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Week of July 21 to July 27, 2005

Lubbock, TX USA

Hispanics and women let down, still waiting for representation

Hispanics let down, still waiting for representation

WASHINGTON - Hispanics this week expressed disappointment — but not necessarily surprise — that President Bush picked John G. Roberts, a white male, instead of one of their own to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court.

Bush's choice was a "letdown to the Hispanic community," said Hector Flores, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's largest Hispanic advocacy group.

"That we have no representation whatsoever in the highest court of the land — I think it's long in coming," said Flores, a South Texas native.

In the days after Justice Sandra Day O'Connor announced her retirement in early July, Bush's long-time friend and fellow Texan, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, was said to be at the top of his list of potential nominees. But Gonzales failed to win the support of conservatives and fell out of the running.

Some Hispanic leaders believe Bush will nominate a Latino the next time a vacancy opens on the court. The president has told associates that he wants to appoint the first Hispanic to the high court.

Among those saying this was U.S. Senator Mel Martinez, Martinez, R-Orlando. Mrtinez said Wednesday he believes President Bush eventually will nominate a Hispanic to the Supreme Court - probably to fill the

"I don't think it's fair to say that the president ignored the Hispanic community (with the nomination of John C. Roberts)," he said. "I'm hoping that with the next



vacancy, we will have a Hispanic." "I will keep insisting on this," he said. The senator said he knew there were Hispanics under consideration by Bush

as possible nominees.

"I am proud that Hispanics were considered," he said. Martinez acknowledged the buzz surrounding the possible nomination of U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. He said this was proof Bush was committed to appointing Hispanics to

important government posts.

"By no means are we saying, 'Boo to you, Mr. President," said Larry Gonzalez, Washington, D.C., director of the National Association for Latin Elected and Appointed Officials. "We still stand ready to help and work closely with this administration in identifying (a qualified Hispanic nominee) in the likely event that there's another vacancy."

Chief Justice William Rehnquist said last week that he did not plan to step down, putting a stop to months of speculation that the ailing judge would soon retire. But it's likely that Rehnquist or another judge will retire before the end of Bush's term, which would allow the president to make at least one more appointment.

Rep. Charles Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said ethnicity is important, but "in and of itself doesn't carry the day."

"The philosophy, the principles and qualifications of anybody appointed to

the Supreme Court (are the more) determinative factors," he said.

Gonzalez said the group will evaluate Roberts' record on issues of interest to the Latino community, including voting rights,

immigration and access to the court system. "The President has always had a firm view that a Supreme Court judge must be fairminded and well-qualified," he said. "It doesn't matter what ethnic group and gender."

Martinez, on the other hand, said he is confident Bush will have a chance to name a Hispanic, and said there are qualified Latino judges.

In a news release, caucus Chairwoman Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Calif., congratulated Roberts, but said: "We are disappointed that the White House bowed to pressure from right-wing interest groups and their meanspirited attacks, and failed to take advantage of this opportunity to make a historic appointment of a Latino to a position of such importance to the lives of so many

people." The nation's Hispanic population exceeds 41 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. During the last year, Hispanics made up about half of the national population growth of 3 million, the bureau reported.

That growth is yet another reason to put a Latino on the Supreme Court, said Gabriela Lemus, director of policy at LULAC, which endorsed Gonzales as a nominee.

"As we grow so quickly, we haven't really had that kind of representation in the judicial system," Lemus said. "It's important to catch up."

Comentarios

de Bidal Agüero

t looks like the Congress continues

to do its best to make poor peop

ward Bound and others. Then we

heard about Congress trying to make

fried chicken out of Big Bird. Now we

considering making \$3 billion in cuts

to the Food Stamp Program and other

federal food programs over the next

these cuts would be achieved through

access to Food Stamps, either across

the board or for certain populations,

such as immigrants or working fami-

lies. (Sounds alot like what happened

The Agriculture Committees in charge of

make recommendations to Congress

for achieving these cuts by Septem-

to the CHIP program here in Texas.

the food programs are expected to

five years. According to reports,

policy changes that would restrict

understand that the Congress is

poorer.

First we

read about

the cuts in

educational

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tionalTalent

Search, Up-

Grupos Desanimados Por Nombramiento de John Roberts Jr. Para la Corte Suprema

Washington-El presidente Bush no sorprendió a mucha gente al nominar a John Roberts Jr. para la Corte Suprema, pero varios grupos nacionales de mujeres y minorías aún están decepcionados con su elección.

A pesar de que algunos se mantienen cautelosos, ya que no existe un registro físico de las opiniones legales de Roberts, los grupos esperan que él tenga conciencia de los derechos civiles. Ellos también se mantienen optimistas de que Bush nominará a un juez o dos más que les agraden antes que su mandato termine en el 2008.

"Obviamente nos decepcionó que el presidente no tomó lo que era una oportunidad histórica de tomar a uno de los varios candidatos latinos calificados del país", dijo Larry González, director de National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO, por su sigla en inglés). "Es hora, en términos de la madurez política de esta comunidad, de que un latino ocupe un escaño de la Corte

Aimee Badillo, abogada de National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, dijo que la decisión de Bush de no nombrar a una minoría refleja su legado. Sin embargo, más importante que la raza o el género es la postura del nominado en asuntos que afectan a minorías.

Héctor Flores, presidente de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC) dijo que hubiera preferido que el nominado para el cargo fuese un hispano y en particular se refirió al procurador

"El juez Roberts tiene la capacidad de llenar este puesto, pero también Gonzales' dijo Flores. "La Corte Suprema tiene un poder muy grande y no es posible que nosotros como hispanos no tengamos un representante en ella".

El Senado tiene que confirmar si apoya la decisión del presidente Bush. Si se aprueba el juez, llenará el vacío que dejó la jueza Sandra Day O'Connor después de 24 años.

Adelfa Callejo, abogada y miembro de LULAC, dijo sentirse decepcionada sobre la decisión del presidente Bush. "Varias organizaciones hispanas

mandaron sugerencias de candidatos a este puesto, pero ninguno fue nominado", dijo Callejo.

Dado que el presidente de la Corte Suprema William Rehnquist sufre de cáncer de la tiroides, y que el juez mayor, John Paul Stevens, cumplió 85 años el pasado mes de abril, expertos legales esperan al menos una vacante más antes que el presidente Bush abandone la Casa Blanca.

Los antecedentes de esta nominación hacen probable que el próximo nombramiento sea el de un hispano o una mujer, dijo G. Edward White, profesor de derecho en University of Virginia. "Creo que a Bush le gustaría colocar a un hispano en la Corte. No me parece que la nominación de Roberts representa un abandono de ese objetivo".

Sin embargo, Scott Moss, profesor de derecho en Marquette University, dijo que sería dificil que conservadores permitan que un moderado ocupe el escaño de Rehnquist en el tribunal.

Democrats, GOP focus on Hispanics, discuss issues at conference in Philadelphia

By LUIS PUGA

Politicians from both major parties spoke at the National Council of La Raza conference luncheon on Tuesday, asking Hispanics for their support.

Business leaders also praised the country's growing Hispanic population for its contributions to American culture.

The remarks came during the final day of a four-day conference at the Pennsylvania Convention Center that focused on issues within the Hispanic community in the United States.

Republicans and Democrats on Tuesday sparred over the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Guitierrez called on Hispanics to support the renewal of CAFTA, which will expire in 2008.

CAFTA reduces tariffs on U.S products to El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, Guitierrez said. The agreement also stabilizes Central

American economies and creates jobs in the United States, he argued.

The agreement is an example of free trade in a global economy, he added. Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee and a former Democratic presidential candidate, countered: "I believe in free trade, but I also believe in fair trade.

Workers' rights in Central American countries have to be protected, something not done under CAFTA, Dean said.

Dean and Ken Mehlman, chairman of the Republican National Committee, also argued that their respective parties best represented the interest of Hispan-

"Hispanics are playing greater roles in politics and culture, and we as Americans are better off for it," Mehlman said.

Dean, however, took aim at what he said were Republican legislative initiatives to "drive anyone they can back across the border." He also criticized California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's support for the Minutemen, a group of armed citizens patrolling the U.S./Mexican border in an attempt to reduce illegal immigration.

