

# Hispanics Are Targets for Handgun Violence

By Cynthia L. Oroscó

While the number of Latino gun owners in the United States is the lowest of any racial/ethnic group, Latinos are disproportionately affected by gun violence, compared to the entire population.

This is among the findings of the report "Hispanics and Firearms Violence," released at a May 8 press conference on Capitol Hill.

Developed by the Washington, D.C.-based Violence Policy Center by health policy analyst Karen Brock, the report found that 11 percent of Latinos own a firearm, compared to 16 percent of African Americans and 27 percent of whites.

However, Latinos are victims of firearm violence at a rate second only to African Americans, and Latino firearm homicide rates are nearly four times that of whites. Among all Latino homicide victims, 72 percent died as the result of a firearm injury.

In nonfatal firearm-related injuries, 41.3 of every 100,000 Latinos were affected, compared to 8.7 whites and 87.5 blacks.

"When you look at the data, it starts to pull apart stereotypes about violence in the Hispanic, as well as the black community," says Adolph Falcón, vice president for science and policy of the National Alliance for Hispanic Health. "But the impact remains a significant public health issue."

Because not all states compile data on firearm violence and separately tabulate data for the Latino community, the Violence Policy Center study looked at two states and one city with the highest Latino population rates: California, Texas and Chicago.

Figures gathered from these states are evidence of the trend of the disproportionate impact firearm violence has on Latinos. The survey found:

TEXAS -- Of the nearly 500 homicides committed there in 1998 involving

Latinos, two-thirds (66.9 percent) were firearm murders. That same year, 58.6 percent of the 353 white homicide cases and 77.8 percent of the 387 black homicide cases involved a firearm.

CHICAGO -- Between 1965 to 1995, 13 percent of all homicide victims were Latinos. Of all Latino victims, 73 percent were killed with a firearm, compared to 66 percent of blacks and 49 percent of whites. Also, firearms

were used in 62.6 percent of Latino-on-Latino intimate partner homicides, compared to 49.1 percent for whites and 48.9 percent for blacks.

CALIFORNIA -- While Latinos made up about 30 percent of the state's population in 1998, they accounted for 44 percent of all homicide victims that year. A total of 733 Latinos were killed by firearms in 1998, compared to 242 whites, 389 African Americans and 104 victims of other races.

Three members of Congress from Southern California -- Latinas Lucille Roybal-Allard, Grace Napolitano and Hilda Solís -- were on hand at the Capitol news conference to express their concern over the gun industry targeting young Latinos in their marketing efforts in recent years.

Roybal-Allard quoted from an article in the industry publication "Shooting Sports Retailer" that commented on stagnant gun sales in the primary white-male market:

"A major effort needs to be made to include those groups who are presently referred to as America's racial and ethnic minorities, but who are rapidly becoming the majority. And there is tremendous potential within this largely untapped market."

Brock said those three locations were studied because of the amount of data and accuracy of information collected on firearms and crime relative to the Latino community. A better

picture of the national impact can be developed through some of the recommendations provided in the report.

Among the recommendations:

- Ensure local and state surveillance programs are collecting data on Latinos.

- Have the Federal Bureau of Investigation work with state Uniform Crime Report systems to identify ways to report more accurately criminal incidents involving Latinos, both as victim and offender.

- Require the National Vital Statistics Report to expand its categories of analyses to include Latinos.

- Publish federal survey results and portions of specific studies in Spanish.

- Create coalitions between national, state and local organizations and Latino groups to organize and use data to design violence-reduction programs.

In the mid- to late '90s, national concern over growing violence stirred government at all levels to devote a lot more attention and dollars to prevention. It was a good start. But, say the field experts, much more should and can be done.

Cynthia L. Oroscó is a correspondent with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. Copies of the 24-page "Hispanics and Firearms Violence" report can be purchased for \$20 by contacting the Violence Policy Center, 1140 19th St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20036. To view and/or download the report at no cost, visit [www.vpc.org](http://www.vpc.org)



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## Texas Senate Passes Hate Crimes

AUSTIN, Texas, May 07, 2001 (United Press International via COMTEX) -- The Texas Senate on Monday approved a house-passed bill named after dragging victim James Byrd Jr. that would toughen the state's hate crimes law and send a message that Texas "is not a safe haven for hate."

A similar bill died two years ago in a Senate committee because supporters said then-Gov. George W. Bush would not support it and the failure of the measure during Bush's watch became an issue during his campaign for the White House last year.

On Monday, state Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, was able to muster the necessary two-thirds vote to bring the measure to the floor for debate and then successfully beat back an amendment that would have stripped specific hate victim language from the bill.

The bill passed 20-10 in the Republican-controlled, 31-member Senate, with several prominent GOP members voting with Democrats. The bill passed the House two weeks ago, but it must return there for approval of minor Senate amendments.

If the House approves the Senate changes, the measure will go to Republican Gov. Rick Perry, who has taken a watch and wait position.

"The governor has said he will make a decision when and if the final legislation reaches his desk," said Gene Acuna, a spokesman for Perry said late Monday.

If the House should reject the Senate amendments, the measure would go to a conference committee but an aide to Ellis said Monday that appeared unlikely now.

The Senate passage of the Byrd bill was one of the highlights of the current session.

"This is truly an historic day for the state of Texas," said El-

lis. "The Texas Senate has sent a message that our state is not a safe haven for hate. This legislation will help protect all Texans from anyone who decides to act on their hate and prejudice."

The bill was named after James Byrd Jr., the black man who was dragged to death near Jasper, Texas in 1998 after he was chained to the back of a pickup truck by three white men. All three men were convicted of capital murder. Two were sentenced to death and a third to life in prison.

"No family should have to go through what they have experienced," Ellis said. "If this legislation spares one Texas family from experiencing the pain felt by the Byrd's, then it will be a success."

The present Texas hate crimes law was criticized as too vague and without the specificity required by the constitution in defining a hate crime.

The Byrd act would improve the law by ensuring that the hate crime definition follows closely the language approved by the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark 1993 Wisconsin v. Mitchell case. That case defined a hate crime as one that has been proven in court to have been motivated by "the race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or ancestry" of the victim.

The law would also raise the penalty for a crime by one level if a jury concluded during trial that the crime was motivated by hate. For example, a person convicted of painting a swastika on a synagogue would be eligible for a maximum punishment of a \$4,000 fine and 1-year in jail instead of a fine of \$2,000 and 180 days in jail.

Currently, 43 states have hate crimes laws, including 21 that include sexual orientation in their definition.

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"Respect for the Rights of Others is Peace."  
Lic. Benito Juárez

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## Los Hispanos Son El Blanco de la Violencia Con Armas de Fuego

Por Cynthia L. Oroscó

Si bien el número de latinos que poseen armas de fuego en los Estados Unidos es el más bajo de todos los grupos étnicos o raciales, los latinos son afectados desproporcionadamente por la violencia de armas de fuego al ser comparados con la población entera.

Este hecho está entre muchos que se encuentran en el informe "Los hispanos y la violencia con armas de fuego", emitido el 8 de mayo en una conferencia de prensa en el Capitolio.

El informe fue desarrollado por el Centro de Política de la Violencia, basado en Washington, D.C., por la analista de temas de política de salud, Karen Brock, y encontró que 11 por ciento de los latinos son dueños de un arma de fuego, en comparación con 16 por ciento de los africanos americanos y 27 por ciento de los blancos.

No obstante, los latinos son víctimas de la violencia por armas de fuego en una proporción doble de la de los africanos americanos, y la proporción de homicidios de latinos por armas de fuego es casi cuatro veces mayor que la de los blancos. Entre todas las víctimas latinas de homicidio, el 72 por ciento murió como resultado de una herida de bala.

Entre las heridas que no fueron fatales de las armas de fuego, se afectó a 41.3 por ciento de cada 100,000 latinos, en comparación con 8.7 de los blancos y 87.5 de los negros.

"Al estudiar la información, los estereotipos comienzan a deshacerse en cuanto a la violencia tanto en la comunidad hispana como en la comunidad negra", dice Adolph Falcón, vice-presidente para la ciencia y la política de la Alianza Nacional de Salud Hispana. "Pero el impacto sigue siendo un tema importante para la salud pública."

Ya que no todos los estados recolectan datos sobre la violencia por armas de fuego ni clasifican información de este tipo en referencia a la comunidad latina, el Centro de Política de la Violencia estudió dos estados y una ciudad que cuentan con las poblaciones más grandes de latinos: California, Texas y Chi-

go. Los números recopilados de estos estados son evidencia de la tendencia del impacto desproporcionado que surge la violencia con armas de fuego en los latinos. El estudio encontró lo siguiente:

TEXAS -- De los casi 500 homicidios allí cometidos en 1998 con participación de latinos, dos tercios (66.9 por ciento) fueron asesinatos con armas de fuego. El mismo año, 58.6 por ciento de los casos de homicidios de blancos y 77.8 por ciento de los casos de homicidios de negros contaban con el uso de un arma de fuego.

CHICAGO -- Entre 1965 y 1995, 13 por ciento de todas las víctimas de homicidio eran latinos. De todas las víctimas latinas, murió el 73 por ciento por arma de fuego, en comparación con 66 de los negros y 49 por ciento de los blancos. Además, se usaron las armas de fuego en 62.6 por ciento de los casos de homicidios de parejas íntimas entre latinos, en comparación con 49.1 por ciento de parejas íntimas entre blancos y 48.9 de parejas íntimas entre negros.

CALIFORNIA " Si bien los latinos comprendieron un 30 por ciento de la población estatal en 1998, eran 44 por ciento de todas las víctimas de homicidio ese año. Un total de 733 latinos murieron por armas de fuego en 1998, en comparación con 242 blancos, 389 africanos americanos y 104 víctimas de otras razas.

Tres Congresistas del Sur de California -- Lucille Roybal-Allard, Grace Napolitano y Hilda Solís -- estaban en la conferencia de noticias en el Capitolio para expresar su preocupación sobre el enfoque en la comunidad latina por parte de la industria de armas de fuego durante los años recientes.

Roybal-Allard leyó de un artículo en la publicación "Shooting Sports Retailer" que comentó sobre las ventas estancadas de armas de fuego en el mercado hecho mayormente de hombres blancos:

"Se necesita hacer un gran esfuerzo para incluir a estos grupos a quienes se refieren

presentemente como las minorías en América, pero quienes se están llegando a ser la mayoría. Y hay enorme potencia dentro de este mercado que no ha sido explotado."

