

El Editor

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Lubbock, TX USA

Census Report Underscores Need to Increase Attention to Early Education for Hispanics

Data released yesterday by the U.S. Census Bureau about the growth of the nation's Hispanic population underscore the need for President Bush and Congress to invest in initiatives that benefit Latino children, especially in the area of early childhood education. According to the report, Hispanics were the most likely of all Americans to be preschoolers, more than one in ten (10.4%) Latinos are five years old and under. In fact, Latinos are the only racial or ethnic group whose five-and-under population exceeds 10%.

"These data confirm what we have been saying for some time," noted Raul Yzaguirre, President of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). "Latinos are a young population, and the nation's future students, workers, and taxpayers. The public policy choices we make today will determine our future social and economic well-being."

In the most immediate sense, the data have implications for preschool programs, such as Head Start, and the public school system. Head Start is the

nation's premier, federally-funded preschool program that has a track record of success in preparing children from low-income families to enter school ready to learn how to read and do math. In addition, Head Start provides health and nutrition services to these families. Recent NCLR research and Census data show that 30% of all poor children in the U.S. ages five and under are Latino, which means that a significant proportion of the children eligible for - and whose lives may be touched by - Head Start are Latino. The future effectiveness of this valuable program largely rests on the implementation of policies that improve the quality of services to Latino and limited-English-fluent (LEP) children and their families.

"Given what we know about Head Start, it is a major disappointment to the Latino community that Congress has yet to renew the Head Start program. There is no time to waste. In light of these new data, we need to

ensure both that all children who are eligible to participate in Head Start can do so and that the program provide

share will grow in the next decade, so public school systems serving Latino students should plan appropriately and

includes full funding of the No Child Left Behind Act and positive action by Congress and the President on the "DREAM Act,"

which would provide immigrant students who have successfully completed their education in U.S. high schools with an opportunity to attend college and seek meaningful employment opportunities.

"A large share of our nation's future economic growth will depend on the millions of Hispanic children in our preschools and public school system, on the opportunities we give them, and on the priorities we set for ourselves today. If we equip Latino and all children with



Latinos with access to high-quality services, including services to LEP children and their families," advised Yzaguirre.

Educational investments are especially important because Latinos now represent one in six (16.3%) of all U.S. public school students. This new Census analysis indicates that this

policy-makers must act accordingly. "Public schools must receive the resources they need to educate and prepare our future workforce. In addition to Head Start, our nation's children deserve a commitment from lawmakers on other promising initiatives," underscored Yzaguirre. As NCLR has documented, this

high-quality education, we will have a tremendous pool of talent ready to lead the nation forward, and every American will benefit. If we improve their educational outcomes and overall well-being, we are not only addressing issues important to the Latino community, but also laying a cornerstone for the nation's future economic prosperity," concluded Yzaguirre.



Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero

It's been awhile since I spoke to our readers about our advertisers and how important it is to show our appreciation to them for making it possible for us to print El Editor every week. I am sure that all of you are aware that advertisers are the lifeblood of our newspaper.

Twenty seven years ago when we started this newspaper, I was determined to provide a newspaper that would inform and educate our readers in order to give them an opportunity to learn about what is going on in the world, state and locally. I also wanted to provide information for people to make good decisions that affect their lives.

In order to do this, I knew that I would have to depend on the support of advertisers that would give me the financial support to print this newspaper. Throughout the years, I have been fortunate to be able to contact and keep interested an adequate number of businesses and make them realize the importance of advertising and specifically advertising to Hispanics. Those commercial establishments have hopefully benefited from our advertisements and have hopefully benefited from our newspapers in the form of getting more business.

But businesses never have enough business. I would take this opportunity to again encourage our readers to continue to patronize those businesses that advertise in our newspaper. And we would again also encourage our readers to mention our newspaper wherever they shop. Tell them you read it in El Editor.

Fiestas del Llano are gearing up for the 16th of September celebration and it seems that all systems are go for an outstanding celebration. We congratulate them but would encourage them to look at including a few more cultural presentations, be they art, drama, traditional song and dance programs.

The American G.I Forum will be sponsoring a Golf Tournaemt this coing weekend. For more information contact Robert at 806-792-5037.
Write to Bidal at eleditor@llano.net

Hispanic Leaders Protest Border Patrol "Sweeps"

By Sonia Meléndez

Friction is building between Latinos and federal immigration authorities in California, and unless the federal government backs off its latest enforcement tactics, tensions are likely to heat up as the summer progresses.

Commenced early this month, immigration sweeps have rocked Southern California's Latino communities. In the first two weeks, they resulted in hundreds being questioned by U.S. Border Patrol in public areas and the arrest of more than 400 undocumented immigrants.

The sweeps, which the government calls "interior checkpoints" and Latino groups charge profile Latinos, began June 4. They are part of a new 12-officer Mobile Patrol Group working out of the city of Temecula in Riverside County, according to Gloria

Chávez, spokeswoman for the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

The Mobile Patrol Group has conducted sweeps in Latino areas of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties, according to local press reports.

San Diego Border Patrol spokesperson Richard Kite confirmed to Hispanic Link that agents have staged operations in the latter three counties.

The sweeps have created panic in Latino communities more than 100 miles north of the border, in cities where Latinos constitute as much as 90 percent of the population. "I know the Border Patrol is primarily targeting Latinos," claims South El Monte Mayor Blanca Figueroa. "Parents are not sending their children to school, (Continued Page 5)

Protestan Redada de la Patrulla Fronteriza

Por Sonia Meléndez

Aumentan las fricciones entre los latinos y las autoridades federales de inmigración en California. Al menos que el gobierno federal estadounidense desacelere las últimas tácticas destinadas a hacer cumplir la ley, es probable que las tensiones arderán en la medida que progrese el verano.

Desde comienzos de este mes, las redadas de inmigrantes han samaqueado las comunidades latinas del sur de California. En las primeras dos semanas del mes, resultaron en la interrogación por la patrulla fronteriza de cientos de personas en lugares públicos, además de la detención de más de 400 inmigrantes indocumentados.

Las redadas, iniciadas el 4 de junio y tildadas "puntos de revisión interiores" por el gobierno, son actividades que los grupos de latinos acusan de fichar a los latinos. Forman parte de un nuevo grupo de patrulla móvil de 12 agentes con base en la ciudad de Temecula en el condado de Riverside, indica Gloria Chávez, vocera de la oficina de aduanas y

protección fronteriza de los Estados Unidos.

El grupo de patrulla móvil ha realizado redadas en las áreas latinas en los condados de Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino y San Diego, según informes de la prensa local.

Vocero de la patrulla fronteriza de San Diego, Richard Kite, confirmó a Hispanic Link que los agentes han llevado a cabo operaciones en los tres últimos condados mencionados.

Las redadas han fomentado el pánico entre las comunidades latinas a más de 100 millas al norte de la frontera, en ciudades en las que los latinos constituyen hasta el 90 por ciento de la población. "Yo sé que la patrulla fronteriza se enfoca principalmente en los latinos", asevera la alcalde de South El Monte Mayor, Blanca Figueroa. "Los padres no mandan a la escuela a sus hijos, las mujeres embarazadas dejan de ir a sus citas con el médico y los trabajadores no van a trabajar, por lo que viven aterrorizados, y no salen de sus casas".
Continúa en la página 5



Los Tigres del Norte criticize raids against Mexicans in California

Mexican singing group Los Tigres del Norte criticized the raids against their compatriots in California announcing that they would continue collaborating with pro-immigrant organizations in the United States.

"It's something that hurts a lot because all they see is brown-skinned people and they stop you, the police now has the right to stop you," explained Jorge Hernández, the director, vocalist, and the group's accordion player.

In an interview for Notimex, the artist, originally from the Mexican state of Sinaloa, considered that the matter "is a very serious problem" and he questioned immigration officials in the United States.

"I don't think people who work for the government are psychic so as to know, as they're walking down the street, whether a person has papers or not," he stated. Resorting to a measure that has been highly criticized by the Mexican government, in the last month federal immigration officials have carried out raids in California locations where they have arrested more than 400 undocumented immigrants.

The leader of Los Tigres del Norte highlighted that the group has always lent its support for events to gather funds for organizations in favor of the rights of Mexicans and immigrants in general. "We will continue collaborating with friendly organizations like the farm laborers' union founded by Mr. César Chávez," he added.

Hernández, as well as his brothers, has resided in San José, California for decades, and they were in this southern Florida city promoting "Pacto de sangre" their most recent album, which was released for sales in Mexico and the U.S. last March 31.

