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Hispanic Poverty, Welfare Dependency Decline, But Program Access Still a Concern

By Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid

Poverty and welfare dependency rates have dropped for every racial and ethnic group - and, most significantly, for Hispanics, a study released this month by the U.S. Department on Health and Human Services reveals. This has occurred across the country, it reports, in spite of the 1996 overhaul of the federal welfare system that denied federal benefits to legal immigrants.

But the numbers may disguise this continuing inequity, according to one major Hispanic advocacy group.

The 2002 "Indicators of Welfare Dependence" annual report centers on the government's main welfare programs: Aid to Family with Dependent Children (AFDC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamps and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

According to the study, Hispanics have experienced the largest decline in reciprocity and dependency rates of any amount of AFDC/TANF, Food Stamps or SSI, compared to non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks.

Between 1996 and 1999, reciprocity rates dropped 8.6 percent among Hispanics, while rates for non-Hispanic

whites and non-Hispanic blacks dropped 1.5 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively.

Among Hispanics, rates of dependency were cut in half, falling from 10.9 percent to 5.4 percent. HHS data show only 5.4 percent of Hispanics received more than 50 percent of their total family income from these federal benefits in 1999. This contrasts to 9.1 percent of non-Hispanic blacks and 1.8 percent of non-Hispanic whites.

Figures from the U.S. Census also show that the poverty rates for Hispanic children have fallen from 41.5 percent in 1994 to 28.0 percent in 2000.

"There has been a dramatic drop in child poverty in the Hispanic community. Overall, welfare reform has worked for most disadvantaged groups and has been successful in moving single mothers off of welfare and into employment," notes Robert Rector, senior research fellow at the Washington, D.C.-based Heritage Foundation, a national think tank committed to promoting conservative public policies.

Overall, the HHS report shows that in 1999, 4.7 million fewer U.S. residents were dependent on welfare, while 5.4 million fewer were on pov-

erty four years after the 1996 welfare reform act was passed.

Although the study paints a picture of national progress on the federal commitment to end poverty and welfare dependence, Hispanic families have had increasing difficulty in accessing vital services.

In an attempt to reduce welfare recipients, Congress in 1996 prohibited legal immigrants from receiving welfare benefits and Medicaid for at least five years after their arrival. Up until last year, legal immigrants were also banned from receiving food stamps unless they became U.S. citizens or worked in the United States for ten years. As part of the farm bill recently passed, legal immigrants can now qualify to receive food stamps after five years.

The HHS report fails to acknowledge a major dilemma resulting from the new welfare system, the reality that U.S.-born children of Latino immigrants qualify for all types of federal assistance while their parents are denied direct assistance.

The study also does not capture the plight of Latino working families. According to Sean Thomas-Breitfeld, policy associate for the National Council of La Raza, the largest Latino



advocacy group in the country, the HHS study provides a snapshot of an economic situation that is quite different than the reality Latinos face.

"For the past two quarters, the Latino unemployment rate has held steady at a high 7.5 percent, in spite of the fact that historically, Latinos have had high labor force participation rates but have remained poor due to their concentration in low-wage jobs that do not provide benefits," he

notes. "Many Latino families are not eligible for TANF's work supports because of the law's ban on serving legal immigrants. Many others face significant language barriers that undermine their ability to move through the TANF program and become self-sufficient."

Thomas-Breitfeld concludes, "Although work is important in welfare reform and helping families become self-sufficient,

the key to moving Latino families out of poverty is not simply pushing parents into low-wage jobs, but providing them with access to TANF work supports like transportation and child care services that would provide Latinos a ladder out of poverty."

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Supreme Court Deals Blow to Hispanics On Redistricting In Texas

The Supreme Court rejected arguments today that Texas congressional redistricting hurt Hispanics.

The justices, without hearing arguments, affirmed congressional boundaries that give Texas' two new seats to Republicans and leave intact incumbents' districts -- mostly held by Democrats. The court also upheld legislative redistricting that favors Republicans.

Hispanic groups unsuccessfully argued that while minorities accounted for the most growth in Texas in the 1990s, district lines will not dramatically change their chances of winning offices.

"We are strongly disappointed and really frustrated that the excitement over the Census numbers and the enormous growth over the decade of the Latino community in Texas has really been diminished by courts that are reluctant to create new Latino districts," said Nina Perales, attorney with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The once-a-decade redistricting resulted in a stalemate in the Legislature. As a result, congressional redistricting went to a federal judicial panel and legislative redistricting was passed on to a GOP-dominated redistricting board. The board's legislative redistricting proposals were later challenged in federal court.

A three-judge panel revised the state House districts and redrew a congressional map. It did not change the state Senate boundaries.

Groups like the Mexican American Legislative Caucus sued. They argued that that Hispanics were hurt by the re-

districting even though the Hispanic population in Texas increased by 2.3 million between 1990 and 2000, accounting for 60 percent of the state's growth.

They claimed that neighborhoods with large Hispanic populations were broken into separate districts to ensure that white Republicans could win the seats. The plans "smack strongly of bad faith and arbitrariness and certainly belie any notion of good faith effort at population equality," the court was told in filings.

Texas Attorney General John Cornyn, a member of the state's redistricting board, countered that the Supreme Court should not "equate the mere existence of political considerations in the districting process with purposeful or invidious discrimination."

"Such an approach would plunge the court in the 'political thicket,' compelling the type of judicial second-guessing of state legislatures that the court has steadfastly rejected," Cornyn told justices in a filing.

The Texas cases are among the first to come before the Supreme Court over boundary drawing done with 2000 census information. The Constitution requires new boundaries to reflect population changes, and legal fights are pending in multiple states.

Last week, the Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments in a dispute between Democrats and Republicans over a Mississippi congressional plan drawn by a federal panel.

The Texas case is not a disagreement between political parties, but a fight between advocates for Hispanics and the state.

Part of the dispute involves the two new congressional seats Texas is getting because of population growth. Texas previously had 30 districts, held by 17 Democrats and 13 Republicans. Under the court-drawn plan, the two new seats favor Republican candidates.

Democrats and Hispanic groups had wanted one of the two new seats to be drawn in South Texas where a Hispanic could be easily elected. But Democrats and some Hispanic leaders disagreed with a plan drawn by Hispanic groups, saying it would jeopardize incumbent Hispanics and some incumbent Democrats.

The Supreme Court, under conservative Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, has not been sympathetic to requests for special line-drawing consideration for minorities.

In 1995, the court ruled that election districts drawn mainly to boost black voters' political clout are unlawful. The following year, justices struck down a Texas congressional plan, ruling that three predominantly minority districts were unconstitutional because race was the principal consideration in their configuration.

Lawyers for challengers in the latest case argue that districts were not done with traditional line-drawing methods. They wanted the court to look at large population differences in side-by-side districts and districts that split neighborhood and cities.

The cases are: Balderas v. Texas, 01-1196; Balderas v. Texas, 01-1126; Mexican American Legislative Caucus-Texas House v. Texas, 01-1225; Amps v. Texas, 01-1242; and Mayfield v. Texas 01453.

Han Disminuido La Pobreza y Dependencia de Asistencia Social Entre Los Latinos

por Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid

Los índices de pobreza y de dependencia de asistencia social han disminuido para todos los grupos raciales y étnicos, y de manera más significativa para los hispanos, según un estudio dado a conocer este mes por el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los Estados Unidos (HHS por sus siglas en inglés). Según el informe, ocurre alrededor del país, a pesar de que en 1996 la revisión del sistema federal de asistencia social denegó los beneficios federales a los inmigrantes legales.

