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Lubbock, TX USA

"El respeto al derecho
de la paz"
Benito Juarez
SOUTHWEST COLLEGE
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

GOP charges 'profiling' of Hispanic nominee

Senate Republicans yesterday accused Democrats of "racial profiling" in holding up President Bush's nomination of a Hispanic candidate to a high-profile federal appeals court seat.

"Liberal Democrats don't want a Hispanic-American appointed to this significant court because they understand he could be one of the president's first nominees on the U.S. Supreme Court," said Sen. Jon Kyl, Arizona Republican and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "They are literally racially profiling this nomination."

Mr. Bush in May nominated Miguel Estrada, whom Hispanics view as a prime example of the American dream, to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The appeals court is one step below the Supreme Court.

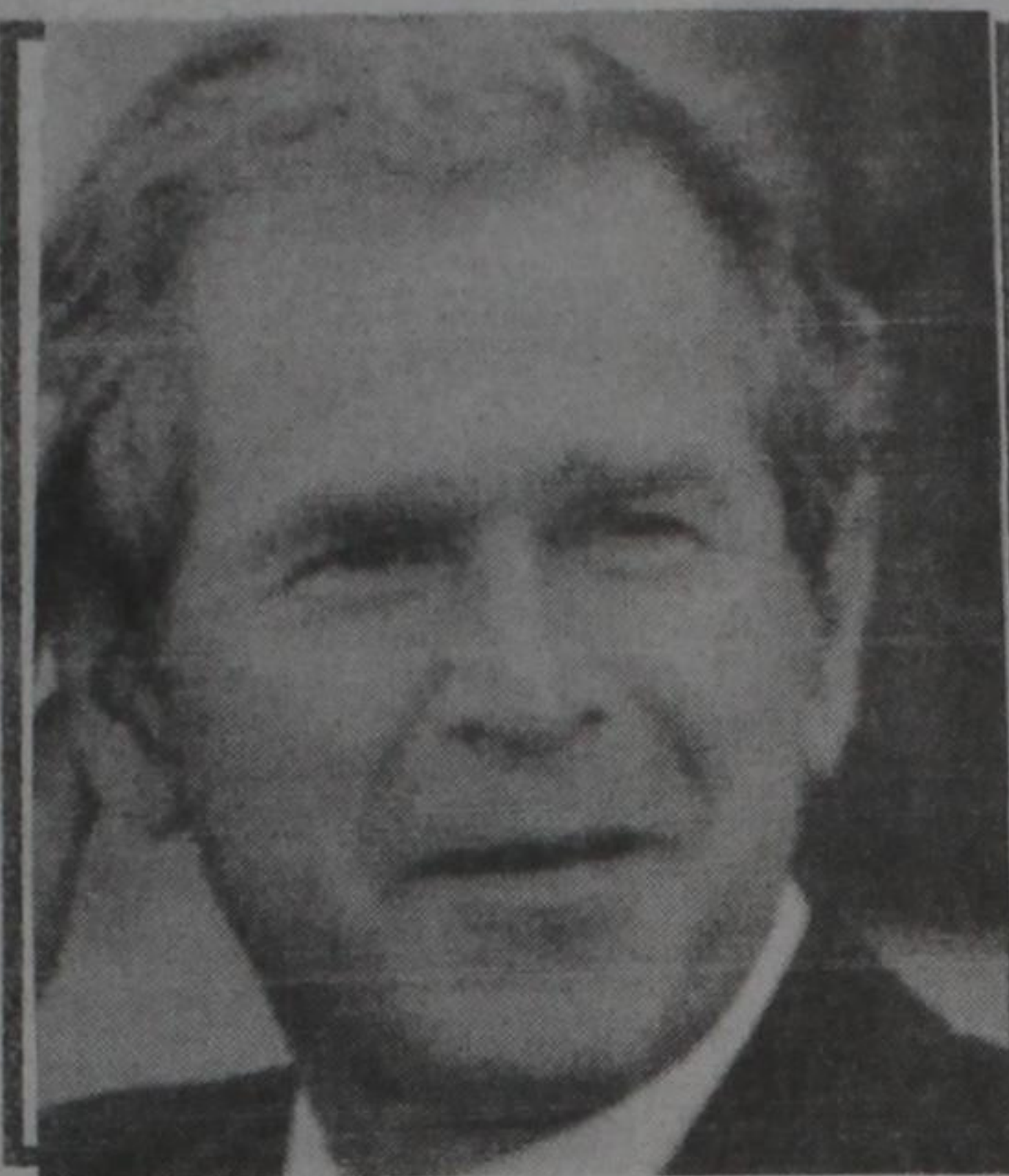
Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, Utah Republican and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, said the profiling includes ideology.

"Democrats on the committee seem to love minorities, as long as they are liberal," Mr. Hatch said. "Miguel Estrada deserves to be on the court regardless of ideology."

The Democrat-led Judiciary Committee has yet to hold a hearing for Mr. Estrada, 40, who served four years in the Clinton administration as an assistant to the solicitor general.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick J. Leahy, Vermont Democrat, denied through a spokesman that he is blocking the Estrada nomination out of racial bias.

"Can you even ask that with a straight



face?" Leahy spokesman David Carle said. "It's a ridiculous assertion."

Another senior Republican senator said privately that he believes Mr. Estrada is being held back because of race. And the Traditional Values Coalition in Washington has called on Mr. Leahy "to stop playing

racial politics with this nomination."

The larger issue, Republicans say, is that Democrats have confirmed only 28 percent of Mr. Bush's judicial nominees this year, compared with 57 percent in the first year of the Clinton presidency and 62 percent in the first year of the elder President Bush's administration.

Mr. Carle said the committee has acted first on nominations "where there is consensus." Mr. Leahy said earlier through his spokesman that he was holding up the Estrada nomination because of Mr. Estrada's "rigid ideological background."

Some Hispanics, who are being aggressively courted by both parties for the 2004 presidential race, scoff at the accusation that Mr. Estrada is not qualified.

"For Senator Leahy to call Miguel Estrada controversial is simply preposterous," said Robert Deposeda, president of the Washington-based Latino Coalition. "The only controversy here is that Mr. Estrada is of Hispanic descent. We call on Senator Leahy to do what's fair and allow an up or down vote on this extremely qualified judicial nominee."

Mr. Estrada was born in Honduras and emigrated to the United States at age 17, speaking almost no English. He earned a degree from Harvard Law School and is a partner at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher in Washington.

Mr. Kyl said Mr. Bush "would like to be known as the president who appointed the first Hispanic to the Supreme Court."

"Mr. Estrada is eminently qualified for that position, and the liberal Democrats know that," Mr. Kyl said.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat and a Judiciary Committee member, said Mr. Leahy's reputation for advancing minorities is beyond reproach.

"It's so preposterous to make that accusation against Senator Leahy, he doesn't deserve it," Mr. Kennedy said. "He has demonstrated over a very distinguished career that he is one of the leaders in knocking down the walls of discrimination."

Mr. Kennedy said there are "serious policy issues" with Mr. Estrada's nomination.

Mr. Bush submitted his first batch of judicial nominations May 9, when Republicans held the majority in the Senate by a single vote. But the following month, before the Republicans had acted on any judicial nominations, Sen. James M. Jeffords of Vermont threw control of the Senate to the Democrats by quitting the Republican Party to become an independent.

Since Democrats gained control, they have confirmed 18 of the 64 judicial candidates submitted by Mr. Bush. Democrats say that's already better than the 15

judicial nominees approved in the first year of the elder Bush's presidency.

"We're actually going to be ahead of where the first Bush administration was in its first year, even though we only started in July," said Majority Leader Tom Daschle, South Dakota Democrat.

But the elder Mr. Bush submitted only 24 judicial nominations in his first year because there were fewer court vacancies.

Mr. Daschle said of Senate Republicans, "They're responsible for the large number of vacancies because they refused to allow the confirmation of these judges in prior years."

Sen. Jeff Sessions, Alabama Republican and a member of the Judiciary Committee, said he does not think Mr. Estrada is a victim of racial bias but believes the Democrats are "deliberately going slower" on Bush nominations.

"We haven't even had hearings on some stellar nominees," Mr. Sessions said. "I think with the vacancy rate we've got, we've got to pick up the pace. Are the Bush nominees receiving the same treatment as the Clinton nominees? To date, they have not."

Republican leaders initially tried to block spending bills this fall to force Democrats to bring up more judicial nominations. But they abandoned the strategy when Mr. Daschle refused to be hurried.

Israel Bombardea Territorios Palestinos



Los helicópteros y aviones F-16 israelíes bombardearon este martes por segundo día consecutivo los territorios palestinos con una intensidad que no se registraba desde 1994 y que dejó hasta el momento un saldo de tres muertos y más de un centenar de heridos, entre ellos 60 colegiales.

Tres proyectiles hicieron impacto a 50 metros de las oficinas de Yaser Arafat. El líder palestino resultó ileso, pero los israelíes dijeron que no intentaban matarlo.

Los asistentes de Arafat dijeron que éste fue conducido apresuradamente a un refugio subterráneo apenas antes de los ataques.

En la ciudad de Gaza, aviones F-16 lanzaron bombas que destruyeron la oficina del Servicio Palestino de Seguridad Preventiva en un barrio residencial. Centenares de niños huyeron de una escuela a menos de 200 metros de la estación después que la primera bomba hizo impacto en el blanco.

Los escolares se arrojaron al piso gritando cuando los aviones sobrevolaron el lugar y lanzaron una segunda bomba. La gente evacuó los edificios cercanos mientras las cuadrillas de rescate convergían en el lugar.

Los médicos dijeron que hubo más de cien heridos, muchos de ellos niños.

"[El primer ministro israelí Ariel] Sharon nos ha declarado la guerra. Dios nos ampare", dijo uno de los niños, Aimán Abdul Yauad, de 13 años, mientras corría por la calle junto con sus compañeros, sangrando de la cabeza.

Los ataques aéreos se produjeron horas después que el gobierno

israelí declaró que el gobierno de Arafat respaldaba el terrorismo y acusó específicamente a grupos terroristas a dos organizaciones vinculadas con el líder palestino: su servicio de seguridad, Fuerza 17, y la milicia Tanzim.

A causa de esa decisión, los ministros del Partido Laborista, de orientación moderada, se retiraron de la reunión del gabinete en señal de protesta, y algunos dirigentes laboristas insinuaron que el partido podría retirarse de la coalición de gobierno.

Estos bombardeos, considerados por Israel como la respuesta a los sangrientos atentados del fin de semana, que dejaron un saldo de 28 muertos, 25 israelíes y tres terroristas palestinos suicidas, comenzaron el lunes y siguieron el martes en varias localidades de Gaza y Cisjordania, en una operación sin precedentes desde que fue creada la Autoridad Nacional Palestina (ANP) en 1994.