Although the two political parties lobbied for Hispanics' support, Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Elected and Appointed Officials, said a priority should be increasing the number of Hispanics who vote. Only 7.6 million of the 16 million eligible Hispanic voters went to the polls

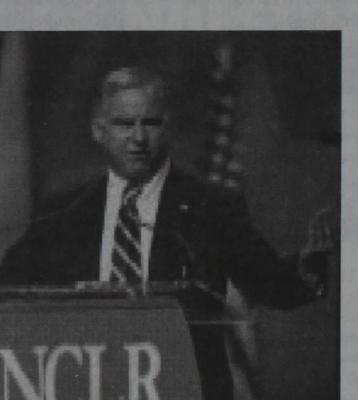
in the 2004 election, Vargas said. He encouraged Hispanics to support the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, which includes a provision to have cities with non-English speaking communities provide language support. The act is set to expire in 2007.

Beyond politics, Herb Scannell, president of Nickelodeon Networks and vice chairman of MTV Networks, said businesses that don't embrace the growing Hispanic population are bound to lose.

He noted the success of the Nickelodeon network's Dora the Explorer. The animated show, which centers on a Latina girl, has netted \$2 billion in licensing and merchandising.

"You can't be successful with young people without addressing diverse programming," he said. Young Hispanics value their roots, Scannell added. "They live in two cultures now," he said. "Any company that gets that will be

rewarded now and into the future."



ber 16, 2005. Activist are asking that people that are concerned sign onto a national letter circulating in opposition to the proposed Food Stamp cuts and to get Food Stamp enrollment and benefits data for your area. For more information, visit http:// www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=437 http://lists.cppp.org

Continually I get letters over the internet asking me to call my representative.

As Jim Hightower would say, that would be "like talking into the wind on a West Texas county road" when it comes to trying to communicate with our representative Randy Nagerbauer.

The school finance bill that was proposed during the special session seems to be headed toward the trash can. For us that live on this side of town we can at lease breathe another breath and give thanks that mybe the tax increase that we will see when they raise our sales tax will be put off at least until after school starts. Of course people like our representatives are already counting the money they will save by their property taxes going down, contact Bidal at eleditor@sbcglobal.net

general, Alberto Gonzales. LULAC Outraged at Deceptive Practices by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency

he League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is outraged at the recent immigration practices by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, which arrested 48 immigrant workers in North Carolina by organizing a deceptive Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) meeting.

This misleading immigration tactic weakens the name of respectable agencies and creates fear and doubt among Hispanic workers by scaring them from reporting workplace dangers. LULAC is extremely concerned that the result of this sting operation will increase the injury and fatality rates among undocumented workers, which has been escalating over the years.

According to the latest US government data, on average, 15 workers were fatally injured and more than 12,000 workers were injured or made ill each day on their job in 2003. In addition, of the 5,559 workers killed by job injuries in 2003, nearly 900 were immigrant workers.

"Immigrants in this country contribute more to the well-being of America than they ever get credit for, and instead of ambushing undocumented workers through sham immigration tactics, officials should focus on a humane approach to immigration," said Hector M. Flores, LULAC National President.

The League of United Latin American Citizens is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

THE OTHER WAR

Marisa Treviño

Celebrating anniversaries are always a matter of selective perspective.

Consider President Bush's recent national address from Ft. Bragg.

The President chose the oneyear anniversary of the handing over of power to the Iraqis to deliver a look-how-far-we'vecome pep talk.

It wasn't mentioned that the past year had been marked by one of the bloodiest loss of lives since the war began.

It was an anniversary. But there's another war that also observed an anniversary recently. It's the war on drugs.

Thirty-four years ago last month, then-President Nixon held a press conference declaring drug abuse as "public enemy number one in the United States."

For a lot of United States residents, this anniversary commemorated a war that has nothing more than a cliché tagline. For others, it was an anniversary marking a power struggle as scary as found in the streets of Baghdad.

In towns along the Texas-Mexico border, American citizens are engaged in a battlefront that is as violent, deadly and explosive as the Iraqi War.

These threats facing resident citizens living in border communities don't entail illegal immigration or ideological, suicidal terrorists slipping into the country - it's organized drug cartels exercising their own brand of terrorism.

Newspapers report that nearly 800 executions tied to drugs have been committed in Mexico so far this year - 300 of them

along the border. The comfortable misconception is that the drug war is Mexico's problem. But anybody who understands border dynamics knows that what happens on one side bleeds over to el otro lado (the other side). And our fellow citizens on the frontlines are feeling those repercussions.

In Laredo, the economy is suffering. With nothing more to offer visitors to their city than

its proximity to Mexico to shop and party, city officials say convention groups and tourism are down.

Concern is mounting that the 5,000 winter Texans who call the border area their homeaway-from-home, and bring in additional revenue for the cashstrapped area, may decide to endure freezing temperatures rather than risk vacationing in a domestic war zone.

The situation has reached such desperate proportions that officials are turning to Washington for leadership.

This month, the 16-member Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition, formed only a few weeks ago to lobby the federal government for more help with cross-border crime, met with federal officials to plead for more money from the Homeland Security Department to help in their efforts in hiring more deputies.

Yet, Betty Flores, the mayor of Laredo, doesn't hold out much hope for federal support. She's been requesting federal assistance for four years. It

wasn't until she sent a letter marked "urgent" to the Texas governor's office last month pleading for financial assistance to combat the city's growing violence that the state sent 100 additional Texas troopers and doled out \$1.2 million from an overall \$5 million "aid" package.

The latest Texas official who thinks it's Washington's responsibility too is Governor Rick Perry.

After meeting with the Mexican Attorney General in Austin recently, the Governor announced he was sending a letter to U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales asking the federal government to sponsor a binational task force to prevent drug-related border violence.

In the meantime, ordinary citizens are seeing their quality of life erode and their personal safety compromised.

Time will tell if Washington can take its eyes off a preemptive war long enough to fight a war that started without us, but is very much becoming our own. (c) 2005, Hispanic LinK News

Dropouts, Conservatives and Ducks

By Abel Cruz

At the recently concluded LULAC National convention held in Little Rock, Arkansas, the main theme that reemerged as the key to a better future for Hispanics was the education theme. I use the word reemerged since the topic of education has been at the forefront of almost every issues list since the birth of organizations like LULAC and NCLR; among others. But, the time has come for us to move beyond resolutions and press releases if we expect to see the results that we want these efforts to produce.

Now don't get me wrong, organizations like LULAC are at the forefront of these efforts and they continue to speak out on issues like school funding cutbacks and legislative action that threatens to undo programs such as LEARN Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound programs. On the local front, local council 263 works year round to raise funds for scholarships and donates both time and effort to make sure that young Hispanic students continue on the path to a better future through better education. And there are others, organizations like Raiders Rojos also have an excellent scholarship program that helps students with the high cost of education.

Yet, Hispanics continue to have the highest high school drop out rate of all ethnic groups, and Hispanic student enrollment at the college level is not increasing at the comparable rate that the Hispanic population is growing. And even though there are countless studies and research that seem to identify the causes of this problem, I suspect that the real reasons have yet to be explored.

Is it a consequence of cultural and economic differences, lack of ambition or assertiveness, teen pregnancy, academic problems, or is the reason a combination of several factors?

Whatever the reason(s) isn't it time that this issue was publicly addressed by our local school board?

In a clear affirmation of who really is running this country, President George Bush nominated conservative judge John G. Roberts, Jr. to succeed Sandra Day O'Connor as the next Supreme Court Justice. Never mind all the talk about consultations with Democratic Senators to try and reach a consensus on who would best be suited to serve on the court. Forget about AG Alberto Gonzalez being the first Hispanic member of the court The conservative base has spoken, Bush listened and Roberts was nominated. So for all the political doublespeak coming out of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, when it comes to these matters, the only voice that really counts is the conservative right wing voice of the GOP.

I received an email the other day concerning a murder case that occurred back about 10 years ago in Littlefield. After reviewing the information surrounding the murder of Evangelina Cruz in August of 1996, it seems like the two Mexican nationals, Jesus Ramirez and Alberto Sifuentes were convicted on less than reliable evidence and witnesses. For more information you can visit www.innocentintexas.com or email

centrogamez@gmail.com. More information on this case as it becomes available.

