from the Republicans in Texas, and elsewhere in the US, amid the harsh rhetoric about immigration reform in 2007, says Professor Murray.

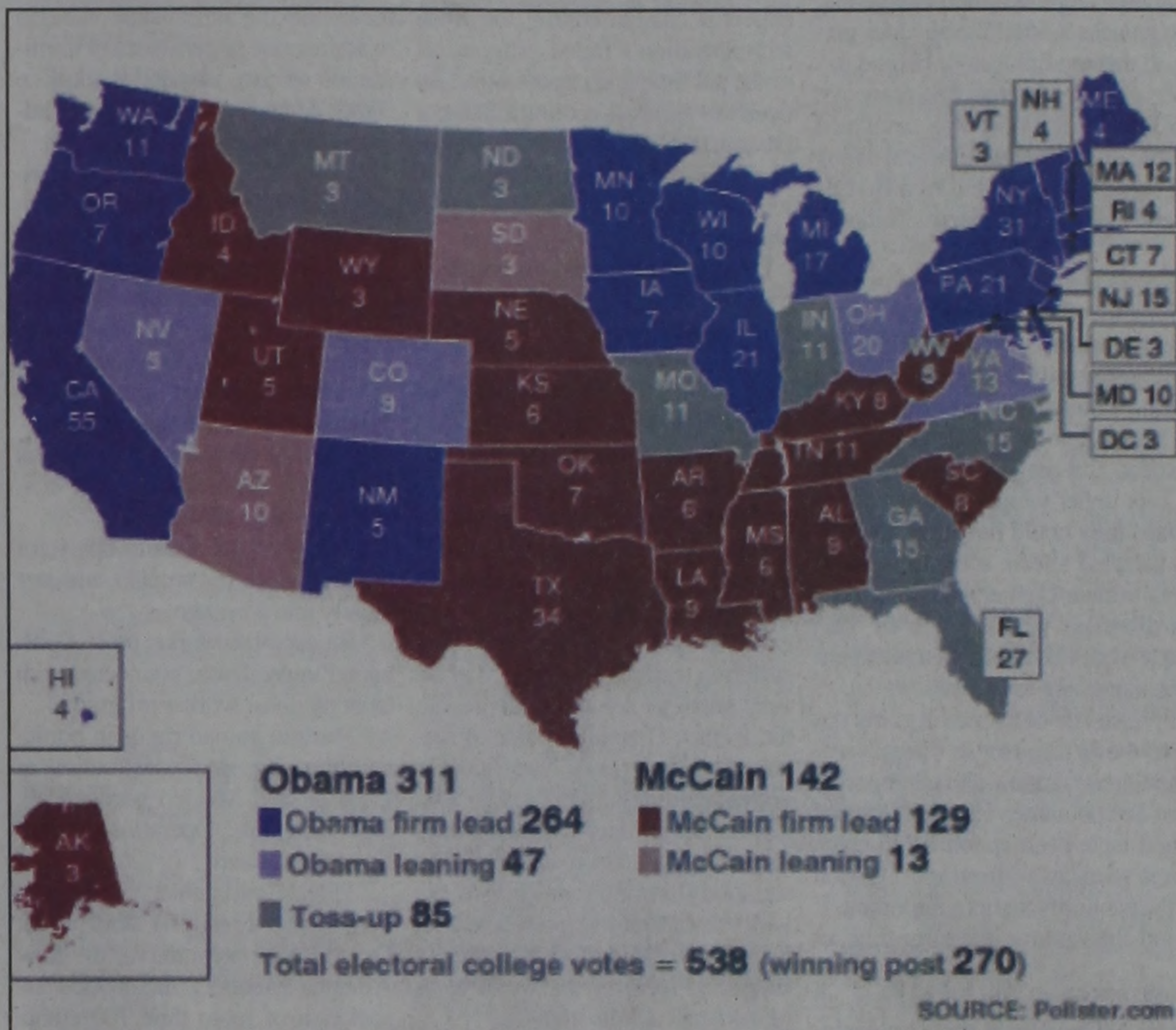
"Even in Texas you can't just be a party of white folks," he says. "Nationally and locally, the party is going to have to do some retooling."

Though the Lone Star State's spots of blue darkened on Election Day, the state remains solidly Republican (55 percent McCain, 44 percent Obama). McCain scored huge victories in rural Texas, taking as much as 93 percent of the vote in some counties in the Panhandle, helping deliver the state's 34 electoral votes to the Republicans. The statehouse in Austin also remains in Republican hands.

Associated Press exit polls showed that whites, seniors, Christians, and the affluent largely stayed with the GOP ticket and that McCain took two-thirds of the state's white vote and about three-fifths of families making more than \$50,000 annually.

While rural, suburban, and small-town Texans stick with traditional Republican values, Klineberg says, a new cosmopolitan and high-tech Texas is emerging in cities such as Houston, which is the country's fourth-largest city, with a population of about 2 million.

Houstonian Judy Craft, a longtime Democratic activist and an environmentalist, is used to swimming against the red tide in Texas. "I was hoping we'd do better, but that's because I'm really good at suspending my disbelief during the middle of a campaign," says Ms. Craft, who signed off her e-mails during the campaign with the hopeful wish that Texas would turn blue. "Oh well, at least I got a bluer shade of purple."



Stephen Klineberg, a sociologist at Rice University here, referring to the overall demographic transformation of America. "You can be absolutely certain that every election [to come] in Texas will have a larger percentage of Latino voters."

In 2005, Texas joined California, New Mexico, and Hawaii as states where minority populations collectively outnumber whites, according to the US Census Bureau. In Texas and California, the second-largest group behind whites, and the fastest-growing population, is Hispanics. Nationwide, Hispanics number

"It's the biggest pool of Hispanic voters left in a state that didn't vote Democratic in 2008," not counting Arizona, because it's Senator McCain's home state, says Richard Murray, a political scientist at the University of Houston.

For the Democratic Party nationally, the overwhelming Hispanic support presents an inviting opportunity, especially to develop party loyalty among younger Latinos, who backed Mr. Obama 76 percent to 19 percent for McCain, according to the Pew analysis.

Klineberg. While Bush didn't carry the Hispanic vote here in 2004, he came close. He captured 49 percent of that bloc, with 50 percent going to Democratic rival Sen. John Kerry. Republicans also lost ground among Hispanics this year in Florida.

Since the advent of his political career, though, Bush found ways to appeal to the Latino community, which saw him favorably for his close relationships with Latin American leaders, his faith-based initiatives, and his ability to speak Spanish.

## Pressure Is on Obama to Name First Hispanic Supreme Court Justice

For eight years of Clinton, then eight years of Bush, Carlos Ortiz has waited. With the election of Obama, Ortiz hopes — trusts — he will have to wait no more to see his dream realized: the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice. "What more unifying appointment could there be than a Hispanic justice?" asks Ortiz, who began his campaign in 1987 as a board member, then as president, of the Hispanic National Bar Association and later as chair of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. "It's not just the right thing to do, but we deserve it. I can't imagine that the next appointment will go to someone other than a Hispanic."

Encouraged by President-elect Barack Obama's talk of inclusiveness, and emboldened by the importance of the Hispanic vote to Obama's victory — two-thirds of Hispanics voted for him — Hispanic groups are cautiously hopeful that finally the time has come for a justice with a Latino background.

Almost every list of possible Obama nominees to the high court includes Hispanics — most notably Judge Sonia Sotomayor of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. But others who are mentioned include: Judge Kim Wardlaw of the 9th Circuit (her mother was Mexican), U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo of Chicago, California Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno, and even two Democratic U.S. senators — Ken Salazar of Colorado and Robert Menendez of New Jersey.

But Ortiz and other Hispanic

legal leaders are reluctant to name themselves, not wanting to spoil their chances and also, seemingly, bracing themselves for disappointment yet again. They know that unpredictable variables of timing and politics can turn a sure-bet candidate — or ethnic group — into an also-ran overnight.

President Bill Clinton was lobbied hard to name a Hispanic, and President George W. Bush's early list of possible candidates was heavy with Hispanic names, many from his Texas days. Ortiz met with then-Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to press the issue, but Gonzales' assurances turned out to be "lip service," as Ortiz puts it now. When the vacancies finally arose, other factors, both political and ideological, took precedence over naming a Hispanic to the high court.