El presidente palestino, cuyas oficinas de Ramalá quedaron derruidas, acusó al primer ministro israelí Ariel Sharon de ordenar estos bombardeos para boicotear la campaña que la Autoridad Palestina lanzó contra los extremistas de Hamas o el Yihad Islámico y para impedir que el proceso de paz avance.

"El no quiere que yo tenga éxito", dijo Arafat a la cadena CNN, la primera declaración pública después del inicio de los bombardeos el lunes.

Tras los bombardeos, la ANP pidió a todos los movimientos radicales que respeten el alto el fuego, aunque Hamas, autor de los atentados del pasado fin de semana,

prometió hacer pagar "muy caros estos crímenes" a Israel.

Por su parte, el movimiento radical palestino Yihad Islámico también aseguró en un comunicado que su respuesta a los ataques israelíes contra la Franja de Gaza y Cisjordania estará "a la altura de la violencia" israelí.

"Después de los bombardeos, el enemigo sionista sólo tiene que esperar. Nuestra respuesta llegará y estará a la altura de sus ataques y de sus crímenes", indicó.

Uno de los principales negociadores palestinos, Saib Erakat, calificó los bombardeos israelíes de "crimen de guerra".

El primer ministro israelí Ariel Sharon pidió este martes a los responsables del Ejército que "actúen de manera agresiva contra los nidos de terrorismo".

Por otro lado, el presidente estadounidense George W. Bush afirmó ayer que es indispensable que Arafat persiga con dureza a los responsables de los atentados contra Israel y los lleve ante la justicia.

Por su parte, el primer ministro británico Tony Blair, al igual que Bush, se mostró conforme con los bombardeos israelíes, pero instó a ambas partes a hacer "todo lo posible para estabilizar la situación", declararon portavoces del gobierno de Londres.



Lawmakers Spar Over Latin America Post

The White House and the Senate are deadlocked over the State Department's top Latin American position, nine months after President Bush (news - web sites) first proposed Otto Reich for the post.

Senate Democrats, led by Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, refuse to hold a confirmation hearing for Reich, whom they consider unqualified. The White House won't withdraw his name, saying he is the victim of a smear campaign.

Any attempt to pull back Reich's nomination probably would upset Cuban-American leaders in Florida - an important base of support to both President Bush and his

brother, Jeb Bush, who will seek re-election as Florida governor next year.

Reich's supporters have urged Bush to bypass the Senate and give Reich a one-year appointment during Congress' recess. But Bush advisers say that is not being considered seriously.

A recess appointment would be seen as an affront to Senate Democrats at a time the administration is stressing bipartisanship against terrorism.

Moreover, a recess appointment may not be an option. Lawmakers are considering skipping the recess planned for this month because of the war on terrorism. Some Republicans say Democrats may be

trying to prevent the possibility of recess appointments - including Reich's.

Without a recess appointment, Reich's nomination as assistant secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs is stuck. It's up to Dodd, chairman of Foreign Relations' Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, to schedule a hearing.

Dodd has said that Reich's nomination is dead.

"Mr. Reich clearly lacks bipartisan support and I would hope that the administration would select another nominee quickly so that the Senate could act before going out for the year," he said in a

continued on page 3

Hispanics Target Menendez Bid

Officials.

Vargas, for one, suggested that relations between Democrats and the Hispanic community have become "stagnant."

Citing the Bush administration's active courtship of Latinos in the past year, Vargas added that Democrats are now at a point where they are in danger of "squandering gains" made over the course of a decade.

"It would be a horrible, horrible missed opportunity if Democrats don't take advantage of this," Vargas said, referring to the prospect of elevating Menendez to chairman from his current position as vice chairman. "Window dressing doesn't work anymore."

The chairmanship race is unfolding against the backdrop of a series of letdowns and perceived indignities that have all been assiduously cataloged by Latino leaders.

The Ferrer defeat was something of a tipping point in the trend. But Hispanic leaders also note "betrayals" in matters such as the Texas and California redistricting, where Democratic officials muscled through incumbent-protection maps despite pleas for new Hispanic districts.

And they point to legislative disappointments as well, mentioning that Gephardt and Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle (D-S.D.) failed to eliminate citizenship requirements in the recent aviation security bill that were anathema to Hispanic groups.

The Latino leaders contrast those developments with Hispanic outreach efforts at the White House, citing President Bush's appointment of Hispanics to head up the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Small Business Administration and the White House Counsel's office.

The GOP is making "real serious inroads" with Hispanics, Vargas said.

Even the internal dynamics of the Democratic leadership structure have come under scrutiny, with some Hispanic leaders suggesting that Gephardt has shown favoritism toward DeLauro, who, as Assistant to the Minority Leader, runs the party's message operation.

The job gives DeLauro a share of Gephardt's leadership budget and a complement of leadership staff, perks not available to Menendez, even though he technically ranks above her in the elected leadership.

"The first step is to make sure there is a level playing field," said Raul Yzaguirre, the president of the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest Hispanic group. "Certainly we expect that leader Gephardt will remain strictly and scrupulously neutral."

Gephardt aides dismiss such concerns, noting that the top House Democrat would suffer politically within the Caucus if he ever expressed support for one leadership candidate over another.

House Democrats, who have shown themselves to be highly quota conscious when it comes to leadership personnel, generally downplay the notion that a contest for the party's No. 3 position in the House could resonate among Hispanics nationally.

Nevertheless, a current of unease runs beneath the surface. Rep. Gene Green (D-Texas), who has a majority-Hispanic district, said he believes the Menendez bid will only have an impact if the New Jersey lawmaker ultimately wins, thus making him a prominent and visible leader in the party.

On the other hand, Green said, "You have to reach out [to Hispanics]. And the way you reach out is by having people in leadership."

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"Oye Idiota, Soy Mexicano"

Por Jonathan J. Higuera

Mi amigo Daniel tiene una gran idea para un negocio. Quiere imprimir camisetas que digan "Oye idiota, soy mexicano" delante y detrás. La inspiración la tuvo después que alguien arrojó una botella que le cayó camino a su casa en bicicleta de la universidad a la que asiste aquí en Arizona.

Como esto ocurrió poco después del once de septiembre, piensa que el que lo atacó lo confundió con alguien del Medio Oriente.

La idea me causó gracia hasta que me pasó algo similar. De regreso de un viaje a Washington, D.C., en las aerolíneas Southwest, estaba de pie junto al servicio más cercano a la cabina, estirándome las piernas.

Me di cuenta que una mujer me señalaba. Cuando me acerqué a ver cuál era el problema, me dijo, "Me pones muy nerviosa parado allí junto a la puerta".

No volví a mi asiento de inmediato, sino que me quedé allí, furioso con la acusación implícita que podía yo ser terrorista. Eventualmente la mujer me pidió disculpas, pero no podía sino pensar en el hombre blanco del viaje de ida que se había puesto en el mismo lugar el vuelo entero sin

que nadie lo viera con sospecha. Así es el momento en el que vivimos. Para muchos, cualquier persona que tenga rasgos oscuros, pelo negro, ojos marrones, barba o piel bronceada es potencialmente una bomba suicida.

Por casualidad caigo yo entre los que tienen tales rasgos, al igual que muchos de mi familia y de mis amigos.

Como nativo de Arizona de quinta generación, la discriminación a la que yo me he acostumbrado se ha basado siempre en mi herencia mexicana. Por eso era que me pareció tan extraño que se me señalara en base a otros estereotipo más.

A pesar de haberme criado en el suroeste, donde históricamente los mexicanoamericanos hemos tenido una fuerte presencia, me acostumbré a la noción que muchos blancos -- y para tal caso negros, también -- no distinguen entre méxicoamericanos, mexicanos y otros latinos. La indiferencia que muestran en este punto contrasta mucho con la energía que pone mi gente en hacer tales distinciones al querer establecer su espacio en la jerarquía racial de este país.

Hoy se hacen estas distinciones a

nivel nacional con mayor facilidad, merced en gran parte a las contribuciones que han aportado los latinos de los Estados Unidos aquí, y por desfortuna, a costas de los trabajadores indocumentados endemoniados de los últimos años.

Nosotros, los latinos de fenotipos variantes, cargamos con una cruz más pesada en momentos como éste. Desde nuestros orígenes en este país, se ha cuestionado nuestro patriotismo. Aunque hayamos peleado, literal y figurativamente, para desmentir cualquier noción de que tenemos menos compromiso con este país que otros, será una actitud que probablemente sigamos encontrando.

Mi cuñada y su novio, nacido en Irán, bromean que los que más banderas estadounidense tienen en sus tiendas son probablemente los inmigrantes tratando de protegerse de los que favorecen los nativos. En los barrios latinos de Tucson y Phoenix, se izan en lo más alto banderas en todas las cuadras y adornan muchas lunas parabrisas de los autos. No creo que sea mostrar patriotismo para satisfacer a los que dudan sino que es verdadero amor patrio para la nación que ayudaron a construir.

No obstante, cuando el cómico Paul Rodríguez bromeó que quería que terminara rápido la guerra del golfo porque tenía un tío igualito a Saddam Hussein, sentí su dolor tras las risas. Ahora siento otro tipo de dolor. Es un dolor más conflictivo porque yo también quiero arrestar el terrorismo -- y nuestra estrategia propuesta parece implicar cierta medida de discriminación por rasgos físicos, con la bendición del gobierno.

Me concierne cómo se está tratando a personas de fenotipos más oscuros. Cuando la FBI reúne a más de 1,000 personas, encarcelándolas por semanas sin presentar un caso formal contra ninguno de ellos, y sin querer proveer información a sus parientes, no me queda más que pensar que esto me podría pasar a mí bajo otras circunstancias, no muy diferentes.

Quizás haya que recurrir a mi amigo Daniel y comprar una de sus camisetas.

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Tertulia y Comentario

By Eliseo Solís

Show Me The Money

According to secret sources to El Editor (OK, it was Olga), the matter about fiestas 2001 was brought to our attention that some group (s) that performed have yet to be paid for their performances and vendors who were to be reimbursed a deposit have not received one as yet. Co-Chair Jenny Blanco stated that she has been out of touch due to surgery (which can be understood) but would get back to me (I don't have any money coming). Co-Chair Christy Martinez is thinking about running for office but that a meeting will be taking place soon. Fiestas Board member, Frank Gutierrez, will be back in touch. I didn't want to bother my friend, commissioner, and Fiestas finance committee chair, Gilbert Flores, because I know he is too busy building freeways, hospitals, United Supermarkets and jails to house more Chicanos (in the 80s, we were around 35% in the 90s, we reached 40% and above; so now we are going to shoot for 50% and above, and we need the space, don't you know?). The executive director is no longer on payroll, so he could not be concerned with trivialities in spite of the notes left on his door. Me, I think this minor glitch in such a fine music festival was caused by the September 11 attack... I wonder if the bands and security were paid--Besides, why should anyone be advocating for performers or vendors for a measly \$50 or \$100 regardless of insignificant factors such as a contract.

Note: As we were going to press on Thursday morning, Ballet Folklorico Aztlan De Lubbock was called to pick up their check.