Brock indica que se estudiaron estos tres localidades por la cantidad de información y su fiabilidad que se recolectó sobre las armas de fuego y el crimen en relación a la comunidad latina. Se vislumbra una idea más clara del impacto a nivel nacional al estudiar algunas de las recomendaciones que ofrece el informe.

Entre éstas se recomienda:

- Que se asegure que los programas de vigilancia locales y estatales estén recolectando información sobre los latinos

- Que la FBI trabaje con sistemas de informes de crimen uniformes estatales para identificar cómo se puede hacer informes más correctos sobre los incidentes criminales con participación latina, tanto cuando son víctimas como cuando son ofensores.

- Que se obligue al National Vital Statistics Report que amplie las categorías de análisis para incluir a los latinos.

- Que se publiquen los resultados de encuestas federales y partes de algunos estudios específicos en español.

- Que se crean coaliciones entre organizaciones locales y estatales y los grupos latinos para organizar y utilizar informaciones para diseñar programas de reducción de violencia.

A mediados de los 90 hasta finales, la preocupación a nivel nacional sobre la creciente violencia llevó al gobierno a todo nivel a dedicar mucha más atención y dinero a la prevención. Fue un buen comienzo. Pero, dicen los expertos en el campo, se debe y se puede hacer mucho más.

(Cynthia L. Oroscó es corresponsal con Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.)

Se puede comprar copias del informe de 24 páginas de "Los hispanos y la violencia con armas de fuego" por \$20. Contacte al Violence Policy Center, 1140 19th Street, N.W., Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20036. Para ver y/o transferir por computadora el informe sin gasto, visite [www.vpc.org/](http://www.vpc.org/)

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## 'Minority' Falling Out of Fashion

By ERICA WERNER

LOS ANGELES - In a state where there is no longer a majority racial or ethnic group, some are asking whether there is a future for the word "minority."

Census figures released in March showed non-Hispanic whites make up 47 percent of California's population, the first time whites were not in the majority since the census began to keep accurate numbers. Hispanics account for 32 percent, Asians 11 percent and blacks 7 percent.

"You have the fact that you have no ethnic majority now, so if you have no majority, what's minority?" asked Frederick R. Lynch, a government professor at Claremont McKenna College. "The classification machinery is pretty antique."

The literal meaning of minor-

ity is less than 50 percent. To many people, however, it implies underprivileged or disadvantaged. Others see minority as a neutral term for any person of color.

The San Diego City Council addressed the issue last month by voting to strike the word "minority" from official use.

Deputy Mayor George Stevens, a longtime civil rights activist, said he brought the resolution forward after a conversation with a high school senior convinced him that less is expected of students referred to as minorities. He said he first proposed the measure two years ago.

Term has its defenders. Not everyone is ready to abandon the term.

"I think passing a resolution to say that we can't use that

word, I think it's ridiculous, personally," said Scott Gunderman Rosa, director of communications in the Washington headquarters of the League of United Latin American Citizens. "I was a minority and that helped me get scholarships to college, and there are a lot of other positive uses for the word."

In California, many young people say they never use the term.

Sherry Flores grew up in East Los Angeles, the daughter of Mexican immigrants who scraped by in factory jobs and struggled to learn English. The 21-year-old sophomore at Cal State Los Angeles sees the term minority as outdated.

"I wouldn't say I'm a minority and I'm oppressed or something," Flores said. "I'm a

Latino, that's about it. I usually just consider myself human."

But social scientists say the term is unlikely to be discarded anytime soon. While California - along with New Mexico, Hawaii and the District of Columbia - has no majority group, the country as a whole is still predominantly white.

Whites hold reins of power. Moreover, even in places with no majority population, whites still occupy most positions of power. Some worry that eliminating the word minority could obscure that fact.

But experts also say much of Americans' vocabulary for race and ethnicity is outmoded. Although there is no consensus about what word or words could replace minority, some argue for the use of more specific terms when talking about racial and ethnic groups.

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# Latino Advocacy Groups Tell an Empty Room That Bush Got an 'F'

By Cynthia L. Oroscó

Leaders of four major national Latino advocacy groups, the head of the nation's leading organization of bilingual educators and the vice-chair of the Congressional Democratic Caucus held a news conference May 3 to announce that they were giving President Bush "a definitive F" for his administration's performance on Hispanic issues during its first 100 days in power.

Raúl Yzaguirre, president of the National Council of La Raza and the nation's most recognized advocate for Hispanics, led off the groups' critique.

"This administration has recognized the growing presence of the Latino community in symbolic ways, but in appointments and in budget decisions, it has largely ignored us," Yzaguirre said.

He and the other leaders chose May 3, a date when a series of politically inspired Cinco de Mayo events cranked up in the nation's capital, to hold news conference to elaborate their reasons. They picked the National Press Club as the venue for the event, making it handy for the hundreds of correspondents representing mainstream television, radio and print media.

The advocates articulated their organizations' concerns well. Their voices were clear. All that was missing was the mainstream press to hear them. There were no news cameras and virtually no correspondents

there to record their words.

The same day, the press, including cameras, was present at a ceremonial Cinco de Mayo luncheon event in the capitol staged -- at the insistence of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus -- by House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt.

The following day, May 4, there were dozens of news cameras capturing the swirling skirts of Mexican folkloric dancers on the White House's south lawn and recording the President Bush's "mi casa es su casa" recitation in an event of absolutely no substance.

For the record, here are some messages the Latino leaders delivered at the Press Club to attending Hispanic reporters:

NCLR handed out a 24-page "White Paper Analysis of the President's FY2002 Budget." It detailed the Bush administration's proposed allocations for programs administered by the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services, among others.

Based upon the growth of the Latino community, Bush's campaign promises, and the close election, U.S. Rep. Robert Menéndez, who is vice-chair of the Congressional Democratic Caucus, said it was reasonable to expect that the budget would have reflected a significant federal investment in the Latino community.

"We simply want an equal opportunity and an equal share of the resources for which we as a

community contribute. The budget does not reflect that," Menéndez said.

Delia Pompa, president of the National Association for Bilingual Education, and Ron Blackburn-Moreno, who directs the multi-state leadership training organization ASPIRA, both highlighted Bush's failure to make education a top agenda priority. They pointed to his proposed funding slash of the successful GEAR-UP program, his failure to propose increased funding for bilingual education in spite of a huge growing need, and his support for a variety of other measures that they say would hurt Latino students.

The president's proposed national testing requirement to measure school performance would have great impact on Latino students, most of whom attend "failing schools" in low-income areas, Blackburn said. Cutting off federal funding to schools that perform poorly would create even fewer resources for those students.

"It's an unending downward spiral for Latino children," he said.

Marisa Demeo, who heads the Washington office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and Brent Wilkes, executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens, addressed issues including the lack of Latino appointments at all levels of the federal government.

Whereas President Clinton, who came to the White House

from the deep South, selected two Texas-born-and-raised Mexican Americans with powerful community leadership credentials -- Henry Cisneros and Federico Peña -- to serve in his first Cabinet in 1993, ex-Texas Governor Bush has no Mexican American at all in his.

Demeo noted that of 16 administration appointments to the Justice Department, only one -- at a lower level -- is Latino.

Wilkes reported that of 185 total appointments in 13 departments, the Cabinet and other federal bodies, only 12 Latinos have been appointed. They include Commerce (1), HUD (2), Justice (1), State (1), Treasury (2), Veterans' Affairs (1), plus four in other agencies.

Eight major departments -- Agriculture, Defense, Education, Energy, HHS, Interior, Labor and Transportation, and the executive branch -- have recorded zero Latinos among 80 appointees to date.

Is what the Hispanic leaders had to say as newsworthy as congressional margaritas, presidential sound-bites in Spanish and colorful swirling skirts? If so, then President Bush must share his "F" grade for symbols over substance with the capital press.

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# Grupos de Apoyo Politico Latinos Anuncian Un Salon Vacio Que Descalifican a Bush Con Una 'F'

Por Cynthia L. Oroscó

Los dirigentes de cuatro grupos latinos de apoyo político nacionales importantes, la presidenta de la primera organización nacional de educadores bilingües, y el vice-director del Grupo de Congresistas Demócratas se reunieron en una conferencia de prensa el 3 de mayo para anunciar que desaprobaban a Bush con "una F definitiva" por el rendimiento de su administración para asuntos hispanos durante los primeros 100 días de la presidencia.

Raúl Yzaguirre, presidente del Consejo Nacional de La Raza y el promotor de asuntos hispanos más reconocido del país, encabezó la crítica del grupo reunido.

"Esta administración ha reconocido el auge de la presencia de la comunidad latina de manera simbólica, pero en cuanto a nombramientos y decisiones financieras, nos ha dejado de lado en gran parte," explicó Yzaguirre.

Los dirigentes optaron por el 3 de mayo, fecha en la que se llevarían a cabo en la capital una serie de eventos de inspiración política para el Cinco de Mayo, para reunirse en una conferencia de prensa para explicar sus razones por la calificación desaprobatoria.

Seleccionaron como lugar de la reunión el Club Nacional de Prensa para facilitar el acceso a los cientos de corresponsales representantes de los medios de comunicación a nivel nacional.

Los dirigentes expresaron las preocupaciones de sus organizaciones muy bien. Sus voces se oyeron claramente. Lo único que faltaba fue que los medios noticiosos nacionales los oyeran. No había cámaras ni corresponsales para tomar nota de sus palabras.

El mismo día, la prensa, incluyendo cámaras, estaba presente en un almuerzo ceremonial para el Cinco de Mayo puesto en escena en el capitolio a instancias del Grupo de Congresistas Hispanos -- por el dirigente minoritario de la Cámara, Richard Gephardt.

El día siguiente, el 4 de mayo, había docenas de cámaras capturando las faldas desplegadas de las bailarinas del folclor de México en el jardín sur de la Casa Blanca, tomando nota del recitado "mi casa es su casa" del presidente Bush, en un evento carente de trascendencia.

Para que quede notado, a continuación se citan algunos de los mensajes que los dirigentes latinos ofrecieron en su conferencia de prensa el 3 de mayo para los periodistas hispanos presentes:

El Consejo Nacional de La Raza repartió su "Análisis en papel blanco del presupuesto del presidente para el año fiscal 2002", de 24 páginas. Es un análisis detallado del reparto propuesto por la administración Bush para los programas que dirigen los Departamentos de Educación, de Trabajo, de Desarrollo Urbano, y de Salud y Servicios Humanos, entre otros.

