

# Edictario

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Lubbock, Texas USA

"El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz"

SOUTHWEST COLLECTIVE. Benito Juarez  
Texas Tech University  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

## Specifically designated to be for African American Representation

# Hernandez Asks for City Council Districts 3, 4, 5 or 6 to Be Considered Minority



After being accused by Lubbock City Council member Victor Hernandez of reaching a decision that was racially biased, the City of Lubbock's advisory committee on redistricting met today to reconsider plans to redraw Lubbock's district lines for electing City Council members.

Hernandez made the accusation during the September 27 city council meeting saying that two committee members, A.D. Smith and Rose Wilson were anti Hispanic and had voted against a plan submitted that would have increased the Hispanic population in one council district by removing a voting precinct from a council district that has the city's largest black population.

The rejected plan would have boosted the opportunity for a Hispanic to get elected in Precinct 3.

"I don't know why Blacks would have objected to Hispanic having more representation on the City Council," said long time political observer Eliseo Solis.

Smith told the Lubbock AJ that Hernandez "was trying to lean it all toward Hispanics. He wanted it to where, if he had enough votes, he would get four Hispanic council members. That offended me."

Smith's comments printed in the Southwest Digest a black oriented newspaper, offended many Hispanics. Smith said that the comments were taken "out of context" and that sometimes what is written does not adequately reflect the opinions of the writer.

Smith had written that criticized immigration and in an AJ interview is quoted as saying "I am against immigration. We've got enough problems as it is, and if that makes me a racist, the I'm a racist, but they're not going to get the Alamo back. This is America, and if they don't like it, they can go back to Mexico."

"It's all right to voice one's opinion," said Esther Sepeda,

president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce "but when he directs offensive comments to the entire Hispanic population, that makes me mad."

Ysidro Gutierrez, a member of several organizations said that he was surprised that the Black community is not saying anything about Smith's comments. "Do they agree with him?" asked Gutierrez.

During the advisory committee meeting, they were asked to consider if the vote by members was tainted: 1. Because they had not been given the opportunity to review the redistricting report entitled "Report on Group Differences in Candidate Preferences" compiled by consultant to the City or whether any action by any of the committee members had wrongly influenced their vote.

Hernandez contended that the process was tainted because "of the premeditated manner in which certain members at the committee itself sought to intentionally lock the Hispanic community out of effective representation that they could otherwise achieve thereby intentionally diluting the voting strength of the Hispanic immunity on the basis of ethnicity."

He said that "secondly was tainted by 1) the lateness of the document, 1) in the lack of being provided any supporting material with regards to the report and 3) the inability to discuss the report fully not only among the committee members themselves, but with Professor Engstrom who compiled the report as well."

Hernandez further stated that it was his contention "that even if the process is not tainted, that the plan recommended by the Redistricting Committee to the Lubbock City Council is one which created discriminatory districts in that it intentionally dilutes the voting strength of Hispanics on the basis of ethnicity."

Hernandez asked that the problem be resolved by the com-

mittee providing "an opportunity to review the supporting documentation to Dr. Engstrom's report, providing an opportunity to question Dr. Engstrom as to his conclusions; providing an op-

portunity for the Redistricting Committee to have full, informed discussion and as to continued representation by the African American community on the City Council, have District

3, 4, 5 or 6 designated as a minority district, specifically for African American representation.

The committee voted that the report would not have in-

fluenced their vote and that no persons's actions influenced their vote.

The committee's recommendation will go to the City Council for final vote on October 11.

## Latinos Continue To Lag In College Matriculation

By Arlene Martinez

While the overall number of Hispanics who enrolled in post-secondary education continues to rise, the percentage of Hispanics in college isn't keeping pace with Latino population increases, a national sampling of universities by Weekly Report has found. Meanwhile, many schools are increasing their efforts to attract more Latinos.

Hispanics make up 14.5 percent of the traditional college-age population, ages 18 to 24, but make up only about 8-10 percent of the higher-education student population. The U.S. Census Bureau projects by the year 2025, Hispanics will comprise 22 percent of the nation's college-age residents.

Roughly 1.36 million Hispanics are enrolled in higher education in the United States and Puerto Rico, according to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Analysis of 1997-8 data, the latest figure available. Barely one in four (27.5 percent) of Hispanics aged 18-21, are enrolled in college. That compares to 46.1 percent of their white counterparts.

"The numbers are growing very rapidly because of the fast-growing population, but not the rate of entrance," HACU President Dr. Antonio Flores said. "For the last 20 years there's been some fluctuation but nothing steady or significant as a pattern of change."

Nearly 75 percent of Hispanic college students are concentrated in five states: California, Texas, Illinois, Florida and New York. Early enrollment figures for the fall 2001 first-time freshman class at surveyed institutions indicate no significant percentage changes but numerically, could set all-time highs.

-- Of 55,083 students accepted to the eight University of California campuses, 7,630 were Hispanics, the highest number in five years. More than half, 3,207, are expected to attend based on preliminary figures, a 1 percent increase from 2000.

-- Hispanic enrollment rose at 10 of Florida's 11 public universities -- the University of Florida being the exception -- representing the only ethnic group whose percentage, as well as actual numbers increased. However, students of color remain at 36 percent of the total

student population, steady for the past five years.

Within the University of Texas system:

-- Austin, the largest single campus in the nation based on preliminary 2001 figures with 50,613 students, saw its number of Hispanic freshman rise by 13 (1,011 to 1,024), an increase of 0.8 percent.

-- At El Paso, while the percentage of enrolled Hispanic students dipped slightly, 73.7 percent of the entering freshman class is Hispanic. Graduate student enrollment rose from 1,199 to 1,349.

-- Dallas, a predominantly science and technology school, boasting the second highest number of computer science degrees conferred in the nation, saw its Hispanic population rise by 33 students.

UTEP has added nine doctorate programs in the last 12 years, and the university has expanded to include more night and weekend classes in its masters programs. That variety and accessibility has been instrumental in attracting graduate students, says Dr. Sally Andrade, UTEP director of the Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research and Planning.

"We, like everyone else, continue to be concerned about access for Hispanic students given the economic realities and family responsibilities," Andrade said. "We've been working very hard to promote graduate enrollment, and we're heavily recruiting among the masters and doctorate programs."

Dr. Lawrence Redlinger, director of the Office of Strategic Planning at UT Dallas, said the university is actively trying to bring areas of concentration like science and technology to Hispanics, offering academic support to qualified high school students. Hispanics -- the fastest-growing segment of the student population at UT Dallas -- most often receive degrees in liberal arts, business and the health profession, according to 1998 figures from the National Council for Education Statistics, 1998).

"Everyone needs to be computer literate," Redlinger said. "Then hopefully the next generation can leapfrog their parents."

Officials at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, the state's



largest public university, estimate Hispanics will comprise 4 percent of the freshman class, a percentage that hasn't increased since at least 1997. Hispanics make up 3.3 percent of Michigan's overall population.

"I know that a lot of our Hispanic students are from out-of state and we've certainly stepped up our recruiting efforts in the South and Southwest," said Pam Horn, assistant director of Admissions at UMAA. "But we're not an inexpensive school for out-of-state students, and attracting students to a colder climate can be challenging. But we've taken strides and I hope we see climbing numbers (of Hispanic students)."

The University of Alabama at Birmingham, with a freshman fall 2001 entering class of 1,305, had seven Hispanics, down from 26 a year ago. Though Alabama's Latino population rose by 208 percent over the last decade, to 1.7 percent, much of that growth has been in the rural sector among the migrant workers, a transient group with young children.

