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Critic's Question Bush's 'Stealth' Approach to Guest Worker Proposal

By Ambar Espinoza

Hispanic leaders and immigrant advocates welcome President Bush's expressed commitment to comprehensive immigration reform but have expressed some concerns, following speeches he delivered in Tucson, Ariz. and El Paso, Texas last week.

In his messages, Bush called for a crackdown on undocumented immigrants and announced some specifics to tighten border security, refocusing his efforts to overhaul the current system by steering away from the guest worker component of the package.

Michele Waslin, director of immigration policy research at the National Council of La Raza, summed up the advocate groups' reaction to Hispanic Link News Service: "(Bush) should've made it more balanced, between reform and enforcement."

Angela Kelley, deputy director of the National Immigration Forum, told Hispanic Link, "He made it clear that an enforcement-only approach is insufficient." But she added with regard to the guest worker program, "There hasn't been a lot of progress in selling the details."

Under the administration's tentative plan, the workers would be able to register for legal status for a fixed period of time, then be required to return home. The proposal has failed to convince either side in the immigration debate, albeit for different reasons.

Rep. Hilda Solís (D-Calif.) told Hispanic Link it is necessary to "first address the issue of the 10 to 11 million undocumented

people that are currently in the country and to come up with a system that is earned legalization. It's not amnesty."

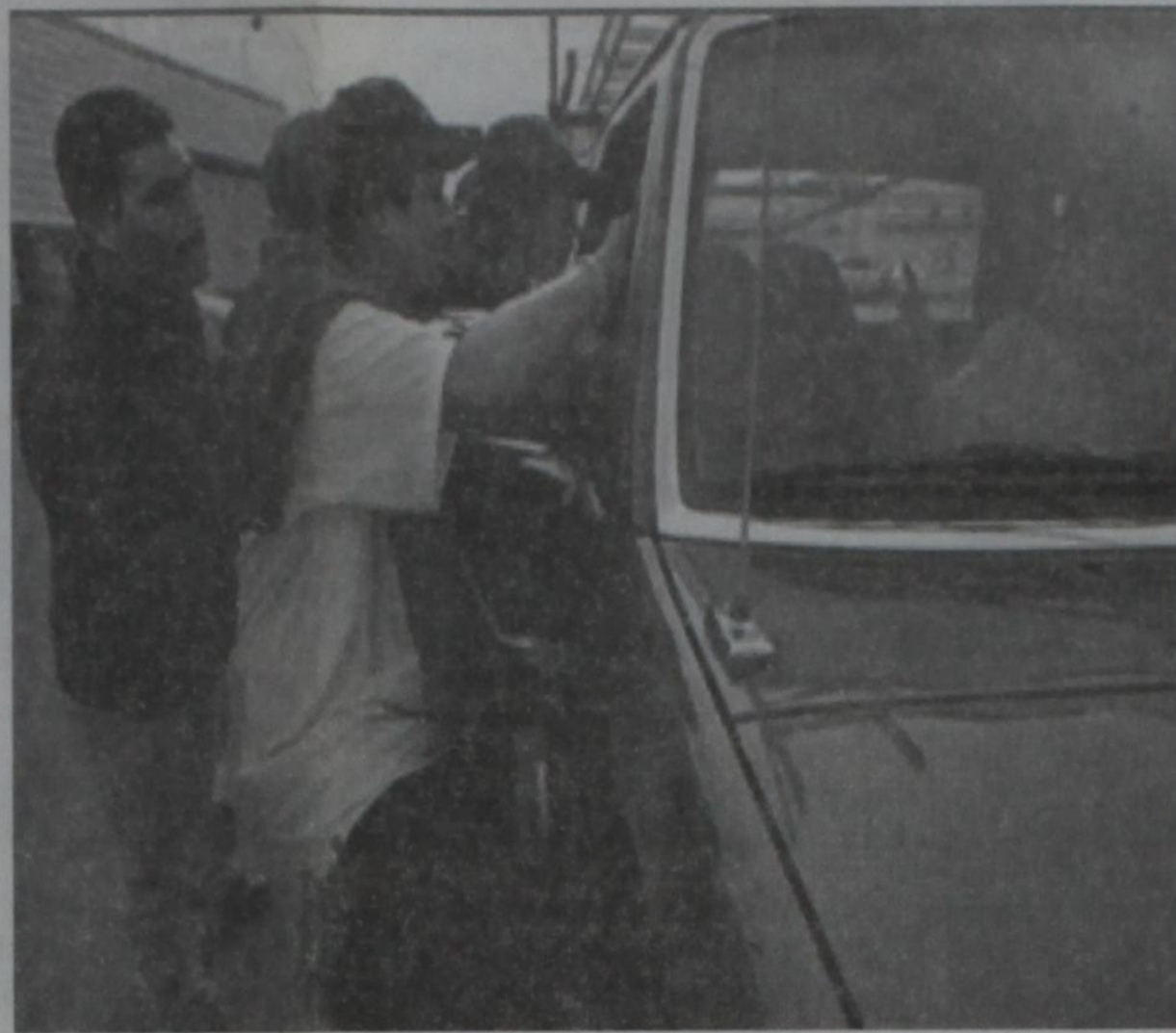
Dan Stein, president of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, reacted strongly in a statement: "The president's plan is nothing more than a massive illegal alien amnesty on a six-year time delay, while his temporary worker program which will be anything but temporary is the death knell of America's middle class."

The National Council of La Raza, the League of United Latin American Citizens and the National Immigration Forum stressed to Hispanic Link that any solution involving undocumented immigrants must offer a pathway to permanent residency for it to work.

Bush's heavy emphasis on enforcement was seen as a compromise to appease his conservative base in the U.S. House of Representatives, which is pressing for an enforcement-only approach, Kelley said.

Eighty-five percent of the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants residing in this country hail from Mexico, Bush pointed out. During his Tucson speech, he announced a program called "interior repatriation" to fly those who were apprehended back to Mexico and then bus them to their hometowns.

Last year, only eight percent of those returned to Mexico through pilot repatriation programs have tried to cross the border again, he said, adding, "When people violate immigration laws, they're going to be sent home, and they need to stay at home."



His plan to repatriate non-Mexicans included more beds at detention facilities to decrease the practice of "catch and release," when undocumented immigrants are let go with court dates. It also included "expedited removal."

Bush further mentioned increasing manpower, technology, and infrastructure, including additional barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border. He also called for greater

interior enforcement through programs such as "Basic Pilot," an automated system to reduce document fraud.

The president only briefly mentioned the need for a guest-worker program, reiterating his opposition to grant amnesty. However, he mentioned his support for "increasing the number of annual green cards that can lead to citizenship."

Latino Day Laborers Share Views on Bush's Ideas

By Ernesto Portillo Jr.

It was several hours before President Bush touched down last week at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson to talk up his immigration reform plan. On a South Side street corner, several day laborers were already talking about Bush's immigration ideas.

"He should give us work permits so we can work and return home to be with our families," said Carlos, a 31-year-old Honduran.

The morning air was still cold from the overnight freeze, but the three men know the political winds are burning hot with debate about illegal immigration. Nearly everyone has been talking about how to deal with people who cross the border illegally.

Undocumented immigrants have something to say, too. "We just ask for the opportunity to work," said César, a 32-year-old Mexican worker from Cancún.

The workers were unaware of the president's visit that day, but they know they are the subject of divisive debate across the country. Various bills have been proposed in Congress, which range from sealing the border with increased enforcement to allowing undocumented immigrants to work legally in the country.

Bush, in his speech to Customs and Border Patrol agents, touted his administration's get-tough response to illegal immigration. He cited the spending of millions of dollars for new agents and physical barriers and technology, which he claimed is denting the flow of illegal immigrants.

Bush said he wants undocumented immigrants to understand that if they violate immigration laws, they will be repatriated to their home countries.

"And they need to stay at home," the president said.

The workers I spoke with agreed with the president. They want to stay home, too. "I have not seen my family," said Carlos, who crossed the border more than a year ago and has not returned to Honduras to see his wife and child. César, too, has not seen his two children and wife for more than a year.

Crossing the border illegally has become more difficult and expensive. Going home and returning to this country is too risky, they said.

But the jobs are north of the border and that's why they are here, they said.

Alfredo, 39, from Acapulco, has been in this country for 14 years and is a legal resident. Jobs can be found but not steady work, he said.

Even when they work, they don't always get paid. Alfredo said his most recent employer fired him and kept his wages.

The men said any guest-worker program should include protection rights for them.

They also scoffed at claims that more border agents and fences will reduce illegal immigration. Jumping the border will become more difficult but not impossible, they said.

To a large extent, the workers agreed with the president. More enforcement will not work without temporary worker provisions.

Workers need to register for a fixed time and return home, Bush said. This will permit honest workers to provide for their families and respect the law. It will also reduce the number of people who cross the border illegally, permitting border agents to nab the bad guys, the President claimed.

Finally there's a consensus on immigration reform. If the president and undocumented immigrants can agree on a plan, surely Congress can, too.

Jornaleros Latinos Comparten su Opinión Sobre Ideas de Bush

Ernesto Portillo, Jr.

Pasaron varias horas antes que aterrizara el presidente Bush en la base aérea Davis-Monthan en Tucson, Arizona, para hacer campaña por su plan de reforma del sistema de inmigración. En una esquina del sur de la ciudad, ya varios jornaleros discutían las ideas de Bush en cuanto a la inmigración.

"Debería darnos permisos de trabajo para poder trabajar y volver a casa para estar con nuestras familias", dijo Carlos, hondureño de 31 años.

