

# Proposals Could Hinge on Citizenship Question



Residents wait for a bus in front of a commemorative poster February 15, 2001, for U.S. President Bush's visit.

Gramm, R-Texas. The two senators' names are similar, but their ideas are diametrically opposed on whether seasonal foreign workers should eventually be entitled to U.S. permanent residency or citizenship. Graham last year proposed a guest-worker program that would have, under certain conditions, allowed workers to accrue time toward permanent residency. Without the option of residency and citizenship, labor advocates feared that guest workers would be relegated to "indentured servant status," said Bruce Goldstein of the Farmworker Justice Fund in Washington, D.C. Gramm, a powerful Republican, helped defeat Graham's measure, which was an unusual compromise between U.S. labor organizers and

agricultural employers. For years, employers have wanted to expand the United States' existing, little-used seasonal worker program, which prohibits legal residency. Labor organizers have always fought employers on that prohibition. Gramm's counter-proposal, which he is developing with backing from Sen. Zell Miller, D-Ga., could replace the existing program and cut a special deal with Mexico. It too would preclude the option of legal residency. Gramm's plan would allow Mexican workers to apply for temporary work in U.S. agriculture, construction and the service industry - including restaurants and hotels. Employers would pay into an account to cover medical services. If the money were not used, it

would be reimbursed to workers, who would have to return to Mexico after a certain period. Last month Gramm, Miller and other senators met Fox in Mexico to discuss the idea. But U.S. labor activists and Latino civil rights groups are already mobilizing against Gramm's proposal. Goldstein said the existing guest-worker program, which only employed about 42,000 foreigners in 1999 - mostly in North Carolina - is bad enough. He said he's fought for years to protect the rights of those foreign workers. As an example of the potential dangers of Gramm's proposal, Goldstein cited Germany's importation of Turks who have become a permanent foreign presence with no political rights.

"We asked for temporary foreign workers and we got human beings," Goldstein said, quoting a saying about guest workers. "You have to recognize that these are people and people in this country have to be able to participate in the nation and in their communities."

Latino activists suggest that if Fox supports a program without a citizenship option he would alienate Mexican-Americans he's been trying to court since he became president on Dec. 1.

"The Gramm proposal looks pretty controversial to us," said Cecilia Munoz, vice-president for policy for the National Council of La Raza, a Latino civil rights group. "If you need these workers ... why not make sure that they have the choice to remain permanently and become a stable part of the workforce?"

Eliseo Medina, Los Angeles-based vice president of the Service Employees International Union, said: "Fox has a lot of political capital right now with Mexican-American groups. But deciding to just back Gramm's bill would squander that."

Medina belongs to a binational panel on migration convened by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington D.C. Randy Johnson, vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is also on the panel.

On Wednesday the panel announced that "reasonable mechanisms" to offer legal residency to participants should be included in any new guest-worker program.

Fox's government is sending mixed signals on this bone of contention.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castañeda told Cox Newspapers that Gramm's idea was "interesting. There are other proposals on the table, and they are also interesting."

Fox said he supports a pending Democratic Party-backed amnesty proposal that would offer legal residency to illegal immigrants already working in the United States. Most Republicans oppose the idea.

But a high-ranking Fox official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Fox wouldn't have a problem with a future guest-worker plan without a residency option.

"We do not expect that everybody that crosses the border to the United States should be eligible for American citizenship or permanent residency," the official said. "So a guest-worker program is not undesirable because it does not have that feature. It may be undesirable if it does not provide sufficient conditions for the workers to be respected."

Medina suggested that Mexico and the United States should first clean up festering abuses from the last large-scale labor agreement between the two countries.

Between World War II and 1964, millions of Mexicans called "braceros" were imported to fill labor shortages in U.S. agriculture. Between 1942 and 1949, an estimated \$30 million to \$50 million was deducted from the wages of 300,000 braceros as part of a savings plan the Mexican government was supposed to reimburse.

The money vanished. Recently the braceros' families began a fight to recoup it.

If a new program is started, "who's going to protect the rights of these guest workers?" asked Medina, whose father was a bracero. "Witness the fact that 37 years later the braceros are still fighting for their money."

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By Susan Ferriss and Eunice Moscoso  
SAN CRISTOBAL, Mexico - As he cleared trash and slashed at dried branches with a machete, Norberto Lopez had a special request for President George W. Bush.

"Tell President Bush to bring a visa for my son," the ranch hand said with a toothless grin.

He wasn't joking. A longtime employee of Mexican President Vicente Fox, Lopez and others in this speck of a Mexican village are abuzz over the possibility of a legal guest-worker program between Mexico and the United States.

The site of a Friday summit between Fox and Bush, Fox's hometown of San Cristobal, in Guanajuato state, is no exception to the rule in rural Mexico: Go north, young man, illegally if necessary, to earn U.S. dollars performing farm work, construction and service jobs.

Some of Fox's own laborers, who are paid as much as four or five times more than the minimum daily wage of about US\$3.80, have made the risky trek. Many, like Lopez's son, would like to enter legally to work, without fear of drowning, dying of exposure or getting shot at by angry U.S. border residents.

Unlike previous U.S. and Mexican presidents, Fox and Bush seem inclined to push together for a new temporary guest-worker agreement, one of Friday's topics. The U.S. Congress, which designs such policy, is gearing up for possible dueling proposals by Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., and Sen. Phil

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

# EL EDITOR

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## San Antonio:

# "Wondrous Santa Suit" to be Presented at CineFestival

Lubbock Centro Aztlan announced today that its film "The Wondrous Santa Suit" Written by Bidal Aguero and Directed by Luis Rodriguez and Aguero has been accepted to be screened at San Antonio world renown CineFestival to be held during the week of February 22 until March 2nd.

On the verge of its 25th anniversary, the 24th Annual San Antonio CineFestival will showcase the pioneering and cutting-edge contemporary work of Chicano and Latino filmmakers living in Texas. As part of this year's festival theme, special screenings and curated programs will feature the work of both emerging and established Texas-based filmmakers.

The 30 minute film produced by Lubbock Centro Aztlan as part of a grant by the Lubbock City Council as recommended by the Lubbock Arts Alliance premiered this [past holiday season was filmed here in Lubbock and features local artists.

The film is based on a short story "El Traje de Santo Clos" written by Aguero that tells the story of a poor West Texas Chicano family trying to make the best of Christmas with whatever resources are available.

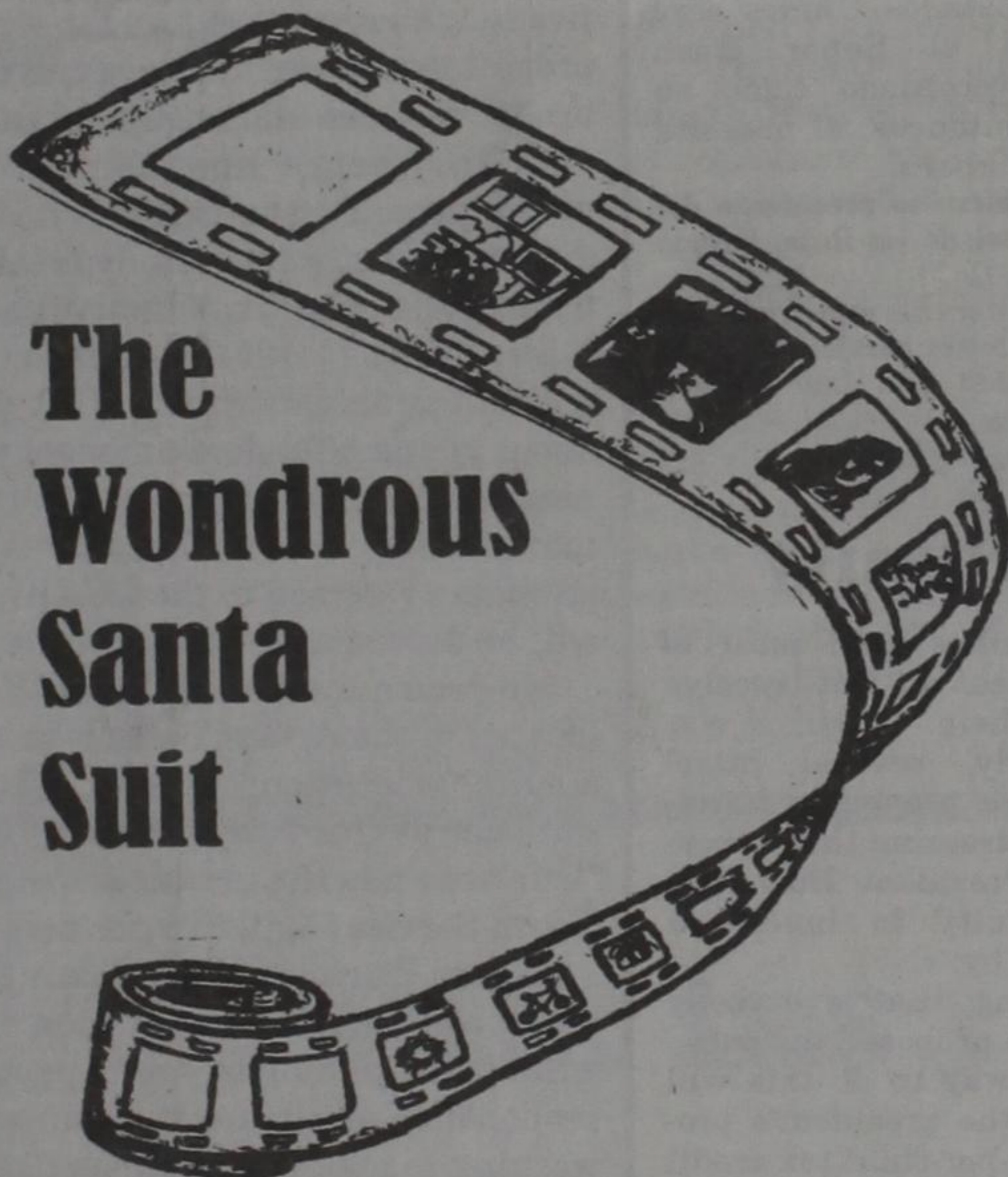
José, played in the film by Jaime Ponce, is faced in the film with either following rules set by his boss and keeping a gift found in the trash but appearing to be new as a special gift for his autistic daughter. At the end of the film the family experience the miracle of faith allowed to them through the faith of a father and the love of the family.

