

# Chavez Denies Illegal Employment

By Rosendo Majano  
Guatemalan Marta Mercado, who arrived in the United States illegally yet managed to attain the "American dream," is now the center of a political scandal, which has become front page news in all major U.S. newspapers, due to her relationship with Labor Secretary-designate Linda Chavez.



After entering the United States with falsified documents, Mercado, who in Guatemala earned \$100 a month in an ice cream factory, on Tuesday told television networks ABC and CNN that when she arrived in Washington, "she had nothing."

forum  
What do you think about Marta Mercado?  
However, an English-speaking friend of hers in neighboring Virginia helped Mercado out by introducing her to Chavez who speaks no Spanish but opened the doors of her home to Mercado.

There, the illegal Guatemalan national lived doing domestic work and taking care of the Chavez children, but "this was not considered employment," although she received infrequent payments of "some \$100 or \$200 a month."  
Marta, 40, legalized her immigrant status in 1996 when she married Ismael Mercado, a U.S. citizen and bus driver in the Washington D.C. metro-

politan area. Mercado met her husband purely by accident one day when she caught the wrong bus.  
Like thousands of Central American immigrants who break U.S. immigration law in search of a better life, Marta Mercado came to Washington in 1991 for economic reasons.  
In the beginning, things were difficult. She had lived through

one of the bedrooms in Chavez's residence - valued at \$500,000 - in the exclusive residential area of Bethesda, Maryland, near the U.S. capital.

Chavez said that the things she did for Mercado were done out of charity.

In the last few hours, the situation has become more complicated for Linda Chavez since Bush's future White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said on Tuesday that the president-elect's advisors are reviewing Chavez's relationship with Mercado.

Fleischer also said that the Bush transition team is awaiting the findings of the ongoing FBI investigation.

According to the Guatemalan woman, she considered the Chavez home a sanctuary, and out of "gratitude" for the money Chavez gave her, she did household tasks and cared for the children.

The labor secretary nominee has said that she knew nothing about Mercado's illegal immigrant status; however, Marta said that Chavez was well aware of her situation. In statements made to the press, Marta Mercado said that Linda paid her over the two-year period that she lived in the Chavez home and even offered to help her legalize her immigrant status.

## News Briefs

### HISPANIC BROADCASTING'S STOCK TAKES A DIP

With Hispanic advertising on a down swing late last year, the Hispanic Broadcasting Corp. like other Hispanic media companies, took a hit on Wall Street.

Once considered unaffected from the ebb and flow of the U.S. economy, niche market companies like Hispanic Broadcasting Corp. and Univision Communications have reported losses in 2000's fiscal fourth quarter due to slowing advertising revenue.

Hispanic Broadcasting's stock has fallen over eleven dollars to close at \$23.88 on Monday's New York Stock Exchange. Univision, whose stock has taken a consistent dip since former CEO Henry Cisneros left Univision in the summer of 2000, dropped \$6.44 to close at \$43.81.

"That niche market was viewed as recession-proof" said Andrew Marcus, an analyst at Deutsche Banc Alex. Brown, to Bloomberg News. "Obviously that view has now changed."

Though advertisers spend in Hispanic media more than ever, advertising money still does not match Hispanic Market spending, according to the Association of Hispanic Advertising Agencies (AHAA). Advertisers still spend only \$1.8 billion in the Hispanic market. Based on the population, advertisers should spend \$20.5 billion annually, say AHAA.

Advertisers also rarely spend much on the Hispanic Internet Market. Many Internet portals catering the U.S. Hispanic Market have felt the pinch of Internet advertising. Yupi.com slashed at least 90 workers from its payroll last month because of a failing bottom line. Latino.com began charging a monthly fee for its content last month because of slowing advertising sales.

The biggest blow has been dealt to another Hispanic Internet portal Quepasa.com. The Miami-based Que Pasa, which spent aggressively on marketing, decided to shut down last month, citing its failure to a tight Internet advertising environment.

### HOUSTON HISPANICS WANT LATINO SUPERINTENDENT

With an acting superintendent in place, the Houston Independent School District will be pressured by Hispanic advocacy groups to appoint a Latino to head the Houston school system.

Six years ago, the selection of Rod Paige, who left less than three weeks ago to head the Department of Education for the Bush administration, was made without feedback from Hispanic leaders, say many.

Now that Kaye Stripling was named acting superintendent and a search for her replacement will take place, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) want a Latino superintendent, so much so that they plan to organize an independent search committee and consult legal help if needed.

"We can't let our guard down," LULAC spokesman Johnny Mata said to the Houston Chronicle. "This is a long-haul process. We're doing everything to accomplish our mission for the Hispanic community."

### LAURA BUSH APPOINTS NOELIA RODRIGUEZ

The future first lady of the United States, Laura Bush, today announced the appointment of Noelia Rodriguez as her press secretary.

Rodriguez was president of the host committee for the Democratic Party's Los Angeles convention last year and was a former press secretary and deputy to Los Angeles' GOP Mayor Richard Riordan.

forum  
Do you think that Noelia Rodriguez will be an excellent spokesperson for the First Lady Laura Bush?

In 1999, she received the "Spirit" award from HOPE (the Hispanic Organization for Political Equality).

Laura Bush also appointed Andrea Ball, her current chief of staff in Texas, to the corresponding position in the White House, and Catherine Fenton to social secretary.

### RACIAL PROFILING STUDIES TAKING PLACE ALL OVER

St. Paul, Minnesota Police Chief William Finney said Tuesday that he believes that racial profiling is not going on, though an in-house report shows that Blacks and Latinos are disproportionately stopped.

From St. Paul to Los Angeles to the the highways of New Jersey, in-house police investigations and outside studies are trying to report whether or not racial profiling exists in local policing.

In the internal St. Paul, Minnesota study, the local department discovered that Blacks and Hispanics are six times as likely to be frisked than whites. Still, Chief William Finney insisted that the department does not profile, but instead he said the department simply needs fine-tuning.

The New Jersey State Attorney General's office also has released a report that shows 40 percent of highway motorists stopped from May 1 to Oct. 31 of 2000 were black, Hispanic or of another minority group, up slightly from a previous study.

But minorities accounted for 60 percent of turnpike arrests, according to sources from the Newark Star-Ledger.

Philadelphia's local NAACP, the Police Barrio Relations Project and others have been involved in a pending class action suit questioning the police department's internal study that, these organizations say, reveal racial profiling tendencies. In the Philadelphia study, only vehicle stops of Blacks were documented.

In other cities like Los Angeles, internal studies are only now taking place. On Wednesday, the Los Angeles Times reported that L.A. County Sheriff Lee Baca has voluntarily begun to keep statistics on the ethnic breakdown of traffic stops. L.A. City Police Chief Bernard C. Parks will now be required to keep such statistics in the wake of the LAPD's Rampart corruption scandal.

At one time, both of these top cops opposed keeping such statistics.

"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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## Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero  
It hasn't been since the late 1980's that I as an individual have taken an active role in urging change in the Lubbock Independent School District. After LISD had fought Brown vs. Board of Education (1954) for many years in an effort to bring minorities in Lubbock and equal education using the lame excuse of the "separate but equal" argument.

I, along with others in the minority community, decided to once again challenge LISD to give us representation at the school board level and to allow us to elect our own representative that would in our opinion work toward truly achieving equal access to education that was supposed to be available to all but was denied by countless other decisions made by an unfair, unrepresentative and perhaps racist Board that would always manage to elect the majority of Board members through an at-large system that denied us everything from better school buildings to enough detergent to clean our schools or repair broken windows.

Although our victory was only partial in that now 5 of the 7 representatives on the board are elected from different neighborhoods, two members are still elected at-large and continue to vote against many of our needs.

Linda DeLeon and Joan Irwin, our first elected representatives, worked together to achieve a priority that should always be kept in mind - of providing the best education for our children be they white, black, brown, yellow or red.

As we look back and at recent decisions made by the board, perhaps it again time to openly test the LISD through the courts to elect all members from different neighborhoods using the one man one vote system.

sessing a masters degree in education from the University of Wisconsin.  
As we now consider the fate of Mahon (formerly Avenue U elementary school) - and what I would consider my alma mater even more than Texas Tech - I want to offer some comments on issues that first of all are felt very deeply within my heart and issues which I feel will affect a neighborhood to the point of deciding its fate: whether it will be life and progress or death.