The album has 14 songs (northern, cumbias, corridos, boleros, and ballads) among them "Las mujeres de Juárez", which addresses the topic of the female homicides in that city on Mexico's northern border, across from Texas.
(Continued Page 5)

Cuando La Politica y La Religion Se Topan

Victor Landa

El mejor lugar para hablar de la religión y la política es un salón lleno de curas y políticos. Se esbozan estos temas delicados con chistes y frases irónicas. Esto lo encontré por internet: "Un político le dijo a un pastor, 'Nombre algo que podría hacer el gobierno por la iglesia'. El pastor respondió, 'Dejar de producir billetes de a uno'"

En cualquier otro lugar el tema es candente. La gente tiende a aferrarse a lo que cree y a sus alianzas, en particular cuando lo que cree y las alianzas se consideran como la verdad absoluta. En este sentido existe poca diferencia entre un clérigo musulmán descabellado que incita a sus seguidores a la guerra y un pregonero cristiano que justifica la agresión militar. Ambos declaran a Dios de su parte y cada uno trafica en una perversión.

Pero las reglas cambian cuando la iglesia y los políticos mismos colocan juntas la religión y la política en el discurso público. Se vuelven ambos temas buena presa.

Una encuesta publicada recientemente en la revista Time halló que entre los católicos existe un deseo por separar la política y la fe. Setenta por ci-

ento de los encuestados cree que la iglesia católica no debe intentar influir en cómo votan los católicos. El sesentainueve por ciento cree que la iglesia católica no debe intentar influir en las posiciones sobre los temas que toman los políticos católicos. Por lo visto los católicos quieren diferenciar a los curas de los políticos por la sotana y el traje con corbata.

Esto es importante merced a tendencias recientes de la política nacional.

Una es la decisión tomada por el Arzobispo de Saint Louis, Raymond Lee, quien informó al senador John Kerry que su expediente de votos en favor de la opción al aborto le vuelve no apto para comulgar.

La otra es la acusación por varios académicos y llamados "entendidos" que una doctrina fundamental y algo opaca que se llama el dispensacionalismo impera al núcleo de las decisiones que toma la administración de Bush.

En base a estas normas, la opción que tenemos a presidente de los Estados Unidos en las próximas elecciones está entre un hipócrita pecador y un intolerante mezquino. Es lamentable lo que ocurre cuando los hombres reducen a Dios al tamaño de sus temores.

Entonces también está el caso de los jueces de la Corte Suprema de EEUU que este mes decidieron dejar de lado el tema de permitir permanecer la frase "bajo Dios" en el juramento de lealtad a la nación. Vistieron sus prendas ceremoniales y declararon el caso irrelevante por lo que el hombre quien abrió el caso contra el gobierno no disfrutaba de custodia legal sobre su hija, en nombre de quien pleiteaba para extraer la frase del juramento.

He oído discursos políticos en catedrales y he visto la bendición de políticos recién instalados en el poder. Ambos actos me pusieron un poco incómodo, pero a la vez, parecían de lo más normal. Después de todo, queremos que nuestros líderes sean personas moralmente fuertes. El problema surge cuando los mismos se convierten en los árbitros de la moralidad y la distorción con el lente ahumado de sus convicciones religiosas en moralismo -- que es hacia donde nos lleva la mayoría de la discusión sobre la religión y la política.

No he encontrado aun instancia alguna en la biblia en la que Jesús se negará a comulgar con un pecador. No he encontrado aun un pasaje en el que Jesús

abogara por la guerra como medio para ningún objetivo.

Esto no es pronunciarme a favor o en contra ni de la guerra ni del presidente. Es simplemente un hecho que Jesús era pacifista. En mi lectura de los Evangelios encuentro interesante que en el fin, a Jesús lo capturó la maraña fatal de la política.

Y en cuanto a Dios, encuentro mi mente humana incapaz. Sin embargo me tinca que Dios sabía que con nuestras limitaciones nosotros los humanos inventaríamos cosas como la religión organizada y la política. Por ende, se nos adelantó, y por eso nos otorgó un sentido del humor.

He aquí otro chiste: En el lecho mortal yacía un político, entonces vino el cura a darle la última unción. Como parte de la ceremonia el cura le preguntó al falleciente, "¿Renuncias a Satanás?" Tras un largo silencio, el político dijo, "Un momento, padre -- no estoy seguro a dónde voy, y ésta no es hora de estar haciendo enemigos!"

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Five Years and Counting

By Abel Cruz

Here we are, almost into the 7th month of the year and if you are like me, you might feel like the first 6 months were over in a "New York minute".

It seems that just a few days ago the city council was involved in a "search" (and I use that term loosely), for a new city manager and the local city elections were still undecided. Since then though, it seems that things have died down and things seem to be back to normal.

And that's just fine...if you like normal and are happy with the way things are. But although the city went through quite a few changes, there was not one thing that has happened during the first 6 months that will bring about changes to the way things are done here in Lubbock. Sure we have a new District 1 City Council person, a new city manager and a new Hispanic School Board member, but aside from that, has anything really changed?

I did note the other day that ground had been broken at what used to be called the Canyon Lakes on a project that is being called Fiesta Plaza. I'm not complaining, but wouldn't it have been nice if that plaza could have been named after a person from this city, or not, who has made a significant social contribution to our "comunidad Hispana"? After all, the entire plaza is located in an area that is surrounded by a predominately Hispanic community and will be primarily used by the Hispanic community.

Perhaps the new city council representative, Ms. DeLeon, can bring the subject up at the next city council meeting? Or are things just not done that way here in Lubbock?

Another indication that the more things change the more they stay the same, is that our new city manager, Lou Fox, has not been as public in his political life as I expected him to be. I have heard that he has made some public appearances throughout the community, but nothing specific to the Hispanic community. For instance, there have been no efforts to meet with the community in a town hall meeting setting or in the local churches. I'm sure he has met with local organizations like LULAC and the Hispanic Chamber, but it would be nice if he scheduled a series of community meetings in order to listen to the concerns from the local Hispanic community.

Over the past month, I have spent more time out of Lubbock than there. In fact, I am in Fort Worth as this is being written. So my apologies if what I have written this week is something that is being addressed. I doubt it though.

If there is one thing that I know after being back in Lubbock for a little over a year is that things only move at a couple of speeds in our city, especially when it comes to our minority communities; slow and slower. Again, I point to the new Fiesta Plaza, although funds were approved in a bond election in 1999, nothing had been done until a few days ago.

Five years... let's hope it's not another 5 before the plaza is ready for public use.

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When Politics and Religion Bump Heads

By Victor Landa

The best place to talk about religion and politics is in a room full of priests and politicians. The delicate subjects are gleaned over with jokes and one-liners. I found this in the internet: "A minister was asked by a politician, 'Name something the government can do to help the church.' The minister replied, 'Quit making one-dollar bills.'"

Anywhere else the topic is a mine field. People tend to hold tightly to their beliefs and allegiances, especially when those beliefs and allegiances are held as absolute truth. In this sense there is little difference between a rogue Islamic cleric who incites his followers to war and a charismatic Christian preacher who justifies military aggression. Both claim to have God on their side, and each peddles a perversion.

But the rules change when the Church and the politicians themselves place religion and politics together in public discourse. The topics become fair game.

A recent poll published in Time magazine found that among Catholics, there is a desire to separate politics and faith. Seventy percent of the people polled believe that the Catholic Church should not try to influence the way Catholics vote. Sixty-nine percent believe the Catholic Church should not try to influence the positions on issues taken by Catholic politicians. It seems Catholics want to make sure that they can tell the priests from the politicians by their Roman collars and red power ties.

This is important in light of recent developments in national politics.

One is the decision by the Archbishop of Saint Louis,

Raymond Lee, who told Sen. John Kerry that his pro-choice voting record makes him unfit to receive communion.

The other is the accusation by several scholars and so-called "insiders" that a fundamental and somewhat obscure doctrine called dispensationalism is at the center of the decisions being made by the Bush administration.

By these standards our choice for, the next president of the United States is between a sinning hypocrite and a small minded bigot. It's a shame what happens when men reduce God to the size of their fears.

Then there is the case of the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, who decided this month to sidestep the issue of keeping "under God" in the pledge of allegiance. They donned their ceremonial vestments and declared that the case was irrelevant because the man who brought the suit against the government did not have legal custody of his daughter, on whose behalf he was suing to have the words removed.

I've listened to political speeches in cathedrals and I've witnessed the blessing of politicians who had been recently elected to office. Each of these things made me a little uneasy, yet at the same time each seemed to be natural. After all, we want our leaders to be moral people. The problem arises when those people become arbiters of morality and distort it through the hazy lens of their religious convictions, into moralism -- which is where most of the religion-and-politics discussion is taking us.

I have yet to find an instance in the Bible where Jesus refused to break bread with a sinner. And I have yet to come

across a passage where Jesus advocated war as a means to anything.

This is not a pronouncement in favor of or against war or the president. It is simply a fact that Jesus was a pacifist. In my reading of the Gospels I find it interesting that in the end Jesus was caught in a deadly web of politics.

And as far as God is concerned, I find my human mind incapable. But I have a hunch that God knew that with our limitations we humans would invent things like organized re-

ligion and politics. So he planned ahead, which is why he gave us a sense of humor.

Here's another one: A politician was on his death bed, so the local priest came to give him the last rites. As part of the ceremony the priest said to the dying man, "Do you renounce Satan?" After a long pause, the politician said, "Now wait a minute, Father -- I'm not sure where I'm going, and this is no time to be making enemies!"