"Our market share isn't there," Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management Sue McKinnon said. "We have not seen the high-school senior Hispanic population surge in the state. We should,

within five years, see a huge boom. We've got a microscope to the community, and we're waiting in the wings for the demographics to shift."

McKinnon stressed the importance of beginning educational outreach to middle and junior high school students, especially in rural areas where the largest population of Hispanics exist in the state.

The dropout rate remains exceedingly high and many of those who do graduate don't have the kind of academic preparation to get them admitted to four-year institutions, forcing them into community college and other non-selective institutions that may not provide support or resources to advance their educational progress, Flores said.

HACU predicts within 14 years there will be an additional 3.5 million students added to the current student population, and 40 percent will be Hispanic.

"They need to create a campus environment that is supportive in a cultural and social sense, and having faculty and administration that reflect the diversity of its campus' is key, Flores said. And, he added, because the Latino population is so young, universities need to collaborate with K-12 education to ensure there is a greater rate of success.

# Nuevo Zar Lucha Contra La Corrupción en México

Ciudad de México - El hombre conocido como "Señor limpio", o sea, el nuevo zar anticorrupción del Presidente Vicente Fox, tiene el potencial de llegar a ser uno de los más poderosos y temidos funcionarios de México.

Francisco Barrio, un ex gobernador del Estado norteño de Chihuahua, es responsable de revelar e investigar la corrupción y las irregularidades en el gasto de las partidas federales, en un país con una larga historia de ambas cosas.

La administración Fox está tratando de formular lineamientos y reglas de transparencia para el gasto gubernamental. La misión de Barrio es una de las bases principales del esfuerzo gubernamental para conquistar la confianza en el interior y en el extranjero, después de que el triunfo de Fox en las elecciones del año pasado puso fin a 71 años de control autoritario de un solo partido en México.

Los sobornos pagados en las calles a los policías y a burócratas en las oficinas públicas han sido, desde hace tiempo, parte de la vida diaria en este país. Los mexicanos han llegado al punto en que esperan que los funcionarios gubernamentales en los puestos más altos se

apoderen, en una u otra forma, de cientos de miles, si no es que millones, de dólares de los recursos públicos.

Barrio, cuyo título oficial es Contralor General, ha declarado repetidamente que la corrupción no podrá ser erradicada durante el mandato de seis años del Presidente Fox. El Gobierno, sin embargo, puede empezar a crear las bases para reducirla, añade.

"Si los riesgos son mayores que los beneficios, entonces no habrá corrupción. El problema es que en muchos, muchos casos, no hay riesgos. De forma que tenemos que aumentar esos riesgos", dijo Barrio en una entrevista reciente.

Desde que asumió el cargo en el Gobierno de Fox el pasado diciembre, Barrio ha estado investigando algunas de las mayores instituciones federales --entre ellas la empresa estatal petrolera Pemex-- donde supuestamente se han malversado unos 21 millones de dólares.

La investigación, que ya ha provocado el despido de algunos altos funcionarios de Pemex, tiene que ver con contratos sospechosos con firmas privadas contratadas para proporcionar apoyo técnico a la cor-

poración gubernamental.

En un sistema federal de tiendas y farmacias subsidiadas, Barrio, según diversas versiones, encontró casos de irregularidades y malos manejos que ascienden a 41 millones de dólares. Funcionarios policiales federales también han sido acusados de irregularidades en la compra de helicópteros y aviones.

Barrio, de 50 años, es miembro del conservador Partido de Acción Nacional, o PAN, al que pertenece el Presidente Fox.

Gobernó el Estado de Chihuahua en la década de 1990, una experiencia que al parecer le enseñó que eliminar la corrupción en México dista mucho de ser una tarea fácil.

Chihuahua es una entidad tristemente famosa por la corrupción y criminalidad relacionadas con el tráfico de drogas. No obstante, dice Barrio, cuando era gobernador logró conquistar la confianza de los agentes de la ley en el vecino Estado de Texas, en Estados Unidos. En un año, dijo, el Gobierno de su Estado regresó 2,000 autos robados a habitantes de Texas.

Desde que tomó las riendas de su nuevo cargo, más de 5,000 servidores públicos han sido despedi-

dos, multados o castigados en diversas formas por una gran variedad de investigaciones sobre corrupción.

Funcionarios investigados

Entre los que fueron obligados a renunciar se encuentran 10 empleados que trabajaban en la dependencia de Barrios antes de que él fuera designado para encabezarla. Eran funcionarios de comunicación que habitualmente falsificaban solicitudes para la compra de boletos de aviación, para después embolsarse el dinero.

Bajo las órdenes de Fox, Barrio ha empezado a formar grupos de inspectores secretos para que operen en todas y cada una de las agencias federales de México donde se tiene contacto directo con el público.

Barrios afirma que en una enorme parte de la corrupción que se registra en México ocurre en lo que él llama "la ventanilla de corrupción", o sea en las oficinas gubernamentales donde el pueblo acude en busca de diversos servicios.

En un programa secreto piloto llevado a cabo a principios de este año, la oficina de Barrios descubrió que servidores públicos en siete ciudades de México estaban cobrando y embolsándose el equivalente

de 100 dólares, además de la tarifa regular autorizada, para emitir cada licencia federal de conductor de autos.

Las licencias federales de conductor son obligatorias para quienes operan camiones, autobuses y diversos otros vehículos en las carreteras federales mexicanas. Solicitantes que no estaban calificados, sea por mala visión u otras deficiencias, estaban obteniendo licencias si se mostraban dispuestos a pagar el equivalente de 100 dólares.

Docenas de empleados federales fueron despedidos por participar en esta red de corrupción en la Ciudad de México y en las de Querétaro, Tijuana, Juárez, Monterrey, Veracruz y Nuevo Laredo.

"Era como una franquicia", comenta Barrios con una sonrisa triste.

Barrio incluso está investigando a su propio jefe, el Presidente, en un escándalo conocido en el México como "toallagate". En junio, los reporteros que examinaban las relaciones oficiales de las compras gubernamentales descubrieron pedidos para la compra de toallas bordadas destinadas a la residencia oficial de Fox, cada una las cuales costaba 400 dólares.

Barrio ya ha informado acerca de gastos excesivos e irregularidades en la facturación de estas compras. Un número no determinado de personas han sido despedidas, entre ellas un estrecho asesor de Fox. Los resultados de la investigación podrían ser anunciados este mismo mes.

El analista político mexicano José Antonio Crespo dice que Fox y Barrio tienen más "voluntad política" para enfrentar la corrupción que los gobiernos previos.

Pero el Gobierno necesita demostrar la culpabilidad de personajes prominentes corruptos de los regímenes pasados --lo cual hasta ahora no ha hecho-- para demostrar que no está llevando a cabo lo que sólo sería un espectáculo de relaciones públicas, dice Crespo.

Crespo opina que hay cierta resistencia en cuanto a ir tras personajes corruptos del ex gobernante Partido Revolucionario Institucional, o PRI, porque Fox debe trabajar estrechamente con la gran facción del PRI en el Congreso. El pueblo mexicano, añade Crespo, "es también cómplice en una gran parte de la corrupción imperante. Y eso quiere decir que mucha gente no va a informar de casos de corrupción cuando se benefician con ella".

**Español:**

# Just Another Immigrant Language?

By **Domenico Maceri, PhD**

French signs in Quebec by law have to be twice as big as those in English, designed, of course, to protect the French language. In the US 26 states have passed laws declaring English the official language, primarily to safeguard English as the language of the nation in the face of the growing importance of Spanish.

