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Iraq 4,376  
Afghan 958  
as of Jan.  
21, 2010



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# El Editor

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Ajeno es la Paz"  
Lic Benito Juarez

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Lubbock/West Texas Region

## Lieutenant governor: From fields to a dream Candidate ready for the challenge

SAN ANTONIO—Linda Chavez Thompson was not exactly gone from rags to riches, but if she were elected lieutenant governor of Texas, she could come close to it.

This is how. Chavez Thompson started working in Lubbock County cotton fields in 1954 at the age of 10.

"This is how it was back then," Chavez Thompson recalled during an hour-long interview in San Antonio, where she lives. "In large families like mine, you had to start working at that age because it was the only way to make it and you didn't ques-

tion your father's authority. Every summer, we would work every day from 7 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. until we went back to school."

That was just the beginning. When Chavez Thompson was an eighth-grader, her sharecropper father told her she couldn't go back to school, because the family needed her to work full time.

"I begged him to let me go to

school, but he said I needed to work," she recalled. "And like



many parents of that time, my father said that girls didn't really need to go to school, because they get married and stay home with their children."

But despite lacking a high school diploma, Chavez Thompson went on to become a nationally known labor leader and, two weeks ago, on the last day to register for the March 2 primaries, she took yet another big step in her life. She

registered with the Texas Democratic Party to run for lieutenant governor, a position most political analysts consider the most powerful in Texas, because the officeholder presides over the Texas Senate and controls the legislative agenda.

"I am ready for this challenge, too," said Chavez Thompson, who is making her first run for public office. "If I could make it in the AFL-CIO, I can make it over the Texas Senate."

And though the Texas Democratic Party allowed her to use its headquarters to announce her filing—it's a sign that she has the party's blessing in a three-candidate race because she is a woman, Hispanic and has solid blue-collar credentials—political analysts say she has yet to be tested politically.

Chavez Thompson will face former Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle and Austin delicatessen owner Mark Katz in the Democratic primary. Earle, in particular, is well-known for his more than 30 years as D.A. and for prosecuting elected officials suspected of corruption. The long list includes heavyweights such as U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and former U.S. House Majority

Leader Tom DeLay, both Republicans who successfully fought the charges.

If Chavez Thompson were to beat Earle and Katz in the primary, she would have to face Republican incumbent David Dewhurst in the Nov. 2 general election. Besides enjoying the advantage of incumbency, Dewhurst also is the wealthiest official in Texas. In 2008, The Associated Press estimated his fortune at \$200 million. Equally important, Republicans still have a big edge on Democrats. The GOP controls all 29 statewide offices, and the last time a Democrat won a statewide race was in 1994.

In all, although Chavez Thompson said she isn't thinking about losing the lieutenant-governor's race, she does, she says, she is proud of how far she has come in her life.

Life in West Texas  
Chavez Thompson was born Aug. 3, 1944, in Loreto,

the third of eight children for Felipe and Genoveva Chavez. Her given name was Lydia, but when she was in grade school, a teacher

changed her name to Linda, and her parents didn't object.

"In those days, you didn't question what the teachers or anyone in authority did," she said. "So I became Linda Chavez."

She added the surname Thompson after marrying the late Robert Thompson, who also worked for the AFL-CIO. But long before marrying Thompson, she married Jose Luz Ramirez at 20 and the couple had two children, Maricela, now 44, and Pedro Javier, now 33.

Her career with the union started in 1967, when she started working for the AFL-CIO office on Avenue K in Lubbock, Chavez Thompson recalled.

"The reason they hired me is because they needed a bilingual secretary," she said. "In all she spent about 40 years in the union. And he was rising from secretary to organizer to vice president. Chavez

"I never went to the movies till I was 20, because we had no money and we never had toys or anything," she said. "But one thing I remember is how we all cared for one another. You don't see that as much today."

And in a way, it probably was better that the family didn't go out, because discrimination against Mexican-Americans was common, especially in restaurants. She vividly remembers the "No Mexicans" signs.

And what she remembers most about the discrimination Mexican-Americans faced in those days was one time when she was with her father in the fields. A white man who spoke with authority lashed out at her father, not far from where she was.

"Here was my father... looking down as this man screamed at him," she recalled. "After the man left, my father didn't say anything to me (about the episode), and he never did. He was a proud man who had just been humiliated. It is something that I will never forget."

Now, it's a different story. "Who would have thought that somebody like me, who picked cotton and couldn't eat at a restaurant, would be back in 50 years to campaign for lieutenant governor," Chavez Thompson said.

Thompson said that although her life in West Texas was mostly work and little fun, she has fond memories of the region.

Thompson said that although her life in West Texas was mostly work and little fun, she has fond memories of the region.

## Latinos and the Pay Gap

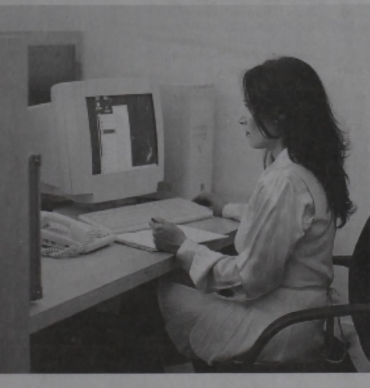
In 1996, José became the most popular name for newborn males in the state, reflecting population increases and the inroads Hispanics have made as legitimate contributors to Texas culture. But most Latinos haven't seen the same progress in their bank accounts.

Latinos, who account for more than a third of Texas' workforce, on average earn about 35 percent less than their white counterparts, according to a report from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. On average, they earn about \$11.50 per hour, compared to \$17.90 for non-Hispanic whites. The gap is larger here than in the rest of the country. Outside of Texas, Latinos earn \$12.42, while their Anglo counterparts earn about \$17.

Regardless of skill, Latinos were responsible for most of the expansion in the state's labor pool since the mid-1990s and have been a boon to the state's economy. "The Latino population's increase transformed Texas' labor force and led to faster economic growth," the report says. "Latinos accounted for 76 percent of the state's labor force growth between 1994 and 2008."

At the same time, the wage gap is credited mainly to Latinos in Texas being less educated, younger, and having a higher rate of unemployment than non-Hispanic whites. "They are younger than the state's non-Hispanic whites, which suggests fewer years of

work experience," according to the report. "Texas Latinos age 25



and over also have considerably less education."