In a display of political campaigning on a grand scale, mayoral candidate Tom Martin tried to get the rest of the city council to go along with him and pass a resolution expressing their disapproval of Tech officials moving the location of the annual Tech vs. A&M game to a neutral site, even though no such decision has been made. Problem is that the rest of the council, in a rare moment of independent thinking, understood that the decision is up to Tech officials and not the city council.

Yes, Mr. Martin, we know you want to be mayor of the "giant side of Texas".

On a final note, the real mayor of this city, Marc McDougal says he is not running for the District 83 seat presently held by Delwin Jones. Contrary to denials by the mayor that he is not running I say that "if it walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it must be a duck".

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LA OTRA GUERRA

Marisa Treviño

La celebración de aniversarios siempre es un asunto de perspectiva selecta. Consideremos el discurso nacional del presidente Bush

desde Fort Bragg. El presidente escogió el primer aniversario de la entrega de poder a los iraquíes para ofrecer un elogio de "miren lo

mucho que hemos avanzado". No se mencionó que el que el pasado año haya sido marcado con una de las más sangrientas pérdidas de vida humana desde que empezó la guerra.

Pero hay también otra guerra a la que observar un aniversario reciente. Es la guerra contra las drogas.

Hace treintaicuatro años el mes pasado, el entonces presidente Nixon realizó una rueda de prensa en la que declaró el abuso de narcóticos "el enemigo público número uno en los Estados Unidos".

Para muchos residentes de los Estados Unidos, este aniversario conmemoró una guerra que no vale más que una muletilla cliché. Para otros, fue un aniversario que marca una lucha de poder igual de temeraria que la que se libra en las calles de Bagdad.

En los pueblos a lo largo de la

frontera entre Texas y México, los ciudadanos norteamericanos participan en una batalla tan violenta, mortal y explosiva como la guerra en Irak. Las amenazas que enfrentan los ciudadanos residentes de las comunidades de la frontera no se remiten a la inmigración ilegal o a la ideología de los terroristas suicidas que entran sigilosamente al país - son carteles de droga organizados que libran su propio tipo de terrorismo.

Los periódicos reportan que se han cometido casi 800 ejecuciones con relación a los narcóticos en México en lo que va del año - de las cuales, 300 han ocurrido en la frontera.

El malentendido al que nos acomodamos es que la guerra contra las drogas es problema de México.

Pero cualquiera que entiende la dinámica de la frontera sabe que lo que ocurre de un lado se filtra al otro. Y nuestros compatriotas en la línea de fuego sienten en carne propia las repercusiones.

En Laredo, la economía sufre. Sin nada que ofrecer a los visitantes que su proximidad a México para hacer compras y divertirse, los funcionarios municipales dicen que la concurrencia de los grupos para

congresos y el turismo están en declive.

Aumenta la preocupación que los 5,000 tejanos que llaman "hogar de invierno" a la frontera, trayendo mayores ingresos al área sedienta de recursos económicos, decidan que es mejor soportar temperaturas bajo cero que arriesgarse a pasar las vacaciones en una zona de guerra doméstica.

La situación ha llegado a tales proporciones de desesperación que los funcionarios están recurriendo a Washington en busca de liderazgo.

Este mes, la Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition, de 16 miembros, se formó sólo hace unas semanas para cabildear al gobierno federal en pro de más asistencia con el crimen que cruza ambos lados de la frontera, se reunió con funcionarios federales para pedirle más dinero al Departamento de Seguridad Nacional con el fin de contratar a más agentes del orden.

No obstante, Betty Flores, alcalde de Laredo, no tiene mayor esperanza que el gobierno federal los ayude. Ha estado pidiendo apoyo federal durante cuatro años. No fue hasta que envió una carta con el sello "URGENTE" al despacho

del gobernador de Texas el mes pasado, rogándole que otorgue asistencia financiera para combatir la violencia creciente de la ciudad, que el estado envió a 100 agentes del orden (Texas troopers) más, y desembolsó \$1.2 millones de un paquete de asistencia de un total de 5 millones de dólares.

El funcionario tejano más reciente que piensa que es la responsabilidad de Washington, también, es el gobernador Rick

Después de reunirse con el fiscal de la nación de México en Austin hace poco, el gobernador anunció que enviaría una carta al fiscal de la nación Alberto Gonzáles pidiendo que el gobierno federal auspicie un grupo de trabajo bi-nacional de prevención de violencia con relación a las drogas en la frontera.

Mientras tanto, los ciudadanos de a pie ven la erosión diaria de su calidad de vida y el perjuicio de su seguridad personal.

Sólo el tiempo dirá si Washington es capaz de quitarle la vista a la guerra en Irak lo suficiente como para luchar una guerra que empezó sin nosotros, pero que se vuelve cada vez más nuestra.

To Keep the Peace, Memin Must Go

Victor Landa:

When I was a boy, there were three revistas that I read as often as I could. At the time we lived in downtown Nuevo Laredo, and once a week I'd find an excuse to walk to the newspaper stands that stood along the nearby plaza.

Every week I'd look for the latest issue of Los Agachados or Duda. Agachados was a satirical comic book written and illustrated by Eduardo Del Rio Garcia, who published under the pen name Riuz. He was admired because he tackled the controversial issues of the day.

Mostly though, Agachados, meaning the crouched ones, was

popular because it unmasked Mexico's political class pretensions. Most of what I read in Agachados was beyond my understanding, but I read it as a challenge and out of a pesky curiosity to find out what I didn't

The other revista I looked for was Duda, which literally means doubt. Duda was about all things supernatural, and I loved it. It dealt with UFOs and unexplainable phenomena, psychics and oddities such as the Abominable Snowman. I read it because of the way it draped mystery with a veil of pseudo-science and intense drama.

The third publication I read was

CONFIRMS THAT IT'S

a comic book about a mischievous little boy who managed to get himself into hilarious predicaments but always found a good-natured way to solve his problems. It was called Memin Pinguin, now considered a classic of the Mexican comic book tradition.

There were others, of course. I remember Kaliman, a turbanwearing superhero dressed in white who wore a cape and fought evil with a combination of physical strength, mental prowess and strict moral values. I also remember Hermelinda Linda, a hideous and raunchy character who conjured potions and managed to turn every situation on its head.

My favorite, though, was Memin Pinguin. My friends and I would smuggle the comics into our classroom and pass them around when the teacher wasn't looking. We'd trade issues with each other and talk about Memin's latest troubles and schemes.

It never occurred to me that the character may have been racist. That's what leaders of the African American community in this country are saying now. Mexico has issued a commemorative postage stamp honoring one of its most beloved comic book characters, and the African American community finds it offensive. I clearly see why.

Memin is a caricature of a black child. He is drawn in a style that mirrors the stigmatized Sambo of America's ugliest and most blatant racist history. In the context of America's past, Memin is clearly offensive. But Memin is not American; he is Mexican, and in the context of Mexico's past he is a classic.

It's clearly a difficult situation,

and it reveals interesting questions. There are those in Mexico who see the issue as another instance of Americans imposing their own values on the rest of the world. And there are others who understand the cross-cultural significance of images and the feelings they conjure.

In the Mexican context, popular publications are ingrained in the social fabric. Mexico's humor, laden with satire, social criticism, self-deprecation and doubleentendres, has always found an outlet in its comic characters. Within that context, Memin Pinguin is an iconic figure. And as such it was honored.

I used to read Memin more than three decades ago, and the world is a very different place now. The line that separates the United States and Mexico was once a friendly border; it's now a line of contention. I've always maintained that borders are meant to be boundaries, but they are porous just the same. Commerce and contraband cross the border, as do culture and misunderstandings. Thirty years ago no one in this country would have noticed the little boy in the Mexican comic book. But 30 years ago he wouldn't have been on a postage stamp. Now he is, and some people find him offensive.

As a gesture of cross border good will and acting as a good neighbor, Mexico should discontinue the stamp, but not because it is racist. Rather, the stamp should be discontinued as an acknowledgement that the ties that bind our nations are strong, and the offense taken by African Americans should be respected.

Contact Victor Landa at: vlanda@sbcglobal.net

Jim Hightower BUSH'S WAR, NOT OURS

BushCheneyRumsfeld & Gang are presently mounting a major PR offensive to convince us rubes that they're winning the war in Iraq. Sheesh if this is winning, I'd hate to see what losing looks like.