After attending North Avenue U, my family and I resided in a barrio or neighborhood affectionately called "el Barrio Nuevo". For 25 years my father, mother, 2 sisters, 2 brothers and myself nailed boards, did plumbing, fixed roofs and converted dirt floors to cement floors to provide all of us a place to live, to call our house "our casita", a word that cannot be translated adequately by today's materialist society. For 25 years my family paid money to a man called "Chapman" who after those 25 years told us we owed an amount that was even higher than the original cost of our 'casita'. We never received a deed to the land or house or an explanation of how or why this was possible.

So you might ask why I am talking about this now? Today the LISD Board will consider re-opening the North Ave U School now called Mahon - which is named after the great statesman that for countless years dedicated his life toward the betterment of everyone's education, everyone's farms and just about every aspect of life in West Texas.

Recently the organization called Habitat for Humanity, realizing the beauty and potential of El Barrio Nuevo - now part of the Canyon Lakes project - decided to build 20 new houses for low and middle income families in that area. This thriving neighborhood now stands as a symbol of our community's unity and determination to make all of Lubbock a better place to live. It is my understanding that the Guadalupe Economic Development Corp. is developing plans to provide more loans so that people can rebuild and repopulate, "el barrio nuevo". Señores of the School Board, as representatives of our com-

## Trejo Learning Lab



A grand opening was conducted on Monday at the Maggie Trejo Supercenter which is located on Amherst & Gary Avenue. The purpose of the grand opening was to introduce the learning lab that has been set up at the center. Enrollment for January classes are being accepted at this time. These classes are pri-

marily for youth (PK through junior high school) that live within a 2 mile radius of the Maggie Trejo Supercenter. Such training will include the use of internet, basic keyboarding and other computer programs.

There is no charge for these classes. For more information contact Olivia Solis at 767-2705.

## Double-Edged Sword of Chavez's Withdrawal

Though disappointed to see Chavez forced out because of a seemingly sympathetic act, Latino civil rights groups seem happy to see her go -- though these groups hope the reason she withdrew does not flame anti-immigrant sentiment.

"We were pleased to see that Chavez withdrew her nomination," said Oscar Sanchez, the executive director of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, one of several labor groups that expressed opposition to her nomination. "And not because of that she

community, you now have the opportunity to revitalize "el barrio nuevo" by re-opening Mahon Elementary and also have an opportunity to break the rhythm established by other representative to do what might be called, "go west Lubbockites", (should we say southwest?). The reasons for this unfavorable attitude of building in southwest Lubbock is probably due to the wishes of developers, bankers and subur-

ban school districts that failed to consider the needs of powerless minority neighborhoods. As a community newspaper and as an organization which has continued to be concerned for low income people and minorities, we would urge our school board members to vote in favor of making North Avenue U - Mahon a Pre-Kindergarten school. The progress and development of this neighborhood would be significantly helped.

### NFC Championship



Minnesota at N.Y. Giants  
11:30 a.m., Sunday  
Radio: KKAM-AM (1340)  
TV: FOX (channel 34; Cox cable 10)

### AFC Championship



Baltimore at Oakland  
3 p.m., Sunday  
Radio: KKAM-AM (1340)  
TV: CBS (channel 13; Cox cable 7)

# The Barrio Door Is Open, But Will the GOP Walk In?

By Tim Chávez

Days before the general election, U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.) gave the cheering GOP crowd what it wanted.

Just back on Tennessee soil from Washington, Thompson told the throng that President Clinton and the Democrats were trying to pass legislation that would let all those "illegal aliens" stay in the country. He promised that he and the GOP were not going to let this happen.

The crowd cheered lustily. Immigration, legal or otherwise, gets the juices of the Republican faithful going. And the fear-heightening face of immigration is that of people who look like me, my parents and my grandparents.

But the great irony from the election is that the same face now holds the best, new hope for the GOP in the wake of its race relations disaster with African Americans over Florida voting irregularities. Nine of every 10 African Americans voted for Democrat Al Gore. And almost seven of 10 blacks surveyed later said they felt cheated by George W. Bush's victory.

Yet more than a third of Hispanic Americans voted for Bush. Exit polls cited by The New York Times, The Washington Post and ABC News put Bush's share of Hispanic voters somewhere between 33 percent and 38 percent. Four years ago, Bob Dole took 21 percent of that vote.

Bush's share might have been even larger if not for GOP

opposition in Congress to the Democrat-crafted Latino and immigrant Fairness Act. A compromise bill, passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton on Dec. 15, has helped clear the path for some 400,000 refugees and others of uncertain status -- less than half the number proposed in LIFA -- to become legal residents.)

But here's the most important statistic:

The Hispanic share of the national electorate, as reported by the National Council of La Raza, rose from 5 percent in 1998 to 7 percent in 2000. That share should reach 10 percent in 2004. And by then, U.S. Hispanics, who now number 36 million, will probably have surpassed African Americans as the nation's largest non-white racial or ethnic group.

The 2000 election showed that Hispanics still are more likely to choose candidates based on their positions on issues rather than party affiliation, La Raza said.

But in choosing his core Cabinet, Bush started off in the wrong direction. The high-profile negative views on affirmative action, immigration, bilingual education and civil rights expressed by the lone Mexican American he nominated -- Linda Chávez as Secretary of Labor -- caused La Raza president Raúl Yzaguirre to comment instantly, "On virtually every policy issue of the day, her views are out of step with

those of the vast majority of Hispanic Americans." Chávez once headed U.S. English, the nation's premier English-only advocacy organization.

The disclosure that Chávez had allowed an undocumented immigrant to live and work in her home early in the '90s forced her to withdraw herself from consideration as Secretary of Labor. It created an embarrassment for Bush and the GOP not only among Hispanics, but with the general population as well.

But the fact remains that the issue that can give Bush extra clout in the barrio is education. Hispanic families revolve around the value of securing a better life for their children. The most ready way to achieve it is through an appropriate and fair education. But such an education is not available to immigrant children here in Nashville, where I work or in nearly all other large U.S. cities.

Democrats have bent over backward for the African-American agenda. But they have been most unwilling to budge for us. They see African-American anger over Florida as their way to win back Congress in 2002.

Yet our Hispanic children suffer the highest high-school dropout rate for any race or ethnicity. They do the worst in math and science testing, so they're eliminated from futures in higher-paying jobs. Because of little education and, for many, a lack of Eng-

lish proficiency, our families earn the least. Parents are more reticent to bring their concerns to educators. So our children are more easily neglected.

Ultimately, unaddressed wrongs become unbearable. Hispanics in California recently sued the state for the abysmal conditions of their children's schools. Here in Nashville, attorney Mario Ramos says his task force on the English-language education of immigrant children is weighing whether to sue the metro school district for gross inequities. This injustice is ongoing in a city where Gore's campaign headquarters was located and the mayor was a member of the Democratic Party's national platform committee.

During the debates, Gore boasted that Hispanic employment is at an all-time high. Yet our hopes -- through education -- remain dismally low.

More of Bush's sensitivity to such issues and less of Thompson's rhetoric will grab an even greater share of the Hispanic electorate for the GOP the next time at the polls. And Democrats will be left grasping for more to run on than African-American anger.

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## LAS "FRONTERAS ABIERTAS" DE FOX MERECE MAS QUE MENTES CERRADAS

Por Raymond Rodríguez

Nada que el Presidente de México haya dicho o hecho ha provocado tanta controversia como su declaración de "fronteras abiertas." En muchos círculos se le ve con alarma u hostilidad abierta. En las mentes de algunas personas, conjura imágenes de hordas de mexicanos atravesando arrasadoramente nuestra frontera meridional. Esto agrega al temor a lo largo de los estados fronterizos sobre la mexicanización de los Estados Unidos.

Otros la ven como una reconquista silenciosa de las tierras cedidas a los Estados Unidos en 1848, después de la Guerra entre México y los Estados Unidos.

Tales creencias xenofóbicas son infundadas. Los que las abrazan lo hacen por ignorancia o con la intención de provocar temor e incitar al odio. El atacar a los mexicanos está rara vez muy por debajo de la superficie, a pesar de las protestas de amistad y respeto mutuo.