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My Misgivings about the War, Bush

By Bruce Bartlett

On Monday, The New York Times reported that growing numbers of conservatives are turning against President Bush on Iraq. This follows an inarticulate defense of the Iraq operation by Bush in a press conference last week and growing attacks on our troops. It is now becoming increasingly clear that the basic rationale for the war was not well thought through and that postwar planning was deeply flawed at a minimum. These may result from a basic weakness in this White House's policy-making and decision-making processes.

I have to say that my own feelings on the war parallel those of many others who previously supported the war but now feel deep misgivings. Although I don't often write on foreign policy, I felt I had an obligation to take a stand on Iraq before the war started. In a February 2003 column, I reluctantly supported the war because at the time I thought there was credible evidence of

weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. With that country being ruled by a lunatic dictator with known ties to terrorist groups, I felt that President Bush deserved the benefit of a doubt.

Since then, I have been very disturbed by the lack of WMD's. I am not yet convinced that President Bush manufactured evidence for their existence as a pretext for war. But I do believe that he has fostered a White House culture that contributes to error with a stifled internal debate, a decision-making process that seems to short circuit research and analysis, and an obsession with loyalty and secrecy that makes the Nixon White House appear as a model of openness and transparency.

In this respect, I have been strongly influenced by Ron Suskind's recent book, "The Price of Loyalty," which was based on interviews with former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill and thousands of internal documents provided by him. That book paints a pic-

ture of an administration in which it appears that President Bush often makes key decisions with little if any analysis or discussion among those with the job of implementing those decisions.

In short, President Bush often seems to operate like the character from "Alice in Wonderland" who declared, "Sentence first -- verdict afterwards." Instead of figuring out why and how things should be done before acting, the White House seems to act first and then create ex post facto rationalizations for that decision in lieu of serious deliberation.

Although I claim no inside knowledge of the national security process in this administration, I do know that Suskind and O'Neill's characterization of its domestic policy operation rings true. While it is conceivable that a completely different process operates in the national security arena, I think that is highly unlikely. Presidents establish a style and tone for their White House staff operations, and it operates across the board. Therefore, I have every reason to believe that the same weaknesses that exist on the domestic side exist within the national security operation, as well.

Contrary to what conspiracy theorists imagine, I don't think President Bush ever ordered facts to be invented to justify the Iraq war. Rather, I think there was a great deal of what economists call self-selection bias. Facts that confirmed what President Bush wanted to believe tended to filter up to him, while conflicting facts tended to be sidelined.

This sort of thing happens on every issue in every White

House. But in this White House, the system of deliberation, debate, analysis and discussion seems to be unusually weak. As a consequence, there was no way of leveling the playing field, with the result that decisions end up being made on the basis of biased presentations rather than objective analysis.

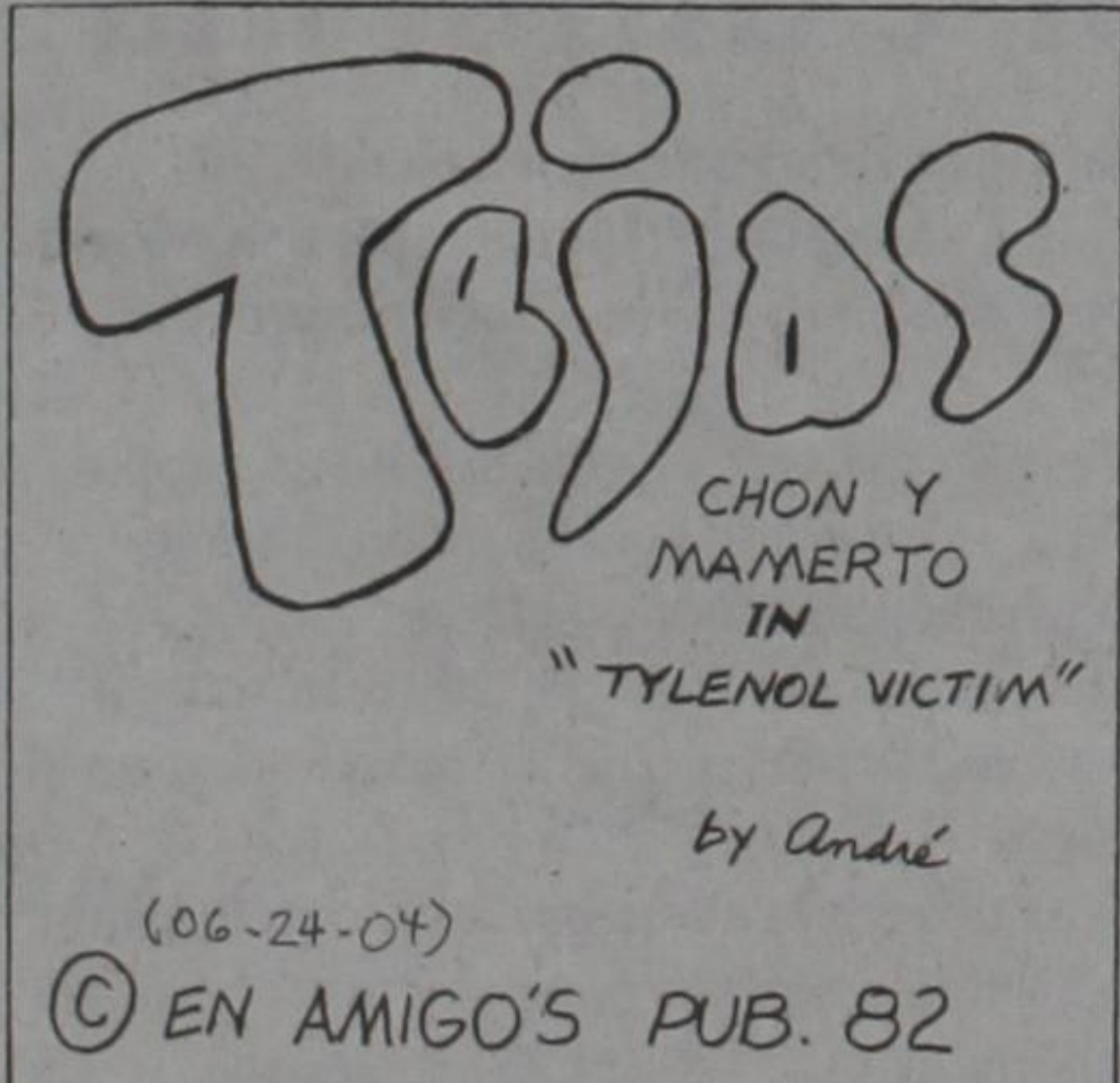
In previous administrations, one safety valve has been the press. When participants in the decision-making process felt that the president was not fully taking into account certain facts or views, they would be leaked. At least then there was a chance that they would come to his attention. But in this administration, there is very little of that, with loyalty and secrecy being enforced to an amazing degree that appears unprecedented. Moreover, President Bush, by his own admission, is not a big consumer of news from outside sources. Consequently, alternate methods of communicating facts and views to him are shut down.

Of course, one cannot know whether a more open and honest debate on Iraq would have led to a different result. But I for one would not have supported the war if I thought that its principal justification was the liberation of the Iraqi people, which is what the White House now says was its primary mission. Our military exists to defend the nation, not be the world's policeman. If there is a linkage, President Bush has yet to make it.

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El Editor - Week of June 24 - June 30, 2004

Wal-Mart enfrenta la mayor demanda colectiva de la historia de EEUU

La cadena de supertiendas Wal-Mart enfrenta la demanda colectiva por derechos civiles más grande de la historia de la nación por la supuesta discriminación contra sus empleadas.

El juez de distrito Martin Jenkins, de San Francisco, aceptó ayer que la demanda presentada inicialmente en 2001 por seis empleadas de la empresa en California, abarque además a 1.6 millones de mujeres que trabajan o han trabajado en tiendas de Wal-Mart de EU desde el 26 de diciembre de 1998.

La acción colectiva abarca a 750 mil empleadas actuales y 850 mil que ya dejaron la cadena de tiendas. El fallo es importante porque da a los representantes legales de las demandantes poderosos argumentos a la hora de solicitar daños punitivos, pagos atrasados y otras compensaciones.

"Wal-Mart tendrá que enfrentar en los tribunales al poder combinado de 1.6 millones de mujeres", dijo Brad Seligman, especialista en demandas colectivas de la Fundación The Impact Fund de Berkeley, California, y quien dirige uno de los equipos de abogados que representa a las demandantes.

Seligman, que ha litigado con éxito en más de 40 demandas colectivas sobre derechos civiles, dijo en una declaración escrita facilitada que la decisión del juez demuestra que "nadie está por encima de la ley, ni siquiera el mayor empleador del mundo".

La demanda acusa a Wal-Mart, cuya sede está en la ciudad de Bentonville, Arkansas, y emplea a más de 1.2 millón de personas y opera 3,566 tiendas en el país, de discriminar contra sus empleadas y tomar represalias contra las mujeres que se han quejado.

