

# Redaccion Se Vuelven Mas Blancas, Los Latinos Cuestionan El Compromiso de los Periodicos

Por Joseph Torres

A pesar del enérgico crecimiento de la población, los latinos que trabajan en las salas de redacción han disminuido tanto en número como en el porcentaje del total del personal de los diarios en inglés de los Estados Unidos el año pasado. Esta reducción señala la primera vez que disminuyen los números y el porcentaje en las últimas dos décadas, desde que se lleva la cuenta.

La Sociedad Norteamericana de Editores de Periódicos compartió esta noticia al emitir su encuesta sobre la diversidad anual en su convención en Washington, D.C., el 3 de abril.

Si bien la reducción de periodistas hispanos fue leve, de 0.21 por ciento, la reducción total de personas de color en la profesión ha suscitado nueva consternación entre la comunidad y la industria. Las personas de color comprenden prácticamente una tercera parte de la población estadounidense, sin embargo son sólo el 11.64 por ciento de las 59,393 personas empleadas en las salas de redacción de los diarios en los Estados Unidos.

En 1978 la Sociedad estableció -- sin lograr -- una meta que convocaba a los diarios a que alcanzaran la paridad étnica y racial para el año 2000. Hace dos años volvió a establecer la meta para el 2025.

Si bien el porcentaje de periodistas hispanos subió levemente de 1.2 por ciento en 1982 a 3.7 por ciento el año pasado, la población hispana de los Estados Unidos, sin contar a Puerto Rico, creció enormemente, de 6.4

por ciento (16.4 millones) a 13.0 por ciento (35.3 millones) durante el mismo periodo.

"Es incomprensible cómo pueden seguir aumentando los números de los latinos en la población en general mientras que los números representativos del personal de los diarios se estancan," dice Cecilia

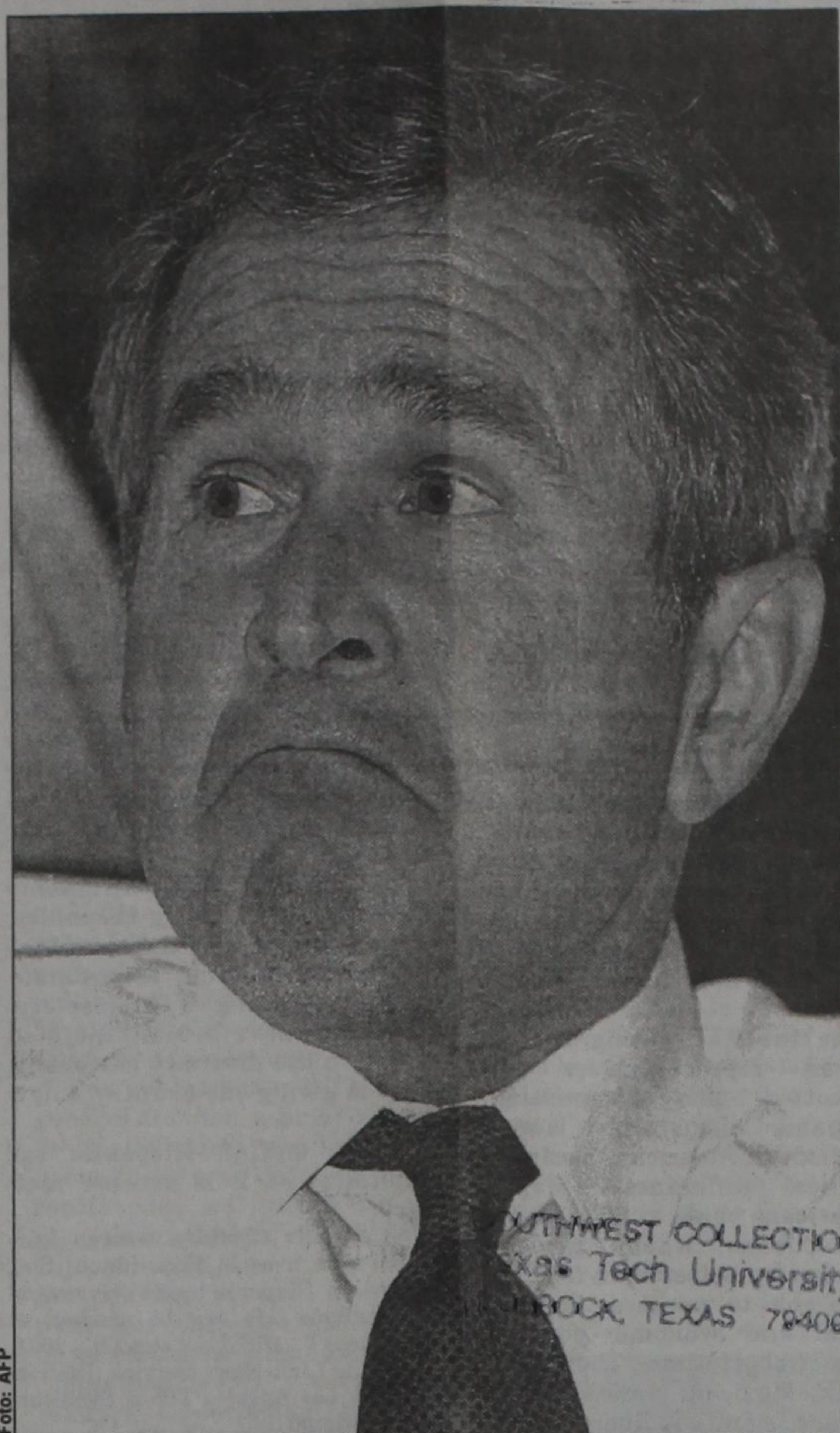
Alvear, presidenta de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas-Hispanos.

La encuesta de la Sociedad Norteamericana de Editores de Periódicos encontró que la razón principal por la disminución en los números fue el abandono de la profesión. Se contrató a seiscientos periodistas de color en sus primeros puestos a tiempo completo en los diarios el año pasado, pero al mismo tiempo otros 698 dimitieron.

El presidente de la Sociedad Norteamericana de Editores de Periódicos, Rich Opiel, opina que los resultados de la encuesta "son simplemente inaceptables." La junta de la Sociedad Norteamericana de Editores de Periódicos lanzó una iniciativa el 2 de abril para examinar durante varios años la administración y la práctica de las salas de redacción, iniciativa que incluye examinar cómo pueden mejorar el ambiente de la sala los administradores de mayor posición y los de nivel mediano para los periodistas de color.

Encontrarán que la respuesta tiene múltiples partes, sugieren los profesionales de periodismo latinos.

Frank Burgos, editor de la página de opiniones del Philadelphia Daily News, empieza por observar que muchos periodistas de color dejan la profesión por lo



George W. Bush pone el gesto universal del que no sabe qué va a pasar.

que existen más opciones profesionales, y mejor pagadas, hoy en día. "No es una industria que pague bien, particularmente al comienzo," dice.

Rick Rodríguez, editor ejecutivo del Sacramento Bee, añade que "Las escuelas de primaria y secundaria están fallándole a la comunidad latina." Entre otros problemas que cita, existe una percepción entre muchos periodistas latinos que no tienen la oportunidad de avanzar.

Juan González, columnista con el New York Daily News es más franco: "Los números indican que por todo el país los editores no operan del todo honestamente con lo de la diversidad. Si produjeran este tipo de números por tirada, no sobrevivirían la ira de los dueños."

González concuerda con el problema de avanzar dentro de la profesión. "Después de un tiempo, a los periodistas de color no les queda más que irse de la profesión por que el techo de vidrio es de color marrón y negro."

Liz Balsameda, columnista, ganadora del premio Pulitzer, con el

Miami Herald dice que la diversidad es una tendencia fugaz. La administración de blancos se siente todavía más cómoda con la contratación de personas que la reflejan, dice. Añade que parece que se contrata a un periodista de color sólo cuando es resultado de una campaña agre-

siva por contratar a personas de color.

"La diversidad tiene que ocurrir a propósito," es lo que insiste Ricardo Pimentel, columnista del diario de Phoenix, Arizona Republic, y antiguo editor de The Sun de San Bernadino, California. Rechaza la noción de que no hay suficientes candidatos latinos calificados.

También responde a la pregunta de por qué los modelos de contratación deben cambiar -- y la respuesta es mucho más que un lema de "acción afirmativa."

Las salas de redacción, enfatiza Pimentel, necesitan más periodistas de color que tengan "el radar y la sensibilidad" para que sus publicaciones puedan lograr la obligación profesional de cubrir a todos en una sociedad cada vez más diversa. Para cumplir con sus propias necesidades fundamentales, deben ganarse el respeto y la confianza de los elementos importantes de sus comunidades que por mucho tiempo han sido contribuyentes invisibles.

"Deben dejar de ver a los latinos como un problema," advierte.

"Las páginas tienen que ser más diversas, más que dependientes del conflicto. Los latinos han sido parte de nuestro tejido nacional durante mucho tiempo.

Joseph Torres es director de comunicaciones de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos.

## News Briefs

### A Right Blow to Civil Rights?

Michael O. Collazo  
LATino News Network

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling Tuesday now makes it harder to prosecute alleged government discrimination -- and could raise hopes for English only laws throughout the country.

In the Alexander vs. Sandoval case, lawyers representing a Mexican immigrant named Martha Sandoval argued that the state of Alabama's English only law discriminated against Sandoval's ability to take a driver's license exam, which the state provides only in English. In a razor-thin 5-4 decision, the Court ruled that Alabama did not violate the Civil Rights Act on the notion that, in this case, not providing Spanish driver's license exams has a "disparate impact" on minorities. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy, Sandra Day O'Connor and Clarence Thomas comprised of the majority vote.

Enrique Gallardo, staff attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), said this ruling takes a key weapon away from lawyers that use Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to argue discrimination cases.

"If you're going to challenge things such as government services, government programs or environmental policies, you're going to have to find intentional discrimination," said Gallardo. "Some state laws could get you disparate impact, but the Civil Rights Act was the best way of fighting [discrimination]."

Gallardo did point out that Tuesday's ruling did not affect employment or housing discrimination law, which is covered under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Already, numerous cases questioning potentially discriminatory practices will be thrown out, because these cases were planning to use the "disparate impact" argument.