Lo que el Presidente Fox está proponiendo es conceder a las personas los mismos derechos de que disfruta el comercio. Su propuesta me recuerda de cuando se podía embarcar cerdos a través de los Estados Unidos sin tener que cambiar de trenes, mientras que los pasajeros tenían que cambiar de trenes en Chicago. Aquella situación fué alterada cuando llegó a la atención del público. Las personas deben disfrutar de los mismos privilegios que se conceden al comercio.

El Presidente Fox cree que si el comercio puede ser reglamentado por un tratado para beneficiar al comercio, como es el caso de NAFTA, entonces la mano de obra debería disfrutar de los mismos beneficios. Si uno juzga sus observaciones sobre esa base, es difícil ponerle defectos o discordar de su premisa. Los derechos y el bienestar de los seres humanos deben ser una preocupación de primera clase en las decisiones gubernamentales.

El Presidente Fox espera poner ese concepto en la mesa de las negociaciones a la consideración del Canadá, los Estados Unidos y México. Si ellos pueden concordar sobre un conjunto de disposiciones sobre libre comercio, ¿por qué no pueden concordar sobre el derecho de los trabajadores a disfrutar de las recompensas de su trabajo? Esa es una pregunta que suplica una respuesta, y una que necesita ser resuelta de manera sagaz, pero con velocidad premeditada.

Ninguna persona razonable argumentará con el concepto de que todas las naciones soberanas tienen el derecho a controlar sus fronteras y a decidir a quién se le permitirá residir dentro de ellas. Debido a su lindero con Guatemala, México está bien al tanto de la importancia de este concepto fundamental del nacionalismo y lo emplea estrictamente. En otro ejemplo histórico, una razón por la que México no objetó más enérgicamente cuando los mexicanos fueron repatriados durante el decenio de 1930, fué porque estaba repatriando a millares de ciudadanos chinos.

No, las observaciones de Fox sobre "fronteras abiertas" no vislumbran una abdicación de soberanía ni la avalancha de hordas impresionantes inundando la frontera. En verdad, su concepto no es nada más que la resurrección de una idea propuesta por el gobierno mexicano hace más de setenta años, para establecer un sistema a fin de controlar mutuamente a la corriente de emigrantes a los Estados Unidos. Las firmas comerciales estadounidenses cabildaron al Congreso con éxito para que rechazara cualquier tentativa de interferir con la corriente de su fuente de mano de obra barata desde México.

Ese punto de vista miope y egoísta ha sido el veneno de nuestra existencia, a medida que los Estados Unidos han procurado tener su pastel y comérselo también. El tener un suministro no reglamentado de trabajadores no protegidos por controles o normas impuestas por el gobierno permite que los empleadores faltos de escrúpulos exploten a los recién llegados ilegales o indocumentados. Cualesquiera intentos de establecer controles, o gestiones de sindicalización destinadas a beneficiar a los trabajadores resultan en amenazas por parte de los empleadores para cerrar sus negocios o relocalizarse en otras partes.

Lo que está proponiendo el Presidente Fox para que se considere y desarrolle es un plan que reglamente a la corriente de trabajadores, asegure su seguridad y bienestar y proporcione una compensación justa por un día de trabajo. La nivelación del campo del empleo disminuirá la atracción para las firmas estadounidenses de relocalizarse en México a fin de aprovecharse de los jornales bajos. Y con el tiempo disminuirá también la necesidad de que los trabajadores mexicanos emigren.

Compárese la idea de Fox con la reacción arbitraria del INS, que está proponiendo construir una segunda cerca a lo largo del corredor de Tijuana, a 150 pies de la primera. La idea es tan indecente que hasta los residentes de la comunidad fronteriza de Imperial Beach están pidiendo al INS que reconsidere la ubicación de la cerca de diez pies de altura. Con toda sinceridad, una segunda cerca, o aún una tercera, no solucionarán el problema de la inmigración ilegal.

Creo que la idea visionaria de Fox será llevada a la práctica a su debido tiempo. A medida que nuestra sociedad envejece, se necesitarán más trabajadores que los producidos por los Estados Unidos y aumentará nuestra dependencia sobre la mano de obra extranjera. Puesto que ya estamos importando a científicos, trabajadores técnicos y maestros, es hora de enfocar el problema de cómo controlar a la mano de obra inmigrante para beneficio mutuo de todas las partes involucradas.

*(Raymond Rodríguez, catedrático universitario jubilado que vive en Long Beach, California, es autor de la obra titulada "Decade of Betrayal" ("Decenio de Traición"), (Prensa de la Universidad de Nuevo México) el recuento de la repatriación de un millón de mexicanos desde los Estados Unidos durante la Gran Depresión. Es posible comunicarse con él por el indicativo de correo electrónico rayrodriguez@ATSIGN@earthlink.com.)*

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## La Puerta Del Barrio Esta Abierta, Pero ¿Entrara El Partido Republicano?

Por Tim Chávez

Días antes de las elecciones generales, el Senador Federal Fred Thompson (repblicano por Tennessee) dió a la multitud republicana que lo vitor-eaba lo que la misma quería.

Acabado de regresar al territorio de Tennessee desde Washington, Thompson dijo a la multitud que el Presidente Clinton y los demócratas estaban tratando de promulgar legislación que permitiría a todos esos "extranjeros ilegales" permanecer en este país. El prometió que él y el Partido Republicano no iban a permitir que eso sucediera.

La multitud vitoreó vigorosamente.

La inmigración, legal o de otro modo, hace que los jugos de los republicanos fieles empiecen a fluir. Y la cara de la inmigración que eleva el temor es la de personas que lucen como yo, como mis padres y como mis abuelos.

Pero la gran ironía de las elecciones es que la misma cara sostiene ahora la esperanza mejor y nueva para el Partido Republicano, en la estela de su desastre de relaciones raciales con los afroamericanos por las irregularidades electorales de la Florida. Nueve de cada 10 afroamericanos votaron por el demócrata Al Gore. Y casi siete de cada 10 afroamericanos entrevistados dijeron que se sentían engañados por la victoria de George W. Bush.

Empero, más de la tercera parte de los hispano-americanos votaron por Bush. Las encuestas de salida mencionadas por el New York Times, el Washington Post y la ABC News situaron a la proporción de Bush de los electores hispanos en algún punto entre el 33 por ciento y el 38 por ciento. Hace cuatro años, Bob Dole recibió el 21 por ciento de esos votos.

La proporción de Bush podría haber sido aún mayor de no haber sido por la oposición del Partido Republicano en el Congreso a la Ley de Equidad para los Latinos e Inmigrantes (LIFA en inglés), preparada por los demócratas. (Un proyecto de ley de compromiso, aprobado por el Congreso y promulgado por el Presidente Clinton el 15 de Diciembre, ha ayudado a despejar el camino para cerca de 400,000 refugiados y otras personas con situación incierta -- menos de la mitad de la cantidad propuesta en LIFA -- para que lleguen a ser residentes legales.)

Pero he aquí la estadística más importante:

La proporción hispana del electorado nacional, según lo ha informado el Consejo Nacional de La Raza, aumentó desde el 5% en 1998 hasta el 7 por ciento en el año 2000. Esa proporción podría llegar al 10 por ciento en el 2004. Y para entonces, los hispanos estadounidenses, que ascienden ahora a 36 millones, habrán sobrepasado probablemente a los afroamericanos como el mayor grupo racial o étnico no blanco de la nación.

Las elecciones del 2000 mostraron que los hispanos tienen aún mayores probabilidades de seleccionar a candidatos basándose en sus posturas sobre los asuntos antes que sobre la afiliación partidarista, dijo La Raza.

Pero al seleccionar su gabinete central, Bush empezó en la dirección equivocada. Los puntos de vista de alto perfil sobre acción afirmativa, inmigración, enseñanza bilingüe y derechos civiles de la única méxicoamericana a quien él postuló -- (Linda Chávez para Secretaria del Trabajo -- ocasionó que el presidente de La Raza, Raúl Yzaguirre, comentara instantáneamente: "Sobre casi todos los asuntos de cursos de acción

virtualmente, sus puntos de vista están fuera de paso con los de la inmensa mayoría de los hispano-americanos." Ella dirigió una vez a "U.S. English," la principal organización nacional en defensa del "inglés solamente".