The film will be featured in San Antonio on Saturday Feb. 24 between 2:30 and 4 p.m.

During the Festival the 2001 CineFestival will also present a retrospective of films by Chicano film pioneer Efrain Gutierrez. A festival highlights will include:

On Thursday February 22 "Opening Night Film" will feature the world premiere of Come and Take it Day" with a reception at 7:00 p.m.

Screening will begin at 8:00 p.m. The film is directed by San Antonio native Jim Mendiola, "Come and Take It Day" tells the story of the hunt for the lost treasure of gold coins given to the man who helped capture the legendary Gregorio Cortez. This feature-length, fiction film stars San Antonio native Jesse Borrego, ("Fame" TV series, Blood in Blood Out, Lone Star) Jacob Vargas (Selena, Mi Familia, Traffic) and Maria Candelar-



JAZCO

ia (Ballad of a Soldier). Shot in and around San Antonio, Come and Take it Day uses Texas history as a backdrop for this complex tale of betrayal, greed and friendship. The film's cast and crew will celebrate the film's recent completion at this special world-premiere screening. On Friday, March 2 the festival will feature the World Premiere of Hector Galan's Accordion Dreams at 8 p.m. There will be a special post-screening performance by Aztex, featured in Accordion Dreams at 9:30 P.M. Accordion Dreams is an exhib-

ting musical journey that is the story of a unique Mexican-American musical expression called conjunto. This one-hour documentary is narrated by renowned Austin-based singer/songwriter Tish Hinojosa and is scheduled for a national PBS broadcast. Post screening Q&A will follow with Accordion Dreams' director Hector Galan. CineFestival Premio Mesquite Awards Ceremony will be highlighted by the Texas Premiere of internationally acclaimed Mexican film, Amores Perros (Love is a Bitch). This widely acclaimed and controversial international hit film by

first-time Mexican director Alejandro González Iñárritu brings to life the harsh realities of urban living in Mexico. Built around three distinct yet intertwining stories, Amores Perros was winner of the 2000 Cannes Critics Week Grand Prize. This dazzling and gritty film heralds an exciting new directorial voice in Mexican Cinema.

Each year, CineFestival's coveted Premio Mesquite trophies are given in five competitive categories: Fiction, Documentary, Experimental, Emerging Artist/First Work, and a special Jury Award that is presented to the entry which best exemplifies the spirit of CineFestival.

CineFestival is sponsored, in part, through the generous support of the SBC Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the City of San Antonio Office of Cultural Affairs.

During the event, CineFestival 2001 will present a retrospective of the ground breaking work of Chicano filmmaker Efrain Gutierrez.

In 1976, Gutierrez became the first Chicano to direct a feature film when he produced, directed, and starred in the 16 mm "Please, Don't Bury Me Alive! (Por favor, no me entierren vivo!)" In the 1970s, Gutierrez produced and self-distributed two other feature films:

"Chicano Love Is Forever / Amor Chicano es para siempre" (1977) and "Run, Tecato, Run" (1979).

Gutierrez's films paved the way for a whole generation of Chicano and Latino filmmakers by providing a concrete funding, production and distribution model for others to follow. Gutierrez currently lives in San Antonio and continues to work in media. He recently completed the feature film "A Low Rider Spring Break in San Cuilmas" (2000). Shot in mini-DV and starring Jesse Borrego, Danny de la Paz, and Kid Frost, Gutierrez continues to find new ways to promote his independent vision in film and video.

Another special event will be a special program of recent work by experimental film pioneer Willie Varela. To date, Varela has produced 91 films from 30 seconds to 104 minutes in length. His public exhibition career has spanned over 20 years and includes one-man shows at renowned venues such as the Museum of Modern Art, videos in the 1993 and 1995 Whitney Biennials and a retrospective at the Guggenheim Museum of Art.

For more information on the film of the festival call 806-763-3841.

## News Briefs

### Jennifer Lopez Claims Number One Spot with Album

Jennifer Lopez has made history, claiming the number one spot with her new album "J.Lo" and her new feature film "The Wedding Planner", in the same week.

In the United States, "J.Lo" sold 272,262 units. "J.Lo" also entered number one in Germany, Canada, Switzerland, Spain, Argentina, Greece, Puerto Rico, Central America and Chile. Her feature film "The Wedding Planner" opened number one at the box office, with a weekend gross of over \$13.5 million. "Jennifer is a triple threat," commented Thomas D. Mottola, Chairman and CEO, Sony Music Entertainment. "She is the hottest female movie star out there with the number one film in America. Her album, 'J.Lo' is number one, worldwide. And the good news is, this is just the beginning. Need I say more?" "J.Lo" entered the Top 200 chart at number one, selling 272,262 units. "J.Lo" is executive produced by Cory Rooney and Jennifer Lopez. She also enters the Top R&B/Hip-Hop albums at number one. The first single off the new album, "Love Don't Cost A Thing" is the number one most played video on MTV and is fast approaching the number one spot at radio. The single is produced by Ric Wake. J.Lo is the sophomore album from Lopez. Her debut album "On The 6" has sold over 7 million copies worldwide.

"Jennifer's commitment to her artistry is as tireless as her work ethic," commented Handprint Entertainment's Benny Medina, who manages Jennifer Lopez. "Her passion and dedication to her craft is inspiring and raises the bar for all those involved. A number one album and number one film are a testament to that."

"The Wedding Planner" is a romantic comedy about a workaholic wedding planner (Jennifer Lopez) who finally meets her Mr. Right (Matthew McConaughey). What she doesn't know is that cupid and her career are about to collide head-on in the Columbia Pictures release.

"It is a rare star who can claim the No. 1 movie and the No. 1 album in the same week, but Jennifer is one of those talents who can do it all," said Jeff Blake, president of Worldwide Marketing and Distribution for Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Group. We are delighted that she has achieved this remarkable feat, and I'm thrilled that Columbia could be a part of it."

### Benicio del Toro, Javier Bardem, Get Oscar Nods

Los Angeles - Puerto Rican actor and Golden Globe winner Benicio del Toro, has received an Oscar nomination as Best Supporting Actor for his role in "Traffic," a film directed by Steven Soderbergh.

Spain's Javier Bardem garnered an Academy Award nomination Tuesday as best actor for his role as Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas in the film "Before Night Falls." It was the first time a Spanish actor has garnered a Best Actor nomination for an Oscar, one of the most prestigious awards given by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).

Bardem has stiff competition, however, as he is facing off against two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks for his role in "Cast Away," Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush for "Quills," Russell Crowe for "Gladiator" and Ed Harris for "Pollock."

This is not the Spanish actor's first nomination for a major award, as Bardem won an award from the National Critics Association while garnering a nomination for a Golden Globe, which he did not win.

AMPAS will announce the winners in each of the categories during the 73 Academy Awards ceremony, a star-studded gala on March 25, at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.