Wal-Mart tiene más de 1.5 millones de empleados en todo el mundo y tiendas en México, Puerto Rico, Canadá, Argentina, Brasil, China, Corea del Sur, Alemania y Gran Bretaña.

Los abogados sostienen que el 70% de la plantilla de Wal-Mart en EU está formado por mujeres, pero hay sólo un 15% de mujeres en cargos de gerencia.

En la demanda se sostiene que las mujeres son dirigidas habitualmente a puestos de cajeras, donde no tienen muchas posibilidades de progreso o ascensos.

En los documentos divulgados con testimonios presentados en audiencias judiciales figuran casos de mujeres a quienes se les negó un cargo porque no podían levantar bolsas de alimentos para perros de 25 kilos de peso.

Una mujer declaró que su gerente justificó la preferencia de un hombre en una promoción porque "tenía que alimentar a una familia", mientras que a otra le dijeron que en Wal-Mart se pagaba más a los hombres porque "la Biblia dice que Dios creó a Adán antes que a Eva".

Los informes presentados por las demandantes señalan disparidades salariales de hasta 1,150 dólares anuales entre los salarios de hombres y mujeres.

Como ejemplo, la demandante Betty Dukes dijo que recibió solamente 8.44 dólares por hora durante sus primeros nueve años en varios cargos que le asignó Wal-Mart en Pittsburg, California, mientras que varios empleados con cargos parecidos, pero menos responsabilidad recibieron 9.00 dólares por hora.

Largas deliberaciones

El juez Jenkins tardó nueve meses en decidir si incluía en la demanda a todas las mujeres que han trabajado en tiendas de Wal-Mart, convirtiendo el caso en el mayor de su tipo en la historia.

Jenkins dictaminó que una ley aprobada por el Congreso en 1964 prohíbe la discriminación sexual en el trabajo, y las corporaciones no están exentas.

No se fijó la fecha del juicio. Apelación anunciada

Wal-Mart, que ya enfrenta decenas de demandas por supuestas violaciones en materia salarial y persecución sindical, anunció que apelará la decisión.

El presidente de Wal-Mart, Robert Walton, cuya familia está entre las más ricas de Estados Unidos, dijo a la cadena de televisión CNBC que el "juez cometió un error". La portavoz del grupo, Mona Williams, anunció de inmediato que el grupo apelará esta decisión, que Wal-Mart "desaprueba firmemente".

La decisión del juez no tiene nada que ver "con el tema de fondo", según ella. Williams añadió que "el juez Jenkins dice simplemente que cree que el caso cumple con las condiciones jurídicas necesarias para ser tratado como una demanda en nombre colectivo".

Negándose a comentar el caso, Mona Williams subrayó que el grupo adoptó a comienzos de junio una nueva "estructura de clasificación de empleos y de salarios de las personas empleadas sobre una base horaria", sin brindar otros detalles.

Uno de los abogados de las demandantes, Joe Sellers, denunció en la cadena de televisión CNBC la ausencia total de procedimientos de nominación para los puestos de responsabilidad en Wal-Mart. "Esto se resumía a una palmada amistosa en la espalda, no había un procedimiento de nominación".

"Además, es una empresa en la cual los dirigentes decían regularmente a las mujeres que no pueden dirigir a hombres y que no tienen un lugar en un equipo dirigente", afirmó.

La dirección de Wal-Mart afirmó, en varias oportunidades, que sólo recibía pocas candidaturas femeninas para los puestos de responsabilidad. "No es una sorpresa, pero esto no refleja de manera equitativa el nivel de interés de las mujeres por los puestos de dirección", insistió Sellers.

El abogado no se refirió a ningún monto aproximado de las compensaciones que serían exigidas.

La mayoría de los casos de este tipo han sido solucionados de manera extrajudicial en el pasado en Estados Unidos, cuyo sistema judicial permite así evitar el largo y costoso proceso. El número uno mundial del bricolaje, Home Depot, aceptó en 1997 pagar 104 millones de dólares para solucionar de manera amistosa una demanda por discriminación que concernía a 25 mil empleadas.

La discriminación sexual no es el único caso en contra de Wal-Mart. A fines de 2003, la empresa fue condenada por la contratación de cientos de inmigrantes indocumentados y la prensa le acusó de encerrar a sus trabajadores nocturnos en algunas de sus tiendas.

El anuncio del juez resonó en la Bolsa de Valores de Nueva York, donde las acciones de Wal-Mart bajaron 1.02 dólares, casi el 2%, a 53.91 dólares.

Culture, History, Education & Future Pageant instills culture & promotes higher education

Young women from Lubbock County and the surrounding area are encouraged to submit applications to compete in the Miss Hispanic Lubbock Scholarship Pageant, held in conjunction with Lubbock's 16th of September celebration.

Single women of Hispanic decent, between the ages of 17 through 24-years-old, who are currently seniors in high school or enrolled in a college or university, are invited to experience an opportunity of a lifetime.

The 2004 pageant will be

held Wednesday, September 15, 2004 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theater and will kick off a week of festivities in conjunction with the 16th of September celebration. The community wide event allows Lubbock residents to embrace Mexican-American culture, and encourages community wide participation.

Interested individuals can request an online application at www.fiestasdelano.org or pick one up at the following locations:

- West Texas Hispanic News - 1607 13th Street
- El Editor Newspaper - 1502 Avenue M
- Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - 1302 Main, Suite 102
- Texas Tech University Campus - Administration Building, Room #313

Participants will be required to submit their completed applications and a \$150 entry fee at a mandatory contestant orientation, to be held Saturday, July 24, 2004, at 9:00 AM, in the College of Human Sciences Auditorium, Rm. 169 located on the Texas Tech campus. (easily accessible from University Avenue through the 15th Street entrance, just northeast of the Student Union Building)

For more information, please call Rosa Salazar, Pageant Chair/ Director, at (806) 793-0300.

Local Teen to Meet with National Leaders in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Xavier Mojica of Lubbock has been selected to participate in the National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) in Washington, D.C. which started on Monday, June 21 and expected to to through Thursday, July 1. NYLC is a unique leadership development program for high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. Mojica will be one of approximately 350 outstanding scholars from around the country at the conference.

The theme of NYLC is *The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today*. Throughout ten days, Mojica will interact with a variety of personnel who operate within the three branches of government, the news media, and the international community.

To complement the schedule of special meetings and briefings, Mojica will also participate in a number of leadership skill-building activities and simulations. In one role-play activity titled *If I Were President*, students act as the president and cabinet members responding to an international crisis. Students also participate in *Testing the Constitution*, in which they examine actual Supreme Court cases. The Conference culminates the *Model Congress*, in which



scholars assume the roles of US Representatives, and debate, amend and vote on proposed mock legislation.

CYLC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization. Founded in 1985, the Council is committed to fostering and inspiring young people to achieve their full leadership potential. More than 400 members of the US Congress join this commitment by serving the CYLC Honorary Congressional Board of Advisors. In addition, more than 40 embassies participate in the Council's Honorary Board of Embassies.

Six U.S. Postal Carryovers to Help Armstrong at Tour de France

Six teammates who helped Lance Armstrong win last year's Tour de France will ride with him again next month when he bids for a record sixth consecutive title.

Two members of Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service squad are in their first year with the team -- Jose Azevedo of Portugal and Benjamin Noval of Spain. They replace Roberto Heras, who will compete against Armstrong this time, and Colombia's Victor Hugo Pena, who was dropped for this Tour.

"Lance is confident he has a strong team and now it's up to him to be ready," U.S. Postal sporting director Johan Bruyneel said. "His form is coming."

Armstrong, who came back from cancer to first win the Tour in 1999, will be competing in the showcase event for the 10th time. Only four other riders have five Tour victories -- Miguel Indurain, Bernard Hinault, Eddy Merckx and Jacques Anquetil.

This year's race starts July 3 in Liege, Belgium, and ends July 25 on Paris' Champs-Elysees. The course covers 2,126 miles, counterclockwise around France.

The crunch for Armstrong,

whose win last year was his narrowest yet, most likely will come in the last eight days of the three-week race during mountain stages and time trials.

"The last week looks really tough, the toughest we have ever done," Armstrong said. "It will be much better to have a stronger second half than a

continued on page 5

¿Que Pasa?

A Nursing Day Celebration

Attention nursing school graduates! Covenant School of Nursing will host a reunion on Saturday, July 17 at 10 am. The brunch will be held at the Knipling Education /Conference Center, top of the West-parking garage, of Covenant Medical Center.

The reunion will give the graduates the opportunity to meet with old friends, talk about the good old days, be presented with awards honoring their achievements and the chance to make donation that will benefit the school of nursing. Graduates of '34, '44, '54, '64, '74, '84, '94 and '04 will receive recognition.

A guest speaker will address the audience. The registration fee is \$15 for alumni and \$10 for the brunch; registration will begin at 9:30 am RSVP to 794-2403 or 797-0955.