La revelación de que Chávez había permitido que una extranjera indocumentada viviera y trabajara en su casa a principios del decenio de 1990, la obligó a retirarse de la consideración para la plaza de Secretaria del Trabajo. Eso creó un bochorno para Bush y el Partido Republicano, no sólo entre los hispanos, sino en la población en general también.

Pero permanece el hecho de que el asunto que puede dar a Bush influencia adicional en el barrio es la enseñanza. Las familias hispanas giran alrededor del valor de asegurar una vida mejor para sus hijos. El modo más rápido de llegar a alcanzarla es mediante una instrucción adecuada y justa.

Pero esa instrucción no está disponible para los niños inmigrantes aquí en Nashville, donde yo trabajo, ni en casi todas las demás ciudades grandes de los Estados Unidos.

Los demócratas se han esforzado considerablemente en favor del programa de trabajo afroamericano. Pero se han mostrado extremadamente indispuestos a hacer lo mismo por nosotros. Ellos ven al enojo de los afroamericanos por el problema de la Florida como su camino para recuperar el control del Congreso en las elecciones parciales del año 2002.

Sin embargo, los niños hispanos sufren de la tasa más alta de abandono de los estudios para cada grupo racial o étnico. Les va muy mal en los exámenes de matemáticas y ciencias, de modo que se ven eliminados de los futuros en olazas con sueldos elevados.

Debido a su poca instrucción y, para muchos, a la falta de dominio del inglés, nuestras familias ganan lo menos. Los padres y las madres son más renuentes a llevar sus preocupaciones a los maestros. De modo que a nuestros niños se les descuida más fácilmente.

Por último, los perjuicios no enfocados llegan a ser intolerables. Los hispanos de California demandaron recientemente al estado por las circunstancias lamentables de las escuelas de sus hijos. Aquí en Nashville, el abogado Mario Ramos dice que su fuerza de trabajo sobre la enseñanza en inglés a los niños inmigrantes está sopesando si demanda al distrito escolar metropolitano por desigualdades considerables. Esta injusticia es continua en una ciudad donde estaban situadas las oficinas principales de campaña de Gore, y el alcalde era miembro del comité nacional de plataforma del Partido Demócrata.

Durante los debates, Gore se jactó de que la tasa de empleo de los hispanos se halla en un punto alto para todos los tiempos. Sin embargo, nuestras esperanzas -- mediante la instrucción -- continúan siendo desastrosamente bajas.

Una cantidad mayor de sensibilidad por parte de Bush para dichos asuntos y menos retórica por parte de Thompson, lograrán una proporción aún mayor del electorado hispano para el Partido Republicano en la próxima oportunidad electoral. Y los demócratas se quedarán esperando por más asuntos que mencionar que el enojo de los afroamericanos.

*Tim Chávez es columnista de The Tennessean en Nashville, Tennessee. Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en el año 2001. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate International.*

## Fox's "Open Borders" Deserve More Than Closed Minds

By Raymond Rodríguez

Nothing Mexican President Vicente Fox has said or done has aroused as much controversy as his "open borders" statement. In many quarters, it is viewed with alarm or outright hostility. In the minds of some people, it conjures up images of hordes of Mexicans sweeping across our southern border. This adds to the fear along the border states of the Mexicanization of the United States.

Others view it as a silent re-

conquest of the lands ceded to the United States in 1848, after the Mexican American War.

Such xenophobic beliefs are unfounded. Those who espouse them do so either out of ignorance or with the intent to arouse fear and incite hatred. Mexican bashing is seldom far below the surface, in spite of professions of amity and mutual respect.

What President Fox is espousing is granting people the same rights enjoyed by commerce. His proposal reminds

me of the time when hogs could be shipped across the United States without having to change trains, while passengers had to change trains in Chicago. That situation was altered when it came to the public's attention. People should enjoy the same privileges accorded to commerce.

President Fox believes that if commerce can be regulated by treaty to benefit trade, as is the case with NAFTA, then labor ought to enjoy the same benefits. If one judges his remarks on that basis, it is diffi-

cult to taut or disagree with his premise. The rights and well-being of human beings should be a prime concern in governmental decisions.

President Fox hopes to put that concept on the negotiating table for consideration by Canada, the United States and Mexico. If they can agree on a free-trade compact, why can't they agree on the right of workers to enjoy the rewards of their labor? That is a question that begs an answer, and one that needs to be resolved in a sagacious manner, but

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with deliberate speed. No reasonable person will argue with the concept that all sovereign nations have the right to control their borders and decide who will be allowed to reside therein. Due to its abutment with Guatemala, Mexico is well aware of the importance of this basic concept of nationalism and employs it stringently. In another historical example, one reason Mexico did not object more strenuously when Mexicans were repatriated during the 1930s that it was repatriating

continued on page 6

# Puerto Rico's First Woman Governor Promises Reform

By Juan González

The first female governor in Puerto Rico's history pledges to reduce sharply her island's 60 percent poverty rate and to clean up its government.

Speaking with me in New York City on the eve of her Jan. 2 inauguration, Sila María Calderón said she's committed to restoring confidence in government following years of corruption scandals that have rocked the island.

"We Puerto Ricans are not like this," the 58-year-old outgoing mayor of San Juan said of the scandals that led in recent years to the jailing of several top politicians from the opposition New Progressive Party -- for money-laundering, fraud and theft of federal housing and AIDS funds. Public furor over the scandals was a major reason why Calderón's Popular Democratic Party swept to power. It captured the governor's mansion, a majority in both houses of

the legislature and most of the island's mayoralties.

"My government will be clean, honest and straight," she added.

To underscore the claim, she has appointed an independent commission to ferret out further corruption and has named David Noriega, the muckraking leader in Puerto Rico's tiny pro-independence party, to head it.

Her administration is sure to bring a major change for the island's 3.8 million residents after eight years under Pedro Rosselló, the acid-tongued pro-statehood governor who seemed to thrive on confrontation.

Rosselló, who did not seek reelection, spearheaded a privatization policy that angered the island's powerful trade unions. It included the sale of the government-owned telephone company, as well as numerous hotels, clinics and hospitals

He also incurred the wrath of the Puerto Rican press by regularly blasting its coverage of him and by withdrawing government advertising from media companies that criticized him.

"We will keep the good reforms (Rosselló) did," Calderón said, "but we'll have to review others."

If any woman is capable of overcoming the island's legendary machismo culture, it is Calderón, who is a Manhattanville College graduate, a veteran of prior Popular Democratic Party administrations and a one-time banker.

She says she is determined to make her campaign against Puerto Rico's intractable poverty rate a hallmark of her governorship.

As mayor of San Juan, she won high marks for targeting 53 pockets of poverty in the metropolitan area, then building alliances between her government and local community organizations to improve conditions.

"I will be expanding the same concept to the whole island," she said. "And I've already identified 426 poor communities that will be getting special attention."

She has also promised to build 50,000 housing units and to end the island's chronic shortage of school textbooks.

The other issue that won Calderón big support from voters was her strong stand against the U.S. Navy's use of the small Puerto Rican island of Vieques for target practice and war games.

Her first test on this one may come as early as Jan. 22, when the Pentagon is scheduled to resume military exercises on the island. Under an agreement President Clinton reached with Rosselló in February, the Navy has scheduled a referendum for the residents of Vieques in November to decide the future of the training range. If residents vote against it, the Navy will leave by 2003.

But Calderón and most Puerto Rican leaders don't want to

wait that long. She is threatening to schedule her own referendum sooner and wants all Navy use of Vieques to end immediately. She has also threatened to remove Puerto Rico's riot police from security duty around the base, where they have arrested hundreds of anti-Navy protesters in recent months.

With President-elect George W. Bush's inauguration looming, Calderón was asked if she expected any better treatment from a Republican White House than she got from the Clinton administration.

"I have full confidence that they'll treat us with dignity and respect," she said. "But my stand on Vieques is firm." *Juan González is a columnist with the New York Daily News and author of "Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America" (Viking, 2000)(c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate International.*

# Chaos In Wake of Escape May Have Helped 7 Flee

By Lisa Sandberg

Seven inmates still were on state property -- and could be seen from a tower fleeing in a prison vehicle -- when Connally Unit officials realized there'd been an escape, according to several people familiar with the Dec. 13 breakout. More coverage

Connally Unit escapees in the ensuing confusion at the prison three miles from Kenedy, 10 minutes may have elapsed before Karnes County sheriff's officials were alerted of the armed inmates' escape.