"It was a lack of will, a lack of commitment," says current HNBA president Ramona Romero. "It was not because of the absence of qualified candidates."

This time, she says, "there is an enormous sense of urgency" behind making sure the opportunity is not lost during a Barack Obama presidency. She is assembling a committee, including Ortiz, to contact and vet possible candidates for a Supreme Court nomination, so that "we will be ready."

On Nov. 14, Romero wrote a letter to Obama urging him to "make history yet again" by nominating a Hispanic justice, thereby erasing the "unfortunate message"



conveyed by a Supreme Court with no Hispanic members. "The presence of a Latino or Latina at the conference table could add a needed 'special voice' to the Supreme Court's deliberations and decisions — a voice that can speak about the law as it affects U.S. Hispanics with the authority that only firsthand knowledge can provide."

John Trasvina, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, also has high hopes. "We will have a president who understands the Latino community," says Trasvina, who notes that in 1995 Obama, then an associate in Judson Miner's Chicago law firm, worked with MALDEF

on a voter registration case.

Add to that the growing number and stature of Hispanic lawyers, says Trasvina, and it will be hard to explain not appointing a Latino justice at some point. "We've got a deeper talent pool than ever before," he says.

But these leaders also point out that their goals reach beyond naming a justice with a Hispanic name or heritage. "Being Hispanic doesn't always mean that you are grounded in the culture," says Romero. Evidence of some connection with the Hispanic community, and an understanding of its culture and concerns, will be important in assessing candidates, says Romero.

Trasvina agrees. "Beyond the

symbolism, there are cases where it really matters" to have a Latino perspective. For that reason he is hoping Obama will name Hispanics to appeals courts as well as the Supreme Court. Appeals courts decide a lot of immigration cases, and they also serve as training grounds for the high court. Justices David Souter and Clarence Thomas, he notes, were named to the high court after brief stints on courts of appeals.

MALDEF also hopes Obama will embrace a broader Hispanic agenda that includes jobs, health care, and civil rights. "We have evolved from focusing just on a Latino justice to focusing on justice for Latinos," Trasvina adds, "Clearly we can have both."

# Guest Commentary A LITTLE SPAT AMONG FRIENDS

By José de la Isla  
WASHINGTON, D.C. — On the face of it, the rising concern about whether the Obama transition team will deliver just looks like pre-inaugural jitters. But there might be more to it than that.

One strident commentator proclaimed Obama and his Latino surrogates would be "held accountable" if they failed to deliver. The queasiness it stems from might best be described as the victors' disdain for the scruffy issues (and some of the people) that got their candidate elected. While Obama has been caught red-handed saying immigration is his first-year's priority, his gatekeeper Rohm Emanuel is famous for wanting to back off the subject.

By making Emanuel his first appointment, Obama sent an off-tune message to some of his loyal followers. It went down like one of those Rev. Wright sermons at High Mass.

So far the behavior might be annoying but not a full-blown slap in the face. Still, it is annoying.

For instance, in some Latino leadership quarters, consideration of New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as heading up the State Department and, as appears likely, being shifted to the Commerce Dept. is a little like getting bumped from first class to ride coach. It smacks a little like an elder giving up a seat on the bus to a teenager. And this too has a story behind it.

As news that Richardson could become Commerce Secretary got around, a petition supporting Wen Ho Lee for the post was circulated by University of California-Berkeley professor Emeritus Ling-chi Wang and several Chinese Americans, gaining some 80 signatures. Wen Ho Lee had been a University of California scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

As Secretary of Energy during the Clinton administration, Richardson revealed Lee's name to media and accused him of stealing nuclear secrets for China. The 60-year-old scientist went to prison for nine months. But after finding Lee innocent, the presiding judge criticized the accusation and said it "embarrassed the entire nation." Clinton, the presiding judge and the New York Times apologized to Lee, but not Richardson.

Perhaps there was some fallout to expect. But the Washington Latino leadership is chapped that all this was kept under wraps. They were not advised trouble might be coming. Perhaps they could have run interference. No, Obama team members just barreled ahead, making up their own minds without consultation, coming to their own conclusions, convinced they know better, and wearing the cloak of manipulators. This comes from the administration that said it would be the most transparent one in history. That's one history they are not going to make.

And that's the point. Although a lot of praise and deference is going out to the appointment of Cecilia Muñoz to the White House intergovernmental staff, it coincidentally came as the administration-elect is reported not to be seriously looking at the tons of Latino names for the 7,000 positions it has to fill. In fact, Muñoz might have been appointed to catch the flack for the administration if/when it veers away from immigration reform, on the pretext that attending to the economy is more important. If that happens, it proves they can't walk and chew gum at the same time, as Lyndon Johnson would say.

So far, Obama's transition team is filled with nearly 50 Latinos, all with impressive credentials. Most of them will end up in the administration. But folks with a history in Washington know that number is window dressing. B-team positions. Latino Washington remembers that change didn't start to happen until after the second inauguration during the Clinton administration.

No one seriously believes there's that kind of patience left among Hispanics anymore.

[José de la Isla, author of "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (Ar-

# A Believable Formula for Immigration Change

By David Bacon  
Hispanic Link News Service  
Since 2001 the Bush administration has deported more than a million

people. It's no wonder Latinos, Asians and other communities with large immigrant populations voted for Barack Obama by huge margins.

The election, taking place as millions of people were losing their jobs and homes, had its hysteria-mongers trying to scapegoat immigrants for this crisis. But most voters did not drink the Kool-Aid. In fact, every poll shows that a big majority rejected raids and want basic rights and fair treatment for everyone, immigrants included. People want and expect a change ending the Bush administration's failed program of raids, jail time and deportations. So does the political coalition that put Obama into office—African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans, women and union families—expect change.

From the beginning, the administration's enforcement program has been cynically designed to pressure Congress into re-establishing discredited guest worker schemes. The Southern Poverty Law Center called the program "close to slavery."

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has cynically stated that the raids were intended to "closing the back door and opening the front door." No one whose eyes are open to the terrible human suffering caused by them will be very sorry to see Chertoff go. So far, Barack Obama's choice of Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano is not encouraging. The Tucson "Operation Streamline" court convenes in her home state every day. The situation for immigrants in Arizona is worse than almost anywhere else. Napolitano herself has publicly supported most of the worst ideas of the Bush administration.

The economic crisis does not have to pit working people against each other, nor lead to demonize immigrants further. In fact, there is common ground between immigrants, communities of color, unions, churches, civil rights organizations and working families. Legalization

and immigrant rights can be tied to guaranteeing jobs for anyone who wants to work, and unions to raise wages and win better conditions for everyone in the workplace.

The AFL-CIO's campaign for the Employee Free Choice Act supports the surest means of ending the low-wage, second-class status of immigrant workers — organizing unions. Repealing unfair trade agreements and ending structural adjustment policies would raise the standard of living in places like Oaxaca or El Salvador and reduce the pressure for migration. In the United States, jobs become more secure in working-class communities.

But stopping the raids is the first step in a process. At the same time it can help the administration begin to address the larger issues of immigration reform, jobs and workplace rights. Here are steps the new administration can take right away:

- \* Stop ICE from seeking serious federal criminal charges when a worker lacks papers or has a bad Social Security numbers.

- \* Stop raiding workplaces

- \* Halt community sweeps, checkpoints and roadblocks where agents use warrants for one or two people to detain and deport dozens

- \* Double the paltry 742 federal inspectors responsible for all U.S. wage and hour violations

- \* Allow all workers to apply for a Social Security number and pay legally into a system

- \* Re-establish worker protections, ended under Bush, connected with existing guest worker programs.

- \* Restore human rights in border communities, stop construction of the U.S. and Mexico border wall, and disband the Operation Streamline federal court.

[This commentary condenses a 1,600-word analysis labor writer David Bacon prepared for the New America Media, a nationwide association of more than 700 ethnic media organizations representing the development of a more inclusive journalism. Hispanic Link is a member of NAM. Bacon is the author of "Communities without Borders," (ILR Press, an imprint of Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, 2006.)©2008

# "Freedom of Expression" An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opin-

## Is Change Coming for Immigration Re-

form?  
By Roberto Lovato  
Recent talk about "immigration reform" coming from Washington inspires some hope, some fear and lots of reminders about what I call "political-dualism": the ability of a President or political party to simultaneously communicate opposing policies while delivering either no new policies or exceptionally bad ones.