Interestingly, while Americans and French-speaking Canadians view their languages threatened, Spanish speakers in the US share the same feeling of linguistic vulnerability. Indeed, many scholars looking at the future of Spanish in the US see little but bleakness.

The Spanish language disappears after a generation or two as immigrants' children and grandchildren prefer to concentrate on English. When Spanish is somewhat maintained, it turns into Spanglish — a mixture of Spanish and English — in the second generation, but by the third generation it's pretty much all gone.

The fate of Spanish in the US appears to be no different from that of other immigrant languages such as German, Polish, Italian, Russian, etc. As immigrants settle and Americanize, they lose their language.

Yet, Spanish has managed to maintain its importance in the US thanks to the continuous immigration, which replenishes the number of speakers of the language. Currently, there are 17 million Spanish speakers in the US, many of whom also speak English to various degrees. And it could be argued that Spanish has been in the US, particularly Florida and the Southwest before English and has managed to survive and will

continue to do so. A number of other indicators point to a bright future for Spanish, which might prove scholars wrong. At the present time, Spanish has made it all the way to the White House. The American President, George W. Bush, speaks Spanish, albeit not very well. And several members of his family speak it even better.

At the 2000 Republican Convention in Philadelphia, Abel Maldonado, Republican Assemblyman from California, gave a speech completely in Spanish. The Spanish words represented a dramatic change from the previous Republican National Conventions where bashing immigrants and languages other than English seemed to be de rigueur. At the 2000 Convention, Republicans seemed willing to accept the Spanish language and by extension its speakers and welcome them into their Party.

The vitality of Spanish is obvious in education. Spanish is the most popular foreign language in American high schools, colleges, and universities. More than 3.3 million American high school students are taking Spanish.

At the college level a similar picture emerges, showing the dominance of Spanish. Figures released by the Modern Language Association reveal that for the first time in the history of foreign language enrollments, Spanish accounts for more than 50% of the total. All the other foreign languages put together—French, German, Russian, Italian, Japanese, etc.—attract fewer students than Spanish.

Spanish is still an essential

language in elementary schools in spite of the anti-bilingual education movement. Most states are continuing the programs and although many different languages are involved, Spanish is the most widely used.

The importance of Spanish is reflected in the pocketbook. Researchers at the University of Miami found that linguistic knowledge among Hispanic families shapes family income in surprising ways. Families who spoke only Spanish had an average income of \$ 18,000; those with only English, \$32,000. Those with both Spanish and English, however, averaged \$50,376.

Bilingual employees of the city of Los Angeles in designated positions earn 5% more than their monolingual colleagues. And bilingual teachers in the Los Angeles School District receive a yearly bonus of 5,000 dollars.

Companies are very well aware of the connection between Spanish and business. When you make a phone call in the US, AT&T and other major phone companies ask you to push 1 for English and 2 for Spanish. Bank ATMs ask you the same question.

And if you watch television in Spanish, you see commercials from major American as well as international companies trying to capture more business en español.

The linguistic history of the

US is not represented by the number one. Many different languages have formed the linguistic landscape although a group has managed to impose its own language because of power. That language has been and is likely to remain English.

Spanish, however, will continue to thrive in the US because of the poverty of the Spanish-speaking world, particularly Mexico's. Unless economic conditions improve drastically to fill the gap in wage disparity between the US and its southern neighbor, Mexicans will continue to make the journey north. And that is good news for Cervantes' language in the US.

Ironically, if immigration from Spanish-speaking countries peters out because stronger economies keep people home, the decrease in the importance of Spanish in the US will be offset by its increased importance worldwide. The language of people with a strong purchasing power has great value in a global economy.

Regardless of what happens, I'm glad I know Spanish. If I didn't, I'd start studying it right now.

*Domenico Maceri (dmaceri@aol.com), PhD, UC Santa Barbara, teaches foreign languages at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, CA. His articles have appeared in many newspapers and some have won awards from the National Association of Hispanic Publications.*

## Importantes Decisiones de La Suprema Corte

La Suprema Corte de Justicia de Estados Unidos inició ayer su nueva temporada de sesiones, luego de rendir homenaje a las víctimas del atentado suicida, con una serie de anuncios entre los que sobresale la decisión de prohibir al ex presidente Bill Clinton, de por vida, litigar ante el más alto tribunal de la nación.

El ex gobernante anunció, a través de su propio abogado, David Kendall, que recurrirá la decisión, "mostrando las razones por las que la expulsión no es adecuada".

Los analistas que consideraron la decisión judicial afirman que es un paso casi seguro hacia la expulsión del Colegio de Abogados.

Clinton tiene 40 días para impugnar esa decisión y presentar argumentos, y su abogado dijo que habrá batalla legal.

La sorpresiva decisión de la Suprema Corte no fue explicada.

Clinton fue sancionado junto a otros 17 abogados de todo el país.

En otras decisiones, en un posible cambio de actitud respecto al rechazo de la práctica de perfil racial en arrestos policiales, la Suprema Corte rechazó la apelación de un grupo de afroamericanos que acusaba a la policía de racismo.

Además, la Suprema Corte se pronunció ayer a favor de examinar la constitucionalidad de la ejecución de los retrasados mentales y acordó al condenado Daryl Atkins una revisión de su proceso ante un tribunal de apelaciones.

Asimismo, el alto tribunal negó sin explicaciones la posibilidad de un nuevo proceso a un cómplice de Timothy McVeigh, el autor del atentado terrorista de Oklahoma en 1995. Terry Nichols, condenado a cadena perpetua por complicidad en el ataque, presentó el pedido en mayo.

## El Editor Newspapers

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## Check This Out!

by **Greg Tijerina**

Hello Folks. I am back after a long vacation or dream. On September 11th of this year - two thousand one, I woke up a little after nine in the morning. My sister said to turn on the TV. Terrorist hijacked four American jetliners. They were bombing New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Thousands of innocent Americans slaughtered turned into ashes. Police, firefighters, all emergency response crews were digging, putting body parts in plastic body bags. It was on all the TV channels. What I saw was like something out of the movie Independence Day. It was like a nightmare that I could not wake up to. Shaking my head, I asked myself, who in the world can be so low besides the butcher of Baghdad to slaughter thousands of innocent hard working human people? Soon the butcher of Afghanistan will go after the Butcher of another millennium of horror. Oh well, we are doomed to follow the ways of our ancestors. This millennium has just begun. Bring it on and we will get on with it. A new World order is due. America is forced to retaliate. World War three is on. Either you are for us or against us. The world has changed in a twinkling of an eye. Beware Bin Laden, Talaban, Israel, PLO, Sadasamwhosins, ruler of Baghdad. All countries that practice terrorism or are harboring terrorist will to down. Your ways or perish. Let the slaughter continue. Sadamwhosinsane, once said America is God. America can make fire come down from above. Why not change the ten commandments into thy shall kill. Thy shall hate thy neighbor. A tooth for a tooth. An eye for an eye.

THOUGHT: Are we a civilized nation or a war conjuring world super power. Revenge is for the mighty one. You know who America!

# Ponerle Cara, Con Hoyuelos, Al Tema De Inmigracion

Por **Marisa Treviño**

¿Sabe qué, maestra? ¿Sabe qué?

Fue una pregunta sencilla que oí constantemente durante el tiempo que pasé como asistente bilingüe para una clase de kindergarten de un centro urbano. Sin tener músculos que flexionar, los niños contaban con una forma segura de dirigirse la atención que era postular dicho misterio sencillo que rogaba solución. Siempre era una competencia ver quién ganaba a quién.