To make matters worse, as the fugitives turned onto U.S.

181 toward Kenedy, they passed two unsuspecting correctional officers who were returning to the unit with a group of inmates on a work assignment, said those familiar with the case, including a correctional officer who was on duty at the time of the escape.

The fugitives might have been nabbed once they reached the Wal-Mart in Kenedy, where they ditched their vehicle, but the Karnes County Sheriff's Department had received reports that the stolen pickup was seen near the town of Pawnee and dispatched units 15 miles to the southwest.

"We were missing (the inmates) within a matter of minutes," Karnes County Sheriff Robert R. Mutz said Tuesday. "Everything was in their favor that day. It's very frustrating."

Mutz can't recall exactly

## From Page One

was first published. Chavez made strong claims in opposition to bilingual education and affirmative action programs. In her syndicated columns, Chavez has continued her conservative arguments against programs and policies many Hispanics tend to support.

Still, her claim that she helped an illegal immigrant with a home and some money worries Latino civil rights groups that such an action would be deemed politically unacceptable.

"Despite our many public policy disagreements with Ms. Chavez, we have to agree with her statements [Tuesday] that the role the media played in highlighting this particular aspect of her life was distracting and unfortunate," said NCLR President Raul Yzaguirre through a written statement.

"We hope that we will soon see the day in which an association with an undocumented immigrant is regarded for what it is -- a common occurrence in a country whose immigration laws are often unnecessarily harsh and inhu-

mane."

Yzaguirre went on to say that her stances on the issues were of much more concern to Latinos than an "ambiguous incident" in her life.

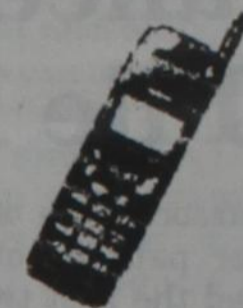
Still, Sanchez argues that Chavez did not withdraw because she simply housed a woman that did not have a green card.

"What got her in trouble was because she lied and she tried to get others to cover up a lie," said Sanchez, referring to Chavez's claims that she did not know Mercado was an illegal immigrant, though she admitted Tuesday that she probably "already knew" of Mercado's legal status before she began living with Chavez. Reports also say that she told the FBI the same lie and told a neighbor to keep quiet about Mercado's work around Chavez's home.

"If she were up front with it, I don't think that, in itself, would have gotten her in trouble," argued Sanchez.

Still, Chavez stated in her Tuesday press conference that she was a victim of the "politics of self-destruction."

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## Covenant Labs Earn Accreditation With Distinction

Covenant Health System's laboratories at both Covenant Medical Center and Covenant Medical Center-Lakeside have been awarded accreditation with distinction by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists (CAP).

The honor is based on the results of an on-site inspection completed Aug. 14, 2000, and recognizes the labs for providing quality laboratory services to help ensure quality patient care. CAP performs the inspection every two years. The Covenant labs also have a self-inspection every year.

Since CAP is fully accredited by the federal government, that makes the evaluation and award that much more

significant, said James A. Balch, M.D., medical director of the Covenant labs.

"CAP accreditation is a fairly rigorous overall evaluation of the policies, procedures and professional relationships of the entire laboratory, both clinical and anatomic," Dr. Balch said. "It is an inspection that is performed by our peers. That automatically, I think, makes it a very significant evaluation. It really reflects a very high standard of laboratory excellence."

The CAP program is the most recognized laboratory accreditation program in the world and has long been considered the "gold standard" against which others are measured.

## Cancer Patients File Lawsuits

Spain's associations of laryngeal cancer patients on Wednesday filed the first two of 14 class action suits against U.S. and Spanish tobacco companies, in which they ask for \$22.7 million in damages.

More than 650 patients who had their larynxes removed as a result of cancer filed suit in Barcelona demanding, in addition to damages, that cigarette labels clearly warn of the 400 noxious substances the product contains, including 20 known to be carcinogenic.

This suit targets Spanish manufacturers Altadis (formerly Tabacalera) and Cita Tabacos de Canarias and distributor Logista, as well as U.S. manufacturers Philip Morris, Reynolds and British American.

In contrast to the United States, where plaintiffs asked for individual compensation, the Association of Laryngectomy Patients of Barcelona is suing for \$2.8 million dollars to fund a fully equipped treatment facility for its members.

It is also asking for \$170,000 to pay for treatment, including speech therapy.

The plaintiffs allege "smoking is not a voluntary act" because "the habit is acquired at a very early age "when the individual's will is not sufficiently developed" and because nicotine is "strongly addictive."

By virtue of being a dangerous product, tobacco is, according to law, a defective product and thus one for which the manufacturers may be held liable, the plaintiffs claim.

The battle against the tobacco industry was launched in Spain on May 31, when 16 laryngectomy patients' associations first filed suit.

At the time, Spain's 5,000 larynx cancer victims demanded the tobacco companies pay for their rehabilitation, as they consider them responsible for 90 percent of such cancer cases.

Tobacco kills some 46,000 persons a year in Spain, the associations say.

Approximately 215 full-time employees serve the two Covenant labs, and this honor is a tribute to their continuing strive for excellence, Dr. Balch said.

"I think it is a terrific reflection on not only how hard they work, but also the quality of their work and the dedication that they have to their jobs," he said.

## FREE Prescription Drugs Available

Is your medication too expensive for your budget? If so information in a new booklet might help.

The Cost Containment Research Institute in Washington, DC has just published a 32-page booklet, "Free & Low Cost Prescription Drugs". The revised fourth edition booklet gives information on how and where to get free and low cost prescription drugs.

"Many major drug companies provide free or low cost medication, but rarely, if ever publicize the programs," says Gary Nave, Director of the Institute. We've published an A to Z listing of all the drugs that are available to certain qualified groups for free or at very low cost directly from the manufacturer."

Consumers can receive a copy by sending \$5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Institute Fulfillment Center, Booklet #:PD-370, P.O. Box 210, Dallas, PA 18612-0210. Consumers can also get more information from The Institute's Internet web site: [www.institutetdc.org](http://www.institutetdc.org)

## Giants Strike Again

In the Super Bowl era, the New York Giants have won it all when they have gotten this far.

The Giants are the surprise team of the NFL's final four, still the underdog at home for Sunday's NFC title game with Minnesota. History says, however, that when the Giants get this close to the conference title, they close the deal.

In 1986, hardly an outsider, the Giants were 14-2, easily the league's best mark. They won their final nine regular-season games, finished 8-0 at home, had a dominating defense and solid ball-control offense.

QB Kerry Collins hopes to pull off a Phil Simms imitation if the Giants reach the Super Bowl (AP)

And they went unchallenged in the NFC playoffs, routing the 49ers and Redskins, before winning the Super Bowl 39-20 over Denver.

Four years later, with a similar team, they went 13-3, but were an underdog at San Francisco in the NFC title game. The Giants won 15-13 on five field goals by Matt Bahr, then upset Buffalo 20-19 in the Super Bowl.

Not a bad resume: two shots at the big game, two trips to the big game, two Super Bowl championships.

"I've spoken to the players about not focusing on the Super Bowl," Giants coach Jim Fassel said. "Obviously there are four teams left, and everyone has got to be answering the same questions: 'What about the Super Bowl? Time-out.'"

"We are focusing on the title game of the NFC. ... We have got to take care of this one and not stub our toe."

Stubbing their toe would be easy enough against the high-powered Vikings, who looked very strong in beating New Orleans last weekend. But the Vikings (12-5) blew home-field advantage for this game by losing their last three during the season, while the Giants closed with five straight victo-



ries to seize the role of host.

In each of their previous journeys this far, the Giants also finished out the schedule strongly, then kept right on going.

"You have to play consistently well over a long period of time to get where we are now," Fassel said.

The Giants (13-4) aren't mistaking how far they've gotten. They know this is not Tampa on the final weekend of January. It is the last step to getting there.

"We have a big hurdle in front of us, and I don't even know what's behind the next hurdle," linebacker Jessie Armstead said. "You've got to go out and prove people wrong every week at this time of year. They've probably got the best offense in the league, but this week it's going to come down to who wants it the most."

That's silly, of course. The Vikings, who have lost all four Super Bowls they've appeared in -- the last time in 1976 -- are plenty hungry. Just two years ago, Gary Anderson, then an All-Pro, missed a clinching field goal in the NFC championship game and Atlanta rallied to stun Minnesota.