As the Obama Administration prepares to take the reins of the massive and massively inefficient and broken immigration system, it is important to have clarity about the incontrovertible need to overcome the political dualism that created our immigration mess in the first place.

My first practical experience of lobbying and of political dualism came during the Clinton years. At that time, in the mid-'90s, I was head of Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), then the country's largest immigrant rights organization. Like many immigrant rights activists today, my colleagues at CARECEN and around the country and I marched and protested and sued and lobbied to end the undocumented status of immigrants.

In one case, for example, we sought to secure legal status for the hundreds of thousands of Central American refugees denied political asylum and other forms of legalization by both the Reagan and Bush I Administrations due to the Republican's politicization of the immigration process. In the end, our many efforts yielded only partial success in the form of what is known as Temporary Protective Status (TPS) granted by the first Bush Administration.

Much like the rising tide of expectations today, the triumphal return of the Democrats to the White House in 1992 brought with it expectations—and official promises—of an immigration reform, one that would legalize Salvadorans and Guatemalans living under TPS. TPS allows immigrants to work temporarily in the country, but does nothing to remove the specter of vulnerability before employers, landlords and others who exploit immigrants' temporary status for economic and personal gain.

Images of my cousin, Maria, crying alone in her room because of oppressive hotel bosses and because of her inability to see her son, who she left and had not seen since he was 3 years old, remain with me as a reminder of the perils and pain of temporary and undocumented status.

I remember how Clinton Administration officials with impressive credentials like Alex Aleinikoff and others charged with immigration matters, told us in un-Republican and friendly terms, that "We definitely want to resolve the TPS issue but right now is not the right time." Eight years after the Clinton Administration led the Democrats return to power, Maria and other immigrants with TPS saw no change in their legal status. And, now, nearly 20 years since TPS was first instituted, as I watch how Republican rejection and the Democrats' political dualism have left many TPS holders and more than 12 million other immigrants living under the tyranny of "temporary" and undocumented status, I find myself struggling with my own dualism: believing in the possibility of "real change" inspired by Obama's presidential campaign while also hearing distant echoes of the Democrats' immigration siren song.

Consider the conflicted and conflicting recent statements about immigration reform made by Congressional Democratic leaders. Asked last month what she thought about the possibility for immigration reform, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi responded, "Maybe there never is a path to citizenship if you came here illegally," adding "I would hope that there could be, but maybe there isn't." Asked the same question earlier last week, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid responded in no uncertain terms, "We've got McCain and we've got a few others. I don't expect much of a fight at all." That such mixed messages would come from the Democrats is much more than another expression of the contradictory views often held by members of the same party. Viewed from the vantage point of the recent and not-so-recent and rather twisted history of non-reform has been immigration policy, these conflicting messages sent by the Democratic leadership should be viewed as a more recent variation on the theme of the political dualism that lead us nowhere.

Hearing recently that Obama had appointed Aleinikoff, the former

Clinton operative, as one of the two people leading the immigration policy transition team did little to inspire hope among those of us with a political memory. But Obama's announcement that Stanford scholar, Tino Cuellar, a young, outside-the-Beltway academic whom I've spoken with and who friends in the legal community consider fair, decent and smart, tilted my spirits towards believing change might be possible. But then news of Obama's likely appointment of Arizona Governor and former Clinton-U.S. Attorney appointee, Janet Napolitano, to lead the Department of Homeland Security only reinforced the belief that political dualism may define the Obama legacy on immigration; Napolitano has enthusiastically supported "emergency measures" like militarizing the border to "fight" the "threat" posed by immigrant gardeners, meatpackers and maids like my cousin, Maria; But she has also vetoed at least a few of the more than 75 anti-immigrant measures introduced in Arizona home to the infamous Sheriff, Joe Arpaio.

Arpaio, who is responsible for introducing highly controversial policies like deploying deputies in immigration sweeps of entire Latino neighborhoods, enjoyed the tacit political and financial support for these practices from Napolitano for several years. Napolitano did nothing to curtail the alarming number of deaths in Arpaio's immigrant jails and only decided to yank funding for his immigration program in the middle of the Democratic primary earlier this year.

If anything, the immigrant deaths, racial tensions, incessant raids and other indicators of the failure to improve immigration policy in Arizona provide immigrant advocates like Alexis Mazon of the Tucson-based Coalicion de Derechos Humanos, little inspiration and lots of concern. According to Mazon, Napolitano's record of previous support for Arpaio and for "some of the most dangerous immigration practices of any state in the country" give one no cause for joining the chorus of Democrats, media pundits and Beltway (as opposed to "outside-the-Beltway" groups like Mazon's) immigration groups gushing over Napolitano's "tough and smart" approach to immigration.

And as the Obama Administration and the rest of us prepare for the possibility of a renewed discussion and debate around immigration reform, those of us outside the Beltway must put terminating political dualism alongside developing and advocating for a real reform agenda at the top of our strategies and actions.

Such a mobilizing approach revived what I remember was a moribund immigration debate of 2006, and nothing less is required now. In addition to mobilizing as they did in 2006, outside-the-Beltway advocates will also have to find new and creative ways to move the debate and discussion around immigration beyond the growing Washington consensus: combining the politically dualistic "tough and smart" policies that legalize immigrants while increasing the number and types of punitive policies that took up 700 of the 800 pages of the failed McCain-Kennedy "liberal" reform proposal.

Transcending the "tough and smart" political dualism of immigration reform means replacing the so-called "tradeoffs" of the McCain-Kennedy bill with "safe and sane" policies that combine legalization with fundamental and necessary changes to our broken immigration system.

The first consideration in any serious reform should be removing the immigration processing functions from the anti-terrorist bureaucracy of the Homeland Security Department and placing them in the Commerce or Justice Departments or some other less national security-focused part of government as has been the case throughout the history of immigration policy.

In addition to a less-punitive approach to legalization than the get tough approach of the McCain-Kennedy bill, out-of-the-Beltway advocates are also advocating for immigration reform policies that consider fair trade and economic development, human rights, U.S. foreign policy and other hemispheric issues that directly influence the flow of migration. Such a firm and steady, yet flexible and inclusive approach to immigration policy fits well Obama's promise of change while also freeing Maria and millions of undocumented immigrants from the perils and pain of political dualism.

# 'KEEP ROCKING THE BOAT'

By Arturo Sarukhán, Mexico Ambassador to the United States

(Following are remarks made to newly elected local Hispanic office-holders from throughout the United States by Mexico Ambassador Arturo Sarukhán on Nov. 26. He addressed the group, who were in Washington, D.C., for briefings and training by the National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials, at the Instituto de Cultura de México.)

On November fourth, nine percent of the people who cast their vote, that is over 10 million voters, identified themselves as Latinos. This number is substantially higher than the 7.6 million who participated in the 2004 election, though, it must be said, remains well below the number of the approximately 17 million potential voters. Nevertheless, the Latino electorate was a key factor in deciding battleground states, and as a result, unprecedented efforts were made by both political parties and candidates to court, persuade and mobilize them.

At the same time, the high Latino turnout in these elections was not merely the result of efforts to mobilize them, but also a natural outcome of their own increasing level of organization, where campaigns such as "Ya es hora Ve y Vota" launched by NALEO with the support of Univisión have played a crucial role.

But more importantly, behind this impressive display of civic engagement lies one of the most exciting stories unfolding in contemporary America: the coming of age of the Latino community in this country; a community that all of you here tonight will be representing in the coming years at various levels and in different areas.

It is a community that has enormous pride in its heritage, and rightly so. But Latinos also know that the United States thrives as a country because it welcomes newcomers, who, in turn, embrace its values and way of life. As individuals and as a community, they have time and again shown both their willingness and ability to integrate into the fabric of American society.

This is as it should be in a country of immigrants. Unlike many other multicultural states, the strength of the United States as a country flows not from the practical demands of governing a diverse people, but precisely from being a country made of and, I would add made great, by the diversity of its people.