Pero los números pueden disfrazar esta continua injusticia, de acuerdo con un grupo de abogados hispanos importante. El informe anual de los Indicadores de Dependencia de Asistencia Social del 2002 se centra en los mayores programas de asistencia social del gobierno: Ayuda a Familias con Niños Dependientes (AFDC por sus siglas en inglés), Asistencia Temporal para Familias Necesitadas (TANF por sus siglas en inglés), Cupones de alimentos, e Ingreso Social Suplementario (SSI por sus siglas en inglés).

Según el estudio, los hispanos han experimentado la baja más grande en los índices de los destinatarios y en la dependencia de cualquier grupo en la ADFC/TANF, Cupones de alimentos o SSI comparado con blancos y negros no hispanos.

Entre 1996 y 1999, los índices de los destinatarios disminuyeron un 8.6 entre los hispanos, asimismo los índices de los blancos y de los negros no hispanos disminuyeron un 1.5 por ciento y un 5.8 por ciento respectivamente.

Entre los hispanos, los índices de dependencia bajaron a la mitad, cayendo de un 10.9 por ciento a un 5.4 por ciento. Los datos de HHS muestran que sólo un 5.4 por ciento de los

hispanos recibió más de un 50 por ciento del ingreso total familiar de estos beneficios federales en 1999. Esto contrasta con el 9.1 por ciento de los negros no hispanos y el 1.8 por ciento de los blancos no hispanos.

Cifras provenientes del Censo de los Estados Unidos también muestran que los índices de pobreza de los niños hispanos han disminuido de un 41.5 por ciento en 1994 a un 28.0 por ciento en el 2000.

"Se ha dado una disminución dramática en la pobreza infantil en la comunidad hispana. En general, las reformas de asistencia social han ayudado a los grupos más desaventajados y han logrado que madres solteras terminen con la asistencia social y consigan empleos", señala Robert Rector, miembro asociado de investigación del Heritage Foundation con base en Washington, D.C., un instituto de investigación nacional que promueve políticas públicas conservadoras.

En general, el informe del HHS indica que en 1999, 4.7 millones menos de residentes estadounidenses eran dependientes de asistencia social, mientras 5.4 millones menos estaban en la pobreza cuatro años después de que se implantara la ley de la reforma de asistencia social.

Aunque el estudio dibuja un cuadro de progreso nacional en el compromiso federal para eliminar la pobreza y la dependencia de asistencia social, la dificultad para tener acceso a servicios vitales ha aumentado entre las familias hispanas.

En un intento para reducir los beneficiarios de asistencia social, el congreso prohibió que los inmigrantes legales recibieran los beneficios de asistencia social y Medicaid hasta al menos 5 años después de su llegada. Hasta el año pasado, los inmigrantes legales tenían

prohibido recibir los cupones de alimentos a menos que se hicieran ciudadanos estadounidenses o que trabajaran en los Estados Unidos durante diez años. Como parte de la ley agrícola que se aprobó recientemente, ahora los inmigrantes legales tienen derecho a recibir los cupones de alimentos después de cinco años.

El informe del HHS falla en dar a conocer un dilema mayor que resulta del nuevo sistema de asistencia social, la realidad de que los niños de inmigrantes latinos nacidos en los Estados Unidos tienen derecho a todos los tipos de asistencia federal, mientras que a sus padres se les niega la asistencia directa.

El estudio tampoco recoge la difícil situación de las familias latinas trabajadoras. Según Sean Thomas-Breitfeld, 'policy associate' del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, el grupo que aboga por el latino más grande del país, el estudio del HHS muestra una foto instantánea de una situación económica bastante diferente a la realidad con la cual se enfrentan los latinos.

"En los pasados dos cuartos, el índice de desempleo entre los latinos se ha mantenido fijo en un alto 7.5 por ciento, a pesar de que históricamente, los latinos han tenido unos altos índices de participación en la fuerza laboral, se han mantenido pobres debido a su concentración en trabajos con sueldos bajos que no proveen beneficios", afirma. "Muchas de las familias latinas no son elegibles para las ayudas de trabajo del TANF por la prohibición en la ley que concierne a los inmigrantes legales. Muchos otros se enfrentan con barreras lingüísticas significantes que debilitan su capacidad para pasar por el programa de TANF y volverse auto-suficientes".

"Aunque el trabajo es impor-

continued on page 4

We Latinos Have Our Archie Bunkers, too

By Miguel Pérez

We feel awkward sometimes, sensing that the nasty looks are based on the brownness of our skin or the strength of our Spanish accent. But when such behavior is coming from our fellow Latinos, what do we call it?

When longtime immigrants put down recent immigrants, it's still *xenofobia*.

When we judge people based on the color of their skin, it's still *racismo*.

When we stereotype by region or nationality, it's still *discriminación*.

Some Latinos themselves often engage in such hideous *hábitos*. They may not call themselves Archie Bunker, but the Latino bigots are out there. Race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, political ideology -- you name anything that makes people different, and that's a reason for discrimination in the Latino community.

"It's the main thing preventing our unity and our empowerment," says Professor Alejandro Benjamín, who teaches

sociology at Bergen Community College in Paramus, N.J. "Once we integrate into U.S. society -- we speak English and we earn wages that place us in the middle class -- we are bothered by those who arrived recently. That's xenophobia, and that's just one part of our problem."

Whether our roots are in Spain, Africa or pre-Columbian America, our problems are often based on which ancestors we choose to recognize and which we choose to deny. Based on how white, black or Indian we think we are, we may frown at those who are different.

Many Latinos fail to accept that they are really an amalgam of two or three of these heritages, Benjamín says. "Some of us overtly practice this behavior. We don't want to know about blacks or mulattoes or Indians, and we don't recognize that some of our own family members are biologically related to all these groups. That's ignorance."

"For example," he goes on, "we Dominicans, 85 percent of us, are mulattoes, but we don't accept our blackness, and we vehemently deny our African origins. Many Dominicans prefer to see themselves as Indian, instead of black."

Benjamín, a black Dominican, suggests that many Latinos have not only brought their racism from their homelands, but they deny that it exists. "We don't recognize that we practice racism in many of our attitudes, in our music, in our literature."

Before they criticize this society as racist, he recommends, Latinos need to look at themselves in the mirror. The subject should be exposed and discussed; otherwise, it serves as an obstacle to coalitions of empowerment.

"You see one group putting down the other for insignificant things, which only serves to divide us and prevent us from achieving the objectives we Latin Americans should have in this country."

"Latinos are not only 40 million people in the United States, but from Mexico to the tip of South America, including three Spanish-speaking Caribbean islands, we are some 300 million people. That's a market, that's a potentially much more powerful bloc, and so it becomes ridiculous to find ourselves arguing about petty differences or stereotypes or silly attitudes." Benjamín, who is also the pastor at a Hispanic church in Paterson, N.J., makes a final point: even if the African or Indian heritage is not in our blood, it's in our culture. "You see white Dominicans who may look very European," he says. "But once the drums start playing, once they hear the sound of merengue and they begin to move their hips like an African, they should ask themselves where those movements are coming from."

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Los Latinos Tambien Tenemos Nuestros Archie Bunkers

Por Miguel Pérez

Nos sentimos mal algunas veces, creyendo que nos miran mal por cuán oscura es nuestra piel o por lo fuerte del acento al hablar inglés. Y cuando quienes actúan así son otros latinos, ¿qué pensamos? ¿cómo denominamos esa conducta?

Cuando inmigrantes que llevan más tiempo en este país tratan mal a inmigrantes más recientes, todavía se trata de xenofobia.

Cuando evaluamos a las personas por el color de su piel, todavía se trata de racismo. Cuando creamos estereotipos en función de región o nacionalidad, todavía se trata de discriminación por etnicidad.

Aun algunos latinos, practican esta terrible costumbre. No se consideran Archie Bunkers, pero los latinos prejuiciados existen. Raza, género, etnicidad, nacionalidad, ideología política. ... Escoja una categoría que distingue a grupos de personas y ha escogido una razón para discriminar dentro de la comunidad latina.