En base al crecimiento de la comunidad latina, las promesas de campaña de Bush y la elección tan marginalmente ganada, el representante Robert Menéndez, vice-director del Grupo de Congresistas Demócratas, dijo que era razonable suponer que el presupuesto reflejaría una inversión federal significativa en la comunidad latina.

"Queremos sencillamente igualdad de oportunidades y una repartición equitativa de los recursos por los que nosotros, como

comunidad, contribuimos. Esto no queda reflejado en el presupuesto," dijo Menéndez.

Delia Pompa, presidenta de la Asociación Nacional de Educación Bilingüe, y Ron Blackburn-Moreno, director de la organización de capacitación para el liderazgo, ASPIRA, activa en varios estados, enfatizaron el fracaso de Bush al no hacer de la educación una prioridad. Señalaron su propuesto recorte de fondos del exitoso programa GEAR-UP, su fracaso en proponer fondos para la educación bilingüe, a pesar de la necesidad cada vez más apremiante, y su apoyo para una serie de medidas que podrían resultar negativas para estudiantes latinos.

El requerimiento de exámenes nacionales que propone el presidente para medir el rendimiento de las escuelas surtiría un gran efecto negativo para los estudiantes latinos, la mayoría de los cuales asisten a "escuelas fracasadas" en áreas de bajos recursos, dijo Blackburn. El recortar los fondos federales para las escuelas cuyo rendimiento es pobre acabaría en hasta menos recursos para estos estudiantes.

"Es una caída sin fin para los niños latinos," dijo.

Marisa Demeo, jefa de la sucursal en Washington del Fondo para la Educación y Defensa Legal Mexicano Americano, y Brent Wilkes, director ejecutivo de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos, hablaron de varios temas, incluyendo la falta de nominaciones latinas a todo nivel del gobierno federal.

En cambio, el presidente Clinton, que llegó a la Casa Blanca proveniente del sur profundo, nombró a dos mexicanos americanos nacidos y criados en Texas, poseedores de fuertes cre-

denciales de liderazgo comunitario -- Henry Cisneros y Federico Peña -- para servir en el primer gabinete presidencial en 1993, mientras que el ex-gobernador de Texas, Bush, no ha nombrado a ningún mexicanoamericano a su gabinete.

Demeo notó que de 16 nombramientos de la administración al Departamento de Justicia, sólo uno -- a un nivel inferior -- es latino.

Wilkes informó que del total de 185 nombramientos en 13 departamentos, el gabinete y otros cuerpos federales, se ha nombrado a sólo 12 latinos. Estos nombramientos incluyen el Departamento de Comercio (1), Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (2), Justicia (1), el Departamento de Estado (1), la Tesorería (2), Asuntos Veteranos (1), además de otros 4 en otras agencias. En ocho departamentos importantes -- Agricultura, Defensa, Educación, Energía, Salud y Servicios Humanos, el Interior, Trabajo y Transporte, y el sector ejecutivo, se han hecho 80 nombramientos hasta hoy, ninguno latino.

¿Es tan válido para la prensa lo que tienen que decir los dirigentes latinos como lo son las margaritas del congreso, los recitales del presidente en español y las faldas coloridas desplegadas?

Si es así, el presidente Bush debe compartir su descalificación, "F", por ofrecer símbolos sin trascendencia, con la prensa nacional.

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## From Page One

de inglés para nuestros hijos", escribió. Chávez añade que muchos negros sienten que los latinos no han luchado al mismo nivel que ellos con el resultado de mayor acceso político, por lo tanto no deben reclamar los mismos derechos y privilegios.

Un aspecto positivo, nota Chávez, es la consideración de una ley por la legislatura de Tennessee que promulgaría la concesión de licencias de conducir a los inmigrantes sin documentos.

Robert Treviño, asesor al gobernador de Arkansas, Mike Huckabee, y director estatal de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos, informa que su estado está analizando maneras de hacer frente al crecimiento de la población latina. "Las comunidades latina y africano-americana reconocen que deberíamos estar hablando de compartir la olla entera, y no pelearnos por sólo una porción", declara.

Además, los dos comunidades en Arkansas están en plan de:

Eliminar algunas servicios a la comunidad que se duplican, y compartir recursos para servir a

ambos grupos.

Fomentar el establecimiento de comercio cada uno en la comunidad del otro, lo cual aumentaría de manera importante el índice de empleos e ingresos. Treviño señala que las organizaciones latinas se han asociado con el grupo legislativo negro para escribir legislación que beneficie a los dos grupos. Un proyecto de ley incluiría a los latinos entre la designación de "minoría" para propósitos de la sub-contratación gubernamental. Se espera la firma del gobernador el primero de mayo.

En Louisiana, la situación es diferente. Aquella comunidad latina es principalmente centroamericana, en su mayoría de Honduras, entre ellos muchos negros hondureños, que han sufrido pocos o ningún problema al integrarse a la comunidad, informa la directora de la Junta de Asesoría Hispana del Despacho del Alcalde Kenner.

"Los latinos son de muchas razas y ya se han mezclado, casándose entre ellos, y tienen relaciones sociales con otros grupos por naturaleza", dice directora Nancy Marinovic. Gracias al río Mississippi y el puerto de Nueva Orleans, al que llegan las compañías fruteras centroamericanas, se han mezclado los lati-

nos y los africano-americanos gradualmente, a través de los años, añade.

Gricel Ocasio, que publica y edita El Reportero, una publicación bilingüe que cubre la parte norte del estado, reporta que los latinos y los africano-americanos han enfrentado problemas similares de discriminación, por lo que muchos reconocen que pueden lograr más en cuanto a los asuntos importantes, si se unen.

Algunos de los africano-americanos han expresado preocupación con el crecimiento de la población latina, "porque se dan cuenta que los servicios ya no serán sólo para ellos", dice Ocasio. "No obstante, la mayoría sabe que los hispanos no son el opresor."

Sea cual fuere el estado, para que realmente progresen, los latinos y africano-americanos deben prescindir de los estereotipos y las barreras culturales y lingüísticas, concluye Cuadros. "Existen muchos problemas en común que pueden unir a los dos grupos. Por último, es cuestión de tender puentes."

(Cynthia L. Oroscó es corresponsal con Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.)

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## Análisis

# Bush, El peor presidente

By: Carlos Fuentes

En el siglo XX, después de las presidencias, ilusorias o desastrosas, de Warren Harding (la corrupción), Calvin Coolidge (la ilusión) y Herbert Hoover (la desilusión), llegó a la Casa Blanca Franklin D. Roosevelt, a quien considero el principal estadista del siglo pasado. Franklin D. Roosevelt sacó, con el "nuevo trato", a su país de la depresión.

Contó con el mejor capital de su país: el humano y el social. Ganó la Segunda Guerra Mundial: los EE.UU. fueron "el arsenal de la democracia", sin menoscabo de la noble resistencia británica y del enorme sacrificio de vidas del Ejército Rojo.

Ningún presidente posterior a Roosevelt ha llegado a su altura. Los ha habido inteligentes y buenos (Truman, Carter), buenos y tontos (Ford y Eisenhower), inteligentes y perversos (Johnson, Nixon), brillantes y sacrificados (Kennedy), tontos pero obsesivos (Reagan). Ahora, EE.UU. tiene un presidente a la vez tonto y perverso: George W. Bush.

La lista de sus perversidades aumenta día con día. Internacionalmente ha resucitado la Guerra Fría con China y Rusia. A China, le manda aviones-espía; a Rusia, le expulsa cincuenta supuestos espías. Es como si Bush quisiera reanimar la carrera defalleciente de James Bond, privado de enemigos comunistas. Pero Bush va más allá. En una sola quincena, no sólo compra pleitos innecesarios aunque reminiscentes con Pekín y Moscú. Torpedea la reconciliación de las dos Coreas, cancelando pláticas con el norte mientras lo visita el presidente del sur y principal arquitecto de la paz coreana, Kim Dae-Jung. Y reanuda, escalándola, la venta de armas a Taiwan.

Sin sorpresas

Nada que nos sorprenda. ¿No desató Bush un bombardeo contra Bagdad sin prevención a sus anfitriones, el mismo día que visitaba al presidente Vicente Fox en México? "Vamos a apantallar al mundo", dijo un incauto vocero presidencial mexicano. No: Bush apantalló a Sadam Hussein.

La más grave decisión internacional del joven Bush ha consistido en denunciar el Tratado de Kyoto contra la emisión de gases mortales para la vida en el planeta. El Tratado fue resultado de un arduo trabajo de la comunidad internacional, encabezada por el predecesor de Bush, el Presidente Bill Clinton. Ojalá que la oprobiosa decisión de Bush fuese sólo una cachetada a Clinton. Es algo peor: es un insulto a la comunidad internacional y una amenaza a la vida planetaria. La emisión de gases tóxicos y el "efecto invernadero" condenan a muerte a las generaciones venideras. Esto le importa un comino al cowboy de la Casa Blanca. Lo importante es que EE.UU. siga empleando (y despilfarrando) la mitad de los recursos energéticos del planeta.

La política exterior contra el Tratado de Kyoto es mero reflejo de la política interior de asalto al medio ambiente puesta en práctica, a partir de enero, por Bush. El Presidente ha renegado de la promesa de campaña -- "protegeré los bosques del Tercer Mundo" -- hecha en Miami el pasado agosto. Ofreció entonces cien millones de dólares para proteger el medio ambiente en las grandes reservas tropicales de oxígeno, alimento y medicina. La oferta ha quedado reducida a trece millones --sustraídos a la Agencia de Desarrollo Internacional.

En tres meses apenas, Bush junior ha autorizado la construcción de carreteras que atravesarán bosques nacionales protegidos. Ha prohibido dotar de fondos a las agencias obligadas a preparar listas de especies animales y vegetales protegidas, a pesar de que obedecen a órdenes judiciales. Es más: Bush ha ordenado a sus funcionarios desobedecer dichas órdenes. Ha subvertido las demandas de grupos ecológicos para enumerar especies en peligro, aunque los seres humanos tampoco le importan demasiado. Bush ha cerrado la oficina de la Casa Blanca encargada de atender la epidemia del SIDA, y ha ordenado que no se sujeten a prueba de salmonela los almuerzos escolares.