El aire matutino seguía frío de la helada nocturna, pero los tres hombres saben que el viento político corre caliente con el tema de la inmigración ilegal.

Casi todos hablan de cómo atender el problema de las personas que cruzan la frontera ilegalmente. Los inmigrantes indocumentados también tienen opinión.

"Sólo pedimos la oportunidad de trabajar", dijo César, mexicano de 32 años. Los trabajadores no sabían de la visita del presidente ese día, pero saben que son el tema de un debate divisorio por todo el país. Se han presentado varios proyectos de ley al Congreso, que van desde cerrar herméticamente la frontera con mayores números de agentes del orden, hasta permitir que los inmigrantes indocumentados trabajen legalmente en este país.

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Community Voices

In January of this year, a new chapter in Lubbock county politics began when Lubbock native Ysidro Gutierrez was sworn in as new Lubbock County Commissioner representing Precinct 3. Here are Commissioner Gutierrez's responses to some questions we posed to him this week.

CV: How would you describe your first year on the County Commissioners Court?

Gutierrez: Mainly, the first year has been a success. If you read my political platform you will see that my main goal was to form the League of Latino Voters. We have had "some" success in doing this, but next year will be the real test for the League.

CV: What have been your 3 greatest challenges you have faced on the court in the past year?

Gutierrez: The most important event of my first year was the purchase of Electronic Voting Machines. This change will impact the future of the Hispanic community for many years to come.

A priority for me is pay equity for county employees. The biggest challenge is using my authority to increase pay for employees with longevity at the county. The current pay system does not provide a pay premium for experience and loyalty.

A third priority is to use my status as an elected Hispanic official to promote Hispanic candidates and champion Hispanic issues in the community.

CV: What do you feel that you have accomplished in your first year?

Gutierrez: Community; we provided excellent disaster services to Katrina and Rita evacuees: 445 families are still living in Lubbock.

Political: The League of Latino voters is ready to take-on issues. We plan to be very active in the May elections for Mayor.

The Lubbock Alliance group will probably be active in the May Elections too.

The "Voice for Texas" PAC will be incorporated within the next 30 days.

CV: What advice would you give to someone who is considering a run for public office?

Gutierrez: The timing is perfect for new blood to enter into public service. If anyone has political ambitions, NOW is the right time to get involved. Do not delay.

CV: During your campaign, you committed to building a new clubhouse in Idalou, has that been done?

Gutierrez: We have a new clubhouse in Idalou and a new parking lot.

CV: What are the 3 biggest challenges facing Precinct 3 in 2006?

Gutierrez: The BIGGEST challenge is to educate Hispanic voters about Tom Martin. Hopefully the Hispanic vote will be a unified vote.

The budget is very limited. I must work to achieve added value for the limited budget. The only way to do it is to consolidate road equipment and personnel without giving up authority. This will be a BIG challenge.

The district lines for Precinct 3 extend into several NEW neighborhoods with a growing Republican populace. This is a big threat to Judge Aurora Chaidés-Hernandez this year and for me in 2008.

CV: What were the main factors that most influenced you to run for political office?

Gutierrez: My main motivation was to begin the work for the day when Hispanics will be the majority population in Lubbock. This will happen in about 2010. I am working TODAY to prepare "La Raza" to assume our rightful place in business, education, media, banking, etc.

The main goal of the League of Latino Voters is to identify and train leaders for the day we become the majority.

CV: What is your opinion on the war in Iraq?

Gutierrez: The war in Iraq is unjust. Democratic nations do not adopt pre-emptive war policies. When you compare U.S. war policies to St Augustine's "Just War" doctrine it is clear that U.S. policies are wrong.

The "ONLY" prudent course for the U.S. is to withdraw.

CV: Do you think you will run again when your current term expires in 2008?

Gutierrez: Yes, I will run again.

CV: What are the top 3 challenges that are facing Lubbock's Hispanic community?

Gutierrez: The two ways to achieve prosperity are Education and Business Ownership, with this said I believe the 3 challenges are:

- 1) Too few Lubbock Hispanics are entering college.
- 2) Too many Lubbock Hispanics are denied business loans.
- 3) Racial discrimination in Lubbock is as bad or worse today than it has ever been.

(continued on page 6)

Lubbock Centro Aztlan to Present Christmas Play

On December 17 Lubbock Centro Aztlan will celebrate Christmas with the Dinner Theater presentation of "The Wondrous Santa Suit". The play written by Bidal Aguero and directed by Texas Tech Doctorial candidate Hershell Norwood tells the story of Jose, a garbage collector, his quest for holiday gifts for his family and how his love beckons the miracles of Christmas.

The Dinner Theater will take place at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts Icehouse starting at 7:00. The event will feature a full meal of tamales and frijoles borrachos along with entertainment by a Mariachi Mi Tierra and the Ballet Folklórico Aztlan.

Premium tables of eight located on the front row are priced at \$200 and can now be reserved. Individual tickets are priced at \$18. Both tables and individual tickets are available through request by email at eleditor@sbcglobal.net or by regular mail to: Lubbock Centro Aztlan P.O. Box 11250 Lubbock, TX 79401 or by phone at 806-763-3841

Proceeds from the event will go toward future presentations by Lubbock Centro Aztlan that will help to promote the arts within the Hispanic community. Tables are limited.



The Hispanic silent majority

By Patrick Osio, Jr

Political analysts suggest that President Bush is attempting to navigate immigration reform so as to placate both his conservative Republican supporters and the burgeoning Hispanic electorate. If the analysis is right, wow, one more mistake in a long line of mistakes.

We are familiar with the expression "the silent majority" referring to voters going about their daily lives without fanfare saving their frustrations for election day when their silence becomes a scream heard from coast to coast. But, there seems to be little awareness to the existence of a "Hispanic silent majority" that likewise is present, and as it grows will become a very, very loud scream.

The Hispanic silent majority is also opposed to illegal immigration in far greater numbers than political pundits recognize. Where they in great number, differ from non-Hispanic illegal immigration opponents is in how to stop it, and the tone of arguments from both the more radical right opponents, and from the more radical left Hispanic and non-Hispanic proponents that is also a turn-off to the Hispanic silent majority.

Few within the Hispanic silent majority believe that machete, bat and gun totting civilians along the

border are an answer to anything. Most believe that the national purge mentality promoted by the ultra conservative extremists is divisive and fraught with potential civil rights violations with the Hispanic community. And the anti-US rhetoric from the more militant Latinos causes more anger and confusion than providing solutions.

Lacking clear presidential and congressional leadership, television and radio entertainment personalities have taken the initiative in pushing their own agendas. Addressing their national audience in righteous indignation the Dobbs', O'Reilly's et al programs are calculated to increase ratings, gained by constant inflammatory accusations and dehumanizing illegal immigrant with superficially patriotic short and simple soundbites and indignant, frustrating scowls at real and supposed lack of action by the Federal government.

Adding to the fear of the general public, including most Hispanics, is the potential threat of terrorist infiltration through our borders. But Hispanics note that the 'danger' promoted seems only to be from southern border infiltration. Accusing job-seeking gardeners, farmworkers, janitors and bus boys of being part of terrorist's cells is grossly outrageous and defamatory to a noble

people. And, the more recent flap about national security breaches on finding that many of the Border Patrol uniforms are made in Mexico - "Mexico of all places," as Lou Dobbs put it, is nothing more than inflammatory rhetoric, as last year's report that several hundred law enforcement ID badges were stolen in Canada, which badges would allow entry into airport security areas was not the subject of commentators. Are we to believe that uniforms cannot be duplicated without a contract? Are we to believe that the theft of law enforcement ID badges is not a national security threat because the crime took place in Canada? What would have been the flap had such crime occurred in Mexico?

After several years of stressing the shameless audacity of illegal immigrants for entering our country without permission, notice has slowly seeped into American's conscious mind that illegal immigrant employers are actual active participants in the law-breaking that in turn provides the motivation for illegal entry.

Employers excuse that illegal immigrants do work Americans are unwilling to do is now under more scrutiny with evidence pointing that it's the low wages that Americans find unattractive. Illegal immigrants seeking

better wages than those available to them in their country of origin make up the vast majority of entrants, so job availability is the key to their migrating motivation. So that US low wages is directly coupled to the illegal immigration issue.

US immigration policy must be based on what is in the best interests of the nation, not the immigrants, but when low wages act as the magnet for illegal immigration then national living-wage must be included as integral to the issue. Failure to include this essential issue will force amnesty and guest worker programs with suppressed wages. President Bush should stop playing up to factions and announce, promote and fight for national living-wage and immigration reform. He would find that both the non-Hispanic and Hispanic silent majorities would welcome such reform, and be supportive of such efforts.

I fear, however, that the Conservative Republican wing would not be so willing to upset businesses with such a proposal, and Dobbs, O'Reilly, et al would lose some of their audience if they are in fact sincere and truly pushed US wage reform.

Patrick Osio, Jr is Editor of HispanicVista.com. Contact at Posiojr@hispanicvista.com

Sad Commentary on City Politics

By Abel Cruz

Word on the street, as they say, is that city politics are getting a touch ugly. According to a reliable source that was there, council member Tom Martin seemed disturbed by some comments made by council member Linda DeLeon during a recent 10th Anniversary celebration of the TJ Patterson library located in East Lubbock.

Apparently, Mr. Martin did not appreciate Ms. DeLeon's comments when she said something to the effect that the library had been built because the city council of 10 years ago listened to the people and responded to their needs.

Mr. Martin, I'm told, walked out. Whether Mr. Martin did indeed walk out because of Ms. DeLeon's comments or not, it remains a concern that city politics have sunk to this level.