Esta vez, el competidor era un estudiante nuevo, Erik. Con una sonrisa con hoyuelos que subrayaban su confianza, Erik sentía que nadie podía ser mejor que él.

Y tenía razón. Mientras la clase nos rodeaba, Erik alzaba la barbilla y declaraba en voz clara y orgullosa que él había cruzado el Río Grande en barco.

Antes que yo pudiera dar un respiro, Erik contaba de su trayecto de noche, enroscado en el fondo de un barco, cobijado por el abrigo de su mamá hasta que encallaron del lado de Texas.

Terminaba el cuento repitiendo lo que habría oído decir a sus padres miles de veces: que estaba aquí porque su familia quería "a vida mejor". Comparto esta historia no para debatir el tema de la

educación de los niños indocumentados sino para ponerle una cara a las cientos de personas que cruzan a diario nuestra frontera al sur, con la esperanza de encontrar trabajo y el tipo de vida que es derecho de toda persona.

Como sabemos de noticias recientes, no todas las veces que se cruza la frontera es tan fácil como cuenta Erik. El año pasado se descubrieron los cadáveres de más de 400 inmigrantes que murieron tratando de cruzar la frontera de Estados Unidos con México. Entre ellos había niños. El recuento no incluye a los cadáveres sin descubrir del lado mexicano.

Un factor sorprendente que impulsa el número tan alto de muertes es el hecho que estamos haciendo tan bien el trabajo de patrullar nuestras fronteras.

El informe, "Causes and Trends in Migrant Deaths Along the U.S.-Mexico Border" ("Causas y tendencias de las muertes de migrantes a lo largo de la frontera de los Estados Unidos con México"), emitido por el Centro de Investigación de Migraciones de la Universidad de Houston,

encontró que por un aumento en la patrulla de la frontera en los puntos claves de cruce, los inmigrantes se ven obligados a encontrar otros puntos de entrada que atraviesan

terrenos más peligrosos y hacen más vulnerables los inmigrantes a los contrabandistas y pandillas sin escrúpulos.

Algunos dirían que tener conciencia del peligro debería ser suficiente para desanimar a cualquier persona sensata.

Sensata, sí. Desesperada, no.

Antes creía entender lo que significa ser pobre, pero no fue sino hasta que viajé al corazón de México que vi la definición de pobreza en su manifestación más cruenta.

Vi como las familias juntaban cartones de envoltura de refrigeradores, llenarlos de lo poco que tenían, y llamarlos su hogar hasta que el primer chubasco derretía las paredes.

Vi a personas que sufrían de enfermedades físicas grotescas, pero tratables, caminar las calles rogando que alguien les perdonara la apariencia y les diera la oportunidad de ganar el dinero para que un médico los trate.

Vi a jóvenes y viejos, con ganas de trabajar pero incapaces de ganar siquiera lo suficiente para comprar la harina para hacer tortillas.

Para aquellas personas que luchan todos los días sin posibilidades de ayuda de su gobierno, los Estados Unidos siempre representará la última esperanza. Que

nosotros no hagamos caso de esa realidad es de por sí criminal.

No digo que se disuelvan nuestras fronteras, pero sí que seamos mejores vecinos.

No pensamos nada de ir al sur aprovechándonos de la economía mexicana para regresar triunfantes, jactándonos de nuestras habilidades de regateo. Sin embargo, ponemos mala cara y nos quejamos cuando se atreven a cruzar a nuestro territorio, no en busca de gangas, sino trabajos durísimos, bajísimos que ni nuestros adolescentes ávidos de dinero harían.

En septiembre, los presidentes Bush y Fox se reunirán para discutir lo que se puede hacer para detener esta pérdida insensata de vidas. A menos que se hablen de temas fuertes de implementación de políticas, continuará esta tragedia humana.

Mientras tanto, lo más triste es saber que habrá niños como Erik que nunca tendrán la oportunidad de hacer una pregunta tan sencilla.

Marisa Treviño, de Rowlett, Texas, es escritora independiente y contribuyente a Hispanic Link. Contáctese con ella por correo electrónico a [mtrevino@airmail.net](mailto:mtrevino@airmail.net). (c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate International, una división de Tribune Media Services.

**Tertulia y Comentario**  
From "To the Oracle at Delphi"  
By Lawrence Ferlinghetti  
By **Eliseo Solís**  
Great Oracle, sleeping through the centuries,  
Awaken now at last  
And tell us how to save us from ourselves  
And how to survive our own rulers  
Who would make a plutocracy of our democracy  
In the Great Divide  
Between the rich and the poor  
In whom Walt Whitman heard America singing

The purpose of commentary should not be to vilify. It should be to observe, discern, contemplate and provide different insights on actions taken by our "leaders". I have no problem with vilification; I was vilified sufficiently in my public service... some of it deserved in part by my alcoholism and bad decisions. Much of the vilification though, was manufactured. Example: A judge had to order a jury to acquit me after a 9 month investigation, biased media reports, and indictment that ultimately led to the judge's instructed order. There were other instances that in my opinion constituted part of the political experience and had to be endured. So, in spite of my drawbacks and the "vilification" I remain in Lubbock and I served as best I could, never aspiring to higher office or pay as we see our elected leaders doing now. Our illustrious Commissioner Flores even promised me the job of State Representative when the Lubbock plutocracy (I looked it up in the dictionary) offered him up to remove me.

So, Councilman Hernandez... vilify away. In spite of the magnanimous declaration not to do so, you might want to remember a conversation with a well known, highly decorated, retired war veteran in reference to Bidal and myself. No vilification intended there, I'm sure.

As to the gist of the conversation and column, Mr. Hernandez: (1) missed the point and (2) deftly tried to differentiate between the conversation and a conversation.... A conversation was had!

I am not a lawyer, (although I did turn down a scholarship at George Washington University once) but I do know that public officials are essentially public property — Most nowadays are owned privately— just look at our cretin commissioner. They may not legally be exempted from slander or libel laws but most courts don't aspire to have public officials dragging private citizens into court with slander lawsuits. I may be wrong, though.

The same applies to the lame excuse about corporate sponsorships. When have money considerations been applied to the practice of the First Amendment. I suppose that anyone on the fiesta grounds with a copy of the AJ or the Dallas Morning News was asked to dispose of their newspaper. I was unable to attend the "music festival" but I guess camera crews from channels 28 and 11 were not allowed in either or thrown out too as were Bidal and Olga. Duhhh!!!, talk to the hand and give me a break.

**Missing the Point: Two Counts**  
Now about the point being missed. We now have two situations, where our Leader misses the point.

1. Instead of being offended about a conversation, because again, a conversation was held, Mr Hernandez should have been offended, about being accused of not helping develop new leaders and, offered up his initiatives.
2. But of more importance as it relates to the Chicano community, is the issue of restricting and what issue is being brought out as the point of contention? Racism, minority on minority.

**"And how to survive our own rulers"**  
Assuming the Rev. D.A. Smith was quoted correctly, his statement was the most absurd and ethnocentric statement a so-called leader could make coming from a member of an oppressed and discriminated population. He should know better. If that is the best T.J. can do to represent him and me, then "God help us all". It is not that surprising though. When the establishment and some white people love you the way they love T.J., you better be suspicious if you are concerned about justice for Black and Browns ...and how has the pitiful Rose Wilson been able to stay at the helm of the local NAACP for so long. I have seen the faces of people at many meetings listening to her forceful, but empty statements and smile with the knowledge that "it is important to let these people let off steam" and "bueno bye".