We might be rubes, but we're not stupid. More than 1,700 of our own men and women have died there, the insurgency is stronger than ever, the Bushites have no plan or even a clue, the military has resorted to recruiting high school dropouts and still can't meet its quota for new soldiers to throw into Iraq, some 60 percent of the public now opposes the war.

It's time to state a vitally-important truth about this war – a truth that the Powers That Be have been able to obscure with a combination of lies, the flag, and constant references to the horror of 9/11...until now: This is not our war. Never was -i t's Bush's war, manufactured by wrongheaded ideologues, the White House PR Machine, and a hallelujah chorus of right-wing puffheads.

How can you tell it's not our war? If it was, we'd be in it. But we're not. Ninety-nine percent of Americans are at zero risk of going to Iraq and are making no sacrifice for those who are there. Notice that even those who cheer the loudest for Bush's war are not exactly stampeding to enlist, instead saving their bravado for rhetorical vollies they fire in barrooms and on talk-shows.

The Bushites hype their war as a noble venture, but increasing numbers of young people-and their parents-see it for the political sham it is. Bush's latest rationale is that Iraq represents a historic American stand for freedom, but if it's not worthy of his family being part of the stand-and not worthy of any of his friends' loved ones being sacrificed-then how can it truly be America's war?

This is Jim Hightower saying...If Bush & Gang really want to measure public support for his war, they should have the integrity to call for a universal draft. That'll tell them pretty quickly how many Americans see Iraq as their war.

EL EDITOR

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THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Hispanic likely to fill next vacancy, Martinez says

U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Orlando, said Wednesday he believes President Bush eventually will nominate a Hispanic to the Supreme Court — probably to fill the next vacancy.

"I don't think it's fair to say that the president ignored the Hispanic community (with the nomination of John C. Roberts)," he said. "I'm hoping that with the next vacancy, we will have a Hispanic."

"I will keep insisting on this," he said.

Hispanic Democratic members of Congress expressed disappointment Bush did not select a Latino nominee. However, U.S. Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Hialeah, who represents part of Col-

lier County and is Cuban-American, said ethnicity should not be a factor in the selection.

In a telephone news conference with Spanish-language media, Martinez also said he believes Honduran-born attorney Miguel Estrada might have been Bush's nominee had the Democrats not blocked his nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

The D.C. court of appeals is considered a stepping stone to the U.S. Supreme Court, and Estrada withdrew his nomination in September 2003 after a Democratic filibuster put it on hold for more than two years.

Democrats insisted the Harvardeducated lawyer was too conser-

ments and development agencies

alike. In 2003, remittances

through official channels totalled

US\$ 93 billion. By 2004, they

had already surpassed US\$ 100

billion and now seriously rival

development aid in many coun-

tries. However, while remittances

can enable developing countries

to repay foreign debt and im-

prove their creditworthiness, they

cannot be a replacement for de-

Migrants also contribute to de-

velopment strategies in their

home countries by transferring

their skills and investing in local

economies. Diaspora associa-

tions, such as Mexican Home-

town Associations in the USA,

can strengthen cooperation be-

tween communities at home and

abroad. Some countries are also

seeing a shift from brain drain to

brain gain as a result of increas-

ingly pro-active policies to at-

tract back émigrés with newly ac-

quired skills and education.

Trends suggest a greater move-

ment toward circular migration,

with substantial benefits to both

home and host societies.

velopment aid.

Too Many Myths & Not Enough Reality on Migration Issues World Migration 2005

Many concerns that surround migration, such as loss of jobs, lower wages, increased welfare costs and the belief that migration is spiralling out of control, are not only exaggerated or unfounded but contrary to evidence, according to World Migration Report 2005, released today by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

According to the report, the first ever comprehensive study looking at the costs and benefits of international migration, there is ample evidence that migration brings both costs and benefits for sending and receiving countries, even if these are not always shared equally.

Migrants represent only 2.9% of the global population. The UN Population Division estimates the migrant population in 2005 at between 185-192 million people – up from 175 million in 2000. Nearly half of them are female. However, the socio-economic and political visibility of migrants, especially in highly industrialised countries, is much greater than this percentage

would suggest. Migration flows have also shifted in recent years, and in some cases international migration is actually decreasing. Although Asia, which has traditionally represented the largest international migrant stock, has seen an increase in the number of migrants from 28.1 million in 1970 to 43.8 million in 2000, in real terms, this represents a drop from 34.5% to 25% of the migrant stock in the same time frame. In addition, more and more Asians are finding job opportunities within Asia itself.

In Africa, international migration, usually within the continent rather than outside of it, has dropped over the past 30 years from 12% to 9% of the global stock and this is a pattern repeated in several other regions. Only two areas in the world have seen an increase in their migrant stock – Northern America and the former Soviet Union.

The perception that migrants are more of a burden on host countries than a benefit is not sustained by research, according to World Migration 2005. In the UK, for example, a recent Home Office study calculated that in 1999-2000, migrants contributed US\$ 4 billion more in taxes than they received in benefits. In the US, the National Research Council estimated that national income had expanded by US\$ 8 billion in 1997 because of immigra-

The report also notes that in a wide variety of jobs in Western Europe, there is rarely direct competition between immigrants and local workers. Migrants occupy jobs at all skill levels, with particular concentration at the higher and lower ends of the market, often in work that nationals are either unable or unwilling to

Regular migrants are not likely to put a greater burden on health and welfare services than host population as they pay taxes. Irregular migrants, who run the highest health risks, are less likely to seek medical attention. The report stresses that this not only poses risks for the health of the migrant, but is also a public health concern and can contribute to fuelling sentiments of xenophobia and discrimination against all migrants. The report, therefore, underlines the need for government to invest in the health of migrants.

According to World Migration 2005, migration brings a much wider range of benefits.

Remittances are an important indicator of the benefits of migration, their huge potential for supporting development and poverty reduction having captured the attention of govern-

vative, and he faced opposition from national Latino advocacy groups as well.

Martinez applauded Bush's decision to name Roberts, a judge on the D.C. court of appeals, to replace Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who announced her retirement July 1.

"He has been distinguished as a judge." he said. "This is a great success for the president."

Martinez said he was one of 70 senators consulted by Bush before the president made his selection

"This person had to be eminently qualified," he said. "I didn't force the White House on this issue (of ethnicity)."

The senator said he knew there were Hispanics under consideration by Bush as possible nominees

"I am proud that Hispanics were considered," he said.

Martinez acknowledged the buzz surrounding the possible nomination of U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

He said this was proof Bush was committed to appointing Hispanics to important government

Martinez reminded reporters he was the first Cuban-American to serve in a presidential Cabinet when Bush named him Secretary of Housing and Urban Development at the start of his first term.

However, Congressional Hispanic Caucus leaders said they were disappointed Bush did not select a Latino nominee. The caucus represents 21 Democratic Hispanic members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In a news release, caucus Chairwoman Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Calif., congratulated Roberts, but said: "We are disappointed that the White House bowed to pressure from right-wing interest groups and their mean-spirited attacks, and failed to take advantage of this opportunity to make a historic appointment of a Latino to a position of such importance to the lives of so many people."

Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-Texas, the chairman of the caucus' civil right committee, said the group will evaluate Roberts' record on issues of interest to the Latino community, including voting rights, immigration and access to the court system.

Diaz-Balart urged the Senate to approve Roberts' nomination soon. His spokesman Thomas Bean said ethnicity isn't a factor for the congressman.

"He has always had a firm view that a Supreme Court judge must be fair-minded and wellCBS finishes ambitious series about John Paul II's life

American TV network CBS, finishes one of its most ambitious projects, the main course for next fall's programming: a miniseries about the life of the late John Paul II.

The series, four hours long, will reenact from Karol Wojtyla' youth in his native Polland, to his coronation as spitirual leader of the catholic church, which he held for 26 years, from october 16, 1978, to april 2, 2005.

CBS, the nation's most viewed network, noted that the script is being overlooked by Vatican historians, and the film will include exclusive footage from the San adro plaza in Rome, city where the filming will take place this

The series is due for a November start, presented as one of the main shows for CBS for the next sea-

At this time no title is known - although there is talk about "Pope John Paul II"- but it's known that the main producer for this big budget series will be the italian company Lux Vide.