What Is Patriotism

Because the September attack on the United States has caused a surge of patriotic desire to retaliate at all costs, it is incumbent on thinking people to reflect on the direction that our national policy makers may take us. We have to be aware of their intention and be able to question those intentions if they are not in the interest of all the citizens. Questioning our governments policy at a time like this does not constitute lack of patriotism. That is why articles by various authors who can express the issue more effectively will be presented so that El Editor's readership may be exposed to ideas different from those advocated by the establishment media that basically represents the corporate/military philosophy. Here then is another such article printed in the Nation Magazine.

William Sloane Coffin

Minister, president, SANE/FREEZE advisory board

The worst patriots are those who hold certainty dearer than truth, who, in order to spare themselves the pain of thought, are willing to inflict untold sufferings on others. Adolf Eichmann comes to mind. But if uncritical lovers of their country are the most dangerous of patriots, loveless critics are hardly the best. If you love the good you have to hate evil, else you're sentimental; but if you hate evil more than you love the good, you're a good hater.

Surely the best patriots are those who carry on not a grudge fight but a lover's quarrel with their country. And the main burden of their quarrel in today's and tomorrow's world must be to persuade their fellow citizens that the planet itself is now at risk, and in an order of magnitude never previously even imagined. Hence, everyone's security depends on everyone else's. No one is safe until all are safe.

The ancient Roman Tacitus defined patriotism as entering into praiseworthy competition with our ancestors. I think we should enter into praiseworthy competition with Washington and Jefferson. As they declared their independence from England, let us declare our interdependence with all countries. Beyond saluting the flag, let us pledge allegiance "to the earth, and to the flora, fauna and human life that it supports; one planet indivisible, with clean air, soil and water, liberty, justice and peace for all."

Today our most relevant American patriot might well be Thoreau, who, a hundred years ago, said, "I am a citizen of the world first, and of this country at a later and more convenient hour."

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"I'm Mexican, Stupid"

By Jonathan J. Higuera

My friend Daniel has a great business idea. He wants to print up shirts that say "I'm Mexican, Stupid" on the front and back. The inspiration for his idea came after somebody threw a bottle and hit him while he was riding his bike home from the university he attends here in Arizona.

Since it happened shortly after Sept. 11, he believes his attacker mistook him for a Middle Easterner.

I chuckled at the thought until I came up against my own situation. On a trip back from Washington, D.C., on Southwest Airlines, I stood near the restroom closest to the cockpit for a few moments to stretch my legs.

I noticed a woman pointing at me. When I went over to see what the problem was, she said, "You're making me very nervous standing by the door."

I didn't return to my seat immediately, but stood there seething at her implication that I could be a terrorist. She eventually apologized, but I couldn't help

thinking about the white guy on the trip over who stood in that same spot the entire flight and never once raised any suspicions.

These are the times we live in. In the eyes of many, anybody with dark features, black hair, brown eyes, facial hair or bronze skin is a potential suicide bomber. I happen to fit the racial profile, and so do many of my family and friends.

The discrimination that I, as a fifth-generation Arizonan, have come accustomed to has always been based on my Mexican heritage. Perhaps that is why it felt so odd to be singled out based on yet another stereotype.

Despite growing up in the Southwest, where Mexican Americans historically have had a strong presence, I got used to the notion that many whites -- and blacks, for that matter -- didn't distinguish between Mexican Americans, Mexican nationals and other Latinos thrown into the mix. Their indifference on this point contrasted sharply with the lengths my own people go to make those distinctions as they seek to secure

their spot in this country's racialized hierarchy.

The country more readily makes those distinctions today, thanks in large part to the contributions U.S. Latinos have made here, and no thanks to the demonization of undocumented workers in recent years.

We Latinos of varying phenotypes carry an extra burden in times like these. From our beginnings in this country, our patriotism has always been called into question. While we've fought, literally and figuratively, to disprove any notion that we are less committed to this country than others, it's probably an attitude we'll continue to encounter.

My sister-in-law and her Iranian-born boyfriend joke that those with the most U.S. flags flying in their stores are probably immigrants trying to fend off nativists. In the barrios of Tucson and Phoenix, flags fly high on every block and adorn many a car windshield. I don't believe it's a show of patriotism to satisfy the doubters as much as a true love for a country

they've helped build.

Still, when comedian Paul Rodríguez joked that he could hardly wait for the Gulf War to end because he had an uncle who looked just like Saddam Hussein, I felt his pain through the laughter.

Now I'm feeling a different kind of pain. It's more conflicted because I, too, want terrorism stopped cold in its tracks -- and our proposed strategy seems to involve some measure of government-condoned racial profiling.

I'm uneasy about how people with darker phenotypes are being treated. When the FBI rounds up more than a 1,000 people and keeps them incarcerated for weeks on end with no formal charges filed and refuses to release information on them, I can't help wondering if that could happen to me under slightly different circumstances.

Maybe I should look to my friend Daniel on this point and buy one of his shirts.

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Latino Tenants Move Nationwide To Attack Landlord Abuses

By Miles Sedgwick

Hispanic tenants' associations are growing as a part of a nationwide movement to improve living situations for renters. In most major cities, increasing numbers of Hispanic tenants and others are forming associations and working to confront landlords.

The activists are collaborating with nonprofit organizations and even state-run organizations to involve the community and gain support from local law-enforcement agencies and politicians.

In cities such as Seattle, Denver, Washington, D.C., Boston and New York, there are anywhere from three to 20 Hispanic tenants associations working within the legal system, a recent survey by Hispanic Link found.

Problems Hispanic tenants face range from faulty water systems, lack of heat, broken doors, rotten carpeting and rodent infestations to landlords who gouge tenants and refuse to repair unsafe buildings.

The Arizona Tenants Association and Chicanos Por La Causa, based in Phoenix, agree there is an

"absolutely large increase" in tenants' rights violations throughout their state. Barriers include lack of English proficiency for Hispanic tenants, resulting in an inability to have their cases presented effectively, and a failure of the courts to give them adequate recourse, they say.

Tenants associations have doubled in number since last year, notes Raúl Rodríguez, housing director of the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) in Washington, D.C. Helping the cause are 250 listed tenants organizations nationwide. Several serve Hispanics exclusively. Nearly all have at least some Hispanic clientele. Organizers and activists of these groups include such individuals as CARECEN's Rodríguez, who is currently pursuing more than 15 cases; María Abeyta-Pace of the nonprofit Community Housing Services in Denver, who is involved in numerous actions in that city; and 13-year-old Nayely Fernández of Seattle, who recently wrote a graphic account for the Tenants

Union of Seattle's newsletter of activities in her own apartment building.

Nationally, 80 percent of Hispanics live in cities, with one-third of them residing in substandard housing, and they pay more for comparable housing than do other groups, reports the National Hispanic Housing Coalition. The coalition's three-year operating grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently expired. Until new funds are approved, it operates with volunteers out of the Housing Assistance Council of Washington D.C.

Hispanic tenants associations have celebrated three major victories in Seattle since January. After the water systems gave out in one building, the tenants, most of whom were Hispanic, formed an association and began working with the Tenants Union. Recently they have gained support from: Peter Steinbrook of the City Council, Casa Latina (a Latino workers association), State Representative

Sharon Tomikosantos and the Northwest Immigration Rights Project.

One Seattle tenant, who asked not to be named, is working alongside the Tenants Union community activists to force her landlord to replace carpets, fix the heat for winter and rid the building of rats.

"We're paying for the place, so they have the responsibility to maintain it. If the landlords won't, then the people should organize," she explains. Thirteen-year-old Fernández became an activist because "our apartments are not safe. They have many dangerous and damaged places that have not been fixed."

CARECEN in Washington, D.C., had a number of successes last year. The organization confronted dozens of housing association concerns, with some tenants going on to gain ownership to the buildings in which they lived.

"The number of tenants fighting in the courts for fair living conditions has nearly doubled, but the courts do not have sufficient

resources in translation for Spanish-speakers," says Rodríguez. "So many Latinos work in construction and build the most beautiful buildings in Washington D.C. Yet they live in some of the most run-down places."

Eighty-five tenants in one Denver apartment building -- nearly all Mexican Americans -- discovered this summer that their building had been condemned for two years. Their landlord had never advised them. A week after they paid their August rent, they were removed by the state. Many were left homeless when the landlord refused to return their money.

Denver's Abeyta-Pace said, "One man was told by several landlords that he could have a place to live if he just got rid of his children. He ended up going back to Mexico, and I was heartbroken. He had come here to make a better life for his family."

In rural areas, forming tenants associations is more difficult because people are spread out. In these cases, nonprofit organizations can sometimes step in and help.

The Hispanic Liaison of Siler City, N.C., works to fight landlords who exploit renters there. The town is 50 percent Hispanic, and nearly all are recent immigrants from Mexico and Central America. Most of the problems remain unaddressed. Both the local Hispanic Liaison group and the North Carolina Housing Center agree that so far, there just isn't enough help available.

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Read El Editor Lubbock's Voice for News that Count

Celebrating 25 Years

Inquilinos Latinos Se Organizan Nacionalmente Para Contrarrestar Los Abusos

Por Miles Sedgwick

Asociaciones de inquilinos hispanos están creciendo como parte de un movimiento a nivel nacional para mejorar las situaciones de vivienda para los que arriendan. En la mayoría de las ciudades grandes, cada vez mayores números de inquilinos hispanos y otros están formando asociaciones y cooperando para confrontar a los propietarios de las viviendas.

Los activistas colaboran con organizaciones sin fines de lucro y hasta organizaciones bajo el rubro del estado para hacer más participe a la comunidad y recaudar apoyo de agentes locales de la policía y los políticos.

En ciudades como Seattle, Denver, Washington, D.C., Boston y Nueva York, hay de tres a 20 asociaciones de inquilinos hispanos que funcionan dentro del sistema

legal, según encontró una encuesta reciente de Hispanic Link.

Los problemas que enfrentan los inquilinos hispanos corren la gama desde sistemas de agua estropeados, carencia de calefacción e infestaciones de ratas hasta propietarios que se aprovechan de los inquilinos económicamente y que se niegan a hacer las reparaciones a edificios en estado peligroso.

La Asociación de Inquilinos de Arizona, y Chicanos Por La Causa, con base en Phoenix, concuerdan en que hay "un gran aumento" en las violaciones de los derechos de los inquilinos por todo su estado. Las barreras incluyen la falta de proficiencia con el inglés de parte de los inquilinos hispanos, con lo cual resulta imposible presentar sus casos efectivamente, y las cortes no pueden proveerles el recurso

adecuado, dicen.