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Lo Mejor En Informacion  
El Editor - Llame  
763-3841

# Una Oportunidad Extraordinaria Para El Presidente Bush

Por Raúl Yzaguirre

El actual Presidente Bush condujo su campaña como un "conservador compasivo" y prometió ser "el Presidente de todos", juramentos que volvió a afirmar en su discurso de inauguración. Para los latinos, es una señal excelente. Más de un tercio de las familias hispanas luchan a diario con sueldos bajos, la falta de beneficios básicos como seguro médico y gastos de vivienda y servicios públicos que los pequeños incrementos en

salarios no alcanzan a cubrir, sin importar cuan duro ellos trabajen. Ellos necesitan que el Señor Bush sea su Presidente. Una prueba indudable de la compasión de la Administración Bush pronto llegará, en la forma de las prioridades de presupuesto y de impuestos del Presidente. La nueva presidencia, al comienzo de un nuevo siglo y un período de prosperidad económica sin precedentes, presenta una oportunidad extraordinaria

para ayudar a reducir la diferencia entre "los que tienen" y "los que no tienen", extender el acceso a servicios médicos a todos y asegurar un recorte de impuestos para todas las familias trabajadoras.

A pesar de dos décadas de crecimiento económico casi continuo, millones de hispanos, más que nada los niños, no pueden contar con las necesidades básicas de la vida -- alimento, vivienda y cuidado médico. Más de un tercio de los niños latinos (34%) viven en la pobreza. Casi un tercio (30%) carecen de cualquier forma de cobertura de seguro médico. Cerca de un tercio de los niños hispanos viven en vivienda inadecuada o abarrotada, y la mayoría de sus familias pagan más de la mitad de sus ingresos en alquiler. Más de cuatro millones de niños latinos no se alimentan suficientemente o no tienen dietas saludables y adecuadas porque los ingresos de sus familias no alcanzan para proporcionárselas. Es menos probable que los niños latinos sean inscritos en programas de desarrollo del niño en la primera infancia, que según investigaciones, son la clave del éxito escolar posterior y 30% de los niños hispanos no se gradúan de la escuela superior. La gran mayoría de estos niños latinos vienen de familias trabajadoras y la mayoría de estas familias no reciben ningún tipo de ayuda del gobierno.

Afortunadamente, existen varios métodos probados para efectivamente tratar con estos problemas y el Presidente Bush tiene la oportunidad de invertir en estos esfuerzos. Por ejemplo:

-- Asegurar que todos se beneficien de las reducciones de impuestos que se proponen.

La mejor manera de hacerlo será si se hiciera reembolsable el crédito de impuestos propuesto por el Presidente de \$1,000 por hijo. Hay familias que no ganarían lo suficiente para pagar impuestos de ingresos pero que aún así son impactadas por los impuestos de pago y de seguro social. Por medio de la "reembolsabilidad", todas las familias con hijos, no sólo las acomodadas, recibirían el beneficio. Sin la reembolsabilidad, se excluirían casi seis millones de niños latinos de la ley de impuestos propuesta. Con la reembolsabilidad, ellos y sus familias recibirían una ayuda económica necesitada desesperadamente, y quizás un millón de ellos, casi todos de familias trabajadoras, saldrían de la pobreza completamente.

-- Apoyar los esfuerzos bipartidarios para expandir el acceso al seguro médico.

Más que nada ahora mientras la deceleración económica amenaza con sacar más estadouni-

denses de las listas de seguro médico privado, el gobierno debe de responder con iniciativas que rápida y eficientemente reduzcan el número de personas sin seguro.

-- Restaurar los beneficios médicos y nutritivos para los inmigrantes legales.

Ultimamente se ha visto un pleno apoyo bipartidario para la restauración de la "red de seguridad" para inmigrantes, particularmente los niños, quienes son excluidos de ayuda sin importar cuan grave sea su necesidad. En un período de sobranes presupuestarios récord, no hay excusa para negar los servicios esenciales a los niños, simplemente por su lugar de nacimiento.

-- Incluir inversiones esenciales en educación eficaz, vivienda al alcance de personas de escasos ingresos y programas de cuidado infantil. Estos soportes proporcionan a las familias trabajadoras pobres, los adultos que se esfuerzan arduamente para dejar la asistencia pública y los más vulnerables a un retraso económico con la ayuda que necesitan para construir un futuro mejor.

"No dejar ni un niño atrás" significa asegurar el acceso a Head Start y otros esfuerzos de aprendizaje de párvulos a cada niño preescolar, y asegurar que los niños mayores tengan ambientes seguros para el aprendizaje suplementario y recreo en sus horas fuera de la escuela. Ayudar a familias que tienen los recursos para comprar sus casas y aumentar el apoyo a los que no tienen aquellos recursos, asegurará el progreso hacia nuestra meta nacional de vivienda segura y decente para todo estadounidense.

El sobrante presupuestario federal se sumará a cerca de \$5 trillones a través de los próximos diez años. Tenemos los recursos para reducir la deuda, proteger al Seguro Social y Medicare y hacer las inversiones necesarias en aquellos niños y familias -- si gastamos sabiamente.

Estas propuestas no sólo ayudarán a las familias latinas que luchan por sobrevivir, sino que también promoverán la seguridad y el bienestar del futuro de nuestro país. En menos de dos décadas -- alrededor del momento cuando los niños nacidos hoy comenzarían a entrar a la fuerza laboral -- uno de cada cuatro niños en los Estados Unidos será hispano. Si el Señor Bush quiere ser recordado como su Presidente entonces, él necesita tomar acción ahora.

(Raúl Yzaguirre es presidente del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, basado en Washington, D.C.)

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## President Bush's Extraordinary Opportunity

By Raul Yzaguirre

President Bush campaigned as a "compassionate conservative" and promised to be "everybody's president," pledges he reaffirmed in his inaugural address. For Latinos, that's an excellent sign.

More than one-third of Hispanic families struggle every day with low wages, lack of basic benefits such as health insurance, and housing and utility costs that outpace the modest income gains of recent years, no matter how hard they work. They need for Bush to be their president.

A clear test of the Bush administration's compassion will come soon, in the form of the president's budget and tax priorities. This presidency, at the dawning of a new century and coming at a time of unprecedented economic prosperity, presents an extraordinary opportunity to help narrow the gap between the "haves" and "have nots," extend access to health care to all and assure a tax cut for all working families.

Despite two decades of nearly continuous economic growth, millions of Hispanics, particularly children, cannot count on the basic necessities of life -- food, shelter and medical care. More than one-third of Latino children (34 percent) live in poverty. Nearly one-third (30 percent) lack any form of health insurance coverage.

About one-third of Hispanic children live in inadequate and/or overcrowded housing, and most of their families pay more than half of their incomes on rent. More than 4 million Latino children don't get enough to eat, or don't have adequate, healthy diets because their families can't afford it.

Latino children are less likely to be enrolled in early child development programs, which research shows is the key to later educational success, and almost 30 percent of Hispanic children don't graduate from high school. The overwhelming majority of these Latino children come from

working families, and most of these families do not receive government help.

Fortunately, several interventions have proved to be effective in addressing these problems, and President Bush has the opportunity to invest in these efforts by:

-- Assuring that everybody benefits from proposed tax cuts.

The best way to do this will be to make the president's proposed \$1,000-per-child tax credit refundable. There are families that may not make enough to pay income tax but are still hit hard by payroll and Social Security taxes.

Through "refundability," all families with children -- not just the well-to-do -- would receive the benefit. Without refundability, about 6 million Latino children will be shut out of the tax bill. With refundability, they and their families will get a desperately needed boost, and perhaps 1 million of them, almost all from working families, will be lifted out of poverty entirely.

-- Supporting bipartisan efforts to expand access to health insurance.

Particularly as the economic slowdown threatens to push more U.S. workers off the private health insurance rolls, the government should respond with initiatives that quickly and efficiently reduce the number of uninsured.

-- Restoring basic health and nutrition benefits for legal immigrants.

There has been widespread, bipartisan support recently for restoring the "safety net" for immigrants, particularly children, who are excluded from help no matter how needy. At a time of record budget surpluses, there is no excuse for denying essential services to kids simply because of where they were born.

-- Ensuring essential investments in effective education, affordable housing and child care programs.

These supports provide work-

# Juvenile Justice in Lubbock

By: Ysidro V. Gutierrez

Most people know the meaning of the word "Freedom," but these same people would be stilled if asked to define "Unfreedom."

An unfreedom is anything which keeps "nuestros juvenes" from benefiting fully from the wealth and prosperity that mainstream American enjoys. Unfreedoms are prevalent in Lubbock especially "en el barrio," and affect young people in life altering ways.