Even prior to Tuesday's ruling, organizations like MALDEF have expressed concern over prosecuting discrimination cases. In MALDEF's Transition Paper given to President George W. Bush this week, the 33-year-old civil rights organization contends that the failure of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to investigate and prosecute discrimination cases stem from the lack of federal funding federal civil rights the agency receives. MALDEF reports that the EEOC about 30 lawyers and maintains a budget of about \$100 million; conversely, the FBI and INS receive \$3.4 billion and almost \$5 billion in federal funding, according to MALDEF.

### English Only On the Rebound?

Though this case did not rule whether or not Alabama was allowed to maintain an English-only law, the Court's ruling can be considered as a victory for proponents of English as this country's official language.

"We are delighted the Supreme Court has rejected the ACLU's attempt to kill official English in Alabama," said Joseph E. Schmitz, a board member of U.S. English, an organization pushing for establishing English as this country's official language. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) helped bring on this case-action suit. "Although the majority opinion is limited to a narrow issue of congressional intent, this is a tremendous symbolic victory for official English."

With over 20 states adopting an English only law, this ruling could deter challenges to such laws. Gallardo hopes this ruling is not an aid to English only legislation, but he does see how this ruling affects civil rights litigation.

"We hope not," said Gallardo, "but in a way the Court has made it easier to fight discriminatory practices, which could include English only laws."

### Swindled Hispanics Increase in Texas

John Cornyn, attorney general of Texas, tried the case of several Hispanic consumers from Texas that have been victims of phony collect calls coming from Mexico and other Latin American countries and warned that the state of Texas won't tolerate the swindles and abuse against the Hispanics.

The district attorney referred to diverse types of swindles against Hispanic consumers and made reference to a growing number of claims related with door-to-door salespersons and the services that offer fake immigration specialists.

"Under the false pretense of providing legitimate long distance services, some companies have been involved in deceits against Hispanic families," the official said. "Hundreds of Hispanics have begun complaints related with such collect calls. We share their frustrations and we have begun an investigation."

"We will pursue these con artists and apply the law to its fullest," he affirmed. Although the consumers don't accept the phony collect calls, many of them have cost the victims more than 50 dollars.

The attorney's office of Texas has asked the Hispanics to present their complaints, without caring about if they are residents or illegal aliens.

"The Hispanic consumers spend thousands of millions of dollars a year. Regrettably we are not surprised that there are some that are exploiting the Latin market without giving a lot in exchange for what they get paid," the district attorney denounced.

"This population's tremendous increase, accompanied by the growth of their purchasing power, has gotten the attention of the swindlers that simply take advantage of the Latin market to take their hard-earned money", he manifested. "Our message is clear. Texas won't be swindled while I'm in charge," it concluded.

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

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## Voter Turnout Low in North/East Lubbock for Area Improvements

"Lines are short at the early voting polls," said Robert Narvaiz adding that he was concerned that the residents of North and East Lubbock are not aware of the election to try and raise money to build a new softball and little league baseball in north and east Lubbock.

"Because it's being called a venue tax election, many people are thinking that taxes are going to be raised. Our people don't know that the only people who will pay it will be those that stay at hotels and rent cars."

The election slated for May 5th here in Lubbock will ask Lubbock voters

to approve the venue tax to pay for the sports complex and that all according to a report from the Lubbock City Council.

It is expected that if approved the new improvements to north and east Lubbock will attract more visitors and lead to economic development.

"We hope that this will

give our part of town the shot in the arm that we need to really bring business to north and east Lubbock," said one voter.

Early voting is now taking place at United on University and Parkway, Albertson on 40th and Indiana and the South Plains Mall. For more information on the election call 763-3841.

## March for Justice Cast in Memory:

### Sculptor of Chavez Work Downtown Part of '66 Journey

By Dorothy Korber

Cesar Chavez led a spirited and determined march from dusty Delano to Sacramento 35 years ago, an act that stung America's conscience and ignited a movement.

Lisa Reinertson, then an 11-year-old Sacramento girl, witnessed that historic moment. Now she has captured it for all of us.

On Monday, her sculpture of Chavez striding toward Sacramento will be unveiled in the downtown plaza that bears his name. The 7-foot-tall bronze image of a young Chavez -- collar open, gaze level, chin uplifted -- heads a file of marchers who symbolize the farm workers' struggle for dignity and justice.

In smaller bas-relief images, against an unfurled flag, Reinertson documents the conditions they fought: flimsy housing, pesticide exposure, child labor, the infamous short-handled hoe.

Chavez's words are engraved in the granite base. Among them: "I am convinced that the truest act of courage is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a truly nonviolent struggle for justice."

The 1966 march to Sacramento galvanized public support for the farm workers and drew national attention to their cause. The 70 striking grape workers who left Delano in Kern County picked up support along the nearly 300-mile march, swelling finally to 10,000 protesters as they approached the Capitol that April.

As a child, Reinertson watched wide-eyed when her activist parents opened their home to 50 marchers and helped line up food and shelter for thousands of others. "It was like the



Cesar Chavez

death in November 1999.

With 40 artists competing for the commission, Reinertson says, she doesn't know if it was luck or fate that brought her the opportunity to memorialize her lifelong hero.

"Perhaps," she mused, "it's a combination of both. This meant so much to me, maybe it led to an idea that people really responded to."

"She won, hands down," said Marc Grossman, a longtime Chavez associate who was on the city's artist-selection panel. "The irony is that it really is a labor of love for her. I've seen a lot of the tributes done to Cesar, but this is the most impressive, the most moving."

Reinertson also described the Chavez sculpture as a labor of love, financially as well as figuratively. Much of the \$96,000 commission -- a combination of public and private money -- went to cover the expense of pouring the huge bronze monument at a Berkeley foundry.

Reinertson, the daughter of Sacramentans Richard and Letitia Reinertson, holds a master's degree in fine arts from the University of California, Davis.

She's made her home in Da-

vis, converting a standard suburban garage into an airy studio. A clay model of the 9-foot-long Chavez monument dominates the space. Sprawled around Chavez's work boots are sculptures of huge animals -- a tortoise, jackrabbit and mountain sheep -- that the artist created for a children's park in Palm Desert.

The studio is a testament to her political ideals. A poster of Gandhi dominates one wall, while models for her several public sculptures of Martin Luther King Jr. stand on shelves. Her next project is a statue of St. Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits, for Santa Clara University.

Her work in public art gives Reinertson an opportunity both to express her philosophy and to teach about the past.

"I hate to argue with people about politics," she said. "My art is a comfortable place for me to talk about the things I care about most."

Monday's 10:30 a.m. unveiling of the sculpture comes on the eighth anniversary of Chavez's death in 1993. Reinertson will be there, along with state Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, Assembly Speaker Robert Hertzberg, UFW President Arturo Rodriguez, Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo, and hundreds of farm workers.

After the ceremony, the group will head to the Capitol, where a 1:15 p.m. hearing is set on Hertzberg's AB 423, a bill that would allow jail sentences for farm-labor contractors who cheat farm workers.

Cesar Chavez Plaza is on I Street between Ninth and 10th streets downtown.

**U.S. Hispanics:**

# What Do the New Numbers Mean?

By Carlos D. Conde

It would be an irony of history if some people digesting the U.S. Census 2000 reports started to think that Mexicans are getting closer to taking their once-lost lands back. The United States now counts 35.3 million Hispanics -- not counting nearly 4 million in Puerto Rico -- residing on its soil. Of that total, 66 percent are of Mexican origin, with the majority living in the Southwest.

If you recall U.S. history, Mexico once claimed territory that includes modern-day Texas, California, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. Some of it was lost in skirmishes. Others it ceded due to bad politics and for much-needed cash. Folklore has it that the Mexicans have never forgiven their ancestors, or the Yankees.

These whimsical thoughts are generated by the much-heralded news that Hispanics have overtaken African Americans in population and are gaining on the dominant "white" group. If this is making some whites nervous, they can rest easy. The perception of Hispanics taking over U.S. society any time soon is much greater than the reality.

The "white, non-Hispanic" population shrank from the last census count 10 years ago, but whites still dominate, with 69 percent of the nation's 281 million people. Latinos, with 12.5 percent, have a lot of catching up to do.

Still, those who identify themselves in the "white" category are definitely losing

ground. They accounted for 89 percent of the population in 1950.

It will take the collective wisdom of demographers and social scientists to interpret the numerical impact of Hispanics on the nation's make-up. The raw numbers tend more to obfuscate than enlighten the new dimensions.

"Hispanic" is an ethnicity, not a race. In the 2000 Census, Hispanics could also list themselves as White, Black, Asian or Other. More than 6 percent listed themselves as Hispanic and another category, skewing the pure numbers. Pop singer Mariah Carey is Hispanic because of her Venezuelan-born father, who is black. Her mother is Irish. She could list herself in several categories.

Hispanics are often viewed as homogeneous. But the three largest cohesive groups -- Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans and Cubans -- have different histories, different problems and, in many cases, different agendas. Even the common language, Spanish, gets tangled up at times in the particular vernacular of each subgroup.

The same can be said for the growing number of Central and South Americans. This group now totals 14 percent of the U.S. Latino population. Many are newcomers, and some -- particularly those with South American links -- would rather not be identified with the social programs or politics of mainstream Hispanics.

In politics, Mexican Americans mostly strive for parochial empowerment in their regions and know little, or care as much, about Puerto Ricans' perennial arguments concerning whether the island commonwealth should be independent or become a state. U.S. Cuban politics are mostly obsessed with ridding the island of Fidel Castro.

Representatives of these three groups do come together occasionally at symposiums and summit conferences to discuss political strategies and matters of common import. If truth be told, however, they do so largely for cosmetic reasons -- to present a Latino united front to the national power brokers. These alliances usually unravel as soon as the meetings break up.

For President George W. Bush's inauguration, the various Latino factions couldn't agree on the planning of activities and who would spearhead them, so they did what they usually do in situations like this. Each held its own inaugural ball.