My guess is that this could be a result of the exchange that occurred between Mr. Martin and Ms. DeLeon at a recent city council meeting. Which means that next year's mayoral election could be an interesting one after all. Not because of whom the candidates are, at least not yet, but because a large number of Lubbock's Hispanic community is upset with Mr. Martin who is seeking the mayor's seat and may express their disapproval at the voting booth.

In case you missed it on the city news channel, during the city council meeting on November 18, Mr. Martin is seen chastising Ms. DeLeon for wanting to adopt a new policy concerning the televising of citizen comments when she had served on the LISD school board under the amendment, or policy, Mr. Martin was proposing. Ms. DeLeon is heard saying, "Well you're just going to beat me up, aren't you" when Mr. Martin kept insisting that Ms. DeLeon answer his question to his satisfaction.

As we all know, in the end Mr. Martin prevailed, (as is usually the case on this council), and his resolution was adopted. But only time will tell whether Mr. Martin's "rough and tumble" political bedside manner will help or hurt him in his run for the mayor's seat.

My guess is that people, who have traditionally been treated in similar ways, will relate to Ms. DeLeon, remember when they were treated in such a manner, and vote accordingly.

It is rather sad though to see people who have chosen to run and serve the public if elected, behave in such a manner. Even I who witnessed the rough world of Washington politics felt uncomfortable with the exchange.

Who is mostly at fault here remains a matter of opinion, but one thing is clear, the political performance exhibited by Councilman Martin is not how most people in this city want their elected officials, or future mayor, to act.

What elected officials have a tendency to forget is that it is the very people who elected them to serve; who are the ones hurt the most by their actions.

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Los Criticos Cuestionan Enfoque Sigiloso de Bush

Ambar Espinoza

Los dirigentes y promotores de derechos hispanos dan la bienvenida al compromiso expresado del presidente Bush en cuanto a la reforma comprensiva del sistema de inmigración, pero han expresado a su vez inquietudes, después de oír discursos del presidente en Tucson, Arizona, y El Paso, Texas, la semana pasada.

En su mensaje, Bush instó

mano dura con los inmigrantes indocumentados y anunció algunos puntos específicos para fortalecer la seguridad de la frontera, dando nuevo enfoque a su esfuerzo por reformar por completo el sistema actual al obviar el componente del plan de trabajadores temporales del paquete de reformas.

Michele Waslin, directora de investigación de políticas de inmigración del Concilio Nacional de La Raza, resumió la

reacción de los grupos pro-derechos para Hispanic Link News Service: "(Bush) debió haberlo hecho más equilibrado, entre reforma y cumplimiento del orden".

Angela Kelley, subdirectora del National Immigration Forum, le dijo a Hispanic Link, "Dejó claro que no es suficiente el enfoque que abarca sólo el cumplimiento del orden". Sin embargo, añadió referente al programa de trabajadores temporales, "No ha habido mucho progreso en cuanto a vender los detalles (del programa)".

Bajo el plan tentativo de la administración, los trabajadores podrían registrarse para tener estatus legal durante un periodo fijo, para después estar obligados a volver a su país. La propuesta no ha convencido a ningún partido participante del debate de inmigración, aunque por razones distintas.

La representante demócrata de California, Hilda Solís, indicó a Hispanic Link que será necesario "primero enfocar el tema de los 10 a 11 millones de personas sin documentos en el país actualmente, para crear un sistema de legalización por mérito. No es una amnistía".

Dan Stein, presidente de la Federación for American Immigration Reform, tuvo una reacción fuerte en una declaración que emitió: "El plan del presidente no es más que una amnistía masiva de ilegales con periodo de espera de seis años, mientras que su programa de trabajadores temporales, que no será nada temporal, es el repique mortuario de la clase media estadounidense".

El Concilio Nacional de La Raza, la Liga de Ciudadanos Latino Americanos Unidos y el National Immigration Forum enfatizaron a Hispanic Link que cualquier solución que ataña a

inmigrantes indocumentados tendrá que ofrecer la posibilidad de residencia permanente para que funcione.

El enfoque enfático de Bush sobre las fuerzas del orden se vio como concesión a su base conservadora en la Cámara de Representantes, que presiona por un enfoque de cumplimiento del orden exclusivamente, explicó Kelley.

El ochenta y cinco por ciento de los estimados 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados que viven en este país son de México, señaló Bush. Durante su discurso en Tucson, anunció un programa llamado "repatriación interior", que mandaría en avión a los capturados a México, y después se les enviaría por autobús a su pueblo de origen.

Su plan de repatriar a los que no son mexicanos incluye aumentar el número de catres en las instalaciones de detención para disminuir la práctica de "capturar y soltar", que es cuando se deja ir a los inmigrantes después de establecer una fecha en la que deben comparecer ante el tribunal. También se llama "procesamiento expedito". Bush mencionó además aumentar el número de agentes, la cantidad de tecnología y fortalecer la infraestructura, incluyendo construir barreras adicionales a lo largo de la frontera entre los Estados Unidos y México. También pidió mayores medidas de cumplimiento con programas como "piloto básico", un sistema automatizado para reducir el fraude de documentos.

El presidente sólo mencionó brevemente la necesidad de un programa de trabajadores temporales, reiterando su oposición a otorgar una amnistía. No obstante, mencionó su apoyo a "aumentar el número de tarjetas verdes por año que pueden llevar a la ciudadanía".

Lubbock City Watch

The next City Council meeting will take place at city hall on Thursday, December 15. The deadline for requests to speak before the council on a specific topic was Thursday December 8, 2005. Consequently, those citizens wishing to speak during the 7:30 AM session will be unable to do so if they have not requested to be put on the agenda.

As of this writing, the council agenda had not been posted on the city's website; which begs the question: How can a citizen request to speak on a specific topic if the council agenda is not available by the deadline?

But according to a couple of emails received by El Editor, the council will be discussing how to allocate the nearly 1.2 million dollars that are available for city projects. This money comes from the council's recent decision to abandon the proposed and voter approved Vaquero Lake bond project in North Lubbock's barrio Guadalupe.

Those persons wishing to attend the meeting are strongly encouraged to do so, but due to implementation of the new policy concerning citizen comments, only those persons having met the request deadline will be allowed to speak.

Make your voice heard, let your elected representatives know how you feel:

- Contact Numbers:
Mayor Marc McDougal - 775-2010, or mmcdougal@mylubbock.us
City Council Members and Districts:
District 1, Linda DeLeon - 775-2027, or ldeleon@mylubbock.us
District 2, Floyd Price - 775-2007, or fprice@mylubbock.us
District 3, Gary O. Boren - 775-2023, or gboren@mylubbock.us
District 4, Phyllis S. Jones - 775-2008, or pjones@mylubbock.us
District 5, Tom Martin - 775-2011, or tmartin@mylubbock.us
District 6, Jim Gilbreath - 775-2031, or jgilbreath@mylubbock.us
City of Lubbock Website - www.ci.lubbock.tx.us

Americans not ready for changing face of America

By Julian Helms
A nationwide survey on race relations show that many Americans are not ready for demographic changes that are coming.

"Texas, California, New Mexico, and Hawaii are already majority minority states," the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding's Executive Director Larry Kopp said. "New York, Maryland, Georgia, Mississippi, and Arizona, in the next year to two years, are going to become majority minority. Culturally, politically, people are not aware of these changes that are absolutely taking place. We surveyed people and 61-

percent of households said they don't want their community to change. That's not going to happen." Kopp said that in 20 to 30 years, the American population will be minority majority.

"We talk about people being comfortable with their own tribe ... what is the tribe going to look like in 20-30 years? It's always been European-Anglo; that's changing. It's not going to be that way. When we're looking at a poll that says 40 percent of Americans say race relations are bad or very bad and our demographic is undeniably changing, we've got an elephant in the room. We're starting

the dialogue. Our foundation's mission is race relations. We don't advocate for one race - we try to be honest brokers of genuine dialogue."

Rabbi Marc Schneier, the president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, partnered with Russell Simmons, Def Jam's CEO, to conduct a poll on race relations in America. From Sept 29-Oct 10, 2005, the Global Strategy Group interviewed 1,338 people, including 206 African-Americans, 200 Hispanics and 200 Jewish Americans.

"We believe it's a landmark survey," Kopp said. "On Nov. 17, we were invited to present the information to members of Congress. Twenty-five offices were represented. Next year, members will hold hearings on race relations. The idea of convening hearings on race relations is to educate, educate, educate."

The survey has a margin of error of 3.5 percent. The poll indicates younger people overwhelmingly think more is needed to promote racial understanding.

"A researcher said to me, about this, that most of the time in America, children adopt the values of their parents," Kopp said. "Very seldom has there been an instance where children have a different dynamic from their parents. We're not sure what to attribute this to - multicultural movements, the internet community, emailing - thinking that doesn't have anything to do with race or provincial mores - it's a good sign that this cross-section, 18 to 34 year olds, are sensitive to this."

A poll conducted in the same time frame by New California Media, a San Francisco coalition of ethnic media, concluded that eliminating poverty should be the nation's top priority - higher than fighting terrorism, establishing democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan, or even rebuilding cities devastated by natural disasters.

Michel Gelobeter, executive director of Redefining Progress, an Oakland think tank, said, "This country needs a u-turn. We need to be a nation building a great society at home, not overseas."

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Hispanic College Entry Rate Increases

By Andrea Lehman
Overall first-year, first-time Hispanic enrollment in postsecondary education increased much faster than non-Hispanic white enrollment between 1996 and 2001 in each of seven states that collectively account for 80 percent of U.S. Hispanic college students.