School dropout is a major unfreedom impacting nuestros juvenes. In recent years, 63.4% of all teens who dropped out of school were from el barrio. The Arnett Benson and Jackson neighborhoods have a combined school drop-out rate of 16%. It has long been known that prison populations are made up largely of people who dropout of school. Statistically a school dropout has an 80% chance of imprisonment. This is essentially a guarantee that teens who drop out of school will commit at least one serious crime. The lesson is clear - To reduce prison populations we must decrease dropout rates.

Another major unfreedom is teen pregnancy. The Arnett Benson and Jackson neighborhoods have a teen pregnancy rate of 15.6%. Children of teen mothers are the ones who must suffer the consequences of their mothers mistakes. Children born to teen mothers have lower cognitive test scores, poorer health, higher levels of delinquency and incarceration, and are likely to live in broken homes. A serious consequence of promiscuity is the danger of contracting a sexually transmitted disease (STD). According to the City of Lubbock, up to 18% of cases of sexually transmitted diseases occur "en el barrio." The two most common STD's en el barrio are Chlamydia and Gonorrhea.

Unfreedoms are real obstacles to achieving a quality education, living healthfully, owning a home, earning a living wage, and especially to becoming contributing and productive members of society.

Other unfreedoms are drug abuse, gangs, and juvenile crime. Statistics indicate that 57% of juvenile offenders arrested in Lubbock reside "en el barrio." Of the 1600 teens referred annually to the Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center (LCJJC) 57.2% reside "en el barrio." On any given day, nuestros juvenes make up 80% of the total population of LCJJC according to Cowboy Fred Ortiz, the Director of Community Youth Development for north central Lubbock. "In fact," says Cowboy Fred, "Teens from the Arnett Benson and Jackson neighborhoods top the list in dropout rates, teen pregnancy, incidents of STD, and in referrals to the LCJJC. What I try to impress upon the teens is that the negative effects of teen pregnancy, drug abuse, gangs, and drop out from school, and juvenile crime do not fade away. Young people who make the wrong choices during their youthful and impressionable years must pay the consequences of these choices the rest of their lives."

Les Brown, the Director of the Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center, is working to eliminate or reduce unfreedoms en el barrio. Mr. Brown has launched an initiative that questions the traditional approaches to solving teen problems. "What was important yesterday," says Mr. Brown, "is not necessarily important today. We are thinking and working outside the box, we are pushing the envelope of traditional thinking." With the cooperation of city and county agencies, Mr. Brown has identified five neighborhood centers for occupation and use by juvenile probation officers. Officers will conduct supervision conferences, broker services and engage in community service projects along with "los juvenes" and their parents. "This will be done in the young person's own neighborhood" says Mr. Brown, "The process aims to transform youth by creating opportunities for them to make positive and productive choices."

Mr. Brown's initiative calls for creating a support structure within the neighborhood. This means sharing information about young offenders amongst probation personnel and existing neighborhood development groups, churches, and schools while maintaining strict confidentiality. Of the 1,600 juvenile offenders referred to the LCJJC annually, approximately 1000 will be served at the neighborhood centers.

Mr Brown confirmed that a "Youth Service Center" is to be located in the Arnett Benson neighborhood. "We are looking for a suitable location," he said. Cindy Rangel a long time youth minister at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church agrees saying, "Our area has the greatest need, we should definitely have a Youth Service Center in our neighborhood."

Ramon Duran of West Texas Organizing Strategy, a faith based community organization suggests, "In order to change what is happening to young people in our community, responsible adults must organize for change. This means working to make institutions like churches vehicles for change and reform. In this way ordinary citizens can hold public officials accountable to the needs of the community which have been largely ignored."

According to Mr Everett "Scoop" Hooper, Lubbock Youth Services Coordinator, the City of Lubbock waived its portion of \$150,318 to Mr. Les Brown to fund the new initiative. The money was provided by the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division, under the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant. "We hope to reduce the continued flow of youth going in and out of the criminal justice system by bringing services to the neighborhoods," stated Mr. Hooper. "Our goal is to work with families."

Most people think of justices as "Do the crime do the time" In its strictest sense justice is served when the punishment fits the crime and victims are compensated for their loss. But in a just society, justice for juveniles must be tempered with compassion and with a sense of self-preservation of society itself. Juvenile Justice must provide for the elimination or reduction of unfreedoms which plague young people.

If the blessings of liberty are to be secured for ourselves and for succeeding generations, leaders at all levels must contribute to the work of ridding nuestros barrios of "unfreedoms."

ing poor families, adults trying hard to leave welfare and those most vulnerable to an economic downturn with the help they need to build a better future.

"Leaving no child behind" means making Head Start and other early childhood learning efforts accessible to every preschool child, and ensuring that older children have safe environments for supplemental learning and recreation in non-school hours. Helping families who can afford it to buy homes and increasing support to those who can't will assure progress toward our national goal of safe, decent housing for everyone.

The federal budget surplus is about \$5 trillion over the next 10 years. We have the resources to pay down the debt, protect Social Security and Medicare, and make needed investments in those children and families -- if we spend wisely.

These proposals would not only help struggling Latino families, they would promote our country's future economic security and well-being. In less than two decades -- around the time children born today begin to enter the workforce -- one in four children in the United States will be Hispanic. If he's truly going to be remembered as their president then, Bush needs to act now.

## Clash Over Work and Pay for Immigrant Planters

By STEVEN GREENHOUSE  
© New York Times News Service

EL DORADO, Ark. - Outside the Pine Tree Motel, under the reddish glow of a neon sign, Ruben and 10 other Mexican workers pile into a van at 5:30 a.m. and head to a warehouse an hour away, where they load thousands of pine seedlings into a trailer.

Then it is back in the van for the long trip to the fields, where the day is spent poking holes in the ground and planting thousands of seedlings. It is not until well after dark that they return to the motel, shoulders aching, boots caked with mud.

Ruben is one of more than 15,000 workers, most of them Mexican, who come to the United States each year on temporary visas to plant tens of millions of trees. These workers, whose numbers have more than doubled in the last three years, journey north in the hope of earning more than the \$5 a day they earn back home. Federal officials say these migrants are often paid far less than they are due because of widespread violations of wage and hour laws.

It is these violations that make Ruben and those like him a topic of concern not just for labor activists and the federal government but also for President Vicente Fox of Mexico, who, when he meets with President Bush on Feb. 16, is expected to press Bush both to increase the number of these workers allowed in the United States and to provide them greater protections.

Traditionally, poor whites have done the work of replanting American forests. In the last 10 years, however, the forestry business, like other industries that depend on unskilled labor, has turned largely to immigrants on temporary visas to do the arduous work.

Although Mexican migrants do planting as far north as Maine and Washington state, they are concentrated in the South. They typically replant trees in fields that were clear-cut months earlier, and they often work for contractors that plant for large corporations.

Back in his motel room after work, Ruben, who spoke on the condition that his last name not be used, said he regularly worked a 70-hour week but usually earned less than \$300, which works out to about \$4.30 an hour, well below the \$5.15 federal minimum wage. "Sometimes it just doesn't seem worth it," Ruben said. "We work hard, and we're not getting much."

Convinced that wage violations are widespread, lawyers are pressing three class-action lawsuits on behalf of thousands of immigrant forestry workers. The suits are directed against Georgia-Pacific, International Paper and Champion, acquired by International Paper last year, corporations that rely on the contractors for tree planting.

"They're robbing these workers blind," said Mary Bauer, legal director of the Virginia Justice Center. "The number of people involved and the number of violations are beyond anything I've ever seen."

Labor Department officials, echoing some of the lawsuits' allegations, said planting companies often flouted record keeping and wage and overtime laws by counting only the hours workers planted and not the many hours spent loading seedlings and driving to the fields.

The contractors insist that the workers exaggerate their hours. Michael Economopoulos, executive director of the South Eastern Forestry Contractors Association, said, "There are probably abuses out there, as in any industry, but I don't think there are wholesale abuses going on."

For their part, the large corporations being sued argue that they are not responsible for the actions of the contractors. "We do not directly employ these seasonal migrant workers," said Jack Cox, a spokesman for International Paper. "We have contractors who employ these workers."

Federal rules require that tree planters in the H-2B temporary visa program in Arkansas be paid \$8.43 an hour and receive time and a half for every hour worked in a week over 40. But tree planters, called pineros in Spanish, and several foremen here in south-central Arkansas, produced pay records showing that the migrants often made less than \$5 an hour, when they included the time it took to pick up the seedlings and drive to the fields. Even though the workers often worked 60, 70, even 80 hours in a week, they said, overtime was hardly ever paid.

"The office often wrote 40 hours, but many times the pineros worked more than 50," said Miguel Lopez, a foreman for a contractor in Arkansas. Though he praised his current employer, Clay Lowry Forestry, Lopez said that he was convinced that a previous contractor he worked for, F&K Enterprises, underpaid its workers. Lopez made available wage records from F&K showing that no crew member worked more than 40 hours a week, a virtual impossibility, he said, given the nature of the workday.