Las asociaciones de inquilinos se han duplicado en el último año, señala Raúl Rodríguez, director de vivienda para el Centro de Recursos Centroamericano (CARECEN) en Washington, D.C. Hay una lista de 250 organizaciones de inquilinos a nivel nacional que apoyan la causa. Varias sirven exclusivamente a la comunidad hispana. Casi todas tienen por lo menos alguna clientela hispana. Los organizadores y activistas de los grupos incluyen a personas como Rodríguez, de CARECEN, que procesa actualmente 15 casos; María Abeyta-Pace de la organización sin fines de lucro, Community Housing Services, en Denver, que está trabajando con varias acciones allí, y Nayely Fernández, de trece años, de Seattle, quien recientemente escribió un relato

gráfico para el boletín de la Tenants Union de Seattle, de las actividades que ocurren en su propio edificio.

A nivel nacional, 80 por ciento de los hispanos viven en ciudades, y de ellos un tercio vive en condiciones que no alcanza el estándar mínimo, y pagan más por vivienda comparable que otros grupos, informa la National Hispanic Housing Coalition (Coalición Nacional Hispana de Vivienda).

Acaba de caducar una subvención por operaciones de tres años otorgada a la coalición por el U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los EEUU). Hasta no ser aprobados nuevos recursos, la coalición opera con voluntarios desde las oficinas de Housing Assistance Council de Washington, D.C. (Consejo para

Asistencia con la Vivienda, de Washington, D.C.)

Las asociaciones de inquilinos hispanos han celebrado tres grandes victorias en Seattle desde enero. Después de colapsarse el sistema de agua de un edificio, los inquilinos, la mayoría latinos, formaron una asociación para comenzar a trabajar con la Tenants Union. Hace poco recibieron apoyo de Peter Steinbrook del concejo municipal, Casa Latina, (una asociación de obreros latinos), la representante estatal Sharon Tomikosantos, y el Northwest Immigrations Rights Project (Proyecto de Derechos Inmigratorios del Noroeste).

Un inquilino de Seattle, quien pidió anonimato, colabora con la Tenants Union, activistas comunitarios, para obligar a que el propietario cambie las alfombras, arregle el sistema de calefacción

para el invierno, y elimine las ratas del edificio.

"Nosotros estamos pagando para vivir aquí, entonces ellos son responsables de mantenerlo. Si no quieren cooperar los propietarios, los inquilinos deben organizarse", explica Fernández, de trece años, se volvió activista porque "nuestros departamentos son peligrosos. Tienen muchos lugares peligrosos y dañados que no han sido arreglados".

CARECEN, en Washington, D.C., tuvo varios éxitos el año pasado. La organización confrontó docenas de problemas de las asociaciones de vivienda, culminando en varios inquilinos haciéndose propietarios de los edificios en los que vivían.

"El número de inquilinos que pelean en las cortes por condiciones

continúa en la página 3

Tertulia from page 2

Exploitation of Professional Boxers

With all the alarm about how radical Muslims are exploiting religion to conduct terrorism, we have to keep in mind how religions plays (and has played throughout history) such an important part in the making of war. Two of the most significant episodes that come to mind are the Inquisition perpetrated by the Roman Catholic Church in Spain and the decimation of not only Native American religion but of whole peoples in North America by the English, Dutch, etc., and by the Spanish in Latin America. The conquerors were absolved from the killings by the church because Native American spirituality was considered heathen. In present United States, we are witnessing the exploitation of another group of people with no outrage by the society at large. Just as the Romans used Christians to entertain themselves in the coliseums, I guess because the Christians were considered base, low class and expendable; Now a nation that basically considers itself Christian is entertaining itself with professional boxing much in the way they did in the Roman Empire.

In a disturbing article featured in the Nation magazine, the issue of Professional boxing was discussed at length. The basic premise was that fat cats buy expensive ringside seats and consider entertainment the fact that boxers beat themselves mercilessly and often to death. The boxers are at the mercy of the promoters like Don King and the boxing federations that sanction the big fights. The kinds of deals and mistreatments of boxers conducted in professional boxing exploiting the contestants would not be tolerated in other professional sports such as tennis.

Racists need not worry about Multiculturalism

It is sickening how the Spanish language media, mainly TV like Telemundo and Univision basically parrot the coverage that the major networks produce in the U.S. They want to be Anglo soooo bad! In the early years of these Latino networks, a different perspective was provided other than the lock step corporate stance that NBC, CBS, or ABC would provide. Today it is different. If you watch novelas, you have basically blondes and fair skinned actors playing the major parts. Shakira bleached her hair before making her U.S. debut. At least Ricky Martin waited until he made the crossover before bleaching his. The so called Judge Manuel Franco of the "Corte de la Gente" displays so much contempt and hatred for people appearing in his television show that he would probably be cancelled immediately by the English language networks and should probably be reported to the Commission for Judicial Review **Economic Stimulus for the Rich**

As we have been reporting about the Republicans bent on serving the rich, the report on Bush's economic stimulus package, for the most part gives the rich more and more breaks. Bush has four main priorities as part of his program to stimulate the economy which include: a repeal of the corporate alternative minimum tax; acceleration of income tax cuts now scheduled to take effect in 2004 and 2006, and enhanced expensing write-offs for business investment, and a capital gains tax relief. Under the guise of the undeclared war on terrorism, he is successfully getting his programs for the rich and corporations through Congress. According to an article in Essential magazine, the new "USA PATRIOT Act has brought into being an unprecedented merger between the functions of intelligence agencies and law enforcement. What this means might be clearer if we used the more straightforward term for intelligence--that is, spying. Law enforcement agents can now spy on us, 'destabilizing' citizens, not just non-citizens. They can gather information with few checks or balances from the judiciary."

No favoritism in the Prisons

In a recent television news program, prison work programs were featured using inmates to help work with animals shelter or horse farms off prison grounds. Much was said about the therapeutic effect of the program for the prisoners. With the prison population over 70% minority, there were no visible people of color in the story. Blacks and Browns don't need therapy or rehabilitation, I guess.

How the County Protects Wildlife

In recent action taken by the Lubbock County Commissioners and reported by the AJ, the following appeared.

"Lubbock resident mauled by one of his Bengal tigers 1997 ... attacked by the 700-pound animal...spent month in the hospital. Animal killed."

"July 1995, authorities captured an underfed cougar..."

"Commissioners will need to ensure that the policy does not infringe on the ability of breeders in the county from continuing their businesses, Commissioner Patti Jones said." "I don't believe it was ever meant to put those people out of business."

"We're looking at having the best of both worlds," Jones said.

My question is: What business does anyone have caging and underfeeding wild animals and why would any government entity allow such outrageous so-called "Businesses". They should be jailing these people for such cruelty!

Real Leaders Leading

In a meeting at Arnett Elementary school Wednesday night, the leadership development initiated by the West Texas Organizing Strategy (WTOS) several years ago are working quietly to protect one of the few institutions left that strive to shield the family from negative effects of the ruling class. Rather than react to another round of school closings such as those helping destroy further opportunities for development in north and east Lubbock, these leaders are proactively preparing to counteract future closing considerations that might include Arnett Elementary, an Alliance School. The Alliance School concept was developed by the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) and is funded by the Texas Legislature with the purpose of helping improve the education of traditionally low performing schools in Texas. The Alliance School leadership present at the meeting included Edward Vega, President of the PTA and his wife Lisa, Marina Zuniga, Juan Alamanza, and Jerry and Betty Moore. The meeting was led by long time participant of the WTOS, Lupe Stockhausen.

Even though LISD Superintendent Jack Clemmons stated in a phone conversation that there is "absolutely no plans for closing schools in the next few years", the WTOS leadership at Arnett feels compelled to be prepared, a stance resulting from the training provided by the IAF and local organizer, Ramon Duran.

Once again, if you and your Church are concerned about justice and equity; and gaining power to obtain that justice, please ask your pastor or principal to contact Ramon. You will sense the feeling of exhilarating effect of knowing that justice is possible through organized numbers.

Ladies Home Journal Rates the Best Cities for Women

For the fourth year in a row, the Ladies' Home Journal magazine has surveyed America's 200 largest towns and ranked them according to the qualities that are of particular concern to women. In the listing for 2001, Lubbock ranked in the top third of the nation at number 62.

One Texas city, Plano, was in the top ten. It came in at number 6, followed by Garland at number 11, Mesquite at number 18, Abilene at number 25 and Arlington at number 33. Amarillo ranked 46 and Brownsville 50. Texas towns ranking below Lubbock include Austin, 65; Corpus Christi, 87; Pasadena, 91; Fort Worth, 107; San Antonio, 125; Irving, 131; Houston, 134; Laredo, 147; Beaumont, 153; El Paso, 158; and Dallas, 166.

In specific categories, Lubbock ranked 168 for good skin days, 18 for commute time, 65 for dating prospects, 27 for cost of living and 44 for women business owners. Lubbock ranked 198 for the number of least insured women, yet came in as number for the

lowest mortality rates for breast cancer.

While Lubbock did not make the top 10 list for healthiest cities, it did rank as "the best sweat set" where women reported working out 1,029.4 minutes the previous month, or about 34.3 minutes per day. Lubbock ladies also were among the leanest body mass indexes with an average BMI of 25.5.

Detail on the top 200 cities and how the magazine researched this year's list is available on the magazine's web site at www.lhj.com. Research for the 2002 list has already begun. City officials received a call from the magazine this week requesting information on Lubbock's response to terrorism and preparedness for future events.

"Lubbock is on the leading edge of emergency preparedness," said Public Information Manager Sandy Glass, who spoke with a researcher from the magazine. "We had a positive response for every question they asked."

¿Que Pasa?

Christmas Gift Drive

Women's Protective Service's annual Christmas Gift Drive is underway. An average of 130 women and children live at WPS on any given day. These families have become homeless due to family violence. This number usually increases as the holidays approach.

We are looking for individuals or groups who are willing to buy gifts for these families. Many businesses and church groups buy gifts together for a family. No matter how much or how little the gifts seem, you will be bringing joy to a family otherwise living in crisis.

For more information please call 748-5292.

Pets need

"Homes for the Holidays"

During the holiday season, Lubbock Animal Services/ARK is looking for "Homes for the Holidays" for our homeless pets. Adoption fees on our selection of dogs has been reduced \$10 to help us succeed.

Pets can be adopted at the shelter Monday-Friday from 11 am to 7 pm and Saturdays from 1 to 5 pm. We have gift certificates available for those of you wanting to get a friend or family member a pet for Christmas. We appreciate everyone's effort in making this a special time for our animals.

For more information call 775-2055.

From Page One

statement Monday.

But Secretary of State Colin Powell (news - web sites) has continued to push for a hearing. He has called Reich the most important among State's unconfirmed nominees.

"He has done nothing - nothing at all - in his career in government that should be seen as disqualifying for this job," Powell said recently. "He has been looked at, he has been investigated, we've been over all of those investigations, and Otto Reich is an honorable man."

Dodd and other opponents of Reich have criticized his work in the 1980s as a State Department official heading an office accused of putting out illegal domestic propaganda against Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

They also suggest that Reich, as ambassador to Venezuela in the Reagan administration, tried to help a Cuban exile suspected of bombing a Cuban plane enter the United States. And they question whether his work as a lobbyist for companies involved in Latin

continued on page 6

Hispanics From Page One

If Menendez doesn't prevail, he added, "I hope there is some other way the Caucus can show it's diverse and sensitive to this fastest-growing population in this country."