The education gap could shrink once the average age of the Latino population increases—with each day lived come more opportunities to learn. But steady dropout rates among Latinos work against that. Forty percent of Latinos age 25 or older didn't graduate from high school, compared to 5 percent of non-Hispanic whites. Only 11 percent of Latinos in the same category graduated college, while 38 percent of Anglos got diplomas.

Educators say it's not as easy as playing a simple blame game. Cultural and economic factors sometimes trump the importance of education for Latinos. "Family responsibility has an impact on (dropout rates)," said Diana

Stone, a professor of management at the University of Texas at San

Antonio. "People have to quit high school to help their families—especially to help their single mothers." The fact that so many blue-collar jobs are filled by Latinos contributes to the size of the pay gap. Some of that is attributable to education. Stone says discrimination also plays a part. "Minorities in our country are segregated into those low-skilled, dead-end jobs," she said. "You have the construction jobs, service jobs, and gardening jobs that a lot of Mexican Americans (do) and that can in part, not totally, be caused by stereotyping and unfair discrimination."

Stone said some of her research as an industrial psychologist suggests that Latinos are more prone

to discrimination than other minorities, including blacks. A recent study on race relations by the Pew Research Center lends weight to her claim. "Among whites, some 21% say that Hispanics face a lot of discrimination," the study says. "As a result, Hispanics have not only passed blacks as the nation's biggest minority group, they are also now seen by slightly more Americans as frequent targets of discrimination (23% vs. 18% for African Americans). This was not the case in 2001."

Geography is another factor. "Businesses pay lower wages in border communities, and about a quarter of the state's Latinos, roughly 2 million people, live along the Texas-Mexico border. According to the Fed's report, 'they earn lower wages than Hispanics in the state's interior, depressing average earnings for Latinos in the state.'"

"The bottom line is that when you look at the areas in Texas with the highest concentration of Latinos, South Texas and the border, the gross domestic product and the per capita income of those regions is substantially lower," said Teodoro T. Ventura, executive director of EDCO Ventures, an Austin-based non-profit that works raising the standard of living along the border and in other economically distressed areas. "There is just no way that the enterprises that exist in those communities generate the type of wealth (like the enterprises that exist in other areas of Texas)."

## Cómo llenar el formulario del Censo 2010

Por primera vez en la historia el Buró del Censo de los Estados Unidos enviará el formulario de empadronamiento en dos idiomas, inglés y español, a 13 millones de viviendas. Desde el Censo 2000 la comunidad latina ha crecido en más de un 30% y se calcula en 50 millones de personas.

El secretario de Comercio de los EE.UU., Gary Locke, aseguró que por primera vez el formulario del Censo tendrá 10 preguntas, las cuales se llenan en 10 minutos. El formulario del Censo 2010 se llegará el 15 de marzo de este año. Vendrá con un sobre con sello de correo prepagado, para que una vez usted llene el formulario, lo envíe al Buró del Censo sin tener que gastar dinero de su bolsillo. Si no lo llena, el Buró del Censo enviará a un empadronador a su vivienda para llenar el formulario.

Las 10 preguntas son: nombre, sexo, edad, fecha de nacimiento, si es de origen hispano, raza, se relación con el jefe de familia, si usted es dueño de la vivienda o alquila, número telefónico, cuántas personas viven en su vivienda. ¿Cómo llenar el formulario? En la pregunta sobre el número de personas que viven en su vivienda, debe incluir cada una sin importar el estatus migratorio, empezando por el jefe de familia. Se le recuerda que el formulario del Censo 2010 no pregunta el estatus legal de la persona ni el número de Seguro Social, y todo la información es confidencial.

En la pregunta sobre si es dueño de la vivienda o la alquila, el formulario preguntará además si se trata de una casa, de un apartamento o de una casa móvil.

La cuenta pregunta del formulario es el número telefónico, que debe incluir el código de área. El teléfono es necesario porque puede servir al Censo para llamar a la persona en caso de que no entienda alguna de las respuestas que escribió en el formulario.

En la pregunta sobre la edad, debe escribir la edad de los bebés como edad 0 (cero) si es menor de un año de edad. La edad de la Persona a 1 y otros residentes en la vivienda hasta abril 1 de 2010. La fecha de nacimiento debe ser escrita en el siguiente orden: Mes, Día, Año. Ejemplo: 01-01-2010.

La pregunta número ocho: ¿Es la Persona 1 de origen hispano, latino, o español. Las opciones son:

- No, no soy de origen hispano, latino, o español.
- Sí, mexicano, mexicano americano, chicano.
- Sí, puertorriqueño.
- Sí, cubano.
- Sí, otro origen hispano, latino, español: Escribe en la cajita su país de origen. Ejemplo: dominicano, argentino, colombiano, peruano, etc.

Cuando vaya a llenar su formulario, debe tener en cuenta que todas las personas deben llenar la pregunta sobre el origen hispano, el cual se refiere a la nacionalidad, ascendencia o país donde sus padres o ancestros nacieron.

Para el propósito del Censo 2010, el origen hispano no se considera como una raza. Además, las personas de origen hispano podrían tener una sola raza o escoger entre una o más categorías de razas.

La pregunta sobre la raza se refiere a las características genéticas inherentes a un grupo. Si necesita ayuda para llenar el formulario del Censo 2010, puede llamar al Buró del Censo, en español al 1-866-928-2010, y en inglés al 1-866-872-6869.



# Opiniones - Opinions

## HISPANIC NEIGHBORS PITCH IN TO HELP HAITIANS

The Jan. 12 Haiti catastrophe, a 7.0 earthquake that left an already impoverished nation in chaos and near ruin, has prompted an outpouring of relief efforts by Hispanic organizations and leaders from inside and outside the United States.

Non-profit and faith-based groups responded to the Haitian people with telethons, community outreach and fundraising.

One such group, Orlando-based Latino Leadership Inc., told Hispanic Link News Service it is partnering with the Haitian consulate there and organizations such as UNICEF and the Red Cross to ensure people receive assistance.

"This is the moment for our community to say 'We are here,'" Latino Leadership president Marjory Saenz emphasized. "Now we are helping Haiti. Tomorrow we might be helping our Latino neighbors. It is important to realize that we are in this together."

Latino Leadership is rushing to contribute two truckloads of supplies, she added, mentioning such items as blankets, water, antibiotics and toys for the children.

Among other organizations that have contributed are Abrazo Fraternal-Dominicano for Haiti, affiliated with Continuum Medical PA, which held a five-hour radio and television marathon to benefit the earthquake victims.