Kerry Stanley, an owner of F&K, refused to comment. In documents from the class-action lawsuits, F&K executives asserted that many workers exaggerated their hours. They also said they told foremen not to work the planters more than 40 hours a week and acknowledged that they never paid overtime.

The planting companies often recruit their workers by sending foremen to Mexico and running radio commercials there. Though recruiters tell workers that they can make big money, the pineros say, the pay falls far short of expectations.

So does the job itself, workers said. Once they reach the field at daybreak, the pineros fill saddlebags with 800 to 1,000 seedlings. They then strap the bags, which weigh 40 pounds, to their waists and begin planting. Using 3-foot-long metal poles, the workers make thin, 6-inch deep holes in the ground.

They then bend down to place the seedling into the hole, making sure the roots are straight, so that the tree grows properly. The holes need to be eight feet apart. A proficient worker often plants six or more trees per minute.

Lawyers involved in the class-action suits are seeking millions of dollars in back pay from employers they accuse of keeping inaccurate records and of violating wage and overtime laws. Though the contractors employ the workers directly, the suits are against the large corporations that often own the forested land.

The migrants' lawyers contend that the corporations are joint employers, and should be held responsible for any wage violations and back pay.

"This is one of the clearest cases of joint employment I've ever seen," said Gregory Schell, a lawyer with Florida Legal Services. "The forestry companies often own the land. They send their foresters to the fields to make sure the planting is done right. They tell the foremen what to do."

The forestry companies deny responsibility. "In all our contracts with these companies," said Cox of International Paper, "we have provisions that they have to agree to abide by all applicable labor laws."

Gregory Guest, a Georgia-Pacific spokesman, also said the contractors were the planters' employers. When Georgia-Pacific finds contractors do not comply with the law, he said, "we take the appropriate action and that can include terminating the contractor."

One worker staying at the Pine Tree Motel, Francisco, said he feared that he might not even clear \$1,500 for three months' forestry work after expenses. Frustrated, he said he might not return next year.

"Every year they promise us it's going to get better, but it doesn't," he said. "But they know that they can always get new people who don't know what they're getting into."



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## Don't Judge a Book by It's Cover

By Congressman *Ciro D. Rodriguez*

We've heard a lot about improving education lately, and I think there is a growing consensus that we have room for significant improvements. Education reform must be a top national priority. Hopefully, his call for action will spur an otherwise grudging Republican congressional leadership into devoting the attention and resources we need. For the past number of years, many of us in Congress who want to improve opportunities for our children's learning have been advocating changes to reduce class size, strengthen teacher training and quality control, and bring schools up to safe and modern standards.

Any time we speak of federal education policy it is important to remember that most education funding and decisions take place at the local level. That's as it should be. In fact, we need to make sure that teachers and parents work with school officials locally to ensure that our students are learning to the best of their abilities.

The federal government, which contributes less than 10 percent of all education funding, can make a significant difference, however, by providing resources -- money -- that school districts and states don't have for priorities that exist across the nation. Last week, I joined several of my House colleagues in support of new legislation to make dramatic investments in our children's education. Our goal must be to guarantee every child in America a top quality education -- and to expect each child to excel to their fullest abilities. The bill we introduced, the Excellence and Accountability in Education Act, would double current Title I program funds for the most needy students, raise teacher's salaries to a level more worthy of their invaluable contributions to our children's development while strengthening teacher quality accountability, and invest in modernizing the shameful conditions of our antiquated school facilities. Like the Excellence and Accountability in Education Act, any education proposals from the new Administration must include sufficient resources to modernize our infrastructure, give teachers the tools they need to teach and students the resources they need to learn.

## NBC Apologizes to Puerto Rican Community

By *Ruth E. Hernandez Beltran*

The NBC television network announced Thursday it would apologize to the Puerto Rican community in the United States for portraying the Puerto Rican Day Parade negatively in an episode of its "Law and Order" TV series.

The president of NBC's affiliate stations, Jay W. Ireland, agreed with leaders of the Puerto Rican community to sanction those responsible and not to air the episode again.

"The episode (aired Wednesday night) did not show anything positive about our values, or the good that occurred during the parade," National Puerto Rican Coalition President Manuel Mirabal said.

Were you offended by the way Hispanics were portrayed on the show's episode about the Puerto Rican Day parade? Mirabal met with Ireland Thursday afternoon, along with Puerto Rican Legal De-

fense Fund President Juan Figueroa and Puerto Rican Day Parade organizer Maria Roman.

The episode of "Law and Order" re-enacted several incidents that occurred last June during the parade in which a group of youths carrying Puerto Rican flags harassed several women in New York's Central Park.

In the episode, the incidents are coupled with a fictitious drowning in a Central Park lake that was initially attributed to the group of youths.

At the end of the show, a Brazilian that was with the group of Puerto Rican youths is convicted for the murder when the New York police chief says that the murder investigation should focus on the "punks at the parade."

Mirabal told EFE that the Thursday afternoon meeting was productive and that the executives from NBC, which has exclusive rights to cover

the 2001 parade, are "very concerned" about the matter.

The network has insulted the Puerto Rican and Hispanic community and has not lived up to the promise it made two years ago to not air shows with such content when the Puerto Rican community made a similar complaint about NBC's "Seinfeld" television series.

On that occasion, the episode showed Puerto Rican youths during the parade overturning cars, while a main

character in the show inadvertently burned the Puerto Rican flag.

Furthermore, Ireland promised not to air the episode again and to hire Hispanics to work on the series.

The NBC executive also said "today is the last day" of "the person in charge of that department," whom he identified as Roselyn Weinman, Mirabal said.

Two years ago Weinman herself vowed to the National Puerto Rican Coalition not to air such episodes again.

Furthermore, Mirabal told the press that he asked Weinman not to air the show after

watching an advertisement for the episode last week.

"They also agreed to a written agreement to allow us to oversee what they do to hire more Hispanics to the network. There are very few Hispanics in their departments," he said.

Puerto Rican community representatives and NBC officials will meet again next Monday.

"We have yet to discuss a major part of the issue: what are they going to do to repair the damage this show has done to the Puerto Rican community and the parade?" Mirabal asked.



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# La Sexualidad de Los Adolescentes

By: Yhamel Catácora

El color rosa, la seda del vestido, el tul del velo, son típicos aspectos de aquel rito que marca el pasaje, la transición que convierte a una niña latinoamericana en mujer: el día de la quinceañera. Una celebración que no deja de ser interesante y divertida para quien la protagoniza, y emocionante para quien la patrocinadora, por supuesto los padres o padrinos, que a veces echan la casa por la ventana con motivo de la fiesta.

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Una celebración que no deja de ser interesante y divertida para quien la protagoniza, y emocionante para quien la patrocinadora, por supuesto los padres o padrinos, que a veces echan la casa por la ventana con motivo de la fiesta. Pero ¿será que en realidad nos convertimos en mujeres con el vals de esa noche? ¿Será que pasando los 15 tomamos en cuenta el desarrollo emocional, mental y físico que está ocurriendo dentro de cada niña? ¿Está nuestra juventud, en general, preparada para enfrentar ese pasaje sin problemas?

La tasa de embarazos entre adolescentes latinas es casi cuatro veces más elevada que entre las anglosajonas. Aunque existe

un sinfín de factores, no es difícil señalar las tendencias, hábitos y costumbres que nos nutren desde la cuna, como principales responsables. Por increíble que parezca, hay personas que prefieren cubrir el rostro y la sexualidad de sus hijas con el velo de la pureza, el de sus hijos con el rigor machista, al mismo tiempo que se vendan los ojos a la realidad.

En un abrir y cerrar de ojos, el velo de la quinceañera se convierte en velo de novia; eso, si el padre puede o quiere aceptar la responsabilidad que le toca como progenitor. Sin siquiera haber completado la etapa de la adolescencia, sin entender en plenitud la metamorfosis interna y externa que está ocurriendo dentro de sí mismas, muchas jóvenes descubren su sexualidad, tienen sus primeros encuentros sexuales, y súbitamente se convierten en madres, generalmente solteras.

Los patrones que han moldeado nuestra cultura nos vienen diciendo desde antaño que nuestra vida comienza con el matrimonio, con la maternidad, es por eso que pasados los treinta una mujer que no ha contraído matrimonio, que no tiene hijos, no es sólo soltera, sino solterona. Si, es posible que cada joven latina conozca y, tal vez, tema ese término que parece ser el pri-

mero en pasar de generación a generación. Pero ¿será que habíamos con la misma devoción de la paternidad o maternidad precoz, y sobre sus consecuencias negativas?

