

# Latino Voters Come of Age

By Arturo Vargas

November 7, 2000, earned several chapters in the political history of the United States.

One of these will be about how Latinos established themselves as a permanent, vital element of the nation's body politic.

The roots of 2000 began with the sea change that occurred in 1994, when virtually the same number of California Latinos voted in those congressional elections as did in the 1992 presidential voting.

This trend continued in 1996, when 4.9 million of 6.5 million registered Latinos voted, representing 5 percent of the overall vote.

Then this year, as never before, the Latino community delivered a resounding message of political empowerment to Democrats and Republicans alike.

From California, Washington,

Arizona, New Mexico and even to Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and New Hampshire, Latinos demonstrated the impact they can have on an election. This month, exit polls found that Latinos may have been as much as 7 percent of the nation's electorate, which if further analysis shows it holds, will be an extraordinary increase from one presidential election to the

next. This, after months of courting by Democrats and Republicans.

What this election did, on a national level, is prove that Latinos are a permanent element of a winning strategy for both parties.

The greatest evidence of further Latino political empowerment is the increase of Latino representation in state houses across the nation. In the first major election of the new millennium, Latino candidates recorded a net gain of eight state house seats. In California, the number of Latinos in the 80-member state assembly increased from 16 to 20, making one in four of the assembly members Latino.

In other states with sizable Latino populations, Latinos picked up more seats -- two more in New Mexico and an additional one each in Arizona and Colorado.

In states with smaller Latino populations, Latinos also won state house seats: in Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Neither state had a Latino serving in its legislature.

This political progress has helped pave the foundation for opportunities that will emerge in 2002, the first major election after the decennial redistricting.

Yet despite the role Latinos played in this year's elections, there is still much to be done to continue our progress. The growth in the Latino population overall is still outpacing the growth of the Latino voting population. The soon-to-be-released data for the 2000 Census will show that the Latino population grew at an amazing rate over the last decade, with Latinos poised to assume the mantle of being the second-largest population group in this country by mid-decade.

Thus there is still an awesome unrealized potential for Latinos to further influence U.S. politics and elections if we act assertively to remove obstacles to this progress.

We must continue to strengthen the naturalization process in this country. There are still many barriers to citizenship, including naturalization and green card application backlogs of nearly 2 million. The importance of this effort is underscored by a recent National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund study, showing that naturalized citizens outperform native-born Latinos and non-Latinos in voter participation.

While the beneficiary of the

Latino vote appears to be the Democratic Party, do not underestimate the number of ballots that were cast for Republican candidates in races at all levels of government. That should be enough, I believe, to convince political strategists that if you address the issues, Latinos will support you.

But the biggest beneficiary of the surge in Latino voting is ourselves. Whether we support Democrats or Republicans, our community can advance only if we have representation in every party and every administration.

More than anything, though, Latinos can achieve an even greater legacy. Through the power of the vote, we can show the rest of the nation that we are not beneath our political aspirations, whatever they may be: the first U.S. Supreme Court justice, a U.S. senator or perhaps the first Latino president. Whatever our goals, Latino candidates and voters are showing the courage to pursue their political fortunes.

(Arturo Vargas is executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, or NALEO, with offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.)

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## News Briefs

### HARRIS: STOP THE COUNT TO GET THINGS STRAIGHT

With a whirlwind of lawsuits, recounts and appeals surrounding the closest presidential race in U.S. history, Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris filed an emergency petition this morning to find some order in all this madness.

Harris, a Republican, asked for a temporary stoppage in the recount so that all lawsuits concerning the Florida election can be consolidated and moved to Leon County, the municipal home of Tallahassee, the state's capital.

Harris announced Tuesday night that Texas Governor George W. Bush maintains a 300-vote lead over Vice President Al Gore.

#### PLAM BEACH RECOUNT AWAITS RULING; MIAMI-DADE SAYS NO

In Palm Beach County, their recount has stalled until a state judge decides whether "dimpled" or "pregnant" chads should be counted as votes. Palm Beach County was the home of the so-called "butterfly" ballot which many voters said were unclear and confusing. Gore supporters feared that they voted for Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan instead of Gore because of this ballot. Buchanan received 2,400 more votes in this Democratic county than he received anywhere else in Florida.

Meanwhile, officials in Miami-Dade County have rejected a request from Democrats to conduct a hand recount. After recounting three precincts, officials decided a full recount was unnecessary. Al Gore gained only six votes during a recount of these three precincts.

Broward County has yet to make a decision on a recount. Volusia County complete its hand recount Tuesday.

According to exit polls, the Hispanic vote in Florida mirrors how close this statewide election has been. Election Day exit polls reported that George W. Bush gained 50 percent of the Hispanic vote, while Al Gore won 48 percent. George W. Bush's lead, according to Florida's official results, now stands at 300 votes.

Particularly in Miami-Dade County, where there is a large Cuban exile vote, and Palm Beach County, where 10 percent of this Democratic-majority population is Hispanic, the close election is due in part to the state's Hispanic vote.

### IRREGULARITIES, HARASSMENT REPORTED BY BLACKS IN VOTING

NEW YORK, - Complaints continue to mount from African Americans around the country who say they were prevented from voting or that they observed serious irregularities in last week's poll for the nation's highest office.

Among the obstacles reported were registration challenges, intimidation, misleading information, police profiling near predominantly Black polling stations and ballot tampering.

"The system is not working for us - again," said Florida Congresswoman Carrie Meek, who added in a published report that she personally was aware of hundreds of complaints from black voters.

Reports of alleged voter fraud continue to emerge as well from Florida counties, now in the international limelight, including reports from two African-American weekly papers.

In Fort Myers, Florida, Charles Weaver, publisher of the Community Voice, said: "In Republican Country, (I) received at least a dozen calls from people with all kinds of apparent voting inequities."

Visiting one of the polls himself, he said he witnessed "intimidation, harassment and apparent illegal activity" at the precinct.

"There were illegal poll watchers, threatening people, telling them, 'I know where you work. You're going to get fired.'

"One guy who lost his wallet was not allowed to vote because he had no identification - rather than asking him to sign a document stating his identification as (is legally) required," Weaver said.

At another African-American weekly, Miami Times, Tonette Collier, a reporter, said her newspaper got so many calls that she lost count. "There were a lot of elderly people. They were very upset," she said. "It's so much confusion, it's unbelievable."

Many callers told of a police check point that was stopping cars on a road that leads to the First Baptist Church of Woodville in Tallahassee, Collier said.

Major Ken Howes of the Tallahassee Highway Patrol confirmed that his department did conduct what he called a "routine" check point on Oakridge Road about "2.1 miles" from the precinct. He said the check, "one of 31 that been conducted in the last 30 days in this area," had nothing to do with voting or elections, but was to enforce laws pertaining to licenses, insurance and faulty equipment on cars.

Similar troubles were reported by Anita Hodgkiss, senior attorney at The Advancement Project and a former voting rights lawyer with the US Justice Department.

Hodgkiss volunteered to work with other lawyers on a telephone hotline taking calls on direct intimidation or obstruction of potential voters. Apparently, police in Newport News, VA were stopping people at checkpoints," she says. "In St. Louis, Missouri, some voters there were turned away for not having their cards, while their White counterparts were allowed to vote.

"We also got a lot of calls from ex-felons who wanted to vote, but couldn't. The good thing is that they were (calling from) states where they could vote. In Florida now, there is a legal challenge pending to the disenfranchisement of ex-offenders."

A statement released by the human rights group Human Rights Watch noted that Florida, being one of over a dozen states that denies the right to vote to ex-offenders, kept 400,000 (black and white) individuals out of the election booths. One third of African-American men in that state, or 200,000, cannot vote because of a past felony arrest.

Nationally, one in 50 adults, or nearly 4 million US citizens cannot vote because of felony records, and 1.4 million of them have completed their sentences and are not on probation or parole.

In a 1998 report, the human rights group estimated that 30-40 percent of the next generation of African-American men may be disenfranchised because of criminal records.

Meanwhile, the nation's largest black civil rights group, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), has asked Attorney General Janet Reno to investigate possible violations of constitutional guarantees of the right to vote.

"On the surface, there appears to be a violation of the 15th Amendment, which guarantees minority voters the right to vote for the candidate of their choice," said Julian Bond, NAACP chairman, in a published report.

The voter fraud allegations, said NAACP president Kweisi Mfume, "raise serious questions about the fairness and accuracy of the election ... Our sense is that the level and number of calls we received suggest very serious problems, perhaps even nationwide".

of the shortfalls in federal policy with respect to minority health care. Each of the events brought policymakers, health care providers, educators, other interested professionals, and the general public together to explore the unique challenges facing minority health policy.

"As Democrats and Republicans predicted, Hispanics accounted for a significant percentage of this year's vote, about 7 percent of the total voter turnout," Congressman Rodriguez said. "The Hispanic Caucus is an emerging voice in

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."  
"Respect for the Rights of Others Is Peace"  
Lic. Benito Juarez

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Fox Toma Los Primeros Pasos Para Reconectar Mexico Con Los EU y Los Latinos

Por Alfredo Carbalal-Madrid  
A unos días de asumir la presidencia de México, Vicente Fox está listo para escribir un nuevo capítulo en la historia de su país. Para ello pretende enterrar el viejo sistema y estilos gubernamentales.

Su plan de gobierno, diseñado para llegar a los marginados por una oligarquía quebradiza, busca "reconectarse" con los 18 millones de mexicanos y méxicoamericanos que residen en los Estados Unidos.

Fox inició su campaña presidencial hace casi dos años, mientras era gobernador del estado de Guanajuato.

Desde el principio se convirtió en el primer candidato mexicano en hacer campaña en los Estados Unidos. En marzo de 1999, habló en la convención anual de la Asociación Nacional de Publicaciones Hispanas, en Huntington Beach, Ca., donde cautivó a una audiencia de más de 200 directores y ejecutivos.

Con lo cual llegamos a este año, en el que como nunca, la comunidad latina vociferó su mensaje del poder del voto latino tanto a demócratas como a republicanos.

Desde California, Washington, Arizona, Nuevo México y hasta Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, y Nuevo Hampshire, los latinos mostraron el impacto que pueden tener en una elección. Este mes, las encuestas de salida encontraron que los latinos pueden haber llegado a ser 7 por ciento del electorado nacional, lo cual, si bajo mayor escrutinio el número se mantiene, es un aumento extraordinario de una elección a otra. Esto ocurre después de meses de cortejo de los distritos que ocurre cada diez años.