In emphasizing the importance of "diversity" in the leadership - not to mention the historic significance of electing a Hispanic as caucus chairman - the Menendez campaign model is similar to the one used by Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), who built from a base in the Women's Caucus to become party Whip-in-waiting.

The Menendez camp believes Pelosi's election will neutralize the gender issue in the chairmanship race. But DeLauro, for her part, has in turn neutralized what might have been a regional advantage for Menendez in the Northeast, removing a critical element of Pelosi's winning model.

In an interview DeLauro suggested it would be a mistake to believe that external pressures could have a significant impact on the chairmanship contest.

"It's an intensely personal, Member-to-Member activity," DeLauro said of campaigning inside the Caucus. "It's about convincing, it's about your relationships, it's about your record of service."

Menendez, however, hearkened back to Pelosi's recent victory, which was hailed as a milestone by women's groups, as an example of how Caucus leadership races can reverberate nationally.

"It's neither unprecedented nor unexpected that when you have people who break barriers in running for leadership, it draws national attention," Menendez said in an interview.

The Latino community will be paying close attention to the chairmanship race and will be sensitive to the outcome, he suggested.

"If at a time when there is this explosion in the population of [the Hispanic] community we were to move backwards, I think the Hispanic community would say, '[Democrats] are not moving forward with us, they're moving backwards,'" Menendez said.

Alluding then to the steps taken by the GOP to court Hispanics, he added, "The point is, we're to be contested for the hearts, minds [and] votes of this community."

As barriers to strong ethnic-regional coalitions have appeared before Menendez, Hispanic leaders have differed sharply on how to

proceed, with some recommending direct intervention and others cautioning that leadership contests are very personal, internal affairs.

Gephardt aides were among those recommending that Hispanic groups should think twice before interfering in the chairmanship race, suggesting that this move could "backfire" if Members feel they are being strong-armed on a decision they consider to be personal.

And one aide chastised Latino leaders for warning of dire consequences for the party if Menendez loses.

"The focus ought to be on how you win, not what will happen if you lose," the aide said.

From Page 2

justas de vivienda es ahora casi el doble, pero a su vez las cortes no tienen los recursos necesarios de traducción para los que hablan español", dice Rodriguez. "Tantos latinos trabajan en la industria de la construcción, y construyen los edificios más lindos de Washington, D.C. Sin embargo, viven en los lugares de peor mantenimiento".

Ochenta y cinco inquilinos de un edificio de departamentos en Denver -- casi todos mexicoamericanos -- descubrieron este verano que el edificio había sido declarado inhabitable hacia dos años. El propietario nunca les dijo nada. Una semana después de pagar su alquiler del mes de agosto, el estado mandó a sacarlos. Muchos se quedaron sin vivienda cuando el propietario se negó a devolverles el dinero.

Abeyta-Pace, de Denver, cuenta, "A un señor varios propietarios le dijeron que le alquilaban vivienda, pero tendría que deshacerse de sus hijos. Acabó por regresar a México, y se me partió el alma. Había venido aquí buscando mejorar la vida de su familia".

En áreas rurales, es más difícil formar asociaciones de inquilinos porque la gente está tan dispersa. En casos así, a veces las organizaciones sin fines de lucro pueden ayudar.

El grupo The Hispanic Liaison (El Enlace Hispano) de Siler City, Carolina del Norte, opera para contrarrestar a los propietarios que explotan a sus inquilinos. El pueblo es 50 por ciento hispano, y prácticamente todos son inmigrantes recientes de México y Centroamérica. Muchos de los problemas siguen sin resolverse. Tanto el grupo de enlace como el North Carolina Housing Center (Centro para Vivienda de Carolina del Norte) concuerdan en que hasta hoy, falta apoyo.



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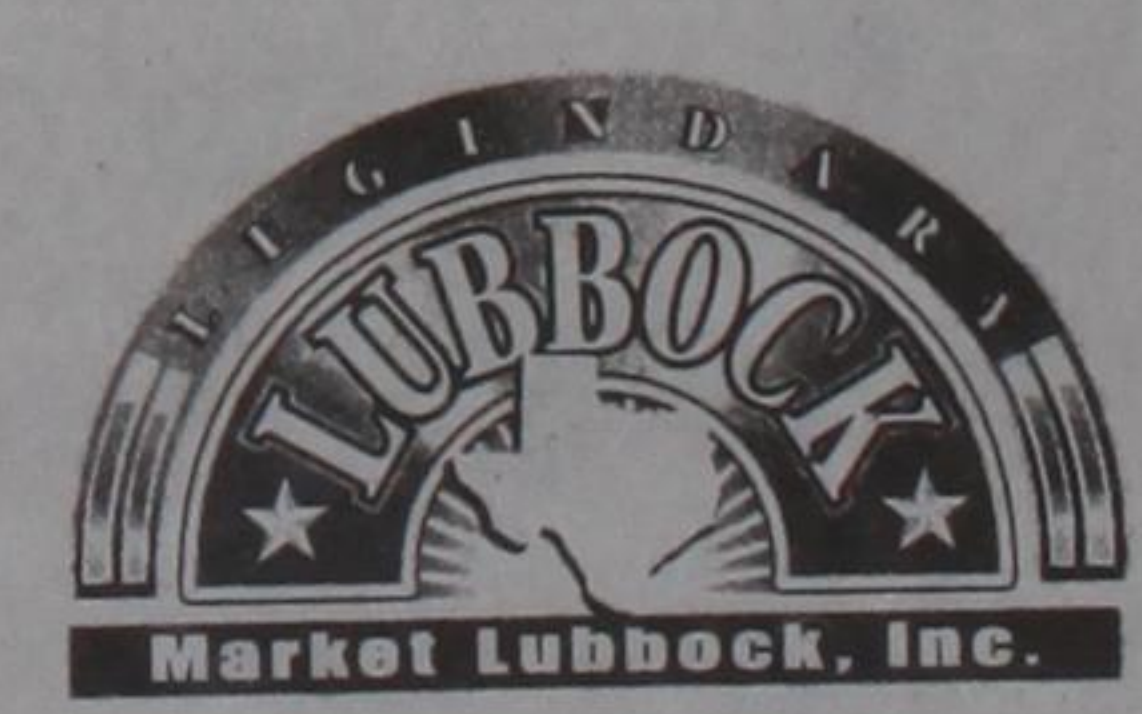
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Una Historia De Precaucion Para Nuestros Nuevos Heroes De Guerra

Por Rick Martinez

El auto se detuvo una noche brumosa en Fresno, California. Yo habia estado durmiendo en el asiento trasero cuando oí el alboroto. El hombre, hablando en español, le confirmó a mi padre Santos que sí, era cierto. Había muerto el tío Joe.

El local era un hotelito dilapidado del centro. El tío Joe había sido "héroe", uno de los primeros soldados estadounidenses en ver acción después del ataque de Pearl Harbor. Su batallón del ejército participó en combate en África y en Europa. El hombre que murió en una pensión de malamuerte en 1961 había sido honrado con dos corazones púrpuros y un puñado de estrellas por su participación en varias batallas.

Vale la pena recordar al tío Joe en 2001 -- a 60 años de entrar los Estados Unidos en la segunda guerra mundial por causa del ataque a Pearl Harbor -- porque su "historia americana" empezó con tanta promesa y orgullo y energía. Es una historia que miles de jóvenes están iniciando ahora que desembarcan en Afghanistan para pelear contra el Talibán. El Osama bin Laden del tío Joe era un tipo llamado Adolfo Hitler.

Mi madre, Carmen, de 85 años, recuerda a su hermano menor como

un niño contento y risueño, creciendo en San Antonio. Le gustaba cachuelear y tomarse una cervecita con sus amigos. En 1939, a los 19 años, Joe Hernández se fue tirando dedo a California por capricho. Le atrajo Hollywood para ver con sus propios ojos si todo lo que mostraban las películas era verdad. Las cartas infrecuentes contaban historias positivas, como cuando vio al actor vaquero Gene Autry.

De repente, se enteraron que tío Joe, el itinerante feliz, estaba alistado en el ejército de los Estados Unidos. Quería ir a pelear contra Hitler. Dijo que le daba emoción ir a la guerra.

Cuando cayeron las bombas sobre Pearl Harbor el 7 de diciembre, 1941, el tío Joe ya era un soldado raso, formando parte de las fuerzas de tanque del general Patton, que hacía adiestramiento de tanques en el desierto Mojave, de California, donde vivo hoy. De cinco pies dos pulgadas de estatura, el tío Joe de hecho tenía el talle para tanquista artillero.

Su batallón salió para África, donde se hacía famoso el alemán "zorro del desierto" Erwin Rommel. El tío Joe participó en combate allí y en el teatro europeo.

En total, pasó seis años en combate. Rara vez nos hablaba

después de los amigos que había tenido ni de las camaradas que habían fallecido. Se guardó los horrores de la guerra. Cuando llegó de Europa, volvió a California.

Le gustaba estar solo, dice mi madre. Papá, de 86 años, y veterano también de la segunda guerra mundial, lo puso así: "Vió tanto combate, el pobre. Estuvo allí desde el comienzo".

Durante 20 años el tío Joe vivía sin rumbo. Y bebía. No se compró la casita suburbana, como mis padres. Papá le consiguió un puesto en la fábrica una vez, pero el tío Joe no duró. Fue siguiendo la cosecha del valle de San Joaquín durante años. Aunque había nacido en los Estados Unidos, hablaba español la mayoría del tiempo. Cabía perfectamente entre los inmigrantes mexicanos que vivían de la cosecha de uvas, zanahorias, beterragas y cualquier otra cosa que les diera una paga diaria.

Después de la temporada de cosecha en el año 61, se quedaba el invierno en Fresno, probablemente en busca de un puesto a tiempo parcial para pasarlas, cuando acabó hospitalizado.

Su condición fue tan seria que contactaron a mi madre.

Yo sé que el tío Joe le había prometido a mi mamá dejar de beber. Pero no lo hizo, y murió.

No dejó esposa, hijos, nada más que un viejo Ford con la transmisión zafada. Mamá y yo acompañamos a su caja en el tren que lo devolvió a su ciudad natal de San Antonio a veinte años de haber partido en busca de aventura. Descansa hoy en el cementerio de San Fernando número dos, al lado de muchos parientes.

La guerra no mató al tío Joe. No podemos culpar al ejército por la pérdida de una vida que acabó antes de tiempo, a los 43 años.

Pero su vida puede servir de lección. El tío Joe se alistó al ejército buscando algo. Y, creo yo, que ese algo lo encontró, pero simplemente no pudo vivir con ello.