This company started in 1993 a similar project, by adapting the Old and New Testament into television, and had its great mile-

qualified," he said. "It doesn't matter what ethnic group and gender."

Martinez, on the other hand, said he is confident Bush will have a chance to name a Hispanic, and said there are qualified Latino

He lamented the failure of the Senate to vote on Estrada's nomination to the court of appeals. Bush nominated him to the court in 2001.

Democratic senators accused him of leaning too far right on the political spectrum.

Hispanic advocacy groups also opposed his nomination.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the National Council of La Raza, sent a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee expressing their concerns about Estrada. The groups said they worried he would not support upholding the civil rights of Hispanics.

However, Martinez defended Estrada.

"Miguel Estrada's nomination was obstructed by the Democrats," he said. "It could have been Estrada who was nominated to the Supreme Court."



stone in the film "Jesus" (2000), with Jeremy Sisto in the role of Jesus, and Jacqueline Bisset as Maria

The cast includes Cary Elwes, who worked in "Saw" and "The Princess Bride", and will now play the role of young Wojtyla. Ian Holm, who played as Bilbo Baggins in the "The Lord of the Rings", will interpret the Pope in

his last years.

Lux Vide has been joined by other production companies from the U.S., Polland, France and Germany

The chairman for CBS Entertainment, Nina Tassler, was very convinced that it will be a success by noting that "it's a very interesting story, he's a great character".

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ashes to be sent into space

Actor James Doohan, who transported the crew of the "Star Trek" television series through space on the command "Beam me up, Scotty," died Wednesday at the age of 85, his agent said.

While the closest Doohan came to orbit was playing engineer Montgomery Scott on the earthbound set of the Starship Enterprise, his wife Wendy plans to send the actor's ashes into space, according to his agent.

The couple had long ago agreedhis ashes would be launched into the final frontier, space, his agent's office told AFP. They are to use Space Services Inc., a Texas-based company that rocketed the remains of "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry and 1960s drug guru Timothy Leary into the firmament.

The Canadian-born actor died in his sleep at his home in the Pacific state of Washington after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease and after coming down with pneumonia, his longtime friend and agent Steve Stevens told AFP. His wife of 28 years was at his side.

"He loved being Scotty," Stevens said, referring to Doohan's role as the curmudgeonly engineer in "Star Trek," which catapulted him to worldwide fame.

"He loved the whole 'Star Trek' thing. I don't think people knew what a terrific actor he was."

Doohan performed in more than 2,000 radio and television shows before landing what would become his trademark role in the "Star Trek" television series that debuted in 1966.

Doohan immortalized the fantasy starship's engineer, a pragmatically blunt bear of a man who repeatedly managed miraculous repairs while crew members dealt with the adversities and adventures of "space, the final frontier."

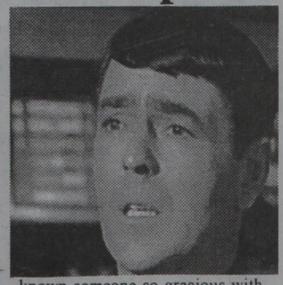
The television show inspired a series of movies starring the same crew, headed by William Shatner as Captain James T. Kirk and his first mate, Leonard Nimoy's as Mr.

Spock. The TV series and films were worldwide hits and "Star Trek" still has an enduring cult follow-

"James loved the idea of being in an airport and people from some obscure country, barely able to speak English, would come over to him and say, 'You're Scotty," Stevens said. "I've never

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known someone so gracious with fans."

Doohan routinely said that "if you didn't want to take time to sign autographs for fans, go sell shoes somewhere" instead of being an actor, Stevens said.

Doohan's success had a career backlash however, according to his agent. Doohan was so associated with the Scotty role that he got turned down for other acting

But Doohan so reveled in his "Star Trek" acclaim that he did not mind being pigeon-holed, ac-

cording to Stevens. It was a feeling of having his career stifled by Paramount Pictures that vexed Doohan, Stevens

said. The Hollywood film studio never "used him for anything else" and wielded its clout to block him from other acting work that involved a Scottish accent or anything else reminiscent of Scotty, Stevens said.

"Here is somebody who never wound up in jail, never wound up an alcoholic, and did everything to keep the genre in a good light, and Paramount never used him for anything else." Stevens said. "That really hurt him."

Doohan was born March 3. 1920, in Vancouver, Canada. He was the youngest of four children of William Doohan, a pharmacist, and his wife, Sarah.

Doohan served as a Canadian soldier in the Allied force that landed in Normandy on D-Day in June 1944.

Doohan was shot six times and lost a finger on Juno Beach, but he returned to duty to become a military pilot, according to his agent. He loved children and was involved in raising money for charity, Stevens said.

"There was a lot more to this man than people realized," said Stevens, who said his friendship with Doohan spanned 30 years.

'Star Trek's' Scotty is dead, Director Named for SPC's New Plainview Center

Gracie Quinonez, a veteran college administrator with nearly 25 years experience helping students get access to a college education, has been named director of the new South Plains College Plainview extension center.

The center, located at 1920 W. 24th St. in Plainview, is scheduled to open in August 2005 and will offer selected technical education programs, such as vocational nursing and cosmetology, evening academic transfer courses and workforce development programs. The center will feature interactive video classrooms, computer labs and student services such as college admissions, financial aid, career counseling, testing and skills assess-

"I am very excited about the center. We want to provide as full a range of services as possible to start out with," Quinonez explained. "We also want to get input from the Plainview community, to find out their educational wants and needs. The feedback we get will influence our direction. It's a big project and a step in a new direction," she explained. She took on the new position July 1

Adult and continuing education programs are being developed to meet the workforce development needs of the Plainview community. "SPC is committed to creating greater access to educational programs for rural residents through the Plainview Center," said Quinonez. "We will also be involved in workforce development to help businesses that need certain types of training for their employees. That will be a big part of the center."

The fall 2005, the following evening college courses will also be offered -- Introduction to Early Childhood Education, Introduction to Computers and Information Sciences, Developmental English, English Composition I, American Government, Organization, History of U.S. to 1876, Beginning Algebra, College Algebra, General Psychology and College Learning Strategies I.

"Gracie was the stand-out choice for the directorship at the Plainview extension center," said Dr. Kelvin Sharp, SPC president. "She has a strong background in counseling, testing and financial aid, the kinds of student services needed for those who will be attending our Plainview facility. She is the right person for the

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right position, and I know she will do an exceptional job."

A Plainview leader, Irene Favila, workforce development coordinator for Motivation, Education and Training (MET), agreed. "Gracie does an awesome job for the college; she is a people-person, a student-oriented individual who wants the best for students. know she will do a great job in Plainview." Quinonez has a broad range of educational and employment experiences.

She holds a bachelor of science degree in human development and family studies and a master of science degree in interdisciplinary studies, both from Texas Tech University and has done doctoral coursework in educational psychology at Tech.

She served 11 years at Texas Tech University as financial aid advisor, Youth Opportunities Un-

Government Study Shows the Affects of Rising Hispanic Children **Population**

A government study says changing demographics likely to magnify the current disparity in heath insurance for Hispanic children.

The government says that by the year 2020, nearly one in four American children will be Hispanic, up from fewer than one in five today. Hispanic children are already less likely than other children to have health insurance or recommended vaccinations.

The government report also says the rising number of Hispanic children will help lower the rate of smoking among teens, if current trends continue. However, it says teen pregnancy rates will rise and the percentage of students completing high school will fall unless other changes are made.

The report also found that Hispanic children are more likely to live in poverty and to be over-

limited residence hall counselor and Upward Bound program counselor. She also served as coordinator Women's Protective Services and as Educational Talent Search counselor at Coastal Bend College in Beeville before joining

SPC in 1993. Since then, Quinonez has served as a counselor at the Reese Center Lubbock,

coordinator/counselor at the Levelland campus and for the past five years as multicultural services coordinator/diversity counselor. In her latter role, she coordinated programs and activities designed to promote cultural diversity, and enhanced access, retention and success of students through recruitment, academic advisement and student activity sponsorship. Diversity and access are impor-

tant issues to the veteran educator. An Abernathy resident and graduate of Abernathy High School, she has done outreach and access programs to the Plainview area through participation in the annual Fiesta Campesina, which honors the Hispanic migrant worker heritage, and work with the Raiders Rojos, Texas Tech University Hispanic alumni association. She has also served as a longtime head advisor for SPC's Hispanic Student Organization (HSO). As part of her work in higher education, she often vis-

ited high schools in the Plainview region to provide educational access information.