Lo paradójico es que generalmente la solterona termina sus estudios y porque no tiene que

preocuparse en la manutención de otro ser, tiene la suficiente estabilidad financiera para disfrutar de los placeres de la vida. Sin embargo, ¿cuántas quieren ser solteras?

La mayor parte de nuestra adolescencia recibe su primera lección sexual de parte de la tel-

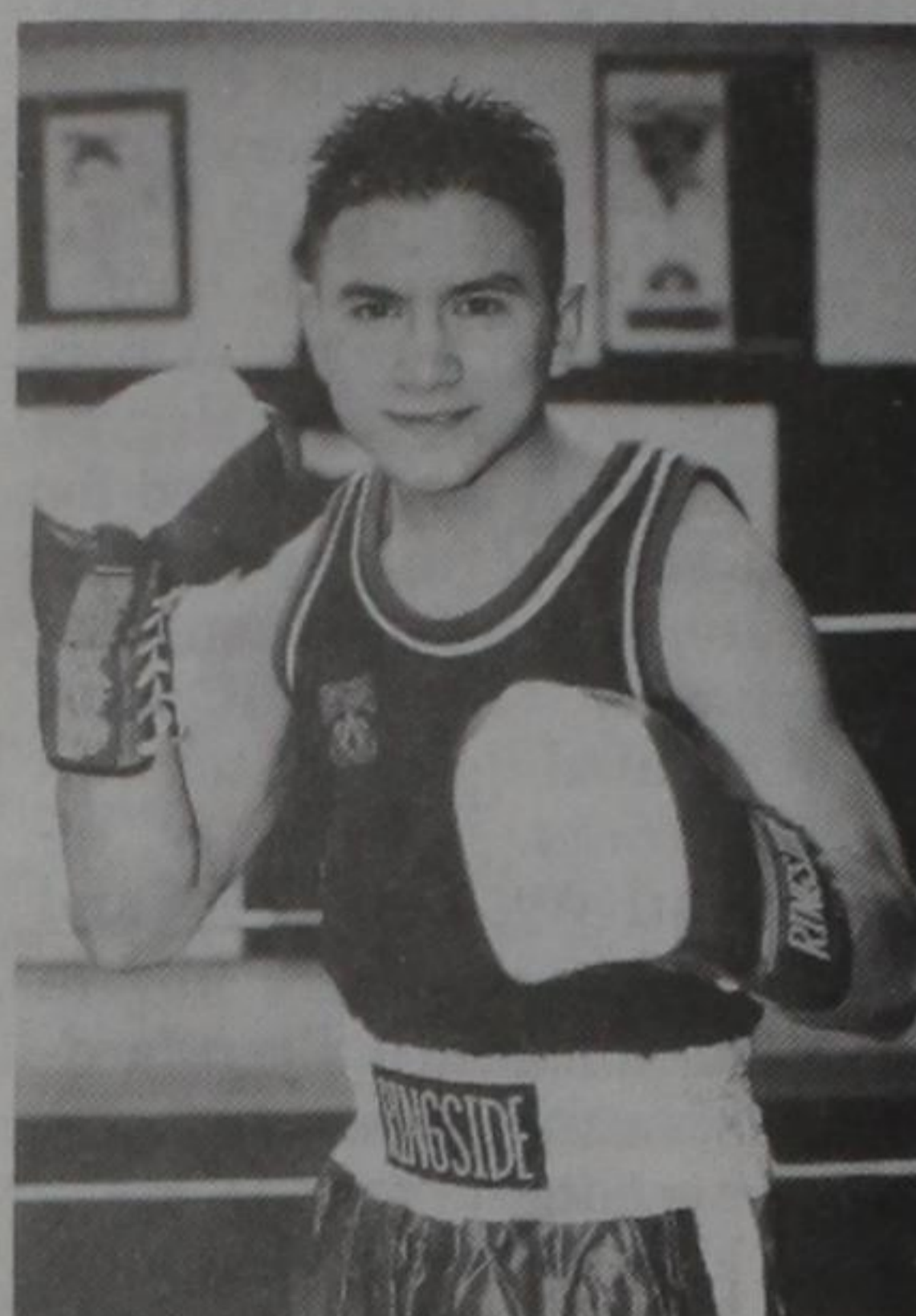
evisión, de sus compañeros de escuela, del ambiente que aunque muchos padres se nieguen a ver, influye en su desarrollo mental y emocional. No es posible criar a un niño o niña dentro de un cristal protector que lo aisle del mundo.

continúa en la página 5

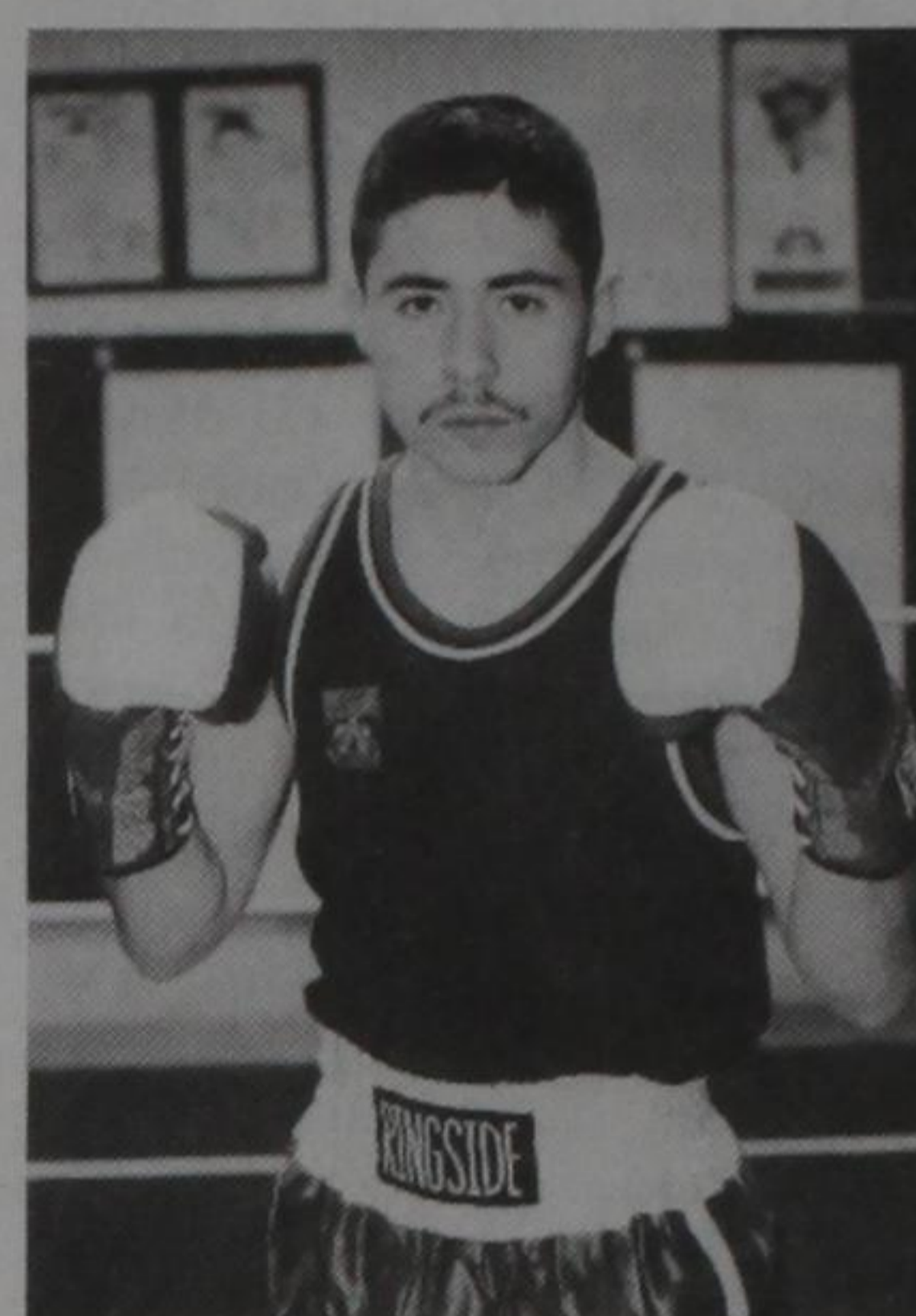
## Lubbock Warriors to Compete this Weekend