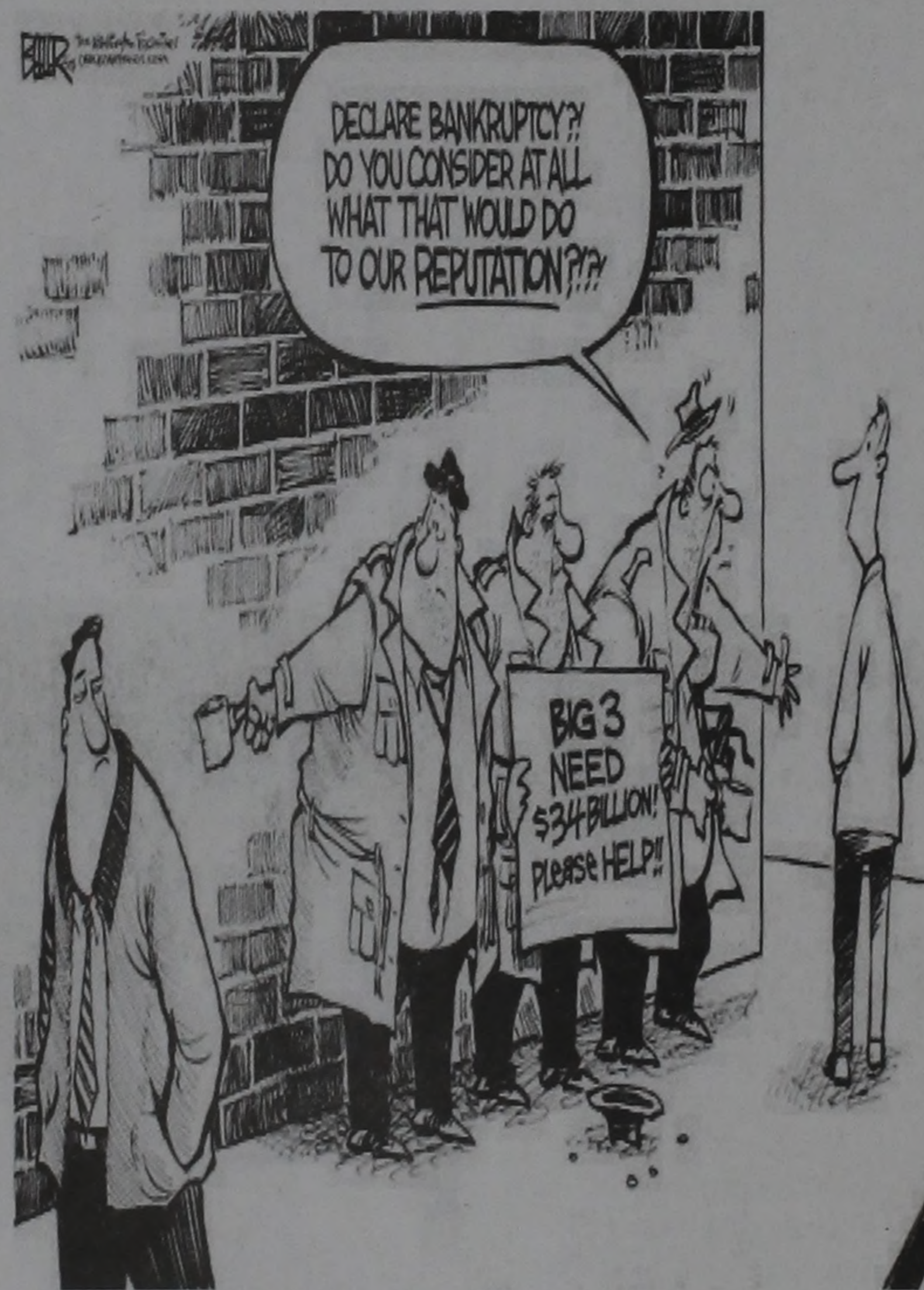
This perspective is in perfect tune with what it means to be an American, for "American" describes a oneness that points to the citizenship, and not the place of birth or nationality, of the men and women it designates. E Pluribus Unum is the motto of the Great Seal of the United States: out of many, one.

But beyond integration there must also be empowerment, and this, to a great extent, is to be attained through unity, organization and leadership.

Full citizenship can only be achieved if the people are well-informed, organized and take an active part in the public life of their country. We thus need to actively encourage the responsible and intelligent civic engagement and empowerment of our communities, to make sure that their voice is heard and their culture celebrated, and to ensure that they prosper economically and socially as a people. Having voted in record numbers in this last election, it is now essential that you ensure that the Hispanic community be properly counted in the next census. And this is one of the primary tasks that lies ahead of you as elected officials.

This is no small task, for notwithstanding the fact that the U.S. is a country that welcomes immigrants, it would be naïve to think that empowerment comes naturally and inevitably as a result of integration. As the community organizer and writer Saul Alinsky once said "Change means movement, movement means friction, friction means heat, and heat means controversy. The only place where there is no friction is outer space." Sometimes NALEO has generated controversy, and if we believe Alinsky, and I do, controversy is a good thing.

My message to all of you tonight is continue rocking the boat!  
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# How Big a Jolt Will It Take to Revive the U.S. Economy?

Now that the U.S. government has spent nearly \$1.4 trillion to stabilize the financial system, economists and policy makers - and the president-elect - are trying to figure out how much must be invested in a stimulus package to stop the U.S. recession, and what that money should be spent on.

The size of a possible stimulus plan rises as the economy contracts, and that is happening at an annual rate of 4 percent, according to current estimates, or eight times as fast as it was this summer.

Just offsetting that contraction would require a government infusion of at least \$400 billion, many economists calculate. And even that would not restore health to the economy.

"The hope is that the next stimulus package will be large enough to move the economy from big negatives to zero growth," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "That is the benchmark today: zero growth."

The president-elect, Barack Obama, has not stated what the stimulus plan might cost, though congressional leaders have cited figures of \$500 billion and higher. Obama has given a hint, though, in speaking of generating 2.5 million

jobs in the first two years of his administration. That would require not just zero economic growth, but a fairly robust expansion - a swing in effect from the present 4 percent contraction to a growth rate of 2.5 percent to 3 percent a year.

Achieving such a swing would mean adding nearly \$1 trillion in annual output to the economy. The private sector normally does this, stepping up its spending as a recovery takes hold. But if that does not happen this time, to achieve the same effect the Obama administration will have to step in, with a stimulus package that generates the additional \$1 trillion in output, most likely through a mix of federal spending and tax breaks.

No policy maker or economist has publicly suggested such a huge sum.

Trillions of dollars is a commonplace reference in talking about the financial bailout, but not yet the stimulus. The debate instead revolves around the proper mix for a stimulus package - that is, the most effective combination of outright spending and lower taxes.

Prominent economists argue that more than 50 percent of the next package, whatever its size, should be devoted to spending - on public infrastructure like

repairing highways and schools and on items like food stamps and stepped-up aid to state governments, subsidizing their spending.

Zandi, who advised the Republican presidential candidate, John McCain, said in testimony last month before the Senate Budget Committee that nearly every dollar spent in this fashion generates \$1.50 or more in economic activity. Repairing a road, for example, means hiring workers who spend their new salaries at supermarkets, which in turn hire more store clerks and stock more groceries to handle the extra spending.

This "multiplier effect" is missing, however, when the stimulus comes as a tax break. A \$750 billion stimulus package devoted to spending could achieve, through the multiplier effect, more than the \$1 trillion rise in output that the Obama administration apparently seeks to generate the 2.5 million new jobs.

A stimulus devoted entirely to tax breaks, in contrast, would

require the entire \$1 trillion in rebates or lower taxes, and probably more, to create those jobs, in part because taxpayers getting this windfall might never spend the money, or not all of it.

"The multiplier effect is clearly



less than \$1," said Nigel Gault, chief domestic economist for Global Insight, "and perhaps as low as 30 cents, if only some of the tax break is spent."

The one stimulus enacted by Congress - a \$168 billion package that the president signed early this year - consisted entirely of tax breaks, mainly in the form of rebate checks mailed to millions of Americans.

The problem with a stimulus package weighted heavily toward public spending is that there is a shortage of projects on which spending could begin in two or three months. The labor-oriented Economic Policy

Institute, for example, has listed \$360 billion in ready-to-go work, a third of it highway and school repair. Zandi offers a similar estimate.