Her goal at the new facility "is to make sure that education is available to all people, to a diverse population and especially first generation college students, those with low incomes who might not think that education is a possibility for them, a way to a

better quality of life," she ex-

plained. Quinonez knows that education is a key ingredient in career growth and success in life. Although not the oldest in her family, she was the first to go to college. "Education was valued in our family. My parents always had books around. They did not get to go very far in school but they got far enough to know they wanted more education for their children," she recalled. Eventually all five siblings received college degrees or certificates.

"A lot of people are very enthusiastic about the center; they know that a community college can help the general economy by providing better skilled individuals with more education," she noted. "We are in the process of hiring full-time staff. It's exhilarating to do what we need to make it a successful start for the future of the center," she said.

For more information, contact Quinonez at 292-8365.

Depresión después del parto

Nadie pone en duda que dar a luz es uno de los momentos más felices de la mujer; sin embargo, en algunos casos, esa experiencia podria derivar en uno de los períodos más estresantes y angustiosos.

Evelyn Alemán aún recuerda los lapsos de desesperación y tristeza que la acosaron. Su memoria se resiste a borrar las heridas causadas por la depresión posparto, que se prolongó por más de cinco meses.

Todo comenzó hace menos de un año, tres días después del nacimiento de su segunda hija. José, el esposo de Evelyn, había cocinado una cena especial para su mujer y Julia, la primogénita de la familia. Evelyn dejó dormida a la recién

nacida, satisfecha de no haber tenido que someterse a otro tratamiento para erradicar la presencia de tumores en su aparato reproductor, como sucedió en su primer embarazo.

"Cuando me senté a la mesa, un llanto súbito e incontrolable se apoderó de mí", recuerda la madre, quien ha decidido difundir su caso para alertar y apoyar a otras mujeres en esas condiciones. "Además de sentir una tristeza y una depresión inesperadas, experimenté un miedo desconocido que a veces se convertía en pánico. Creía que me había vuelto loca. Me sentía una extraña en mi casa y rehusaba quedarme sola con mis nijas .

Busca ayuda

En sus ratos de "normalidad" y después de no encontrar una respuesta satisfactoria de su ginecóloga, Alemán buscó ayuda por su cuenta. Investigó en la internet, preguntó a otras madres, leyó libros y visitó varios organismos y profesionales especializados en la depresión posparto.

Uno de esos lugares fue The Center for Postpartum Health en Woodland Hills. Ese organismo estudia los cambios de ciclos en las mujeres, sus consecuencias y, en especial, la depresión po-

Conforme el tratamiento avanzaba, ella fue referida a Parentwood, Center for Parental Wellness, fundado por Siggie Cohen con el propósito de educar y apoyar a padres de familia. "Existe mucha desinformación

sobre la depresión posparto y se tiende a pensar que la mujer afectada es floja e irresponsable", indica Cohen. "Ignoran que ese mal es fisiológico y las enfermas no pueden controlar su cerebro. Tan pronto noten los sintomas de la depresión, deben recibir medicamentos recetados por un psiquia-

La depresión posparto ha destruido a varias familias, sobre todo por la incomprensión hacia la afectada, indica Cohen. El sentimiento de culpa es una de las principales preocupaciones de las madres, dado que no pueden hacerse cargo de sus hijos, la casa y el trabajo.

"La familia debe comprender la depresión de la madre y brindarle ayuda, en lugar de juzgarla", explica la especialista en desarrollo infantil. "La mayoría de las mujeres con ese problema tienden a paralizarse fisicamente y a permanecer acostadas casi todo el

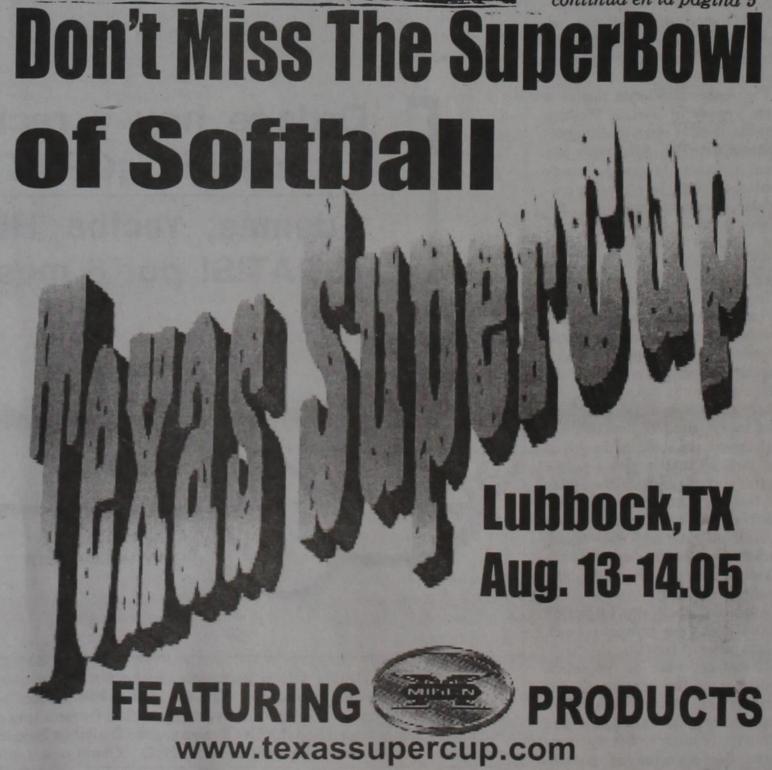
La profesional tramita la concontinua en la pagina 5





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Depresión después del parto

viene de la pagina 4

versión del centro a su cargo (Parentwood) a organización sin fines de lucro. Afirma que la falta de dinero no es obstáculo para que sus clientes reciban consejeria y clases.

A las mujeres con depresión posparto, Siggie Cohen les aconseja lo siguiente:

Buscar ayuda a la brevedad posible. Existen muchos organismos para apovar a las familias.

* Consultar la internet en español y en inglés.

* Pedir a su doctor que la transfiera con un psiquiatra.

* Ser honesta. Aceptar v re-

conocer la enfermedad. Explicar a los hijos la situación. La familia debe tener presente que las mujeres están más

vulnerables después del parto. Un acercamiento holístico

"El doctor Daniel Asimus, psiquiatra y terapeuta holístico estuvo a cargo del tratamiento médico y también emocional", explica Alemán. "Me sometió a una terapia integral que consistió en la administración de vitaminas, antidepresivos, una dieta balanceada, ejercicio y meditación. Por mi cuenta, empecé a practicar Thai Chi y otras disciplinas orientales"

Alemán todavía no ha dejado los antidepresivos, pero ahora su vida transcurre normalmente. Está convencida que su recuperación se debe a un milagro y a la ayuda de su esposo, familiares y amista-

La profesional también está satisfecha de haber hecho todo lo necesario para conocer el mal que le afectó y buscar ayuda en diversas agencias e individuos dedicados a la salud femenina.

"La condición de depresión posparto me trajo muchas desdichas, pero por otro lado, me dio la

Have A Nice Day & Enjoy EL EDITOR

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fuerza para luchar contra ella y evitar perder tiempo para atender mi propio negocio", dice la profesional con una maestría en Politica Pública con Enfoque en Relaciones Internacionales y

Economía. El psiquiatra Daniel Asimus. con práctica profesional en Glendale, indica que la depresión posparto es una condición física que se presenta en el 5 al 15% de las mujeres que recién han dado a

"Ese mal puede ser como el caso de Evelyn o muy severo", indica Asimus. "Su origen puede deberse a desarreglos hormonales, genéticos o una depresión anterior al parto. Los sintomas también pueden variar, pero los más comunes son: insomnio, inapetencia, culpabilidad, vulnerabilidad, tristeza, debilidad. En casos raros, la madre presenta un cuadro paranoico o hasta llega a rechazar a los hijos, en especial, al recién nacido"

Si la paciente ha tenido tendencias a la depresión, conviene la administración de antidepresivos durante el embarazo. El psiquiatra debe recetar las medicinas que no afecten al embrión, dice Asimus.