A pesar del progreso en el pa-

aumento neto de ocho escaños estatales. En California, el número de latinos en la asamblea estatal que contiene 80 miembros subió de 16 a 20, con lo cual uno de cada cuatro miembros de la asamblea es latino.

En otros estados con poblaciones grandes de latinos, se capturaron dos escaños más en Nuevo México y otros dos, uno en Arizona y el otro en Colorado. En los estados cuya población latina es menor, como Rhode Island y Nuevo Hampshire, también se ganaron escaños estatales. Anterior a este año, ninguno de los dos estados contaba con un latino en su legislatura.

Tal progreso político ha logrado establecer las bases para las oportunidades que surgirán en 2002, que será la primera elección importante después del cambio en la estructuración de los distritos que ocurre cada diez años.

Con lo cual llegamos a este año, en el que como nunca, la comunidad latina vociferó su mensaje del poder del voto latino tanto a demócratas como a republicanos.

Por lo tanto, queda todavía como potencial sin realizarse la inmensa influencia que los latinos podrían tener sobre la política nacional y las elecciones, si actuamos decisivamente para eliminar los obstáculos que nos vedan el progreso.

Debemos continuar esforzándonos con el proceso de nacionalización. Siguen existiendo muchas barreras a la ciudadanía, incluyendo el retraso burocrático

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## Congressman Rodriguez Elected Congressional Hispanic Caucus Vice-Chairman

(WASHINGTON, DC) The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) elected Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez to serve as the 1st Vice-Chairman of the Caucus and to retain his post as Chairman of the Caucus' Task Force on Health.

During his tenure as Chairman of the Health Task Force, Congressman Rodriguez initiated a series of forums and conferences in Washington, DC and San Antonio to address the health care needs of Hispanic Americans. Poverty, limited access to relevant services, lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate information, and the negative stigma attached to

many of the diseases plaguing minority communities were identified as key obstacles to prevention and treatment efforts. Earlier this year, Congressman Rodriguez's task force released a report on Hispanic health disparities. The report is available on the web at <http://www.house.gov/roybal-allard/CHC.htm>.

In addition to the Congressional Hispanic health hearings, two San Antonio conferences, the first on diabetes and the second on HIV/AIDS in communities of color, identified many

"Cambiare la naturaleza de la diplomacia mexicana," señaló Fox. "Hablaremos con franqueza, claridad y honestidad. No más mensajes entre líneas."

Fox ha expresado su admiración por la población méxicoamericana, enfatizando la manera en que ha crecido para convertirse en una fuerza económica y política.

# Las Elecciones Desde Austin, Texas, y La Taqueria Chapala

Por José de la Isla

"Consigue un smoking y cuélgate una servilleta sobre el brazo," me sugirió sarcásticamente Kay Bárbaro, columnista de Washington, D.C., cuando le conté sobre los problemas que tuve al querer obtener credenciales de prensa para los comicios en Austin. Su sugerencia es una de las maneras de entrar por detrás del teléfono.

Pero hay otra. De cualquier forma, ya lo había hecho así para la Convención Republicana Nacional en 1992.

Esta elección iba a ser la última vez que yo cubría el auge en la participación política de la comunidad hispana. Cuando comencé mi investigación en 1972, los asuntos de importancia para la comunidad eran, en el mejor de los casos, marginales.

Ahora es diferente -- ya forman parte de la política corriente estadounidense.

A ese del mediódia del martes, la mayoría del país estaba votando. Lloviznaba en Austin. El centro bullía con la prensa. Los vendedores de comida ambulantes se estaban preparando para la celebración de la noche. Todo el mundo esperaba ver una victoria en "Bushtown" como la televisión local llamaba el centro de Austin. Por la calle Chávez, a un par de millas de la plaza del capitolio, empezaban a llegar los comensales de la Taqueria Chapala.

Hispanic Trends informó que 66 por ciento de los votantes registrados latinos votarían por Al Gore. En las últimas semanas de la campaña, George W. Bush perdió apoyo cuando los republicanos del Congreso se opusieron fervorosamente al propuesto Decreto para la Justicia para Inmigrantes y Latinos.

Aun así, el auge de la participación política de la comunidad

hispana ha progresado mucho desde la época en que el gobernador de California, Jerry Brown, se presentaba ante el público latino como Jerry Café.

De unas pocas palabras pronunciadas en español, el bilingüismo de las campañas se ha extendido a prácticamente fluidez. Leonel Sosa, guru de la prensa, fue pionero en realizar campañas a todo dar con medios de comunicación *tejanos* para acabar victorioso ante una proyectada pérdida.

Sin embargo, persiste la queja en los círculos demócratas que el partido da por sentado el apoyo de los votantes hispanos. Esta alianza la interpretan algunos como hermandad sanguínea. "Este año," comentó Consuelo Muñoz, de Chicago, "parece que todos los políticos hablan español. Que rápido aprendieron." Con frecuencia, el impulso es de encontrar a un líder hispano, o un asunto de importancia para la comunidad, como quien busca el ADN político.

Mientras tanto, lo obvio lo tenemos en las narices. Somos testigos del proceso de transformación cultural de la nación.

Como ya formamos parte del cálculo político, debemos coordinar los intereses locales y regionales para que representen un total nacional. Bien saben los partidos que desde 1960 ningún candidato ha ganado la presidencia sin contar con dos de los tres estados en los que el voto hispano es crítico -- Florida, California y Texas.

Cerca del capitolio, en preparación para la celebración nocturna, se asaban al aire libre el lomo de puerco, las costillas y el

chorizo. Por todo el país, la política de los suburbios se manifestaba como fuerza determinante.

El especial para el almuerzo en la Taqueria Chapala era carne guisada, arroz, frijoles y ensalada, todo por \$3.99. Chapala está en una zona de la ciudad que se está volviendo a desarrollar, recuperando parte de la arquitectura que data de comienzos del siglo XX, y con la apertura de nuevos locales de comida y diversión. Aquí se encuentra lo viejo con lo nuevo. Se ven profesionales y obreros, etnias y razas, hasta parejas coquetas se reúnen para comer al paso y charlar. Es más un encuentro cultural que lo que a primera impresión parece.

Panzón Grande (alias Don Barkley), un hombre gigantesco que pesa más de 300 libras, se sienta, incómodo, en una de las butacas al lado de la puerta. Lleva una camiseta violeta, un suéter tri-color y calza sandalias. Se pide el especial. Entrá y sale sin tregua la clientela. "¿Ya votaste?" "¿Ya fuiste a votar?" le pregunta a todo el que pasa por la puerta.

"Necesitamos tu voto," le dice a un tipo grueso que lleva una camiseta que dice "Abróchate el pantalón." El tipo le asienta con la cabeza. "Manda a todos que voten."

Por la noche se reunió un grupo grande cerca de las gradas del capitolio. Estábamos allí para ver el brote en todos sus colores de la política de los suburbios. Según USA Today, el atributo presidencial más importante hoy en día es tener un semblante tranquilo, ser modesto. La percepción de una mano suave política ha opacado a cuestiones de mayor invergadura intelectual. Lo que motiva es una política de similitud. Caía una lluvia fría sobre las miles de personas re-

unidas para ver al presidente electo después de la vigilia en que se contaban los votos.

Los que se quedaron hasta las primeras horas de la mañana eran en su mayoría jóvenes. Muchos vestían el estilo del momento -- gorra de visera larga, camiseta con cuello, y pantalones jeans. Muchos -- en realidad la mayoría -- esquivaban la vista al mirarlos los ojos. Físicamente eran más similares que diferentes. En cambio, en la Taqueria Chapala, eran más diferentes que similares -- tenían un estilo áspero, combativo, eficaz, que te pregunta si has votado, que no supone en base a tu semblante por quién votaste.

A eso de las dos de la mañana, un grupo al lado de los detectores de metales a la entrada del recinto designado para la celebración comenzó a gritarles a los que están adentro, cerca del escenario. "Tex-eze. Tex-eze. Tex-eze," surgió el grito de júbilo. Por un momento se vislumbraba la victoria. Con un poco de espíritu de equipo se ganarían los puntos necesitados.

Con razón acabó la noche temprano. El país sufrió un ataque nervioso. La imagen y el estilo intentaban suplantar el sufragio, la política y la estrategia. No cabe la menor duda por qué una Florida suave, afable, apasionada y a veces irregular sería clave en determinar el próximo presidente. Se ve que va a prevalecer un humor nacional variopinto y tropical.

(José de la Isla vive en Houston, Texas. Su libro, "The Rise of Hispanic Politics," saldrá a comienzos del año próximo publicado por Archer Books.)

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# Election Makes History In Puerto Rico

By Patricia Guadalupe

While the eyes of nation on Nov. 7 were -- and remain -- riveted on the presidential election, voters in Puerto Rico were writing some political history of their own.

Foremost, they brought to power the island's first female governor. Fifty-seven-year-old San Juan Mayor Sila María Calderón of the pro-commonwealth Popular Democratic Party defeated her main rival, Carlos Pesquera of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party, 49 percent to 46 percent.

The election also saw an important shift in the island's political relationship with Washington, a large percentage increase in the number of votes cast for its independence party candidate and the issue of U.S. Navy's bombing activities on the island of Vieques proving to be enduring and decisive in how Puerto Rico voters respond to their candidates.

Turnout was particularly heavy, with 2 million of the 2.4 million registered voters casting ballots.

This historic vote for a female leader in the predominantly macho political culture in Puerto Rico represents a key change in attitude, not just in electing a woman, but in the voters' perceptions of what the relationship should be with the United States.

Calderón, a longtime party of official from a prominent island family whose fortune was made in the ice-cream business, aggressively campaigned against statehood, noting that the pro-commonwealth PDP appreciated the island's relationship with the United States and even sought ways to enhance it. However, she emphasized, the island was a separate place, with its own culture and language, that would be ill-served by being "absorbed" by the United States.

Calderón was helped by an event that occurred on the island more than a year before the elections. In April 1998, a U.S. Navy fighter jet on maneuvers off Vieques dropped a bomb that missed its target, killing a civilian and injuring several others.

Since the 1940s, the U.S. military has used part of the tiny, uninhabited island off Puerto Rico's southeastern shore for bombing practice and other military training. For almost as long, there have been protests and demonstrations against the use of Vieques by the military.

But it wasn't until the accident that killed David Sanes Rodríguez that many Puerto Rican politicians and residents realized just how much of a political hot potato Vieques had become.