In the U.S. Congress, the Cuban representatives have boycotted the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which is mostly Mexican American, because of political differences. Mexican Americans chafe at the fact that the Cubans, whom they outnumber by better than 5-1, have been able to amass so much political and economic power in such a short time. The Cubans think Mexican Americans are too docile and too liberal.

Arizona, New Mexico and Florida have done it, but Texas and California -- with the largest Hispanic blocs -- have yet to elect a Latino governor, even though they are beginning to dominate politically in Latino-heavy communities.

What all this means is that numbers don't always translate into political and economic power, particularly when there are depressing sociological factors involved. Only 57 percent of Latinos have a high-school education. Between 4 million and 7 million Mexicans living in the United States -- mostly in California and Texas -- are here illegally. This means labor exploitation and other social problems.

Only 6 percent of the nation's 20.8 million non-farm businesses are Hispanic-owned. They bring in just 1 percent of the \$18.6 trillion in receipts for all businesses.

Despite the ethnic dichotomy that may exist among Hispanics, their impact on the national fabric is beginning to resonate in the reshaping of U.S. society. Hispanics have become the lead group in the diversity movement that is giving the country a new hue.

How, and if, Hispanics can capitalize on it is another matter.

(Carlos D. Conde, a veteran journalist who lives in Boca Raton, Fla., writes on Hispanic topics for several publications. He can be reached at cconde(AT)SIGN@aol.com(x) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate International

## GET OFF THE RANCH AND COME TO LUBBOCK, MR. PRESIDENT

By Linda Chávez-Thompson

Even by Texas standards, it's a long ways from Lubbock, where I grew up, to Crawford, where President George W. Bush keeps his vacation ranch.

But there are a few things I learned from my sharecropper parents in Lubbock that are applicable to today's national budget and tax battle. The president could learn a lot from a journey to hometowns like mine.

Growing up in Lubbock, we knew two things: We had to pay for what we needed before we bought what we wanted, and we had to be honest with ourselves about our household budget because in the end the family checkbook wouldn't cover financial irresponsibility.

Those are things any working family, Hispanic sharecropper or not, can tell you. To have a brighter future, you must take care of priorities and be responsible.

In last fall's election and in public opinion polls since then, all working people have been very clear about the nation's priorities. We want reasonable, fairly distributed tax relief that keeps the economy moving.

And with such a large budget surplus, we want to seize the historic opportunity to address big problems.

Our children's schools are in desperate straits. According to the U.S. General Accounting Office, more than 70 percent of public schools need upgrading. Classrooms are too crowded, and every parent knows there's a shortage of teachers.

We want to strengthen the greatest family protection programs of our time, Social Security and Medicare, by making sure they're properly funded and by adding prescription drug coverage for 15 million seniors who currently face going without needed drugs.

And we want to help expand health-care coverage to the 43 million people, more than 10 million of them children, who have no insurance.

With the projected 10-year surplus, we can do all of those things -- address our priorities and meet responsibilities.

But for any working family, whether in Lubbock or elsewhere in the country, the president's proposed tax and budget plan is irresponsible -- and a bad deal. It risks putting the nation into the ditch of deficit spending before paying for what we need and addressing priorities.

His proposed budget offers nothing to expand health insurance for children. It fails to offer a plan to cover all seniors with a prescription drug benefit; in fact, it raids the Medicare trust fund and neglects building up the Social Security trust fund.

The president's plan offers no solution to the country's decaying schools.

Bush's plan ignores all our priorities and would wipe out the surplus to pay for a tax cut for his wealthy backers. Nearly half of the tax cut would go to the richest 1 percent of the nation's families, an average for \$54,480 a year for millionaires, according to Citizens for Tax Justice, and less than a dollar a day for most of the rest of us. More than half of all Hispanics and African Americans would receive nothing in tax relief.

When it comes to responsibility, my parents and neighbors would have to look the president in the eye and say, "What's this really about? You're asking for a tax cut on the people's behalf, but your plan punishes hard work and rewards privilege."

In California, New York, Arizona, Florida and Texas -- states with large Hispanic populations -- the president's plan could have tragic consequences.

According to the National Priorities Project, in those states alone, instead of the president's plan, we could hire 50,000 new teachers and fix the more than 70 percent of schools in disrepair.

Such things might not mean much at Bush's Crawford ranch, but for families in communities like Lubbock, struggling with everything from education worries to basic health care, the Bush budget is the cruelest of cuts.

Let's be honest about this before we get to the point where we can't balance the nation's checkbook. The president would bust the budget with his tax breaks, giving his corporate backers and Republican allies in Congress the excuse to suddenly discover there's nothing left for working families and our priorities.

That's a very bad deal for working families, most of whom are far outside the fences of Bush's Crawford ranch.

(Linda Chávez-Thompson is executive vice president of the 13-million member AFL-CIO.)

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### Hispanos En Los EEUU:

# ¿Que Significan Los Nuevos Numeros?

Por Carlos D. Conde

Qué irónico sería históricamente si al comprender los informes emitidos por el Censo estadounidense 2000 se empezara a pensar que los mexicanos se están acercando cada vez más a reclamar sus tierras perdidas. Los Estados Unidos cuenta ahora con 35.3 millones de hispanos -- sin contar a los casi 4 millones de Puerto Rico -- que residen en su tierra. De ese número, el 66 por ciento es de origen mexicano, cuya mayoría vive en el suroeste.

Al recordar la historia de los Estados Unidos, México tuvo reclamo a territorios que hoy incluyen los estados de Texas, California, Utah, Colorado, Nuevo México y Arizona. Parte se perdió en conflictos, otra parte se cedió como resultado de mal manejo político y por necesidad monetaria. Según las leyendas, los mexicanos nunca han perdonado ni a sus ancestros, ni a los yanquis.

Toda esta fantasía surge gracias a la bien difundida noticia que son ahora más los hispanos que los africano-americanos en términos de la población, y están por alcanzar al grupo de los "blancos." Si por esto algunos blancos se ponen nerviosos, se pueden relajar. Es mayor la percepción que la realidad de que en cualquier momento los hispanos vayan a ganar la mayoría.

La población "blanca, no-hispana" se encogió desde el censo de hace diez años, pero los blancos siguen dominando, siendo 69 por ciento de los 281 millones de habitantes estadounidenses. Con 12.5 por ciento, a los latinos les queda mucho camino por recorrer.

No obstante, los que se identifican como blancos están perdiendo territorio. En 1950, eran el 89 por ciento de la población.

Se necesitará la sabiduría colectiva de los demógrafos y científicos sociales para interpretar el impacto numérico del nuevo conteo nacional. Los números brutos tienden a oscurecer más que a iluminar las nuevas dimensiones.

Lo "hispano" es una etnia, no es una raza. En el Censo 2000 los hispanos se podían identificar también como blanco, negro, asiático, u otro. Más del 6 por ciento se identificó como hispano con otra categoría, sesgando los números puros. La cantante pop Mariah Carey es hispana por su padre negro, nacido en Venezuela. Su madre es irlandesa. Carey se podría indentificar en varias de las categorías.

Muchas veces se percibe a los hispanos como un grupo homogéneo. Sin embargo, los tres grupos cohesivos más grandes -- los mexicano-americanos, los puertorriqueños y los cubanos -- tienen historias diferentes, problemas diferentes y en muchos casos, programas políticos diferentes. Hasta la lengua que tienen en común, el castellano, se tuerce muchas veces merced al dialecto particular de cada subgrupo.

Se puede decir lo mismo del número creciente de centro y sudamericanos. Este grupo representa ahora el 14 por ciento de la población latina en los Estados Unidos. Muchos son recién llegados, y algunos, en particular los que tienen vínculos sudamericanos, preferirían que no se les identificara con los programas sociales o la política del gru-

po dominante de hispanos.

En cuanto a la política, la meta de los méxicoamericanos es fortalecerse a nivel regional, y les preocupa poco, si tienen noticia, de las discusiones perennes de los puertorriqueños sobre si la isla mancomunada debería ser independiente o convertirse en estado. La política de los cubanos en los Estados Unidos es una obsesión con derrocar a Fidel Castro.

A veces se reúnen representantes de los tres grupos en simposios y conferencias cumbre para discutir los asuntos que les tocan a todos y las estrategias políticas. La verdad es, sin embargo, que su motivación es cosmética -- presentar un frente unido a las fuerzas nacionales. Normalmente, apenas se terminan las reuniones, las alianzas se deshacen.

Para la inauguración del presidente Bush, las varias facciones latinas no podían llegar a un acuerdo sobre la planificación de las actividades ni quién las dirigiría, entonces recurrieron a lo desiempre: cada una auspició su propio baile de gala.

Hay un boicoteo en el congreso de los Estados Unidos del Grupo Congresional Hispano, que son mayormente méxicoamericanos, por parte de los cubanos por diferencias políticas. A los méxicoamericanos les molesta el hecho que los cubanos, que son una quinta parte de la población de los méxicoamericanos, hayan podido amasar tanto poder político y económico en tan poco tiempo. A los cubanos les parece que los méxico-americanos son demasiado dóciles y liberales.

En Arizona, Nuevo México y Florida se ha hecho, pero en

Texas y en California -- que cuentan con los bloques más grandes de hispanos -- no se ha elegido hasta ahora a un gobernador latino, a pesar de que empiezan a dominar políticamente en las comunidades con mayoría latina.

Lo que significa todo esto es que no siempre se traducen los números al poder político y económico, particularmente al estar presentes factores sociológicos deprimentes. Sólo 57 por ciento de los latinos han completado la educación secundaria. Se calcula que entre 4 millones y 7 millones de los mexicanos que viven en los Estados Unidos -- la mayoría en California y en Texas -- están aquí ilegalmente. Esto implica que hay explotación laboral entre otros problemas sociales.

Sólo 6 por ciento de los 20.8 millones de negocios que no sean agrícolas en los Estados Unidos son de propiedad hispana. Producen sólo uno por ciento de los \$18.6 trillones de ingreso para todos los negocios a nivel nacional.

A pesar de la dicotomía étnica que pueda existir entre los hispanos, el impacto que tienen sobre el tejido nacional comienza a resonar con la reformulación de la sociedad estadounidense. Los hispanos son el grupo que encabeza el movimiento para la diversidad que está teniendo de otro color el país.