So the Vikings don't have any less desire to be champions than the Giants. And, like the Giants, they aren't likely to be looking ahead.

"I'm not afraid for our guys to say the words 'Super Bowl,'" Fassel said. "I just don't want all the questions to be about the Super Bowl. We've got a big game this week."

## Earnings Concern Players

You could issue picks and shovels, and the Oakland Raiders personnel department tandem of Michael Lombardi and Chet Franklin might not do any better job of unearthing veteran talent at bargain basement salary cap prices than the two scouts have accomplished this season.

Traditionally known as the NFL franchise that most adheres to the Statue of Liberty admonition -- "Give me your tired, your poor, your hungry, your waiver wire orphans (OK, only kidding about that last part) -- Oakland has even outdone its own reputation in 2000 as the shining beacon of hope for itinerant players satisfied to accept a minimum-wage paycheck.

Oakland's Andre Rison is making \$500,000 with his seventh different team, but he just wants to win (AP)

You think Granny Clampett could turn roadkill into tasty stew in her Beverly Hillbillies' kitchen, just consider what the Raiders did this year with the veterans they scraped up off the street.

"There just seems to be something about putting on the (Raiders) uniform that makes you feel kind of special again," said wide receiver Andre Rison, one of several Oakland veterans playing at or near the NFL minimum salary of \$440,000. "This is a team where money isn't the big factor, and you're judged more on

what you contribute on the field than anything else."

Like the three other teams still in the Super Bowl XXXV chase, the Raiders have big-time players making big-time plays and getting paid big-time salaries. But more than the other three franchises that will play in the conference title games on Sunday afternoon, Oakland has survived in part on the contributions made by its survivors.

Few teams work as hard as the Raiders on monitoring the remnant group of players that exist at the tail-end of the free agent signing period, or those who are salary cap casualties, and evaluating which of the veterans can still fit into specific roles. Oakland is adept at waiting until the precise moment, when an unemployed veteran is desperate to get into a training camp or fearful he won't be on a roster, to then dangle a contract. The reality is that most players aren't going to be able to earn \$440,000 in a "real" job, and the Raiders play that masterfully as a trump card.

The Oakland advantage, though, goes beyond simple good salesmanship.

Most teams in the league prefer to fill the last few roster spots with undrafted rookies who earn the minimum \$193,000 base salary. Oakland is one of the few teams

continued on page 5

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From Page Four

that doesn't mind paying out a \$247,000 difference between the rookie minimum wage and the veteran minimum of \$440,000. There are owners who feel the rookies can do every bit as solid a job. Oakland owner Al Davis, despite all his critics, long ago realized that you get what you pay for in every walk of life.

For the Raiders, who meet the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday and are just one victory away from their first Super Bowl berth since 1984, the extra investment has paid handsome dividends.

Consider just these examples:

\*The 12th-leading receiver in NFL history with 743 catches, Rison didn't start a game this year for the Raiders, but still finished as the team's No. 2 receiver with 41 catches for 606 yards and six touchdowns. Born to be a Raider temperamentally, his off-field problems are myriad, but come Sunday afternoon, he knows how to play the game. He is making only \$500,000 with his seventh different team. Oh, yeah, one of the owners who released him is Baltimore's Art Modell and, trust us, Rison won't forget that this week.

\*Each of the starting outside linebackers, William Thomas and Elijah Alexander, are earning base salaries of just \$440,000. But Thomas, cut by Philadelphia for salary cap reasons, had 76 tackles, a sack and led all linebackers this year with six interceptions. Williams also forced four fumbles. Alexander didn't even play in the league in 1999, but was plucked off the scrap heap and posted 67 tackles and a pair of sacks.

\*Two backup defensive linemen, Regan Upshaw and Josh Taves, total \$848,000 in base salaries. A former first-round pick of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1996, Upshaw logged more snaps than even he anticipated and notched six sacks. Taves had been in three different training camps and played in the NFL Europe League before proving to be a stalwart backup who plays tough vs. the run. Said Upshaw, whose salary is \$500,000: "If I go back home wearing a Super Bowl ring, no one is going to ask me how much money I made. What everybody will be asking about is how it feels to be a champion."

\*Strong safety Marquez Pope is with his third team in two years and was released by Cleveland. Still an inconsistent defender who often is a liability in pass defense, Pope nonetheless pitched in with 81 tackles and five fumble recoveries, not bad for a guy who cost just \$500,000. Pope might have played his best game of the season in last Saturday's divisional victory over the Dolphins.

\*Second-year offensive left tackle Barry Sims is earning only \$275,000, but starting



ahead of the team's first-round choice in the '99 draft, Matt Stinchcomb. Sims doesn't always look pretty, but he gets the job done. Just ask Miami defensive end Jason Taylor, a Pro Bowl choice who had 15 sacks during the season, about how well Sims played last weekend.

\*Journeyman wide receiver David Dunn provided Oakland a much-needed boost in the kickoff return game, averaging 24.4 yards per runback. He also played well on kick coverage teams and was another player signed for the \$440,000 veteran minimum.

It hasn't been just this season such castoffs have flourished with the Raiders -- tailback Tyrone Wheatley, for example, was originally a \$440,000 pickup before playing himself into a three-year contract worth \$4.5 million -- but rarely have so many veteran role-players excelled. It is a tribute to Lombardi and Franklin that the Raiders have been able to bring in veteran subs and put them in position to contribute.

Both are veteran talent scouts and no one watches more tape or closely monitors movement around the league than Lombardi, who updates his files on league veterans daily. When the team needs a spare part, Lombardi typically is ready with several names, and an opinion on each. He has helped reinforce the Raiders' notion that, just because a player is a retread doesn't necessarily mean he should be thrown into the same pile as the flat tires.

Because of the Raiders' success with players earning between \$440,000-\$500,000, veterans who are scrounging for work next summer will be more apt to listen to Oakland when it makes a pitch to them. Contribute to a Super Bowl team, after all, and the postseason bonus comes to an extra 25 percent of your compensation.

"Some guys," said Dunn, "might be insulted when a team comes and offers (the minimum salary) to them. But the Raiders treat you with respect and they have a history of taking care of veteran guys, you know? When the Raiders tell you they can resurrect your career and give you a chance to be with a playoff team, where you can make even more money, they aren't just talking words to you. They've got the deeds to back it up."

## LULAC & K-Mart Team Up for Technology

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) announced on Tuesday a partnership with Kmart that will place 200 Gateway computers in Hispanic communities across the country. As part of LULAC's Empower the Community with Technology Project, the computers will be sent to LULAC technology centers where they will be accessible to local members of the community.

"We commend Kmart for their efforts in bridging the digital divide in the Latino community," said Rick Dovalina, LULAC National President. "Improving access to technology is one of LULAC's top priorities and we can not

succeed without the help of partners like Kmart."

LULAC's Empowerment project is in the process of establishing 30 community technology centers across the country where Hispanic families can use the Internet and receive computer training. Kmart's participation stems from Procter & Gamble's long-term community outreach initiative Avanzando con tu familia, developed to provide Hispanic families the tools and information that will help them advance to reach their goals.

Communities receiving the computer donations are as follows: Los Angeles, Pomona and San Francisco, Calif., Col-

orado Springs, Denver and Pueblo, Colo., Washington, D.C.; Miami, Fla., Chicago, Ill., Kansas City, Mo., Albuquerque, N.M., Bayamon, P.R., Philadelphia, PA, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso and Houston, Texas.

Two hundred Kmart stores with a large percentage of Hispanic customers will promote the program. Kmart Corporation serves America with 2,163 Kmart, Big Kmart and Super Kmart retail outlets. In

addition to serving all 50 states, Kmart operation extend to Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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

## Preparing for College Workshop

Individuals such as Educators, Elementary to High School counselors, Church Leaders, Youth Ministers, Community Leaders, Community Organizations, PtA officers, Social Services Providers, Parents and etc. are urged to attend a workshop that will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20th starting at 9:00 am to 11:30 am. The workshop will be held at the Texas Tech University Center, Red Raider Lounge. Enter campus at University & 15th Street, building is located at corner of 15th & Akron. Parking available behind Administration Building or across from the Texas Tech Bookstore.