Dando las gracias

No ha tardado Bush en darle las gracias a quienes financiaron su campaña y lo llevaron al poder. Es más: ha instalado en el poder a los ideólogos de derecha que le son indispensables como fuente de inspiración. Bush no sabe hablar sin tarjetas de auxilio. Sus improvisaciones son un galimatías salpicado de bromas. Las decisiones duras las toman el duro Secretario de la Defensa, Donald Rumsfeld; la dura consejera de Seguridad Condoleezza Rice (cuyo nombre, significativamente, bautizó a un buque-tanque petrolero la semana pasada) y el duro, hábil, inteligentísimo vicepresidente Dick Cheney, largo tiempo cabeza de la petrolera Haliburton, "chambita" que le obligó a declarar ingresos por treinta y seis millones de dólares el año pasado. "Los negocios son los negocios" y, en el caso de la presidencia de Bush, el negocio es el petróleo.

El mercado-leninismo

EE.UU. es una democracia de mercado. Practica un mercado-leninismo implacable pero está sujeto a límites democráticos dictados, en muchas ocasiones, por leyes del mercado. Andrew Cord, el secretario en jefe (chief of staff) de la Casa Blanca, obtuvo dos mil millones de dólares en contratos para General Motors en Shanghai. Es dudoso que ahora vea con simpatía una política contra China desde Washington, y el amarillista, anticomunista pero sagaz magnate mundial de la prensa, Rupert Murdoch, no ha dicho una palabra contra Pekín --necesita proteger su satélite televisivo en China.

Existe otro límite para el muñeco de la Casa Blanca y sus ventrílocuos. El Senado de EE.UU. está dividido cincuenta y cincuenta. Las políticas extremistas de Bush están alejando a muchos republicanos moderados. Muchas iniciativas reaccionarias de Bush encontrarán severa oposición en el Congreso y en la opinión. No creo que, dentro de cuatro años, los votantes norteamericanos, que en noviembre eligieron popularmente a Al Gore, permitan la reelección de George W. Bush, seleccionado por cinco jueces de la Suprema Corte.

Éste es el presidente con el cual están tratando los jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de Canadá y de Iberoamérica en Quebec. ¿Dónde estás, Bill Clinton, cuando más te necesitamos? (Los Angeles Times)



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# Bush's Education Plan Deserves Backing From Hispanics

By Tim Chávez  
 Hispanic groups calling President George W. Bush's first 100 days in office "a disappointment" are making the same political and public relations mistake as did African-American organizations. Separating ourselves from an agenda of victimization -- which too often is tied to people of color and different ethnicities -- and adopting one that promotes the tools of empowerment hold much more reward for Hispanics. And our status in public opinion will be greatly elevated. This month I had the opportunity, along with eight other journalists from across the country, to sit down with the president and his education advisers to talk about his education reform package. The change this legislation holds, particularly for Hispanic students and their parents, is revolutionary and long needed. Hispanics cannot advance solely on more scraps from the public-policy table like minimum wage hikes and mass

amnesties for those illegally here. We need knowledge, first of the English language and then of the profit-making fields of study, such as math and science. That will bring forth dramatic economic evolution in families and at the ballot box. But that's not happening. The Hispanic dropout rate is highest in the nation. One in three Latinos drops out of high school. The president blames a lumping together of students by states and school districts in testing to hide the sorry job they're doing in educating Hispanic children. And it's that point his reform package will attack. The president's legislation is built on a network of accountability that will reward and punish states and school districts, according to results from annual testing that Washington would mandate of states. Children in grades three through eight would be tested. Bush said he has built consensus on the accountability network with Democrats. And the consensus package will

first make its way through the Senate. New testing is supposed to reveal who's learning and who's not by annually measuring performance in reading and math, and by breaking down results for more student groups like Hispanics than are usually found in existing state testing. Then state education officials would have to explain to the U.S. secretary of education what they're going to do to improve poor results for specific student groups. "In a system that asks the question 'How old are you?' as opposed to 'What do you know?,' the children who get left behind or shuffled through the system as if they're some kind of number are generally children whose parents don't speak English as a first language or inner-city kids -- what they call the hard-to-educate," Bush said. "We're not going to just lump children together so there is no clear understanding of who is learning and who is not learning. Those days have got to end." The president spoke passionately and

eloquently about public education and accountability. His grasp of the topic was complete and impressive and showed a crusader's intent to bring about revolutionary change, particularly for Hispanic and other children of color. He understands that this nation faces an incredible challenge in bringing English-language education to mushrooming numbers of immigrant children. The carrot-and-stick of his program is federal Title I funding. It goes to schools with a high percentage of poor children. States showing progress would be given more flexibility with funds. Conversely, parents in Title I schools with a failing performance for three years would be given those funds to transport children to another public school of choice or hire private tutors. Bush's package will not include use of funds by parents for private schools. He still expects House Republicans to push for a vouchers amendment. The real danger to his reform legisla-

tion comes from Senate Democrats, who want to continue the failed education policy of appropriating billions more dollars without accountability tied to states and schools for non-performance. They're trying to weaken the penalties to schools in Bush's package for not boosting the academic fortunes of poor children. With his own political party, the president is taking a risk with this reform package. Many conservatives hate more federal involvement in schools with mandatory testing. But Bush responds: "It is a fundamental principle of good stewardship of taxpayers' money to ask the question: 'What are the results?'" The president's education reform package deserves vigorous support from Hispanics for the potential of long-needed change it brings and the tool of ultimate empowerment it offers. (Tim Chávez is a columnist with The Tennessean in Nashville, Tenn. He may be reached at tchavez@tennessean.com.) (c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate International

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# ¡Llegó la Primavera! Con Alegría Para Algunos y Alergia Para 36 Millones

By: Eduardo Salinas  
 Finalmente llegó la primavera al hemisferio norte, estación del año que metafóricamente revive la naturaleza del letargo que adopta durante el invierno, devuelve su follaje a los árboles, viste de verde los campos y anuncia su arribo con flores. Temporada que llena de alegría a millones de personas que esperan con ansia despedir las bajas temperaturas para dejar atrás el encierro, la vida sedentaria y entrar en contacto con la naturaleza realizando actividades a la intemperie. Sin embargo, pese a la dicha que provoca el cambio de temporada, este año más de 36 millones de personas en este país habrán de deplorar las primeras semanas de la primavera y las últimas del verano debido a la fiebre del heno o rinitis alérgica que es causada principalmente por el polen del medio ambiente. En Estados Unidos muchos árboles, la mayoría de las hierbas y ciertas malezas que crecen a baja altura son principalmente polinizadas por el viento. Los tipos de polen pequeños, ligeros, secos de estas plantas son aptos para diseminarse por medio de las

corrientes de aire y causando molestias en los ojos, mucosidad nasal y constantes estornudos a las personas propensas a este mal que a principios de siglo era una enfermedad poco común. Según la Academia Americana de Alergia, Asma, e Inmunología (AAAAI, por sus siglas en inglés) "además del polen, la contaminación, el humo del tabaco, e incluso factores relacionados con la civilización como la higiene en los alimentos han provocado que las respuestas del sistema inmunológico humano sean excesivas o desproporcionadas frente a sustancias inocuas. Añade que "las alergias a los pólenes, que son la primera causa de rinoconjuntivitis y la segunda de asma bronquial en Estados Unidos, tienen una mayor incidencia en primavera y verano, por lo que se recomienda a las personas que lo padecen que acudan al médico cuando aparecen los primeros síntomas debido a que el descuido de una alergia podría desencadenar una sinusitis. Para Miguel Gamboa médico egresado de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México y con más de 20 años de experiencia "es muy común que entre los

hispanos que llegamos a este país exista una confusión entre la alergia al polen y la gripe". Según el galeno "al emigrar nos encontramos con una vegetación y climatología diferentes que en la mayoría de los casos nos confunde al pensar que padecemos de un resfriado cuando en verdad estamos sufriendo de alergia." El Dr. Gamboa advierte que "para distinguir entre ambas enfermedades, a diferencia de la gripe que por lo regular no extiende más de 10 días, los síntomas más comunes de la alergia son, constantes y repetidos estornudos, flujo nasal de color cristalino, ojos llorosos, dolor de cabeza y malestar de garganta y oídos." Afortunadamente para evitar las incomodidades de la rinitis, el dolor de cabeza, y las molestias oculares que provocan estas alergias existen algunos medicamentos como es el caso del Loratidina, conocido en la industria farmacéutica bajo el nombre de Claritin, los médicos recomiendan cerrar durante las primeras horas del día (de 5 a 10 de la mañana) las ventanas de la habitación donde se duerme, no salir a la calle los días secos y calurosos tras un día de lluvia,

evitar el viento, usar gafas de sol y, cuando sea posible, vivir junto a las costas, donde la polinización es menor. A sabiendas de que hasta hoy los medicamentos sólo tratan los síntomas de forma temporal y sólo cuando ya ha aparecido la alergia, otro aliente es considerar las declaraciones que un grupo de científicos estadounidenses hizo a la revista Nature afirmando que están cada vez más cerca de un medicamento "capaz de combatir la alergia desde sus orígenes. De acuerdo a publicación científica la Los investigadores, encabezados por Theodore Jardeztzky, profesor de la Universidad Northwestern de Estados Unidos, "ya han logrado identificar cuál es la interacción de las moléculas que operan en los casos de alergia". Este descubrimiento permitirá desarrollar moléculas que operen sobre los anticuerpos, que son los que recorren el organismo en busca de partículas extrañas y activan las células que causan los síntomas de las alergias cuando las detectan. Conforme a Jardeztzky este avance "podría ayudar a desarrollar un tipo de medicamento para atacar directamente el ori-

gen de las alergias y así prevenir la picazón, la mucosidad y la congestión nasal, al igual que el asma y los ataques anafilácticos". En tanto se logra la patente del esperanzadora fórmula que desarrolla el equipo de investigadores de la Universidad Northwestern la recomendación de la AAAAI para los 36 millones de personas propensas a sufrir de alergia al polen en esta temporada son: no cortar el césped ni permanecer alrededor del césped recién cortado ya que el corte esparce polen y moho. Evitar barrer hojas debido que esta práctica también esparce

ese tipo de partículas. No colgar las sábanas ni la ropa en la intemperie para impedir que se les pueda adherir el moho y el polen. Y evitar tener plantas de interior al menos durante la primavera y el verano. La salud es un derecho que usted tiene, no desaproveche la posibilidad de disfrutar de esta garantía fundamental por falta de información. Entérese de este y todos los derechos que le corresponden en este país, sin importar su situación migratoria. Llame gratuitamente al número telefónico al 1-800-473-3003.