Es una lección que nuestros hombres de combate han venido aprendiendo desde 1776. Los que se adaptan al combate y viven deben volver de la guerra y adaptarse a la paz. Así lo hizo el tío Joe durante un tiempo, pero no lo pudo hacer para largo. Hay una lección en su historia para todos nosotros que debemos vivir con esta última guerra de nuestra nación.

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First Hispanic Woman To Represent U.S.A.

Second in an occasional series previewing the Salt Lake City Winter Games which begin Feb. 8, 2002

So what's a nice Hispanic girl from Miami like Jennifer Rodriguez doing in the anti-Miami sport of speed skating, anyway?

Following her heart, that's what. Here's the kicker: It didn't take long for her talent to catch up with her.

At the urging of her speed-skating boyfriend and two-time Olympian, K.C. Boutiette, Rodriguez gave up competitive roller-skating and figure skating and switched to speed skating -- which necessitated a move from sunny South Florida to frozen Wisconsin.

"I hated it. I was crying every day," she said. "It was cold. I didn't have any clothes. I wore all of K.C.'s clothes -- But after two weeks, something clicked. I learned how to skate, and I made huge gains. I said, 'This is what it's like to be a speed skater.'"

Despite taking up a new sport in culture-shock surroundings, Rodriguez became a stunning success in less than 18 months as she finished fourth at the 1998 Nagano Olympics. In the process, she became what is believed to be the first Hispanic woman to represent the United States in a Winter Olympics.

"I couldn't believe it," Rodriguez said. "I'm so close to a medal, I thought, 'What am I doing here?' I surpassed all my expectations."

As for the seeming incongruity of being the first American woman of Latin descent to make the Winter Olympics, Rodriguez said, "I think it's pretty cool."

I think it's very important for me to be a spokesperson for the Hispanics."

However, don't expect to hear her advocate en Espanol. Her father emigrated from Cuba in the early 1960s. Her mother is white. They met when they were students at the University of Florida. Growing up, Jennifer never learned Spanish.

"My father never spoke it in the house," she said. "He came over in the '60s when he was 13 or 14. He wanted to get out (of Cuba). He got out with his sister two years before his parents got out. It was a time when (Fidel) Castro let people out."

As a repeat Olympian, Rodriguez, now 25, will attempt to race at three or four distances in Salt Lake City, the 1,000 meters, 1,500 and 3,000 and possibly the 5,000. She considers the 1,500 her best event.

"I think speed skating is the Olympic ideal," she said. "No matter what country you're from, everyone gets along. People aren't at each other's throats. It's a peaceful sport. That's what it's about, competing at your highest level and being able to enjoy it without worrying about anyone else."

After making the Olympic team in '98, Rodriguez by her own admission was burned out a year later. Going around in circles bent over at the waist while wearing a shrink-wrap outfit will do that to a person. However, she has a new coach and a renewed zest for the sport, just in time for the Olympic year.

"I listen to my body a lot more, and I have better communication with my coach," she said. "I rest more and train smarter. Before, I did too much. Now when I'm tired, I tell the coach I can't go anymore."

For its speed and silence and clean lines, speed skating has been called the most elegant of the Winter Olympic sports. You'll get no argument from Rodriguez.

"It's a very, very graceful sport," she said. "It's a beautiful sport, very graceful."

Rodriguez and Boutiette are planning an April wedding in Miami, giving themselves two months to come down from their Olympic high. It's a marriage that didn't seem likely when they met as teenagers on the same skating club.

"We had known each other when we were younger. Or I knew him," Rodriguez said. "I actually didn't like him much. I was 14. I thought he was gross and creepy. He didn't like me, either. The second time around we got along better. We started hanging out."

Hopeless romantic that he is, Boutiette waited until Rodriguez was sick with a cold two years ago before asking her to marry him. Before she could answer, he handed her a bottle of vitamin pills. The ring was inside.

Resolute Ruiz In Home Arena

The Quiet Man spoke loudly yesterday.

An emotional John Ruiz returned to Boston to begin final preparation for the biggest fight of his life - the Dec. 15 rubber match with Evander Holyfield - and showed unusual emotion during a welcoming press conference at the Sports Club/LA, a chic gym that could never produce the kind of fighters Ruiz and Holyfield are.

Ruiz has done most of his preparation in his adopted home of Las Vegas, where he has been training for nearly two months at the gritty Golden Gloves gym, a place where hundreds of world champions have worked over the years. Tonight he will begin his final week of hard sparring at a similarly hardscrabble place, the Somerville Boxing Club, where he met the men who helped take him from the streets of Chelsea to the World Boxing Association heavyweight championship.

Ruiz, manager Norman Stone, and trainer Gabe LaMarca will put in a final week of hard work before they move to Foxwoods, the glittery Connecticut casino where Ruiz will try to rid himself of Holyfield for the last time.

"I've seen enough of Evander Holyfield to last a lifetime," Ruiz said. "We have one last big fight coming up and I know it will be a tough fight. After it's over, I'll be



glad not to see him again."

If Ruiz wins for the second straight time, he likely will face a mandatory defense against WBA No. 1 contender Kirk Johnson before going after a unification fight with Lennox Lewis, a megafight with Mike Tyson, or perhaps a massive payday to defend the WBA heavyweight crown against light heavyweight champion Roy Jones Jr.

Before any of those fights can come about, Ruiz must retire the 39-year-old Holyfield, who promised Saturday night during an interview on HBO that he intends to win back not only the WBA title but also the World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation ones held by Lewis.

Those comments caused some concern in the boxing world because there is a widely held belief that Holyfield is at the end of a brilliant career and now at risk of not only embarrassment but perhaps serious damage.

As for Ruiz, he couldn't care less about any of that because he learned long ago that the less he listens to the people around his sport, the better off he is.

"I try to stay away from watching boxing because the odds are that I'll hear I'm the worst person in the heavyweight division," Ruiz said, his bitterness evident behind his thin smile.

"The hard part to swallow is I fought Holyfield twice and I did what only two other men did. I

dropped him [in the 11th round of their second fight].

"But people in boxing always try to make some excuse - he's too old or I was lucky that day. But when [Hasim] Rahman beat Lennox after there were rumors all over that Lewis wasn't even training for the fight, he put Rahman up as the next god in the division. I don't know what it is."

What he does know is that he's happy to be back in Chelsea, near family and friends, and happy to be running the same streets each morning that he has trod since he took up boxing in earnest 15 years ago. He is, in fact, happy about everything except for his standing in the sport in which he holds the biggest title there is.

"Maybe it's because I'm Puerto Rican," said Ruiz, the first Latino heavyweight champion in boxing history. "Maybe that will take time for people to get used to and recognize."

Judging by the emotion and resolve in his voice yesterday, Ruiz intends to give people plenty of time to get used to the notion.



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A Latino Mega-Benefit

The city's two most popular Hispanic radio stations are betting that neither our compassion nor our wallets have run dry.

Marc Anthony is among the artists singing at the 'Hispanos Unidos por New York' benefit this Sunday.

Despite a year-long slump in the concert business and three other multi-star radio-sponsored shows at Madison Square Garden this month, WSKQ ("Mega," 97.9 FM) and WPAT ("Amor," 93.1 FM) have put together a fourth: "Hispanos Unidos por New York" on Dec. 9, to help families affected by both the WTC attacks and the crash of Flight 587.

Scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Garden, "Hispanos Unidos" has a guest list that could have been peeled off the Billboard charts: Marc Anthony, Juan Luis Guerra,

Alejandro Fernandez, Carlos Vives, Ricky Martin, Ruben Blades, Jon Secada, Jose Feliciano and Jose Luis Rodriguez, among others.



Guerra, a top star of Dominican music, hasn't played in the U.S. since 1994. He canceled prior engagements to fly in for this one.

"The Dominican community was hit hard twice," says Carey Davis, general manager of both stations and vice president of Spanish Broadcasting System (SBS), which is producing the concert.

"It was just starting to recover from Sept. 11 when Flight 587 went down, and there isn't anybody in the community who didn't know someone on the flight. Our station has five floors in this building, and it was shaking that day. People were crying on every floor."

Normally a multi-act concert requires about six months of preparation, planning and promotion. This one will come together in 16 days.

"It was the day after

Thanksgiving when [SBS Chairman] Raul Alarcon called us together and said to do it," says Davis. "The artists couldn't have been more willing, and I don't think there's ever been a Latin music show with a stronger lineup. Juan Luis Guerra alone would make it a remarkable show."

Proceeds will be split between the United Way, for the September 11 Fund, and the Hispanic Federation Fund, which helps families of Flight 587 victims. While Davis says there is no specific blueprint for what money goes to whom, there have been indications that efforts are being made to reach the families of victims who were undocumented.

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

A Cautionary Tale For Our New War Heroes

By Rick Martinez

The car rolled to a stop on a foggy night in Fresno, Calif. I had been asleep in the back seat when I heard the hubbub. The man, speaking in Spanish, confirmed for my father, Santos, that, yes, it was true. Uncle Joe was dead.

The locale was a dilapidated, downtown motel. Uncle Joe had been a war "hero," one of the first U.S. servicemen to see action after Pearl Harbor. His Army tank battalion saw combat in Africa and Europe. The man who died in a flop house in 1961 was the winner of two Purple Hearts and a handful of battle stars.

Uncle Joe is worth remembering in 2001 -- 60 years after Pearl Harbor drew the United States into World War II -- because his "American story" began with so much promise and pride and energy. It is a story thousands of young men are now beginning as they ship out to Afghanistan to fight the Taliban. Uncle Joe's Osama bin Laden was a fellow named Adolf Hitler.

My mother, Carmen, now 85, remembers her younger brother growing up in San Antonio as a

happy-go-lucky boy. He liked to work odd jobs and drink a little beer with his friends. In 1939, at age 19, Joe Hernández hitchhiked to California on a whim. He gravitated to Hollywood to see firsthand whether all that stuff on the movie-house newsreels was true. An occasional letter told upbeat stories, like how he saw cowboy actor Gene Autry.

The next thing anyone knew, Uncle Joe, the happy wanderer, was in the U.S. Army. He wanted to go fight Hitler. He said he was excited about going to war.

When the bombs dropped on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Uncle Joe was already an Army private, part of Gen. George Patton's tank forces who did tank training in California's Mojave Desert, where I live today. At 5-foot-2, Uncle Joe certainly would have been the right size for a tank gunner.

His battalion went to Africa, where the German "Desert Fox," Erwin Rommel, was making a name for himself. Uncle Joe saw action there and in the European Theater.

In all, he spent six years in combat. He rarely spoke with us later about the friends he had made or the comrades who perished. The horrors of war he kept inside.

When he came back from Europe, he went back to California. He just liked being alone, Mom says. Dad, 86, a World War II vet himself, put it this way: "He saw so much action, that poor guy. He was there from the start."

For 20 years, Uncle Joe drifted. And he drank. No California tract home for him, like my parents had. Dad got him a job in the factory once, but Uncle Joe didn't last. He followed the crops in the San Joaquin Valley for years. Though he was U.S.-born, he spoke Spanish most of the time. He fit right in with the Mexican immigrants who made a life of picking grapes, carrots, sugar beets and anything else that paid a daily wage.