This most venerable institution that has provided so many opportunities for Blacks, Chicanos and the disenfranchised at the national level has been put to shame in the Lubbock community. Where was the presence of the Lubbock NAACP and other Lubbock Black leaders in support of the Tulia and Amarillo chapters when that gross injustice was taking place. For that matter, where was the Chicano demonstration of solidarity. In another era, there would have been a march from both Amarillo and Lubbock meeting at Tulia with a combined voter registration drive. Instead, it took a group of righteous, white folks in Tulia and Austin to bring attention to the issue.

So what is our leadership in Lubbock doing? Calling each other racists, sending them back to Mexico whenever one's ancestors were here when the other's were brought in on slave ships and finally, perpetuating a stereotype about rabbits. Even the innocent rabbits are taking a hit. Mas Triste!

In the late 1970s, under the leadership of Carolyn Lanier, Gilbert Herrera, Vera Newsome, Tavita Dorow, Harry Stokely Jo Love Nelson, The League of Women Voters, a Muslim leader whose name I forget, along with members of 35 other justice oriented organizations came together as the Conference of Organizations to address the issues of the day. It was multi-ethnic and greatly concerned about justice. Voter Registration was always a priority, done mainly door-to-door. Another issue that comes to mind was forcing the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce to accept minority membership on the board of directors. And what did the Chicano community get as a representative... Ester Sepeda who never has been one to like confrontation. Otra vez, Mas Triste?

**Side Bar:** I sure hope the West Texas Organizing Strategy (WTOS) hurries and gets into the action phase. If the target date still stands, March or April, 2002 won't come too soon. We need some relief. If you want to see some true Leadership Development and authentic leaders, visit their training sessions and join the action.

It's too late for talking groups. The damage has been done. Do you think elected officials the likes of our Honorables and especially hand held puppets like Commissioner Flores would really take on the issue of Racism. Flores is too busy sending Pct. 3 money to southwest Lubbock. Lord help us all!

Conversations should have taken place in advance without the media. And they should have been about how to increase "minority" voting strength. During the litigation period and original District breakouts, it was determined that a district of about 58% to 63% minority would provide the opportunity for electing a Black or a Brown. Anything higher than 65% would be packing which the approved districts seem to do. Even the voting-age numbers were high and could be seen as packing, but as I have mentioned before, the Voting Rights Act has been terribly weakened by Republicans and not helped much by Democrats. But because making a public show was more important than developing a coalition, the power structure is laughing at our leaders. More importantly, the plan submitted by Hernandez' appointees would have benefited minority voting capacities; yes, Reverend, even the Black community. There isn't much you can do about the numbers, we won't go back to Mexico and we won't stop breeding like rabbits. But if you, Rev. Smith, see the oppressor as your savior and buy their line that they now have you spouting so that they don't have to, I feel for both our communities.

# Los Mandiles Son Mas Que Un Simbolo De La Domesticidad

Por Mary Helen Ponce

Es el sábado por la mañana y están a todo dar las rebajas, hombres, mujeres y muchachos lisos se codean, compitiendo por las mejores cosas. Yo me impulso entre una variedad de cajas y bolsas de plástico. Cansada de buscar entre muchos libros y unos cuantos marcos amontonados, decido salir cuando atizzo un mandil a la antigua encima de una mesa de juegos. Es rosado, con bolsillos floreados y un poco desteñido, pero cuesta sólo 50 centavos.

¿Por qué un mandil?, me pregunto al salir. No me pongo ni los que tengo guardados en el cajón de mi cocina.

Lo que pasa es que a mí me gustan los mandiles. Me recuerdan a casa: la cocina de mi mamá (y luego la mía), comida caliente y familia. Para mí, el mandil es símbolo del hogar.

Durante muchos años, los mandiles formaban parte importante de la inventaria de la ama de casa. Sorprender a una *hausfrau* sin su mandil sería inconcebible. Mi madre, y la mayoría de nuestras vecinas, señoras que lavaban los lunes, planchaban los martes, y limpiaban con ahinco la casa (para que no nos llamaran "mexicanos sucios"), cosían sus propios mandiles. Hechos de saco y adornados con una trensilla, rara vez se usaban más de una vez.

Los mandiles son universales. Las campesinas rusas que siembran el trigo se ponen mandiles encima de sus abrigos gruesos. Durante fiestas indígenas, en las que se veneran a santos patronales, las mujeres hopi, navajo y zuni se ponen mandiles encima de sus vestidos tradicionales.

Mis hermanas y yo crecimos usando mandiles; era prohibido entrar a la cocina sin mandil, y que fuera limpio. Con cierto orgullo me

ataba a la cintura el mandil almidonado de mi mamá para pelar las papas. Cuando tenía que lavar los platos, a la fuerza, fregaba sin mandil, enojada, derramaba espuma, mojóndome el vestido y el piso.

Mi suegra una vez cosió un mandil de unos pantalones de obrero. De mahón azul, lo usaba para cosechar el algodón en los campos de Delano. Ella era bajita, entonces el mandil le llegaba hasta el suelo. Pero cuando hacía tortillas, se ponía un mandil bien planchado, adornado de trensilla con los bolsillos anchos que le gustaban tanto.

En los años cuarenta, se vendían mandiles en J.C. Penney's y en el catálogo de Sears. Algunos eran especiales, con petos redondos, cuadrados o en forma de corazón. La mayoría era de algodón con un bolsillo adelante y dos más en la falda.

Durante los cincuenta, para las celebraciones de novias nunca faltaban los regalos de mandiles bonitos, sexy, de encaje y tafetán. Se los ponían las recién casadas al servir sabrosas comidas especiales, pero para lo diario, se quedaban con los mandiles de servicio. Los que tenían bobos demoraban mucho en planchar. Una vez, para una cena con invitados, me puse un mandil de gasa con un bolsillo en forma de corazón, adornado con encaje. Lo llevé orgullosa hasta que me acerqué mucho a la estufa.

Durante los setenta se pusieron de moda los mandiles de plástico. Si bien no eran prácticos cerca de la estufa caliente, eran fáciles de limpiar, a diferencia de los de algodón, que había que almidonar y planchar. Un poco de agua con detergente, secados con una toalla, eran fáciles de usar.

Cuando trabaja en el jardín de su casa, mi amiga voluminosa, Nora, se envuelve en un mandil hecho jirones que le dejó su mamá. Una vez en la cocina esperando bebé se cose man-

diles que le den a su vientre cada vez más grande. Una artista de cerámicas de Nuevo México se viste de mandil al estilo del oeste, adornado con flecos, y calza botas de vaquero. ¡Qué bien se le ve!

El panadero de una panadería mexicana cercana se ponía un mandil que le daba vuelta dos veces, tan delgado que era, y colgaba hasta sus zapatos, empolvados de harina. Cargaba en un pequeño bolsillo el lápiz que le servía para tomar las órdenes. Se limpiaba las manos con el mandil antes de atender a la clientela. Cada vez que el panadero se apartaba del horno para colocar el pan en su estante, dejaba un rastro de polvo blanco.

Peter, un carpintero, se pone un mandil de cuero muy bonito que le regaló su esposa, agradecida por los

gabinetes que le instaló en la cocina. Carga en él su martillo, clavos y de vez en cuando, un taco caliente. Cuando termina una obra, Peter cuelga su mandil junto a pomos llenos de clavos y tornillos.

Mientras crecían mis hijos, yo volví a la escuela. Cuando me recibí con el título de "Bachelor of Arts", mis hijos me regalaron un mandil a cuadros que dice, "Para esto pasé cuatro años en la universidad".