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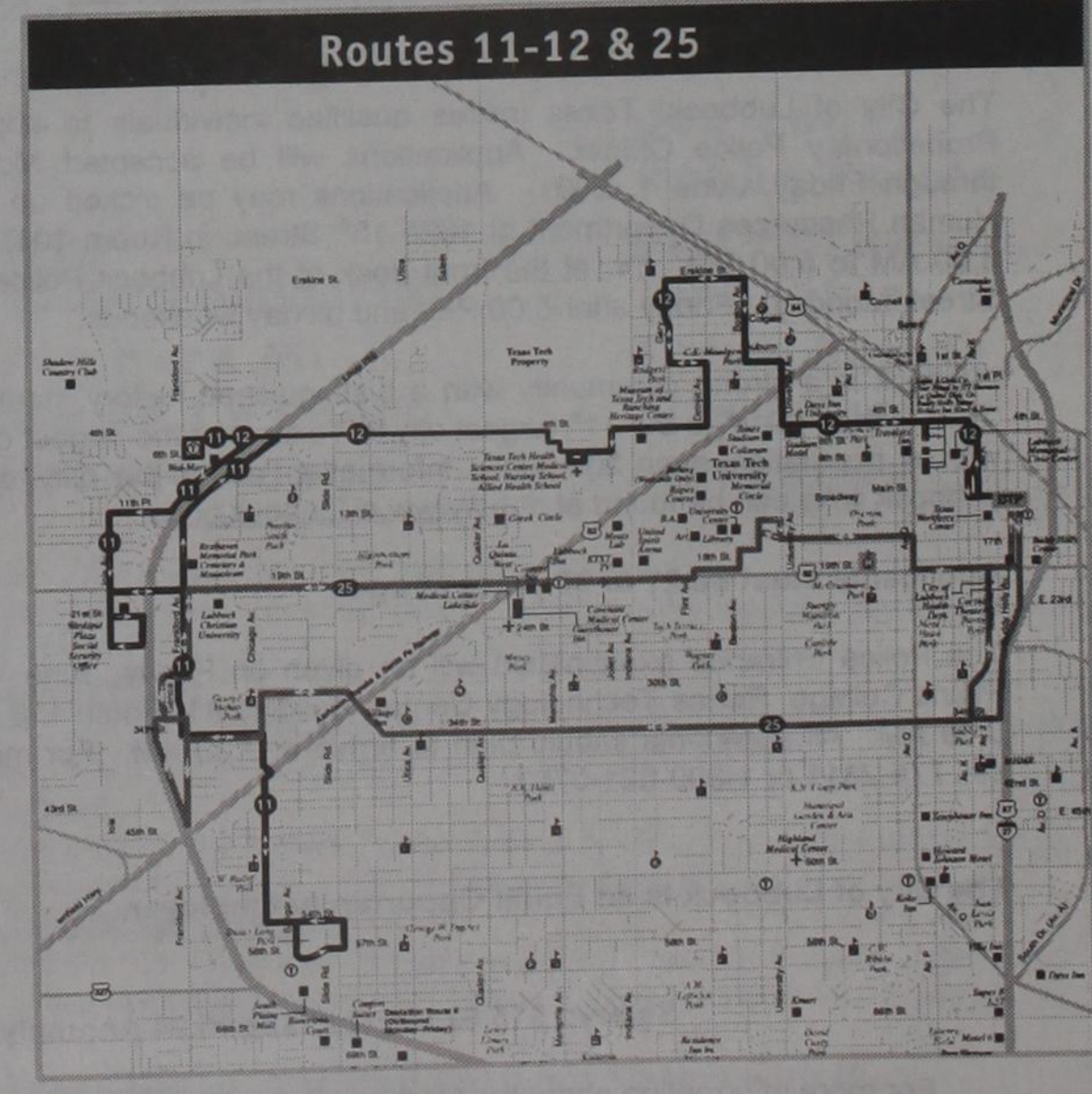
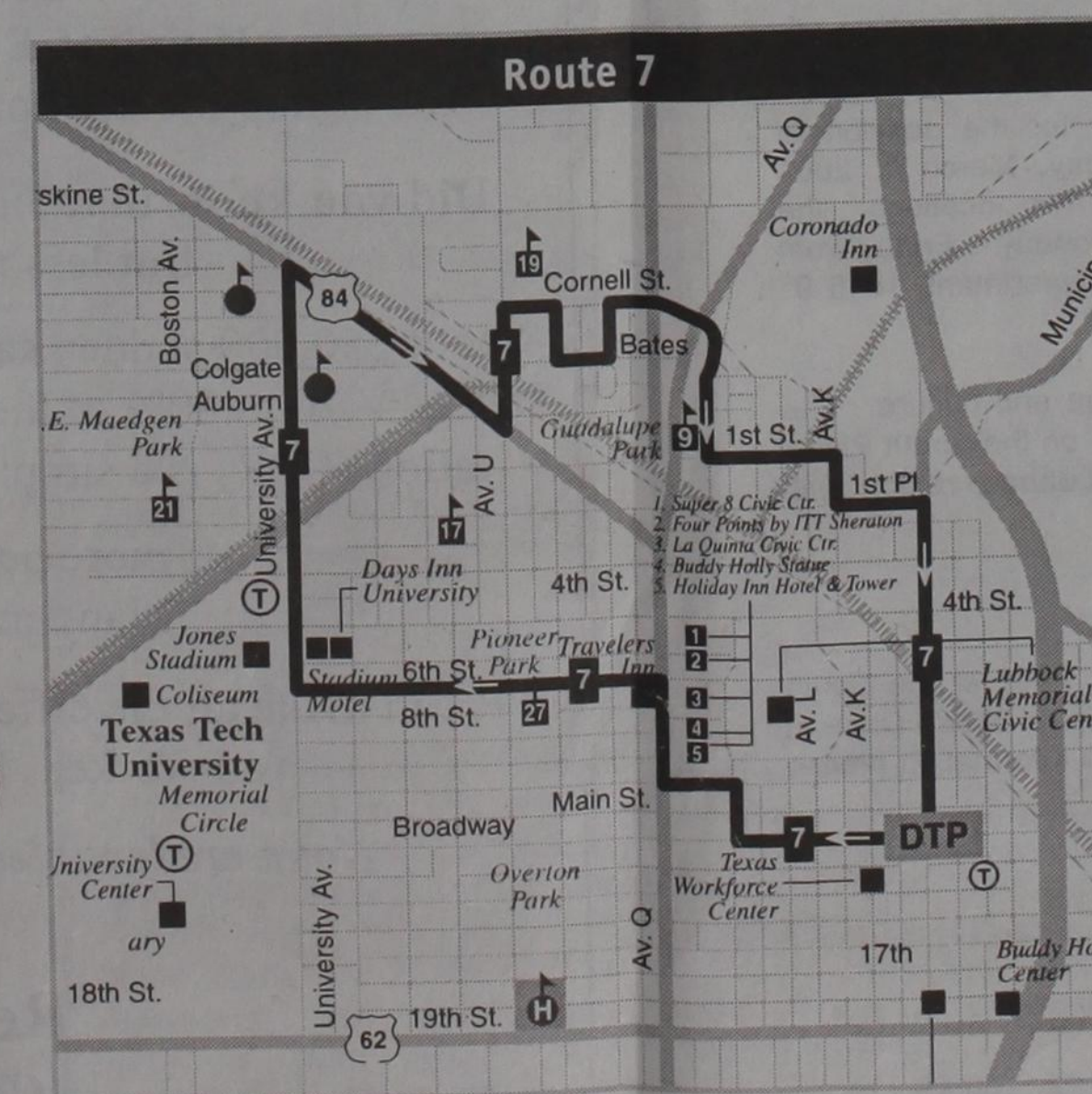
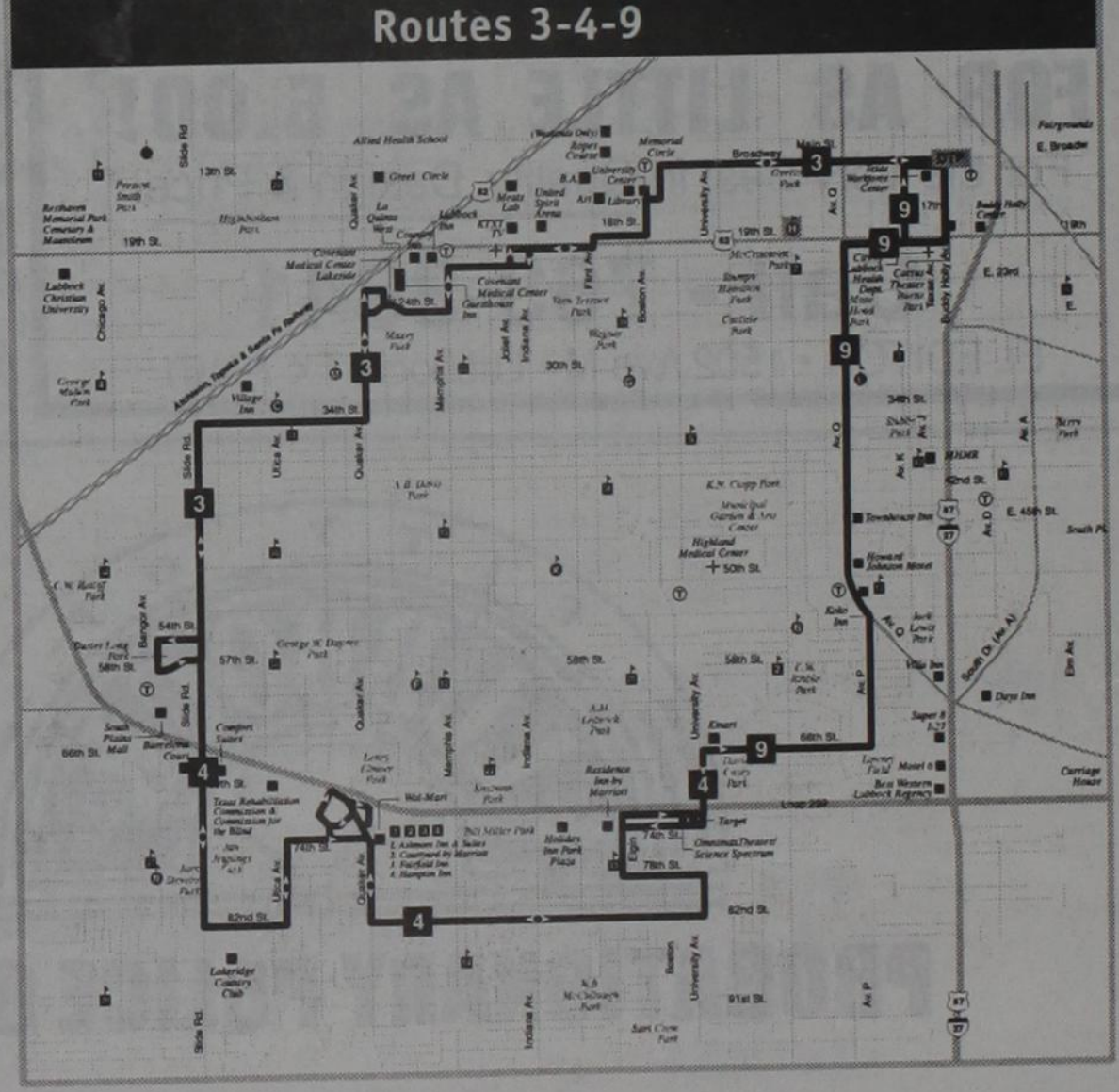
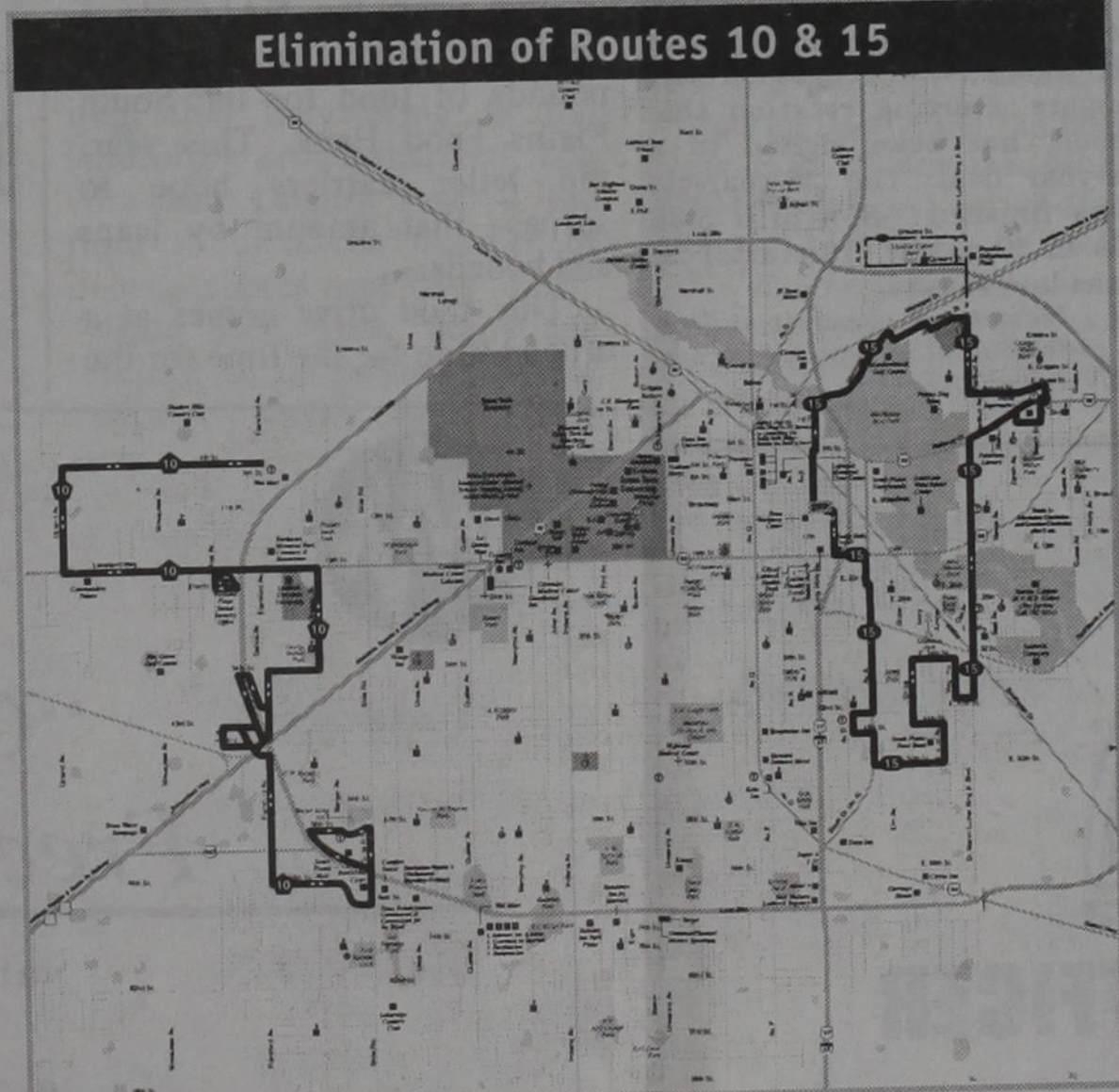
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# What They're Watching In Texas