"Still," he said, "if you don't pick a big enough number for a stimulus package now and you have to announce another number next year, people will say: 'Oh, the stimulus didn't work. What makes you think this one will?'"

Until now, big numbers have been noticeably absent from the stimulus debate. The House approved a \$60 billion package in late September, sending it to the Senate, which has not voted on the measure. This was followed in mid-October by talk among Democratic congressional leaders of upgrading the \$60 billion to as much as \$200 billion.

And then a week ago, Senator Charles Schumer, the senior Democrat from New York, suggested that any package should be \$500 billion to \$700 billion - numbers that begin to approach the \$1.4 trillion already spent to resurrect the financial system.

"By our estimates," Jan Hatzius, chief domestic economist for Goldman Sachs, said in a newsletter last week, "the private sector retrenchment could subtract an annualized four percent points or about \$600 billion

from economic growth through the end of 2009."

The financial sector bailout does not address this decline.

Rescuing banks and other lenders has little direct effect on economic growth or job creation. The chief goal of the bailout is to get credit flowing again from reluctant and damaged lenders.

The stimulus package, in contrast, puts up government money as a substitute for the spending and investment that is no longer taking place in the private sector - despite low interest rates - so that the economy can grow again, or at least stop shrinking.

That makes the stimulus package ever more important if the economy continues to deteriorate at its present pace. Not since the first quarter of 1982, in the midst of a severe recession, has the gross domestic product contracted at a 4 percent annual rate in a single three-month period, as a growing number of forecasters say it is now doing, according to Blue Chip Economic Indicators.

In the \$14.4 trillion American economy, that means the output of goods and services has been declining by nearly \$50 billion a month since September - a decline the government will find itself under ever more pressure to reverse if demand in the private sector does not revive.

# Obama Names Clinton, Gates to Key Posts

President-elect Barack Obama on Monday nominated Hillary Clinton as secretary of state and announced he would keep Defense Secretary Robert Gates in his current job in widely expected moves to set up his national security team.

Clinton, 61, his former rival, will leave her job as the senator from New York if confirmed to become the nation's next top diplomat. The reappointment of Gates, 65, is designed to ensure a smooth transition takes place as the United

States fights two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gates became the head of the Pentagon under President George W. Bush in December 2006. Obama also named former Marine General James Jones to serve as national security advisor.

Naming Clinton to head the State Department would bring a high-profile figure into his cabinet and further help heal wounds among Democrats over the dragged-out

contest for the party's nomination.

Many Democrats who supported the former first lady refused to back Obama's candidacy for the White House.

"I have no doubt that Hillary Clinton is the right person to head our State Department," Obama said.

With Gates at the helm, Obama keeps in place a key architect of the troop buildup in Iraq that contributed to the sharp decrease in violence during the past 15

months. But Gates will be given new orders: Obama has pledged to have all US combat forces out of Iraq within 16 months of taking office January 20.

"Afghanistan is where the war on terror began, and it is where it must end," Obama said. "And going forward, we will continue to make the investments necessary to strengthen our military and increase our ground forces to defeat the threats of the 21st century."

Asking Gates to stay on also

helps Obama fulfill a pledge to have a bipartisan cabinet. Gates is a registered independent but has served in numerous Republican administrations. He replaced Donald Rumsfeld as Pentagon chief in December 2006.

Jones, 64, was the commandant of the Marine Corp from 1999 to 2003 before becoming the NATO's top military commander in 2003. He retired in 2007.

Clinton, defeated by Obama for the Democratic presidential

nomination, said she will work to restore America's standing in the world following the Bush administration. "We know our security, our values and our interests cannot be protected in advance by force alone - nor by Americans alone," Clinton said.

Obama named Susan Rice as ambassador to the United Nations. Rice was among his top foreign policy advisors during the campaign and formerly served on the National Security Council.

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# Discovery en Espanol the 'Human Body: Pushing The Limits'

# Lights, Cámara ... Action!

"We generally take our bodies for granted. Yet this complex machine that grew out of millions of years of evolution is as spellbinding as anything you can ever imagine. From the network that brought you the award winning series "Planet Earth," comes yet another visually stunning spectacular "Human Body: Pushing the Limits," which will have viewers looking at their bodies in new and astonishing ways.

This groundbreaking four part series, premiering on Discovery en Espanol December 15, 2008 at 9 p.m. ET/10 p.m. PT, brings together extraordinary computer generated visuals taking you inside real life individuals' bodies via high-tech 3D imagery and astounding animation to experience the physical internal mechanics and magical inner workings that reveal how our bodies perform when pushed to the max.

How far can we go when life hangs in the balance? From desperate rescues, and life threatening situations, to medical breakthroughs, to everyday actions that test our capabilities, the "Human Body: Pushing the Limits," clearly shows us that our bodies have more resources that we can ever possibly imagine. When pushed to the limit, we can see the superhero in all of us!

Episode Guide:  
Episode 1: "STRENGTH" — Premieres Monday December 15

(8PM CT, 9PM ET, 10PM PT)

The human body is engineered for strength, power and endurance. Bone is sturdy as concrete but flexible enough to resist breaking and light enough to allow us to be quicker off the mark than a racehorse. Our muscles, ligaments and joints have far greater strength and endurance than we can imagine. This episode features extraordinary tales of human strength told with stunning see-through "anatomy in motion."

— A young man is sucked up into a tornado, only to be spat out a quarter of a mile away, still alive and unharmed. How is this possible?

— Pinned by a massive boulder, a climber finds the strength to lift it off in a seemingly impossible muscular feat.

— A swimmer taps the remnants of our distant ancestors' extraordinary stamina to swim across the freezing waters of the English Channel in 14 hours.

Episode 2: "SIGHT" — Premieres Tuesday December 16 (8PM CT, 9PM ET, 10PM PT)

Sight is the king of the senses. More than 80 percent of what we know of the world comes through our eyes — without our sight we're lost. The eyes of animals have special kinds of vision, but we as humans can do it all. Like no other animal on earth our vision can distinguish

10 million colors. In this episode, we reveal the inner workings of our visual system as they've never been seen before, vividly confirming that ancient human adaptations prove no less crucial in modern life. The astounding hidden powers in our eyes are brought to life via the real stories of individuals whose inherent yet extraordinary visual abilities are essential to keeping them alive.

— A patrolman relies on the power of sight as he risks his life in a high-speed chase of a murder suspect. It is more than reflexes that hang in the balance!

— A firefighter crawls through thick smoke in a burning building to seek survivors using innate night vision and clues decoded by his brain's vision center.

Plus, discover how doctors may soon be able to plug a camera directly into the brain to possibly restore once lost vision.

Episode 3: "Brain Power" — Premieres Wednesday December 17 (8PM CT, 9PM ET, 10PM PT)

The driving force behind every one of us is the most powerful organ in the natural world: the human brain. Our central processing unit generates as many electrical impulses in a single day as all the telephones in the world combined. With new state-of-the-art imagery of this complex, mysterious machine, we reveal how our brain accelerates when faced with intense stress or danger, and taps into its deepest layers to unlock prehistoric

survival instincts.

— Desperate firefighters, trapped by the intense heat of a forest fire, find out how the brain can take charge without waiting for conscious control.