"Se trata del factor principal que evita nuestra unidad y que reconocemos y asumamos nuestro poder", dice el profe-

sor Alejandro Benjamín, que estudia sociología en el Bergen Community College, en Paramus, N.J. "Una vez nos integramos a la sociedad americana, es decir, una vez hablamos inglés y ganamos un salario que nos ubica en la clase media, entonces nos molestan los que llegaron recientemente. Eso es xenofobia, y es sólo una parte de nuestro problema."

No importa si nuestras raíces están en España, Africa, o la América precolombina, con frecuencia, nuestros problemas se originan en qué ancestros escogemos para reconocer y cuáles, para negar. En base a cuán blancos, negros o indios nos consideramos, podemos mirar con disgusto a quienes sean diferentes.

Muchos latinos no llegan a aceptar que son, en realidad, una mezcla de dos o tres de estas ramas étnicas, dice Benjamín. "Algunos de nosotros actuamos así visiblemente. No queremos saber de negros o mulatos o indios, y no reconocemos que parte de nuestra propia familia está biológicamente ligada a estos grupos. Es cuestión de ignorancia."

"Por ejemplo", continúa,

"nosotros, los dominicanos, el ochenta y cinco por ciento de nosotros es mulato, pero no aceptamos nuestra negritud y negamos con vehemencia nuestros orígenes africanos. Muchos dominicanos prefieren considerarse indios en lugar de negros."

Benjamín, un dominicano negro, sugiere que muchos latinos no sólo han cargado con su racismo desde sus patrias, sino que niegan que exista. "No reconocemos que practicamos el racismo a través de muchas de nuestras actitudes, en nuestra música, en nuestra literatura."

Antes de criticar esta sociedad como racista, recomienda Benjamín, los latinos tienen que mirarse a sí mismos en el espejo. El tema se debería exponer y discutir. Si no, se transformará en un obstáculo a la hora de formar coaliciones para reconocer y asumir nuestro poder.

"Lo que uno ve es un grupo que trata mal a otro por insignificancias, asuntos que sólo sirven para dividirnos y que no nos permiten alcanzar las metas que nosotros, los latinoamericanos, deberíamos tener en este país."

"Los latinos no son sólo 40 millones de personas en Estados Unidos, sino que, desde México hasta la punta de América del Sur, con las tres islas hispanoparlantes del Caribe, somos 300 millones de personas. Es todo un mercado, se trata de un bloque político mucho más poderoso, y por lo tanto, resulta ridículo que nos encontremos discutiendo sobre diferencias y estereotipos tonos y actitudes necias."

Benjamín, que también es pastor de una iglesia hispana en Paterson, N.J., hace un argumento final: Aun cuando la herencia africana o india no está en nuestras venas, está en nuestra cultura.

"Uno ve dominicanos blancos que pueden verse muy europeos", dijo, "pero tan pronto comienzan a sonar los tambores, una vez se oye el ritmo del merengue, y comienzan a mover sus caderas como un africano, deberían preguntarse, de dónde vienen esos movimientos".

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Watergate...But Worse

By Mike Hersh

On the 30th anniversary of the Watergate break-in, I reflect on a few things. I recall watching the televised hearings which outlined in such stunning detail an amok, power-mad President and "All The President's Men" who carried out his alarming, authoritarian dictates. I remember reading the Woodward/Bernstein book, and watching the Redford/Hoffman movie of that name.

I recall my father telling me that Nixon -- after a long career of communist hunting -- hurt American more by his criminal activities than any communist ever had.

Most of all, I've been thinking about the brief, typed letter of resignation signed by Richard M. Nixon, delivered to then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. I saw that letter framed on the wall of the George McGovern home in Washington, DC.

"Watergate" began simply, with a concern for "leaks" to the media about the Nixon Administration's inner workings. A zealous official, David Huston, devised a plan -- approved by Nixon -- and E. Howard Hunt organized a special White House unit called "the plumbers" to stop the "leaks."

Soon, this group was involved in much more than imposing internal discipline. They were casing the offices of the Brookings Institute, plotting to fire-bomb them. They broke into the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychotherapist, trying to exert prior restraint over embarrassing files now known as the Pentagon Papers. These serious crimes represented an effort by the Nixonian Republicans to subvert our right to vote.

The leading Senate Watergate investigator, Sen. Sam Ervin, said, "If these allegations prove to be true, what [the Republicans] were seeking to steal was not the jewels, money or other precious property of American citizens, but something much more valuable--their most precious heritage: the right to vote in a free election." (See Sen. Sam Ervin: Echo From The Past.

Sadly, today's Republicans remain just as hostile to our voting rights as the Nixon Republicans. Several months after the Watergate election theft of 2000, serious legal and political issues remain unresolved.

First, and perhaps most important in the long run, the people spoke -- but at Bush's urging, the US Supreme Court overruled the majority of the people in the US and Florida, where voters preferred Al Gore.

Al Gore should be the President today. Period.

Any full, fair count of the legal votes cast in Florida would reflect that simple truth. Bush campaign officials in Florida knew this, but filed one lawsuit after another and lied to the American people. Seating the loser as president upsets everything we hold sacred in America. Letting lust for power and corruption prevail over the peoples' will instantly invalidated the "trust the people" premise of the Bush campaign. Without remorse or awareness of the irony, the Bush team fashioned the most hollow "victory" in US history.

In their capacity as elected Florida officials and George W. Bush for President Florida committee co-chairs, Jeb Bush and Katherine Harris shut down the basis for our federal government -- a government of, by and for the people. They halted the process as soon as their man could trump up a bogus claim of a "lead", and controlled the sabotaged democracy every step of the way afterward.

They hired a Republican corporation to "purge" legal voters from the lists, which the US Civil Rights Commission found was a blatant violation of the Voting Rights Act. They blocked and delayed vote counting, and then complained the counts weren't done on time. They solicited, "fixed" and manufactured thousands of absentee votes, and hand counted in the six counties where it helped them most.

Their misconduct tainted Bush's claims of victory. As a political matter, they may have "won" but only at the cost of the legitimacy and credibility presidents need to lead. Their machinations far outweighed the final "official" margin; 537.

Remember: Richard M. Nixon lost his legitimacy after winning a stunning 49-state landslide. Watergate was about trying to cover up election dirty tricks committed on his behalf. In Watergate, the realization struck like a lightning bolt that the president was indeed "a crook."

We were already at war in Vietnam, and suddenly another national trauma arose. We faced a Constitutional crisis, but the other branches of government stepped in, and the man overwhelmingly supported by voters mere months before had to resign from his office. The process worked, we regained "normalcy," and life went on.

The Bush team waged a masterful but misleading public relations blitz. No one really believes their claims that hand-counting is less accurate than machine counting. Florida law provides for hand counts, just like the Texas law Bush signed. Bush officials used hand counts in six Florida counties themselves! Making such claims insults the intelligence of Americans.

Al Gore won the most popular votes in America, the most uncontested Electoral College votes, and most Florida legal votes. A crowd of violent protesters directed by Tom DeLay and the Bush campaign, and Bush's Florida campaign officials frustrated the voters' will by abusing their discretion, defying court orders, and breaking laws to slow down and shut down the voting process when their figurehead was ahead.

We already know about their efforts to manipulate the public opinion and the process in Florida, but that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Republican Bush campaign officials illegally "fixed" thousands of defective absentee ballots in Seminole County.

Bush supporters orchestrated an intimidation campaign to stop all hand counts, and actually dissuaded the Miami-Dade canvassing board from complying with the Florida law. Perhaps worst of all, the Bush Republicans used racism harking back to the dark days of Jim Crow to disenfranchise African American citizens.