Lo guardo en el cajón al lado del mandil rosado desteñido de cincuenta centavos que compré en una rebaja. Los dos me recuerdan eloquentemente de quién soy y a dónde he estado.

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# Aprons: More Than Symbols of Domesticity

By Mary Helen Ponce

It's Saturday morning and the garage sale is in full swing. Men, women and smart-ass kids shove each other as they compete for stuff.

I push my way through an assortment of boxes and plastic bags. Tired of sorting through piles of books and the few picture frames, I'm about to leave when I spot an old-fashioned apron atop a card table. Pink, with flowered pockets, it's a bit faded but costs only 50 cents. Why an apron, I ponder as I leave? I don't even wear those stashed in my kitchen drawer.

The thing is, I like aprons. They remind me of home: my mother's kitchen (and later mine), hot food and familia. To me, aprons are symbols of hearth and home.

For ages, aprons were an important part of a homemaker's wardrobe. A *hausfrau* caught without one was not worth her salt. My mother, and most of our neighbors, *señoras* who washed on Monday, ironed on Tuesday and cleaned house with a vengeance (so as not to be called "dirty Mexicans"), made their own aprons. Of bleached *sacos* (as we called sackcloth) and trimmed with rickrack, they were rarely worn more than once.

Aprons are universal. Russian peasant women who till the wheat fields wear aprons over their thick coats. At Indian fiestas honoring patron saints, Hopi, Navajo and Zuni women don aprons over traditional wear.

My sisters and I grew up wearing *mandiles*, we were not allowed in the kitchen without an apron. A clean apron. It was with a certain amount of pride that I wound my mother's starched apron around my waist to peel *papas*. When forced to wash dishes, I scrubbed minus *el mandil*, in anger, I splashed soap-suds on my dress and on the kitchen floor.

My children's paternal grandmother once made an apron out of men's work pants. Of blue denim, she wore it when picking cotton in the Delano fields. She was short; it hung to the ground. But when making *tortillas*, she donned a crisp apron trimmed in rickrack with the wide pockets she favored.

In the 1940s, aprons were sold at J.C. Penney's and through the Sears catalog. Some were fancy with bibs that were round, square

or heart-shaped. The "sweetheart neckline" was *muy popular*. Most were of cotton with a pocket at the front and two larger ones below the waist.

At 1950s wedding showers, gifts of pretty, sexy aprons of lace and taffeta were de rigueur. New brides wore them when serving tasty meals but for everyday wear stuck to serviceable aprons. Those with ruffles took too long to iron. Once, for a dinner party, I wore a chiffon apron with a heart-shaped pocket trimmed in lace. I wore it with pride until I got too close to the stove.

In the 1970s, plastic aprons were popular. While impractical when near a hot stove, they were easy to clean, unlike those of cotton that had to be starched and ironed. Once dunked in soapy water and rubbed dry with a towel, they were easy to wear.

When working outdoors, my friend Nora wraps her wide bulk in a tattered apron left to her by her *mamá*. A pregnant neighbor sews aprons that allow for an extending belly. A New Mexican ceramic artist wears a Western-type apron trimmed with fringe above her cowboy boots. She looks hot!

The baker at a nearby Mexican *panaderia* wore an apron that went twice around his gaunt frame and hung to his flour-dusty shoes. In a small pocket was the tiny pencil used to take orders. He wiped his hands before waiting on customers. Each time *el panadero* left the oven to put bread on a rack, he trailed a track of white dust. Peter, a carpenter by trade, wears a snazzy leather apron, a gift from his wife in gratitude for the kitchen cabinets he installed. In it he carries a hammer, nails and, now and then, a warm taco. When done with a job, Peter hangs his apron on a peg next to jars of nails and screws.

While raising a family, I returned to school. When I graduated with a B.A., my kids gave me a checkered apron that said: "For this I went to college four years."

I keep it in my kitchen drawer next to the 50-cent, faded pink one I selected at the garage sale. Both are eloquent reminders of who I am and where I've been.

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## Delta To Give Away 10,000 Free Tickets to New York

Delta Air Lines said Tuesday it will give away 10,000 free trips to New York City to invigorate the city's tourism industry, which is reeling from the attacks on the World Trade Center.

"The goal of this program is simple," said Delta Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Leo Mullin. "We want America to visit

New York City on Delta."

Delta will also give away hotel accommodations and tickets to museums and other tourist attractions, Mullin said. The promotion will be advertised on the radio and Internet.

Mullin announced the giveaway at a news conference with Mayor

continued on page 5

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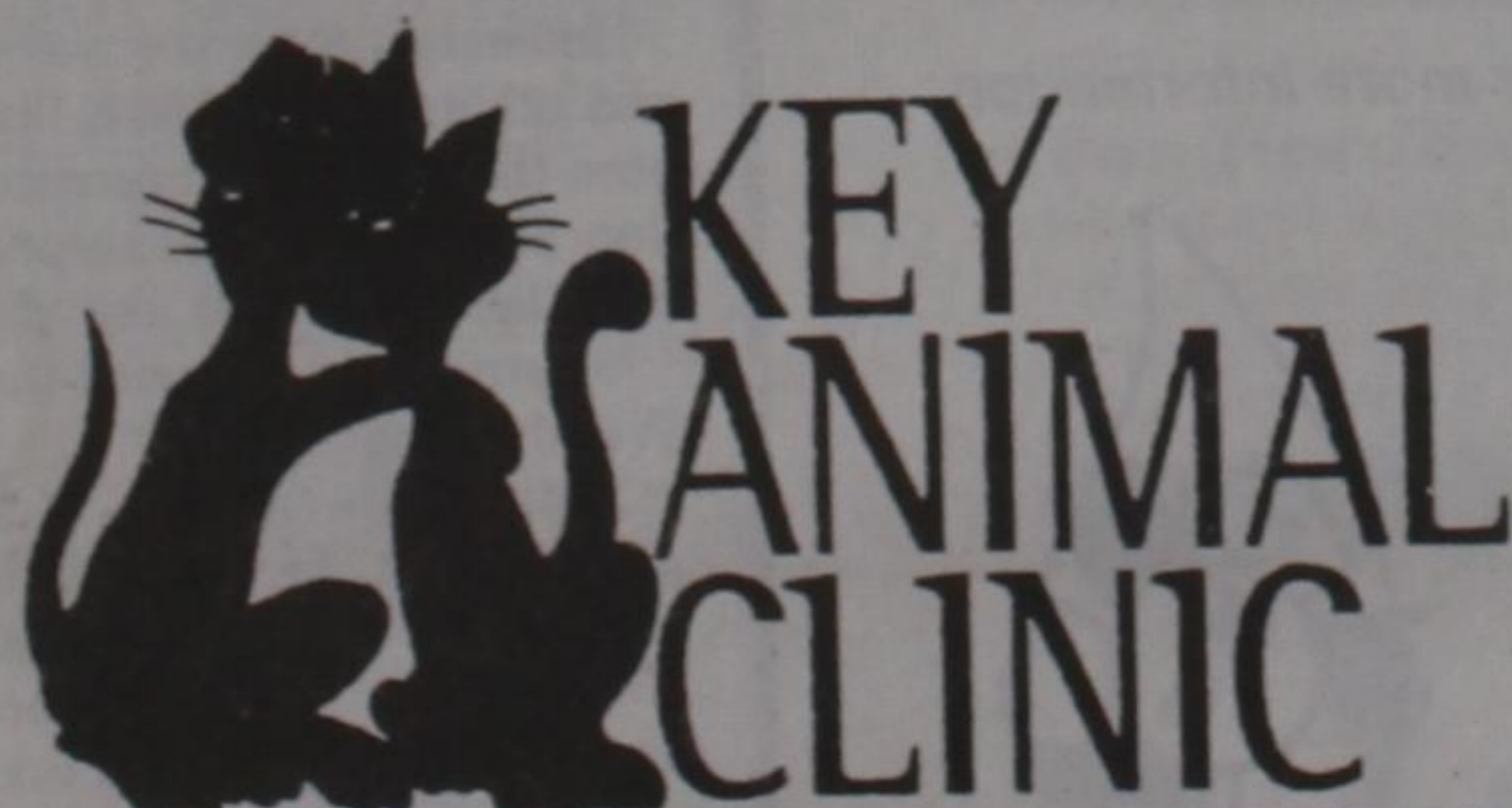
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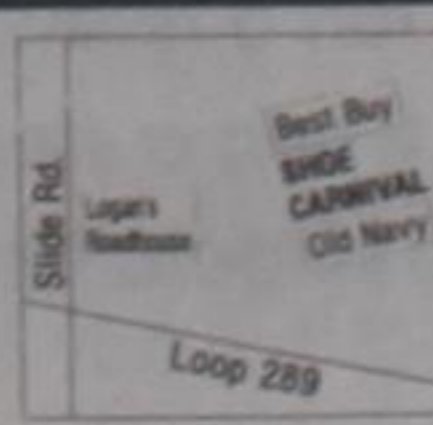
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**Los Latinos:**