Of the overall Hispanic enrollment growth, 41% was in four-year colleges, so that 31% of all Hispanic freshmen (10,782 students) were enrolled in these institutions in 2001, up from a 29% share in 1996.

A higher percent of all white freshmen (49%, or 32,126 students) were enrolled in four-year colleges in 2001, up from 38% in 1996.

The exception among the seven states was Illinois, where 59% of Hispanic freshmen were enrolled in four-year schools in 2001, vs. 57% of whites.

At the same time, white freshman college enrollment became significantly more concentrated in four-year institutions (vs. two-year and non-degree-granting programs) over this period -- up 11 percentage points -- while the proportion of Hispanic freshmen in four-year programs increased by 2 percentage points.

Specifically, according to a new report from the Pew Hispanic Center using the latest available data (see chart "First-Time, First-Year College Enrollment by Ethnicity").

All-college Hispanic enrollment growth averaged 24% across the seven states. It ranged from 6% in New York, 13% in California, and 15% in Arizona to 22% in Illinois, 25% in New Jersey, 32% in Texas, and 53% in Florida. The overall increase was 26,000 students.

Meanwhile all-college white enrollment growth, which started from a larger base, averaged 9.6%. It ranged from minus 1% in California, 0% in Illinois, 1% in New York, and 8% in New Jersey to 10% in Arizona, 14% in Texas, and 35% in Florida. Average 9.6% growth. Overall increase, 29,000 students.

In some part, this comparison reflects the faster growth of the U.S. Hispanic population and its relative youth.

Has America Become a Bilingual Country?

By Louis Dominguez

No one knows how it happened, but it did happen. The United States of America is now a bilingual nation.

It would not be surprising that in the near future, all school children will be required to learn Spanish. In Florida, there is a senate bill recently introduced to just that.

Some find it irritating that no matter where you are, there are signs written in English and Spanish.

When calling any business, you may be asked if you wish to speak Spanish or English by means of a variety of commands or instructions.

Then there's the chatter -- His-

panics talking to one another or on their cellular phones in Spanish, and not in just one version of the language, but several. With more than 20 nations of origin, each country's language has its own nuances, idioms, and names for things. Even for those who speak the language well, it is a very confusing situation.

Americans used to complain when someone spoke a foreign language in public, asking "Why can't they speak English?" The question is still valid.

Why can't these immigrants learn to speak English? The answer to this question is simple: because they don't have to.

These new immigrants don't have to or need to learn English.

Everything they need to know has been translated for them, even grocery labels. They apply for jobs in Spanish and they take a test for a driver's license in Spanish. Virtually everything has been translated for them, so they don't have to learn English.

And to make it easier to get their business, many businesses including banks, utility companies, department stores, hospitals, car dealers and many others have hired Spanish-speaking employees.

For these new Hispanic immigrants, working and making money is what they are here for, and learning the language of their host country is not a priority.

Sadly this attitude will have

costly and painful repercussions in the future. For one thing, they will never be assimilated into the American society -- they will never become true Americans.

The worst outcome of all this is that if they can't communicate, they will be left out of everything that is happening around them. They will never be able to participate in cultural or civic affairs; they will never advance from doing manual labor jobs; they are going to be left in the outer periphery of society.

Many Americans have taken the influx of Hispanic immigrants in stride, while others are angry and want to change what is taking place. But it may already be too late.

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En riesgo, el crecimiento de maquilas en México

La pobre infraestructura que debe soportar un alto crecimiento de la población hace inviable un desarrollo del sector maquilador (ensamble) en las condiciones actuales en México, según se afirma en un libro presentado ayer.

La tesis es planteada en la obra *Desempeño ambiental de la maquila en México: un desafío ineludible*, de Claudia Schatan y Jorge Carrillo, presentada en la sede subregional de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) en la capital mexicana.

Actualmente, el 80% de los establecimientos de maquila del país (2,300 aproximadamente) están concentrados en las 10 ciudades más grandes de la zona fronteriza con Estados Unidos.

Según el libro, que reúne una serie de artículos sobre la maquila y el medio ambiente, principalmente en la frontera norte de México, el uso no sustentable de recursos naturales en esta zona urbana semiárida y el sector maquilador mismo están presionando al frágil entorno ambiental.

De los problemas más apremiantes es la creciente dependencia de las maquilas a recursos acuíferos provenientes de fuentes lejanas y la imposibilidad de compensar esta insuficiencia mediante el reciclaje de aguas, aunque esta práctica se ha generalizado considerablemente, sostiene el libro que consta de cinco capítulos.

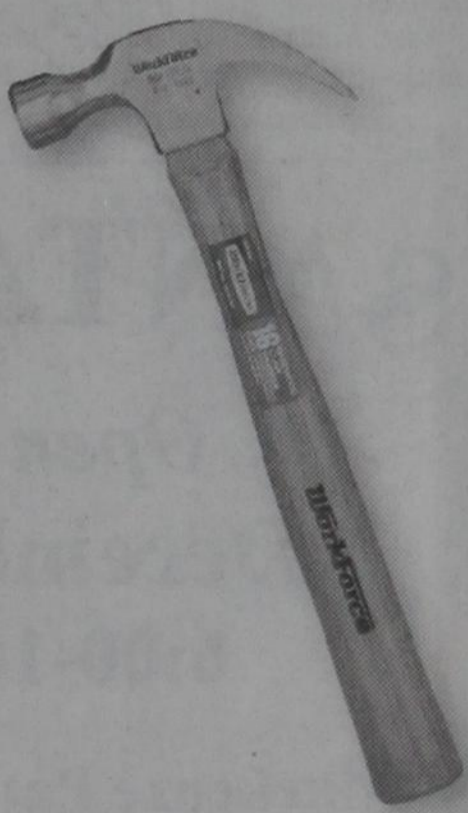
El libro advierte que la maquiladora electrónica en la frontera norte está rezagada "considerablemente" con relación a los estándares ambientales internacionales para esa industria.

Esto le ocasiona perder la oportunidad de aprovechar nichos de mercado con mayor valor agregado y proteger la salud de los trabajadores y el medio ambiente.

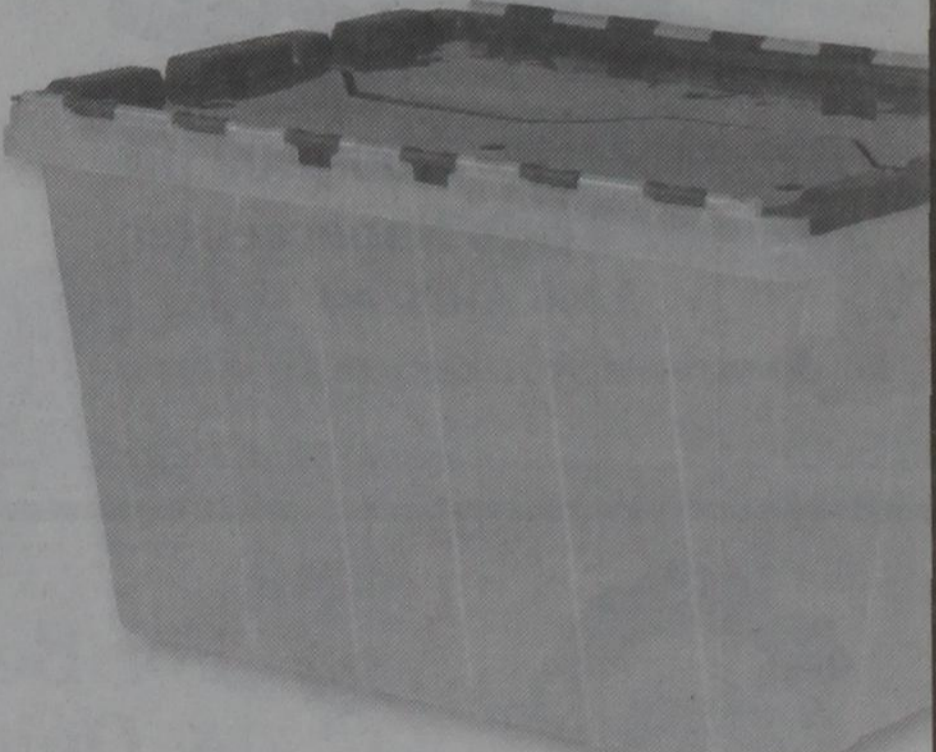
Doscientas empresas maquiladoras electrónicas encuestadas declararon "no haber puesto en práctica medidas ambientales activas y que señalaron que la supervisión del cumplimiento de normas y leyes nacionales es limitado", dicen los autores del libro, que consta de cinco capítulos y 278 páginas.

No obstante, el segundo capítulo del libro plantea que "existe un avance importante en el cuidado del ambiente por parte de las empresas a medida que pasan de generaciones tecnológicas más atrasadas hacia las más avanzadas".

Asimismo, otro estudio contenido en el libro concluye que "la maquila en México es más limpia para el medioambiente que la industria manufacturera no maquiladora en más de un 50%, debido a su especialización sectorial".