Island leaders of all political stripes joined forces against the U.S. Navy, and it looked as though, for once in the history of Puerto Rico's divisive political atmosphere, everyone was on the same page. That lasted until island Gov. Pedro Rosselló, without consulting other political leaders, agreed to a re-initiation of bombings and other maneuvers, albeit without live ammunition.

Many island residents felt betrayed as rumors flew that Rosselló did this to secure a position in a future Gore administration. It didn't help that the pro-statehood Pesquera said during one of the gubernatorial debates that "the issue of Vieques is resolved and we should move to other issues." To many island voters, that spelled the end -- not of the issue, but of Pesquera as a legitimate candidate.

"How dare he say that

this is resolved!" was the typical cry of callers to a popular island talk show. "The nerve of this man. Who does he think he is?"

This, coupled with longstanding allegations of government waste and fraud, helped steer voters away from bringing back the pro-stateholders for a third time in a row.

The situation in Vieques also helped boost another candidate, Rubén Berrios of the Puerto Rico Independence Party, or PIP, its initials in Spanish. In previous elections, the PIP rarely obtained more than 3 percent of the vote. This year Berrios, who spent many months camped out on the target range in Vieques to protest the bombings, garnered 5 percent. Declaring that the vote proved the issue of Vieques "is not going away any time soon," Berrios is proposing that the newly elected governor establish a "Vieques Coalition" with the *independista* party to resolve the situation.

Without committing herself to a coalition, Calderón says that Vieques is one of her top priorities.

Vieques played a key role in another island race, where the pro-statehood Resident Commissioner Carlos Romero Barceló, the island's governor between 1977 and 1985 and its non-voting representative in the U.S. Congress since 1992, lost to Anibal Acevedo Vilá, 46 percent to 50 percent. Acevedo Vilá is a Harvard-educated lawyer and a former legislator in Puerto Rico's lower house, representing the pro-commonwealth party. He is noted for leading the efforts against a plebiscite vote a few years ago, where residents were to choose between independence and statehood. Acevedo Vilá's campaign of complaining that exclusion of the current commonwealth option was unfair led to a resounding victory for a promoted write-in option "none of the above."

Acevedo Vilá also led the recent fight against including Puerto Rico in the U.S. presidential vote, an action legitimized by the courts when it blocked the vote from taking place. Acevedo and other political leaders urged residents to write "Paz para Vieques" ("peace for Vieques") across the names of candidates George W. Bush and Al Gore if a presidential ballot were to appear. "This is not a legitimate vote, so why do it?" he said.

Even while the pro-statehood government pressed on to include the vote, "regardless of whether the U.S. Congress pays attention to it or not," and spent half a million dollars in the process, the newly elected resident commissioner rallied the crowds in campaign stop after campaign stop. The island's Supreme Court and the U.S. district court with jurisdiction over Puerto Rico eventually agreed, saying in not so many words that the vote would be "an enormous waste of time."

So while U.S. political leaders haggle over who will take over the White House come mid-January, a small U.S. commonwealth hundreds of miles away -- helped by events in an even tinier place where Uncle Sam plays a huge role -- has written some important new entries in the history books, too.

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# The Election From Austin, Texas, & Taqueria Chapala

By José de la Isla

"You should get into a tuxedo and put a napkin over you arm," suggested prickly Washington columnist Kay Bárbaro when I told her about my trouble getting press credentials for election day in Austin. That was one way to get behind the scenes.

There is another. Besides, I had already done it her way at the Republican National Convention in 1992.

This was intended to be my last election covering the rise of Hispanic politics. When I began research in 1972, Hispanic issues were marginal at best. Now they are part of mainstream politics. Around noon on Tuesday, most of the country was out voting. A drizzle fell over Austin. All of downtown was aflutter with media folks. Food vendors were setting up for a celebration that night. Everyone expected to witness a victory at "Bushtown," as local TV was calling downtown Austin. Down on Chávez Street, about two miles from the Capitol mall, diners began trickling in at Taqueria Chapala.

Hispanic Trends reported that 66 percent of registered Latino voters would cast their ballots for Al Gore. In the closing weeks of the campaign, George W. Bush was hurt when Republicans strongly opposed the proposed Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act in Congress.

Even so, the rise of Hispanic politics had come a long way from the time California Gov. Jerry Brown would introduce

himself as "Jerry Café" before Latino audiences. From a few symbolic words, campaign bilingualism expanded to near-fluency. Media guru Leonel Sosa had pioneered full-scale Hispanic media campaigns. The political world had changed a lot since the time of the late Sen. John Tower experimented with *tejano* media to turn around an expected defeat two decades ago.

Still, the complaint persists inside Democratic circles that the party takes its Hispanic constituency for granted. The alliance is interpreted by some as a blood brotherhood. "This year," said Consuelo Muñoz in Chicago, "all these politicians seem to speak Spanish. They learned fast." Often, the drive is to find one Hispanic leader, or the single issue, like looking for a political DNA.

Meanwhile the obvious is right before our very eyes. We are witnessing a process the nation's cultural transformation. As part of the political calculus, we have to coalesce local and regional interests into a national whole. And the parties know that not since 1960 had anyone won the presidency without carrying two of the three states where the Hispanic vote is critical -- Florida, California and Texas.

Near the capitol in preparation for the hoopla celebration, pork loin, brisket, and sausage were smoking in pits. Across the country, suburban politics were in play as a determining force.

The lunch special at Taqueria Chapala was carne guisada, rice, beans and salad for \$3.99. Chapala is in a redeveloping part of town, recovering some of the early 20th-century architecture and forming new eating and entertainment establishments. The old and the new meet here. White and blue collars, ethnicities and races, even flirtatious men and women get together here over a quick lunch and gab. It is more a crossroads than what first meets the eye.

Panzón Grande (aka Don Barkley), a giant of a man over 300 pounds, fits uncomfortably in a booth near the door. He is in a violet T-shirt and calico sweater, his bare feet in sandals. He orders the special. A steady trade files in and out. "Ya been to vote? Voted yet?" he asks everyone coming or going.

"We need your vote," he says to a burly guy in a black "Button Your Fly" T-shirt, who nods. "Send everybody to vote."

That night a crowd gathers near the state capitol steps. We are there to witness the full blooming of suburban politics. USA Today says that a soft, self-effacing personality is now a presidential attribute. Political soft touch has eclipsed cerebral policy issues. The drive is for more look-alike politics. A cold rain fell on the thousands gathered to see the president-elect at the end of the vote-count vigil.

"We need your vote," he says to a burly guy in a black "Button Your Fly" T-shirt, who nods. "Send everybody to vote."

Those who stayed until the early morning hours were mainly young. Many wore the style of the period -- long-bill cap, polo shirt and jeans. Many looked away more often than looked you in the eye. More looked alike than different. At Chapala, more looked different than alike -- a gritty, feisty, purposeful style that asks you if you voted, instead of assuming to know on style who you voted for.

Around two in the morning, a group outside the metal detectors at the entrance to the celebration compound begins calling to those inside, near the stage. "Tex-eze. Tex-eze. Tex-eze," the collegecheer goes up. The thrill of victory was in sight for a while. Just a little team spirit would gain the needed yards.

No wonder the night ended deadlocked. The country was having a nervous breakdown. Image and style were trying to replace suffrage, policy and strategy. Is it any wonder that a suave, a smooth, a passionate, and sometimes irregular South Florida would play the key role of designating the next president? A more tropical, a more colorful national mood, will have to prevail.

(José de la Isla vive en Houston, Texas. Su libro, "The Rise of Hispanic Politics," saldrá a comienzos del año próximo publicado por Archer Books.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en año 2000. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate, a servicio de Tribune Media Services

By Patricia Guadalupe

Mientras la atención de la nación el pasado 7 de noviembre estaba enfocada y para efectos, sigue enfocada en la elección presidencial, votantes en Puerto Rico hicieron historia.

Elegieron a la primera mujer gobernadora en la historia de la isla, la alcaldesa de San Juan Sila María Calderón, del Partido Popular Demócratico el que aboga por mantener los estatus actual con Estados Unidos. Calderón derrotó 49 por ciento a 46 por ciento a su principal rival, Carlos Pesquera del Partido Nuevo Progresista el cual aboga por la estabilidad para la isla.

La elección representa un importante giro en la relación política de la isla con Estados Unidos. También se vió un aumento en el número de votos para el partido independentista, y el tema de la presencia de la marina estadounidense en Vieques jugó un papel decisivo en los resultados. Muchos acudieron a las urnas: de los 2.4 millones de residentes registrados para votar, 2 millones votaron.

Calderón, de 57 años, es una funcionaria política de una adinerada familia isleña que hiciera

su fortuna en el negocio de hechas.

Hizo una campaña agresiva en contra de la estabilidad, diciendo que aunque apreciaba la relación que la isla tiene con Estados Unidos e incluso buscaba maneras de ampliarla, la isla, enfatizó, es un lugar aparte con su propia cultura e idioma que se perjudicaría siendo absorbido por la nación estadounidense.

Calderón fue ayudada en sus esfuerzos por un incidente que ocurrió hace más de un año antes de las elecciones. En abril de 1998, un avión militar en maniobras cerca de la isla de Vieques lanzó una bomba fuera de la zona de tiro, matando a un civil e hiriendo a varios otros.

Desde los años 40, las fuerzas armadas estadounidenses han usado la pequeña isla al suroeste de la isla para prácticas de bombardeo y otras maniobras militares. Y por todo ese tiempo, han habido protestas y manifestaciones en contra de la presencia de la marina en Vieques.

Los comentarios de Pesquera durante uno de los debates de los candidatos a la gobernación igual perjudicaron su candidatura y la oportunidad de que su partido en funciones mantendría el poder. "El tema de Vieques está resuelto y deberíamos seguir con otros asuntos," dijo el candidato estadista.

Muchos mostraron consternación. "Pero cómo se atreve a

dicir que Vieques está resuelto," dijo un residente en un programa radial. "Qué pantalones! ¡Qué se cree!"

Esto, junto con un sinnúmero de alegaciones de corrupción y desperdicio gubernamental, ayud

# Un español obsesionado por curar el cáncer

ISABEL FERNÁNDEZ

Antonio Carreiras descubrió, veintún años atrás, las bonanzas naturales de algunas hierbas autóctonas. La vida lo llevó al volante de un ómnibus de pasajeros, pero en sus horas libres persistió en la búsqueda de un objetivo científico. Hoy, este español que peina canas sorprende al mundo con una infusión de hierbas que ayuda a curar el cáncer.