The workshop is designed to empower as many individuals and organizations with information and resources to assist economically disadvantaged students in preparing for college. Much of the information will be applicable regardless of where the student wants to attend college or how far in the future college may be for the student. It is never too early to plant the seed!

Workshop will consist of presentation by various campus offices as well as commu-

ity partners, including: Offices of Financial Aid, Admissions & School Relations, Outreach and Extended Studies, Upward Bound, LEARN, Inc., South Plains College and Region 17 Education Service Center. Workshop components will include information or training relative to programs or services available to assist students in preparing for college, beginning in the primary grades through high school and college. Participants representing organizations will receive a kit that will include directories, forms, scholarship applications, catalogs, special items, etc. Single packets for individuals not representing an organization will also be available. Participants will be able to select applicable training sessions. One of the training sessions will include line by line training in preparing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. A special video presentation for participants that work with Spanish speaking parents (particularly of 6th-9th graders) is also included in the training.

Seating is limited. To reserve your seat and special kit, contact the Office of Cultural Diversity at 742-8672.

## ¿Que Pasa?

### LHCC Monthly Luncheon To Install New Board of Directors

According to the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Esther Sepeda, the January luncheon will be held on Friday, Jan. 12, 2001 at the Holiday Inn Towers which is located at 801 Avenue Q. The chamber will be installing new slate of officers at its monthly luncheon. The luncheon will be starting at 11:45 am to 1:00 pm.

Expecting brief remarks from incoming Chairman David Martinez regarding the state of our Chamber will be made. Everyone is welcomed.

### Mahon Library Activity Room

"Saturday Showcase," a program of children's films, will feature "Teddy Bear's Balloon Trip," "Officer Buckle & Gloria" and "Angus Lost" on Sat., Jan. 13, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. in the Mahon Library Activity Room, 1306 9th Street. This program is open to children of all ages, and no admission is charged. For more information call 775-2838.

### Work Set to Begin at 74th & MLK Blvd.

Barring any further weather delays, construction on the intersection of 74th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard will begin today. The project to rebuild the intersection to eliminate standing stormwater has been delayed several times due to weather.

This stormwater drainage improvement project will elevate the intersection and portions of the adjacent paving so that overflow from a nearby plays lake will not collect in the intersection.

Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. will be closed to through traffic between 82nd Street and the Slaton Highway, and 74th Street between Oak Drive and MLK Blvd. will be closed.

### LISD Hosts Girls Soccer Tourney

The Lubbock Independent School District is sponsoring a 16 team high school girl's soccer tournament January 11-13, 2001. The tournament will include teams from Amarillo, Borger, Canyon, El Paso, Lubbock, Odessa, and San Angelo will be participating in the tournament. The games will be played on the west and east fields at Chapman Field, 23rd and Avenue W.

Having started in 1993, the tournament is in its ninth year. Last year's champion was Amarillo High School. Each team is guaranteed four games and the championship final will be played Saturday at 2:00 pm at Chapman Field.

Admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children. An adult all tournament pass is \$7.00 with all tickets begin purchased at the game. Bad weather may dictate a change in format as the tournament progresses.

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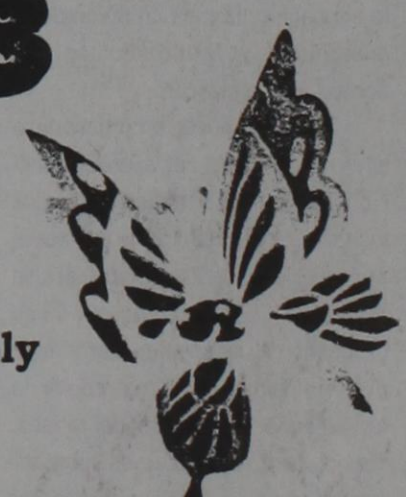
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By Ruth E. Hernandez Beltran

As leader of the Catholic Church in New York, Archbishop Edward Egan reiterated the institution's commitment to obtaining an amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants in the United States.

Leaders of the Catholic Church, powerful labor unions such as the AFL-CIO and the SEIU, as well as several ethnic and community activist organizations pledged Monday, during a public event, to support a common agenda in favor of illegal immigrants.

This was the first religious service Egan has specifically dedicated to immigrants since his appointment as archbishop of New York last June.

Immigrants from all over the world, especially Hispanics, attended the service at St. Patrick's Cathedral and heard prayers in Chinese, Polish, Creole, Italian, Spanish and English.

In his homily, Egan reminded the congregation of the meaning of Christmas, and said that the Holy Family, like immigrants now, suffered discrimination and were forced to flee their homeland and face a series of obstacles.

The commitment of the coalition of churches, labor unions and community organizations rekindled the hopes of immigrants who attended services in the cathedral.

# The Escapees - Alert

what time roadblocks were established around his county, but he's sure it was long after the seven escapees were mere dots on the horizon.

After vanishing into the flat countryside, authorities believe, the fugitives reappeared

kesman has said the report will "name names and pinpoint blame."

Johnny Vasquez Jr., an ex-shift commander at the unit who resigned in October to become a police officer, said he has had extensive conversa-

to account for missing inmates when the unit's assistant warden announced over the radio there had been an escape.

Vasquez said that while the inmates still were inside the unit, one of 10 civilian super-

throughout the unit.

Four of the escapees, who were on their way to the back gate, apparently panicked and ran back to the maintenance room in an attempt to deactivate the alarm. But because they'd used nails to jam the door lock, they couldn't get in.

Despite the alarm's noise, the inmates proceeded with their escape.

Prison officials didn't become unduly concerned by the alarm because it was known to sound on a regular basis, Vasquez said.

A guard on duty at the time of the escape, who asked to remain anonymous, said the prison was alerted of the escape by the rear tower guard, who was tied up after allowing two of the civilian-dressed escapees into the tower.

More than any other official, the rear tower guard has been publicly faulted for apparently failing to verify the escapees' bogus work orders and allowing them into an area where weapons were stored.

Once the tower guard broke free, he notified the unit's command center. According to the source, that's when the assistant warden "came on the radio and said 'Lock it down, lock it down.'"

Continuing his account, the source, who was assigned to another section of the prison at the time, said: "The inmates were still on state property. They were still driving off the unit when the call came in."

The time was shortly before 2 p.m.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice officials said they will withhold comment on details of the escape until Thursday, when the report will be released.

Karnes County Deputy Sheriff David Morin, who happened to be at the unit when the escape took place, described a chaotic situation in the minutes after the escape.

He said the warden and the assistant warden rushed out of an office, summoned his help and ordered correctional officers to account for each inmate.

"The warden was screaming 'Lock 'em down, lock 'em down,'" Morin recalled.

Morin said officials knew one or more inmates had fled the unit in a white pickup. The minutes ticked by as prison employees tried to determine

## From Page 2

thousands of Chinese nationals.

No, Fox's "open borders" remarks do not envision an abdication of sovereignty or the onslaught of massive hordes inundating the border. In fact, his concept is nothing more than the resurrection of an idea proposed by the Mexican government more than 70 years ago, to establish a system for mutually controlling the flow of immigrants to the United States. U.S. business firms successfully lobbied Congress to reject any attempt to interfere with the flow of their source of cheap labor from Mexico.

That shortsighted, self-serving view has been the bane of our existence. Having an unregulated supply of workers unprotected by government-imposed controls or standards allows unscrupulous employers to exploit the illegal or undocumented newcomers. Any attempts at controls or unionization efforts designed to benefit the workers result in threats by employers to close shop or relocate elsewhere.

which vehicle had been stolen.

He remembers it being a few minutes before 2 p.m. when the wardens rushed out of the office. The Karnes County Sheriff's Department recorded the first call to deputies at 2:10 p.m.

Sometime around then, Morin got into his patrol car and headed north to Kenedy. Instead of searching for vehicles there, he said he was dispatched to the area around Pawnee, 15 miles to the southwest, where misleading reports indicated the white pickup had been seen.

By this time, the fugitives are believed to have abandoned the stolen pickup at the Wal-Mart parking lot and slipped into two waiting vehicles.

What President Vicente Fox is proposing be considered and developed is a plan that will regulate the flow of workers, assure their safety and well-being, and provide fair compensation for a day's work. Leveling the employment field will reduce the lure of U.S. firms relocating to Mexico to take advantage of low wages. Eventually it will reduce the need for Mexican workers to emigrate.