"Expliqué a Evelyn que sufria un mal físico, genético y que ella no tenía culpa de lo sucedido", indica Asimus, quien considera que la educación al paciente es esencial en cualquier terapia. "Creo que en este caso las medicinas resolvieron el problema en un 40 o 45% y la terapia holistica ayudó en un 60%"

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CAS backs USOC appeal; relay members to keep gold medals

Michael Johnson and the rest of the United States' 1,600-meter relay team can keep their gold medals from the 2000 Sydney Olympics, the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled Thursday.

The United States Olympic Committee had filed an appeal to mendation by the IAAF to disqualify the entire squad for a doping scandal involving team member Jerome Young.

"The results of the men's 4x400-meter relay event at the Sydney Games should not be amended and that only Jerome

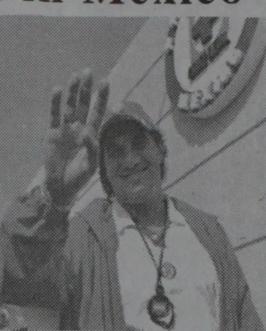
Cruz Azul coach kidnapped in Mexico

The Argentinian coach of Mexican First Division giants Cruz Azul was kidnapped on Tuesday the club vice-president announced.

Ruben Omar Romano had just left a training session when five men forced the 47-year-old out of his 4x4 and was taken away in another car acording to the vicepresident Alfredo Alvarez speaking on Mexican radio.

His vehicle was found several hundred metres from the club training ground.

The team itself had recently been at the centre of a doping scandal as two of its national side vador Carmona, were sent home from the Confederations Cup in June for testing positive for nan-stoutly over the charges. A



drolone.

Romano, who has been inplayers, Aaron Galindo and Sal- volved in Mexican club football for years having coached four other sides, defended them

stripped of his gold medal," the CAS said in a statement.

The petition was lodged with the Lausanne-based court by the USOC and five team members --Johnson, twins Alvin and Calvin Harrison, Antonio Pettigrew and Jerome Taylor.

Young is not covered by the USOC appeal. The five believed only Young should be stripped of the gold medal and not the rest of the team.

Young ran in the opening and semifinal rounds in Sydney, but not in the final. Johnson ran the anchor leg in the final for the fifth and last Olympic gold medal of his career. Pettigrew and the Harrisons also ran in the final. Taylor ran in the earlier heats.

steroid nandrolone in 1999, but was exonerated by a U.S. appeals panel in July 2000, avoiding a two-year ban.

USA Track & Field never gave decisions are final and binding." the sport's world governing body specifics about the case, citing confidentiality rules in place at the time. Young's identity only became public in 2003.

that the entire team should forfeit no change in the medals.

the CAS challenging a recom- Young in the U.S. team should be the victory because Young should have been ineligible to compete.

The arbitration court ruled Thursday that the IAAF's rules in place at the time of the Sydney Games did not call for an entire team to be disqualified. The panel noted that the IAAF's current rules do call for an entire relay team to be disqualified in a similar event.

"The IAAF is extremely disappointed with this decision," IAAF spokesman Nick Davies said. "Last July our council, in the best interest of our sport, decided that the results of the 4x400-meter final in Sydney should be changed because the USA fielded an ineligible athlete in the early rounds.

"This athlete, Jerome Young, Young tested positive for the was later suspended for life for a second serious doping offense. CAS, however, has decided that the council was wrong. We regret this but we accept also that CAS

Had the court rejected the USOC appeal, the International Olympic Committee would have been in position to upgrade Nigeria to the gold, Jamaica to silver and The International Association the Bahamas to bronze. Thursof Athletics Federations ruled day's ruling means there will be

Visa Launches Hispanic Financial Eduction Campaign

SAN FRANCISCO, June 22 /PRNewswire/ -- Building on its long-standing commitment to consumer education, Visa USA today announced the debut of its Hispanic Financial Education Campaign. The new program is aimed at providing Hispanic consumers the tools they need to make sound financial decisions in their lives. The Hispanic population is

now considered the largest U.S. minority group and expected to represent 9% of the total U.S. buying power by 2009, according to the Sellig Center for Economic Growth. And, this trend has accelerated since the 2000 Census listed 12.5% of the entire U.S. population -- or 35.3 million people -- as Hispanic(1). The U.S. Census Bureau recently announced the Hispanic population has reached 41.3 million. Much of this growth (40- 45%) has come from new immigrants, many of whom may not be familiar with the U.S. banking system and the myriad of financial and payment instruments including payment cards, or the security and convenience they offer.

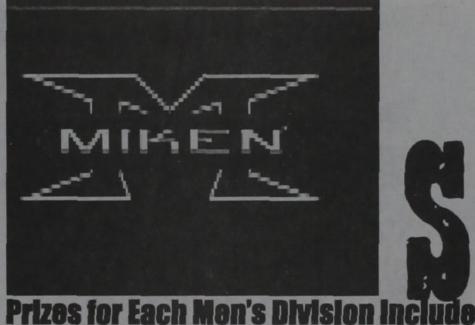
"Hispanics come to this country to expand their possibilities, and developing practical money management skills is one of the first steps to building a better quality of life in the United States," said Rosetta Jones, vice president, consumer education, U.S.A. "Visa is expanding its consumer financial education efforts to better reach Hispanics and help play an educational role in their new lives. Hispanics en-

tering our financial system deserve choices and convenience. the feeling of security and responsibility for their financial future. The Hispanic Financial Education Campaign can inspire all those possibilities.

The Visa Hispanic Financial Education Campaign is just the latest initiative in Visa's corporate-wide strategy to reach and educate the Hispanic community. Earlier in 2005, Visa launched Hispanic advertising campaigns for Visa Security and Check Card featuring Spanishlanguage national and local TV, print and radio advertisements. The advertisements were Visa's second Hispanic Check Card campaign. In 2003, Visa launched a Spanish-language campaign for Visa Check and

"The Hispanic community represents a fast moving, dynamic segment of our society, and Visa is proud to provide them with tools that will help foster their entrepreneurial spirit and continued success," said Elyssa Gray, vice president, advertising, Visa USA. "We are committed to further strengthening our relationship with this important community in the years ahead."

Visa is also sponsoring Hispanic athletes across various sporting events. Olympic champion speedskater Derek Parra, and sledge hockey Paralympic gold medalist Manny Guerra are two Hispanics vying for gold medals in the upcoming 2006 Winter Olympic Games and part of the Visa Gold Medal Athlete Pro-



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Monterrey Incomunicado por 'Emily'

El huracán Emily dejó desde aver en la mañana sin comunicación a Monterrey, la ciudad industrial más importante del norte de México, al cancelarse los vuelos internacionales con Estados

En vista de que sólo un vuelo de una linea de aviación mexicana salió rumbo a San Antonio, Texas. las tres empresas de aeronáutica estadounidenses a esa ciudad que operan vuelos desde Monterrey. los cancelaron debido a las fuertes lluvias y vientos que se presentaban.

Incluso Continental Airlines.

Al menos unos cien pasajeros permanecieron en la sala de espera del aeropuerto, con la esperanza de que sus vuelos fueron programados a tiempo, lo que no sucedió en todo el día.

Rafael Garcia, quien regresaba a Los Angeles luego de ser entronizado en el Salón de la Fama del Beisbol Profesional de México. fue uno de los afectados y tuvo que reprogramar su vuelo para

"Pues no hay nada que hacer, sólo hablar al trabajo y avisar que no llegara uno a trabajar



que cuenta con vuelos de Monterrey a Houston y de allí conecta con varias ciudades de Estados Unidos y Europa, hizo regresar a los pasajeros del vuelo 2105 de la sala de espera al no poder llegar el avión que los conduciría a la ciu-

"El avión que los llevaria venía de Houston, pero el piloto aterrizó en Laredo [Texas] y de allí se regresó, pues reportó que el tramo a Monterrey estaba muy peligroso con vientos cruzados". dijo un agente de la aerolinea Continental.

El vuelo, que tenia salida a las 10:25 de la mañana, se canceló cerca de las 11:00, cuando una de las agentes anunció que todos los pasajeros pasaran al mostrador principal para que fueran colocados en otros vuelos hoy y mañana.