Darren Oliver(5/8) Pitcher Darren Oliver was hit on the thumb by a ball off the bat of the White Sox' Tony Graffanino, and will go on the DL Tuesday. X-rays were negative, but the thumb is badly bruised and has a gash that requires stitches. His replacement in the game, R.A. Dickey, was sent down to Triple-A to make way for Aaron Myette, who will take Oliver's place in the rotation for the time being ... Rejoining the team yesterday was Tim Crabtree, out since April 15 with two herniated disks in his back ... Outfielder Ruben Mateo sat out Monday's game against the White Sox due to a bout of dizziness. Frank Catalanotto replaced him in the outfield, making his first start there in 328 games ... (5/4) Injuries are just piling up for the fragile Rangers. Outfielder Chad Curtis was put on the DL Thursday with a strained right hamstring, suffered when running to first in the fourth inning of Wednesday night's game against the Tigers. Despite the Rangers' need for good -- even just average -- pitching, the team used his spot on the roster for big ol' slugger Ruben Sierra ... (5/3) Ivan Rodriguez was placed on the 15-day DL with a bruised left heel. I-Rod hurt his heel when he stepped on first awkwardly during Friday's game against Cleveland. He'll be replaced by Doug Mirabelli behind the plate, but with Bill Haselman injured as

well, the Rangers brought up catcher Mike Hubbard from Triple-A ... (5/1) All-Star catcher Ivan Rodriguez has been listed as day-to-day with a bruised left heel he sustained Friday. Though he's determined to play as much as he can, a bruised heel can be extremely painful to run on. While I-Rod is riding the pine, Doug Mirabelli will take his place behind the plate ... The more Ken Caminiti wincies in the dugout, the more time Frank Catalanotto gets at the hot corner. The injury-prone Caminiti has been sitting out a bit with a variety of ailments, and Catalanotto has been more than happy to jump in to the spot ... (4/30) Tim Crabtree may be out for a bit longer than expected with his two herniated disks in his back. According to the Rangers' trainer, it may be a couple of more weeks before Crabtree can pitch again. Jeff Zimmerman will continue to be the closer during that time ... Jonathan Johnson, recently demoted to Triple-A, was traded to the D-Backs on Friday for cash ... (4/23) Outfielder Gabe Kapler, out with a strained right quadriceps since late March, was activated from the DL on Sunday. Kapler actually came back a day early so he could play for Chad Curtis, who is listed as day-to-day with a strained hamstring. Kapler went one-for-three with a stolen base and seems to be back as an everyday outfielder. With Kapler back on the roster, Texas sent pitcher Jonathan

Johnson down to Triple-A ... (4/20) Having been sent back to Texas on Wednesday to have his injured back looked at, Ranger reliever Tim Crabtree was put on the 15-day DL Thursday, retroactive to Sunday. He won't need surgery, but will need rehab work ... In Crabtree's absence, Jeff Zimmerman, who recorded his first save Wednesday night against the Mariners, will step up as the new closer. The Rangers also brought up right-hander R.A. Dickey from Triple-A to fill the empty spot on the roster ... (4/19) We all knew that the Texas starting rotation was bad, but when a team's ace, in this case the term is used extraordinarily loosely with Rick Helling, is 0-3 with a 10.24 ERA, it may make sense to shell out a little money for pitching ... (4/2) Just before Texas opened their season in Puerto Rico on Sunday, the team sent one-time slugger Ruben Sierra down to Triple-A ... (3/29) As spring training comes to an end, so do the final roster decisions. The Rangers made massive cuts yesterday, including optioning infielders Kelly Dransfeldt and Mike Lamb down to the minors, along with pitcher Pete Munro ... Texas also placed outfielders Ricky Ledee and Gabe Kapler and pitcher Justin Thompson on the DL ... (3/28) Bill Haselman will undergo arthroscopic surgery on his right elbow this week, and will miss six to eight weeks. In a move to bolster their catching staff, Texas bought Giants catcher Doug Mirabelli's contract yesterday. Mirabelli is a fine defensive catcher, and spent much of the last four seasons with the Giants' big-league squad ... (3/23) The Rangers outfield took another hit, as Gabe Kapler tore a muscle in his right leg in yesterday's game against the Phillies, and will be out two to four weeks. Ricky Ledee has been out for almost two weeks with a torn hamstring, so that leaves Bo Porter, who has four fingers this spring, and Chad Curtis as the potential replacements for Kapler in the meantime ... Texas also optioned power-hitting first baseman Carlos Pena to Triple-A along with pitcher Aaron Myette ... (3/13) As if the Rangers didn't have enough offense, Ruben Sierra has come back from his early 1990s time warp to be the leading contender for the big bench bat. Sierra homered and doubled yesterday, adding three RBIs in Texas' 5-3 win over the Pirates ... (3/12) Continuing the legacy of injured Ranger outfielders, Ricky Ledee tore a tendon in his left hamstring chasing down a fly ball Saturday, and will be out at least two weeks. If Ledee, whom the Rangers are shopping around to other teams, requires surgery, he could be out an additional month. All three starting outfielders for the Rangers this year spent significant time on the DL last year ... (2/28) Left-hander Doug Davis, who will likely win a spot in the Rangers' starting rotation this season, has been signed to a one-year deal. The 25-year-old Davis finished 7-6 with a 5.38 ERA in 30 games (13 starts) for Texas last season.

[ ] Indicates a player is still on the roster but either injured or currently unavailable.

## Rahman Puts Fight Decision on Hold Until His Return from Mecca

BALTIMORE -- Heavyweight champion Hasim Rahman will make a pilgrimage to Mecca before it's decided who he will face in his first title defense.

Rahman, a devout Muslim, was expected to announce his next bout this week. Instead, he will leave this weekend for Saudi Arabia, Rahman promoter Cedric Kushner said Thursday.

"He comes from a very religious upbringing in the Muslim faith," Kushner said. "No decision has been rendered on the fight. The pendulum swings back and forth."