"We have the ability to go on short notice and send a team up from Ecuador. We have people with the expertise," said Harold Gordon, senior director of HICB Global. "We're a faith-based group so it's not only an opportunity to reach out to special needs, but spiritual needs as well."

Faith-based HICB Global is working in conjunction with Samaritan's Purse, a U.S. team of seven medical personnel from Quito, Ecuador, to Port-Au-Prince. Its team, led by a British nurse, includes Ecuadorian and German surgeons, a U.S. anesthesiologist, two U.S. family physicians and a British water engineer.

Brazilian soldiers have been stationed in Haiti since 2004 as part of a U.N. peace-keeping mission. Fourteen were killed in the quake, with others still missing. Brazil's government has sent \$15 million in aid money, along with 28 tons of relief supplies.

Emilio Sánchez, who heads the Spanish news agency EFE, called the Latino involvement highly significant.

Haitians have been extraordinary. Sánchez said, "doing everything possible to generate interest in local communities and organizations to help the people of Haiti."

The Organization of American States asked that donations to the Caribbean country be made through the Pan American Development Foundation, which has more than 25 years of experience in Haiti. Contributions may be made through the special website: www.panamericandef.org.

PADF has 150 staff members in Haiti working on projects related to, among other things, disaster mitigation, community development and protecting human rights. It has provided immediate critical aid on various occasions when other national disasters struck.

Mexico was among the first and most visible of Latino nations to assist with the relief effort. It has been sending 15 to 20 tons of aid daily as well as hundreds of doctors, rescue workers and engineers. The Mexican Red Cross has established 486 aid centers.

"There has been extraordinary coordination by Mexican officials," Magaly Martínez-Soliman, who heads the United Nations Development Group in that country, told broadcasters.

Easing some pressure on the island government, on Jan. 17 the Obama Administration granted 18-month Temporary Protected Status to undocumented Haitians already living in the United States.

In past years, thousands of Haitians have lost their lives attempting the perilous 700-mile sea journey in small boats from their homeland to southern Florida's shores.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has warned that undocumented newcomers will be turned away. Nonetheless, some schools, hospitals and social service agencies in areas with large Haitian populations in areas such as New York and Florida are preparing for any influxes. (Luis Carlos López is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service.)

## Vecinos Hispanos Contribuyen Para Ayudar a Haitianos

Luis Carlos López

La catástrofe del 12 de enero en Haití, en América Latina, ha dado lugar a un gran y sincero esfuerzo en estado cálido y cerca de la ruina, ha llevado a una torrente de esfuerzos de alivio de parte de organizaciones y dirigentes hispanos desde América y afuera de los Estados Unidos.

Grupos no lucrativos y de fe respondieron al pueblo haitiano con telefonos, esfuerzos comunitarios y recaudación de fondos.

Uno de los grupos, Latino Leadership, Inc., dijo que está trabajando con el consulado de Haití allí y con organizaciones como UNICEF y la Cruz Roja para asegurar que la gente reciba la ayuda.

"Este es el momento para nuestra comunidad de decir, 'Aquí estamos,'" enfatizó presidente de Latino Leadership, Marjory Saenz. "Ahora estamos ayudando a Haití. Mañana estaremos ayudando a otros países."

Latino Leadership está corriendo para contribuir dos toneladas de camión de provisiones, además, mencionando artículos como carpas, agua, kits, agua, antibióticos y juguetes para los niños.

Entre otras organizaciones que han contribuido se encuentran Abrazo Fraternal-Dominicano por Haití, afiliada con Continuum Medical PA, que realizó una maratón de radio y televisión por cinco horas para recaudar fondos para beneficiar a la víctimas del terremoto.

"Tenemos la capacidad de actuar con poco aviso y enviar a un equipo de Ecuador," dijo Harold Gordon, director principal de HICB Global. "Somos un grupo de fe, entonces es una oportunidad no sólo para atender las necesidades físicas, sino para atender las necesidades, también."

La extensión de HICB Global, Samaritan's Purse, envió un equipo de siete médicos que salieron de Quito, Ecuador rumbo a Puerto Príncipe. El equipo incluye a cirujanos reconstructivos, un ingeniero acústico y una enfermera británica, un especialista estadounidense y dos médicos familiares estadounidenses y un director de cuidados médicos internacional.

Ha estado destinado a Haití soldados brasileños desde el 2004 como parte de una misión para mantener la paz de la ONU. Mueren 14 en el terremoto, y otros 100,000.

## TX Governor puts the needs of state's Latino students behind his power-play of party politics

By Marisa Treviño

Texas is a majority-minority state. Of the minorities that call the Lone Star state home, 4.9 million are Latinos — making Texas only second to California in having a high Latino population.

Along with that distinction is the grim reality that Latino students are facing badly in the state's public school system. Texas schools are losing a student every 4 minutes and Latino students make up 48% of the public school student body.

According to the Intercultural Development Research Association's (IDRA) annual school attrition study from 2008-09, Texas schools lost 31 percent of their students. In 2009-10, IDRA's 1985-86 inaugural study, 33 percent of students were lost. The attrition rate between White students and between White students and Hispanic students persist. The gap today is still higher than 24 years ago.

At current pace, the state will lose an additional 2.3 million to 6 million students before reaching an attrition rate of zero in 2042.

But by explaining this in the report of Texas who has rejected government grant funding for schools in the potential amount of \$700 million as part of the Race to the Top program.

Why? Gov. Rick Perry said it was because it could give Washington too much say in deciding what the state's students should learn since there are strings attached to the money.

What Washington wants school districts to do if they get the funding, which in Texas' case would have been \$350 million to \$700 million, are:

Adopt (national) standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workforce and to compete in the global economy.

Build data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;

Recruit, develop, reward, and retain excellent teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and

Turn around our lowest-achieving schools.

These are elements that are no-brainers and should be adopted by school districts who want to stop the bleeding of students and start retaining and graduating their future workforce, but not Texas.

Perry has made it no secret that

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send Mail to: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

### My Brothers Final "I Love You"

A phone call my little brother Juan was in the hospital. He had been beaten up by a group of guys in front of 1902 22nd, the front of his own home. As I talk to my younger brother, he keeps telling me he can't remember what has happened. He is losing movement to the right side of his body. My mother has been at his side all night; she too has been assaulted and did not seek any medical attention. My mother has a concerned look to her face, she is in shock. As I sit with my brother, she says "I love you him up. Before I leave I give my hug, a kiss & say "I love you too". He responds by saying "I love you too". Less than five minutes later the nurse comes out and advises us that my brother is having an anxiety attack. They rush him into SICU. My brother is now on life support. I can see & feel the hurt my mother is feeling.