During Watergate, the Supreme Court upheld the Constitution and ensured the US was a nation of laws. In Bush v. Gore, the Courts allowed mob rule, illegal votes and abuse of office to stand. Bush sits in the White House, but he will be never be president. He will never be anything more than a white elephant, the Commander-in-Thief, and the Pretend-ident of the United States.

We now suffer under a corrupt and, as 9/11 showed, inept Bush Occupation government imposed by Republicans at the key choke points of our system, an illegitimate President forced on the US against our will via strong arm anti-democratic (and anti-republican) tactics.

This is Watergate, but much worse.
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IT'S UNFAIR

By Marisa Treviño

There have been many lessons presented to us in the past few months. One of the biggest is that we are a stronger, healthier nation when we are aware, respectful and inclusive of those who are different.

It's a lesson that should have been ingrained in us on 9/11, and it was -- for a little while. But maybe because daily threats of suicide bombers and bloody battlefields are halfway across the world, we don't think much about the importance of diversity. That is, not until a Midwest Circuit Court

of Appeals decided recently that the University of Michigan's Law School should be allowed to enforce affirmative action due to a "compelling state interest in achieving a diverse student body."

Since that ruling, editorials have sprung up denouncing the court's reasoning and regurgitating the argument that such action in the name of diversity fosters reverse discrimination and the shameful allowance of the less-qualified to assume coveted spots intended for

truly qualified students.

Each time this argument is resurrected, the implication that the phrase "less qualified" serves as the politically correct substitute for Hispanic, African-American, Native American, etc., becomes stronger and louder, especially as it is white students who are filing the suits.

It's an argument that will only gain merit when educational opportunities equally exist from kindergarten through high school for all stu-

dents.

In the meantime, there's no denying that white students feel affirmative action for the sake of diversity is unfair. But as the so-called "less qualified" are reminded daily, there are a lot of unfair situations in the United States.

It's unfair that in a country where more than a quarter of the population is African American and Hispanic, not one individual from either group serves as an elected representative in the 100-member U.S. Senate.

It's unfair that the first choice of many school counselors and educators is to relegate children of color to remedial or special education classes without true evaluations of their skills or aptitude.

It's unfair that 45 percent of the nation's daily newspapers have no journalists of color on their staffs. How ironic that they can claim to be the voice of their communities when they're essentially ignoring those perspectives that constitute an integral part of their reading audience.

It's unfair that people of color receive inferior health care, even when measured against that provided whites of comparable income and insurance coverage. It's unfair that people of color are still the victims of predatory lending

practices that cheat them out of the American Dream of home ownership. Department of Housing and Urban Development data for 1999 show that only 47 percent of African-American families and 46 percent of Hispanic families are homeowners, compared to 73 percent of white families.

It's unfair that in this day and age there exists unlawful conduct in keeping people of color from casting their right to vote. It's been documented that in precincts that are majority African American and/or Latino, the (white) polling judges of these precincts, whose job is to oversee the election process, do not even live within the boundaries of the precincts they are overseeing.

Is this another case of saying that people of color are so less qualified that only white people should assume such posi-

tions?

And, finally, how fair is it that in a public school system where 40 percent of the students are children of color, 90 percent of the teachers -- more than just a few of whom hold lower learning expectations for non-white students than for white students -- are white?

Bob Chase, president of the National Education Association, admits that diversity has evolved into an "academic necessity" if we as a society are to stave off the violence afflicting other parts of the world.

Diversity doesn't just make sense; it means our survival as a society and the recognition that there is more to being a qualified candidate than high test scores.

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This Summer,
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Buddy Holly Center presents
**Paintings of the
Founders of Rock n' Roll**

LUBBOCK – The Buddy Holly Center is proud to announce Shake, Rattle and Roll, an exhibition of paintings created for the children's book Shake, Rattle and Roll: The Founders of Rock & Roll by artist Laura Levine. The exhibition will be on display in the Texas Musicians Hall of Fame Wednesday, April 10 through Friday, July 12, 2002.

Shake, Rattle & Roll: The Founders of Rock & Roll was created by author Holly George-Warren and artist Levine for an audience of budding young music aficionados. The book includes short, lively biographical sketches of fourteen Rock n' Roll pioneers, accompanied by colorful illustrations of each musician. The depicted founders include the legendary Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry, as well as more obscure but equally significant artists like Wanda Jackson and Bill Haley. Readers are supplied with historical facts about each legend as well as whimsical stories, including an account that Elvis Presley, age nine, won second prize at a county fair for singing a country song about a dead dog.

The paintings created by Levine for Shake Rattle & Roll have been on exhibit at the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, and the Experience Music Project (EMP) in Seattle, Washington. The paintings have been honored by the Society of Illustrators, American Illustration, and Print magazine; and 5,500 copies were purchased by the Grammy foundation to be distributed to elementary schools across the nation as part of their music education program.

Best known for her photographs of music personalities, Laura Levine is a self-taught visual artist with extensive and varied background, not only in painting and photography, but in filmmaking as well. Levine has worked with everyone from Bjork to James Brown for magazines including The New York Rocker, Rolling Stone, and Sounds (UK). Her photographs, exhibited numerous times, appear in books including Rolling Stone: Images of Rock and in the permanent collection of the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame. Her paintings are in the permanent collections of Tom Freston (MTV), Lisa Bonet, Nora Ephron, and Cher, among others. Levine also has paintings in the permanent collection of the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, the House of Blues, and the Galleria Comunale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea in Rome.

Levine's artistic journey can be traced back to her graduation from Harvard University in 1979, when she pursued a combined interest in photography and Rock n' Roll. Levine's career began as a free-lance photographer and maker of music videos. Levine moved to the Phoenicia, New York in an attempt to take a sabbatical from the commercially burgeoning music industry, and opened Homer and Langley's Mystery Spot, an antiques and junk shop. She devoted her creative energy to painting - and as her love of music resurfaced, Levine's interests again combined. The first of two published children's books Levine has illustrated was a collaboration with the B-52s called Wig!

Levine's creative vision has taken her in other directions as well - she was commissioned to create an animated series pilot for MTV, which was screened as a part of the 2000 Animation Festival at the Museum of Television and Radio. Her film projects include a documentary short film entitled Peekaboo Sunday, which premiered at the Sundance 2001 Film Festival, and the feature length documentary Digging for Dutch: The Search for the Lost Treasure of Dutch Schultz. The documentary premiered at the Woodstock Film Festival, where it won the Torchlight award and has been the featured in magazines including The New Yorker, The New York Times, Harvard Magazine, and National Examiner.

Shake, Rattle & Roll: The Founders of Rock & Roll is available for purchase in the Museum Shop of the Buddy Holly Center. The Buddy Holly Center is located at 1801 Avenue G in the Depot District of Lubbock, Texas. For more information on this or other exhibitions, please call (806)767-2686.

The Day the Frescoes Dried:
**A Sunday Jazz Brunch
benefiting the Buddy
Holly Center and the
Vatican Exhibit 2002**

The Buddy Holly Center and the Vatican Exhibit 2002 have joined forces to present "The Day the Frescoes Dried: A Sunday Jazz Brunch", a fundraiser for both organizations in the Meadows Courtyard of the Buddy Holly Center. The Brunch will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 21, 2002 and will feature live jazz music, excellent brunch food, wine, and a silent auction.

Jazz Alley, a local group of talented jazz musicians, will entertain the crowd and the Llano Estacado Winery has generously donated all of the wine for the event. The silent auction will spotlight works donated by local working artists including Ginger Bundock, Shannon Cannings, and Eleanor Kreneck, as well as items donated by local businesses. All proceeds from ticket sales and the silent auction will directly benefit the Vatican Exhibit 2002 and the Buddy Holly Center's Educational Outreach programs.