Texas Tech College of Education Partners to bring Computers to Schools in Floydada

Tomorrow morning Friday, the Texas Tech University's College of Education will announce a new Technology Immersion Pilot (TIP) partnership with the Floydada Independent School District, Apple Computer, Inc., and the Education Service Center, Region 17.

The Texas Education Agency recently announced awards for a new \$12 million TIP grant project. Floydada Junior High School was selected as one of six campuses serving students in sixth through eighth grades to receive funding. The amount of funding for the Floydada TIP grant project is \$350,000.

Beginning in the upcoming fall semester, every student and teacher at Floydada Junior High will receive an Apple iBook laptop computer to use at school and home. Teachers will participate in extensive professional development training prior to the start of classes in August, as well as continued training during the school year.

4th on Broadway Celebration

Broadway Festivals, Inc. is proud to present to the Lubbock and the surrounding towns the 14th Annual 4th On Broadway Celebration on July 3rd & 4th.

The festivities begin at 9:00 am on Saturday, July 3rd with the parade followed by an all day Street Fair. The street fair showcases more than 700 local and national musical artists on 11 different stages throughout the day.

The evening concert will begin at 7:30 p. on Sunday, July 4th with performances by the Flying J Wranglers, the Stars of the Cactus and Mariachi Amistad. The celebration will conclude with a professional fireworks display coinciding with a patriotic musical performance from Lubbock Youth Symphony Orchestra.

The event is open to the public and free of charge. For more information call 749-2929.

Upward Bound Program 37th Annual Awards Banquet

The Upward Bound Programs at Texas Tech University cordially invites the public to attend the 37th Annual Awards Banquet which will be held on Sat. July 3rd at 7:00 pm at the Lubbock Civic Center.

The keynote speaker for the event will be former Upward Bounder Nationally Recognized Author and Lecturer Sonja Wiley-Patton Ph.D. Please RSVP by June 28 and you can call 742-3616 if you need further information.

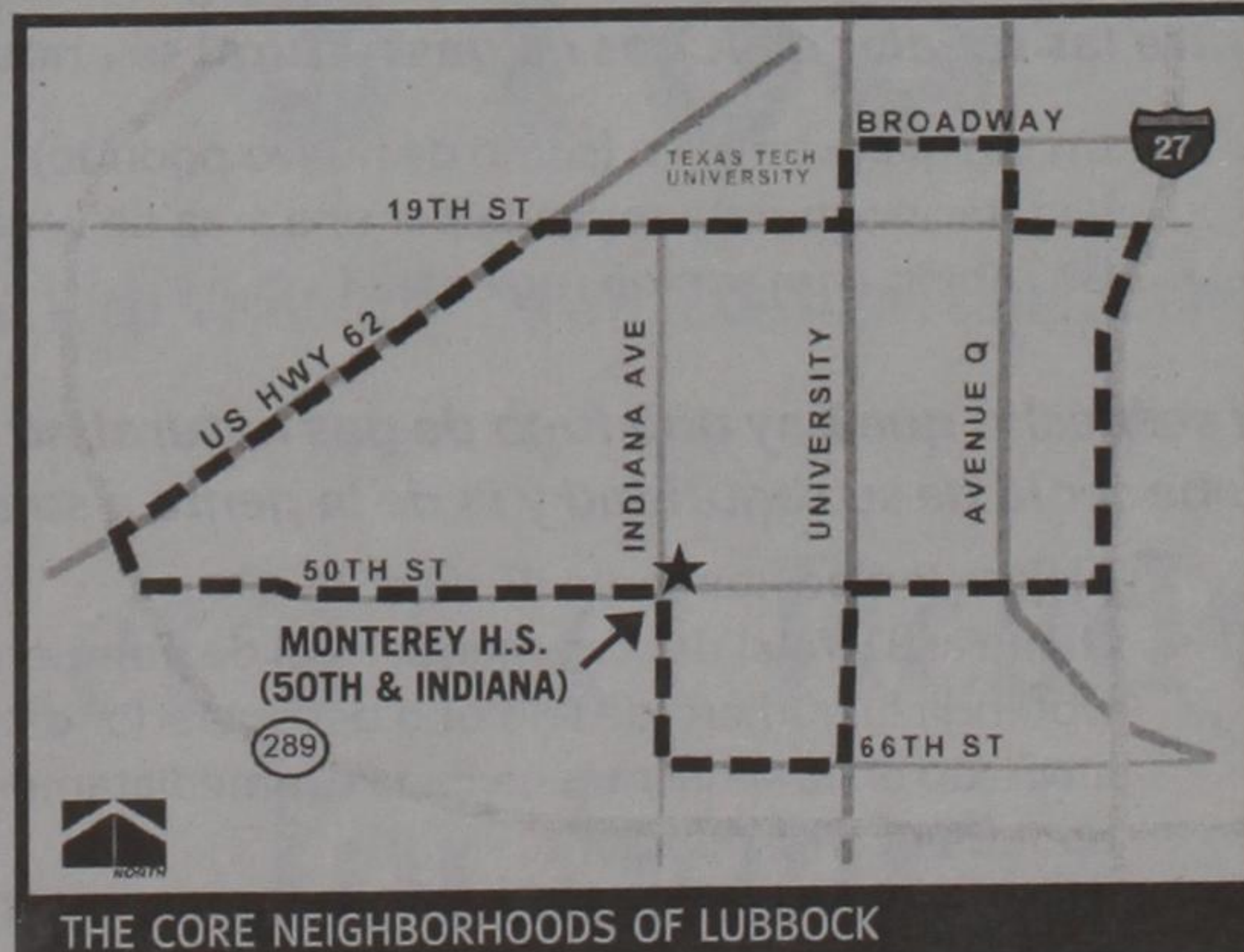
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WAYS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CORE NEIGHBORHOODS OF LUBBOCK?

A Stabilization/Revitalization Master Development Plan is under way for the core neighborhoods of Lubbock (see map).

A Town Hall meeting will be held **June 24, 2004**, to allow residents to address issues and priorities for the area. This is phase two of Councilman Boren's initiative to improve & protect the integrity of the core neighborhoods. Your input will help develop the direction of the Master Plan.

TIME: 7 PM TO 9 PM
DATE: THURSDAY - JUNE 24, 2004
LOCATION: MONTEREY HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM (3211 47TH STREET - EAST ENTRANCE)

Please contact Rob Allison at 775-2110 OR Craig Farmer at 775-2014 if you have any questions.



For further information you may contact the Business and Neighborhood Development Department at 775-2111. This meeting is open to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance please contact the Business and Neighborhood Development Department at 775-2111, or write to Business and Neighborhood Development Department P.O. Box 2000, Lubbock, Texas 79457, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.



On November 2, 2004

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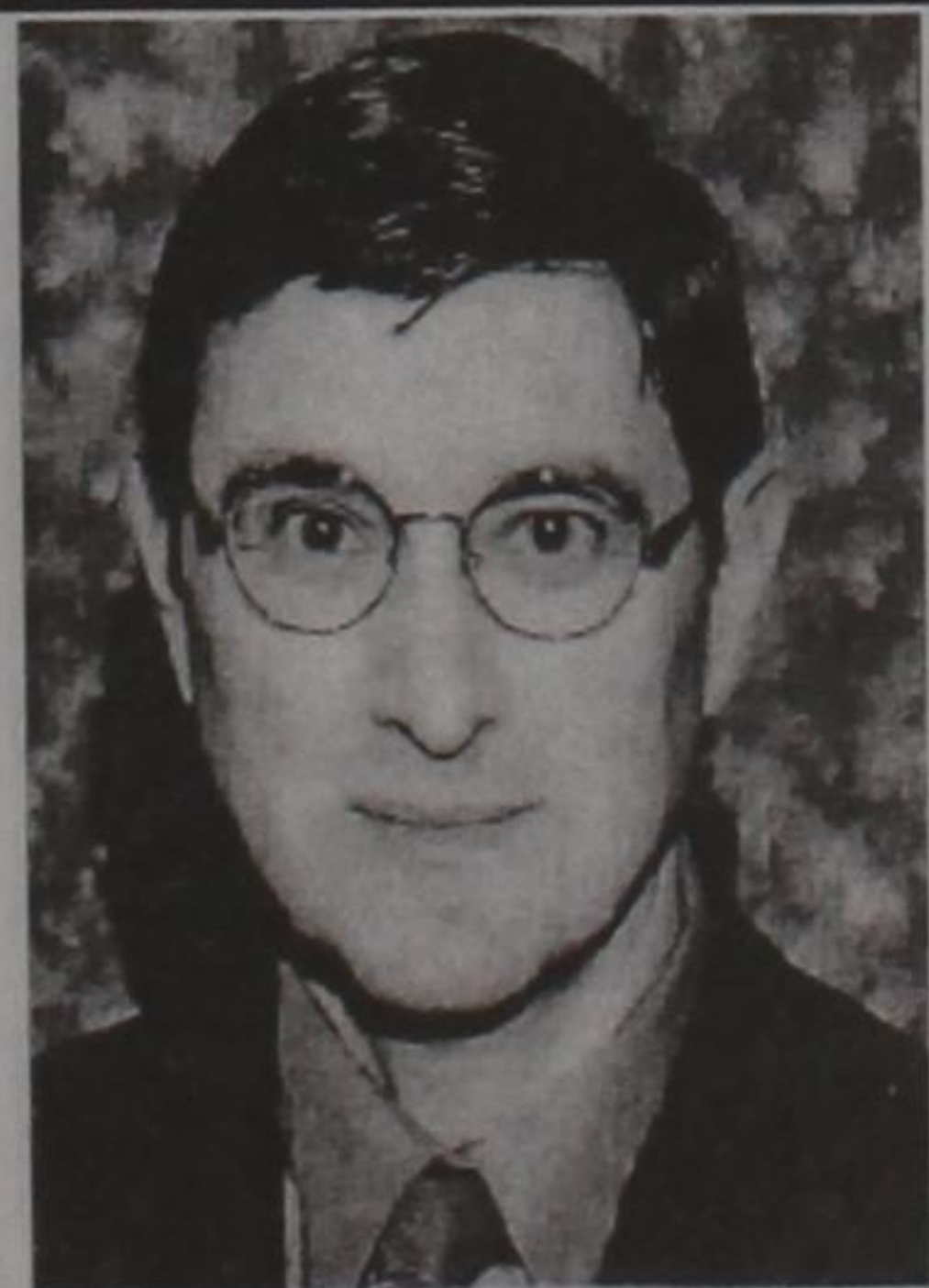
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Political advertisement paid for by Ysidro Gutiérrez for County Commissioner Precinct 3. Madaleno Hernandez - Treasurer