Porque el segundo milenio ya es parte de la historia, estos primeros meses del tercero son propicios para balances. Todos los días, desde la televisión, la radio y los periódicos, los "hombres de ciencia" recuerdan los avances del siglo que entonó retirada: que la vacuna contra la polio, la tuberculosis o la meningitis, que la penicilina, que la radioterapia, que Prozac, que las pastillas para adelgazar... Y también están presentes las interrogantes con sabor a frustración donde -sin olvidar el Síndrome de Inmunodeficiencia Adquirida (SIDA)- el cáncer, por viejo y rebeldé, lleva la delantera.

Antonio Carreiras nace en Lugo, un 11 de setiembre de 1940. Llega a Montevideo apenas estrenados los quince años y ya no se va más. La necesidad de trabajar para pagar el

alquiler de la pieza donde vivía, dejó por el camino sus sueños de estudiar medicina. Pero el campo, en donde trabajó algún tiempo, estimuló esa característica tan especial de observar todo que identifica a los científicos.

## Nace el compuesto

Fue allí, entre los árboles, las flores silvestres y los animales, donde el joven Antonio notó que a las ovejas que estaban a su cuidado, ciertos tumores se les curaban con la ingestión de determinados yuyos. Decidió probar que no se equivocaba: realizó una preparación con la combinación de tres hierbas autóctonas para inyectar a los cuadrúpedos enfermos. Y éstos sanaban.

Carreiras vuelve a Montevideo donde, conociendo lo inocuo de su preparado, comienza a distribuirlo vía oral a personas de su conocimiento que tenían determinadas patologías tumorales. Y así se va haciendo de una "clientela" a la que, por otra parte, no le cobra nada. Sólo pide agua mineral para realizar la infusión, de la cual, independientemente del motivo de la consulta, se deben ingerir 250 cc. por día en tres tomas: mañana, tarde y noche. Aunque los síntomas desaparezcan y, eventualmente, la enfermedad también, la dosis debe continuar por lo

menos por un año.

Carreiras recordó en una entrevista exclusiva que concedió a Posdata que hace nueve años se contactó con la doctora Ana María Pisconi, luego de lo cual, según cuenta, "comenzamos a tratar complementariamente con la infusión a pacientes de la médica con problemas oncológicos. Como el resultado fue positivo, fui a hablar con el doctor Ignacio Mirazo, dermatólogo que trataba a pacientes portadores del virus de inmunodeficiencia humana (VIH) y con SIDA. El medicamento también fue bueno para los portadores del virus, llegando incluso a negativizarlos".

Vale aclarar que, desde el punto de vista científico, hay que manejar cuidadosamente los términos, por eso consultamos sobre esta afirmación de Carreiras al doctor Ignacio Mirazo, director del Servicio Nacional de Infectocontagiosos (centro de referencia en Uruguay para VIH-SIDA). A parte, es uno de los integrantes del equipo que está trabajando en el estudio de MRI. "Lo que se conoce como negativización del VIH no es más que la eliminación en la sangre del virus", explica Mirazo. "Esto no significa que éste haya desaparecido del organismo, simplemente varía la forma a través de la cual se pone de manifiesto y, por supuesto, no porque la sangre esté 'limpia', el paciente está curado. Puede seguir teniendo virus en los ganglios linfáticos, la médula espinal, el intestino, etc. Las terapéuticas habituales, cualesquier fueran, están jugadas a eliminar el virus de la sangre como forma de ir 'limpiando' el organismo y lograr que, de alguna forma, con el correr del tiempo se vayan eliminando todos los virus con la apuesta a que no se sigan reproduciendo. Entonces se debe hacer hincapié en que la sangre es el vehículo del virus, no el reservorio real de éste", explicó el médico.

Hoy se podría decir que Carreiras, junto a un equipo de profesionales -la química Carmen Alfonso y los doctores Ana María Pisconi, Martha Capurro, Beno Rucasky e Ignacio Mirazo- están abriendo camino en la investigación científica de la sustancia que, en los círculos médicos, recibe el nombre de "modulador de la respuesta inmune" (MRI).

Los años pasaron y, en el improvisado consultorio de la Calle Burgues, el compuesto MRI se distribuye sólo con fotocopia de historia clínica que asegure que el paciente también recibe atención profesional. Patentan una esperanza

Hoy por hoy, y con un promedio de setenta médicos que mandan pacientes a buscar la infusión, Antonio Carreiras considera que ya es tiempo de patentar su invento. El 3 de diciembre de 1998, se presentó junto con la química Carmen Alfonso ante el Ministerio de Industria y Energía e inició el trámite. La carpeta de registro lleva el número 25,284 pero está archivada a la espera de la reglamentación de la ley que permite patentar medicamentos en Uruguay.

Alfonso comentó a Posdata que se encargó de "hacer el detalle por menorizado de la composición de la infusión e investigó las cualidades de las hierbas que integran el producto final, con la alegría de haber podido encontrar que una de ellas ya ha sido estudiada en ratas por tener propiedades antitumorales".

Por otra parte, Carreiras ya logró inscribir su invento en España, y lo hará próximamente en Argentina, Brasil, Alemania, Japón y Estados Unidos. Algo para nada fácil, por cierto, ya que necesita 20,000 dólares y el plazo para realizarlo es breve.

Fue por este motivo que se acercó a la organización no gubernamental (ONG) "Transparencia" uruguaya, para solicitar ayuda. El 2 de noviembre del año pasado, el Ministerio de Salud Pública, Raúl Bustos, recibió una delegación compuesta por representantes de ONG, los doctores Beno Rucasky y Martha Capurro, quienes solicitaron apoyo técnico, tanto material como humano, incluyendo el laboratorio Francisco Dorrego y sus funcionarios, para comprobar científicamente lo que hasta ahora fue hecho en forma empírica. El alto funcionario gubernamental estuvo de acuerdo y aseguró a los presentes que pondría en conocimiento del Presidente de la Nación este descubrimiento y sus pasos.

## Navegando por el mundo

En 1999, el servicio informativo de la Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos (OEI) divulgó a través de Internet el descubrimiento de Antonio Carreiras. Bajo el título "Nue-

va esperanza para el cáncer surgió de un conductor de ómnibus", Gustavo Laborde asegura que "en la actualidad hay más de tres mil pacientes en Uruguay que están consumiendo este medicamento. Entre los consumidores hay 298 médicos que lo procuran, ya sea para consumo personal o para proporcionárselo a sus pacientes". Carreiras se ha visto obligado a aumentar la producción del jarabe a 700 litros por día debido a los encargos que le llegan desde Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay, Canadá, Estados Unidos, España y Australia. El costo del correo es lo único que el creador de MRI cobra por su envío, ya que la medicina es completamente gratuita y la única

Patentada en Uruguay. "Ponga por ahí que hacer la infusión cuesta barato y que lo que pretendo es que la gente pueda recibir un tratamiento por poco dinero. Que mañana no se quiera hacer de esto una esperanza para unos pocos".

Publicado por Posdata (noviembre de 1999). La Raza transcribe este trabajo con la convicción de que

atraerá la atención hacia los esfuerzos que realiza nuestra gente, en nuestros países, para contribuir al tratamiento y cura de enfermedades terminales a través de remedios naturales, a bajo costo o gratuitos ■

## Helping Hispanic Women Choose Steps to Health

By Wanda Jones, Dr.P.H.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Women's Health) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Singers Jennifer Lopez and Gloria Estefan are not the only role models who show the beauty, power and strength of Latinas. Take Martha Medrano, M.D., MPH, who is the Director of the Hispanic Center of Excellence, University of Texas Health Science Center.

Dr. Medrano, who serves on the Panel of Experts for Minority Women's Health, coordinated by the Office on Women's Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is one of hundreds of health experts reaching out to Hispanic communities to encourage women to take better care of their health. "Latina women are the backbone of their families and communities," says Dr. Medrano. "Their effort to keep themselves strong and healthy in turn assures that their families and communities will remain fuerte and saludable."

Dr. Medrano is active in the national public health campaign called Pick

Your Path to Health, designed to inform women about healthy actions that can easily be incorporated into their lives. The campaign encourages women to pick the steps to better health that fit their individual life rhythms, needs, and back-

ground. And it is aimed at reducing the health disparities between minority and white women, which were reported in Healthy People 2010, the nation's agenda for health in the next decade.

The U.S. Latina population is growing quickly group; about 11% of the women in the United States are Hispanic (15.7 million), and this number is expected to grow rapidly over the next 10 years. By the year 2030, more than 20% of the female population will be of Hispanic descent. These women come from incredibly diverse backgrounds, and often lack access to health care for socioeconomic and cultural reasons.

Health heroines like Dr. Medrano are working to change that. Until we make significant institutional changes, however, there are simple actions Hispanic women can take for themselves that can get them on a path to better health if they are informed.

Research shows that it takes just one or two key activities to lower a woman's risk of disease activities that are simple and manageable, such as having a screening test, walking more, taking the stairs instead of the elevator, or including fruits and vegetables in her diet. The campaign also recommends that women ask for help to lower stress levels, drink water instead

Continued Page 5

## Letter to the Editor

### Thanks

On behalf of the Gutierrez Campaign for County Commissioner please allow me an opportunity to publicly thank those that with their vote supported our campaign to be elected. Our message--spread primarily in our door-to-door efforts -- was heard as the statistics demonstrate. We took the message directly to voter's homes in our block walking and responded as seen in the turnout for Arnett Elementary, Lubbock, High, and Idalou. Also the rural votes cast in Idalou and New Deal are significant in that the majority voted for us and invalidates our oppositions claims of superior service to farmers and rural residents.

In closing, I want to thank my family--especially my wife Mary Jane, my daughter Natalie, my son Javier, and grandson Alejandro--friends, and believers for their support, guidance and prayers. Also to Frank Castaneda of Josie's for serving as treasurer for the campaign. I especially owe a debt of gratitude for the El Editor's support. To you Bidal, Olga and Marisol a heartfelt thank you for offering the community a choice in what is read by them and for having the courage to do so for many years.

We fought and earned every vote. We knocked on doors during the rain, worked the polls on a cold and snowy day while dealing with the elements of mendacity, astrastrados, and instruments of the establishment...this too shall pass.

Frank Gutierrez

### The Florida Anomaly

Analysis of Election 2000

By: Ysidro V. Gutierrez

Before I delve into the subject of this commentary, I have one observation on the results of the local election. Lubbockites reelected all the incumbents, including Emery Waters. They must be truly happy with the status quo.