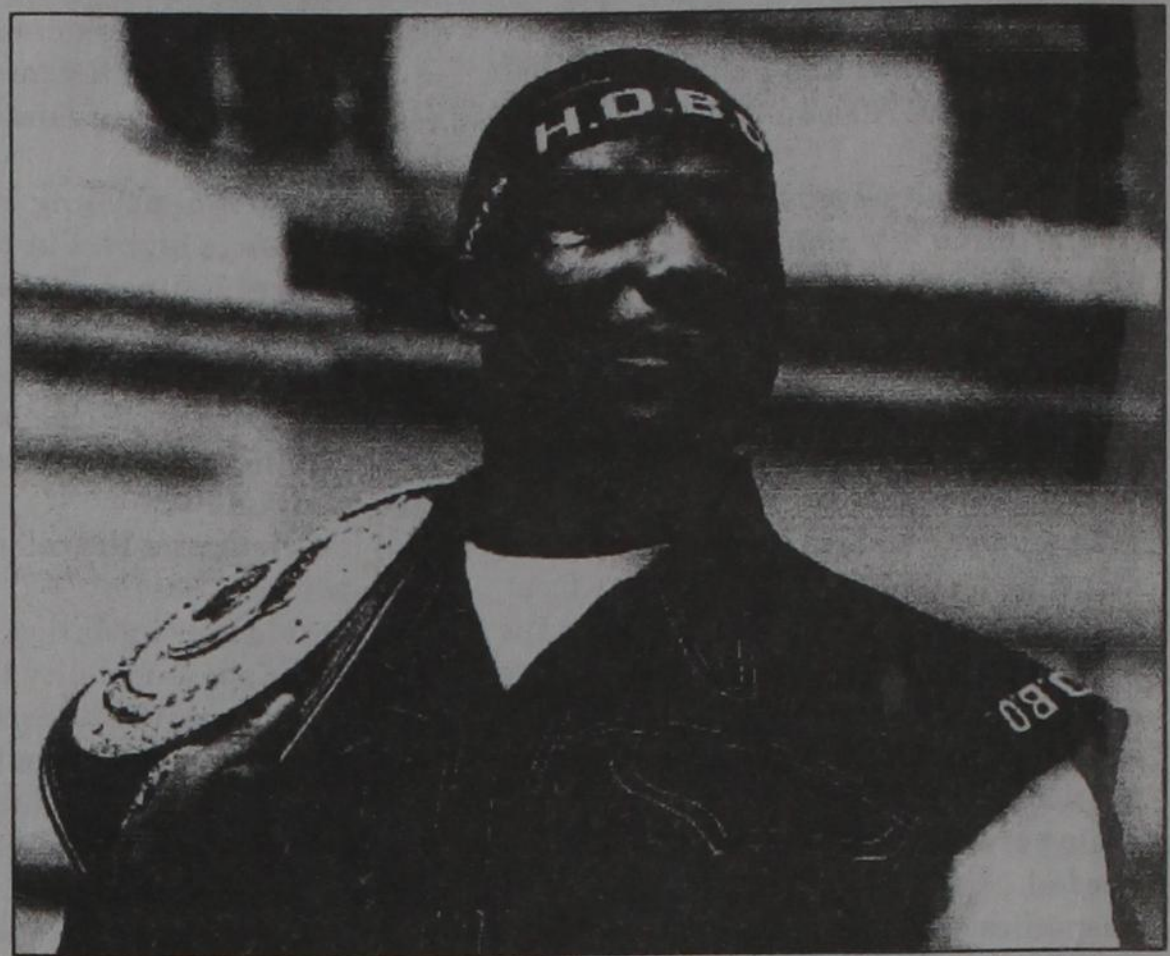
Jim Turner, a real estate agent who said he has known Rahman for more than 10 years, said the boxer has begun to examine his life following the championship bout and a recent accident. Rahman, his wife and child were slightly injured when their car was struck by another car while his motorcade left Baltimore's City Hall following a victory rally.

"When he got hit by the car he realized life is short," Turner said outside Rahman's home in suburban Baltimore. "He could have been killed. I think that would bring you and I closer to our Lord."

Mecca is the birthplace of the prophet Muhammad and the holiest site in Islam. The pilgrimage is an obligation for Muslims physically and financially able to make the trip.

Rahman will decide whether to fight Mike Tyson or give a rematch to Lennox Lewis when he returns, Rizzo said.

Rahman, who knocked out Lennox Lewis on April 21 in South Africa to take the IBF and WBC titles, has since been entertaining offers from HBO and Showtime over who he will fight next.



Mike Tyson can't think in the ring, plants his feet all wrong, gets tired and basically would be an easy opponent for Hasim Rahman, says the new heavyweight champion's trainer. Adrian Davis guided Rahman to a stunning fifth-round knockout of Lennox Lewis on April 22 to win the Briton's World Boxing Council (WBC) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) titles. Rahman is seen during a rally in his honor in Baltimore, April 25, 2001. (Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

On Wednesday, Rahman failed to show up at a meeting of Home Box Office executives in New York, who were expecting him to announce a deal with HBO to fight Lewis, The Sun reported Thursday.

Rahman's co-manager, Steve Nelson said he, Rahman, co-manager Stan Hoffman and promoter Cedric Kushner met in New York on Tuesday to discuss a possible HBO deal and one with Showtime.

Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson has also filed suit to force a fight with Rahman.

The contract for the Rahman-

Lewis fight in April reportedly included a 150-day window before a rematch has to be held.

The Lewis camp contends Rahman cannot fight anyone else in the interim, while the Tyson camp says WBC rules stipulate against immediate rematches and that Rahman must now make a mandatory defense against the WBC's No. 1 contender, which is Tyson.

He filed suit against the WBC in U.S. District Court in Manhattan last Friday to force that organization to enforce a rule that allows no immediate rematches.

## Letter Carriers Deliver Food Drive at Crucial Time

The South Plains Food Bank welcomes you to the news conference detailing the Annual National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive. Lubbock Council member Frank Morrison will be presenting the NALC & the Food Bank with a special proclamation at the News Conference. Also, David Weaver from the Food Bank and Pete Allen with the Postal Service will be speaking about the goals of this year's drive. Plus the final schedule of the weeklong donation time will be announced!

Last year, the NALC drive generated more than 100,000 pounds of food for the South Plains Food Bank. This year, the letter carriers hope to surpass that amount by leaps and bounds.

This food drive comes at a crucial time for the time for the

Food Bank -- with school almost out of session, many families who rely on school lunch programs to supply their children with adequate nutrition will now be turning to

the Food Bank. This food drive is planned specifically to fill the shelves of the Food Bank throughout the summer months.

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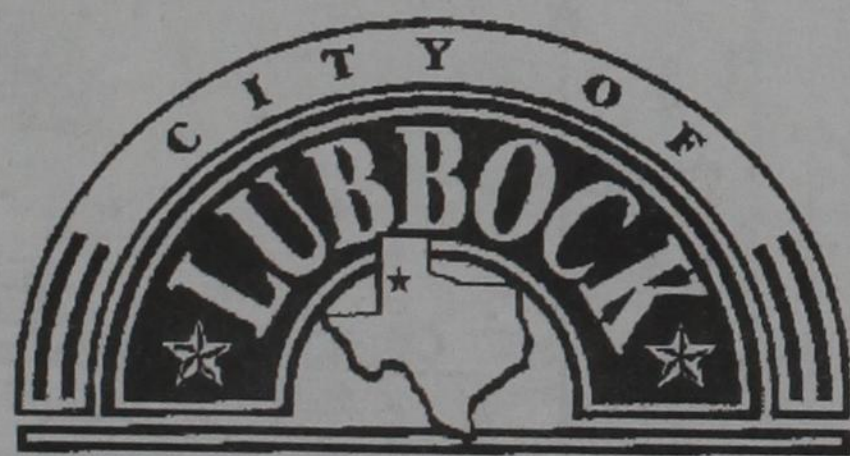


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## PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

The City of Lubbock, Texas invites qualified individuals to apply for the position of Probationary Police Officer. Applications will be accepted Monday, March 5, 2001 through Friday, June 1, 2001. Applications may be picked up at two locations: the Human Resources Department at 1625 13<sup>th</sup> Street, in Room 104, Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Or, at the front desk of the Lubbock Police Department, 1015 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Monday – Friday after 5:00 PM, and all day weekends.

Lubbock is a strong community with a distinguished history, heritage and culture. The "Hub of the Plains" is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest city in Texas and the largest city on the South Plains with a population over 200,000. Information about the City of Lubbock along with Lubbock links can be found at <http://www.ci.lubbock.tx.us>.

Applicants must be 21 to 35 years of age.

The Police Entrance examination will be given on Friday, June 15, 2001 at the South Plains College, Reese Technology Center, Building #1, Room 113 at 528 Gilbert Drive at 8:00 AM. All applicants should plan to arrive at 7:30 AM. For more information please call 775-2311 or 1-800-621-0793.

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For more information about the Lubbock Police Department, visit our web site at [www.lubbockpolice.com](http://www.lubbockpolice.com).



El Editor, Lubbock, Tx.-May 10, 2001

**El Momento Católico, en la RADIO**

Lubbock, Muleshoe, Plainview y más...

Por Manuel Aguilar  
La Iglesia Católica de Lubbock, transmite actualmente los Martes y Sábados a las 10:00 am su programa de radio 'EL MOMENTO CATÓLICO' en la estación KLFB - 1420 am (amplitud modulada) en Lubbock, con el propósito de ofrecerles a los fieles católicos un momento de conocimiento, reflexión, gozo y valoración de la doctrina cristiana de la Iglesia de Dios. Y para ofrecer una mayor cobertura a toda la Diócesis Hispana de Lubbock, este programa católico se transmite también, desde el pasado Marzo 3, todos los Sábados a las 11:00 am en Muleshoe: KMUL 1380am, y a las 11:30am en Plainview: KVOP 1400 am & 107fm.

Presentando, la vida de los Mártires Mexicanos, el mensaje de nuestro obispo, la homilía del Evangelio del Domingo, un análisis acerca de los documentos y sacramentos de la Iglesia Católica, con entrevistas a sacerdotes sobre problemas sociales y políticos, y con música religiosa y oraciones durante su presentación, el 'Momento Católico' ha logrado ser, para los católicos de habla hispana de nuestra Diócesis de Lubbock, un momento para disfrutar de Dios enormemente. Y sus comentarios, así lo reflejan:

¿Porque le gusta el programa de radio El Momento Católico?