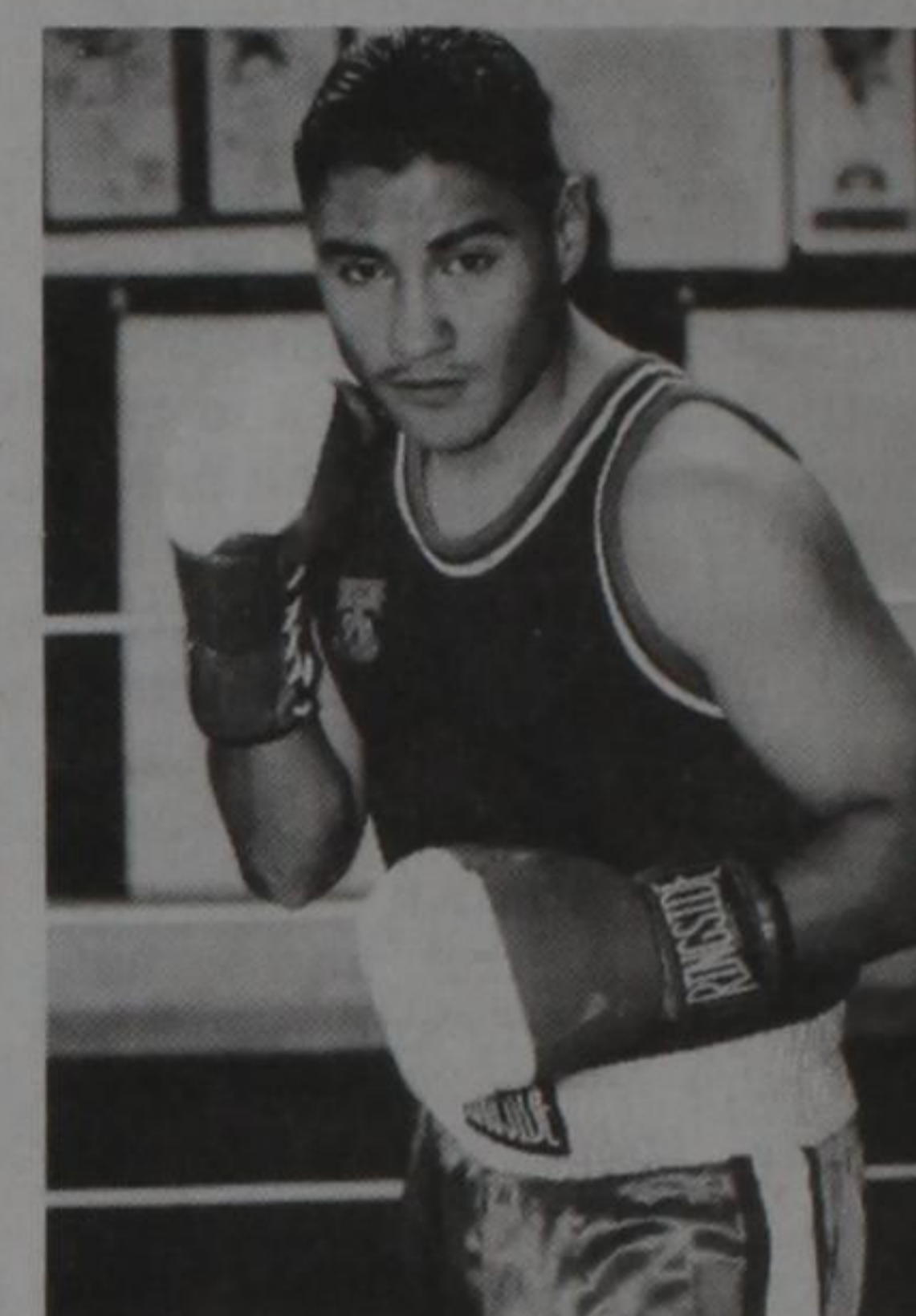
Lubbock Warriors boxing team competing in the 2001 Texas State Regional Golden Gloves Championships this weekend. Back row left to right: Lupe Quesada, Edward Hernandez III, Manuel Valencia, Javier Hernandez, Jeremy Perez, Hector Villarreal, Joseph Rosendo Jr., Farrell Martin. Middle row left to right: Joshua Vasquez, Eric Garcia, Joe Soliz, Matt Price, John Chavirria, Mark Price, Moses Flores, Nicholas Rendon. Front row left to right: Antonio Lara, Dylan Phares, Gabino Ramirez, Zackarey Rodriguez, Joe Ardist.



Javier Hernandez 125 Featherweight. 1999 Texas State TAAF Champion, 2000 Texas State Regional Golden Gloves Champion, 2001 West Texas USA Bosing Champion



Manuel Valencia 132 Lightweight. 1998 Texas State TAAF Champion, 1999 West Texas USA Boxing Champion, 2000 Texas State Regional Golden Gloves Champion

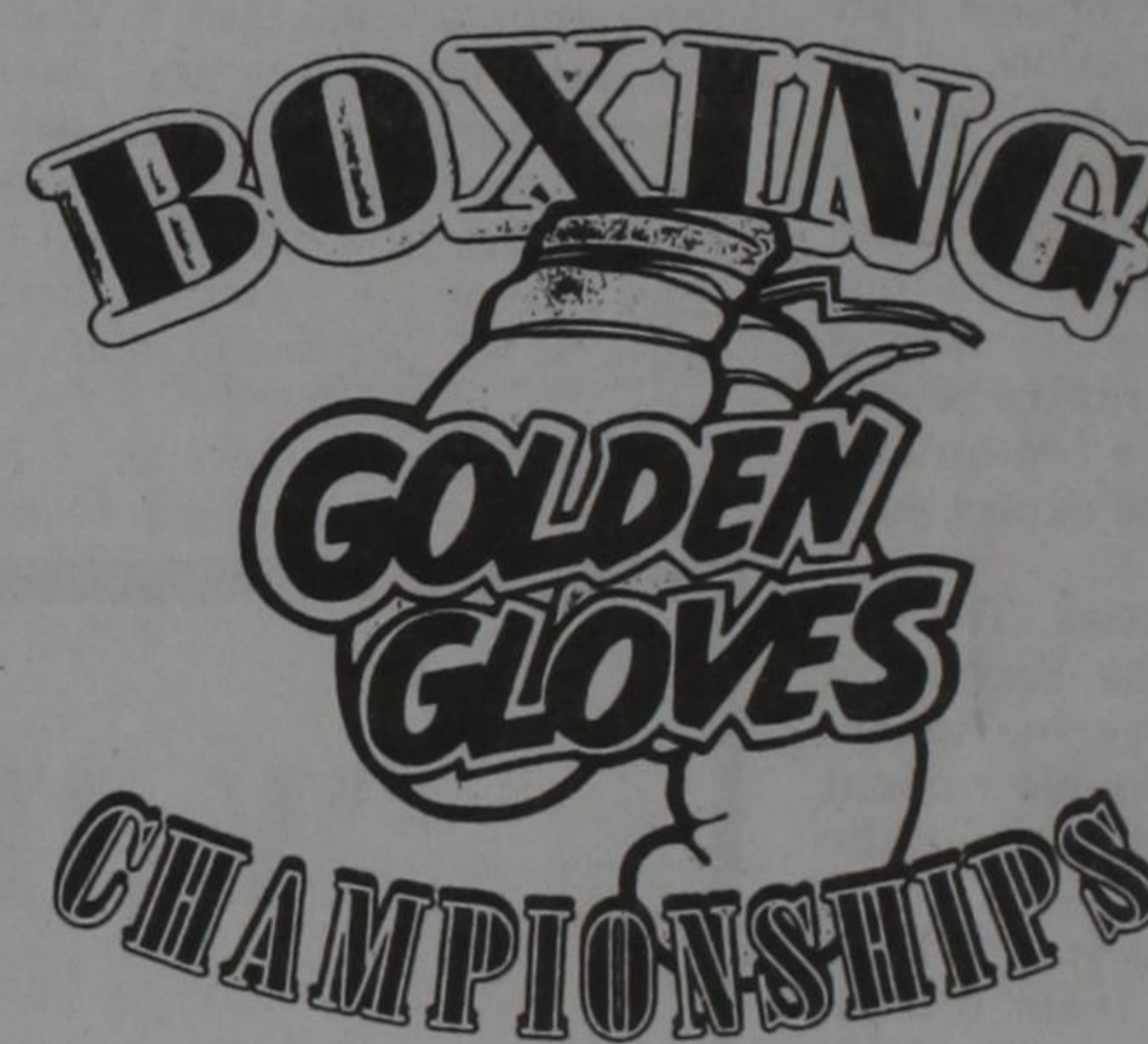


Joseph Rosendo, Jr. 156 Light Middleweight. 1998 Texas State Golden Gloves Champion, 1999 Texas State TAAF Champion, 2000 Texas State Regional Golden Gloves Champion, 2001 Texas State USA Boxing Champion

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# Was That Valentine's Day That Just Went By?