Now on to the Florida anomaly and the yet to be determined Presidential race.

I've followed with interest the modern day prophets of doom warning about the lack of a mandate for the new President, be it Bush or Gore. "With a margin of victory so thin," they say, "How can the next president govern effectively?" If they are serious about this let me remind them that we are talking about the President of the United States, the most powerful man in the world. The results of the election will not change the Presidency. It's power will certainly not be diminished simply because the winner was elected by a small margin.

Others prophets of doom lament that the two candidates will do anything to win in Florida. Of course they will. The Presidency is at stake. Therefore it is no surprise that tens of hundreds of lawyers have descended on Florida. Somehow it always comes to this. Because of their involvement I am forced to make a most distasteful prediction. I predict that the election will be decided not by the Florida recount but by the US Supreme Court. With so many lawyers involved I cannot envision the issue being settled by mere votes. My prediction is predicated wholly on the fact that lawyers are state. If there is a lesson to be gained from the New Mexico revelations, it is that no effort must be spared to insure a full, accurate, and lawful count of all ballots. There is ample time to insure this Florida. However my cynical side cannot help but rule out this possibility. With 25 Electoral votes and the Presidency at stake I cannot envision stakeholders setting aside their partisanship follow the New Mexico example.

I feel reasonably sure that all other details of the 2000 campaign, the conventions, the debates, the kiss, will be forgotten when historians chronicle Election 2000. All superlatives will be reserved for the Florida anomaly. It will overshadow all else. I wonder how history will deal with voters who admitted on national TV that they didn't know who they voted for. "Duh."

The Florida anomaly was not the only peculiarity in Election 2000. The undecided swing vote never emerged. Both candidates apparently failed to motivate the first time voter, the far left, the far right, and the nebulous middle-of-the-roader. In a time of unprecedented prosperity, Al Gore failed to get voters to vote their pocket books as Americans are prone to do. George Bush, on the other hand, failed to capitalize on the ineptness of his opponent. It is amazing how accurately the pollsters predicted the outcome of Election 2000. They said repeatedly that it was too close to call. I didn't realize the "Bean Counters" were this good. They have earned new respect from pundits everywhere.

It is clear that only lawyers will benefit from the Florida anomaly. They stand to get election-sized fees and reputations. However, I believe that there is a shred of good that has already come from this. The strength of our democracy has been validated by the Florida anomaly. There is no constitutional crisis - America's light shines brightly.

Aside from the candidate who must lose; who will be the losers in the Florida anomaly? Off hand I can think of three. The news media will not be able to total clean off the egg from its face for a long time to come. Another probable victim will be the Electoral College. Already some are questioning its mortality. Perhaps we will witness the demise of old-style voting machines. After all we are living in a high-tech information age. Imagine a lawyer free machine that can count 100 million votes in one hour.

One more piece is missing from the Florida anomaly. Where are the entrepreneurs? I haven't seen one "I Survived the Florida Anomaly" t-shirts anywhere. A t-shirt so captioned would be a bargain at \$15. Also, I'd pay a mint for a souvenir "Florida Butterfly Ballot."

Wow, what a way to begin the new millennium!!! Isn't it great to be alive?????

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# Filmmaker Hector Galán Documenting the Latino Experience

MACARENA HERNANDEZ

For filmmaker Hector Galán, the cultural awakening of the 70s was not only a forum to voice civil rights issues, but also a training ground for telling stories from behind the lens.

"It was the Chicano Movement when I started learning field production quite a bit. I would go to marches and rallies and take a field camera -- brand new stuff that was coming out -- and learn my craft there," said Galán. "It gave me that ability to speak out and that platform, and then I started meeting people that felt the same way I did."



Today, Galán is regarded as one of the top Latino filmmakers in the country.

Throughout his career, Galán has produced films ranging in subject from Chicago's Latin Kings to Mexico's fraudulent electoral process to the power of the Latino vote to drug addicts kicking the habit at a rehabilitation center.

He has documented the story of Tejano music, examined the life of late Tejano singer Selena, and taken a look into the history of Mexican American miners in Arizona. In 1996, he produced the series "Chicano! The History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement," which aired nationally and became the first series to document the historical contributions of Chicanos during the 1960s and 70s.

"I know one film won't change

film helped Galán get his first job as a researcher for a production company out of Austin run by Aida Barrera, a veteran Latina newswoman who produced the PBS bilingual children's show, "Carrascolendas."

His work in Austin eventually landed him a job with "Frontline," the PBS public affairs series out of Boston. By the time he was 30, he accomplished his goal of having his first one-hour production air nationally. He soon went on to become an independent producer. Since then, he has been running Galán Productions out of Austin.

Galán spoke to Latino.com about his various projects, the struggles of independent filmmaking and his response to

self, but that you are programming to the general audience and making sure that they understand it. Make sure you have a compelling story and a story arc that is like a drama, that is like a movie. I also program for the general audience. I want them to know and understand who we are.

Latino.com: You are probably asked why you don't do feature films instead of documentaries.

Galán: I think that doing documentaries is probably harder than doing feature films. It is a lot harder to have to find the real thing. I do my documentaries as if I were doing a feature film. I cast it, with real people and real stories. I create the story line and I scout locations. It is almost like doing a movie,

ing with the film. I've actually cut out things of people doing illegal things because I know them and I know if the police saw that they would get in trouble. I don't go for the gratuitous violence or anything like that, and that is probably why I am not involved doing reality-based television that I have been asked many times to do. I won't do that. I'd rather be flipping burgers.

Latino.com: While you were at "Frontline" and early on in your career, did you feel you had a commitment to tell Latino stories?

Galán: At that time, I wanted to tell Latino stories. I couldn't tell Latino stories because they didn't want to invest the money in it.

Latino.com: Did you feel this



criticism about people ghettoizing themselves by telling Latino stories. Latino.com: What kinds of issues are you more interested in exploring?

Galán: I was involved in quite a bit of news and public af-

except it is for real. I don't have this burning desire to go work in Hollywood. I just have this burning desire to do films that impact people. Latino.com: Is it getting any easier to raise funds for documentaries?

Galán: It may get a little easier in terms of knowing where to knock. It is a business. Half of my time is raising money to do these documentaries. I have gotten better at it. I have gotten pretty good at pitching ideas and learning the business of television, but it is not any easier. There are the hurdles that I have bypassed like the credits and the experience, things that for a younger filmmaker or someone who is starting doesn't have. But it doesn't make it any easier. They still have to like your idea and believe in your idea. Even though I have been pretty fortunate that the majority of the things I have pitched have gotten funded, there have been a couple of stories that I just didn't get anywhere with.

Latino.com: What is the hardest interview you have had to conduct?

Galán: I have done a lot of them, but the hardest one is probably when I was in Chicago and they had just killed a young boy. I went in and knocked on the door right when the family had gotten word. They were upstairs praying, crying, devastated. And I interviewed the mother, and of course I didn't want this exploitative approach.

Latino.com: How do you reconcile exploiting the family because you think a certain shot will make the film stronger versus this is a private moment you should just respect and not make their pain public?

Galán: I try to be very sensitive. I try not to invade peoples' privacies. It was very powerful because she was really expressing her feelings. I wouldn't have shot her without her permission. I don't shoot anybody really, unless we are doing surveillance footage of people selling drugs or doing illegal things. In "Frontline" they have actually aired. But I really don't get into that.

Latino.com: You've done a lot of stories on people who aren't very media savvy. They don't deliver the perfect sound bite or maybe tell you too much. Do you feel you have to protect these people?

Galán: Sometimes. Sometimes, I deliberately leave things out that I know can get them into a lot of trouble and that wasn't the intention of what I was doing.

## A TODAS LAS PERSONAS Y ENTIDADES INTERESADAS:

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do my own work and it is all Latino-themed.

Latino.com: Some people argue that if you have a non-Latino telling the stories of Latinos they are more objective. The other argument is if you don't have a Latino telling the story, then the nuances are lost. So who should tell the Latino story?

Galán: To me an Anglo that is doing a story on Latinos is usually somebody who has an interest in the Latino community. So I wouldn't want them to keep them from doing that. On the other hand, they do miss the nuances. They don't know the gente, la cultura as Latinos do.

Latino.com: Did anyone ever tell you not to do only stories about Latinos because you

would end up being ghettoized or pigeonholed?

Galán: I thought about that. I remember when I started working, the very first time when I did "Aztlan," the engineers were all Anglo, (one) pulled me aside once and said, Son, you don't have to do this. I was shocked that he told me that. Because for some strange reason, he thought it was below me to be doing programming that dealt with Chicanos. I thought about that and when I was doing "Frontlines" up in Boston, I was wondering, do people believe that? Eventually, I got over it. I want to tell stories that just haven't been told. If I don't do this, who is going to do it?

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## Paramilitares De Chiapas Hacen Alarde De Poder

por Diego Cevallos

MÉXICO. - Los paramilitares que actúan hace cinco años en el estado meridional de Chiapas, en México, vuelven a mostrar su fuerza en vísperas del juramento presidencial de Vicente Fox.

Veinte heridos dejó este domingo una incursión policial en una comunidad indígena donde se escondían armas y supuestos paramilitares dedicados a combatir a simpatizantes del Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN).

Enterados del operativo policial con horas de anticipación, según dijeron algunos testigos, los pobladores de la comunidad "Los Chorros" se organizaron para impedir, a golpes de palos y algunos disparos, que los agentes cumplan con su cometido.

Los policías debieron retirarse ante la resistencia. En el operativo resultaron heridos varios policías, pero quienes llevaron la peor parte fueron los indígenas del lugar.

Las autoridades indicaron este lunes que regresarán con más personal para cumplir con el objetivo de detener la violencia desatada por grupos armados irregulares que se escondían en Los Chorros, comunidad del municipio de Chenalhó, ayuntamiento gobernado por el Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI).

Organizaciones humanitarias y políticos opositores aseguran que en Chiapas operan al menos 12 grupos paramilitares, impera la impunidad y se desarrolla desde el gobierno una guerra de "baja intensidad" contra la guerrilla. Zedillo niega todas las acusaciones.

Activistas humanitarios realizaron los últimos cinco años campañas internacionales de denuncia y lograron que Amnistía Internacional, Human Rights Watch-Americas y el Departamento de Estado (cancillería) de Estados Unidos introdujera reiterados reclamos a México por violaciones de derechos humanos en Chiapas.