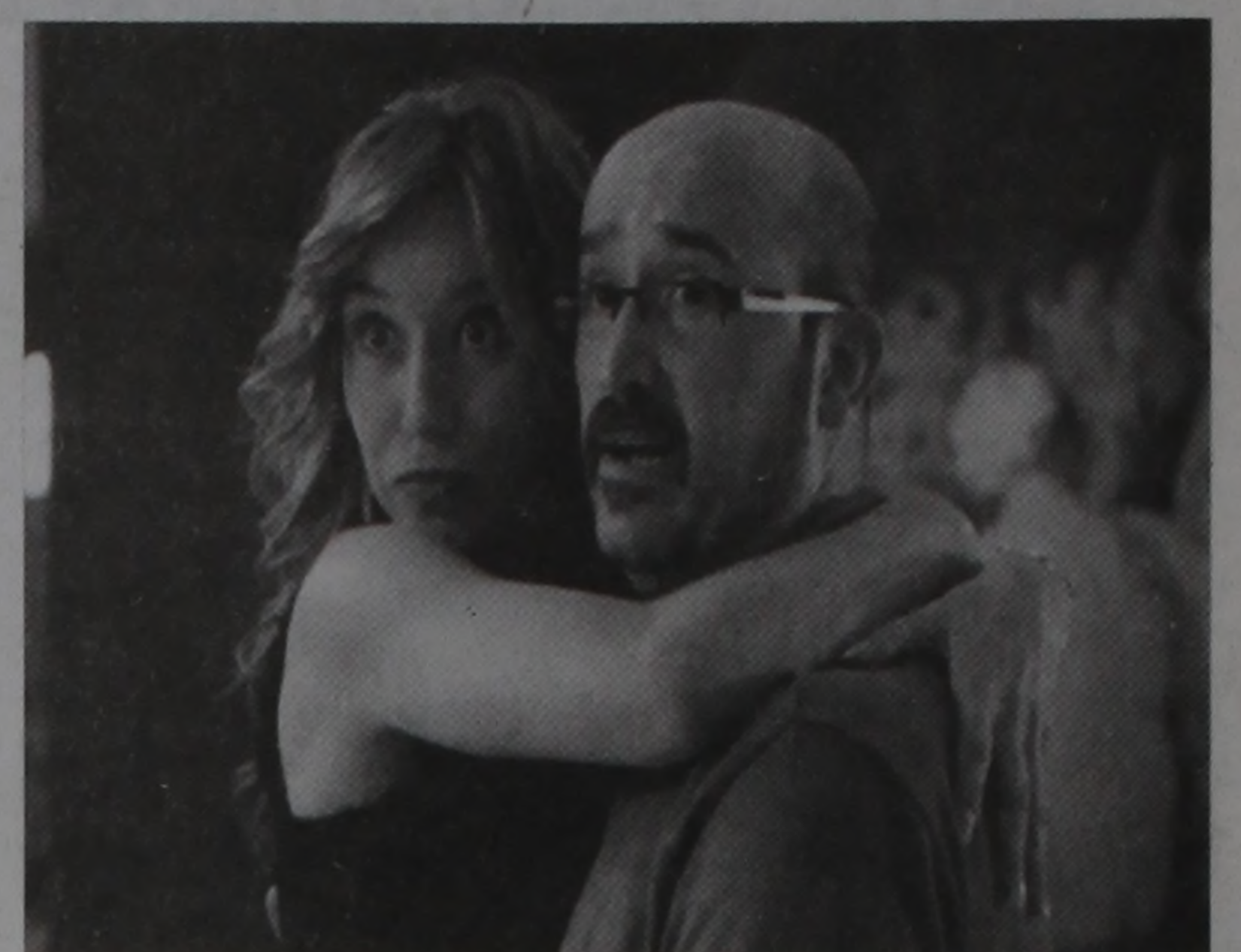
— A lone explorer, piloting a balloon over the Arctic, pushes himself to the limits of sleep deprivation. It nearly costs him his life.

Plus, discover the extraordinary ways our brains can re-tune our system when starvation threatens, in order to extend life and how sleep and dreams can unleash unseen powers in our minds.

Episode 4: "Sensation" — Premieres Thursday December 18 (8PM CT, 9PM ET, 10PM PT)

Less than one-twentieth of an inch below the surface of the skin are the "antennae" that allow us to sense the world around us. This vital layer is the gateway to the original information superhighway, the nervous system. Millions of nerves carry sensations across the body and up to the brain at hundreds of miles an hour. But our nervous system also has abilities almost beyond imagining. Here is the story of the human body's crucial communications network as never seen before.

Plus, discover what exactly pain is, and how it may be crucial to keeping us alive.



Say the words "Spanish cinema," and most New Yorkers will think of manly screen idols such as Javier Bardem or Antonio Banderas.

But the next big thing from Spain may be the bald, childlike figure of Javier Cámara, the star of this year's Spanish Cinema Now at Lincoln Center.

"I'm a guy who will hardly ever work in Hollywood. I look more like a Brooklyn Jew than a Latin lover," jokes Cámara, 41, over the phone from Madrid.

"And I don't speak English, so I don't think I would ever pass for a Brooklyn Jew."

The annual festival, now in its 17th edition, will showcase 20 new films from Spain from Friday through Dec. 24 at Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater (www.filmlinc.com).

It includes seven films highlighting the career of Cámara.

"I insisted that there are many more actors and filmmakers in Spain who deserve the honor more than I do," he says. "I think I'm too young for this."

The comedy "Chef's Special," by Nacho Velilla, kicks off the festival Friday. Cámara, who stars in the movie as a gay chef in Madrid, will be at the 7 p.m. screening.

Another highlight is "Blind Sunflowers," a post-Spanish Civil War drama that is the country's nominee for next year's Best Foreign Language Film Oscar.

"These two movies can summarize Spain's recent memory, before and after [dictator Francisco] Franco," says Cámara.

"One character [in 'Sunflow-

ers'] is slowly dying because the dictatorship is crushing him," he explains. "The other one lives in total freedom and democracy, but still has many wounds to heal."

Audiences will also get to revisit Cámara's breakout performance in Pedro Almodóvar's Oscar-winning melodrama "Talk to Her" (2002), in which the actor portrayed an innocent-looking but seriously disturbed nurse.

"That movie was such a treat," says Cámara, who went on to work with Almodóvar in "Bad Education." "It opened so many doors for me — real and imagined. I finally felt like an actor."

This year's Spanish Cinema Now selection boasts a wide range of genres, from thrillers to horror to documentaries, and includes a series of short films. Many movies reflect the country's past and present struggles.

"Everyone's Invited," by Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón, and "My Father's House," from Gorka Merchan, explore the Basque country's nationalist conflict.

"One-Armed Trick," featuring rapper La Mala Rodríguez, delves into Barcelona's lively hip-hop scene.

Directors Dunia Ayaso and Félix Sabroso and actress Mar Flores will be there for the screening of their "Rated-R," about the wave of Spanish sex comedies following Franco's death in 1975.

"It looks better from the outside," says Cámara about the recent boom of Spanish cinema.

"Many actors turn to TV or theater because there is too much struggle in cinema with financing and other issues."

## Lila Downs Shakes Up Folkloric Sound

## Julieta Venegas: la pianista marcada por el acordeón



On her latest release, Shake Away, Lila Downs collaborated with her husband and artistic director, Paul Cohen, to explore her mother's indigenous Mexican roots. The resulting folkloric soundscape includes unexpected flashes of blues, country twang and even klezmer music.

In a session with host David Dye, she talks about the frequent relocations that allowed her to pick up such varied musical influences and expounds further on the issues of borders and immigration.

Best known for her work

on the Grammy-nominated Frida soundtrack, Downs frequently leaps from one musical boundary to the next. She strings together the pieces of her Mexican and Scottish identities with her Oaxacan and Minnesota upbringing. Though she has toned down the Mexican influence music of her previous works, Shake Away demonstrates a richer and more emotional back-and-forth between her cultural identities and a greater range of flirtation with musical forms.

Aunque el piano fue el instrumento al que se dedicó desde los ocho años, la mexicana Julieta Venegas tiene en el acordeón su punto distintivo en el escenario y en el estilo musical que caracteriza su carrera.

"Soy pianista, empecé a tocar piano a los ocho años, pero la verdad que siempre tuve curiosidad por la música norteaña, me ha dado curiosidad el acordeón y como que estaba ahí dando vueltas en mí cuando comencé mi carrera como solista", dijo Venegas.

La cantante, quien aparece en sus conciertos con un acordeón colgando al pecho y el que ejecuta con facilidad, contó que el instrumento "lo comencé a tocar por curiosidad primero y se fue quedando, se fue quedando, hasta que forma parte inseparable de mi música".

Al definir lo que transmite, señaló que "el acordeón tiene muchos lados: uno melancólico, uno muy festivo" y se siente a gusto en el escenario cargando con él.

La intérprete además está orgulloso de unir el pop y el rock con la música norteaña, un género musical

cal muy popular en México y en la comunidad latina de Estados Unidos.

"En mi casa era muy natural poder escuchar una norteaña, una ranchera y es natural que se te vayan revolviendo todas las influencias", comentó.

Venegas, agregó, se siente "con derecho de revolver con ese estilo (folclórico), pero más que nada lo que trato de hacer es de no ponerme límites".