The Vatican Exhibit 2002 highlights thirty-one medieval frescoes, like the fresco of Saint Catherine (above). The frescoes were taken from the churches of St. Nicola in Carcere and St. Agnese, both in Rome. The frescoes are on display for 107 days, and will be returned directly to the Vatican Museums after September 15, 2002. The exhibition is hosted by the Museum of Texas Tech University on 4 Street and Indiana Avenue. The exhibition is made possible by generous grants from individuals and corporations wishing to sponsor the arts.

The first Sunday Jazz Brunch was held during the summer of 2001, when the Buddy Holly Center staged the event and was met with an overwhelming response by the community. The Jazz Brunch was a hit, and both the Vatican Exhibit 2002 and the Buddy Holly Center are looking forward to revisiting the event's format. After a collaborative planning meeting, the name "The Day the Frescoes Dried" was chosen, poking fun at the unique collaboration of the Buddy Holly Center and the Vatican Exhibit 2002.

"This event is distinctive, a pairing of two arts organizations from different ends of the spectrum," said Catherine Prose of the Buddy Holly Center. "I think our goals are very similar, though - to present the public with an opportunity to learn. The Vatican Exhibit presents precious pieces of history through art, and the Buddy Holly Center preserves Lubbock's musical history and challenges the public with unique art exhibitions. Ultimately, we're both aiming at educating the public. We've had a great time working with the Vatican Exhibit 2002 - and we all think this event will be fun for the whole family. I hope to see a lot of familiar Lubbock faces there."

Tickets, \$35.00 per ticket and \$60.00 for a couple, are available at the Buddy Holly Center and at both locations of Ralph's Records and Tapes. For more information about the Vatican Exhibit, visit the official website at www.vaticanexhibit.org. The Buddy Holly Center can be reached at 767.2686, or visit www.buddyhollycenter.org.

En días de calor, las aguas de Sea World

EDUARDO SERRERA
Especial/El Nuevo Herald
Agenda del andarín: A este calor que pronostica un verano ardiente hay que sacarle partido. Para refrescar y divertirse a cántaros una buena opción es una de las atracciones acuáticas más originales de la Florida.

Se trata de Journey to Atlantis, la mitología pasada por agua en una fantasía del parque Sea World, en Orlando.

Con gran imaginación y un despliegue de recursos tecnológicos y efectos especiales, Journey to Atlantis recrea una ancestral villa de pescadores ubicada en una bahía imaginaria de Grecia.

Templos colosales como los que fueron construidos en la antigüedad sugieren estar en el Mediterráneo. Allí un pescador griego comienza a relatar la leyenda de la ciudad perdida y los visitantes empiezan una aventura montados en un vagón que navega por medio de computadoras. Ante los ojos incrédulos de todos surgen barcos en una batalla por el reino de la Atlántida, bombas, olas, sirenas y gran emoción sacuden el vagón acuático que emprende una carrera vertiginosa entre tormentas, cascadas, y cañones que guardan sorpresas para asustar y divertir.

Todo esto se experimenta en

el vehículo más veloz de todos los que existen hasta el momento en los parques de diversiones del país. La Atlántida de las leyendas es considerada una isla por unos y un continente por otros, que se hundió en las profundidades del mar producto de enormes terremotos que la hicieron desaparecer. Desde el siglo IV antes de Cristo se registra la existencia de la Atlántida en los escritos del filósofo griego Platón, pero a través de los siglos sólo ha habido especulaciones acerca de esta civilización que se tragó el mar.

Los que prueben esta nueva atracción de Sea World sentirán también la sensación de ser tragados por el mar, visitarán la Atlántida sumergida en el océano y, aunque todo es de mentiritas, disfrutarán de una fantasía insospechada y un derroche de los últimos adelantos de la tecnología como la ilusión hilográfica y la técnica LCD.

Al terminar el insólito recorrido, recupérese del vértigo contemplando la fuente de las aguas danzantes que está a la salida de esta atracción, muy graciosa y relajante.

Tome nota: Para solicitar información general llame al 1-800-4-ADVENTURE, o comuníquese con la página www.seaworld.com



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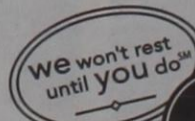
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Latin Singer Uses Stage to Promote Tolerance

From being Charo's one-time choreographer (and cuchucuchi gofer) to a gay sex symbol and activist, Latin pop singer-dancer Jade Esteban Estrada has a story to tell.

That is, when he's not singing and dancing or starring in one-man shows or doing comedy gigs in his adopted hometown.

Estrada headlines San Antonio Pridefest 2002 on Saturday. The singer is promoting his album, "Angel," and will ride as grand marshal of a night parade at 9:30. The route begins at Main Avenue and Dewey Place.

What he really relishes about his busy life is his gay activism.

"I feel like I'm representing every Latino that's afraid to come out of the closet," Estrada said from New York.

Out magazine called him "the first gay Latin star." The Advocate finds him "exquisite." Urban Latino TV dubbed him "a 21st century Oscar Wilde." And he has that

showbiz messiah complex thing working, too.

"My knowledge and skills as an activist, and as a speaker, come very much into play when I do 'prides,'" he said. "More focus is on me because I'm like the lone Latino out there in the world."

Estrada, 28, grew up in San Antonio and now lives in New York. He has performed in Canada, South America, Japan, Ireland, Australia and the United Kingdom in the past three years. He owes it all to the Big Apple, he said.

"Going to New York was the only way I was going to be in a place where I was going to be completely challenged," he said. "When you are more faceless, you're forced to rise to the occasion."

He had to get away from his old comfort zone, he said. "Please, tortillas and hanging out and watching 'Cristina' can get very comfortable."

Estrada prefers preaching

tolerance and understanding about homosexuality. He is indeed an energetic voice for the gay community willing to use his bully pulpit of pop.

"I think it's vulgar when people have some sort of fame to their name and they don't do something good with it. It's absolutely absurd and it's very selfish," Estrada said.

"I have the opportunity to make people happy." Which is

Buzz: The Record:

King of Salsa Triumphs

It takes a brave man to even attempt to sing any of MA's songs.

Mesmerising vocals that some profess to be flawless, the huge range, the smooth delivery - the man is more than talented.

His success speaks for itself. Besides his Latino albums that have sold millions and made him the undisputed King of Salsa, MA's his debut self-titled album in English some years back earned praises and accolades to last his ego three lifetimes.

Mended continues where the debut album left off. You know what to expect - soaring, majestic goosebump-inducing ballads and mostly-Latin dance-infused staples.

The beauty of being MA is that he does not need to change anything as his incredibly-gifted vocal range see to it he makes the songs, and not the other way around, sound good.

He can bet on a few to burn the charts. The opener, Love Won't Get Any Better, is a cool, salsa dance piece that is reminiscent of the infectious Ricky Martin-Christina Aguilera duet, Nobody Wants To Be Lonely.

He already has an uptempo track bombarding the airwaves in the intoxicating I've Got You.

The chorus is as catchy as a bad bout of flu, and the overall

why he left home in the first place.

"My sister always told me, 'People always stone their own prophets. You really have to go (and leave home).'" And how else could he have met Charo?

He calls the Charo Las Vegas dance gig one of his biggest thrills. "She's great," he said. "She's like my stage mom."



Jennifer Lopez in Merchandising Pact

From the company that brought you the infamous "Kiss Kasket" -- get ready for J.Lo greeting cards.

San Francisco-based Signatures Network has inked an exclusive merchandising and licensing deal with singer-actress Jennifer Lopez to develop J.Lo-related products for sale in record stores and other retail outlets, as well as in cyberspace.

Signatures will produce T-shirts, posters, calendars, greeting cards, back-to-school items and other "fan appreciation" merchandise emblazoned with Lopez's likeness.