Otro asunto es cómo y si es que los hispanos pueden aprovechar los números.

(Carlos D. Conde, periodista veterano, vive en Boca Raton, Florida, y escribe sobre temas hispanos para varias publicaciones. Contáctese con él a: cconde(AT)SIGN@aol.com(x) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate International

# Luna De Mielmay Be Ending For Bush, Congressional Hispanics

By Olivia Muñoz

In Latin America it's called la luna de miel

On Capitol Hill here in Washington, D.C., it's a honeymoon.

And for President George W. Bush and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, it may be a short one.

When 15 members of the caucus -- all Democrats -- were transported in a rickety blue-and-white bus from Capitol Hill to the White House on the afternoon of April 2 to sit down with Bush for the first time since he took office, they weren't in the best of spirits.

Like many other Democrats, they are showing increasing concern about whom the president is hanging out with -- namely, some of his ultraright-wing friends whose past behavior with regard to Hispanics disturbs them.

Second, for all the public passion Bush expresses for the Mexican familia, he has failed to name a single Mexican-American to his cabinet. Ronald Reagan found one. So did Dubya's father when he was president. And Bill Clinton began his presidency with two Mexican-Americans.

Henry Cisneros and Federico Peña -- both with great community (and Texas) credentials -- sitting at his cabinet table.

Third, there's the matter that it took Bush a while to invite them over at all. He had already canceled one meeting scheduled a few weeks earlier.

So how did it go? What did they talk about as they sat around the oval table in the White House Cabinet Room?

Mostly, they discussed immigration, education and economic issues. And most of them left the 45-minute meeting dissatisfied.

"I think the president was long on listening and short on committing," said U.S. Rep. Robert Menéndez of New Jersey. The meeting was the briefest the caucus ever had with any president, he pointed out. "Usually we meet for about an hour, hour and a half."

White House spokeswoman Mercy Viana offered a more positive assessment. She reaffirmed the president's recognition of the caucus members' agenda. "The president is very concerned with all of these issues. He has included in his budget \$88 million for the Small Business Cen-

ter Program. He has also agreed to increase funding to Hispanic-Serving Institutions by 6.4 percent," Viana told Hispanic Link. Bush has always said diversity is important to him and his administration, she said.

Rep. Luis Gutiérrez of Illinois led the discussion of immigration at the meeting. He took issue with the president's stated opposition to legalizing long-term residents who lack papers. "Many families, U.S. citizens, leave their children -- their most precious assets -- with undocumented workers every day while they go off to work. And if they can leave their children with them, then certainly (these workers) can have the dignity and respect that comes along with legalization."

The caucus members also said they are concerned that the president's proposed tax plan would endanger programs geared

toward small-business owners of color. Additionally, they expressed their concerns about U.S. military bombing exercises in Vieques, Puerto Rico. They asked the president for an immediate and permanent end to the exercises.

Yvette Pena Lopes, a spokeswoman for caucus Chairman Silvestre Reyes of Texas, said that while Viana's comments were encouraging, they were not convincing.

"Although the meeting was definite progress, we have yet to see anything in writing in regard to these issues," she said.

No date for a future meeting has been set.

(Olivia Muñoz is a correspondent with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)

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### El Editor Newspapers

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## Deje El Rancho y Venga a Lubbock, Señor Presidente

Por Linda Chávez-Thompson

Aunque se mida a lo tejano, donde yo crecí, en Lubbock, está bien lejos de Crawford, donde tiene su rancho el presidente George W. Bush.

Pero hay un par de cosas que aprendí de mis padres aparceros en Lubbock que se pueden aplicar a la lucha hoy por el presupuesto y los impuestos nacionales. El presidente aprendería mucho de un viaje a pueblos como el mío.

Como niños en Lubbock, sabíamos dos cosas: había que pagar por lo que necesitábamos antes de comprar lo que queríamos, y no nos podíamos engañar sobre el presupuesto familiar, porque al final, la chequera familiar no cubriría la irresponsabilidad financiera.

Estas dos cosas las sabe cualquier familia trabajadora, aparceros latinos o no. Para tener un mejor futuro, hay que ver por las prioridades y ser responsable.

En las elecciones del otoño, y desde entonces en las encuestas de opinión, el público trabajador ha sido muy claro en cuanto a las prioridades nacionales. Queremos alivio fiscal que sea razonable y justamente distribuido, y que mantenga el ritmo de la economía.

Y con un superávit presupuestario tan grande, queremos tomar la oportunidad histórica de hacer frente a problemas grandes. Las escuelas de nuestros hijos están desesperadamente necesitadas. Según la Contaduría General de los Estados Unidos, más de 70 por ciento de las escuelas públicas necesitan renovaciones. Hay demasiados estudiantes por salón de clase, y todos los padres sabemos que faltan maestros.

Queremos fortalecer los programas de protección a la familia más importantes de nuestro tiempo, la Seguridad Social y Medicare, al asegurar que tengamos los fondos adecuados y al añadir cobertura para fármacos, para los 15 millones de personas

mayores que ahora se enfrentan con tener que prescindir de las prescripciones médicas que necesitan.

Y queremos ampliar la cobertura de seguro de salud para servir a los 43 millones de personas, más de 10 millones niños, que no tienen seguro.

Con el superávit proyectado a diez años, podemos hacer todo esto -- hacer frente a nuestras prioridades y cumplir con nuestras responsabilidades.

Pero para cualquier familia trabajadora -- sea en Lubbock o cualquier otra parte de la nación -- el plan propuesto por el presidente para los impuestos y el presupuesto es irresponsable y es un mal negocio.

El plan corre el riesgo de llevar al país al hoyo negro del gasto deficitario antes de pagar por lo que necesitamos y antes de hacer frente a las prioridades. El presupuesto que propone el presidente no ofrece nada a la expansión de la cobertura de salud para los niños.

No ofrece un plan que cubra a todas las personas mayores con un beneficio para las prescripciones médicas, al contrario, hace incursión en el fondo extrapresupuestario perteneciente a Medicare y no hace nada por incrementar el fondo extrapresupuestario de la Seguridad Social. El plan del presidente no ofrece solución alguna al problema de las escuelas decaídas del país.

El plan de Bush no hace caso de ninguna de nuestras prioridades y haría desaparecer el superávit para pagar una reducción de impuestos para sus patrocinadores adinerados. Casi la mitad de la reducción de impuestos iría al 1 por ciento más pudiente de todas las familias -- un promedio de \$54,480 por año, según el grupo Ciudadanos por Justicia Fiscal, y menos de un dólar diario para la mayoría de nosotros. Más de la mitad de todos los hispanos y africano-americanos no recibiría ningún aumento

continued on page 5

El Editor, Lubbock, Tx.-April 26, 2001

# Rentas De Las Publicaciones Latinas Llegan a los Billones de Dolares

Por Cynthia L. Oroscó

En un auge que viene durando cinco años, con un aumento conjunto de tiradas de 3.5 millones de ejemplares, las publicaciones de propiedad latina en los Estados Unidos han generado rentas de más de un billón de dólares por primera vez este año.

El crecimiento dramático se encuentra detallado en una encuesta que fué divulgada en la convención de la Asociación Nacional de Publicaciones Hispánicas que tuvo lugar en Miami este mes.

Parte del crecimiento general surge del imperativo de servir a los 40 millones de latinos del país, además del deseo del sector corporativo de los Estados Unidos de aprovechar el poder adquisitivo de la comunidad cada vez mayor, según informa Kirk Whisler, presidente fundador de la asociación y presidente de la Red de Prensa Latina.

Son prioridad programática las implicaciones del crecimiento para los miembros de la asociación y los representantes de corporaciones y agencias de publicidad que asisten a la décimo-sexta convención anual.

Las rentas combinadas de las 1,389 publicaciones latinas -- un aumento de las 1,032 en 1995 -- se calculan haber llegado a \$1,049 billones en el año 2000.

Entre 1995 y 2000, las rentas publicitarias generadas por las publicaciones crecieron en aproximadamente 400 por ciento -- o \$500 millones -- y la tirada aumentó 90 por ciento. Con vistas al futuro, Whisler le informó a Weekly Report que "Si bien me parece que veremos poco crecimiento en el número de publicaciones latinas, sí veremos crecimiento continuo en rentas de tirada y publicidad, incluyendo nuevas rentas provenientes de Arkansas, Carolina del Norte y Georgia, que cuentan con mercados en vías de desarrollo."

Dijo también que ahora las publicaciones latinas son mucho más fuertes que en la década de los 90, y añade que un 50 por ciento de los 550 periódicos latinos "son muy viables."

Entre los diarios en español hay cuatro en Nueva York, dos en Miami, uno en Los Angeles y otro en Houston, más cuatro en Puerto Rico. Los otros periódicos

que se consideran "diarios" en la encuesta incluyen varias publicaciones con tirada a ambos lados de la frontera con México, y periódicos en inglés que tienen secciones diarias en español o bilingües.

En crecimiento paralelo con el mercado de prensa latino está el incremento en los números de miembros de la Asociación Nacional de Publicaciones Hispánicas. El número de publicaciones asociadas creció de 17, cuando se fundó la asociación en 1982, a 195 el año pasado. Los miembros ahora son más de 200, con otras doce solicitudes pendientes, informó Whisler. La encuesta de la Red de Prensa Latina encontró que más de la mitad de todos los hogares latinos leen publicaciones asociadas con la Asociación Nacional de Publicaciones Hispánicas.

"Una razón atribuible al crecimiento de los asociados es nuestro programa agresivo por proveerles mayores beneficios," informó el presidente de la asociación, Zeke Montes, a Weekly Report. Entre los beneficios se incluyen el establecer acuerdos con vendedores, ayudar con la recaudación de fondos, asuntos de salud, asociaciones con compañías del internet, y acceso a mayores rentas publicitarias al valerse del paquete con información sobre los medios de comunicación que se ofrece anualmente.

El crecimiento del número de publicaciones latinas las ha obligado a contratar a más empleados a tiempo completo y parcial. El número del personal ha subido en los últimos cinco años de 8,231 a 12,797 empleados. Un tercio de ellos -- más de 4,000 -- trabajan del lado editorial, dijo Whisler. Unos 2,000 latinos trabajan en las salas de redacción de los diarios estadounidenses en inglés.