Twelve people involved in the death of my brother Juan. The same people physical assaulted my mother, younger sister & another brother. The District Attorney presents the case to the grand jury. Can one receive an indictment for the death of my brother Juan? No anybody explain why "JUSTICE" has not been served? That has all the family has wanted, for someone to pay for the death of our beloved son & brother. The same group of assailants is still harassing the family. My mother had to make the decision to never see her son again; the mothers to the group that caused this are to die this day to see their sons. Sons they raised to be cowards, cowards that will not come forward and take responsibility for the death of Juan.

Juan was a very loving hardworking son & brother. He loved spending time with his family. He was not a violent person & never involved in any altercations. Juan's number one priority was to work & take care of his mother. We are living in a nightmare, sleepless nights & emptiness in our hearts that only Juan can fill. All we ask is that justice be served, so that we may have peace. So not we put our faith in the DA's hands & pray that these people pay for taking young & innocent bystanders life.

May you rest in peace Juan. We miss & love you so much... R.I.P. 4-23-87 to 5-27-09

### Sister Angelica Gutierrez

### Re: Article Texas State Board of Education attempt to write minorities out of history

There is very little that is of real historical importance that needs to be printed about the Hispanic people except may be Cesar Chavez and a few actors but not much more. No need to bother the S.B.O.E. about putting things in the school books are of little use to people. All that I see is border was coming to the U.S. more illegal aliens that suck from the government through at the taxpayer expense, and the ever pervasive problems that the illegal aliens brings with it. It cost more to help these people that the contribution they make in general.

### Terry Clarke

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## Texas Tech Student on Judge's Ruling

January 20 Judge Sowler ruled against Mike Leach's petition for expedited discovery and expressed serious reservations on six of the plaintiff's seven claims against Texas Tech University. The court will allow both parties time to discover before ruling on whether Leach can go forward with his breach of contract claim. In Texas Tech stands on the merits of our decisions to suspend and dismiss Mike Leach because they were reasonable, fair and justified. We are pleased with the results of today's hearing and look forward to all of the facts being presented for Judge Sowler's ruling.

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# ¿Que Pasa?

## White to speak about job growth, education with community groups in Lubbock

Former Mayor Bill White will meet with various community groups in Lubbock on Friday, Jan. 22, and Saturday, Jan. 23. With less than 50 days until the March 2 primary, White is building momentum across the state, listening to Texans share their concerns about the current state of job growth, education, infrastructure and veterans' services in Texas.

On Friday, John Sims and former Texas House Speaker Pete Laney will host Meet & Greet in White House. On Saturday, White will meet with the Farm Bureau and several events hosted by the Lubbock County Democratic Party. On the campaign trail, White has emphasized economic issues and has said he believes education is the key to Texas' economic success.

"It is the American dream that people can work hard and their kids can do better and we need a governor who understands that and who understands that the number one job of the state government is public and higher education," White said. "We need to move our state forward. I think that most Texans are ready for somebody to work for the people of Texas and solutions to our problems."

The son of San Antonio school teachers, White helped build a law firm and managed a successful business before being elected Houston's mayor in 2003. Since then, he's been re-elected twice with 86% and 91% of the vote. During White's administration, Houston led the nation's cities in job growth, adding more jobs than sixteen states combined. At the same time, he cut property tax rates five years in a row and helped seniors with tax relief. White also started a special initiative that gives returning veterans the welcome they deserve with coordinated local services, relocations in red tape, and employment opportunities. Meet & Greet hosted by John Sims and former Texas House Speaker Pete Laney. The Historic Baker Building 1211 13th Street Lubbock, TX

## Cuéntanos Bien - Count Us Right - Census 2010 Art Contest

AUSTIN, TX - Texas State Representative Roberto R. Alonzo today urged all artists or artist wannabes - young, old, professional, and amateur alike - to consider entering the "Cuéntanos Bien - Count us Right - Census 2010 Art Contest," which is being co-sponsored by the Southwestern Workers Union (SWU), the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF), and Rendon Photography & Fine Art Gallery. Winners can win up to \$1,000, plus get national exposure for their artwork which will be used in promotional materials, including brochures, gallery exhibits, and other print and television media outlets. "With the 2010 Census now upon us and well underway, it is so important that we get an accurate count of people living across all regions of the entire United States, including every geographic and demographic corner of the state of Texas. As public officials, we need to support every measure and initiative that emphasizes that goal, including art contests like this one that not only help promote but also highly encourage the importance of full participation and the accurate counting of all people," said Rep. Alonzo. "So why is an accurate count so important? There are many reasons. For example, an accurate count by the Census is important because most government programs, whether it be education, transportation, jobs, economic infrastructure, hospitals, road improvements, and so forth, are all based on numbers and population count. In other words, if we want our communities to get a fair share of the federal grant dollars and secure a fair distribution of resources to our region, we must ensure that everyone is counted during the census," continued Rep. Alonzo. "This art contest will go a long way in promoting that goal, especially since it is targeting the Latino, low-income, and immigrant communities - segments of society that traditionally have been undercounted in the past. I encourage all artists to submit entries for this contest, and help make a difference," stated Rep. Alonzo. Last October, U.S. Census Bureau Director Robert Groves joined prominent Latino groups, labor and faith leaders and leading national Spanish-language media partners to outline a historic campaign to ensure a full and accurate 2010 Census count of the estimated 50 million Latinos living in the United States. Members of the coalition - called the ya es hora "HAGASE CONTAR" (It's Time, Make Yourself Count) campaign - previewed a public awareness announcement that has been airing on major Spanish language media across the country.

# Obama to Seek \$1.35 Billion Race to Top Expansion

President Barack Obama will seek \$1.35 billion in next year's Budget to expand the Race to the Top competition, paving the way for the popular economic-stimulus grant program to become a permanent part of the administration's education arsenal.

In its fiscal 2011 budget request, the Obama administration also will spell out that it wants to open up Race to the Top—which is now a competition among states—to school districts as well. Districts would have their own grant contests and would not have to compete against states, according to senior administration officials.

Mr. Obama made the announcement at Graham Road Elementary School in Falls Church, Va., today, which is the deadline for the first round of the Race to the Top competition. More than 30 states are expected to apply by the 4:30 p.m. deadline. Second-round applications, which can include those from states that lose in the first round, will be due in June.