After the harvest season in '61, he was sitting out the winter in Fresno, probably looking for a part-time job to get by, when he wound up in the hospital. It was serious enough that the hospital contacted my mom.

I know Uncle Joe had promised my mom to give up the bottle. But he didn't and he died. He left no wife, no kids, nothing but an old Ford with a slipping transmission.

Mom and I rode the train along with his casket when he finally returned to his hometown of San Antonio 20 years after departing on his adventure. He rests today in San Fernando Cemetery No. 2, with many family members.

The war didn't kill Uncle Joe. We can't blame the Army for a life that ended too early at age 43.

But his life can serve as a lesson. Uncle Joe went into the Army looking for something. And, I believe, he found that something but just couldn't live with it. That's a lesson our fighting men have been learning since 1776. Those who adjust to combat and live must return from war and adjust to peace. Uncle Joe did so for a while, but not for the long run. There is a lesson in his story for all of us who must live with our nation's latest war.

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Rockeros Dedican Homenaje A George Harrison, En Entrega De Premios de Video

"Te vamos a extrañar mucho, George", fueron las palabras emotivas de Jon Bon Jovi, después de interpretar "Here Comes the Sun", una de las famosas canciones de Los Beatles, acompañado con la guitarra de Jon Bon Jovi, así comenzó la entrega de los premios de video "My VH1 Music Awards".

Con cuatro galardones, la Dave Matthews Band resultó la gran ganadora en esta ceremonia para distinguir a los mejores videos musicales de la cadena VH1.

Los seguidores de la emisora eligieron además a Gwen Stefani como su cantante preferida y a Lenny Kravitz, como el mejor intérprete masculino.

Las 16 categorías, algunas de nombres muy extraños, fueron

decididas por los espectadores via Internet, al igual que los ganadores, por los cuales se podía votar hasta poco antes de la entrega.

Britney Spears se impuso en la categoría "mejor presentación de ombligo descubierto" por su video "Don't Want to Be the Last to Know".

"En realidad no deberían llamarse 'mis' premios sino 'sus' premios. Ustedes tienen el control hasta el último minuto", explicó el moderador Eric McCormack en el inicio del show.

La entrega se celebró en el Shrine Auditorium de Los Angeles. "No me puedo creer que me hayan elegido. Es una locura", dijo Gwen Stefani a la multitud de fans reunidos allí al recibir su trofeo VH1.



"Me siento casi un poco ridículo", comentó Dave Matthews al agradecer el premio al "disco que hay que tener". La Dave Matthews

Band se impuso con "Everyday" al álbum "1" de los Beatles, entre otros.

"En mi opinión, los Beatles nos superan ampliamente. Pero es muy amable que nos hayan votado a nosotros", dijo. El grupo ganó también los premios en las categorías "banda preferida" y "me hubiera gustado escribir esa canción" por el tema "The Space Between".

VH1 invitó a una serie de grandes estrellas para que actuaran en vivo durante la entrega. Así, se produjo un encuentro de dos leyendas del rock con la reunión de Mick Jagger y Lenny Kravitz para el tema "God Gave Me Everything I Want".

Paulina Rubio:

Me Gusta La Competencia

La mexicana Paulina Rubio, de visita en Chile, llamó a cantantes latinas como Shakira, Jennifer López, Christina Aguilera y Thalia a unirse en favor de la comunidad de ese origen. "Mientras más unidas estemos todos los medios nos van a respetar más y podemos hacer algo por la comunidad latina en algún momento", afirmó.

La "Chica Dorada" aseguró a la prensa local que no tiene rivalidades con estas cantantes, que las considera "auténticas", y añadió

que le gusta la competencia.

"Me gusta la competencia y sobre todo porque cuando tú vas a una tienda de discos, hay tantos, que tienes que ir a comprar poco a poco", dijo.

Asimismo, negó tener rencillas con Thalia, afirmó que se conocen desde niñas y que se tienen cariño.

"Ella y yo nos queremos, porque cada una tiene su vida y sus gustos y, la verdad, es que me cae muy bien la chica porque es mexicana y es igual de trabajadora que yo",

aseveró.

Paulina Rubio, quien recientemente ganó el Premio Amigo a la mejor artista latina en España, se definió como una mujer "muy estable" y aseguró que gracias a ello ha logrado manejar de buen modo su vida en este ambiente.

También agradeció la invitación al próximo Festival de la Canción de Viña del Mar (Chile) y excluyó animar alguna de las noches junto al conductor oficial, el chileno Antonio Vodanovic.

"Lo mío es cantar", alegó y argumentó que esa fecha coincide además con la presentación de su disco en inglés "Border Girl".

La cantante dijo que la clave de su éxito en Europa es que su música "habla de cosas sencillas, simples, es popular" y que lo que canta incluso podría hacerlo un niño o su abuela.

EL EDITOR

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* According to the December edition of the Hispanic Magazine "Fans of the late Tejano music artist Selena are petitioning to get her a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame" ... if you would like to sign the petition log onto the following web address ...

www.petitiononline.com/selenawf/petition.html

* The new CD from Shelly Lares entitled "Tres Veces" will be released on January 8, 2002 under Tejas records ... the first single "Te Buscare" a cumbia is already being played on Lubbock's number one Tejano hit station Magic 93.7 ... and just to let you Shelly Lares fans know how important West Texas is to her ... she hand delivered the single ... making Magic 93.7 the 2nd radio station to have it ... which made you one of the first to hear it!!! You guys are special!!!

* Just a little something on Ram Herrera ... looks like he has added a female backup vocalist to his band ... way to go Ram!!!

Hasta La Proxima have a SAFE TEJANO DAY !!!!

Bueno Bye@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!

MAGIC 93.7 'Top 10'

TW	Title	Artist
1.	1,2,3	Eman
2.	Que Metida De ...	Jay Perez
3.	Quiero Decirte	Costumbre
4.	Shhh	Kumbia Kings
5.	Sangre De Rey	Michael Salgado
6.	Lo Dice Tu Mirada	Emilio
7.	Dile La Verdad	Solido
8.	Llevame	David Lee Garza
9.	Mi Palomita	Ruben Ramos
10.	Dices Que Te Vas	Joe Lopez

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AND & Checkout the Calendar of Events; Find Out About Nuestra Cultura; Checkout the PICTURES! e-mail your comments ... & Much Much More!!!!

Tony "T" y Cucie The Magic Morning Team from 5:30 am - 10:00 am

Hi! This is Tony "T" and Cucie the Magic Morning Team ... Join us every weekday morning for the best Tejano fun y con la musica mas caliente in la mananas on Magic 93.7!!!!

Jake Gonzales from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Hey this is Jake Gonzales inviting you to join me for the Tejano Classic Café and the all request lunch hour at 12 noon on Magic 93.7!!!! Member u member.

DJ Lopez from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Yoyoyo DJ Lopez inviting you to catch the hottest Tejano show in town at 5 o'clock with the Magic Cruz Home "The Hottest Tejano and Cumbia Mixxes" with DJ Lopez on Magic 93.7!!!!

Jennifer "La Chismosa" from 7:00 pm - Midnite

Hola mi linda gente this is Jennifer "La Chismosa" bringing you yup you your right there the Top 9 @ 9 Your dedications ... and can't forget about your Tejano Chisme and if your lookin for ansas I got for you to on Magic 93.7!! porque Las Mujeres Mandan!

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Upward Bound Students Create Bilingual Haiku Quilt

The college-prep students of Texas Tech Upward Bound found the common thread in the fabric of their dreams on Saturday, by constructing an educational haiku quilt as part of a special Upward Bound project called *Stitching Hope*.

The goal of the *Stitching Hope* project, was to utilize each of the Upward Bound classes, math, science, the college readiness, English and Spanish, to create and sew a king sized quilt made of English and Spanish Haiku poems about education. The event was co-sponsored by the Bernina Sewing Studio.

prised of three lines, usually incorporating seventeen syllables; the first line being comprised of five syllables, the second line seven, and the third line five. The haiku poetry form was created by the Japanese many centuries ago. Haikus often are reflective of a mood, a thought, or an emotion.

In Upward Bound's college readiness class, the students wrote essays exploring their own attitudes toward education and learning. Math class students used mathematical formulas to design, measure and cut pieces for the king sized quilt. In Eng-

continued on page 6

Chancellor Search Firm, Advisory Committee Named

The Texas Tech University System Board of Regents Chancellor search Committee today (Dec. 4) announced the selection of a 15-person advisory committee and the retention of an executive search firm.

Both the advisory committee and the search firm will assist the committee in identifying candidates for system chancellor.

The Board of Regents in November appoints the chancellor's search committee and called for the establishment of an advisory committee. Board Chairman Robert Brown of El Paso asked that the committee should be made up of 10 to 15 people representing various Texas Tech constituent

groups. The advisory committee, at the direction of the search committee, is charged with assisting the search committee in seeking out chancellor prospects and reviewing candidates.

"The search committee wants to use every tool available to it in identifying candidates for this important job. Our next chancellor will build on the excellent foundation in place and continue the Texas Tech System's progress toward being recognized a one of the premiere systems in this state and country," said Robert Black, chairman of the search committee and a member of the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents.

The committee is made up of representatives of the communities where Texas Tech has campuses, as well as representatives of the system's faculty, students and staff. It will advise the four-member search committee. The search committee will make the decision on finalist and recommend a chancellor.

Two hispanics were chosen to work with the committee, they were: Rose Mediano (Lubbock) and Tony Ramirez (El Paso).

Members of the search committee are also members of the Board of Regents. They are Black of Horseshoe Bay, Carin Barth of Houston, Nancy Jones of Abilene and Brian Newby of Austin.

Anthrax Hoax Suspect Arrested

An escaped convict suspected of mailing hundreds of anthrax hoax letters to abortion clinics was captured Wednesday at a copy shop outside Cincinnati after employees recognized him from his wanted poster.

Clayton Lee Waagner -- who once testified that God told him to kill abortion doctors -- was one of the FBI's 10 most-wanted fugitives.

He had been on the run since February, when he escaped from a jail in Clinton, Ill., while awaiting sentencing for weapons offenses and auto theft.

Federal marshals had distributed a wanted poster to Kinko's stores after learning Waagner was using the stores' computers to log on to anti-abortion Web sites and check e-mail.

Attorney General John Ashcroft has called Waagner the primary suspect behind anthrax hoaxes committed against 280 clinics last month. The clinics received envelopes containing white powder and letters signed by the "Army of God." The powder was not anthrax.

Waagner, 45, claimed responsibility for the letters when he showed up with a gun at the Georgia home of an anti-abortion activist last week, according to authorities. The FBI had offered a reward of \$50,000 for information leading to his arrest.

Waagner was arrested after employees at a Kinko's in Springdale recognized him and called police, said Gary Richards, a chief deputy with the U.S. Marshals Service.