Algunas de las compañías noticiosas nacionales han creado sus propias publicaciones latinas. La empresa Knight Ridder es propietaria de El Nuevo Herald del Miami Herald y del Nuevo Mundo del San Jose Mercury News; la Tribune Co. es propietaria de ¡Exitó! de Chicago, de Hoy, con base en Nueva York, y 50 por ciento de La Opinión de Los Angeles; la empresa Hearst

Newspapers es dueña de The Laredo Morning Times, que incluye una sección diaria en español. Otras compañías que han intentado aprovechar el mercado son Gannett y The New York Times, pero no tuvieron éxito.

"A fin de cuentas, es más probable que las publicaciones hispanas propiedad de corporaciones nacionales no van a tener el éxito que tienen las que son de propiedad hispana," dijo Whisler. A pesar de contar con una abundancia de recursos, las corporaciones no conocen a la comunidad latina ni el mercado y frecuentemente contratan a personas que no saben relacionarse ni hacer conexión con la comunidad, añadió.

Según Montes, muchas compañías de medios de comunicación se incorporan a las comunidades latinas y crean publicaciones por el simple hecho del dinero que generan.

"No van a tener éxito hasta que no vean la contratación, adquisiciones, filantropía y gobierno," dijo. Añadió que de primera prioridad para las publicaciones propiedad de latinos es la comunidad a la que sirven. Notó Montes que lo económico tiene segundo o tercer lugar.

Las publicaciones del mercado general tienden a bajar el costo de la publicidad para los locales, lo cual hace muy difícil la competencia para los latinos con medios nacionales, informó Montes. Dijo, además, que quiere trabajar con los medios nacionales para que incrementen el nivel de su responsabilidad para con la comunidad latina y establezcan relaciones que puedan favorecer a las publicaciones de base latinas.

Las cifras referentes al crecimiento de la publicación de prensa latina se emitieron con el "2001 Media Kit & Resource Book" de la Asociación Nacional de Publicaciones Hispánicas, que compiló Whisler, investigador principal de Western Publications Research. Ha seguido las estadísticas referentes a publicaciones latinas estadounidenses desde 1983.

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

## U.S. Latino Publications Join "Billion-Dollar Club"

By Cynthia L. Oroscó

Riding a five-year boom that has seen a combined increase of 3.5 million copies in circulation, Latino-owned publications in the United States generated revenues of more than a billion dollars for the first time last year.

These dramatic increases are detailed in a survey shared at the National Association of Hispanic Publications convention in Miami this month.

Much of the overall growth has been generated by the need to serve the nation's 40 million Latinos and by corporate America's desire to tap into this community's ever-increasing buying power, according to Kirk Whisler, founding president of NAHP and president of Latino Print Network.

Implications of the growth were top agenda items for NAHP members, as well as corporate and advertising agency representatives, attending NAHP's 16th annual convention April 18-21.

Estimated combined revenues for the 1,389 U.S. Latino publications -- up from 1,032 publications in 1995 -- reached \$1.049 billion in 2000. Between 1995 and 2000, advertising revenues generated by these publications grew by nearly 400 percent -- or \$500 million -- as circulation increased 90 percent.

Looking ahead, Whisler told Hispanic Link, "While I think we will see little increase in the number of Latino publications, we will see continued growth in circulation and ad revenues, including new ones in Arkansas, North Carolina and Georgia, all of which have developing markets."

Latino publications are much stronger now than they were in the 1990s, he said, calling about half of the country's 550 Latino newspapers "very viable."

Spanish-language daily papers include four in New York, two in Miami, one each in Los Angeles and Houston, and four located in Puerto Rico. The other papers considered "dailies" in the LPN survey include a number circulating along both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border and English-language papers that carry daily Spanish-language or bilingual sections.

Paralleling the growth of the Latino print media market is the increase in NAHP membership. The number of member publications grew from 17, when it was founded in 1982, to 195 last year. Membership now exceeds 200, with another dozen or so applications pending, Whisler

said. The LPN survey found NAHP member publications are read by more than half of all U.S. Latino households.

"One reason for the growth in NAHP membership is our aggressive agenda to provide more benefits for our members," NAHP President Zeke Montes told Hispanic Link. Among these are establishing vendor agreements, providing assistance with collections, health issues, partnerships with Internet companies and increased advertising revenue through inclusion in NAHP's annual media kit.

The growth in the number of Latino publications has required additional staff at existing ones -- both full- and part time. Over the last five years the number has risen from 8,231 to 12,797 people. About one-third of their staffers -- more than 4,000 -- are working on the editorial side, Whisler said. About 2,000 Latinos work in the newsrooms of U.S. English-language dailies.

Some mainstream media companies have created their own Latino publications. Knight Ridder owns the Miami Herald's *El Nuevo Herald* and the San Jose Mercury News' *Nuevo Mundo*; The Tribune Co. owns Chicago's *¡Exitó!*, the New York-based *Hoy* and 50 percent of Los Angeles' *La Opinión*; Hearst Newspapers owns The Laredo Morning Times, which includes a daily Spanish-language section. Other companies that have tried their hand at Latino publications and later abandoned their effort are Gannett and The New York Times.

"The bottom line is that Hispanic publications owned by mainstream newspaper corporations are more likely to fail than Hispanic-owned ones," Whisler said. Despite having an abundance of resources, these corporations lack awareness of the Latino community, do not know the market and often hire people who cannot relate to or make a connection with the community, Whisler added.

Many media companies move into Latino communities and create publications strictly for the money they generate, Montes said. "Until they look at employment, procurement, philanthropy and governance, they will have a hard time succeeding." He added that the first priority for Latino-owned publications is the communities they serve. The economics part comes second or third, Montes noted.

General market publications also tend to lower their rates for local advertisers, making La-

tino competition with mainstream media extremely difficult, Montes said. He added that he wants to work with mainstream media to increase their level of responsibility to the community and establish relationships that will help grassroots Latino publications.

Figures on Latino print media growth were released in NAHP's 2001 Media Kit & Resource Book, compiled by Whisler, lead researcher for Western Publications Research. He has tracked statistics on U.S. Latino publications since 1983.

(Cynthia L. Oroscó is a correspondent with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)

SIDE BAR: GROWTH OF U.S. LATINO PUBLICATIONS	
0...1990...1995...2000	197
Publications	
NEWSPAPERS	
232...355...406...550	
Dailies	
8...14...17...34	
Weeklies	
74...152...194...265	
Less than	
weeklies	150...18
9...195...251	
MAGAZINES	
52...177...230...352	
O T H E R	
(x).....97.....21	
0...396...487	
(x) (Annuals, newsletters, journals, yellow pages)	
Full-time Staff (all publications).....1,889...4,695...8,231...12,797	
Ad Revenues (in millions).....\$16.....\$141.....\$327.....\$827	
Total Revenues (in millions).....n/a.....n/a.....n/a.....\$1,049	
HISPANIC PUBLICATIONS, 2000	

Newspapers.....550
Magazines.....352
Newsletters.....271
Journals.....90
Yellow pages.....67
Annuals.....49
Catalogs.....10
NAHP...MEMBERS
Year...Number
1982.....17
1984.....60
1986.....80
1988.....100
1990.....100
1992.....85
1994.....80
1996.....109
1998.....120
2000.....195

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## Coy Awarded Scholarship from Women Voters

Viernes pasado, Evangelina Fierro Coy, una estudiante Junior (del Tercero año), recibió una beca ofrecido por la Liga de Votantes Mujeres (League of Women Voters) durante una Cena Especial del Departamento de Ciencia Política de la Texas Tech University. La Evangelina es hija de Juan y Silvia Coy de Ozona, Tejas. Sus estudios focalizan en Ciencia Política y Español. Tiene una hermana Kimberlee que es estudiante de la Enfermería en la Escuela de Medicina de la Texas Tech. También, tiene un hermano mayor que es gerente de un Restaurante en Blanco y dos hermanitas menores.

En su solicitud para obtener la beca que es financiada por el Capítulo Local de la Liga de Votantes Mujeres, Evangelina dice que "La educación universitaria es muy importante para mí. Pienso que me va ayudar llegar ser la persona que quiero ser. Mi objetivo-durante mi estancia en la Texas Tech-es aprovechar cada experiencia educativa que encuentro. Creo que es muy significativo para sobrepasar a cualquier desafío que encuentro. Por eso, una meta [goal] es de graduar en el mas alto 15% de mi clase o mejor. Entonces, pretendo de asistir la Escuela de Estudios Pos Graduados en la Texas

Tech para sacar un título de Magisteriado (Master's degree). Me interesa mucho el estudio de gobierno y la política. Después de graduarme, pretendo seguir una carrera en el campo político. Considero un futuro en la diplomacia [relaciones internacionales] pero quiero también de mantener todas las opciones que se encuentran en el campo de la política. De todos modos, quiero decir que es muy importante que he logrado ser una persona mejor con capacidad de ayudar a otros.

This Friday, Evangelina Fierro Coy, a Junior Political Science and Spanish major at Texas Tech, received the Scholarship offered by the Department of Political Science at Texas Tech University at a Special Dinner at the Lubbock Inn. Evangelina is the daughter of Juan and Silvia Coy of Ozona, Texas. Her sister Kimberlee is a Student in the Nursing School of the Texas Tech Medical School. An older brother is Manager of a Restaurant in Blanco and she also has two younger sisters. In her application for the Scholarship that is funded by the Lubbock League of Women Voters, Evangelina said that "A university education is very important to me. I feel that it will help me be-



come the person that I want to be. My goal, while here at Texas Tech, is to take advantage of every educational experience that I encounter. I believe that it is important to excel at whatever challenge I may encounter. Thus, it is one of my goals to graduate in the top 15% of my graduating class or higher. After graduation I plan to study for a Master's Degree at Texas Tech. I am fascinated by the study of government and politics. I have considered a future in foreign relations or international relations. I am open however to all the other wonderful opportunities that the political field has to offer. Above all, I would like to say that I have become a better person and am capable of helping others.