The competition has sparked a flurry of legislative activity in states trying to position themselves for a slice of \$4 billion in one-time grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed by Congress in February.

In his remarks today, Mr. Obama said the \$1.35 billion "will not only reaffirm our commitment to states engaged in serious reform. It will also expand the Race to the Top competition to include local school districts that are also committed to change."

He also took a jab at Texas, where Republican Gov. Rick Perry is refusing to compete for Race to the Top for fear of a "federal takeover" of his schools. Mr. Obama said, "Innovative districts

...in Texas whose reform efforts are being stymied by state decision-makers will soon have the chance to earn funding to help them pursue those reforms."

Details Uncertain

As for the second iteration of Race to the Top, many details are unclear, such as how much of the \$1.35 billion would go for the state competition, and how much for school districts.

However, administration officials indicated that such details would be shaped by how many winners and losers emerge from the first two rounds of Race to the Top, and how competitive the applications in those rounds were.

Another unclear is how, if at all, the competition would differ from the way Race to the Top is operating now. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who had wide discretion in creating and implementing the current version of Race to the Top, would likely play a considerable role in shaping any new competitions.

Unanswered questions aside, the administration sees Race to the Top as a successful venture that it wants to expand, according to senior White House officials speaking on a background basis. In a briefing call Monday, they cited as evidence of the program's impact the fact that 11 states have moved to enhance their chances of securing a grant by, for example, lifting charter school caps and strengthening state intervention



in turning around low-performing schools. That reaction shows "the importance of continuing the Race to the Top beyond the funding that was provided under the Recovery Act," a senior administration official said.

U.S. Rep. George Miller, a California Democrat and chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, praised the administration's move. "By continuing Race to the Top, the federal government shows it can be a partner in reform and work to uphold the integrity of the program so that these resources are used as intended and help leverage change," he said in the statement.

### Part Of A Broader Plan

White House officials also indicated that the Race to the Top expansion is one part of a larger education reform agenda President Obama will unveil in the coming weeks. Officials indicated it wants to continue the stimulus program's Investing in Innovation, or "i3," initiative, although funding levels were not specified. That \$650 million grant program

is designed for school districts and their nonprofit partners to try innovative education reform strategies and scale up efforts that already have a successful track record.

Details are sketchy as to how any new grants would be funded, whether President Obama will seek additional money from Congress for the Education Department to fund the continuation of those grants, or if he will fund them by taking away money from other education programs.

Mr. Duncan has made clear that he sees competition as a way for the federal government to help spur change, and that he wants to extend this theme throughout his education agenda.

"What we want to continue to do, way beyond Race to the Top, is reward excellence ... and ultimately, maybe, have Race to the Top 2." Mr. Duncan said in a Jan. 6 interview with Education Week. "But that's just the theme, to reward excellence. [Race to the Top] is a huge start, but to me it's just an opening act."

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# LOST SOULS (ANIMAS PERDIDAS)

# The U.S. Missing Out on Good Latino Punk Music

Filmmaker Monika Navarro was 21 years old when she began making a film about her uncle Gino, who was deported from the U.S. and died in Tijuana, where he was buried in an unmarked grave. Two months later, her uncle Augie was also deported but had been

legal U.S. residents, military veterans — and drug addicts. As filming progresses, Navarro uncovers a family history that embodies the best and worst of the relationship between the U.S. and Mexico. But, as she says early in the film, "I found myself also telling a different story — about the kind of exile that has nothing to do with the government." A universal story about the powerful

ties that hold families together through disappointments and broken promises, LOST SOULS will premiere on the Emmy® Award-winning PBS series Independent Lens on Tuesday, March 23rd at 10 PM (check local listings). LOST SOULS moves from idyllic Southern California, where the filmmaker's Mexican-American family has lived for more than four decades, to Mexico, piecing together the tragic events that lead to her uncles' deportations. Her camera in tow, Navarro in-

terviews her mother, uncles and cousins and opens a Pandora's box of family secrets. Raised by a single mother, she reconnects with her absent father and slowly pieces together an epic story about an immigrant family with a dark history of abuse, addiction and abandonment as well as achievement and strength. Compelling and honest, LOST SOULS introduces viewers to a remarkable family, willing to confront the secrets of its past and find ways to accept, forgive and forge ahead.

When I was down in Colombia for the big Casualties show back in December, I knew I'd get treated to some great punk music, what I didn't know was that much of that music would be local talent singing in Spanish. Medellín Colombia has a rich, rich punk history due in no small part to their, ahem, "colorful" history in the 80s and 90s with Pablo Escobar's drug empire, corrupt governments, the paramilitary and the guerrillas and the violence that ensued that gave Medellín the dubious distinction of the most violent city in the world in the 1990s. I didn't visit Colombia then and my first visit back in 2005 or 2006 was just after things had settled down and were markedly safer. I had done lots of research, had lots of Colombian-American friends who encouraged me to go but nonetheless was still very nervous my first visit.

Now I go often and don't think twice, partly because I've been so many times and never had an issue and partly because I've traveled to so many more sketchier, more dangerous spots (Rocaforte, Barral or Lima, Peru anyone?) that Colombia seems tame by comparison. Colombia is a beautiful and relatively safe country these days and while it still has the occasional government scandal, it has one of the largest middle classes in Latin America. Medellín is one of the safest cities in all of Latin America and my favorite. The climate is excellent, the people (Paisas) are incredibly warm and friendly and trust me they know how to have a good time. Oh hell I mention again the excellent punk scene?

Talking before the Casualties show in Medellín, I met a band I had heard a little about even before I arrived called "Los Suzúos". Luckily for me and my rapidly deteriorating Spanish, they had a friend in from Toronto, Canada (Rony) who spoke English and served as my interpreter. We agreed to meet up later in the week so I could hear and video them practicing a set. Boy am I glad I did. These guys are the real deal. If they were in the U.S. singing in English they would be touring

constantly and putting out CDs every year or so. As it is, they tour Latin America and have quite a following there and have put a few CDs out. I understand it (I have one and it's excellent).