Contrast Fox's idea with the knee-jerk reaction of the INS, which is proposing to build a second fence along the Tijuana corridor, 150 feet from the first one. The idea is so obscene that even the residents of the border community of Imperial Beach are asking the INS to reconsider the location of the 10-foot fence. In all candor, a second or even a third fence will not solve the illegal immigration problem.

I believe that Fox's visionary idea will be implemented in due time. As our society ages, more workers than the U.S. produces will be needed and our dependence on foreign labor will increase. Since we are already importing scientists, technical workers and teachers, it is time to address the problem of how to control immigrant labor to the mutual benefit of everyone involved. (Raymond Rodriguez, a retired university professor living in Long Beach, Calif., is author of "Decade of Betrayal" (University of New Mexico Press), an account of the repatriation of a million Mexicans from the United States during the Great Depression. He may be contacted at rayrodriguez@earthlink.com/c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate International

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**Randy Ethan Halprin**

■ Age: 23  
■ Hometown: McKinney  
■ Sentence: 30 years for injury to a child in Arlington  
■ Description: 6', 197 pounds, black hair, hazel eyes; he has a scar on his inside lower right wrist and a receding hairline



**Larry James Harper**

■ Age: 37  
■ Hometown: Danville, Ill.  
■ Sentence: 50 years for aggravated sexual assault with a deadly weapon in El Paso  
■ Description: 5'11", 165 pounds, black hair, brown eyes; he wears thick, round, wire-frame glasses; well-groomed



**Joseph C. Garcia**

■ Age: 29  
■ Hometown: San Antonio  
■ Sentence: 50 years for murder  
■ Description: 5'11", 198 pounds, black hair, brown eyes; he has a scar on his left thigh, a yin-yang tattoo on his back right shoulder, "ARLENE" tattooed on his right wrist, an operation scar on his left groin; he appears thinner than in his picture; he wears thick, black-frame glasses and a black onyx ring



**George Rivas**

■ Age: 30  
■ Hometown: El Paso  
■ Sentence: life sentence for aggravated kidnapping, aggravated robbery  
■ Description: 6', 230 pounds, black hair, brown eyes; he wears wire-frame glasses



**Patrick Henry Murphy Jr.**

■ Age: 39  
■ Hometown: Dallas  
■ Sentence: 50 years for aggravated sexual assault  
■ Description: 5'7", 143 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes; he has a scar on the right side of his abdomen and a burn scar on his outside right forearm



**Donald Kelth Newbury**

■ Age: 38  
■ Hometown: Albuquerque, N.M.  
■ Sentence: life sentence for aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon in Austin  
■ Description: 6', 179 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes; he has a scar on the top right knee and under his left eye, and he has an operation scar on his outside right elbow; he has tattoos all over, including on his neck and a "LIZARD" tattoo on his upper left arm



**Michael Anthony Rodriguez**

■ Age: 38  
■ Hometown: San Antonio  
■ Sentence: life sentence for capital murder  
■ Description: 5'7", 210 pounds, black hair, brown eyes; he has lost weight since his mugshot was taken; visitors who had been tied up in the maintenance room was able to use a pocket knife to cut himself free.

Though the door was nailed shut, the maintenance supervisor was able to activate a fire alarm, which sounded

tions regarding the escape with the guards he once supervised.

Though prison employees failed to detect the inmates' absence during lunch in the dining room the day of the escape, guards in the dormitories where six of the seven lived came up short during a routine afternoon count, Vasquez said.

The guards still were trying

two days later in a Houston suburb for the first of two armed robberies.

The second armed robbery to which they've been linked, in a Dallas suburb, left a police officer dead and the seven sought on capital murder warrants.

Further details of the escape came as the now-national manhunt entered its fourth week.

Connally Unit employees nervously awaited Thursday's scheduled release of the state prison system's report on the escape. A prison system spo-

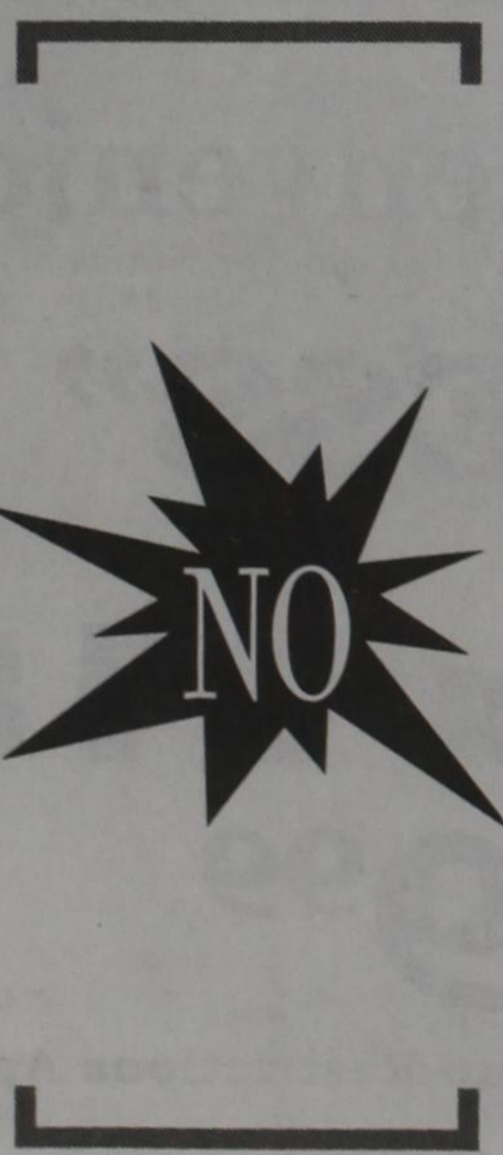
# LOS MENORES & EL TABACO

Los menores no deben ni fumar ni tener productos de tabaco a su alcance. Creemos que sobre este importante tema existe un consenso amplio.

En Philip Morris USA, nos hemos comprometido a confrontar responsablemente el problema complejo del uso del tabaco por los menores de edad. Este problema no tiene solución fácil ni única. Muchos expertos sugieren que la mejor manera de actuar es hacerlo ampliamente, integrando la comunicación, la educación, la participación de la comunidad y la prevención del acceso a los cigarrillos.

Parte de nuestro compromiso es ejercer un papel activo en la reducción del uso del tabaco entre los menores de edad. Por eso creamos el Departamento de Prevención del Uso Juvenil del Tabaco con el único propósito de desarrollar y promover programas que ayuden a reducir la incidencia del uso juvenil del tabaco. Hemos dedicado recursos substanciales—más de \$100 millones el año pasado—a iniciativas basadas en los componentes mencionados arriba. Este año invertiremos la misma cantidad en estas iniciativas.

Nuestro esfuerzo incluye el apoyo de programas escolares, uno de los cuales ha sido reconocido por su excelente labor preventiva por los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (Centers for Disease Control and



Prevention) y otras organizaciones nacionales. También lanzamos campañas publicitarias nacionales: una para aconsejar a los jóvenes a que no fumen y otra que exhorta a los padres a hablarle a sus hijos de no fumar.

Para ayudar a prevenir el acceso de los menores de edad a productos de tabaco, contribuimos económicamente al programa nacional "Identificate" ("We Card"). Este programa de educación y capacitación para comerciantes fue iniciado por la Coalición para la Venta Responsable de Productos Derivados del Tabaco en Negocios Detallistas (Coalition for Responsible Tobacco Retailing). El programa ha entrenado a más de 500,000 empleados de tiendas para de tabaco por menores de edad.

Ayudar a prevenir el uso del tabaco entre los menores de edad es una labor importante, y es lo correcto tanto para nuestra compañía como para nuestros empleados. También es lo correcto para nuestros accionistas y clientes adultos. A todos nos corresponde resolver el problema del uso del tabaco entre los jóvenes. En Philip Morris USA, nos empeñamos en hacer nuestra parte.

Para más información acerca de nuestros esfuerzos para evitar que los menores fumen, visite nuestro sitio en el Internet en [www.philipmorrisusa.com](http://www.philipmorrisusa.com). Si no tiene acceso al Internet, por favor llame al 1-877-PMUSAWEB.

EL TABACO HOY EN DÍA primero de una serie de mensajes

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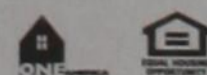
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