# El Futuro Del Beisbol

Por Tony Castro

Cuando era dueño de los Texas Rangers a comienzos de los noventa, George W. Bush, acompañado del entonces comisionado Fay Vincent, llamó a Rafael Palmeiro de la rotonda al balcón donde apenas soportaban un partido largo, ya en sobretiempo. Bush le pidió al batidor un honor para terminarlo ya, "para que todos podamos regresar a casa".

Así hizo Palmeiro, haciendo venia con su gorro al futuro presidente al cruzar la base final. Desde su butaca, Bush se volvió donde Vincent y dijo, como si no fuera nada, "Ante tus ojos está el futuro de beisbol". Sin duda Bush hablaba del potencial del cubano Palmeiro, pero fueron proféticas sus palabras en referencia a todos los jugadores latinos en general. En 1990, los latinos eran 13 por ciento de los jugadores de las grandes ligas de beisbol.

En 1997, el número subió a 24 por ciento, pasando a los afroamericanos como el grupo étnico o racial más grande aparte de los blancos, no hispanos, entre los jugadores de las grandes ligas. Hoy un tercio de los jugadores actuales son latinos, y son 43 por ciento de los jugadores profesionales a todos los niveles.

Tan dominante es su presencia en un deporte en el que eran escasos alguna vez, que hoy los tres jugadores que más ganan son latinos "Alex Rodríguez de los Rangers, Manny Ramírez de los Boston Red Sox y Carlos Delgado de los Toronto Blue Jays".

"Tiembo al pensar lo que sería la selección de talento sin los jugadores hispanos", dice emisor de deportes para NBC Bob Costas, también autor de "Fair Ball: A Fan's Case for Baseball". "Sin la inyección que se recibe de tantos jugadores latinos, de buenos a buenísimos, la calidad del deporte realmente estaría en declive".

Más importante, quizás, es que el aumento del número de latinos en las grandes ligas es una representación del cambio más dramático en

el beisbol desde que Jackie Robinson rompió las barreras raciales en 1947 con los Brooklyn Dodgers, permitiendo que se inundara el deporte de jugadores africano-americanos.

El impacto sociológico y cultural en los Estados Unidos ha sido profundo al romper barreras los latinos así como hicieron los negros hace medio siglo. "El hombre de a pie en los Estados Unidos se dio cuenta que no somos de temer -- que somos normales, como todo el mundo", dice Felipe Alou, gerente de los Montreal Expos, dominicano que fue uno de los primeros estrellas latinoamericanos de las grandes ligas.

En realidad, hoy los jugadores latinos generan otro tipo de emoción, otro tipo de orgullo latino -- y un nuevo impulso comercial del beisbol profesional con el fin de optimizar sus ganancias con la cultura latina y la explosión en la población.

En San Diego, por ejemplo, los Padres traen autobuses llenos de aficionados mexicanos de Tijuana que cruzan la frontera para asistir a los partidos en casa del equipo. La cadena vende cerveza Tecate en las gradas y ha lanzado una promoción de entradas llamada "¡Qué padre!" -- haciendo juego de palabras con la expresión jubilosa mexicana. Los oficiales dicen que ha incrementado la venta de las entradas en más de 10,000.

En Boston, cada vez que Pedro Martínez, ganador del premio Cy Young, tiraba la pelota, el periódico Boston Globe publicaba un artículo separado sobre el partido en español. En Florida, los Marlins abrieron una oficina de ventas de entradas a todo servicio en la pequeña Havana de Miami, incrementando en 300 por ciento al año las ventas a los aficionados en zonas predominantemente hispanas.

"Es increíble, y llegan más latinos", dice entusiasta Jaime Jarrin, emisor en español famoso de los Dodgers, de Los Angeles. "En

América Latina, hay hambre. Aquí en los Estados Unidos, los chicos no quieren ir a las pequeñas ligas para ganar algo así como \$500 al mes durante cuatro o cinco años, entonces se dedican a otros deportes, como el fútbol americano y el básquet. No hay pequeñas ligas, y pueden jugar inmediatamente. En América Latina, jugar al beisbol es la única salida de la pobreza".

En años recientes, las grandes ligas han presentado partidos de exposición en la primavera, en la República Dominicana, en Venezuela y en México. Este año, el antiguo equipo de Bush, los Rangers, abrieron la temporada de las grandes ligas con un partido emitido a toda la nación por televisión contra los Toronto Blue Jays en San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"Es un esfuerzo de parte de las grandes ligas de beisbol en honrar y reconocer una región del mundo que ha contribuido tanto al beisbol", dice comisionado de beisbol Bud Selig. "Nos sentimos orgullosos de ser huéspedes de estos países".

Con razón, dicen Costas y otros que creen que es gracias a la presencia de los jugadores latinos que se ha revivido el juego después de la huelga desastrosa de 1994 que causó la cancelación de esa serie mundial.

"Los latinos mejoran el juego", dice entrenador Tony Taylor, de los Florida Marlins, él mismo nacido en Cuba, ex-jugador de las grandes ligas que rompió la barrera con los New York Giants en 1955. "Hasta diría que los latinos son la salvación del beisbol profesional".

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# La Hora Del Adiós Para Cal Ripken

Esta es la última semana de Cal Ripken como bigleaguer. La pasa en su casa, en Baltimore, donde juegan los Blue Jay tres veces, y después los Medias Rojas tres más. Pocas veces en la historia del beisbol, ha sido tan sentido y celebrado el retiro de un pelotero como ahora ocurre con esta inmensa figura del espectáculo.

Por eso quizá, la mañana del domingo aquí era nublada, y había lluvia en el ambiente. Era como si el día padeciera en este Yankee Stadium debido al adiós. Pero de todas maneras, bien temprano estaba Cal en un rincón del clubhouse de los visitantes, frente a una taza de café, cuya aroma podía captarse alrededor. Jamás le importa que un reportero llegue a preguntarle. Y con una sonrisa maliciosa, oyó la pregunta de esta vez...