This is not the first time I've heard some good music during my travels. Latin America has a much more international influence than the U.S. and they take their cues from Europe as well as the Americas. Even dance music, which I pretty much despise in the U.S., is absolutely tolerable and sometimes likeable in South America. I'll admit it may have something to do with the fact that I'm away from home, hyper sensitive to my new surroundings and stimuli but I think it's more than that. I think the music in Latin America is less, they put out more music so it's easier to find good stuff and the good stuff gets played more often. Also, they are not so into the "flavor of the month" (or week) as we are in the U.S. Different generations truly play the classics as if they were their very own and it doesn't seem to get stale like so much of the classic rock here in the U.S. (to me at least). I also hear old pop songs on the radio. I haven't heard in YEARS and I admit I like it as it triggers memories and forces me to think back where I was when I heard that song. I'll admit I don't hear old pop songs on the radio. I haven't heard in YEARS and I admit I like it as it triggers memories and forces me to think back where I was when I heard that song. I'll admit I don't hear old pop songs on the radio. I haven't heard in YEARS and I admit I like it as it triggers memories and forces me to think back where I was when I heard that song.

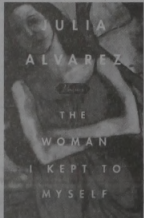
# Julia Alvarez gana premio de literatura infantil

La escritora dominicana Julia Alvarez tiene una nueva distinción en su palmarés: un premio Pura Belpré Autor al mejor autor latino por su libro "Return To Sender" mientras que el ilustrador mexicano Rafael López ganó por su trabajo en "Book Fiesta" escrito por Pat Mora.



de la Mouse", basado en la clásica fábula homónima. Ambos títulos habían recibido muy buenas críticas anticipadamente. Alvarez ha dicho que escribió su libro "Return To Sender" mientras trabajaba como traductora en escuelas locales de Vermont a las que asistían hijos de migrantes mexicanos que laboraban en granjas, principalmente ordenando

tierra de los lectores de libros para niños... ¡Tuve dudas! Pero continué con mi trabajo porque eso es lo que yo hago, soy escritora, no una coleccionista de atención y premios", indicó. "Lo importante es trabajar con la esperanza de encontrar lectores". El título de su novela proviene de una operación ordenada en el 2006 por el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional llamada "Return to Sender" ("Devolver al remitente"), que consistió de una redada masiva para devolver trabajadores indocumentados a sus países de origen, dejando a sus hijos a la deriva en espera de poder reunirse en algún momento con sus padres.



vacas, y de paso proporcionó la materia prima para la confección de productos lácteos en Estados Unidos. "Ver cuán desconcertados estaban los niños y sus compañeros de clases tratando de entender la situación... pensé: necesitábamos una historia para comprender lo que nos está pasando!", recuerda Alvarez sobre el texto en su página de internet.

Sin embargo, en declaraciones a la AP la autora confesó que en muchas ocasiones se cuestionó sobre la poca atención que recibió su libro, tratándose de un tema tan complicado y actual en Estados Unidos. "Parece que un tipo de amnesia literaria ha caído sobre la

muralista en México de artistas como David Alfaro Siqueiros y Diego Rivera ha sido la fuente de inspiración para sus ilustraciones de libros. De inmediato, no fue posible conseguir una reacción de ellos. Los premios Newbery y Caldecott, ambos fundados décadas atrás, le dan prestigio y esperanza de mayores ventas a los autores de libros para niños. Ganadores previos como "A

Wrinkle in Time" y "Holes" de Louis Sachar son estándares de la literatura infantil y juvenil. El libro de Stead sobre las aventuras de Miranda, una niña de sexto grado, fue descrito por el periódico New York Times como una "novela tensa", en que "cada palabra, cada oración, tiene significado y sustancia". Elizabeth Bird del diario School Journal elogió "When You Reach Me" como "el mejor libro de niños que he leído en mi vida" y destacó a Pinkney por crear ilustraciones "valiosas como el oro". El premio Michael L. Printz de literatura para jóvenes adultos fue para Libba Bray por su publicación "Going Bovine", mientras que Jim Murphy, entre cuyos títulos destacan "The Long Road to Gettysburg" y "A Young Patriot" recibió el galardón Margaret A. Edwards por los logros de vida en libros de literatura juvenil.

El galardón es el más importante para la literatura juvenil que se entrega en Estados Unidos y fue anunciado el lunes en Boston durante la reunión anual de la Asociación Americana de Librerías. Rebecca Stead ganó la Medalla John Newbery para el mejor libro de niños por "When You Reach Me" una compleja narración sobre un viaje en el tiempo que arranca en el Manhattan de 1970, y que fue inspirado en el libro de Madeleine L'Engle's, "A Wrinkle in Time". Jerry Pinkney obtuvo el premio Randolph Caldecott por su libro ilustrado "The Lion and

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# Remaining QBs: Manning the easiest to trust, Sanchez the hardest

It's time to resurrect Who Do You Trust? Only this time, there is no game show host, no audience and no contestants. This time there is only you, me and the four quarterbacks left in the NFL playoffs.

The question is: Which one of them do you trust most this weekend? I think we all agree on whom we trust least, and my colleagues, Mark Sanchez — that happens when you're a rookie. But which two survive the weekend? Let's get on with it.

**Peyton Manning, Indianapolis**

**What's to like:** Everything.

He's accurate, smart, productive and he wins. And he's not facing San Diego, the team that squeezed the Colts out of the playoffs the last two years.

Manning is 131-61 during the regular season and 89-23 the past seven years, including two seasons with 14 victories. Jets linebacker Bart Scott called him "maybe the best quarterback ever," which shows you how much the Jets respect him. But Manning must win more than one Super Bowl before that conversation takes place. Nevertheless, he's one of the best ever and has a place in Canton waiting after retirement.

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Manning has a 1-1 record in conference championship games (US Presswire). What's not: He is extraordinary during the regular season, winning an NFL-record four MVP awards, but anything but extraordinary in the playoffs — with an 8-8 record and 1-1 record in conference championship games.

**Why you should trust him:** Because he knows how to win, and he does more with less than almost any quarterback out there. Love Marvin Harrison? No problem. Plug in Austin Collier. Love Anthony Gonzalez? No problem. Plug in Pierre Garçon. With any-

one else, Collier and Garçon are nobodies. With Manning, they're touchdowns waiting to happen.

Why you should not: It's the playoffs, and his record is positively ordinary this time of year. Not only has he lost as many as he's won, he has only a few more touchdown passes (24) than interceptions (18).

**Bottom line:** Forget the stats, Manning is numero uno. He is so smart, so shrewd, so patient and so accurate that he will ferret out the enemy's weakness, then exploit it. Plus, he hasn't lost this season. Yeah, he takes the hit for the Dec. 27 setback to the Jets, but the Colts lost only after he was pulled.