El EZLN, según el cual los paramilitares reciben protección de las autoridades, mantienen a Zedillo como rehén político desde que asumió la Presidencia en diciembre de 1994, opinó el columnista del semanario Milenio Raymundo Riva Palacio.

La guerrilla, que se levantó en armas el 1 de enero de 1994, y los militares, que copan todas las regiones de Chiapas, se mantienen en una tensa tregua gracias a una ley de pacificación.

Pero el diálogo de paz está suspendido desde 1996, luego de que Zedillo se negó a aceptar un proyecto de ley de derechos y cultura indígena preparada por el Congreso legislativo sobre la base de los únicos acuerdos suscriptos entre el EZLN y el Poder Ejecutivo.

A pesar de que en Chiapas existen miles de militares y policías y el gobierno gastó los últimos años cuantiosas sumas en programas sociales, el estado se mantiene como uno de los más violentos y pobres de México.

Durante el gobierno de Zedillo, los policías y militares fueron cómplices de la violencia, protegieron a los paramilitares y permitieron toda clase de atropellos, sostiene el grupo humanitario Agustín Pro Juárez.

Fox, que asumirá el 1 de diciembre



Usted conoce a Southwestern Public Service. Por más de cien años, usted a dependido de nosotros para tener electricidad confiable y a su alcance. Y queremos estar seguros que esto nunca cambie. De manera que estamos cambiando la forma en que hacemos negocio, desde nuestro logo. Nosotros continuaremos el mantenimiento a las líneas de energía y la llevaremos hasta usted. Pero muy pronto usted tendrá otra compañía que también trabajará para usted. Xcel Energy. Juntos vamos a traer mucho más a la mesa. Lo cual desde luego es digno de aplauso.

**Southwestern  
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the world, but television is very intimate," said Galán. "You are there in your living room and it is you and your TV, and if you can reach people that way, it could be very effective."

On December 14, his documentary about colonias along the U.S. Mexico border, "The Forgotten Americans," will air nationally (check local listings). Colonias are communities of mostly Latinos who live in the outskirts of towns and cities, often without running water or electricity. These shanty towns have served as ammunition for the Democratic party against the Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

Galán's first glimpse into the world of television came soon after high school in his small hometown of San Angelo, where he worked at a local television station as a cameraman, a job he found at the local unemployment office. While he was a student at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Galán produced his first show, Aztlan, a weekly Spanish program on PBS.

"We did it in Spanish because we didn't want management to know what we were saying, otherwise, they would have kicked us off the air," recalled Galán. "Basically we were espousing a lot of the Chicanismo that was going on -- the anger that we had."

After graduating from college he made his first film, "Disco Discrimination," which looked at the prejudice that Latinos faced in the Lubbock club scene. The

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## Few Latinos Working Behind the Scenes in Sports

by PEDRO MORALES

© Latino.com

Not so says Dan Guerrero, a Division I athletic director for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the organization that oversees college athletics.

Guerrero, head of athletics at the University of California, Irvine, says there are numerous job opportunities in sports that aren't on the playing field.

Jobs such as administrative assistants, equipment managers and media relation directors are a few of the jobs available in collegiate and professional sports. And Guerrero would like to see more Latinos take advantage of these openings.

"Latinos have not been exposed to these professional opportunities," says Guerrero. "There have not been role models to demonstrate that this is a viable profession and it is worth exploring."

As one of only three Latino athletic directors out of 995 nationwide, Guerrero's job includes overseeing athletic coaches, supervising marketing and promotions, and other team responsibilities. In general, college athletic directors earn around \$100,000 a year.

Although it isn't in his job description, Guerrero also



Guerrero

likes to visit high schools to show videos of the NCAA games and to inform students of career opportunities.

"I tell kids who love sports, 'Guess what, you can make a living out of this,'" says Guerrero, who also gives students free tickets to attend college games.

But Guerrero admits that the executive council of the NCAA has not done their best to recruit people of color.

"The people that are making the decisions may not always have issues of diversity at the forefront," says Guerrero. "We have to create a consciousness."

According to "Race Demographics," an NCAA report released earlier this year, Latinos represent only 1.9 percent of the 19,124 college athletics administrative staff. Of those, 235 are men and 142 are women.

Dr. Charles Whitcomb, chairman of the Minorities

Opportunities and Interest Group, a group that seeks to recruit more people of color in athletics, agrees that the executive council must do more to diversify college athletics. "People need to start thinking out of the box," says Whitcomb.

Although the number of Latinos is low, Whitcomb says the council should not be blamed with discrimination. "It's a mindset, it's the culture. They go with what they are most comfortable with."

The Minorities Group offers one-year internships at the NCAA national office and \$6,000 postgraduate scholarships for students interested in pursuing a career in non-competitive athletics careers.

Eric Velazquez, who served an internship with UC Irvine's athletics communication department and was later hired as director of media relations for the U.S. Water polo team, says if the talent is there, people will recognize it.

"I think if you have things going for you, you can catch on to anything," he says. "Dan Guerrero is one of the best athletic directors. He is a testament to how minorities can thrive in positions like that."

Velazquez is confident there will be more diversity behind the scenes of college and professional sports.

"I think more and more Latinos are doing things for themselves. It's just about going out there and being ambitious and convincing anyone that you can do the job."

## Villarreal to Fight in London England

Hector Villarreal, 17 years old and 112 pounds is a member of the Lubbock Warriors Boxing Club and has been selected as a member of the USA International Team by virtue of his accomplishments.

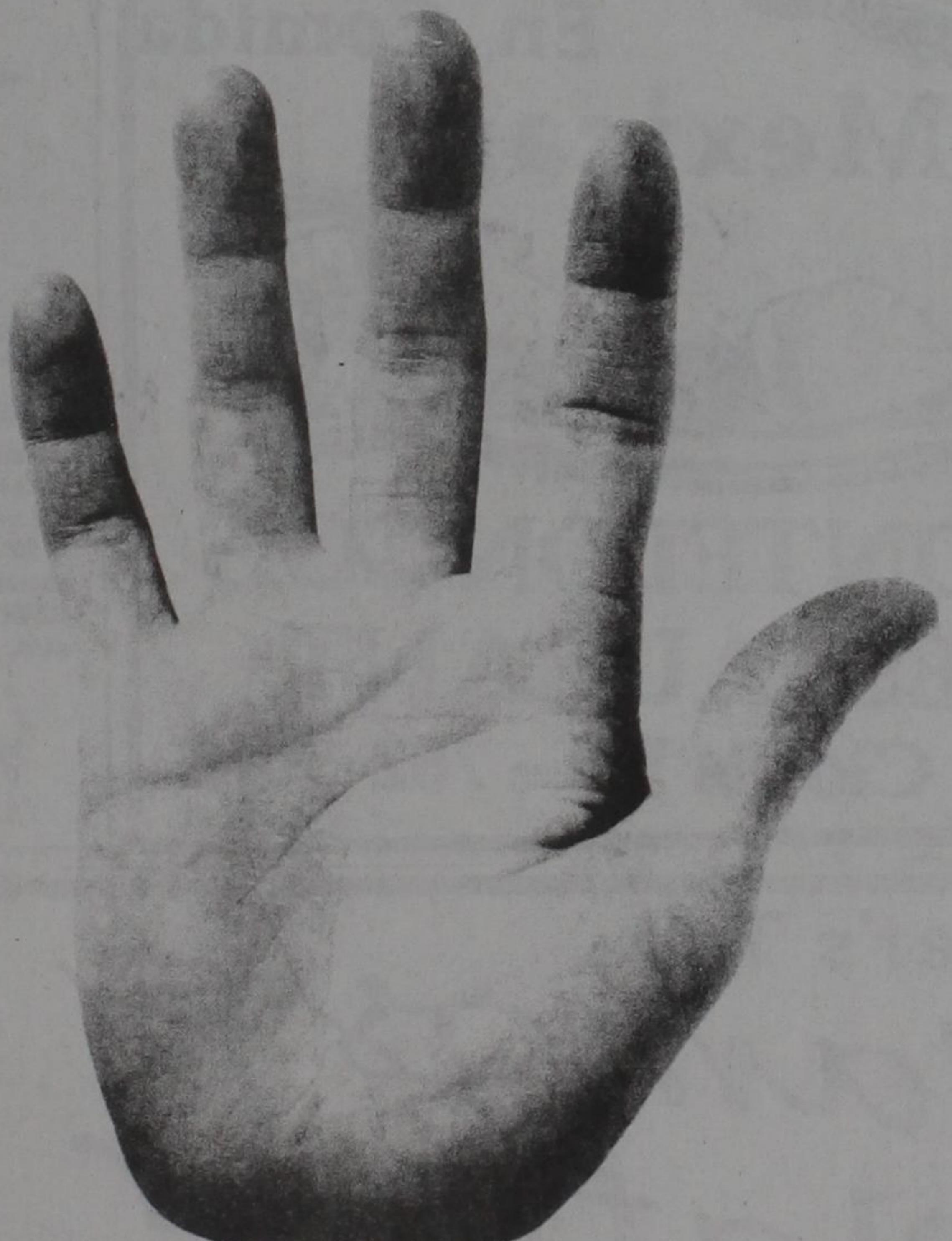
He is the 2000 Texas State

Golden Gloves Champion and he was the National Runner Up at the Jr. World Cup in Biloxi, Mississippi in June of this year.

Villarreal leaves for London England on Friday Nov. 17th

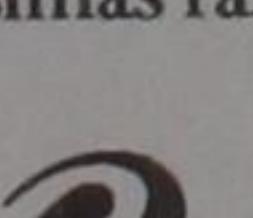


In the world of sports, if you aren't fast, big, tall, have good coordination or can't hit a baseball further than 500 feet you might as well watch a game from the bleachers or on TV.