De La Primer Pagina

tante para las reformas de asistencia social y para ayudar a las familias a volverse autosuficientes, la solución para sacar a las familias latinas de la pobreza no es simplemente empujar a los padres a conseguir trabajos con sueldos bajos,

Lopez has already extended her imprimatur beyond showbiz. Last fall, she launched a clothing line, called J.Lo By Jennifer Lopez, and will release a signature fragrance, Glow, via perfume-maker Lancaster in the fall. Lopez also opened the Latin-themed restaurant Madre's in Pasadena.

Signatures stole the show at last year's licensing confab in Gotham with a casket/beer cooler based around Kiss frontman Gene Simmons. More recently, it cut a licensing deal with Ozzy Osbourne and his family.

sino darles el acceso a las ayudas de trabajo de la TANF como transportación, servicio de cuidado de niños, las cuales darian a los latinos un empujón fuera de la pobreza", concluye Thomas-Breitfelt.

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Erik Morales Está Convencido de Que Vencerá a Marco Antonio Barrera

Después de vivir el drama en la Copa del Mundo Corea-Japón 2002, no cabe duda que la contienda entre Erik Morales y Marco Antonio Barrera deberá llenar las expectativas:

primero por la suspensión de la misma, y por otras cosas como el descontento que sufrió el "Terrible" a manos del "Barreta".

Todo eso se presta para que esta revancha sea mejor o igual, y donde tendrá que terminarse todo lo que existió extra en contorno al duelo, que se ha pronosticado será tan

dramático y excitante como el que escenificaron la primera vez el 19 de febrero del 2000 en Las Vegas, y que ganó Erik.

Esta vez, Morales (41-0, 31 nocáuts) aparentemente entra en desventaja con relación a las apuestas, pues Barrera convenció a los "gabachos" que podría derrotar al monarca tijuanense, tras su victoria sobre Naseem Hamed.

"Yo estoy tranquilo y esperando sólo el momento de subir al ring, debido al gran trabajo que realicé en el Otomí,

donde estuve cerca de dos meses", dijo ayer el "Terrible" vía telefónica desde Las Vegas, donde se disponía a trabajar ligeramente en el gimnasio de Top Rank para mantener el peso.

Cuestionado sobre el interés que había entre aficionados y medios de prensa en Corea sobre este combate, Erik indicó que eso era bueno y lo alentaba.

"Significa que el interés nunca se terminó no obstante a la suspensión del mismo, y que poco a poco conforme se vaya acercando el momento, la gente se va a meter más pues esperan una pelea abierta y dramática", agregó.

Muy relajado a tres días Usualmente, Morales tiende a ponerse tenso, frío y sin querer hablar cuando no está bien físicamente y tiene problemas para dar el peso. Parece que ése no es el caso, pues ayer se le escuchaba bastante tranquilo, como nunca.

"Como lo dije antes, el trabajo me da una confianza total, y más que nada porque ya conozco a Barrera; bueno, de hecho ambos nos conocemos a

continua en la pagina 5

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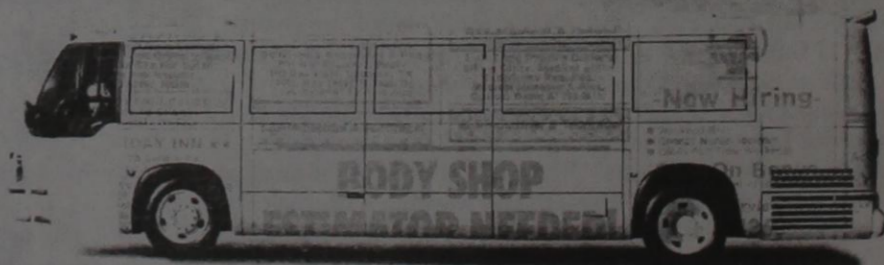
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McBride Donovan Lead U.S. Soccer Victory

Mexico had tradition and the crowd on its side, and for much of the match it had the ball. But the United States got the goals — and a place in the World Cup quarterfinals, its best showing since 1930.

"Amazing," defender Pablo Mastroeni said after a 2-0 victory Monday put the Americans into the final eight. "It's been a long drive coming in and this is the icing on the cake."

Brian McBride scored in the 8th minute and Landon Donovan in the 65th. Although North American neighbor Mexico had possession for two-thirds of the game, goalkeeper Brad Friedel leaped and dived to block the Mexicans' six shots on goal.

"Sometimes in games past, other things have let us down," Friedel said. "But our effort and our heart never were lacking."

Hours before the game, President Bush called Arena and the players listened in on a speaker phone.

"The country is really proud of the team," Bush said. "A lot of people that don't know anything about soccer, like me, are all excited and pulling for you."

The United States will play Germany on Friday at Ulsan, South Korea



"We got a very difficult opponent in Germany," coach Bruce Arena said. "I think when Friday comes around our team will be ready to play."

In Monday's other second-round game, Brazil played Belgium at Kobe, Japan.

At Jeonju, South Korea, battles for the ball led to five yellow cards on each side. Mexico's Rafael Marquez was ejected in the 88th minute for crashing into Cobi Jones with a high kick and a blow to the head.

"It's a rivalry. We know each other," said U.S. coach Bruce Arena. "There has been a lot of bad blood over the years. When the game's over we're friends again."

A U.S. team reached the semifinals at the first World Cup in 1930, losing 6-1 to Argentina. They reached the second round at home in 1994, but were last among 32 teams in 1998.

Mexico, where soccer is the No. 1 sport, was in its 12th World Cup. It reached the quarterfinals in 1970 and 1986, and lost in the second round in 1994 and 1998.

"We played very good football," Jared Borgetti said. "But in football, you win by scoring goals and we didn't score."

"The United States has a very good team, very fast with a very dangerous counterattack."

Mexico coach Javier Aguirre was not so impressed.

"They didn't want to play. Instead they worked to prevent us from playing our game," Aguirre said. "It worked. But it was markedly different from Ecuador, Italy and Croatia, which played and competed."

About 10,000 Mexicans were in the predominantly Korean crowd of 35,000 at Jeonju. The Koreans joined them in cheering wildly for every attack by Mexico's team. The

crowd vigorously booed every U.S. advance.

Ironically, South Korea's team helped the Americans into the second round by eliminating Portugal. The Americans finished the first round with a win over favored Portugal, a tie with South Korea and a loss to Poland.

Also in the Americans' half of the draw, Spain was awaiting a quarterfinal match against the winner of Tuesday's game between co-host South Korea and three-time champion Italy.

On the other side, England was awaiting the Brazil-Belgium winner, and surprising Senegal will play the winner of Tuesday's Japan-Turkey game.

Difficulties in obtaining tickets touched off another wave of outrage in South Korea.

Fans camping outside Daejeon's World Cup stadium hoping for last-minute tickets to South Korea's match against Italy discovered belatedly that Korean organizers sold 1,465 tickets on the Internet.

"We've become idiots," said Hur Jin-beom, a 26-year-old student who had been camping out since Friday. "Organizers knew we were here. If they had any tickets, they should have been sold to us."

Added Oh Taek-hoon, a 32-year-old retailer: "I'm going to barge into the stadium, whatever it takes, even if I die trying."

Lin Byung-taik, a spokesman for the organizing committee, said Monday: "I understand the fans. But our basic policy is to sell leftover tickets on the Internet until the day before match day."

In a number of first-round matches, there were empty seats inside stadiums. Disgruntled fans had difficulty logging on to the ticket Web site or, later, couldn't get through on phone lines set up to purchase tickets.

Legendary Cardinals Voice Buck Dies at 77

One of most distinctive voices in sports has been silenced.

Jack Buck, who in nearly five decades as a broadcaster rose from Harry Caray's sidekick to a St. Louis institution, died Tuesday night after a long hospital stay. He was 77.

Jack Buck at one time teamed with Harry Caray on Cards broadcasts.