The Colts fell to Buffalo, too, but only after they rested their starters again. When they tried to win, they did — with a streak of 23 regular-season victories that extended back to November, 2008. Let me put it another way: When Manning played a complete game, they never lost. And he plays Sunday — every snap.

**Brett Favre, Minnesota**

What's to like: He just finished off one of the best seasons of his life. Not only did he throw 30-plus touchdown passes for the ninth time in his career, he produced only seven interceptions — and that never happens either he became a full-time starter. In short, Favre is not the turnover machine that used to keep both teams in a game. Now look what happened last weekend: He had four more touchdowns passes as Minnesota crushed Dallas over the last 10 quarters, he has 10 TDs and no interceptions, and he finished the season with a career-best passer rating of 107.2. My life does begin at 40.

**Favre finished the season with a career-best passer rating of 107.2.**

**What's to like:** He is extraordinary, pleasing the ball in tight windows and rarely committing a mistake. Of course, that's the Favre we've seen almost all of this season, and that late-season meltdown I expected never materializing.

**In fact, the last 2½ games we've seen the best of Favre, maybe ever. Now the question: Does he have an encore left in him? I've learned never to underestimate the guy — especially in a nationally televised primetime showdown.**

**Drew Brees, New Orleans**

**What's to like:** He's accurate, productive and seldom gets

sacked. Three times Brees had four or more touchdown passes in a game this season, including one with six. Plus, he's home, and that is to his advantage. Not only has no NFC team lost a home playoff game, but Brees is almost as bulletproof there as Favre was in the Metrodome, with 25 touchdown passes and four interceptions. Oh, yeah, he's also 7-2 at the Superdome this season and 2-0 in his playoff history.

Brees is 7-2 at the Superdome this season and 2-0 in his playoff history (US Presswire). What's not: Until Arizona showed up, he struggled down the stretch. Of course, so did the entire team.

But look at Brees' last two regular-season home games: Two touchdown passes, one interception and two losses. He did shred the Cardinals last weekend, but I'm not sure that didn't say more about where Arizona was than New Orleans. The Cards absolutely stunk, as disinterested in covering people that they were in tackling.

Why you should trust him: Because he's off the charts, with 10 touchdowns and one interception his last four games there. Now, throw out the Dallas game, and he's been sacked five times in eight games at the Superdome — including none in four starts. If you don't pressure Brees, you have no chance.

**Why you should not:** He doesn't have the big-game experience of

Favre. He is 2-2 in the playoffs and 0-1 in conference championship games.

**Bottom line:** This is Brees' chance to prove he's one of the game's elite quarterbacks. He hasn't been blown out of his only conference championship game. But that was in Chicago where the temperature was 13 degrees, and the Saints offense went in the freezer — they were outscored by 25. They did get outscored by 25 here, but they could lose, basically because there is a quarterback as hot — no, hotter — than Brees on the opposite side. Nevertheless, it was Brees, not Favre, who finished second to Manning in this season's MVP voting, and here's his chance to prove the people got it right.

**Mark Sanchez, New York Jets**

**What's to like:** For a rookie, he is remarkably poised — refusing to get overhelmed by what he has achieved and may be about to achieve. Plus, he's a quick study. Since the Jets started asking less of him, he started producing more — with the last four games as evidence. So he produced only two touchdown passes, big deal. But he threw only one interception. Basically, the Jets have asked Sanchez not to win games as much as they demand he not lose them. And he succeeded, winning his last four — including a 29-15 defeat of the Colts at their stadium.

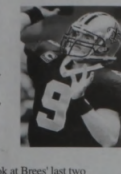
**Sanchez, the lone rookie of the group, has improved down the**

stretch (US Presswire). What's not: He's a rookie, and who was the last rookie quarterback to start a Super Bowl? Still waiting. Plus, that win over Indianapolis? It happened only after Manning exited.

**Why you should trust him:** Because he's grown up — exactly what the Jets want — no, what they need — to win, which is not commit stupid mistakes. When you have the league's best rushing attack and a defense second to none, you can afford to make an end-run around your quarterback. The Jets are hot, loose and confident, and tell me they don't remind you of the 2008 Baltimore Ravens — a club that rode rookie Joe Flacco, a solid running game and the league's No. 2 ranked defense to the conference championship game. Flacco improved down the stretch, and so has Sanchez.

**Why you should not:** He can make crippling mistakes, with more interceptions this year than anyone but Jay Cutler. That happens with rookies, but getting this far generally does not. Flacco made it this far, so did Ben Roethlisberger but they were the exceptions. The rule is that if the new-arrival hasn't unloaded by now, it does at this stop. Rookie quarterbacks do not graduate to the Super Bowl.

**Bottom line:** Sanchez is the easiest call of all. Of the four quarterbacks left, he's the one you least trust. That's not a knock on his ability; it's a knock on his experience. The guy has done a remarkable job of doing exactly what the Jets ask of him, but what happens if — no, when — he has to play tennis with Manning? Ah, then he must throw, and the Jets don't want to get in that game.



## Pacquiao: 'Maybe Mayweather is scared to lose'



Joshua Clottey smiled for photographers, hugged two Cowboys cheerleaders, then stood behind a podium and thanked Manny Pacquiao for the opportunity to fight him.

There's no animosity between Manny Pacquiao and Joshua Clottey. Pacquiao and Mayweather? That's a different story. Three times.

The two will vie for Pacquiao's version of the welterweight championship on March 13 at the new Cowboys Stadium in Dallas, but they looked anything like foes Wednesday. They shook hands, spoke glowingly of each other and promised fight fans something to remember.

Or perhaps a reason to forget the last two months.

Pacquiao acknowledged during a news conference at Madison Square Garden that even he wanted to fight Floyd Mayweather Jr., the braggadocious welterweight who held the pound-for-pound mantle until the Filipino champion came along. Negotiations for the biggest fight in years began in November, but by December had spiraled out of control.

The main sticking point became the protocol for drug testing, although that's simplifying six weeks of contentious negotiations. There were accusations that Pacquiao used performance-enhancing drugs, a defamation

lawsuit filed against Mayweather, a failed attempt at mediation and seemingly dozens of negative news releases dispensed by both sides.

"He didn't want to fight me," Pacquiao said, slugging his shoulders. "I think maybe Mayweather is scared to lose."