Este caballero de 41 años de edad, después de 21 temporadas en Grandes Ligas, lo ha conseguido casi todo. Quizá haya quien diga más bien, todo. Y se incluye la elevación al Hall de la Fama de Cooperstown en el verano del 2006.

Pero, como todo humano con inquietudes y talento, ¿quérrá Cal Ripken algo más del beisbol, más ovaciones, más angustias de esas tan terribles que sufren los managers?

"En estos momentos no pienso en eso" dijo, después de un trago de la humeante taza, "no quiero pensar en eso... Más bien espero poder disfrutar de mi familia".

De su preciosa esposa Kelly, con quien está casado desde el 13 de

noviembre de 1987, de la graciosa hija Rache Marie, quien celebrará sus 12 años de edad el 22 de noviembre, y de Ryan Calvin, un zurdito e inquieto mocito, quien cumplió sus ocho años de edad el 26 de julio.

De todas maneras, había que insistir. Por eso, otra pregunta... Pero, ¿no es cierto que alrededor de la organización consideran que debes ser el mánager del club, por tu jerarquía, por tu figura como líder?

Dejó el sillón donde estaba arrellanado, y en el rincón donde no permiten entrar a los periodistas, renovó su café, y trajo otra taza hasta el borde para invitar. Después de las "gracias" y de los sorbos, hubo unos segundos de silencio. Entonces dijo...

"Todo tiene su momento... Creo que estamos muy bien ahora con Mike (Hargrove, el actual mánager)".

Sin embargo, algunos que fueron candidatos a dirigir los Orioles en los últimos años dijeron no haber aceptado porque sabían de la actitud de Ripken, siempre insinuando que debía hacerse y qué no, durante cada inning de cada juego.

"Eso no es cierto" recaló Cal, "porque ya tiene uno bastante a qué atender cuando hay que salir a battear y a defender en una posición por ahí. Mal podría interferir en la labor de alguien a quien le pagan para que maneje el equipo".

**LOS HOMENAJES**

A Ripken lo han despedido con honores en los 13 estadios de la

Americana donde él juega de visitante. El domingo ocurrió en Yankee Stadium, donde hubo lágrimas y risas, vitores, ovaciones, regalos. Y él, con su elocuencia de orador-literato, no necesitó nada escrito, sino su habilidad para decir cosas buenas producto de la improvisación. Habló a través del sistema de sonido, muy cerca de donde una vez Lou Gehrig dijera...

"Hoy me considero el hombre más afortunado sobre la faz de la tierra".

Gehrig estaba moribundo entonces. A Gehrig fue a quien superó Ripken en una hazaña que parecía imposible de alcanzar. No solo sobrepasó los dos mil 130 juegos consecutivos por el primera base de los Yankees, sino que como short-stop, una posición mucho más exigente, llegó a dos mil 632.

Ripken dijo que "en Yankee Stadium toda jugada es magnífica... toda reacción es tremenda".

Agregó... "Desde un punto de vista histórico, todas estas cosas me interesan mucho, y me emocionan. Por eso en estos momentos trato de hablar de manera monótona para contener las emociones".

Al final elevó la voz para incitar... "¡Vamos a jugar, pues!".

Y después comentó... "Me gustó venir con mi familia, y que vieran esto. Me agrada compartir estas experiencias con ellos. Mis hijos están ahora en un momento de sus vidas, desde el cual puede recordarlo por toda la existencia. El beisbol es un juego que toda la familia disfruta y al cual ama toda la familia".

**Latinos:**

# The Future of Baseball

By Tony Castro Jr.

While he was an owner of the Texas Rangers in the early 1990s, George W. Bush once called Rafael Palmeiro over from the on-deck circle to his front-row box seat, where he was sitting with then commissioner Fay Vincent, enduring a long, extra-inning game. Bush then asked the slugger to hit a home run and mercilessly end it "so we can all go home."

Palmeiro did just that, tipping his cap to the future president as he crossed home plate. In his seat, Bush turned to Vincent and said, matter of fact, "That right there is the future of baseball."

Bush no doubt was talking about the potential of the Cuba-born Palmeiro, but his words were prophetic about Latino ballplayers as a whole. In 1990, Latinos made up 13 percent of major-league baseball players.

In 1997, that number increased to 24 percent, surpassing African Americans as the largest ethnic or racial group other than white non-Hispanics among major-league players. Today a third of current major-league players are Latino, and they account for 43 percent of

professional ballplayers at all levels.

So dominant have they made their presence known in a game where Latinos were once a rarity that today baseball's three highest-paid players are all Latinos -- Alex Rodríguez of the Rangers, Manny Ramírez of the Boston Red Sox and Carlos Delgado of the Toronto Blue Jays.

"I shudder to think what the talent pool would be like without Hispanic players," says NBC sports broadcaster Bob Costas, also the author of "Fair Ball: A Fan's Case for Baseball." "Without this shot in the arm from so many good to great Latin players, the quality of baseball would really have been sagging."

More important, perhaps, the increase of Latinos in the major leagues represents the most dramatic shift in baseball since Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947 with the Brooklyn Dodgers, opening the floodgates for African-American ballplayers.

The sociological and cultural impact in the United States has been profound as Latin players are breaking ground much as black players

did half a century ago. "The average Joe in America found out that we're not to be afraid of -- that we're normal, just like everybody else," says Montreal Expos manager Felipe Alou, a Dominican who was one of the first Latin American stars in the major leagues.

In fact, Latino ballplayers today are generating a new kind of excitement, a new kind of Latin pride -- and a new marketing push by pro baseball aimed at capitalizing on Latino culture and population explosion.

In San Diego, for instance, the Padres have busloads of Mexican fans from Tijuana who cross the border to attend the team's home games. The franchise sells Tecate beer in the stands and has launched a ticket promotion called *¡Qué Padre!* -- a pun on the Mexican expression for "That's cool!" Officials say it has increased ticket sales by more than 10,000.

In Boston, each time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martínez pitched, the Boston Globe published a separate game story in Spanish. In Florida, the Marlins opened a full-service ticket office in Miami's Little Havana and boosted season-ticket sales to fans in Hispanic-dominant ZIP codes by 300 percent in a year.

"It's amazing, and more Latinos are coming," says an enthusiastic Jaime Jarrin, the Los Angeles Dodgers' Hall of Fame Spanish broadcaster. "In Latin America, there is a hunger. Here in the United States, the kids don't want to go to the minors and make something like \$500 a month for four or five years, so they devote their time to other sports, like football and basketball. There are no minor leagues, and they can play right away. In Latin America, playing baseball is the only way to get out of poverty."

In recent years, Major League Baseball has staged spring training exhibition games in the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Mexico. This year, Bush's former team, the Rangers, opened the major-league season in a nationally televised game against the Toronto Blue Jays in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"This is an effort by Major League Baseball to salute and acknowledge a region of the world that has given so much to the game of baseball," says Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig. "We are honored to be hosted by these countries."

Understandably so, say Costas and others who believe that it has been the increasing presence of Latino players that has helped resurrect the game after the disastrous 1994 strike that canceled that year's World Series.

"Latinos are making it a better game," says Florida Marlins' infield coach Tony Taylor, a Cuba-born former major-leaguer who broke in with the New York Giants in 1955. "I'd go so far as to say that Latinos are saving pro baseball."

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**Lubbock High School Homecoming Alumni Reception**

The Lubbock High School Alumni will have a table of school memorabilia and alumni will be treated to refreshments on October 5, 2001 starting at 6:15 p.m. until kickoff. Everyone welcome.

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**Trivia**

- Recycling a four-foot stack of newspaper produces as much paper as a 40-foot pine tree.
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