Ran Guajardo of Guajardo's Funeral Home celebrated its grand opening of the new building recently completed here in Lubbock on North University. The Guajardo Family has been in business in Lubbock since for 19 years. The Guajardo Family was first established by Donato Guajardo in Del Rio, Texas. The family now own several funeral homes in Texas. Photo by John P. Cervantez

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GAME 2  
PRIZE BOX

LUCKY YOURS  
GAME 3

**BONUS POT**

VOID

GAME #128

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Get 2 like amounts and a sun symbol, win triple that amount.

**Spring Fever**  
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GAME #193

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El 31 de Mayo del 2001 será la última vez que puedas jugar Lucky Shamrock y Spring Fever. Sin embargo boletos ganadores pueden ser cobrados hasta el 27 de Noviembre del 2001. Premios en efectivo hasta \$599 pueden ser cobrados en cualquier lugar de venta de boletos de la Lotería de Texas. Premios con un total de \$600 o más son cobrables en cualquiera de los 22 centros de cobro de la Lotería de Texas o por correo. Para más información, por favor llama a la línea de servicio al cliente de la Lotería de Texas al 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).

AVISO: Un juego instantáneo puede seguir vendiéndose aun cuando todos los premios mayores hayan sido reclamados. Para la más reciente información sobre los premios restantes de los juegos instantáneos, favor de llamar al 1-800-37-LOTTO. Las probabilidades de ganar en Lucky Shamrock son 1 en 4.37 y en Spring Fever son 1 en 4.69 incluyendo los premios del mismo valor del boleto. Debes tener 18 años o más para poder comprar boletos. © 2001 Texas Lottery

# A Legacy of Excellence

Hispanic women to be honored during annual banquet

Since 1983 The Hispanic Association of Women (HAW) has been organizing the efforts of Hispanic women. As such HAW will hold its 18th annual "Hispana of the Year" Awards and Scholarship Banquet, Saturday, April 28, 2001.

The event showcases contributions and achievements of Hispanic Women whom have helped to execute the mission of promoting education, defining issues of concern, forming coalitions, resolving problems, developing leadership skills, and empowering women and youth.

Women from the community will be honored in seven categories including Business/Professional, Civic/Church, Education, Medical, Media/Public Relations, Law, and Youth. In addition to the awards, HAW will provide four \$1,000 scholarships to young women pursuing higher education degrees.

The award recipients will be announced at the event, which will be held in the McInturff Conference Center located at University Medical Center Hospital, beginning with a reception at 6 p.m., followed immediately by the banquet at 7 p.m.

Individual tickets are \$25; a reserved table of eight is \$200; and a Gold table sponsorships of \$700, which will benefit the 2002 scholarship endowment can be purchased by contacting Linda Landin, President, at 766-1711, or Christy Martinez, Banquet Chair, at 797-7233.

The following are the names of the Scholarship Recipients:

- Christina Anaya
- Marisa Ariaz
- Lisa Ortega
- Cristina, Sanchez

The following are the names of the nominees and their respective categories:

- Business/Professional: Lala Cavazos
- Civic/Church: Ester Sepeda
- Education: Ramona Morin Aguilar, Berta DeLosSantos, Rosa Llanas, Martha Montoya, Janie Ramirez
- Medical: Ana Valadez
- Media/Public Relations: Leticia Martinez, Fannie Rodriguez
- Legal: Natalie Jane Ybarra
- Youth: Marisa Ariaz, Jacqueline Vega

# Governor Wooing Blacks, Hispanics

by Jordan Rau

His Spanish was mangled, to put it charitably. "I don't know if that makes any sense or not; I'm trying," Gov. George Pataki told Puerto Rican activists opposed to the U.S. Navy's use of the island of Vieques for bombing practice.

But linguistic difficulties didn't stop him from enthusiastically leading an East Harlem rally in chanting "No mas bombas en Vieques" last month.

As he heads into his third campaign for governor, Pataki is intensifying his courtship of the state's swelling block of Hispanic and African-American voters.

Cultivating these groups is becoming more important for all GOP candidates in New York, as traditionally Republican upstate voters have shown an increased receptivity toward Democrats in the last few statewide elections. Despite Pataki's efforts during the past six years, surveys show blacks and Hispanics remain far less enthusiastic about the Republican governor than white voters do.

Pataki's recent overtures have earned praise by some in these traditionally Democratic ethnic groups. But he is also being accused of using dramatic and often symbolic gestures to conceal his inaction on more substantial challenges that directly involve state government.

For instance, opponents say, it was the Legislature, not Pataki, that allotted \$11 million more last year for programs that provide tutoring and counseling for poor students, usually minorities, who are the first in their families to go to college. This year Pataki wants the "Education Opportunity" programs to revert to the prior spending level of \$43 million.

"The question will be if he takes a really good position on an issue like Vieques, how much of that will translate into real support and overcome his positions on bread-and-butter issues," said Juan Figueroa, president of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Pataki started courting black voters even before he was elected in 1994. A few weeks before the election, Pataki spoke to an overflowing crowd at Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church, a place Democrat Gov. Mario Cuomo had not visited during his 12 years in office.

Since his election, Pataki has not ignored predominantly minority areas of the state. His administration has given financial assistance to several major projects, including the expansion of Jamaica Market in Queens and new giant shopping and entertainment centers in Harlem, East Harlem and Jamaica. The administration says it has helped create more than 8,000 jobs in upper Manhattan, and Pataki is announcing a plan today to encourage banks to open more branches there.

"If I had to make a comparison between the governor we had and the governor we have, I would think Pataki has done a better job in terms of really touching the black community than Cuomo did," said the Rev. Calvin Butts, pastor of the Abyssinian church and president of SUNY Old Westbury.

But since January, Pataki appears to have accelerated the number of public gestures that show his appreciation of both African-American history and Hispanics' strong ties to their countries of origin.

In February, he honored the memories of black soldiers from World War II at several events. In February, he incorporated Harlem into the state's "I Love New York" tourism campaign for the first time. And in March, he spent \$284,000 to restore the Harriet Tubman House, a historic landmark in Auburn and the site where the anti-slavery activist ran her Underground Railroad during the Civil War.

Even before Pataki lobbied the Bush administration for a month-long moratorium on the Vieques bombings and flew there to tour the island earlier this month, Pataki was reaching out to the homelands of the state's diverse Hispanic population. Earlier this year he sent disaster advisers to Argentina to help deal with massive flooding, and he dispatched one of New York's Air National Guard cargo planes to take relief supplies to earthquake-stricken El Salvador.

Some of Pataki's recent legislative proposals and administration appointments are likely to be well-received in these communities. This year his principal criminal justice initiative is overhauling the state's Rockefeller-era drug laws, which are deeply unpopular among many blacks for their long prison sentences.

And while his administration has always included blacks and Hispanics, two of his most recent state agency appointees have both been minorities: Secretary of State Randy Daniels and Motor Vehicles Commissioner Ray Martinez.

Pataki declined to be interviewed for this story, but his spokesman, Michael McKeon, said: "The governor has been pursuing an agenda that we believe has transformed New York State, from crime to education to job development. Those are issues that people care about regardless of their ethnic background."

Despite his efforts, enthusiasm for a third Pataki term remains weakest among nonwhites, several recent statewide polls indicate. A Quinnipiac University poll released yesterday said that though voters overall view Pataki more favorably than either of his two potential challengers, a majority of nonwhites said they would vote for either Cuomo or state Comptroller H. Carl McCall.

And a Zogby International poll conducted in March for The Buffalo News found that while 49 percent of white voters thought Pataki deserved reelection, only 23 percent of Hispanics and 12 percent of African-Americans agreed. Polls this early, of course, are rarely definitive.

"One of the things that he can do, as he has, is move to the center politically. That's smart. But he's got to at least cut into some of the minority support that is going Democratic," said John Zogby, president of the Utica polling firm. "He's not going to get a huge number of black votes, but it's conceivable that he could get 20 percent." [Former U.S. Sen. Alfonse]

D'Amato used to. He's certainly got to do better than he is."

Such support is especially important given the changes in New York's electorate in the past few years. Blacks and Hispanics, who accounted for 15 percent of voters in 1998, made up 19 percent of those who voted in last year's U.S. Senate race, according to the Voter News Service.

"The Puerto Ricans, the Dominicans and the Mexicans have been loyal Democrats, as have the African-Americans," said Dennis Rivera, the politically influential president of Service Employees International Union Local 1199, which represents health care workers. "We detect at the national and state level that the Republicans are interested in aggressively courting these communities. And that's good."

Adding to his re-election challenges, Pataki will not be facing either an unpopular incumbent like Cuomo was in 1994 or a token opponent like New York City Council Speaker Peter Vallone was in 1998.

Instead, the two most likely Democratic candidates both have strong ties to New York's minorities. McCall is vying to become New York's first black governor, and Andrew Cuomo supporters say his devotion to urban housing issues -- as well as his marriage to Robert Kennedy's daughter, Kerry -- are likely to resonate well with these voters.

"Most people see this for what it is: a desperate effort to find support in new quarters because his traditional upstate Republican base is eroding," McCall said. "It took him six years to find Vieques on the map. Where's he been?"

Whatever the motivation, it remains to be seen whether Pataki's aggressive efforts on issues like Vieques will pay off. The Quinnipiac University poll found that 43 percent of voters thought Pataki should not spend much effort over Vieques; only 16 percent thought it should be a high priority.

The poll, however, did not specifically examine the views of Puerto Ricans. Many activists said in interviews that Pataki's stance had garnered a huge amount of goodwill even though the Navy announced just a few days after Pataki's visit to Vieques that it would resume bombing tests.

"He is the first within the Republican Party that I'm aware of who has actually reached out to my people in something that is so important," said Mario César Romano, an independent art historian from East Harlem.

"Prior to this, my views on Pataki were not too good," said Vilma Burch, a registered Democrat who works with Hispanic AIDS patients in Woodside. "But I've learned this is not the first time Pataki has stepped forward for us. I thought the trip was excellent. It was a wonderful gesture that he did."