"He had a great life," said Joe Buck, who joined his father in the booth in 1991 and called the Cardinals' victory over the Anaheim Angels for Fox. "He didn't waste one minute of one day. He packed two lifetimes into one lifetime. He went from poor to wealthy in his lifetime, yet he never changed."

On May 16, Buck underwent another operation to eradicate a series of recurring infections, including pneumonia, and was placed on dialysis. Joe Buck said his father died with his family by his side.

"He made us proud every day," Joe Buck said. "He battled for his life."

Jack Buck began calling Cardinals games on radio in 1954, teaming first with Caray. Nationally, Buck called Super Bowls, World Series and even pro bowling for CBS, ABC and NBC.

"It's a sad day for the game of baseball," Arizona Diamondbacks manager Bob Brenly said. "He was baseball for a lot of people who grew up in the Midwest."

The gravel-voiced Buck, a heavy smoker for decades, authored several memorable calls.

After a gimpy Kirk Gibson hit a game-winning two-run homer off Oakland's Dennis Eckersley in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series, Buck was incredulous: "I don't believe what I just saw!"

Buck was also behind the microphone for the first telecast of the American Football League and at the NFL championship "Ice Bowl" in 1967.

"There only is and always will be just one Jack Buck,"



said former slugger Jack Clark, who played for the Cardinals in the 1980s. "He's a Hall of Fame announcer and a Hall of Fame person. He was in the game when it was at its purest."

Buck shipped out for Europe in February 1945 and was wounded the next month in Germany. Back home a year later, Buck went to Ohio State and launched his broadcasting career at the school's radio station.

"When I went on the air to do a sports show at WOSU, I had never done a sports show before," Buck wrote in "That's a Winner," his autobiography. "When I did a basketball game, it was the first time I ever did play-by-play. The same with football. I didn't know how to do these things. I just did them."

In 1954, Buck beat out Chick Hearn -- who went on to become an institution with the Los Angeles Lakers -- for a job with the Cardinals.

Buck left the Cardinals booth for a year in 1960 to work for ABC. He later had a falling out with the network, which led him to not return a phone call that could have landed him the first play-by-play role on the network's "Monday Night

Football." Instead, he called Monday night games and 17 Super Bowls on CBS radio with sidekick Hank Stram from 1978-1996.

In 1990, Buck began a two-year stint as lead baseball announcer for CBS. All the while, Buck continued to call Cardinals games. Joe Buck is now the lead baseball and football play-by-play announcer at Fox.

An amateur poet, Buck often read his work on the air and, on occasion, to crowds. When baseball resumed last year after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Buck's patriotic words were a highlight of a pregame ceremony at Busch Stadium.

Inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame's broadcaster's wing in 1987, Buck later became a member of both the broadcasters and radio halls of fame. He was awarded the Pete Rozelle Award by the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1996 and received a lifetime achievement Emmy in 2000.

Buck, who had six children with his first wife Alyce, and two with wife Carole, is survived by his second wife; sons Jack Jr., Dan and Joe; and daughters Beverly, Christine, Bonnie, Betsy and Julie.

Morales

From Page 4

fondo, pero esta vez verán al auténtico Morales que no habían visto en las últimas tres peleas, y que mucha gente se quejó de eso.

"Ahora es el momento de callar esas bocas y realizar lo que sé hacer. Boxear, contragolpear y mantener el ritmo de pelea que me convenga y me lleve al triunfo, que espero sea más contundente", enfatizó el "Terrible".

En otro orden, de acuerdo a Ricardo Jiménez, vocero de Top Rank, empresa que junto al Forum Boxing promueven esta pelea de las llamadas de pronóstico reservado, las apuestas se mantienen a favor de Barrera 2-1.

Asimismo, indicó que la prensa estadounidense ya está en Las Vegas, donde este sábado se realizará la pelea en el hotel MGM Grand, transmitida en pago por evento, y los medios de comunicación de México lo harían hoy.

"Ya hay mucho movimiento. Esta clase de peleas son las que despiertan el interés en todo mundo, especialmente en el mexicano pues conoce a la perfección a los protagonistas", manifestó Jiménez, vía telefónica.

"Por ejemplo, la pelea de Lewis-Tyson era un evento grande, pero más que nada existía curiosidad por ver qué haría Mike con el gigante inglés. En el caso de Morales-Barrera es un evento netamente deportivo entre dos grandes exponentes aztecas, que buscan convertirse en los número uno", subrayó.

Finalmente se conoció que Barrera (54-3, 39 nocauts) cerró su preparación en Big Bear y esperaban que arribara a Las Vegas a las 9:00 de la noche.

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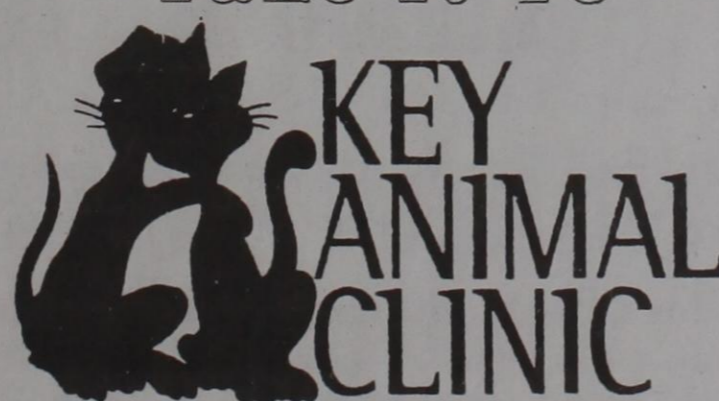
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Fox Abre Las Fichas De La 'Guerra Sucia'

Al poner a disposición del público el numeroso acervo de material de inteligencia acumulado por el régimen anterior durante la llamada "guerra sucia", el presidente Vicente Fox aseguró que su gobierno llegará hasta las últimas consecuencias para castigar a los responsables de espionajes, detenciones, torturas, muertes y desapariciones políticas cometidas en los años 60 y 70 en este país.

Ante víctimas de acciones represivas de aquellos años, Fox garantizó que su gobierno no se conformará con buscar la reconstrucción histórica de tan vergonzosos hechos, sino que hará lo que esté a su alcance para que se proceda judicialmente contra quienes violaron los derechos humanos y políticos de cientos de mexicanos.

"Estamos dispuestos a llegar hasta las últimas consecuencias en el esclarecimiento de los hechos", enfatizó Fox. No basta, dijo, la mera reconstrucción de los sucesos que dejaron una grave huella en la historia del país, ya que "ninguna sociedad puede tolerar excesos y agravios contra los derechos humanos".

El Presidente sostuvo categóricamente que en el uso que eventualmente las autoridades judiciales den a la valiosa información, contenida en alrededor de 80 mil expedientes, no se admitirán "cálculos políticos" que desvíen la adecuada aplicación de la justicia.

Indicó que la apertura de esos archivos oficiales, que se hallaban en posesión de diversas dependencias del actual gobierno, "da cuenta de que el cambio avanza, de que la transformación por la que votaron millones de ciudadanas y ciudadanos es una realidad, pues en el México de hoy las leyes se aplican y no hay lugar para intocables".

Acciones judiciales
En ceremonia efectuada en las instalaciones del Archivo General de la Nación, donde el delicado material informativo se mantiene resguardado, el jefe del Poder Ejecutivo hizo hincapié en que la Fiscalía Especial para la Investigación de los Movimientos Sociales y Políticos, que creó el año pasado, tratará de ejercer acción penal contra quienes hayan sido culpables de los referidos crímenes.

Justo en el sitio donde en el pasado se ubicaba el llamado "Palacio Negro de Lecumberri", temido penal donde eran reclusos los presos políticos, Fox destacó la trascendencia de castigar a los responsables de la "guerra sucia" para poder conseguir la reconciliación nacional.