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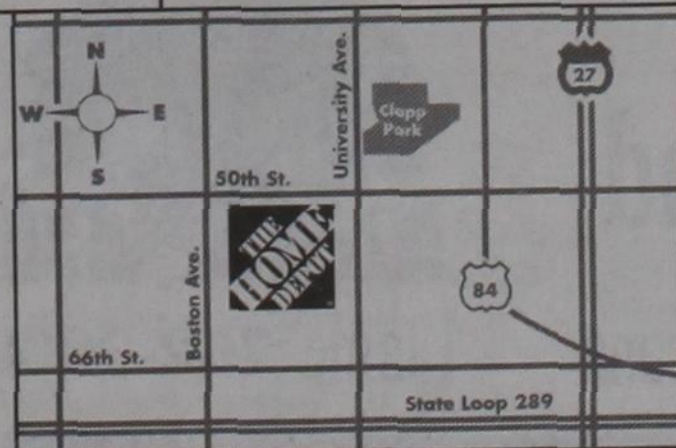


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Have A Nice Day!

Giants lean on defense to beat Dallas, take division lead



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. -- For once, the **New York Giants'** offense didn't have to manufacture a last-minute comeback. Instead, their defense stopped one by Dallas.

The Giants built a 17-0 lead Sunday and then hung on to beat the **Cowboys** 17-10 to take sole possession of first place in the NFC East.

In four games this season, New York (8-4) has rallied from deficits late in the fourth quarter behind the timely passing of **Eli Manning**. With the second-year quarterback struggling Sunday, the Giants relied on a defense that produced four sacks, two interceptions and two fumbles and pressured Drew Bledsoe into a 15-for-39 performance.

Antonio Pierce returned one of the fumbles for a 12-yard touchdown on the first play of the second half to give New York a 17-0 lead. **Defensive tackle Kendrick**

Clancy forced the fumble when he got into the backfield a split second after Bledsoe received the snap and attempted to hand off to Julius Jones.

The ball bounced out of the pile right into Pierce's hands and the middle linebacker ran into the end zone untouched.

"I didn't know he was in the end zone," Clancy said. "I didn't know the ball was fumbled or if he was just running. I saw it when I looked at the replay up on the screen."

Bledsoe had a different take on Clancy's play.

"It seemed like he was offside," he said. "He jumped the snap count pretty good. He almost took the handoff from me."

The play loomed huge when Dallas (7-5) closed within a touchdown in the third quarter on a 34-yard field goal by Billy Cundiff and a 7-yard touchdown pass from Bledsoe to Terry Glenn.

But unlike in earlier losses to Dallas, Minnesota and Seattle, New York's defense held fast in the final minutes. Safety Gibril Wilson tipped Bledsoe's pass intended for Keyshawn Johnson and Brent Alexander intercepted with 1:47 left. Dallas got the ball back once more but couldn't move past the Giants' 44 at the final whistle.

"We felt like if they went down and scored on our defense, we lost the game," said linebacker Carlos Emmons. "I don't care what else happened."

The Giants survived another missed field goal by Jay Feely, who a week earlier blew three potential game-winning kicks in a 24-21 overtime loss at Seattle.

On Sunday, Feely clanged a 33-yard attempt off the upright with 5:18 left that would have given the Giants a 20-10 lead and some breathing room.

New York also won despite a shaky performance from Manning,

who was 12-for-31 for 152 yards and was intercepted twice by Dallas cornerback Aaron Glenn, filling in for the injured Anthony Henry. Tiki Barber gained 115 yards on 30 carries for the Giants.

The Cowboys face an uphill battle in the division race with games left against Kansas City at home, at Washington and Carolina before closing at home against St. Louis. They can take solace in the fact three of New York's final four games are on the road, and two are against division rivals Philadelphia and Washington.

"There's a month of football to go," said Dallas coach Bill Parcells. "To be judgmental now with just the one-game separation would be premature. If you look at this like it's a disaster, then that's what it will turn out to be. If we look at it like we can bounce back, then that's probably what will happen."

Now hear this: This Season's BCS got it absolutely right

A Senate commerce subcommittee will hold hearings Wednesday promising a "comprehensive review" of the BCS.

Hey, Mack Brown, could you do a favor for Texas Rep. Joe Barton and put those roses away during this week's hearings? Talk about bad timing.

Joe Barton, a Republican from Texas, is chairing the hearings. The red stater should be red-faced right about now.

Are these guys even on the same planet as us?

This just in: The BCS worked, suits. Spectacularly.

For the fourth time in eight years, we have ourselves a "clean" game. The nation's only two undefeated teams playing for the undisputed title.

That's a .500 batting average. Or, put in terms the non-football totting Bush would envy, a 50 percent approval rating.

"I don't really know precisely

why we're having this hearing," BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg said.

It's not often you get this much clarity in a postseason system that has been as muddled as the tax code. Who wants to bet right now The President (Reggie Bush) could beat the president in a runoff?

The four BCS games lined up easier than Tiger Woods eyeing an uphill one-footer for birdie.

We've got a game for the ages (USC-Texas in the Rose) and a game for the aged (Joe Paterno vs. Bobby Bowden in the Orange). We've got the return of Notre Dame (vs. Ohio State) led by -- if the right combo of juniors heads for the draft -- the 2006 Heisman front-runner, Brady Quinn.

We've got Georgia vs. West Virginia in Georgia at the Georgia Dome, thanks to Katrina. That's significant because the Bulldogs haven't had to leave the state to play since before Halloween.

Texas Tech Pickin' Cotton with Alabama

DALLAS - Alabama's stingy defense hasn't seen an offense as wild or as successful as Texas Tech's - and that's exactly why both teams are headed for the Cotton Bowl.

With the No. 18 Red Raiders an obvious pick from the Big 12, game officials could've made No. 10 LSU their SEC selection. The Tigers would've offered more of a regional rivalry and a higher-ranked team.

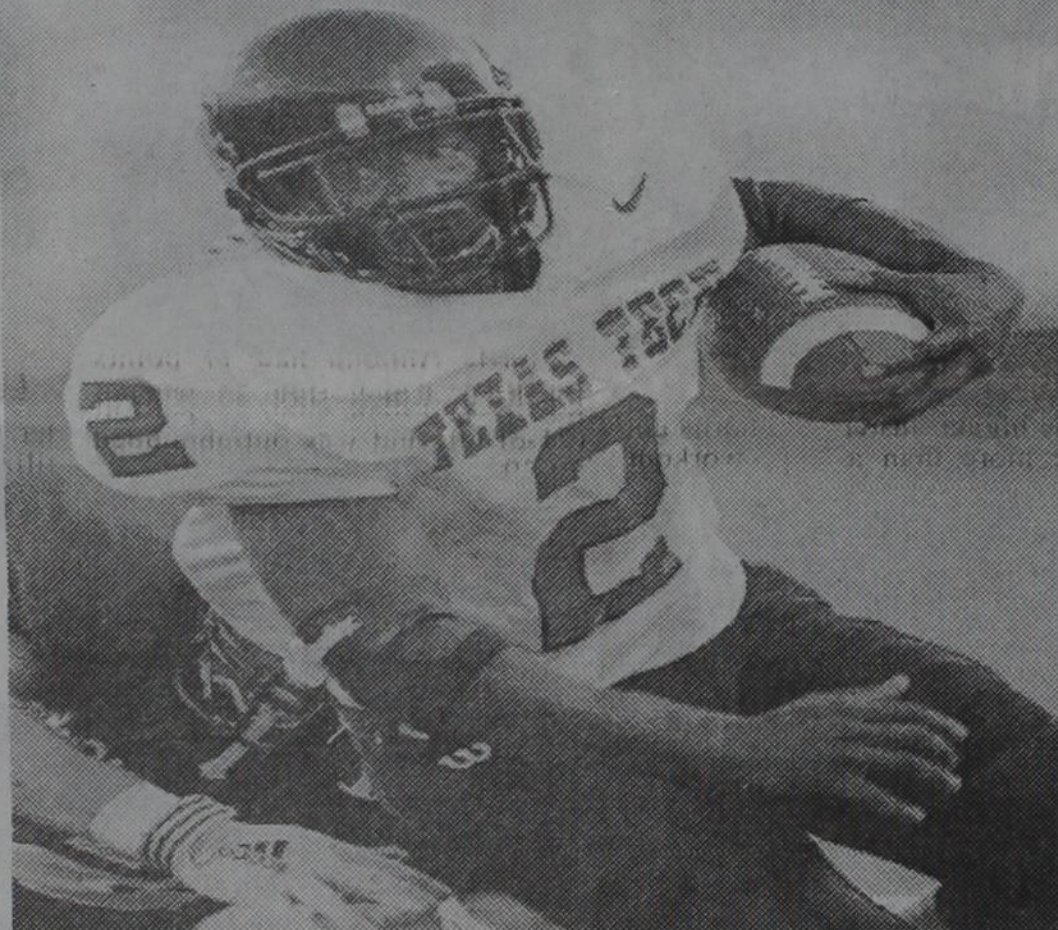
Instead, they took No. 13 Alabama, largely for the chance to promote the Jan. 2 game as a matchup of strength vs. strength: The defense that gives up the fewest points in the country against the offense that throws for the

most yards. "That was a part of it, a big part, because that gives the bowl game a special angle that not many other bowl games have this year," said Dan Petty, chairman of the selection committee.

The teams are so good at what they do that the Cotton Bowl could be hyped like a heavyweight fight, with "Something's Gotta Give" a fitting moniker.

Alabama (9-2) allows 10.7 points per game, more than a point better than anyone else. The Tide give up the second-fewest total yards (248.3) and the second-fewest yards passing (154.8).

Tech (9-2) throws for 403.6 yards per game, almost 20 better



than anyone else. The Red Raiders also average 511 yards per game, second only to top-ranked Southern California, while scoring 42.1 points per game, fourth-best in the country.

"We know we're in for a tough one, maybe the toughest one all year," Alabama coach Mike Shula said.