## Our Lady of Grace Scholarship Fundraiser

The Our Lady of Grace Guadalupeños are hosting their annual Ramon Orosco scholarship Dinner and Dance to benefit this year Scholarship awards. The brisket & trimmings dinner will be served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with an Oldies but Goodies Dance provided by DJ Juan Pina to follow. The event will be held this Saturday, April 28th. At the Our Lady of Grace Activity Center at 3119 Erskine Street. Price for the fundraiser is \$7.50 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling 763-4156 for information.

Local businesses sponsoring this event are: 1st Class Tuxedos at Green Oaks Mall, Emilio E. Abeyta-attorney, Calvillo Funeral Home, Rhodes Safety Center and Guajardo Funeral

# Bad News for Hispanic Girls

The good news about declining teen pregnancy isn't being celebrated at one specific set of family dinner tables: Hispanic ones.

According to government data released this week, there has been a dramatic 20% drop in the number of teens having babies since 1989. Yet, Latina teens see a mere 7% decline. And within the Latina population, births to Mexican-American teens actually rose: 101 out of 1,000 had babies in 1999, up from 94 in 1989.

By contrast, pregnancy dropped 25% among black teens and 15% among white teens during the same period.

Growing awareness of the problem has sent pregnancy-prevention groups and community leaders scrambling to help. Top Univision talk-show host Cristina Saralegui broaches the subject in the May issue of her magazine, for example. A broader effort is vital, though, be-

cause the pregnancies are only part of what's setting back Latina teens.

The girls also have the nation's highest dropout rates -- 30%. And they lead the nation in substance abuse and suicide attempts. Together, the factors put the girls at risk of becoming a poor, depressed underclass.

Community workers say combating teen pregnancy won't be easy. For one thing, the pregnancy rate is rooted in the Hispanic community's traditional ways of raising children. Kimberly Sanchez, adolescent health education coordinator at Denver's La Clinica Tepeyac, says too many Hispanic girls don't fully understand reproduction, let alone contraception.

Mothers typically don't discuss sex with their daughters, and churches typically don't discuss alarming teen pregnancy rates with parents. Then, when unmarried teens get pregnant,

many Hispanic families celebrate the babies. That makes abortion less common, but teen pregnancy more acceptable.

The high dropout rate, language barriers and constant moving by many migrant-worker families also mean that in-school sex education about abstinence and contraception isn't reaching many Hispanic high-risk teens. Yet that education has proved powerful in reducing pregnancies among white and black teenagers. A majority of teens think sex in adolescence is wrong, yet they want the education about it, according to a poll due next week from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

More needs to be done to get that education across to Latina girls. Parents, churches and community groups need to tell them that their teenage years are for education and for themselves, not for motherhood.



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# Caucus' Move Could Limit Hispanic Gains

By Ethan Wallison and John Mercurio

In a decision that could undercut efforts to boost their numbers on Capitol Hill, Congressional Hispanics have privately agreed to back incumbent Democrats in primary contests with Hispanic challengers, despite major population gains that portend new electoral clout for Latinos.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus made the decision as its members were finalizing details for a PAC that will be used to recruit and finance Latino candidates in the 2002 elections and beyond.

"We've made our position very clear," said Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-Texas), chairman of the CHC. "We are identifying seats where there is not that potential" for Hispanics to challenge incumbent Democrats, and they are recruiting candidates in those districts.

The decision sets the Hispanic Caucus at odds with its own goal of boosting Latino representation on Capitol Hill - an objective that seemed achievable with the release of new census figures showing that Hispanics have reached parity with African-Americans in terms of national population.

However, Latino leaders on Capitol Hill said they calculated that the cost of backing Hispanic candidates over their own colleagues would outweigh any benefits they might receive from greater representation in Congress.

"Clearly, if we want Members to vote with us on the issues of importance to our community, we need to support them," Democratic Caucus Vice Chairman Bob Menendez (N.J.) said.

It is not likely that the CHC's support would provide a margin of advantage for Latino challengers. But without it, such candidates would lose a powerful argument for voters to change their representatives in Congress.

Already, Democratic strategists and Congressional Hispanics have scaled back earlier projections of as many as 12 Latino pickups in the next elections. Many now say the high-end figure is probably more like six, but some strategists suggest even that number could be overly optimistic.

The surge in Latino numbers is the barely concealed subtext of a number of redistricting battles across the country and is already animating contests in cities such as Los Angeles, where Hispanics have emerged as a strong plurality in three districts currently represented by African-American lawmakers.

These Members - Democratic Reps. Maxine Waters, Juanita Millender-McDonald and, assuming she wins a June 5 runoff, Diane Watson - are likely to benefit most from the CHC's decision.

Mark Gersh, a top Democratic strategist and adviser to Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (Mo.), noted that as many as 15 districts have shifted from black to Hispanic pluralities in the past decade.

"That's where you get into black-brown primaries, potentially," Gersh said, while stressing that much still needs to be determined in the redistricting process.

Potential Hispanic primary challengers have also begun to emerge in districts with white incumbents.

In Colorado's 1st district, where roughly a third of the constituency is now of Hispanic origin, three-term Rep. Diana DeGette (D) already faces a challenge from Denver City Council President Ramona Martinez (D).

While Martinez acknowledged "the [unwritten] rule" that says Members don't support challenges to their party colleagues, she indicated that she considers the CHC's position misguided.

"I guess I don't quite understand [the CHC position], because if our goal is to increase our representation in Congress, there are going to have to be changes" in a number of districts, Martinez said in an interview.

The councilwoman cited census figures that showed DeGette's district, which is expected to remain intact through redistricting, is now 54 percent black or Hispanic.

"Where are minority communities supposed to get minority representation?" Martinez asked rhetorically. "I plan on giving every one of [the members of the CHC] a courtesy call to let them know that I'm running."

Larry Gonzalez, the Washington director of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, a non-partisan group that has been helping the Hispanic Caucus identify potential candidates, indicated he was also dis-

appointed in the CHC's decision.

He suggested the group's position undermines their supposedly shared interest in increasing the number of Hispanics in Congress.

"We would feel differently. We obviously would like to see Latino Members support other Latino candidates," Gonzalez said.

Few House Democrats are more concerned about a possible primary challenge from a Hispanic than Caucus Chairman Martin Frost (Texas), whose Fort Worth-area district is now roughly 30 percent Latino.

Texas Republicans, who control the state Senate and governor's office and expect to have the upper hand in redistricting, have talked up a plan to redraw Frost into a seat with a strong Hispanic tilt. His current district, which stretches southeast of Fort Worth, also has a substantial African-American population.

Frost dismissed concerns that any such change could hinder his re-election bid.

"I've had a significant Hispanic population in my district in the past, and I've always had very significant support," he said. "Whatever district is drawn for me, I'll campaign hard, and I expect to do well. Other Anglo incumbents who have previously represented the Hispanic community will continue to do well among Hispanic voters."

Nonetheless, Frost, who also heads up the redistricting effort for House Democrats, applauded the CHC's decision. He said it will work to the benefit of Hispanic interests in the long run by ensuring that Latinos "will be a powerful voice in [the] dis-

tricts" where they have a strong presence.

"Whoever is elected will owe a good bit of his electoral victory to the Hispanic community," Frost said. "They will have a greater influence with incumbents all over the country and they can go to those incumbents and say, 'We provided the difference in getting you re-elected.' That will be helpful in getting their legislation passed. It's a very important thing for them to do."

Reyes, who said Hispanics have a "strong shot" at winning six new seats, refused to give any details about candidates the group is considering giving support to except to disclose that the CHC has compiled a preliminary list of "about six to 10" possibilities and that Dario Herrera, chairman of the Clark County Commission in Nevada, is one of them. Armed with support from top Nevada Democrats, Herrera has said he plans to run in the new House seat Nevada received in reapportionment. But he could face a primary fight against fellow Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates, who is black.

An evaluation committee headed by Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-Calif.) will be vetting candidates for the CHC. Reyes said California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and "the Northwest" offer the best Hispanic pickup opportunities.

Rep. Joe Baca (D-Calif.), who is heading up the group's fundraising committee, CHC BOLD-PAC, filled in a few of the holes.

Among other things, he said, the CHC is working on a roster of potential candidates who have not "been through the Congressional mill" before, rather than

er balancear la chequera nacional. El presidente quebraría el presupuesto con sus reducciones al impuesto, dándole a sus patrocinadores de corporaciones y aliados republicanos del congreso excusa para descubrir repentinamente que no queda nada para las familias trabajadoras y nuestras prioridades. Qué mal negocio para las familias trabajadoras, la mayoría de las cuales están muy a las afueras del cerco que rodea el rancho de Bush en Crawford.

(Linda Chávez-Thompson es vice presidenta ejecutiva de la AFL-CIO con 13 millones de miembros. © 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate International.)

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**EL EDITOR**

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Estas cosas no significarán mucho en el rancho de Bush en Crawford, pero para las familias en comunidades como Lubbock, que luchan por todo, desde la educación hasta el cuidado básico de la salud, el presupuesto del presidente representa la más cruel de las reducciones.

No nos engañemos con esto hasta llegar al punto de no poder

er balancear la chequera nacional. El presidente quebraría el presupuesto con sus reducciones al impuesto, dándole a sus patrocinadores de corporaciones y aliados republicanos del congreso excusa para descubrir repentinamente que no queda nada para las familias trabajadoras y nuestras prioridades. Qué mal negocio para las familias trabajadoras, la mayoría de las cuales están muy a las afueras del cerco que rodea el rancho de Bush en Crawford.

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**EL EDITOR**

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# Puerto Rico Sues Navy Over Bombing

By MANUEL ERNESTO RIVERA

Challenging the U.S. government, Puerto Rico's governor filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Navy (news - web sites) Tuesday to halt bombing exercises on Vieques island.

The U.S. Navy, which called the lawsuit a "grave development" in relations between the Navy and the U.S. territory, posted notices in Vieques saying maneuvers would resume Friday.

"The legal action that my government is taking responds directly to the need to look out for the health and security of all Puerto Ricans," said Gov. Sila Calderon, adding that she regretted that the government was forced to take legal action.

The lawsuit comes from an anti-noise bill passed by the local legislature that prohibits loud noises along the island's shores. The local law cites the Noise Control Act of 1972, which allows states - and in Puerto Rico's case, U.S. territories - to set noise-control laws.