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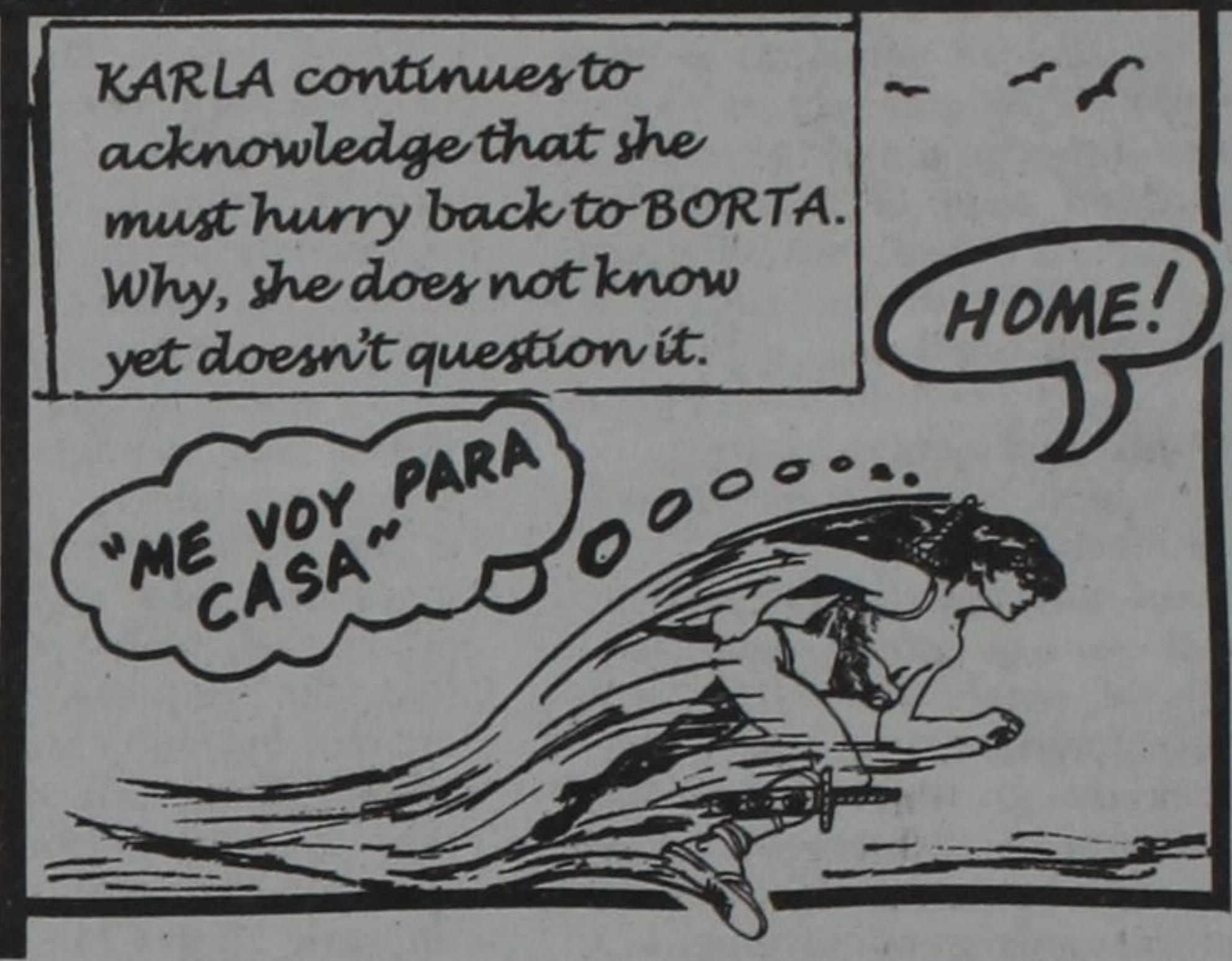
Pero ya la conocerá. Xcel Energy fue creada para traer a usted una gran variedad de servicios y productos como usted nunca a visto antes. Ideas brillantes que harán que su vida sea un poco más fácil. Y Xcel Energy tiene los recursos que ayudarán a SPS a mantener los altos niveles con los que usted siempre a contado. Ahora y en el futuro por venir. Si en caso tiene alguna pregunta, solamente llámenos al 800-894-3368. Usted no solamente obtendrá respuestas, sino muchísimas razones para alegrarse.

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KARLA just left the village of JOPA; only minutes from BORTA, her home.



JOPA and BORTA are divided by a lake called "EL MEDIO LAGO".



## From Page 4



ciembre, pedirá al Congreso convertir en ley el proyecto sobre derecho y cultura indígena rechazado por Zedillo, y anunció que movería al ejército de la zona de influencia de la guerrilla para demostrar su buena voluntad para negociar.

En las elecciones de agosto triunfó un candidato a gobernador de la oposición en Chiapas, a quien la dirigencia del EZLN conoce y respeta, y Fox inició una serie de esfuerzos para establecer canales de comunicación con los guerrilleros.

Pero hasta ahora, y a pesar de que el PRI perdió por primera vez la Presidencia en 71 años, uno los "sueños" del EZLN, el grupo armado no respondió ninguno de los llamados al diálogo.

La Comisión de Concordia y Pacificación del Congreso anunció que ya reanudó sus tareas con el objetivo de reactivar la negociación de paz en Chiapas y buscar la solución a sus problemas.

A mediados de este año y luego de más de cinco de ser acusado de fomentar y tolerar a los paramilitares, el gobierno de Zedillo estableció una unidad especial de policía para combatirlos.

Pero la violencia continuó. Paramilitares del grupo Paz y Justicia quemaron en agosto viviendas y echaron a 30 familias de un poblado habitado por simpatizantes de la guerrilla, y este domingo demostraron en Los Chorros que están dispuestos a enfrentar a la policía.

La semana pasada, la Procuraduría General detuvo a una docena de miembros de Paz y Justicia, entre quienes figuraba un ex diputado del PRI por Chiapas.

El grupo paramilitar es acusado de participar en la matanza de 45 indígenas, la mayoría mujeres y niños, registrada a fines de 1997 en la comunidad de Acteal.

## From Page 3

of soda, and reach out to family and friends for support.

Heart disease is the number one cause of death for Hispanic women, followed by cancer, stroke, and HIV/AIDS (for women between the ages of 24 and 44). To help women lower their risk of heart disease, the National Women's Health Information Center (NWHIC), sponsored by the Office on Women's Health, has designed a personalized web site, called "For Your Heart."

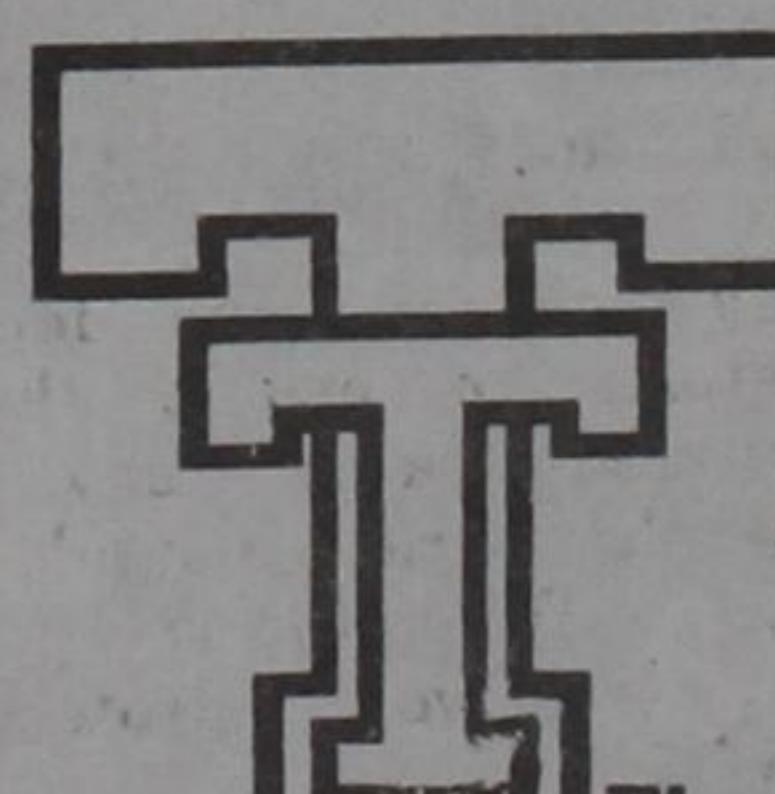
Women are asked to answer a short, confidential survey about their health and lifestyle, and then are provided with a culturally tailored series of articles detailing the latest information on exercise, nutrition, smoking, diabetes, cholesterol, high blood pressure and other factors that affect a woman's risk for heart disease. The articles are available in both Spanish and English.

For more information on the "For Your Heart" feature, or on the Pick Your Path to Health campaign, visit the National Women's Health Information (NWHIC) web site ([www.4woman.gov](http://www.4woman.gov)). NWHIC also has information on many other health issues for women available in Spanish. Just go to the home page and click on "en Espanol." For women who are not comfortable with, or don't have access to, the Internet, NWHIC offers information specialists during regular business hours who speak Spanish at 1-800-994WOMAN (TDD: 1-888-220-5446).

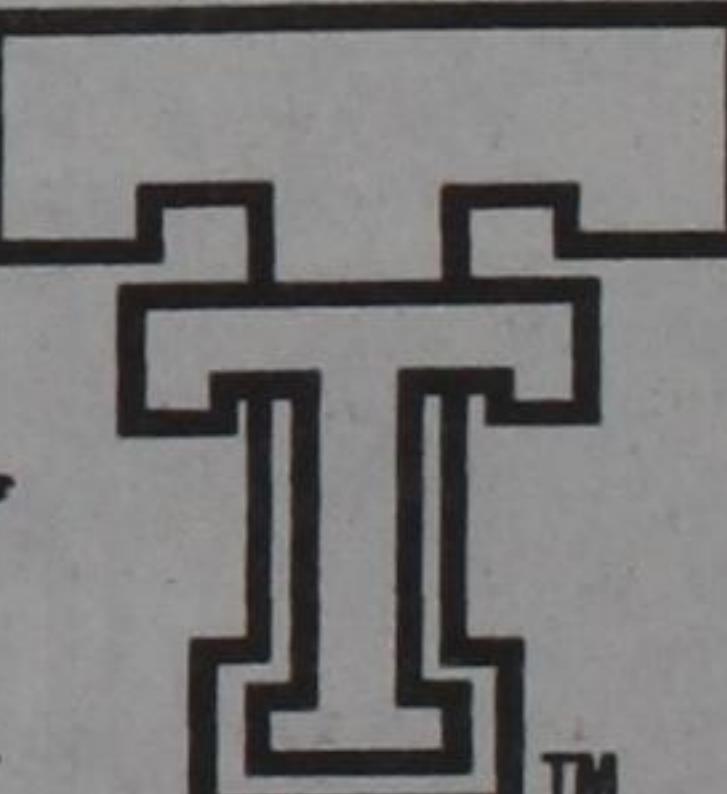
Not all women can complete a medical education, like Dr. Medrano, or become a singing superstar like Gloria Estefan. All women, however, can become their own health heroines, and be their own role models for their daughters and granddaughters. Just take that first step on your path to better health.