"De hecho tenemos que esperar a mañana [hoy] a ver que pasa, pues con los cambios climatológicos no se puede saber qué pasará", agregó el agente, quien no quiso proporcionar su nombre por políticas de la empresa.

Por la mañana, los vuelos procedentes de Houston, Dallas, y Atlanta, de las líneas Continental, Americana y Delta, respectivamente, no pudieron tocar tierra regiomontana.

Por ende, los vuelos de retorno a dichas ciudades fueron los primeros internacionales en ser cancelados, así como uno directo a Los Angeles de la linea mexicana Aviacsa, que tenia horario de salida después de medio día.

Aeroméxico y Mexicana de Aviación cancelaron desde temprano sus vuelos a la capital mexicana, iniciando una cadena de 53 vuelos postergados hasta las 6:30 de la tarde en que presentaban vientos mayores a 45 kilómetros por hora en los alrededores del Aeropuerto Internacional Mariano Escobedo.

hasta el viernes", dijo García, quien hizo fila por más de dos horas para reprogramar sus vuelos con Continetal.

Categoria de tormenta

"Emily", ya degradado a tormenta tropical, se encontraba a las 6:30 de la noche a 80 kilómetros al oeste de esta ciudad; se desplazaba a 18 kilómetros por hora con vientos de hasta 140 kilómetros por hora.

En esta ciudad, en que la visibilidad se perdia por la noche por la cantidad de agua que caia, la Iluvia alcanzaba un nivel de 44 milimetros, la cual se esperaba, podía incrementase durante la noche, en que las precipitaciones serían más fuertes.

Juan Francisco Rivera Bedova. alcalde de Guadalupe, suburbio de Monterrey, solicitó antes de caer la noche el apoyo de tres pelotones del Ejercito Nacional Mexicano para colaborar en desalojos y traslados de civiles en zonas de riesgo.

Jorge Camacho Rincón, Director de Protección Civil de Nuevo León, informó a la población por televisión que la alerta roja seguia hasta nuevo aviso, ya que se esperaba lo más fuerte por la no-

La Comisión Federal de Electricidad informó también que 106 sectores de la capital estatal se encontraban sin energia eléctrica, y que cuadrillas trabajan para restablecer el servicio.

En Linares, ciudad al sur de la capital de Nuevo León, 300 personas fueron evacuadas de zonas peligrosas y llevadas a albergues creados por el gobierno del es-

Hasta las 7:00 de la noche (5:00 de la tarde en California), el saldo estaba en blanco en cuando a pérdidas humanas, que sólo se presentaban daños materiales no cuantificados.

Hispanic Workers' High Rate of Death on the Job

By BRIAN J. HOWARD AND MARCELA ROJAS

Luis Lojano's death reflects a disturbing decade-long trend that has seen Hispanic workers dying where they work in numbers that only recently have begun to de-

According to the National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2003, Hispanics suffered a higher rate of fatal workplace injuries than any other group. What's more, deadly fires and explosions, like the one that killed Lojano, rose by a staggering 20 percent in 2003. The 2003 report from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, released in September and updated in April, contains the most recent data on American workers killed on the job.

It shows that the number of Hispanic workers fatally injured at work climbed steadily between 1995 and 2001, then peaked at 895 before dropping two years ago to 791. The rate of 4.5 fatalities per 100,000 Hispanic workers in 2003 was 13 percent higher than the average for all racial and ethnic groups. Foreign-born workers accounted for more than two-thirds of Hispanics killed on

The numbers are no surprise to advocates for immigrant workers, many of whom are Hispanic. Most blame the language barrier between workers and employers, workers' fear of losing jobs and a lack of awareness of workers' rights. And if their status in this country is questionable, workers may fear being deported.

"They don't know the rules, and they don't know what they're entitled to," said Harold Lasso, former head of the Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont and Mamaroneck.

Worker fatigue and pressure from employers to produce also make workplaces unsafe for many Hispanics, he said.

"Communication is a major issue," added Cecilia Gutierrez, president of the Ossining Hispanic Action Coalition, "but fear is another one."

Organizations like Lasso's and

itierrez's work with the Occupation Safety and Health Administration to provide training in workplace safety. They also encourage workers to speak up, whether it be for safety glasses for welding or simply for a water break on a hot day. But even if they speak English, speaking up is something most are loath to

"We have to just actually wash their brains just to change the fears they have about everything," Gutierrez said. "Even if there is a police (officer) near to them, they think they are going to be sent back to their countries."

OSHA Area Director Diana Cortez said her office worked with community groups to teach Hispanic workers to recognize and deal with unsafe work conditions. Besides a free, 10-hour safety course that draws as many as 25 workers to weekend sessions, OSHA staff members go to hiring sites and to churches with Hispanic congregations to han. out literature and reach workers.

OSHA now has joined forces with the Westchester Hispanic Coalition to develop a Spanishlanguage safety and education work program. The 10- and 30hour courses, administered through OSHA's Tarrytown office, will focus on workers in construction and industry jobs.

Cortez agrees that many Hispanics come to this country without an understanding of their right to a safe workplace. But the recent drop in the number of deaths indicates workers are getting the message, she said.

"I strongly believe that our outreach is making a difference in bringing those numbers down," Cortez said.

Maybe so, but more needs to be done, said an advocate with a statewide organization that represents immigrant workers.

Education and outreach aren't enough, Jackie Vimo of the New York Immigration Coalition said. Stiff penalties are needed for employers who fail to protect workers, she said, because government doesn't respond until someone dies. And even then the response is inadequate, she said.

"The numbers are there," Vimo said, "So it's not like we need any more proof that there are serious problems."

Mr. Gatti's of Lubbock Hires **New Market Coordinator**

April Ferguson, company Marketing Manager for Mr. Gatti's/Gattiland, and Jesse Martinez, Lubbock store General Manager, recently announced the appointment of Kelly Pitts as Marketing Coordinator for Mr. Gatti's/ Gattiland in Lubbock.

Pitts, a graduate of Texas Tech, will coordinate with local and area schools to provide Educational Field Trip Classes aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). This program was designed by teachers to supplement classroom instruction in math and health areas. According to teachers, they say that Gatti's provides an educational, fun and stress-free field trip for both students and their teachers. How many other trips do the students get to take that provide hands-on learning.

fun, games and lunch?

"We are very pleased to have Pitts join the Mr. Gatti's/Gattiland of Lubbock team," said Martinez. "Her past experience working with non profit groups and numerous businesses in Lubbock will be extremely valuable." Pitts states "I'm really excited about sharing the easiest fundraiser I have ever heard of ... Gatti's Rebate Night. I'm also truly looking forward to helping dozens of non profit groups and organizations raise money for their worthy causes."

Before joining Mr. Gatti;s/ Gattiland of Lubbock, Pitts served as Marketing Director for Comfort Keepers.

For more information about Mr. Gatti's/Gattiland. call (806) 791-2200 or visit www.gattiland.com.

Hospital Have Good Diabetes Care

Public hospitals in the United States do a good job of managing the care of diabetes patients, but there are still disparities in care for minority and uninsured patients, according to the results of a study of seven public hospital systems from across the nation.

The study found that even though public hospitals provide care to a very large volume of underserved patients, they are able to maintain quality care for diabetes patients. In fact, the seven public hospital systems included in the study had patient outcomes comparable to -- and in some cases, better than -- the national average for diabetes care. Two-thirds of diabetes patients

at these seven public hospitals maintained moderate control of their diabetes. Patients at these hospitals also had cholesterol levels that were similar to or better than those of patients in national surveys, the researchers found.

However, the study did find that Hispanic and black diabetes patients at public centers were less likely than white diabetics to

have their disease under good control. It also found that uninsured diabetes patients received less care compared to their insured peers.

American Diabetes Associationrelated education programs and hospital pharmacy clinics were linked to better outcomes among diabetes patients at these hospitals, the study said.

The survey was conducted by the Consortium for Quality Improvement in Safety Net Hospitals and Health Systems. The study, convened by the National Public Health and Hospital Institute with support from The Commonwealth Fund, was released Wednesday.

"These findings show that public hospitals have established effective programs for patients with diabetes. While there is room for improvement, public hospital systems can effectively manage long-term chronic conditions," study author Marsha Regenstein, director of the National Public Health and Hospital Institute, said in a prepared statement.

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