The lawsuit was filed Tuesday in Washington, Calderon said. The plaintiffs are the Navy, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, acting Navy Secretary Robert Pirie and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark.

Calderon said she asked President Bush (news - web sites) and Rumsfeld to permanently end the Navy exercises on Vieques. If they don't agree by Wednesday, the Puerto Rican government will seek a federal court injunction to stop this weekend's bombing, she said.

"The legal action filed in federal court today is a grave development in the relationship between the U.S. Navy and the commonwealth government," Navy spokesman Jeff Gordon said. "That said, the Navy is confident our training and presence in Vieques pose no health

or safety risk to the civilian population on the island."

Pentagon (news - web sites) spokesman Rear Adm. Craig Quigley said the Navy still plans training exercises on Vieques. He said he did not know what the Defense Department would do if an injunction were issued.

"We'll have to see what the final language of the legislation says and have our lawyers take a look at it and see what their advice is," Quigley said at a Washington news conference.

Opposition to the Navy's use of Vieques erupted after a jet dropped two errant bombs in 1999, killing a civilian Puerto Rican guard.

The Navy owns two-thirds of Vieques and the bombing range covers 900 acres on the island's eastern tip. Bombing on the eastern part of Vieques has been suspended since March.

The U.S. military says the range offers an isolated environment where the Navy can practice amphibious invasions, ship-to-shore and air-to-shore shell-

ing. Before Calderon's announcement, there was speculation in Washington about whether Bush would exempt the Navy from the noise control law to allow bombing on Vieques. White House spokesman Ari Fleischer (news - web sites) said he did not yet know whether Bush wanted to exempt the Navy.

Anibal Acevedo-Vila, Puerto Rico's representative in Congress, said Bush is authorized to exempt the Navy from the noise control laws but that such an exemption "will put the president in a very difficult situation" because he would be opposing the will of the territory's local government.

"If the president issues an exemption, we will have to keep fighting this," Acevedo-Vila said.

## Lea El Editor

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# Latinos Shine at the 2001 American Latino Media Arts Awards

By VIRGINIA CUETO

Fresh from its Oscars sweep last month, where it won four of the five Academy Awards for which it was a contender, Traffic walked away Sunday with two ALMA Awards for Outstanding Feature Film and Outstanding Latino Cast in a feature film.

Created in 1994 by the National Council of La Raza to honor positive portrayals of Latinos and outstanding artistic achievement in film, television, and music, the 2001 American Latino Media Arts Awards were given out April 22 at Los Angeles' Pasadena Civic Auditorium and will be aired as a two-hour ABC special June 1.

The categories this year were expanded to recognize the best Spanish-language televised comedy series, as well as achievement in music and variety specials, syndicated television series, documentary programming, and soundtracks. In all, statuettes were awarded in 22 categories, up from last year's 16. Four special achievement awards were also given out, with Jennifer Lopez garnering nods for Entertainer of the Year and Nickelodeon earning accolades for promoting cultural diversity in children's programming.

The ALMAs put on a glitzy,

glamorous production with powerhouse performances by some of Tinseltown's best-known faces. On hand to present (and often accept) the awards were such stars as Maria Conchita Alonso, John Leguizamo, Esai Morales, Martin Sheen, Jennifer Lopez, Gregory Nava, Raquel Welch, Carlos Santana, Cristina Saralegui, Luis Enrique, Youngstown, Sheila E., Ian Gomez, Wyclef Jean, and Arturo Sandoval, whose life provided the inspiration for the HBO special For Love or Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story, winner of the ALMA award for Outstanding Made-for-Television Movie or Mini-Series.

A heavy favorite was Showtime's Resurrection Blvd., which received seven nominations and two awards.

Outstanding Television Series Outstanding Actress in a New Television Series (Elizabeth Peña). Other top choices included Nickelodeon's The Brothers Garcia and HBO's OZ.

The ALMA Awards have been the centerpiece of an NCLR campaign to improve public perception of Hispanics since the organization launched its Media Advocacy Project in the early 1990s in reaction to the continuing under-representation of

Latinos in the arts media. While the number of Latino actors in films and TV shows increased in 1999, the latest year for which Screen Actors Guild statistics are available, casting data compiled by the SAG show Hispanic actors received only 4.4 percent of all speaking roles shot under SAG contracts that year, up from 3.5 percent in 1998 but still far below Latinos' share of about 12 percent of the U.S. population.

But the Latino population explosion chartered by the latest Census figures may soon be reflected in increased media visibility.

The Latino Media Council, a coalition of 12 organizations, including the NCLR, signed an unprecedented agreement with the major TV networks—ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox—in February 2000 to increase jobs for minorities in front of and behind the cameras. The move followed a two-week boycott of the networks called by the Council the previous fall in retaliation for what they called a network "brownout" of Latino lead characters in the fall programming schedule.

Although the networks took note, the Council maintains there is much to be done.

"We're not happy," former congressman Esteban Torres, president of the Latino Media Council, said in November. "We've made some progress, but we haven't made enough, and we have to make sure they understand that."

Raúl Yzaguirre, president of the NCLR, echoed Torres' discontent. "Despite some rays of hope, this season is an unqualified disappointment for the Latino community."

Which is, perhaps, why the NCLR took matters into its own hands and created the ALMA Awards, initially known as BRAVO. Until last year's first edition of the Latin Grammys, the ALMA Awards were the only televised awards show to specifically recognize Hispanic excellence in the media. While Nosotros, the Hollywood-based organization founded by veteran actor Ricardo Montalban in 1970, has been giving out its Golden Eagle awards for the last 30 years in recognition of Latino talent, the organization agreed to stop televising its event in favor of the ALMA Awards, in exchange for the NCLR's help in revamping Nosotros' organizational structure and support of Nosotros' efforts to establish its own theater.

"NCLR is powerful politically and financially," Jerry Velasco, president of Nosotros and head of Velasco & Associates public relations firm, told Politico magazine. "We wanted their support ... They wanted an awards show."

"We've been criticized for doing this agreement, but I think it is important the two organizations work together," said Velasco.

The NCLR has also drawn criticism for the way in which awards recipients are selected. Rather than being nominated and recognized by their peers, the list of nominees is put together by an NCLR committee, and the winners determined by a poll carried out by the Lou Harris company among the general public, Latino elected officials, members of the NCLR, and groups affiliated with the organization.

# Mexico's EZLN Rebels Threatened with Death Penalty

Queretaro Gov. Ignacio Loyola's statements that Zapatista rebels deserve the death penalty have unleashed intense controversy in Mexico.

Loyola, from the National Action Party (PAN), Mexican President Vicente Fox's party, said Tuesday that if the guerrilla group calls itself an army, the country would then have two armed forces. If this were the case, then Mexico would technically be at war with the Zapatistas "invaders," since a country can only have one army.

"And if they are the invaders, then they are national traitors; and if they are traitors, then they deserve the death penalty," the governor of Queretaro, in central Mexico, said.

The statements sparked strong criticism by the left and have exacerbated the controversy over the march planned by 24 Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) leaders to Mexico City throughout at least 10 Mexican states between Feb. 24 and March 11.

Amalia Garcia, president of the left-wing Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), called Loyola's statements "very serious."

"This position is just one more reason why the government should clearly explain the importance of the Zapatis-

tas' visit, the Zapatistas' right to speak with Congress and how this will benefit both peace and the nation," Garcia said.

According to the PRD leader, there are too many contradictions within the government regarding the march of the EZLN, whose objective is to convince Congress to approve constitutional reform incorporating the Indian Culture and Rights Law.

Garcia urged the government to agree on a common position concerning the EZLN mobilization, since the uncertainty among social groups generated by the government's ambivalence "is the last thing the country needs right now, especially regarding the fundamental issue of peace in Chiapas."

Rutilio Escandon, spokesperson for the Commission for Concordance and Pacification (COCOPA), the legislative commission in charge of mediations between the government and the Zapatistas, on Tuesday also criticized the Queretaro governor's statements.

Escandon, from the PRD, said that the Zapatista march "does not violate any law," and that the guerrillas have every right to travel anywhere in the country.

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## MAGIC 93.7 TOP 10

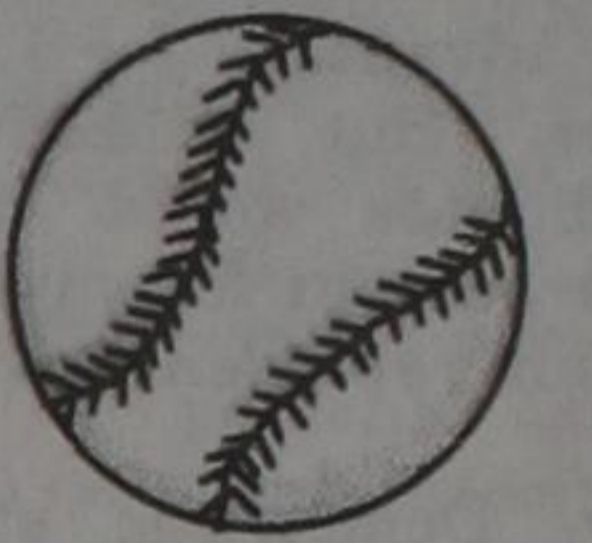
TW	TITLE	ARTIST
1	BOOM BOOM	Kumbia Kings
2	No Dolvere	Shelly/Jay
3	Ensename a Olvidarte	Intocable
4	Derramando Lagrimas	Ruben/Ram
5	No Puedo Olvidar	Solido
6	Infiel	Joe Lopez
7	Mientras Me Uaya	Margarita
8	Amame	Jay Perez
9	Abrazame y Besame	Jennifer Pena
10	No Eres Para Mi	Elida y Avante

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Santioned State. National & World USSSA Qualifier

**Men's Classes B/C & D/E**

Prizes 1st-thru 3rd Pl-Team Trophies

- 1st Pl Custom bat bags
- 2nd Pl Custom t-shirts w/ team logo (1 color)
- 3rd Pl Custom t-shirts w/ team logo (1 color)

(Prizes Based on 20 Teams)

Dead Line - 5-3-2001 - 1st Come, 1st Serve on startingTime  
For Information Call 806-792-5037