He wasn't just being nice. The Tide's two losses were to teams that threw for the most yards and scored the most points of all its foes - and Tech throws for 177.3 more yards than LSU and scores 7.9 more points than Auburn. Alabama was 9-0 and ranked No. 4 until closing the season with

those consecutive defeats.

Shula said his team has faced offenses with styles similar to Tech's, but none that run it as effectively.

For Alabama, no matter how much film players watch, it'll be continued on page 5

Taylor re-stakes his claim as middleweight king

LAS VEGAS -- Bernard Hopkins didn't act his age, but he didn't win the fight either. Jermain Taylor established himself as the future of the middleweight division, and now Hopkins can only look back and hope his legacy as a champion is secure.

His second narrow loss Saturday night to Taylor did nothing to damage Hopkins' reputation as an ageless fighter, though it may have finally ended a remarkable career just a month before he turns 41.

If it did, Hopkins has no regrets. "My career has been tremendous," Hopkins said. "I really have nothing to be mad about because I changed my life around. I went from being a convict in prison to being wealthy and having a great boxing career."

Hopkins looked nothing like an aging fighter against Taylor, but he left the ring disappointed once again after a narrow decision went Taylor's way just as it had in the first fight in July between the two.

After a record 20 consecutive title defenses spanning 11 years,



Hopkins has now lost two in a row. Even he seems to realize that his fighting days may be over.

"Right now I just want everybody know that I am OK," Hopkins said. "We're going to sit down at the top of the year and we'll take it from there."

Hopkins seemingly has few options left in the sport, other than to act as a co-promoter with Oscar De La Hoya for other fighters. He talks about moving up to light heavyweight to fight Antonio Tarver but that appears more wishful thinking than anything else, and there would seem little incentive for a third fight with Taylor.

Hopkins thought he did enough to pull out the win in a fight that mirrored the first fight bout, which was won by split decision by Taylor. But once again the judges saw it otherwise.

Taylor won by unanimous decision this time around but all three judges had it very close, 115-113. Like he did in the first fight, Hopkins doomed his chances to win by doing little early and giving away the first half of the fight.

He came on strong in the late rounds, but Taylor had enough in the 11th round to win it on all three scorecards, cementing a win that allowed him to remain unbeaten and keep the titles he won from Hopkins the first time around.

"I give nothing but respect to Bernard Hopkins. He fought very well tonight and he has proven that he is a tough fighter and a true champion," Taylor said. "But right now I am the champion and I feel like I am the champion. I knew I was going to win and I thought I won the fight."

Taylor said he learned a lesson from the first fight and didn't waste a lot of energy chasing Hopkins around in the early rounds. In a battle of counter-punchers, he did just enough to hold Hopkins off in the later rounds to get the nod.

Both fighters landed about the same amount of punches, but Taylor may have won the fight by pressing the action in the final seconds of each round.

"I've still got a lot to learn but I did win it," Taylor said. "The man is a clever fighter. It's hard to hit him. You've got to pull all the tricks out just to hit him."

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Cafe Tacvba to return to the stages by 2006 with new album



Mexican band Cafe Tacvba will return to the musical stages by 2006 after meeting next January to plan their next album, Emmanuel del Real stated.

During an interview with Notimex, the member of the band singer of hits such as "Chilanga banda", explained that it will be after the four musicians took some time for their personal projects, however it does not affect the band's strength.

Del Real explained that even though his partners and he have done solo projects, the band is not affected, but it contributes to the creative process.

Emmanuel said that Joselo and Susi Yantra are releasing their albums soon. "I have also done other things, I finished working with a band called Bengala, which will be launching their album next year, and I am also working on a soundtrack for a movie along with my brothers".

The singer of "Eres" said that when Cafe Tacvba meets again for planning the next album something quite different will come

out, "when we get together something quite special happens, starting a new project is part of the adrenaline and not knowing where we are going, that is something that unites us".

He explained that the band wants to "keep making music, if the outcome is good or bad we will see, but I hope we keep together as we are quite happy for what we have achieved".

The musician stated that "the last couple of years were really

good, we are aware that it can be dangerous, especially when the bands have not strong foundations and integrity, so it easy to lost the direction, but we are quite comfortable".

He highlighted that after the "Cuatro caminos" tour, which lasted two years, they stayed away from the stages "because it always takes us some time to decompress and restart", but he promised they will return as soon as they new album is ready.

Navidad a toda luz

Andar a la moda no significa invertir grandes sumas de dinero en su vestuario. Tampoco que en cada época —como la Navidad— se tenga que cambiar completamente el armario con nuevas prendas. Lo importante es saber comprar y elegir lo que nunca pasa de moda, y (claro), solo añadir unas cuantas "cositas" para estar en línea con lo más actual.

Martin Llorens, experto en moda de T.J. Maxx, comenta que hay ropa de materiales que siempre se van usar en cada temporada del año, es decir que no pasan de moda.

"Así que una vez que obtenga lo elemental en esta Navidad, en la próxima época no tendrá que volver a comenzar de cero", expresa.

Desde la primavera pasada los brillos salieron con resplandor y parece que se quedarán por un buen rato, así que podrá sacarle jugo a todo lo que tenga este tipo de material.

La Navidad relucirá no sólo por los adornos y las luces, sino porque la gran mayoría de las prendas lleva esa tonalidad brillante y de mucho glamour. "Todo se viste de tonos metálicos, joyería, lentejuela. Eso le encanta a la mujer latina, pero hay que tener cuidado y no pasarse de la raya", recomienda el experto en moda.

Llorens dice que los materiales que nunca pasarán de moda durante el invierno y en época navideña son telas como terciopelo, satin, seda, cachemira, que siempre estarán vigentes en la temporada invernal.

En el armario nunca deben faltar los sueters, la blusa o el vestido color negro que, aunque no sean muy elegantes, puede adquirir ese glamour llevando unos cuantos accesorios.

"A veces los accesorios son más



importantes que la misma ropa y mucha gente no los toma muy en cuenta", expresa el experto.

Lo que no debe faltar

No importa qué tan extenso sea el surtido de ropa que tenga en el armario, porque con unas cuantas prendas usted puede lucir casual y con lo mismo verse elegante.

"En esta temporada puede comprarse muchos accesorios brillantes, y no se preocupe porque en la próxima primavera seguirá muy fuerte esta tendencia, así que su inversión será a largo plazo", comenta Llorens.

El secreto de transformar lo casual en elegante es tan simple como saber combinar los accesorios.

Mencionar accesorios no se resume sólo a collares, anillos y aretes, en esta categoría entran zapatos, bolsas, cinturones, pañoletas, gorras, bufandas, prendedores, por citar algunos.

Llorens pone un ejemplo simple: un vestido negro y simple se convierte en una prenda elegante cuando lo combina con unos zapatos que hagan juego con el bolso o collar. Puede ser también que los zapatos sean negros, pero lo que resaltará son el bolso y el collar.

Otra opción es llevar un pantalón de mezclilla negro con una blusa del mismo color y unos zapatos y cinto brillantes. También una blusa blanca con unos jeans y zapatos, cinto y bolso brillantes.

"Ahí ya tiene combinaciones con ropa casual, pero con un toque de glamour", expone el experto en moda.

Los tacones logran que una mujer se vea bien y le ayudan a estilizar la figura, dice Llorens. Sin embargo, las sandalias también dan el mismo resultado pero, debido a la época, éstas deben ser cerradas de enfrente y descubiertas en la parte trasera.

"Sin duda alguna, la recomendación actual es llevar botas, que este año vienen en todas las tonalidades y estilos", asegura el experto.

Tanto las prendas como los accesorios se pueden encontrar a pre-

cios muy accesibles. Además, existe la opción de las tiendas donde encuentra buenos artículos a precios reducidos, y más, en una sola encuentra todo lo que necesita, desde ropa interior hasta el accesorio más pequeño, lo que da la opción a probarse todo el atuendo.

"Puede medirse la ropa y observar cómo le va a lucir con los zapatos y otro tipo de accesorios. Si no le gusta en ese momento, busca otra opción", comenta Llorens, que añade que si un accesorio o una prenda le ayuda a combinar con dos o tres looks diferentes, entonces hay que llevarlo a casa porque la inversión es buena.

Con mesura

La principal característica de esta fiesta decembrina es que hay que estar "bastante glamouriosa y bella", pero sin exagerar.

"Se lleva mucho lo brillante, pero hay que controlarlo", asegura Llorens.