La intérprete de "Limón y sal" y "Me voy", quien cumplió 38 años el 24 de noviembre, logró recientemente dos Latin Grammy a mejor video musical versión larga y mejor álbum de música alternativa, con su éxito discográfico "Unplugged", grabado en vivo este año en la capital mexicana.

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# AP votes can make Texas too legit to not split title



Three days after Black Sunday, Texas still has options.

One is a long shot: 16-point underdog Missouri upsetting Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game.

The other is intriguing: The Associated Press media poll.

The oldest and most respected human poll — there's two adjectives you don't see associated with the BCS — potentially gives the Longhorns hope. Even if, as expected, Oklahoma beats Missouri on Saturday, Texas is still in the running for a championship — a split national championship.

The coaches poll voters are locked into picking the winner of the BCS title game as their No. 1. Not so in the AP, which remains gloriously independent. It was that

independence that allowed AP to right one of the biggest wrongs of the BCS era in 2003. USC was No. 1 in the polls but only No. 3 in the BCS that year. LSU beat Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl to win the BCS title. USC beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl to finish No. 1 in AP and gain the first split national championship since 1997.

If Oklahoma wins the BCS title game and Texas beats (most likely) Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl, there could be an emotional swing in the AP poll to reward the Horns. There was a little of that last week when Texas passed Oklahoma in AP despite playing a weaker opponent (LSU and AKM) than the Sooners (then-No. 11 Oklahoma State).

With the possibility of seven one-loss teams lurking near the top of the polls at the end of the season, the deciding factor could be the same one that was ignored in the BCS standings: On Oct. 11, Texas beat Oklahoma on the field.

"We thought about it, absolutely," said Jimmy Bunch, an AP voter from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Texas is currently third in AP, eight points ahead of No. 4 Oklahoma. The best case for Texas would be for No. 2 Florida to beat No. 1 Alabama in Saturday's SEC Championship Game. If that happens, and Oklahoma beats Missouri, here's how the AP poll could change:

- No. 3. Florida
- No. 4. Oklahoma
- Projected Dec. 7
- 1. Florida
- 2. Texas
- 3. Oklahoma
- 4. Alabama

- 2. Florida
- 3. Texas
- 4. Oklahoma
- Projected Dec. 7
- 1. Florida
- 2. Texas
- 3. Oklahoma
- 4. Alabama

If that's the case, get ready for more flyovers, more TV appearances and more campaigning by Texas. Voters would be reminded all month, once again, that Texas beat Oklahoma on the field. The possibility of its game gaining importance has at least cooled the minds of Fiesta Bowl officials. Fiesta executive director John Junker had to choose his words carefully, though. Sure, it would be great for his game to have a hand in a national championship but he's not going to say that publicly just yet. "It's not our claim to make," Junker said of a possible split champion.

"We always in the interests of the student-athlete. That's not up to us, it's up to AP and other people who award trophies."

Like USC in 2003, Texas is being viewed as a victim. How much of that emotion is left after Saturday is the question. If Oklahoma routs Missouri, setting up a Big 12-SEC national championship game, Texas might fall out of the conversation.

"So vitally had the Horns' case that they would be playing No. 10 Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl. Yes, the Buckeyes are Big Ten co-champions, but they're still the Buckeyes — recent big bowl disappointments."

"I'm not sure Texas could win by the 12 rounds, or capta ul todo lo que se le enseñe," acotó.

# Entrenador de Pacquiao dice que De La Hoya terminará con tanto dolor como Julio César Chávez

Freddie Roach, entrenador del campeón mundial filipino Manny Pacquiao, aseguró este viernes que Oscar de la Hoya sentirá en carne propia lo que experimentó el mexicano Julio César Chávez hace una década, tras ser noqueado por el entonces imbatible Golden Boy.

En declaraciones a la prensa, Roach, el preparador que ha llevado toda la carrera de Pacquiao, destacó que su pupilo cuenta con las herramientas necesarias para noquear a De La Hoya en nueve asaltos, cuando se enfrenten en la mega pelea del 6 de diciembre en Las Vegas.

"Oscar tiene 35 años y es un boxeador a medio tiempo. Es obvio que el padre tiempo le ha agarrado", dijo Roach. "Vi su cara después de la pelea contra Forbes, que no es un pegador, y nunca la había visto tan maltratada, ni cuando enfrentó a boxeadores más grandes, fuertes y majestuosos."

Roach, que ayudó a De La Hoya en su preparación contra el ya retirado estadounidense Floyd Mayweather hijo —pelea que perdió el 'Niño de Oro', dice conocer de cerca las debilidades del mexicano estadounidense nacido en el estado de Los Angeles (California).

"Su vitalidad ha decrecido, y ya no asimila tan rápido las cosas nuevas en una preparación. Manny es el polo opuesto de Oscar respecto a esos factores", indicó.

"Manny es capaz de tirar golpes los tres minutos de cada uno de los 12 rounds, y capta ul todo lo que se le enseñe," acotó.

"Oscar trabaja bien siguiendo un guión, pero aún así tiene problemas, como lo demostró ante Mayweather", dijo.

Roach puntualizó que el plan de pelea es "trabajar bien la primera mitad del combate, y después noquearle".

"Manny no sólo tiene la disciplina y la fuerza para seguir un guión previo, sino que también es un maestro de la improvisación. Y creo que eso podrá marcar la diferencia en esta pelea", puntualizó el entrenador de Pacquiao.

Roach recordó que el ciclo de un atleta es finito, "aunque los buenos hábitos y buenos genes pueden posponer la erosión de su talento", pero inevitablemente el tiempo lo alcanzará.

Señaló que los más crueles ejemplos en el deporte profesional están en el boxeo, donde abundan los casos en que púgiles más jóvenes han puesto fin, o dado comienzo, al declive de grandes carreras rivales.

"Sobran los ejemplos: Rocky Marciano acabando con la carrera de Joe Louis; Larry Holmes con la de Mohamed Ali; Terry Norris con la de Sugar Ray Leonard, y Oscar De La Hoya con la Julio César Chávez".

De la Hoya derrotó dos veces a Chávez, por su primera victoria, el 7 de junio de 1996, le abrió las definitivamente el camino a la fama. "La semana próxima se cambiarán los zapatos, y Oscar va a probar de primera mano lo que sintió Julio César Chávez la noche en que el le noqueó por primera vez", sentenció.

# De La Hoya goes for the tough sell in bad economy



Richard Schaefer is a Swiss banker by trade, and an optimist by nature.

While he certainly understands that the world financial system is in serious trouble, he doesn't feel the same about Oscar De La Hoya's fight Saturday night against Manny Pacquiao.

"I'm starting to see some very encouraging signs," Schaefer said. "I think there's light at the end of the tunnel."

It helps that Schaefer's business partner is De La Hoya, who has sold more big fights than anyone in boxing history and can generate thousands of pay-per-view buys simply by flashing a bright smile. He did so well a year ago against Floyd Mayweather that their fight was the richest ever.

But times are tough, and discretionary income is down. Christmas is coming, and people are more worried about their jobs than whether Pacquiao can avoid De La Hoya's left hook.

Suddenly, there are seats available at the MGM hotel arena that was declared a sellout two hours after tickets went on sale in September. Suddenly, there are whispers that perhaps even De La Hoya's great charms and Pacquiao's David vs. Goliath story won't be enough to make this the megaevent it was supposed to be.

It's boxing, so any answers will have to wait until receipts are added up and the fighters are given their money.

But it's telling that rooms are readily available at regular rates this weekend at the MGM Grand, and that ringside tickets usually available only to high rollers and

top celebrities can be bought online from the hotel in a package (\$3,399) that includes two tickets, two nights lodging and VIP entry to the post-fight party.

That doesn't happen when times are good and tickets and rooms are in short supply. Las Vegas is mired in a deep tourism slump to begin with, and casual fans who might have come just to soak in the atmosphere of a big fight may just as easily stay home.

That was the case last month when just 9,000 showed up at the same hotel to watch Ricky Hatton fight Paulie Malignaggi in an arena Hatton and Mayweather sold out a year earlier.

Boxing can be a tough sell even in the best of times, though De La Hoya has proven he is the one fighter who can consistently sell tickets — and lots of them. But with ringside seats at \$1,500 and a pay-per-view of at least \$54.95, some De La Hoya fans might look at his recent record and his much smaller opponent and decide to take a pass this time around.