"Tenemos que reconciliarnos con el pasado, y lo vamos a hacer por vía de nuestras instituciones", adelantó el presidente mexicano.

Los archivos de inteligencia



no son otra cosa que más cinco mil cajas repletas de millones de fichas que se refieren a personas y grupos de la vida educativa, académica y obrera de México. Durante décadas, todos ellos fueron objeto de espionaje y persecución por parte de corporaciones militares, paramilitares y policíacas.

A lo largo de más de 70 años de régimen priista (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI), estas instancias gubernamentales se dedicaron a espiar a cuanto mexicano y extranjero consideraban que, por su activismo político y social, representaban un peligro para la relativa estabilidad del país.

Los blancos de estas operaciones clandestinas con frecuencia eran estudiantes, profesores y obreros que se unían en agrupaciones civiles para exigir al gobierno mayor apertura democrática y justicia social. Muchos eran intimidados, detenidos, torturados, apresados y desaparecidos.

Tlatelolco
El episodio más representativo de esta "guerra sucia" fue la llamada Masacre de Tlatelolco, que ocurrió el 2 de octubre de 1968 en el centro de esta ciudad cuando los participantes de un mitin político fueron acibillados por elementos del Ejército. El saldo fue de cientos de hombres y mujeres muertos, heridos, encarcelados y desaparecidos.

La Fiscalía Especial nombrada meses atrás por el presidente Fox, pretende encontrar en la documentación reunida la evidencia necesaria para dar con los presuntos responsables y someterlos al respectivo juicio.

Ex líderes de las organizaciones sociales y políticas de aquella época, víctimas de las campañas oficiales de represión, insisten en que los ex presidentes y altas autoridades de aquella época deben ser los primeros en ser castigados por la llamada "guerra sucia".

A este respecto, el secretario de Gobernación, Santiago Creel, admitió ayer que "la Justicia no puede ser justa" si se detiene ante individuos con "antiguos cargos, puestos o investiduras", y recaló que la ley no tiene excepciones y por tanto "la Justicia debe ser ciega y mantenerse siempre en el fiel de la balanza".

Subrayó que "hechos terribles como los que documentan estos archivos no pueden volver a ocurrir en nuestro país".

El responsable de la política interior repitió que, con la apertura al público de este valioso material, México da un importante paso "en el camino hacia un histórico estado de Derecho democrático", pero sobre todo se da un sólido avance en el esfuerzo por desterrar definitivamente la impunidad.

"Un paso decidido en la construcción de un país donde cabemos todos por igual, bajo el imperio de la ley y bajo la vigencia de los valores de un sistema democrático", concluyó Creel.

Los 80 millones de fichas dadas a conocer, puntualizó el secretario de Gobernación, contienen información relevante que se extiende de 1952 a 1985, con documentos que dan luz sobre sucesos que sacudieron a la conciencia de la nación, como los acontecimientos de 1968 y la llamada "guerra sucia" de los años 70.

New Poll Finds Cornyn-Kirk Senate Race Remains Tight

The race to replace retiring GOP Sen. Phil Gramm is the closest statewide contest in Texas despite a heated governor's race featuring costly television ads, a new poll suggests.

With nearly five months to go before the general election, the Scripps Howard Texas Poll gave Republican U.S. Senate nominee Texas Attorney General John Cornyn 35 percent of the vote, while Democratic opponent Ron Kirk got 30 percent. Another 33 percent were undecided.

"People aren't paying attention yet. The only people paying attention are the hardcore, political aficionados," said Charles Elliot, a political scientist at Texas A&M-Commerce University.

Cornyn and Kirk said the poll, released Friday, is inspiring them to work even harder.

"It's almost impossible to know at this early date who is going to be motivated enough to vote and that's the major problem with" polls, said Cornyn spokesman Dave Beckwith.

"But when all polls show that it is a close race, then you have to assume it's a close race, and we do assume," he said.

Cornyn has called Kirk, a former Dallas mayor and Texas secretary of state, a follower who clings to national party philosophy and takes stances only on issues that Cornyn tackles first.

Kirk continues to present himself as the moderate, bipartisan candidate who will bring a voice of reason to a fractious Senate, in which Democratic power teeters on a one-seat edge.

Kirk and other Democrats believe the Texas Poll and other recent surveys showing all statewide Republican candidates ahead are flawed.

If elected, Kirk would become the first black senator from Texas and Tony Sanchez would be the state's first Hispanic governor from a major party.

"I don't worry about that. There hasn't been a poll yet that's tested my strength," Kirk said Friday.

The Senate campaign has not been as high-profile as the gubernatorial race between Sanchez and Rick Perry, a Republican who became governor when Bush became president.

Sanchez has spent millions on slick television ads airing across the state, including some that attack Perry as a governor who caters to special interests over ordinary Texans.

Perry has countered the with ads of his own and both candidates have campaigned steadily since winning their respective primaries in March.

Yet the Texas Poll and two others - an April survey by The Dallas Morning News and a May poll by the independent consulting firm Montgomery & Associates of Austin - show Perry leading Sanchez by 20 percentage points or more.

Perry was backed by 46 percent of likely voters. Sanchez was supported by 26 percent. Twenty-five percent were undecided, according to the Texas Poll.

"It's clear the millions he's spent and attacks he's made have been wasted," Perry spokesman Ray Sullivan said. "Governor Perry is enjoying a strong lead even though he's spent less on television ads than what Mr. Sanchez has spent on polling."

But the Sanchez campaign claims its own polling shows Sanchez within single digits of

Perry. "An incumbent Republican governor in Texas who succeeded a popular Republican president and who is under 50 percent is in serious trouble," said Glenn Smith, Sanchez's campaign manager.

The poll results didn't hamper the mood at the Democratic state convention in El Paso, which ended Saturday.


Billboard-sized Kirk and Sanchez posters decorated the border city. Delegates wore hats, buttons, T-shirts and stickers promoting the pair's campaigns.

Sanchez, a Laredo businessman who was relatively unknown before his candidacy, was hand-picked by the Texas Democratic Party as their best chance to unseat Perry in a state where Republicans have held every statewide office for eight years.


After a passionate convention speech that was somewhat overshadowed by the poll, Sanchez's camp circulated various internal and lobby organization surveys that showed Sanchez even or ahead of Perry.

Still, while Democratic leaders were careful not to pick favorites, some delegates said they were focusing their efforts on Kirk because they believe he has the best chance of victory.

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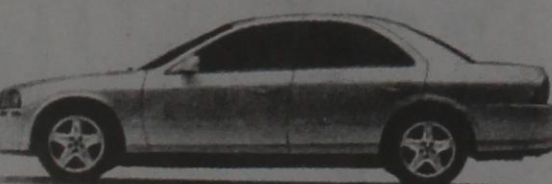
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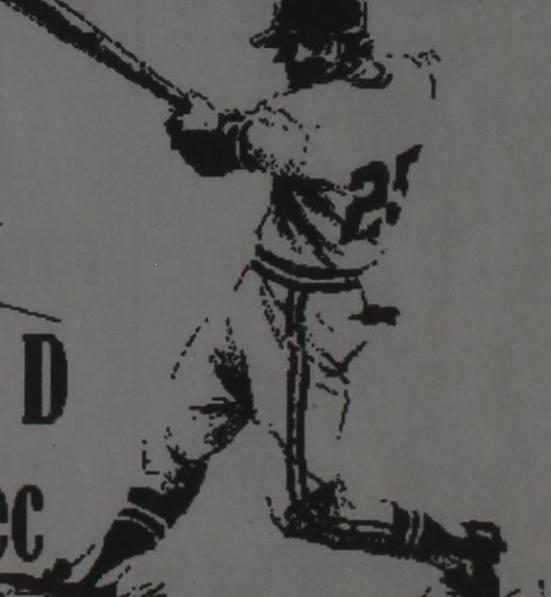
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