"My understanding is he was on a computer, but I am not for sure," Richards said.

Vicki Saporta, the executive director of the National Abortion Federation in Washington, said she is relieved Waagner was apprehended.

"We've been very concerned that he remained at large for so long because he made some very specific threats," Saporta said. "He'll be going away for a very long time and we don't want any people who might have helped him to escape justice."

The attorney general noted the arrest during installation ceremonies for Ben Reyna as new head of the U.S. Marshals Service. Most-wanted posters were displayed at the ceremony, and Ashcroft said: "I'm pleased to say that, no sooner does Ben take over the U.S. Marshals Service ... we can write across the face of that

poster, 'Apprehended!'"

Reyna said Waagner was arrested with \$10,000 cash in his pocket, computer components, and a loaded handgun in his vehicle, a stolen Mercedes-Benz. He lived lavishly by robbing banks, Reyna said.

Drew Wade, spokesman for the Marshals Service, said Waagner was caught after trying to run away. Just last Friday, Wade said, Waagner was spotted at a Kinko's in Norfolk, Va., but police arrived 15 minutes too late.

Waagner also was sought for bank robberies in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, weapons offenses in Tennessee and carjacking in Mississippi.

Waagner had been arrested in 1999 after he entered Illinois with his wife and eight children in a stolen Winnebago with four stolen handguns under the driver's seat. During his trial, Waagner testified that he had watched abortion clinics for months, stocking up on weapons after God asked him to "be my warrior" and kill doctors who provide abortions.

In June, after his escape from jail, abortion clinics were warned to be on alert after someone purporting to be Waagner posted an Internet message vowing to kill employees of abortion providers.

Authorities say he robbed a bank outside Harrisburg, Pa., in May. And on Sept. 7, he allegedly abandoned a car on a highway in Memphis, Tenn., after colliding with a tractor-trailer. A pipe bomb was found in the car, along with anti-abortion literature and weapons.

Hours later, a man believed to be Waagner committed a carjacking in Tunica, Miss., authorities said.

The Rev. Donald Spitz, a Pentecostal minister who heads Pro-Life Virginia in Chesapeake, Va., said it was shame Waagner was caught.

"Clayton closed down a lot of abortion mills, and I supposed he had plans to close down a lot more. He won't be able to fulfill that mission," Spitz said.

At her home near Clintonville, Pa., about 50 miles north of Pittsburgh, Mary Waagner said she never believed her husband would hurt anyone. She said neither she nor their nine children had seen him for two years.

"I know he believed this came from God. I absolutely believe the country should not be doing abortion, but I don't believe we should take life because of it," she said.

wants to hang in there."

Reich has declined interviews since the White House announced plans to nominate him in March. He has left his lobbying firm and is working without salary at the State Department.

Bernard Aronson, the State Department's top Latin American affairs official in the first Bush administration, said U.S. relations with the region are hurt by the lack of an assistant secretary backed by both the president and the Senate, someone who can keep Latin America high on the political agenda.

"Historically, the United States has failed to pay important sustained attention to the region on a regular basis and that is usually when we've gotten in trouble in the region," he said.

Conferencia Biinacional Intenta Reducir Drogadicción En Frontera

Más de 250 expertos del país y de México se reunieron ayer en San Diego, California para desarrollar estrategias y realizar esfuerzos binacionales destinados a combatir la adicción a las drogas.

La conferencia "Colaboración transfronteriza sobre prevención en el abuso de sustancias: del concepto a la realidad" se llevó a cabo en la Universidad de California en San Diego.

El consejero presidencial para asuntos de drogas, Henry Lozano, y Greg Dixon, de la Oficina de Políticas Nacionales de Control de Drogas de la Presidencia de Estados Unidos (ONDCP), anunciaron la entrega de 10 mil dólares para la expansión del trabajo de la Coalición de la Frontera Libre de Drogas.

Esta coalición, que patrocina el evento, es una alianza que fue formada a principios de año como parte de los programas del proyecto Iniciativa de la Frontera San Diego-Tijuana, con el fin de buscar estrategias entre organizaciones e individuos de la región para prevenir el uso de las drogas.

El trabajo de la coalición es considerado como un proyecto piloto nacional, cuyo éxito podría motivar a la ONDCP a recomendarlo otras ciudades.

Entre los puntos que se discuten en el evento están la creación y desarrollo de métodos para el intercambio de información sobre el uso de drogas a ambos lados de la frontera, y la planificación de proyectos efectivos para expandir la concienciación sobre el tema.

La coalición se propone publicar un boletín informativo y un portal de la internet que sirva de puente informativo entre los miembros de ambos lados de la frontera.

Igualmente los integrantes de ese grupo discuten métodos de entrenamiento y trabajo directo con comunidades específicas, especialmente jóvenes.

La frontera entre San Diego y Tijuana constituye el cruce migratorio más activo del mundo, y es una zona de alto nivel de actividad ilegal de tráfico y consumo de drogas.

Desde 1999 se ha detectado el tráfico de 54 toneladas de cocaína en la zona costera de la región, lo que representaría sólo el 25% del contrabando de ese producto en el área, de acuerdo con especialistas.

El 39% de los jóvenes en San Diego entre 9 y 12 grado escolar consume alcohol, comparado con el promedio de 38% en el ámbito nacional, según las encuestas de Comportamiento Juvenil en San Diego, del estudio Monitoreando el Futuro, de la Universidad de Michigan.

El estudio también indica que el 33% de los jóvenes en San Diego ha consumido alcohol antes de los 13 años de edad, el 19% tabaco, y el 14% marihuana.

El 18% de los jóvenes de San Diego en grados escolares de 9 y 12 consumió marihuana durante los 30 días antes de ser entrevistados.

En el caso de Tijuana, datos de 1998, los últimos difundidos, indican que la ciudad tiene tres veces más el índice de abuso de sustancias (14.7%) en comparación con todo el país (5.3%).

La marihuana es el estupefaciente más consumido en Tijuana, seguido por la cocaína y metanfetaminas, mientras que los jóvenes entre 15 y 19 años de edad son los más inclinados a estos narcóticos.

Como promedio, las personas en Tijuana consumen drogas por primera vez a edades entre 10 y 18 años.

Mexico's Annual Rumor of Change Game

By Barnard R. Thompson

With the December 1, 2001, anniversary of the presidential inauguration of Vicente Fox Quesada, during the past week international journalists especially have concentrated on reports and analyses with regard to Fox's first year in office — the good, the bad and the ugly. However an interrelated issue of future significance (or at least fun to speculate on today), while gathering momentum and interest among certain of the cognoscenti, has been largely overshadowed in the news. What? Rumors of change in the Fox government! Okay, so maybe the non-Latin America media do not report rumors, but as such they are ignoring one of the area's most popular political pastimes and cultural traits — plus there are times when carefully watched sources become harbingers of important information.

Even though rumors of change are an annualized exercise at this time of year, speculation on forthcoming substitutions in members of the Fox cabinet are alluring today. This is especially interesting when one considers the problems Mexico is facing, the flak Fox and his team have been taking as of late, and the too often amateurish or imprudent public comments from the top. Moreover, there are rumors of possible structural and personnel changes in select federal offices and agencies.

Most fascinating right now is a threatened tactic by some asserted opposition party leaders in congress, apparently led by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). Claiming that there can be no real transparency in the executive branch of government until there has been a comprehensive review of the so-called "super secretariats" and other agencies created by the Fox administration, the call is for these executive "coordinations" to be examined during this month's congressional budget debate. Opponents (political or otherwise) claim that the super secretariats are a parallel structure of government, with some in congress expressing disbelief as to these added offices earning their keep. Saying that the budget review is the appropriate opportunity to examine and analyze these newly created and possibly unauthorized entities and/or positions, those seeking to use this



pressure tactic say that the congress must determine if said offices should be eliminated or incorporated into the nation's planned secretarial structure.

No one talks about negotiating tactics or political tradeoffs.

Less than specific as to who or what, the questions being asked include — Will there be changes in the cabinet? Will there be further second-level changes in ministries such as

the secretariats of Foreign Relations or Government or elsewhere? Will there be adjustments in the President's office? Or might Fox himself eliminate some positions in the office of the presidency? And there are similar yet added rumors, all coming fast and furious. For those who see the possibilities as more than just rumor, changes in personnel and/or structural adjustments are expected by mid-December.

As an example of conceivable structural change, Xóchitl Galvez Ruiz, head of the Fox-created Indigenous Peoples Development Office, told the Mexico City daily El Financiero (November 28) that she thinks her cabinet-level office could be combined with the long-established National Indigenous Institute (INI). Consequently, a united agency would provide "a new push, a new face, a greater dynamism, a new structure and it would bring the INI to cabinet-level status," she said. While not commenting on her leadership role if the agencies are united, Galvez told the reporter that Marcos Matias Alonso, the current director of the INI, in the not-too-distant-future is

expected to be named as Mexico's representative to the United Nations' Permanent Forum (for Indigenous Issues). That would appear to open the door even wider for the well-respected Galvez.

To a broader degree (and in no way suggesting anything disparaging against Galvez), plus considering the current status of presidential versus congressional politics, this final paragraph poses an interesting scenario with respect to change, gambits and/or solutions, along with maneuvers that might be used in other cases. Should congress rule against the executive, in this case the "coordination" Galvez heads merged with the INI, there would be no real change in the status quo. The fact is INI (or whatever) will not be done away with, especially with the still present sensitivities of Chiapas. In addition, one might thus wonder if coordinations or super secretariats that have gone through this symbiotic metamorphosis would also be allowed to increase their budget allocations? Maybe the real question is can change truly be expected — or is change simply designed to keep everything the same?

From Page 5

lish, students used their essays from college readiness to write haiku. Students in the Spanish class interpreted the haikus in Spanish. Science students conducted a series of lab experiments on quilt fabric and other fabrics. Students then transferred their poems on to fabric in the computer lab. Finally, in the sewing lab students pieced together the haikus with other fabrics to create and sew the first-ever educational haiku quilt.

Volunteer mentors from the community and university assisted the students throughout the day. According to Eric Strong, Upward Bound director, "The project encouraged our students to develop a new appreciation for the art of quilting, and also illuminated the importance of education, scientific inquiry, applied mathematics, creative writing and Spanish language interpretation. It was a great project."

I'm mad ... at banks who don't give house loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, 254-947-4475.

From Page 3

America presents conflicts of interest.

The Bush administration and Reich's other supporters strongly reject accusations of wrongdoing and say he should be given a hearing to defend himself. They say Reich, a Cuban-American, is being punished for his political views, particularly his strong criticism of Cuban leader Fidel Castro (news - web sites).

Dennis Hays, executive vice president of the anti-Castro Cuban-American National Foundation, said he doesn't expect White House support to waver.

"We've never heard anything other than a firm commitment to Ambassador Reich," he said.

Dan Fisk of the conservative Heritage Foundation said the White House "should be willing to support him to the extent that he

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