Clinton Aided Mexico Fearing Massive Immigrant Exodus



Ex-president William Clinton decided to help Mexico during the 1995 crisis because the country was just a week away from declaring a moratorium on payments and because he feared a massive undocumented immigrant exodus among other things.

In his autobiography, "My life", the former president stated that he made the decision to help Mexico in spite of opposition in Congress and the highly unpopular rescue plan, due to the consequences a suspension would have entailed for the United States.

"Within a year," Clinton rea-

soned on January 30, 1995, "when we have a million more undocumented immigrants... a many people on both sides of the Rio Bravo are jobless, what am I going to say when they ask me why I didn't do anything," he asked himself.

"What am I going to say? That a survey showed that 80 per cent of Americans were opposed, this is something we have to do," he instructed members of his cabinet, including Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin.

Only two days before, on January 28, then Mexico's Secretary of the Treasury, Jaime

Serra Puche, had called Rubin to announce the "imminent" moratorium since one billion dollars in Tesobono debt was due in a week according to Clinton's retelling of the facts.

Consequently, on January 31, 1995, Clinton announced a package of 20 billion dollars in aid for Mexico, even when his closest collaborators, including Leon Panetta, feared it would cost him the reelection if Mexico did not come through.

Notwithstanding, Clinton, who considered the crisis a product of "failed government policy and weak institutions," had confidence in President Ernesto Zedillo and his team.

"If anyone could lift Mexico up it was Zedillo," wrote Clinton about the Yale doctorate in economy.

The former president estimated illegal immigration would increase 30 per cent if they did not lend Mexico their support. Likewise, it was clear that drug trafficking would increase besides foreseeing other adverse consequences for the economy not only of the U.S. but all of Latin America.

In the end, when Mexico paid back the 10.5 billion dollars it had accepted on loan, Clinton prided himself in having backed his neighbor to the south, "The loan turned out to be good politics plus a good investment."

Clinton says referring to the fact that the United States had implemented a mechanism that placed oil income as collateral and earned almost 600 million dollars in interest.

Passages about Mexico in Clinton's book briefly mention his encounters with Presidents Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Vicente Fox. In addition, he endorses his support for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which in spite of opposition from his own party, went into effect in January 1994.

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Alejandro Fernández to be image for McDonald's & Sony

Mexican singer Alejandro Fernández along with Americans Justin Timberlake and Ashanti has become today the promotional image for a his-

Thalia and Celia Cruz lead "Orgullosamente Latino" voting

Deceased singer of Cuban origin, Celia Cruz, Mexican singer Thalia, the Sin Bandera group, and Italian Tiziano Ferro head the voting in the "Orgullosamente Latino, the Public's Award 2004", promoted by private TV channel Ritmoson Latino.

In a press release, it announced that Thalia is the only one to head four of the seven categories into which the contest is divided, such as "Latino Solo Performer of the Year", "Latino Music Video of the Year", "Latino Album of the Year", and "Latino Song of the Year".

In the category for "Latino Trajectory" the leader is Celia Cruz, outstanding interpreter who died in 2003 and whose closest competitors are Juan Gabriel and Julio Iglesias.

Meanwhile Sin Bandera is ahead in the "Latino Group of the Year" category, in which it is up against Elefante, Ha-Ash, and Axe Bahia.

Italian Tiziano Ferro, who sings "Tardes negras", remains at the top of the category for "Latino Solo Performer of the Year".

The audience, whose votes can be cast on www.ritmosonlatino.com, has from the 21st of this month to July 11 to decide who the winners will be.

With a total of 45 contestants in seven categories, Mexico heads the list of artists contending to receive the award, followed by Spain, Costa Rica, Perú, Bolivia, and Switzerland.

"Orgullosamente Latino, the Public's Award 2004" will be delivered for the first time by the private television channel on its tenth anniversary.

torical alliance between Sony recording firm and the McDonald's fast food chain.

The alliance will turn into a catchy campaign to fight piracy offering free with the purchase of McDonald's products a chance to download from the Internet a song by either of the aforementioned exclusive Sony artists.

"I'm thrilled to be a part of this huge project. For us, the artists, as well as for consumers this is a very important historical step, and it will pave new roads for the industry," said Fernández.

At the event, held at an exclusive theater on Hollywood's Sunset Boulevard, Fernández did not sing but was the first to be introduced as part of the promotional campaign in which the powerful trans-national firm is involved.

"This is an option that will in some way reduce piracy making it possible for thousands of songs to be downloaded legally on the Internet for free," stated Fernández.

Following his brief presentation came hip-hop singer, young Justin who interpreted one of his songs, as did multiple award-winner Afro-American Ashanti, also a part of this campaign.

The promotion, which begins on June 8, will provide a code for a song of the consumer's choice to be downloaded from musical site "Connect", at first it will only be available in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.

Interviewed after the event by Notimex, Fernández, who has sold a total of 14 million copies of his productions, promised that this agreement would assure lots of benefits to both

the fans and the singers.

"It seems a great idea to me, this alliance between Sony and McDonald's to fight piracy. I feel proud to represent the Hispanic community," he stressed.

Fernández refused to reveal what else he would be doing in this promotion or whether he would make any commercials, "We're just beginning but I feel it's the beginning of something good," he said.

It is a new way of making music and it comes at a time when the music industry could be wiped out, this is an intelligent way of doing innovative things for the benefit of artists and consumers, he ended.

As to his upcoming recording of romantic songs, which he describes as "the most important and beautiful of my career", he said that he is about half-way through the production, which he had to suspend in order to be in Los Angeles.

About his performance he said he was very happy and satisfied with his role as Zapata, "I'm so pleased that I'm planning to do something else soon. It could be comedy, I'm looking over some very interesting projects."

Referring to "Zapata's" reception in Mexico he said the critics were unfair and too severe making comments that were out of place, but, nevertheless, they were part of what added flavor to the situation. Furthermore he explained, cinema is art, the film was never intended to be biographical in the first place.

Though he still does not know when it will debut in the United States, he said the movie made him feel good as an actor since it has all the elements of a grand film.

Barrera knocks out Ayala in 10th round of featherweight fight

Marco Antonio Barrera knocked out Paulie Ayala in the 10th round of a featherweight fight between two former champions Saturday night.

A right hand by Barrera sent Ayala to the canvas for the third time, and referee Pat Russell stopped the scheduled 12-round bout 2:34 into the 10th without starting a count.

"On the last knockdown, he caught me very hard in the ribs," Ayala said. "I lost my breathing. I decided to take a knee and that was it."

Barrera knocked Ayala down twice in the eighth round. The first came on a five-punch combination about a minute in. He went down again about a minute later on a double hook to the body.

"He was brave and showed a lot of courage," Barrera said though an interpreter. "I thought he was very game. Even though I had knocked him down twice, I still thought he had a lot left. I didn't want to risk anything."

Barrera landed 231 of 593 punches, while Ayala landed 80 of 341, according to CompuBox statistics.

The victory could earn Barrera a third fight with Erik Morales in the fall, promoter Bob Arum said. Morales is scheduled to fight Carlos Hernandez on July 31 in a bout to unify the WBC and IBF super featherweight titles.

Barrera lost a 12-round split decision to Morales on Feb. 19, 2000, and handed Morales the first loss of his professional career by winning a unanimous decision on June 22, 2002.

The fight on Saturday was Barrera's first since losing on an 11th-round knockout against former WBC flyweight and IBF junior featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 15. It was the first time the Mexican was knocked out during his professional career that began in 1989 when he was 15.