If they do, it's not for a lack of trying on the part of De La Hoya and others. The promotion for the fight kicked off with a national tour of iconic spots like the Statue of Liberty and the Alamo, HBO is hyping it with a four-part "reality" series, and the two fighters have been more visible lately than even Britney Spears.

The fight does have some promise. Though Pacquiao is moving up two weight classes and is much smaller than De La Hoya, he's considered by many the best pound-for-pound fighter around and his all-out style guarantees this fight will have more

action than last year's fight between De La Hoya and Mayweather.

And while the argument could be made that De La Hoya hasn't won a significant fight in six years, no one argues that he will not come to light. De La Hoya has a lot of pride and knows that at the age of 35 his time to make a statement in the ring is running out.

"The clock is ticking," De La Hoya said Monday after arriving in this gambling city. "It's kind of like you're running out of time and you only have a few fights left to find that perfect performance."

That could be fighting words, or they could be promoting words. De La Hoya does both, so sometimes it's hard to tell if he really believes it, or is just trying to convince people to spend money on the fight that could be spent elsewhere.

But he does understand the economy is in the tank, which is why if you buy enough of a certain beer, tequila and soda you can get \$50 in rebates on the cost of the fight from sponsors.

Some people will buy if only because it's De La Hoya — the one fighter who still sells.

So despite the bad times, this fight should put up decent numbers. De La Hoya may not make as much as he might like, but he'll make enough.

But what happens when De La Hoya retires and boxing is left without a superstar? Who will pay \$54.95 for a fight then?

"That's the million dollar question," De La Hoya said. "Who will take my place as the next star in boxing?" It's a real problem for us as promoters.

Numero Uno Tejano Hit Station

## Jennifer "La Chismosa" & Eddie "The Dog" Moreno

# Mornings on Magic 93.7!

## Miss a day..... Miss a lot!

## Generic As Effective As Brand-Name

It was announced on Tuesday that there is no evidence that brand-name drugs given to care for heart and other cardiovascular situations work any more effectively than their less expensive generic equivalents.

The data opposes the opinions of several doctors and patients that more expensive brand-name drugs are clinically more advanced, stated Dr. Aaron Kesselheim of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, who was the leader of the study.

Kesselheim and colleagues studied 30 studies completed since 1984 to compare nine sub-classes of cardiovascular drugs to their generic equivalents.

The brand-name drugs produced zero benefits for patients' clinical results in the studies conducted, they announced in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"Brand-name drugs for cardiovascular disease can be as much as a few dollars a pill, whereas generic drugs might be as little as a few cents a pill," Kesselheim said.

"If a patient is prescribed a generic drug because that's what's appropriate for their condition, then they should feel confident taking that drug. And physicians themselves should

also feel confident prescribing generic drugs where appropriate," Kesselheim added.

Pharmaceutical companies keep restricted rights to drugs for a specific number of years, after which others may vend generic adaptations that are chemically the same thing. The active elements are exactly the same, but the color and form can change and will differ in binders and fillers.

In the United States, the Food and Drug Administration has to endorse a generic version of a drug before it can be put on the market.

The studies cover beta-blockers, diuretics, calcium-channel blockers, statins, antiplatelet agents, ACE inhibitors, alpha-blockers, anti-arrhythmic agents and warfarin.

The researchers added that brand-name manufacturers have implied generic versions do not work as well and are not as safe. They also noted that several editorials in medical journals queried whether generic drugs are just as effective.

Generic medications signify 66 percent of the total prescriptions written in the United States, but are less than 15 percent of the money is used on prescription drugs, as stated by the Generic Pharmaceutical Association industry group.

# Querer contagiar y querer ser contagiado

En los márgenes de la batalla contra el sida, la concienciación topa con los caprichos de la voluntad individual traducida en dos fenómenos opuestos: los casos de contagio con premeditación y los encuentros sexuales colectivos sin protección, más conocidos como "barebacking".

Esta semana se celebró el Día Mundial del Sida, pero mientras los médicos prosiguen la búsqueda de un remedio definitivo y las campañas para concienciar abundan en la necesidad de tomar precauciones, hay un factor que se escapa: el libre albedrío.

"Soy un hombre 'cachas' de 44 años de Nueva York. Buscando desesperadamente sida, VIH y cualquier otra ETS (enfermedad de transmisión sexual). Creo realmente que este es el regalo más íntimo que un gay puede compartir con otro. Sin límites. Por favor, ayudadme", publica un hombre en uno de los foros "bareback" que hay en la red.

Estas proposiciones se convierten en encuentros personales o, lo más frecuente, en fiestas de sexo colectivo que empezaron como una alternativa para los seropositivos con el fin de practicar sexo entre ellos sin miedo a contagiar a los no portadores del VIH.

Pero pronto, estas celebraciones empezaron a llamar la atención de los VIH negativos, que entendieron las "bareback parties" como una especie de "ruleta rusa" sexual. Algunos acuden para ser contagiados, otros simplemente excitarse con el riesgo.

Esta nueva tendencia la conforman "una minoría de hombres con o sin VIH que han empezado a practicar, consciente, libre y orgullosamente, sexo anal sin protección", según Nicholas Sheon y Arraon Plant, del portal de información sobre el sida HIV InSite, desde la Universidad de



San Francisco.

El primer diario gay de Chile, Opus Gay, explicaba este comportamiento de diferentes maneras: para algunos quizá "satisface el deseo de sentir peligro y riesgo, incluso como parte de un estilo de vida que les produce placer. Otros lo hacen para cumplir la fantasía de 'seroconvertir' o por la sola pretensión de detener el 'cansancio' del cuidado crónico" en relación al sexo seguro.

Los avances médicos, entonces y según HIV InSite, "han alterado la percepción del riesgo de contraer el VIH" y han creado la sensación de que "gracias a los nuevos medicamentos, incluso si te has infectado, sabes que no vas a morir por ello".

El reciente caso del cantante británico Boy George, que fue acusado de agresión por un prostituido noruego seropositivo que no quiso tener sexo con él, vendría a reforzar esta hipótesis.

Pero más graves que la propagación de la enfermedad dentro de círculos que, por distintas razones psicológicas, asumen la enfermedad conscientemente, son los casos de contagio premeditado por parte de un porta-

dor del VIH sin el conocimiento del receptor.

Sonado fue el caso ocurrido en Groningen (Holanda), donde cuatro personas infectadas convocaron a través de internet una orgía en su casa y drogaron a sus invitados, y en la provincia china de Henan, donde algunos habitantes fueron infectados por una venta oficial de sangre, y, tras ser su tragedia silenciada por el gobierno, se vengaron transmitiendo el virus mediante jeringuillas a sus vecinos hasta convertir al 62 por ciento de la población de algunas aldeas en portadores del VIH.

Este comportamiento, vengativo, psicópata o simplemente cobarde -en el caso de personas que contraen el virus en relaciones fuera de su pareja-, ha llegado en algunas ocasiones a los tribunales, pero también se ha beneficiado de los avances médicos, puesto que, al no ser el sida una enfermedad mortal, ya no es pertinente la acusación de asesinato para los transmisores.

Pero este tipo de acciones, siempre aisladas, ha llevado a muchos países a redactar cláusulas legales para penalizar estas actuaciones, una medida

polémica que fue tratada en último congreso de ONUSIDA (el programa de la ONU dedicado al VIH/sida), celebrado en Génova a finales de octubre y principios de noviembre.

Allí se estudiaron los peligros de castigar la transmisión del virus con leyes concretas, como sucede en Estados Unidos, Australia, en seis países de Europa y en quince países de África.

"Las acusaciones y las condenas es probable que sean aplicadas desproporcionadamente a grupos marginales (...) grupos que tienen acceso a la información sobre el VIH, servicios, comodidades o capacidad para negociar un sexo seguro con sus compañeros sexuales", defiende ONUSIDA en el resumen de su política al respecto emitido en 2008.

Además de este efecto contraproducente para la integración del infectado, señalan la vulneración que este tipo de leyes ejercen sobre el derecho a la intimidad del portador del VIH y que, en último término, no han disminuido la difusión de la enfermedad en los países en los que han sido aplicadas, según el documento.

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**FOX 34**

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