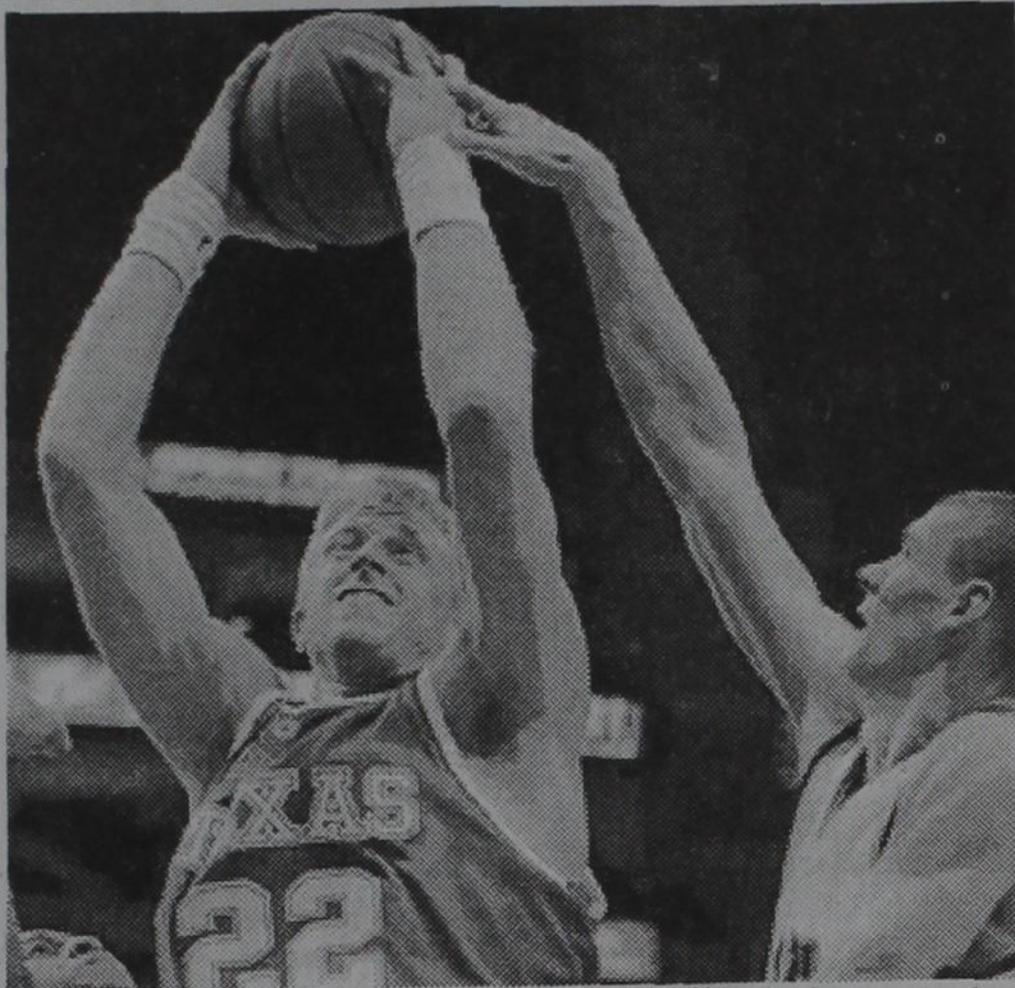
Cuando ya se tiene una prenda con encajes o brillantes, la joyería debe ser más pequeña. Se debe tomar en cuenta que la parte donde se lleve más brillos o joyería es la que más llamará la atención y atraerá las miradas.

Las mujeres que tienen el busto grande y desean disimularlo no deben usar prendas con muchos brillantes. Lo recomendable es que los brillos vayan en otra parte, si usa una falda o pantalón es en estas prendas donde deben ir. Lo mismo ocurre con quienes quieran disimular la cadera o cualquier otra parte del cuerpo.

Llorens señala que cada persona debe conocer las medidas exactas de su cuerpo y llevar la talla adecuada, además de seleccionar los colores que le hagan sentirse cómoda.

Los colores metálicos están de moda y de éstos se derivan tonalidades como bronce, champán, plateado, dorado. Si no está muy segura de cuál es el adecuado para su tono de piel o si le incomodan estos tonos, entonces debe inclinarse por los tradicionales.

Longhorns off to best start since 1981-82



Other than a blown dunk, Daniel Gibson had a happy homecoming on Monday night.

Now, he and second-ranked Texas can focus on the weekend showdown with No. 1 Duke.

Brad Buckman had 17 points and 11 rebounds and LaMarcus Aldridge had 17 points and 10 boards as the Longhorns beat Rice 85-58 at the Toyota Center.

"We did some good things," Texas coach Rick Barnes said, "but I'll always say we still have some work to do."

Gibson, Houston's all-time prep scorer at Jones High School, had 15 points, four rebounds and three assists for the Longhorns (8-0), who meet the Blue Devils at East Rutherford, N.J. on Saturday.

Gibson got off to a shaky start with his parents and about 30 friends and family members in the stands. He missed his first three shots, including a breakaway, one-handed dunk attempt after a steal.

He was coming off a career-high 29 points in the Longhorns' 93-55 win over Texas-Arlington on Saturday.

That performance was long forgotten after his embarrassing goof. One by one, his teammates -- and even Barnes -- gave him some ribbing as the game wore on.

"Coach Barnes always gives me a hard time," said Gibson, who went 6-for-12 from the field and hit three 3-pointers. "LaMarcus, P.J. (Tucker) -- pretty much everybody down the line got their laughs in."

Barnes couldn't remember ever

seeing the 6-foot-2 Gibson dunk -- and politely told him maybe he should stick to the perimeter.

"He said it slipped, so we'll give him the benefit of the doubt," Barnes said.

If Gibson was nervous, he quickly settled down, making a 3-pointer and a pull-up jumper near the end of an early 14-0 spurt that put Texas in command.

Gibson left the game to mild applause with 3:18 remaining. He turned from the bench, smiled and nodded at friends as the final minutes ticked away.

"I felt like I did OK," Gibson said. "I felt like I played a good floor game as far as getting my teammates involved."

Texas, off to its best start since the 1981-82 team won its first 14 games, has averaged a 32-point victory margin in its last four victories.

The bigger, faster Longhorns got little more than a light workout from the Owls (5-4), who were coming off a 96-94 triple-overtime win over Utah.

Texas committed three early turnovers, then scored 14 straight points to build a 23-4 lead eight minutes into the game.

The Owls missed their first nine shots and 10 of their first 12, many of them open looks, while the Longhorns hit five of six shots after starting 4-for-10.

"It was just as bad a start as you could imagine," Rice coach Willis

Wilson said. "Those shots go down, our confidence rises and maybe it's a different outcome."

The lead swelled past 30 in the second half as the Longhorns continued to overwhelm the Owls with swarming defense, sharp shooting and superior speed.

"When you play good teams, there are going to be one or two or three factors you're going to have to overcome," Wilson said. "Playing at a hurried pace, you still have to be disciplined and you still have to execute. We just got away from that too quickly."

Morris Almond had 17 points for Rice, which shot 35 percent (21-of-60) and was outrebounded 50-39.

Texas has outrebounded six of its first eight opponents by at least 10 boards.

"Our players tried to work and do the little things," Barnes said. "Rebounding was a big part of it."

The former Southwest Conference rivals were meeting for the first time since the 1995-96 season. Texas has won nine of the last 10 meetings.

From Page 4

tough preparing for a dizzying system filled with quick passes to all sorts of receivers running all sorts of routes.

"We'll be out there and running their plays, but there's no way we can simulate their efficiency and speed," Shula said.

Shula said that instead of using a scout team to run Tech's plays against his defense, he may go with his first-team offense "just for the speed, as far as getting the ball out, the route-running and all of that."

The Red Raiders have been using the same system since coach Mike Leach took over six years ago. He's got it so refined that he's plugged in a new starting quarterback each of the last three seasons without missing a beat.

Cody Hodges, a fifth-year senior, took over this season and won his first six games. After a loss to No. 2 Texas, the Red Raiders were 8-1 and a fringe candidate for a BCS berth until losing to Oklahoma State. They rebounded the next week to beat Oklahoma in what was widely viewed as a Cotton Bowl play-in game.

The reward is Tech's first New Year's Day in Dallas since 1995. The Red Raiders are thrilled because of what it means for recruiting, alumni and the large number of players who are from the area.

"In a way, it will feel like a home game," Hodges said.

Game officials are counting on Alabama being a big draw, too, or else they would've gone with LSU. After all, Baton Rouge is a lot closer to Dallas than Tuscaloosa.

Tide fans came out strong for last year's bowl appearance in Nashville, Tenn., which was Alabama's first bowl game under Shula. Returning to the Cotton Bowl for the first time since 1982 could be a lure, too. Athletic director Mal Moore said he planned to "convey to (fans) to show up and support" the program.

Alabama has played and won more bowl games than any program. This trip to the Cotton Bowl will be its seventh, the most by a team that wasn't in the Southwest Conference.

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Written by Bidal Agüero
Directed by Hershell Norwood

Starring
Ysidro Gutierrez as José
Zenaida Aguero Reyes as Matilde
Tomas Guellin as Blas
Roger Quannah Settler as Mr. Johnson
Azelia Reyes as Teresita
Nicholas Riojas as Nicholas
Eliana Reyes as Eliana
Maria Lopez Strong as the Nurse

First National Meeting of Latino Commissioners begins at KC

Reprueban a EU en seguridad interna

GARANCE BURKE
KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Officials who are responsible for promoting the rights and welfare of Hispanics gathered in this Midwestern city Wednesday to devise a state-by-state approach to the major domestic policy issue of the day, immigration.

The first-ever national meeting of Hispanic and Latino American Affairs State Commissions, organized by an appointee of Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, brings together seasoned politicians for a three-day summit that will conclude Friday.

While Hispanics are the largest minority in the country, according to U.S. Census data, commissioners say they lack opportunities to coordinate efforts in dealing with issues ranging from language access in schools to the management of day labor centers.

"We are all facing basically the same fundamental problems that trickle down as a result of national immigration policies," said Kansas Hispanic Affairs Commissioner Elias Garcia, who called the meeting. "We're the thermometer to see where the hotspots and the trouble spots are, and we can't keep reinventing the wheel. We need to learn from each others' policies."

While Texas and New York both sent delegates, most of the commissioners came from states that are not traditionally thought of as having large Latino communities, such as Idaho and Mississippi.

In Nebraska, for instance, the Hispanic population has grown by 225 percent since 1990, according to census figures.

"The demographics are everything now. In the next 20 years we are going to be at least a fourth of Nebraska," said Olga Kanne, Nebraska vice chairwoman of the Mexican-American Commission, who drove through a snow storm to attend the summit Wednesday.