The 34-year-old Ayala was *continued on page 5*

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THE TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND ENCOURAGES ALL HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE.

Protestan Redada de la Patrulla Fronteriza

viene de la primera pagina

Una inmigrante indocumentada radicada en Montebello, un pueblo cercano, cuenta cómo las redadas han alterado por completo su vida diaria, incluso su manera de vestir.

"Vivo en un estado constante de pánico", cuenta Libertad, de 31 años, a Hispanic Link. "Hasta comencé a ponerme zapatillas de deportes, y cargo \$100 en el bolsillo porque si me enfrenta un agente de la inmigración, así estoy preparada a hacer lo que sea para huir".

Libertad, quien ha vivido en los Estados Unidos durante más de una década, trabaja en una fábrica cosiendo asientos de auto. Quiere legalizarse e ir a la universidad.

Ambos el Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF por sus siglas en inglés) y la American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU por sus siglas en inglés) han lanzado procesos para investigar los procedimientos de cumplimiento de la patrulla fronteriza. Abogado de la ACLU, Ranjana Natarajan, nos informa que su organización está investigando las redadas con el fin de determinar si la

patrulla fronteriza tiene un enfoque específico en las comunidades y las personas en base sólo de "su aspecto o el color de su piel".

El grupo de patrulla móvil forma parte de los esfuerzos de reorganización de Temecula por responder con mayor eficacia a información "impulsada por la inteligencia" con base en parte de datos informales sobre inmigrantes sospechados de ser indocumentados por parte de otras agencias del orden y ciudadanos privados, explica la agente Chávez. "La política no ha cambiado", insiste.

MALDEF también se dedica a investigar informes que indican que la policía local en las ciudades de Ontario y Corona "cooperaron con agentes del gobierno federal". Urge que las personas individuales se comuniquen con MALDEF sobre cualquier sospecha de incurrir en el fichaje racial por parte de los agentes.

La Hermandad Mexicana Latinoamericana se ha unido a otros grupos para formar una coalición que llama a que el presidente Vicente Fox de México ponga presión sobre la

administración de Bush para que las redadas cesen, según su director ejecutivo, Nativo López.

En un esfuerzo de coalición con 40 grupos más, la Hermandad organizó el 13 de junio una manifestación con más de 3,000 participantes en Ontario y Pomona, lugares en los que los residentes han reportado mayor presencia pública de autoridades de inmigración, dijo López. Una semana antes, la patrulla fronteriza detuvo a más de 150 personas del área.

Congresista Linda Sánchez, la población de cuyo distrito es un 60 por ciento latina, llama las acciones de la patrulla fronteriza "un abuso de poder descarado". Su distrito incluye áreas del condado de Los Angeles. Tanto Sánchez como la representante Hilda Solís, la población de cuyo distrito angelino es un 52 por ciento latino, exigen que el comisionado de la patrulla fronteriza Robert Bonner, dé una clarificación sobre el alcance de las redadas.

Miembro de la Asamblea de California, Marco Firebaugh,

ha pedido que se haga una investigación. "Las redadas han ocurrido frente a vecindarios, supermercados, paraderos de autobús, edificios de apartamentos y hospitales", comenta.

La noticia de patrullas de inmigración en los alrededores de Southland también ha dado fuelle a advertencias en las ondas de radio. En estaciones de radio en español tales como ¡Oye! en 97.5 FM, son tan comunes los avisos sobre "la migra" como reportes del tráfico. Los radio escuchas llaman a la estación para avisar dónde han visto a la patrulla fronteriza.

Los críticos dicen que estas advertencias por radio son "irresponsables", alegando que algunas son emitidas sin confirmación, lo cual fomenta más el pánico. John Kobylt y Ken Chiampou, quienes apoyan las redadas, son locutores de "The Ken and John Show" de la estación KFI AM 640 de Los Angeles, y alientan a que los radio escuchas agradezcan a la patrulla fronteriza por "dedicarse a su trabajo".

Más allá de California, congresista Tom Tancredo de Colorado aplaude la acción con la emisión de comunicados de prensa que dicen, "La patrulla fronteriza siempre ha contado con esta autoridad y es bueno ver que el liderazgo de la agencia otorga a los agentes suficiente poder como para llevar a cabo tales actividades. Hacia falta hacer mucho tiempo".

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Six U.S. Postal Carryovers to Help Armstrong at Tour de France from page 3

strong first half."

Germany's Jan Ullrich, the 1997 winner and five-time runner-up, is a main rival. Other challengers include Heras, who quit Armstrong's team to join the Spanish outfit Liberty Seguros, and Spain's Iban Mayo, who won the Dauphine Libere race in June. There is also former Armstrong teammate Tyler Hamilton, fourth last year.

"The Tour route is different, with the mountains coming so late, so we are trying to have everyone reach top shape right



uncertain if he would fight again.

"I'm going to talk to my wife, Leti, and I'm going to pray," Ayala said "I don't want to wind up a punching bag."

Barrera, 30, improved to 58-4 with one no-decision. He has 41 knockouts and was the WBC featherweight champion in 2002. Ayala, of Fort Worth, Texas, is 35-3 with 12 knockouts. He was the WBA bantamweight champion from 1999-01.

Barrera weighed in at 125/12 pounds while Ayala was at the 126-pound featherweight limit.

In the co-feature, Jermain Taylor was credited with a ninth-round knockout of Raul Marquez to retain his WBC Continental Americas middleweight championship.

Taylor recorded the only knockdown late in the ninth round, landing two rights, a

left and another left.

After the round ended, Marquez's trainer, Ronnie Shields, asked referee Jack Reiss to stop the fight.

"He started getting hit too much," Shields said.

Taylor, 25 from Little Rock, Ark., improved to 21-0 with 16 knockouts. He won every round on all three judges' scorecards.

The 32-year-old Marquez announced his retirement after the fight.

"That's it for sure," Marquez said. "I've got the Olympics and I've got commentating."

Marquez, of Houston, ended his professional career with a 35-3 record with 24 knockouts. He held the IBF junior middleweight title for eight months in 1997 and was a member of the 1992 U.S. Olympic team.

Hispanic Leaders Protest Border Patrol "Sweeps"

from front page

pregnant women are missing their doctor's appointments and workers are missing work, terrorized to leave their homes."

An undocumented immigrant from nearby Montebello tells how the sweeps have completely altered her everyday life, including how she dresses.

"I am in constant state of panic," Libertad, 31, says to Hispanic Link. "I even started wearing tennis shoes and carrying \$100 in my pocket because if I am confronted by an immigration agent, I am prepared to do whatever it takes to get away."

Libertad, who has lived in the United States for more than a decade, works in a sewing factory making car seats. She aspires to legalize her residency status and go to college.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union have launched investigations into Border Patrol enforcement procedures. ACLU attorney Ranjana Natarajan reports that her organization is investigating the sweeps to determine if the Border Patrol is targeting communities and people solely based on "their appearance or color of their skin."

The Mobile Patrol Group is part of Temecula's reorganization efforts to respond more effectively to "intelligence-driven" information based in part from tips on suspected undocumented immigrants in the area provided by other law enforcement agencies as well as private citizens, agent Chávez explains. "Policy has not changed," she insists.

MALDEF is also investigating reports that local police in the cities of Ontario and Corona "cooperated with federal government officials." It is urging individuals to contact its offices concerning any racial profiling allegations.

Hermandad Mexicana Lat-

Los Tigres del Norte criticize raids against Mexicans in California from front page

The song has won the group accusations of only trying to make money off the issue, however Hernández stressed, "We'll keep on singing about real topics, things that interest our public."

As part of their promotional tour Los Tigres del Norte will play next week at community affairs that include dancing in the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia, besides Puerto Rico.

Thanks to internationally famous hits like "Americano yo soy", "De paisano a paisano", "Contrabando y traición", "Un día a la vez", and "La puerta negra", Los Tigres del Norte are considered one of Hispanic music's most popular groups.

noamericana has joined other groups to form a coalition calling on Mexico President Vicente Fox to press the Bush administration to halt the sweeps, according to its executive director, Nativo López.

In a coalition effort with 40 other organizations, Hermandad organized a march June 13 involving more than 3,000 people in Ontario and Pomona, where residents have reported increased public presence of immigration authorities, according to López. A week earlier the Border Patrol arrested more than 150 people in that area.

Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, whose district is 60% Latino, calls the Border Patrol actions a "blatant abuse of power." Her district includes portions of Los Angeles County.

Sánchez and Rep. Hilda Solís, whose Los Angeles County district is 52 percent Latino, are demanding that Border Patrol Commissioner Robert Bonner clarify the extent of the sweeps.

California Assemblyman Marco Firebaugh has called for an investigation. "Raids have taken place outside of neigh-

borhoods, supermarkets, bus stops, apartments and hospitals," he says.

Word of immigration patrols around the Southland has also heated up the air waves. On Spanish-language radio stations such as ¡Oye! 97.5 FM "la migra" alerts are as common as traffic reports. Callers warn listeners of Border Patrol sightings.