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## La Vía a La Casa Blanca pasa Por Los Tribunales

por Jim Lobe

Washington, 10 nov (IPS) Todo indica que los tribunales decidirán quién será el próximo presidente de Estados Unidos, mientras el recuento en Florida, el estado que definirá la Presidencia, redujo la diferencia de votos entre George W. Bush y Al Gore a menos de 400 en un total de seis millones sufragados.

La extraordinaria vuelta de tuerca de los comicios del martes llevó a muchos a cuestionarse la forma en que los presidentes son elegidos en este país. Algunos exigen que el sistema del colegio electoral, adoptado por la Constitución hace más de 200 años, sea modificado o abolido.

El país se comienza a cuestionar el sistema por el cual el candidato con mayor cantidad de votos en todo el país, el vicepresidente Gore, del oficialista Partido Demócrata, podría ser derrotado por Bush, gobernador de Texas y candidato del Partido Republicano, quien contaría con la mayoría de los votos del colegio electoral.

La indecisión sin precedentes nació con la reñida votación en Florida, donde el Partido Demócrata podría exigir que los electores de un condado predominantemente demócrata, donde se invalidaron casi 20.000 votos, puedan sufragar nuevamente.

El primer escrutinio de los votos la noche del martes pareció darle la ventaja a Bush por 1.800 entre los seis millones de votos de Florida, lo cual le permitiría ganar los 25 votos electorales del estado y llegar a los 271 que necesitaba a nivel nacional para acceder a la Presidencia.

Pero la ley electoral de Florida exige el recuento automático si la diferencia de votos es inferior a uno por ciento del total, como ocurrió en este caso. Luego de contados los votos en 63 de los 67 condados del estado, el margen a favor de Bush se había reducido a 359 votos este jueves.

Incluso si las autoridades electorales confirmaran la victoria de Bush en el recuento, como se prevé, aún se espera la llegada por correo en los próximos 10 días de al menos 2.000 votos de los ciudadanos floridenses residentes en el exterior.

Gore cuenta con 260 votos electorales, y los 25 de Florida le darían la victoria nacional.

Si la democracia estadounidense fuera directa, en la cual el ganador fuera el candidato con mayor cantidad de votos, Gore ya sería el presidente electo, ya que oficialmente tiene una ventaja de 100.000 votos en todo el país.

Pero la elección presidencial es indirecta, a través de un colegio electoral donde estados poco poblados tienen una influencia proporcional mayor que otros más habitados.

Por este sistema, a cada estado se le designa un número de votos electorales igual al total combinado de senadores y representantes que cuenta el estado

en el Congreso legislativo.

En total existen 538 electores en el colegio electoral, equivalente a 100 bancas del Senado, mientras el recuento en Florida, el estado que definirá la Presidencia, redujo la diferencia de votos entre George W. Bush y Al Gore a menos de 400 en un total de seis millones sufragados.

Mientras las 435 bancas de la cámara baja son designadas según la población, la Constitución otorga dos senadores a cada estado, sin importar su tamaño.

De esta manera, Wyoming, con una población inferior a los 500.000 habitantes, tiene la misma cantidad de senadores que California, de 32 millones.

En el colegio electoral, California cuenta con 54 votos, uno por cada 610.000 habitantes, y Wyoming tiene tres votos, equivalentes a uno cada 150.000 habitantes.

Esa disparidad le ha dado una ventaja especial en los últimos años a los republicanos, cuya base se encuentra precisamente en los estados más rurales y menos habitados de las regiones del sur, el Medio Oeste y las Montañas Rocosas, donde predominan los ciudadanos blancos.

Bush venció en todos los estados de estas regiones, con excepción de aquellos con grandes minorías: Nuevo México, Minnesota, Wisconsin e Illinois.

El hecho de que Gore haya ganado el sufragio popular refuerza la posición del Partido Demócrata para disputar el resultado oficial. Normalmente, los tribunales son reacios a ordenar nuevas elecciones y sólo lo han hecho en casos de fraude. Pero los demócratas parecen listos para impugnar algunos resultados.

Su atención está puesta en el condado de Palm Beach, donde residen gran cantidad de judío estadounidenses, que suelen votar en gran mayoría por el Partido Demócrata.

Las listas electorales de ese condado eran confusas, por lo cual muchos de los votantes que creían haber votado por Gore, en realidad lo hicieron por el candidato de derecha del Partido de la Reforma, Pat Buchanan.

En consecuencia, Buchanan recibió más de 3.000 votos en ese condado, más de tres veces de lo que obtuvo en el vecino condado, con mayor cantidad de habitantes. "Creo que probablemente obtuve algunos votos allí en el sur que en realidad no me pertenecen, y no me siento bien al respecto", declaró Buchanan este jueves.

Muchos de los 19.000 sufragios anulados por las autoridades electorales de Palm Beach contaban con el voto a favor de Buchanan y de Gore, lo cual indicaría que algunos votantes se percataron de un error inicial e intentaron subsanarlo.

Muchos se habrían quejado del problema después de haber votado y algunos presentaron demandas ante los tribunales para impugnar el resultado.

**AVISO DE RECIBO SOLICITUD E INTENTO DE OBTENER UNA RENOVACION DE PERMISO DE CALIDAD DE AIRE**

Permiso Propuesto Núm. 9438

**SOLICITUD X-FAB** Texas, Inc., 2301 Avenida University Norte, Lubbock, Condado de Lubbock, Tejas 79415, se ha registrado con la Comisión de Conservación de Recursos Naturales de Tejas (TNRCC o Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission) para la renovación del Permiso de Calidad de Aire Núm. 9438, el cual autorizará continuar el funcionamiento de una Instalación para la Manufactura de Semiconductores, localizada en la dirección que aparece arriba. La instalación existente va a emitir los siguientes contaminantes atmosféricos: compuestos orgánicos, materia particulada, compuestos inorgánicos, dióxido de azufre, óxidos de nitrógeno, monóxido de carbono, materia particulada de menos de diez micrones de diámetro y amoníaco.

Esta solicitud fue sometida al TNRCC en 19 septiembre de 2000. La solicitud está disponible para revisarse y copiarse en la Oficina Central del TNRCC, en la Oficina Regional del TNRCC en Lubbock, y en la Mahon Library 1306 9th Street de Lubbock, en Lubbock, Tejas. El archivo del cumplimiento de las leyes de la instalación, si existe, estará disponible para el público en la Oficina Regional del TNRCC en Lubbock.

El director ejecutivo del TNRCC ha determinado que la solicitud se halla administrativamente completa y conducirá un análisis técnico de la solicitud.

### COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS/JUNTA PÚBLICA.

Usted puede someter comentarios públicos, solicitar una junta pública sobre esta solicitud, o solicitar una audiencia en controversia a la Oficina del Chief Clerk en la dirección a continuación. El TNRCC considerará todos los comentarios públicos en el desarrollo de una decisión final en esta solicitud. El plazo límite para someter sus comentarios es 15 días después de la publicación de este aviso. Despues el plazo límite para los comentarios públicos, el director ejecutivo preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos relevantes y materiales o de otro modo significativos.

El propósito de una junta pública es para proveer la oportunidad de someter comentarios, o para preguntar sobre la solicitud. Una junta pública sobre la solicitud, se llevará a cabo si el director ejecutivo determina que existe un grado significativo de interés público en la solicitud o si la solicita un

legislador local. Una junta pública no es considerada una audiencia en controversia.

Si sólo se reciben comentarios sobre esta solicitud, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con aviso de la decisión del director ejecutivo sobre la solicitud, será enviada por correo a todos aquellos que hallan sometido sus comentarios o que estén en la lista de correo de esta solicitud.

Si la petición para una audiencia se somete a tiempo, el director ejecutivo emitirá una decisión preliminar después del análisis técnico. El Aviso de la Solicitud y de la Decisión Preliminar serán entonces publicados y enviados por correo a todos los que estén en la lista de correo de esta solicitud. Ese aviso contendrá el plazo final para someter comentarios públicos y peticiones para una junta pública.

Después del plazo final para someter comentarios públicos subsecuentes a cualquier Aviso de la Solicitud y de la Decisión Preliminar, el director ejecutivo considerará los comentarios y preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos relevantes y material, o significativos. Si se reciben comentarios, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con la decisión del director ejecutivo sobre la solicitud, serán entonces enviadas por correo a todos aquellos que hallan sometido comentarios públicos o que estén en la lista de correo de esta solicitud.

### OPORTUNIDAD PARA UNA AUDIENCIA EN CONTROVERSIAS

Usted puede peticionar una audiencia en controversia. Una audiencia en controversia es una procesa legal semejante a una juicio civil en una corte de distrito estatal. A no ser que una petición por escrito para una audiencia en controversia se halla sometido dentro de 15 días después de la publicación de este aviso, el director ejecutivo puede que apruebe la solicitud. Si no se reciben peticiones para una audiencia en controversia dentro de este periodo de 15 días, no habrá más oportunidad para peticionar una audiencia en controversia.

audiencia en controversia sólo se otorgara basada en asuntos en controversia que sean relevantes y materiales a la decisión de los Comisionados sobre la solicitud. Además, la Comisión sólo concederá una audiencia en controversia en esos asuntos que fueron presentados durante el período de los públicos y que no se retiraron.

Comisionados del TNRCC para su consideración en una junta de Comisionados en su itinerario. Si se concede una audiencia en controversia, el objeto de la audiencia en controversia será limitado a los asuntos de hecho en disputa relevantes y materiales a la calidad del aire, que hayan surgido durante el período de comentarios. Asuntos como el valor del propiedad, ruido, seguridad de tráfico, y zonas municipales están fuera de lo que la Comisión tiene la jurisdicción de considerar en este proceso.

**INFORMACION** Comentarios públicos por escrito, peticiones para una junta pública, o peticiones para una audiencia en controversia deberán someterse a la Oficina del Chief Clerk, MC-105, TNRCC, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Tejas 78711-3087. Para más información sobre esta solicitud o el proceso de permisos, por favor llame a la Oficina de Asistencia Pública, gratis, al 1-800-687-4040. Información general sobre el TNRCC se puede encontrar en el [www.tnrc.state.tx.us](http://www.tnrc.state.tx.us).

Más información también puede obtenerse de X-FAB Texas, Inc. en la dirección escrita anteriormente o llamando al señor Richard Torrez, en el 806-747-4400 extensión 2025.

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