Kanne said few rural Nebraskan towns understand the economic issues that are driving the new wave of migration to her state, nor are they prepared to take on the challenges that come with accommodating an emerging immigrant population.

None of the commissioners is directly responsible for crafting immigration policy - that's handled on a federal level - but they often end up finding solutions for people who entered the country illegally.

In states like California, Florida and Texas, Latino legislative caucuses promote bills that address whether to issue drivers' licenses or in-state tuition to immigrants. But in Nebraska, advocating for Latino affairs can be a challenge, Kanne said.

So rather than simply watching as immigration policy unfolds in a piecemeal fashion, state by state, Garcia said he called the meeting to give policy-makers an opportunity to share strategies.

"Sometimes it's in the states that you don't think about that you have the opportunity to implement creative, cutting-edge initiatives that help Hispanics in those communities," he said.

Yet what is considered cutting-edge immigration policy in one state may become a major campaign issue in another.

"Most of the challenges in immigration policy are not administrative. Most of the challenges are political," said Steven Camarota, director of research at the Center for Immigration Studies, a Washington, D.C., think tank that favors tighter restrictions on immigration.

Garcia said one of the conference's main goals is to organize a national organization to represent Hispanic affairs commissioners on a national level. While President Bush has appointed the most Latino officials of any presidential administration, there is no national advisory office that coordinates policy for Hispanics at the federal level, said Allen Abney, a spokesman for the White House.

That leaves much of the ground-level decision-making to the state commissions, many of which are political appointees of the governor.

In Missouri, for instance, Gov. Matt Blunt on Wednesday narrowed the role of the state's Hispanic commission to focus more directly on business issues.

"We need to make these independent organizations that are there to serve the state across administrations, to make sure there is consistency in providing that support," said Janet Murguía, president of the National Council of La Raza, a nonprofit civil rights and advocacy organization for Latinos. "As someone who grew up in Kansas City, I know we have Hispanic populations all over this country, and increasingly in areas you wouldn't expect."

En su último reporte de calificaciones al gobierno federal, la Comisión del 9/11 catalogó de "decepcionante" su desempeño en implementar las recomendaciones del panel para que Estados Unidos esté más preparado ante otro potencial ataque terrorista y calificó de "inaceptable" la falta de avances.

Mientras a todo nivel la Administración de George W. Bush asegura que Estados Unidos es un lugar más seguro desde los siniestros del 11 de septiembre de 2001, la comisión bipartidista afirma que "todavía no estamos seguros" y "eso es inaceptable", declaró el presidente del panel, el republicano Thomas H. Kean.

Una de las principales críticas recayó en el Congreso por la forma en que ha asignado los fondos para la seguridad interna. En lugar de hacerlo basándose en el riesgo que puedan enfrentar determinadas ciudades, lo ha hecho, según la comisión, por consideraciones de tipo político.

Las subvenciones federales para los encargados de responder a cualquier emergencia terrorista "deben distribuirse de acuerdo al riesgo y la vulnerabilidad", agregó Kean.

Pero el esquema de asignaciones ha hecho que proporcionalmente hablando ciudades con bajo riesgo reciban más fondos que ciudades como Los Angeles, Nueva York o Washington.

En rueda de prensa en esta capital, Kean dijo que incluso algunas ciudades han gastado el dinero de seguridad antiterrorista en otros usos, como por ejemplo, instalar equipos de aire acondicionado en los camiones del recolección de basura.

Pero los problemas no sólo tienen que ver con la forma en que se distribuyen los fondos. Dentro del mismo gobierno no se han registrado avances satisfactorios para que las agencias de espionaje, por ejemplo, puedan compartir información crítica de manera adecuada, dice el reporte.

El vicepresidente del panel, el ex legislador demócrata Lee Hamilton, dijo que en ese sentido el progreso "ha sido mínimo" a pesar



de los cambios que aprobó el Congreso para agilizar y mejorar el intercambio de información. Se requiere, dijo Hamilton, cambiar "la cultura" de desconfianza entre las diversas agencias de inteligencia y la forma en que cada una opera.

Los esfuerzos de la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI), por ejemplo, se han quedado cortos en relación con las necesidades reales, agregó Hamilton.

El panel evitó mencionar directamente a la actual Casa Blanca de Bush o al gobierno demócrata de Bill Clinton. Las críticas se formularon hacia el gobierno federal en general.

De las 41 recomendaciones que la comisión sometió hace año y medio muy pocas se han implementado. Una de ellas fue crear el puesto de director nacional de in-

teligencia, que se estableció tras dimes y diretes entre el Congreso y la Casa Blanca en torno al alcance de los poderes de dicha oficina que al presente encabeza el ex embajador John Negroponte.

Pero la Casa Blanca emitió un documento esbozando los progresos logrados desde que el panel formuló sus recomendaciones en julio de 2004.

"Desde que la comisión emitió su reporte final, la Administración ha tomado acción en 37 de las 39 recomendaciones que aplican al Poder Ejecutivo y está trabajando con el Congreso para seguir mejorando la inteligencia y la seguridad interna", indicó la Casa Blanca.

Los demócratas del Congreso también consideran que la actual guerra en Irak, más que contribuir a reducir la amenaza terrorista hacia Estados Unidos, la ha incrementado, y que la evidencia son los constantes ataques de insurgentes en contra de los intereses estadounidenses y de la coalición y, de paso, contra la población iraquí.

Asimismo, dicen que los miles de millones de dólares que se han gastado y se siguen gastando en Irak debieron usarse para garantizar la seguridad de Estados Unidos ante otro potencial ataque terrorista.

Pero el gobierno de Bush argumenta que, por el contrario, la guerra en Irak está al centro de la lucha contra el terror y que el avance de la democracia en esa nación contribuirá a la eventual estabilización de la volátil región del Medio Oriente y, por ende, eso supondrá más seguridad para Estados Unidos.

Aunque la comisión se disolvió en julio de 2004, aún funciona con fondos privados para supervisar el avance de las 41 recomendaciones que formularon el año pasado.

"No deberíamos necesitar un nuevo llamado de alerta... creemos que los terroristas volverán a atacar, y lo mismo creen todos los especialistas serios con los que hemos hablado. Y si sucede, y si no se han implementado las reformas que pudieran haber impedido ese ataque, ¿cuál será nuestro excusa?", cuestionó Kean.

La líder de la minoría demócrata en la Cámara Baja, Nancy Pelosi, indicó que tanto la Casa Blanca como el Congreso, controlado por los republicanos, "han fallado continuamente" en atender las necesidades de seguridad de nuestra nación y dijo que la respuesta al huracán Katrina fue un ejemplo de lo que la falta de preparación y coordinación pueden significar. Y ese fue un desastre natural.

Ideas de Bush

(Viene de la primera)

Bush, en su discurso ante los agentes de aduanas y de control fronterizo, hizo alarde de la respuesta de mano dura contra la inmigración ilegal que promueve su administración. Citó la dedicación de millones de dólares para la contratación de nuevos agentes y construcción de nuevas barreras y nueva tecnología, que alega hace mella en el flujo de inmigración ilegal.

Bush indicó que quiere que los inmigrantes indocumentados entiendan que si violan las leyes de inmigración, serán deportados a su país de origen.

"Y deben quedarse en casa", dijo el presidente.

Los jornaleros con los que yo conversé concuerdan con el presidente. Ellos también quieren quedarse en casa.

"No he visto a mi familia", dijo Carlos, quien cruzó la frontera hace más de un año y quien no ha vuelto a Honduras a ver a su esposa e hijo. Igual César, quien no ha visto a sus dos hijos ni a su esposa en más de un año.

El cruzar la frontera ilegalmente se ha vuelto más difícil y costoso. Regresar a casa y volver a este país lleva muchos riesgos, cuentan.

Pero el trabajo se encuentra al norte de la frontera y por eso están aquí, explican.

Aun cuando trabajan, no siempre se les paga. Alfredo dijo que el último patrón que tuvo lo despidió y se quedó con su salario.

Los trabajadores dijeron que cualquier programa de trabajadores temporales debe incluir derechos de protección para ellos. También se burlaron de las alegaciones que el aumento en el número de agentes fronterizos y mallas reducirán la inmigración ilegal. Cruzar la frontera será más difícil pero no imposible, dijeron.

En gran parte, los jornaleros concordaron con el presidente. No funcionará mayor atención al orden sin provisiones para trabajadores temporales.

Los trabajadores deben registrarse para una temporada fija y volver a casa, dijo Bush. Esto permitirá que los trabajadores honestos mantengan a sus familias y sean respetuosos de la ley. También reducirá el número de personas que cruzan la frontera ilegalmente, lo cual permitirá que los agentes fronterizos capturen a los malos, alegó el presidente.

Por fin tenemos consenso sobre la reforma del sistema de inmigración.

Si el presidente y los inmigrantes indocumentados son capaces de concordar en un plan de reforma, de hecho el Congreso podrá hacerlo también.

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Send Us Your Christmas Holiday Greetings to EL EDITOR

Community Voices

CI: What are the top 3 issues facing our country?

Gutierrez: By far, the war is #1, but aside from the war, the three biggies are:

(continued on page 6)

1) Republican "Borrow and Spend" policies have placed the U.S. on the verge of bankruptcy. The national debt is approaching 7 Trillion dollars. The U.S. is borrowing about 2 billion dollars per day.

2) The local state and federal Government are under the control of one political party. Republican priorities do not serve the country well.

3) There is a looming economic depression. It will probably hit in 2008.

For questions or comments or to participate in "Community Voices", email

acruizc@aol.com

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