The death knell came when Mayweather insisted on blood testing 14 days before the fight, even though Pacquiao agreed to 24 days out. Pacquiao had blood drawn the night before losing to Erik Morales and vowed never to let it interfere with training or a fight again.

"When Manny gives blood, he feels weak for about two days," his trainer, Freddie Roach, said.

Despite becoming the biggest attraction in the sport over the past few years, generating huge pay-per-view numbers with wins over the likes of Oscar De La Hoya, Pacquiao is still an introvert when he's surrounded by television cameras. He speaks softly, barely above a whisper, and is reluctant to say anything negative.

He leaves that to promoter Top Rank and outspoken chief Bob Arum, who sounded incredulous that Mayweather would seek more stringent drug testing than is required by state athletic commissions.

"If Mayweather wants to fight Manny, it will have to be under the rules of the commission that governs the fight," Arum said flatly. "You cannot have fighters in this sport imposing regulatory restrictions on other fighters because they damn well please."

"That is chaotic," he added. "Nobody in their right mind should allow that to happen, whether it's Mayweather or God

knows who else."

Negotiations are under way for Mayweather to fight Shane Mosley in May, the biggest fight not involving Pacquiao available. If both are successful, HBO Sports president Ross Greenburg mused that Pacquiao may still fight Mayweather sometime in the future.

"I hope by the end of the year we can put the big one back together again," he said.

The big winner — perhaps the only winner — in the failed negotiations was Clottey, a former titleholder coming off a narrow loss to Miguel Cotto last June. "After all, it's not his fault he's not Mayweather."

Born in Ghana and now training in the Bronx, Clottey is taller and stronger than Cotto, who was stopped in the final round by Pacquiao last November. He also has a granite chin and, unlike Mayweather, prefers to stand toe-to-toe with his opponents.

"This is a very big fight. He's one of the best fighters out there, and he's beaten everyone they've given him. But we're going to fight," Clottey said. "I know it's not an easy fight for him and it's not an easy fight for me."

Even so, it's difficult to say anything less than the best in sports, which is why Arum understands he may have to work overtime to promote an alternative to Mayweather.

That's one of the reasons the fight is being held at Jerry Jones' \$1.2 billion showplace, where Arum hopes to see 40,000 fans the night of the fight. It's also the reason five Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders accompanied the entourage to New York for an introductory news conference, and why Top Rank is trying to put together an enticing undercard.

"We're going to roll up our sleeves and get to work," Arum said.

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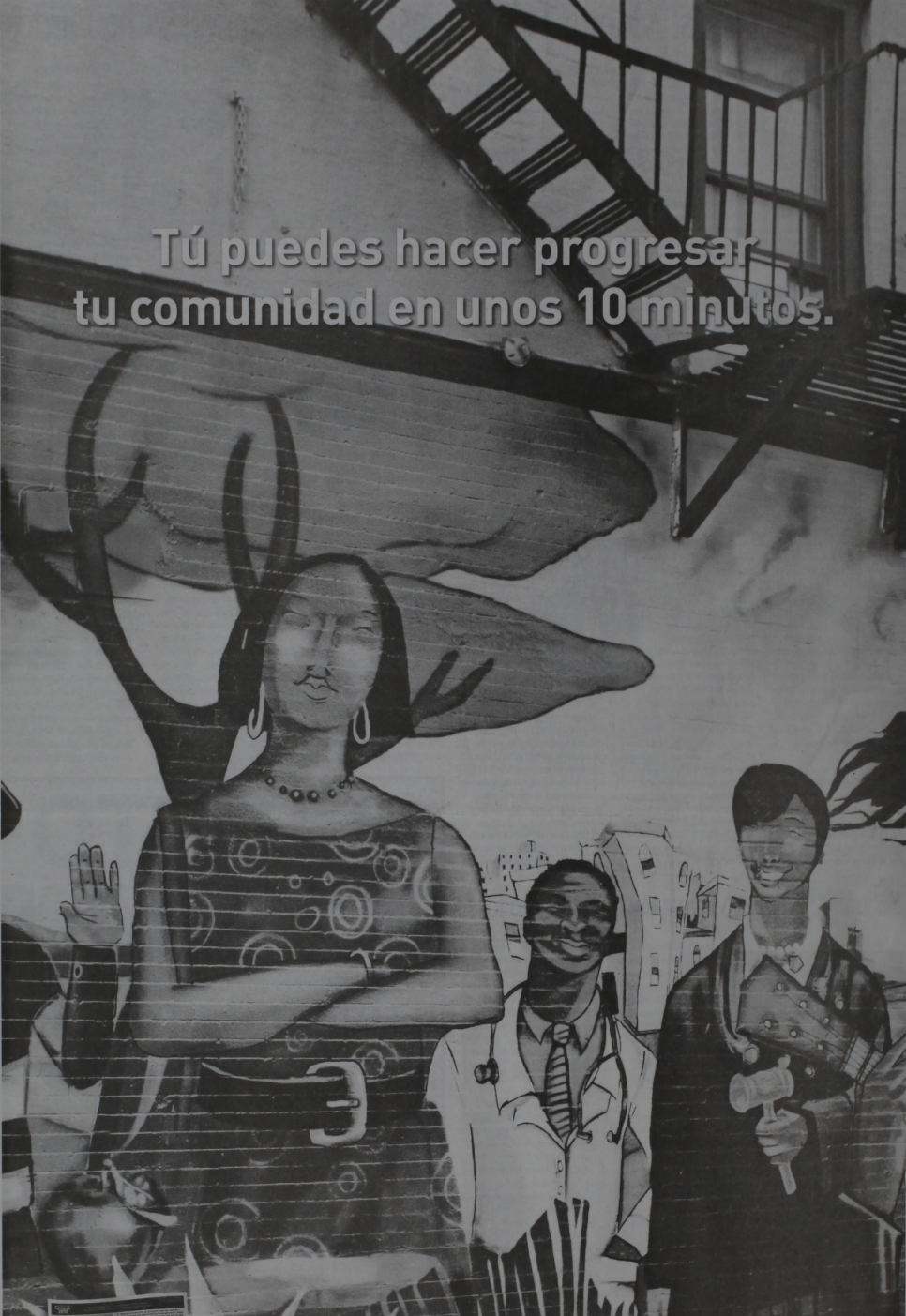
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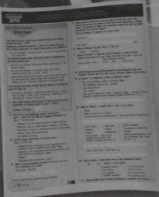
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