Critics call the alerts "irresponsible," claiming some air without confirmation, creating more panic. Sweeps supporters John Kobylt and Ken Chiampou, co-hosts of "The John and Ken Show" on the Los Angeles radio station KFI AM 640, are encouraging listeners to thank the San Diego Border Patrol "for taking care of business."

Beyond the state, Congressman Tom Tancredo of Colorado is praising the action, sending out news releases saying, "The Border Patrol has always had this authority and it is good to see the agency's leadership giving agents the latitude to conduct such activities. It is long overdue."

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Let's Get Ready for Some Softball

New Book Highlights the Life of a Chicano Hero

By Lorenzo Tijerina / La Prensa de San Antonio

As a freshman at Harvard, a young, politically minded student from Topeka didn't foresee that one day he would be writing a book about one of his teachers - a teacher who also happened to be one of his heroes.

Juan Sepúlveda will launch his new book about activist Willie Velásquez with a signing at St. Mary's University Thursday.

The book, which Sepúlveda concedes was a labor of love, began to develop shortly after the

death of Velásquez, the founder of the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project once headquartered in San Antonio.

"It was tough, but I really enjoyed it," said Sepúlveda. "I think that's partly because of my personal relationship with Willie. I thought I knew him from having spent time with him. It's like anybody - you only know so much about them. So to be able to get to know him even better and to get to know at a deeper level what the organization had to go through in order to be created, what they had to

go through politically as they were out in the real political world, was exciting."

Sepúlveda first met Velásquez in college. Velásquez was teaching a class in Southwest politics and Sepúlveda jumped at the opportunity.

Sepúlveda described Velásquez as a very charismatic leader, so it wasn't long before he "fell under his spell."

He followed his teacher to San Antonio, where the headquarters of Southwest Voter Registration was then located, working closely with Velásquez - even

staying with the organizer's family.

"I grew up in a place where there weren't Latinos or Mexican Americans holding office or running for office," said Velásquez. "He was telling me all these stories about these Mexican-American elected officials in San Antonio and Texas, so it seemed like a mecca for me for Latino politics."

While Sepúlveda had experience in politics and voter registration, he did not have the kind of hands-on experience that

Velásquez afforded him.

"I had been working in politics from the government side, kind of seeing what you had to do in terms of voter registration and getting more people involved, making it easier for people to vote," said Sepúlveda. "But I had never really done it with an organization that was on the ground trying to organize and to mobilize people to vote and to register, to actually get out the vote."

Years later, in 1988, Velásquez was diagnosed with cancer. Hearing the news, his long time friend Henry Cisneros thought it was time for the accomplished activist to author his autobiography.

"We used to joke by saying he was kind of like the Forest Gump of Chicano politics," said Sepúlveda. "A lot of the important, major political events that were going on in Chicano political history - Willie was there. All of the sudden he would be in the picture."

Sepúlveda described Velásquez's life as a lesson in "the broader Chicano political civil rights movement," from Lyndon Johnson's conference on Mexican-American affairs to the creation of the Mexican American Unity Council to the early stages of La Raza Unida to the creation of the Mexican American Youth Organization to the United Farm Workers.

Velásquez, however, refused to dwell on the past and instead focused on a series of essays that

would offer guidance for future generations.

He asked his former student to help him with the collection he was compiling.

Unfortunately, they didn't get very far. Velásquez died a month after he discovered he had cancer.

Cisneros still thought a biography was needed on the man that had done so much for the Latino community. He asked Sepúlveda to write it.

In order to complete the extensive research on the book, Sepúlveda said he had to immerse himself in the past.

"I can remember back in those days when I was first getting started that it would be crazy," said Sepúlveda. "I would go to pay my rent or something and I'd hand the check to the landlord and it would say, 'June 1, 1962,' because I was so lost in to whatever part I was researching."

Although he grew up among a large Latino community in Topeka, Kan., for the most part Sepúlveda remained uneducated about the Latino civil rights movement until college.

He hopes his book will help to increase awareness about the struggle, teaching younger generations they can find heroes among their own Latino community.

"Willie really is a genuine American hero," said Sepúlveda. "He spent his life really trying to hold the country true to its founding principals, trying to make democracy a real thing."

Bush Asegura Que No Mandó Torturar a Nadie

El presidente George W. Bush reclamó el derecho de pasar por alto las leyes y tratados antitortura que protegen a los prisioneros de guerra después de invadir Afganistán y el secretario de Defensa, Donald Rumsfeld, autorizó a los guardias a desnudar a los prisioneros y amenazarlos con perros, según documentos divulgados el martes.

La Casa Blanca entregó los documentos para salir al paso de las acusaciones de que el gobierno autorizó torturar a presos de Al Qaeda recluidos en Afganistán e Irak. "Yo jamás ordené torturas", dijo Bush horas antes de la divulgación de los documentos.

Entre tanto, el Departamento de Justicia desconoció un documento suyo que parecía justificar el empleo de la tortura en la guerra contra el terrorismo y sostener que los poderes presidenciales en tiempo de guerra sobrepasaban las leyes y tratados contra la tortura.

El memorando de 50 páginas entregado a la Casa Blanca el 1 de agosto de 2002 será reemplazado porque contiene consejos excesivamente amplios y poco pertinentes, dijeron altos funcionarios del Departamento de Justicia bajo la condición del anonimato.

Un documento nuevo abordará el tema de las técnicas de interrogatorio correctas para detenidos talibanes y de Al

Qaida.

Bush dio a conocer sus puntos de vista en un documento del 7 de febrero del 2002 acerca del trato de detenidos de Al Qaeda en Afganistán. Dijo que la guerra contra el terrorismo había introducido un "paradigma nuevo" y que los atentados terroristas obligaban a "repensar el derecho de la guerra". Con todo, añadía que los presos debían recibir un trato humanitario acorde con las Convenciones de Ginebra.

"Acepto la conclusión legal del secretario de Justicia y el Departamento de Justicia de que poseo la autoridad bajo la Constitución de suspender Ginebra entre Estados Unidos y Afganistán, pero me niego a ejercer esa autoridad en este momento", dijo el Presidente en el memorando titulado Tratamiento humanitario de detenidos de Al Qaeda y talibanes.

En un memorando del Pentágono fechado el 27 de noviembre de 2002, el abogado del Departamento de Defensa, William Haynes, recomendó al secretario Donald Rumsfeld que aprobara la aplicación de 14 técnicas de interrogatorio a los presos en Guantánamo, entre ellas el uso de "posiciones de estrés", obligando al prisionero a permanecer de pie durante cuatro horas.

Además de gritos y empujones, Haynes recomendaba interrogatorios de hasta 20 horas, retiro de ropa y de cualquier

artículo que brinde comodidad al prisionero, incluyendo artículos religiosos.

Nueva orden
En una nota el 15 de enero de 2003, Rumsfeld rescindió su aprobación y dijo que se revisarían los aspectos legales y operativos del trato a prisioneros.

Además de divulgar los documentos, abogados del gobierno presentaron informes con la esperanza de contrarrestar la creencia cada vez más generalizada de que el gobierno consideraba que la lucha contra la red terrorista Al Qaeda proporcionaba una base legal para el maltrato de prisioneros en Irak.

"Fue dañino para el país en términos de la idea de que podríamos estar practicando la tortura, dijo el abogado de la presidencia, Alberto Gonzales. "Eso es contrario a los valores de este Presidente y este gobierno".

El memorando de 2002, firmado por el ex subsecretario de Justicia Jay Bybee, contenía largos pasajes que parecían justificar el uso de la tortura en la guerra contra el terrorismo y sostenía que los efectivos estadounidenses podrían gozar de inmunidad ante la justicia por torturas. Sostenía además que en su carácter de comandante en jefe, el presidente goza de poderes por encima de las leyes estadounidenses y los tratados internacionales que la

prohíben.

"El Congreso no puede reglamentar la capacidad del Presidente para detener e interrogar a combatientes enemigos, como no puede reglamentar su capacidad para dirigir movimientos de tropas en el campo de batalla", dice el memorando de Bybee.

Los críticos del documento, dentro y fuera del Congreso, han dicho que el memorando dio sustentación legal a los abusos de prisioneros en Afganistán e Irak.

Las fuentes de Justicia dijeron que buena parte de los consejos incluidos en el memorando de Bybee no fueron solicitados. Sólo se había preguntado al departamento cómo debía ser el trato dispensado por los interrogadores a los presos talibanes y Al Qaeda y si las convenciones de Ginebra regían en su caso.

"Es crucial" recordar que con los interrogatorios se pueden detectar y prevenir atentados contra territorio estadounidense y contra las fuerzas armadas de este país, señaló.

Amnistía Internacional y otras organizaciones defensoras de los derechos humanos han denunciado el maltrato a prisioneros de EU en numerosos lugares, desde Afganistán a Irak y Guantánamo, y la existencia de centros secretos de detención, algunos de ellos en buques de guerra.

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