By Victor Landa

Several years ago my grandmother moved out of her huge home and into a more practical apartment. The family spent several days helping her pack. We rolled up our sleeves and piled decades of life into nondescript cardboard boxes.

Every hatbox, every trinket, picture, document and piece of china became a point of departure for journeys into the deepest recesses of memory. There were yellowing pictures of people only my grandmother could name. There were dresses and shoes wrapped in tissue, then wrapped in cloth, stowed at the bottom of her dowry chest, the one that I remember used to stand at the foot of my grandparents' bed.

In some drawer, someone found a card with a narrative written in Spanish, in my grandmother's hand. It was an account of the day my grandfather proposed to her. Not very long, it contained two, maybe three sentences, enough to preserve the moment in pencil and paper. Devoid of much detail, it read something like, "Today Johnny asked me to marry him. I accepted." I think there was a mention of a family meeting.

The other side of that card was a relic of a long-gone era -- a dance card dated in the 1930s. The theme of the dance was printed, and there were numbered lines, all of them blank.

I remember my grandmother holding the card in her hands, sighing deeply and saying, "Things were very different back then." There were very strict rules about how proper young ladies were supposed to act, she told us. Courtship was a very serious and traditional thing.

She recounted that her father owned a tailor shop in downtown San Antonio and that before she married she helped him at the cash register. The shop had a shoeshine chair by the door, in front of the register. "You know, your grandfather had the shiniest shoes in town," she said. "He used to come in every day to get them polished." Then she smiled in a way that meant there was much to be inferred in those words.

Grandpa courted her that way, charm and Shinola. He had to ask for formal permission to

visit her. After that it was her family's job to find out more about their daughter's suitor, what family he came from, what reputation, economic means. The day he asked for her hand in marriage, as custom dictated, he was accompanied by an intercessor, someone who knew both families and could vouch for each. "That's just the way things were done," she told us.

These days courtship and marriage have become an anachronism, much the same as dance cards and chaperons. I read a study recently that showed the percentage of U.S. married couples had declined sharply in the past two decades, and about 50 percent of those marriages end in divorce.

It's no wonder. Romance has become just another commodity. Valentine's Day has become little more than a major retail season. The traditional rituals of courtship have faded. In their place is the nebulous term "hooking up," whatever that means. The term reminds me more of loading cargo or towing a car than it does of the sweet anticipation that Shakespeare described as "this bud of love, by summer's ripening breath, may prove a beautiful flower when next we meet."

Romeo and Juliet "hooked up" in the most tragic of ways, but I can't help but be grateful that in 17th-century England young lovers couldn't buy Hallmark cards at the corner apothecary.

People used to have more time for the fine points of romance. Nowadays we do well to order flowers on-line and pick up a box of chocolates and a card on the way from work. And yet try as we may to kill it, romance manages to survive.

It's a far cry from the formal courtships of long ago. And it makes me wonder whether this Valentine's Day some young woman took up pen and scribbled on the back of a \$4.95 greeting card, "Today, Johnny asked me to hook up."

Years from now, someone may find it at the bottom of a drawer.

(Victor Landa is news director of Telemundo affiliate KVDA-TV60 in San Antonio, Texas.)

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## Plan Para 'Trabajadores Huespedes' Le Trae al Congreso Otro Tema Contencioso

Por Cynthia L. Orosc

La legislación en proyecto para presentarse al Congreso número 107, que otorgará permisos de duración de un año a trabajadores mexicanos en agricultura y otros rubros se está convirtiendo en uno de los temas más contenciosos que se abordará en esta sesión.

El promotor principal de la legislación, senador republicano del estado de Texas, Phil Gramm, ha comunicado a Hispanic Link que cree que su propuesta de "trabajadores huéspedes" se irá refinando hasta ser legislación viable y se presentará en los próximos meses.

Servirá para atenuar en parte la "hipocresía" de lo tanto que depende los Estados Unidos de los trabajadores indocumentados que realizan los trabajos menos deseables, sugiere Gramm. Los cálculos varían tremendamente -- de 3 a 6 millones -- en cuanto al número de trabajadores indocumentados que ahora residen en los Estados Unidos.

Según Gramm, esta legislación que propone les dará protecciones legales estadounidenses a los trabajadores huéspedes, para temas de salario y leyes laborales. Al vencerse las visas de un año, los trabajadores estarán obligados a regresar a México y volver a solicitar otra visa.

Se proyecta que habrá apoyo fuerte de parte de la comunidad de empresarios y negocios rela-

cionados con la agricultura en general, pero que continúa surgiendo oposición a la legislación desde los grupos hispanos y de organizaciones sindicales. Estos grupos perciben que la legislación es igual al fallido acuerdo "bracero" entre los Estados Unidos y México iniciado en 1942 para aliviar la escasez laboral en el sector de agricultura durante la segunda guerra mundial. El programa, que admitió a casi medio millón de trabajadores anuales hasta fines de los años cincuenta, muchos años después que terminara la guerra, fue cancelado finalmente a mediados de los años sesenta.

Los críticos de la propuesta de Gramm dicen que creará una sub-clase de residentes estadounidenses y que ocasionará pargal a la vez que se respetan los derechos y la dignidad de los trabajadores huéspedes. Llamando el programa una bendición para la economía mexicana, Gramm esperaba que Fox abordara la idea, entre otros temas de inmigración, en su reunión el 16 de febrero con el presidente George W. Bush en Guanajuato.

Tal como está diseñado el programa actualmente, la propuesta de Gramm les otorgaría beneficios de cuidados de emergencia y cuentas tipo ahorro de fondos de pensiones a los trabajadores sólo cuando regresaran a México. Su deseo es presentar el proyecto de ley como un programa de asociados que sería adoptado por los dos congresos, en los Estados

Unidos y en México.

Claudia Smith, directora de proyectos de la frontera con la Fundación Californiana de Asistencia Legal Rural, teme que el programa empeore los problemas actuales de inmigración. Añade que sería falso "ofrecer esto como solución a los números enormes de muertes a lo largo de la frontera". No hay ningún programa que pudiera abarcar a todos los que cruzan la frontera de México a los Estados Unidos ni a los que mueren intentando cruzar cada año, dijo.

El representante del Congreso estadounidense, Silvestre Reyes, demócrata del estado de Texas y director del Comité Hispano del Congreso de los Estados Unidos, responde a la premisa de los trabajadores huéspedes que propone Gramm. "Hay tantos huecos en (el programa) que debemos esperar a ver los detalles. Desde la perspectiva del Comité, y desde una perspec-

tiva personal, queremos asegurarnos de que los trabajadores tengan vivienda y seguro de salud, (y que) se aborde el tema de cumplimiento de las provisiones salariales".

Según el representante Reyes, éstos son varios de los temas que afectan de manera crucial a los distritos de la frontera -- incluyendo la infraestructura, la salud y el comercio -- que espera cobren importancia prioritaria para el programa futuro de Bush y Fox. Gramm notó además que ambos presidentes han servido como gobernadores de estados que serán muy afectados, añadiendo que el apoyo enfático de Fox llevaría a mayor apoyo para el proyecto de ley desde sectores allende los negocios relacionados con la agricultura.

(Cynthia L. Orosc es corresponsal con Hispanic Link News Service en Washington D.C. Comuníquese con ella por correo electrónico a: cynthia(AT)SIGNhispaniclink.org)

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### Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Lubbock will hold a public hearing Thursday February 22, 2001 at 11:00 a.m. at City Hall 1625 13th Street in the Council Chambers. This hearing will allow for citizen comments on the following items:

- Reallocation of: \$17,352 in Community Development Block Grant Funds
- \$3,900 in Emergency Shelter Grant funds
- \$2,000 in HOME funds

For further information you may contact the Community Development Department at 775-2301. This hearing is open to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance please contact the Community Development Department at 775-2301, or write to Community Development Department, P.O. Box 2000, Lubbock, Texas 79457, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

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## Your Opinion Matters!

Citibus will hold a public hearing on proposed route changes. These changes include the elimination of Route 10 and Route 15 and changes to Routes 3-4-9, Route 7, Route 11-12, and the addition of the Crosstown Route.

**Tuesday, February 20, 2001**  
**11:00 am and 5:30 pm**  
**Citibus Downtown Transfer Plaza**  
**801 Broadway Ave.**

Public comments will be accepted at the hearing or in writing prior to the hearing until 5:00 p.m. February 19, 2001. Please call or email your comments to Citibus  
 Attn: Melinda Harvey, Director of Service Development, P.O. Box 2000, Lubbock, Texas 79457  
 Phone: 767-2380, ext. 241  
 email: mharvey@citibus.com



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