Elena Campos  
Porque me fascina escuchar el mensaje del Obispo y la biografía de los Mártires Mexicanos, pues fortalecen mi fe católica.

Abraham Chávez  
Me gusta el programa porque oigo, el mensaje del Evangelio en el idioma del español correcto, porque la información es muy variada sobre lo que ocurre en nuestra diócesis.

Maria Huerta  
Porque se habla de la Eucaristía y como amarse como hermanos en el Señor.

Con la voz de José Rubio, quien es el conductor y director del programa, El Momento Católico, siempre ha buscado unir a la gente de Lubbock y de sus alrededores, invitándolos a participar unidos en los eventos, actividades y fiestas más importantes para la Iglesia Católica. Además promueve, las labores e intenciones particulares que individuos y grupos de fieles católicos, diáconos, órdenes religiosas y sacerdotes realizan en la

búsqueda de agradar y cumplir con la voluntad de Dios, en todo momento de sus vidas.

Durante los 60 minutos que dura el programa, el Momento Católico, se comentan en español las noticias y los artículos que son publicados en el periódico católico de Lubbock, El South Plains Catholic. Esto, resulta ser muy útil para aquellas personas que no pueden leer o entender el Idioma Inglés, dando un sentido mas universal a nuestra Iglesia. Iglesia de Dios para todos.

La participación del Obispo de Lubbock Rev. Plácido Rodríguez, es parte muy importante del programa, pues al escuchar sus mensajes y reflexiones se escucha la voz de la Iglesia de Dios, que con gran sabiduría orienta y conduce, desde situaciones concretas de la vida y basada en el Evangelio, hacia el camino que es Cristo Jesús.

El Momento Católico, se enorgullece con la aceptación tan grande que ha recibido de los fieles, pues con la participación tan asidua y constante que tiene de los agentes de la Iglesia en el programa de radio, se logra extender más y más la luz de la verdad y de la razón, Cristo Jesús, para iluminar los corazones de muchos hombre que tienen necesidad de Dios. Porque es importante recordar que el hombre no es solo materia, sino también espíritu que necesita ser alimentado y protegido de la recientemente corriente materialista, de "la modernidad".

La producción del programa el Momento Católico, juntamente con la oficina Diocesana de Comunicaciones ha estado trabajando para hacer que la transmisión del Momento Católico sea más amplia, ahora con las nuevas estaciones de Muleshoe y Plainview. Además desea adquirir nuevo equipo para ofrecer, al radioescucha, una mejor transmisión del programa.

Con base en el trabajo constante, entre José Rubio y todos los que pertenecemos a ésta Diócesis, esperamos con la voluntad de Dios, conseguir tener una mayor presencia en la sociedad a través de los diferentes Medios de Comunicación de la Región, comentó el conductor del programa José Rubio.

Sin lugar a duda, El Momento Católico es hasta ahora el mejor programa de Radio Católico en el cual la Diócesis de Lubbock, encuentra identidad, para alimentar el alma y reflexionar sobre el ser Católico, además de ofrecer un momento para disfrutar siempre de Dios, así lo aseguró el conductor y productor de este programa, el señor José Rubio.

**Mother's Day & Graduation Articles**

Take Your Mom Fishing for Mother's Day

Ken Schultz, dubbed as "Mr. fishing USA" by ESPN and writer for Field & Stream magazine for nearly 20 years, suggests taking your mother fishing this Mother's Day. He provides easy tips and allays any concerns about sportsfishing.

Mom's Advice is Music to Piano Playing Brothers' Ears

A tribute from musicians Tim and Ryan O'Neill to their mother, whose support allowed them to succeed in their first love: writing and playing music.

What Does Mom Really Want This Mother's Day?

This mother's day, give Mom the gift of convenience. A national survey finds Mom would like a maid service, of a new and improved kitchen.

Will Your Gift Make the Grade?

Chances are your son or daughter, or the son or daughter of someone you know, is graduating this summer. This year consider giving a financial gift such as mutual funds, stocks, or saving bonds rather than the usual monogrammed pen set and leather briefcase

**Large Item Buy-Back Program Summer Dates**

The City of Lubbock Solid Waste Department and the County environmental office will host Large Item Buy Back Programs on the first Saturday of the months of may, June and July. These buybacks are held in an effort to clean up the mattresses, large furniture items and appliances illegally dumped in the alleys, vacant lots and county roads.

To date, the city has bought back 81,594 items. This amounts to over 7 million pounds of illegally dumped materials that have been taken to the landfill for proper disposal or recycling.

This program is not for businesses, and items from commercial establishments are not eligible.

City and County residents will be paid \$2.00 for each large item that they bring to the landfill for proper disposal. The City and County reserve the right to limit the number of items accepted each day.

Buy back dates, hours and location are as follows: City of Lubbock Landfill, 8425 North Ave. P. - May 5, June 2 and July 7 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. For more information call 775-2482.

**TTUHSC Department to Offer Free Screening**

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's Department of Dermatology will offer a free skin cancer screening from 8 am to 1 pm Saturday (May 12) at the Southwest Cancer Center at University Medical Center, 602 Indiana Ave.

TTUHSC dermatologists will examine patients and refer any patient with a suspicious skin lesion to a doctor for further treatment. No appointment is necessary.

The screening is being offered to coincide with National Melanoma Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month, sponsored by the American Academy of Dermatology.

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 1 million new cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year. Of those, more than 51,000 will be melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer. One person dies from melanoma every hour.



**Magic 93.7 Thanks You!!!!**

"Thanks to all the Magic listeners who came out and celebrated Cinco de Mayo with your Numero Uno Tejano Hit Station Magic 93.7! I hope you enjoyed it! We enjoyed having you there and all the excitement you showed through out the day!" This year was a Big Event, Next year will be even bigger! Tony "T" Program Director

"The 11th Annual Original Cinco de Mayo was our biggest celebration yet! Now there are plenty of things I would like to say to some people, but I'll let the AB Quintanilla interview on H2M speak for itself. Lots of love for those who went and are always supporting 93.7!!" Su Amigo Cucuie

"Quiero dar las sinceras gracias a todo los Magic 93.7 listeners for making Cinco de Mayo 2001-The Best Celebration for Cinco in the World!" Y tambien thanks to all Mi Gente that came from Lubbock and north, south, east and west to make it a Cinco de Mayo to definitely remember! Gracias Jake

"Thanks to all the Tejano Fans for coming and hope that we can bond together again for next years bigger and better event! D.J. Lopez

"I would like to Thank the thousands and thousands of Magic 93.7 listeners and Tejano fans, the Kumbia Kings, Control, Margarita, Milagro, and Azzi for making our Cinco de Mayo 2001 Celebracion a great success!! Thanks to you it was the best cinco Party in West Texas. Un Saludo to all the great people I meet at Cinco de Mayo and get ready for next year because it's going to be even bigger and better! Hey and remember Chismosa loves you y Las Mujeres Mandan! Su Amiga para siempre Chismosa

"Thanks to everybody who attended Cinco de Mayo 2001. We all had a great time thanks to you! Betty  
"Cinco de Mayo 2001 was in two words "The Bomb!" (Boom the Bomb!) From the "great" bands to the awesome food but most of all were the thousands of magic 93.7 listeners out there celebrating Cinco de Mayo tejano style! I want to thank you so much for coming out! Cinco de Mayo tejano style! I want to thank you so much for coming out! Cinco de Mayo is only going to get bigger and better ... I'll see you at Cinco de Mayo 2002! Ronnie "La Rana"



**Magic 93.7 invites you to listen to us all day for your chance to win GREAT PRIZES and to hear the Hottest Tejano Hits!!!!**



**Tejano Chisme**

Hola mi linda gente! I'm Jennifer "La Chismosa" from Magic 93.7 with your Tejano Chisme. If you missed out on the Chisme, then not to worry, I got it for you right here!!!  
\* Man what can I say about Grupo Vida! Those guys are really taking Tejano to another level ... First they opened up for the Dixie Chicks ... Now opening up Tejanos proud!  
\* Well it looks like Brando Mirales kinda got into a little trouble in the valley this past Sunday at a Cinco de mayo celebration in Weslaco. He finished performing then the cops decided they needed to take him in ... for what has been said for not paying child support!  
\* Emilio...Emilio...Emilio looks like he decided to marry once again! I'm sure you all remember the girl he got in trouble with in San Antonio ... well that's the girl! I guess all we can say now is congratulations and best of luck to you!  
\* Little Miss Dynamite Shelly Lares will be in town this Saturday, May 12, 2001 at Crystals Nite Club for a Big Pre Mother's Day Dance with Lubbock's numero uno tejano hit station Magic 93.7!  
\* Hey keep your ears and eyes open because coming is Los Tigrillos to the all new Fiesta!

**Hasta la proxima have a Safe Tejano Day I'm Jennifer "La Chismosa" from Magic 93.7 with your Tejano Chisme!!!**

\* \* \* \* \*

**MAGIC 93.7 TOP 10**

TW	TITLE	ARTIST
1	BOOM BOOM	Kumbia Kings
2	No Volvere	Shelly/Jay
3	Derramando Lagrimas	Ruben/Ram
4	Infiel	Joe Lopez
5	Soy Yo	Bobby Pulido
6	Amame	Jay Perez
7	Ensename a Olvidarte	Intocable
8	No Eres Para Mi	Elida y Avante
9	Cumbia De La Cobra	Fito Olivarez
10	Mientras Me Voya	Margarita

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

Hi! This is Tony "T" and Cucuie the Magic Morning Team ... Join us every weekday morning for the best Tejano fun in la mananas on Magic 93.7!!!!!!

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

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

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

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

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

Hola mi linda gente this is Jennifer "La Chismosa" bringing you the Tejano Hit Rumble ... the Top 9 @ 9 ... The Magic Love Lines ... and can't forget about your Tejano Chisme on Magic 93.7!! porque Las Mujeres Mandan!

**Magic 93.7 Your Official Weekend Partying Station with the Hottest Tejano Hits in West Texas!!!!!!**

**Notice Of Intent to Apply for Federal Contract**  
Attn: Interest Parties and Minority Businesses and Individuals

South Plains Community Action Association, (South Plains CAA) a community-based organization located in Levelland, Texas, is applying for a contract with the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to provide Title XIX Non-emergency Medical transportation services. South Plains CAA issues this notice of intent to contract with Historically Underserved Businesses (HUB) or minority business and/or individuals to provide one or more of the following professional services in carrying out portions of the Title XIX contract, if South Plains CAA is selected as a contractor: transportation services and automotive maintenance items and repair/replacement parts. Such HUBS, minority businesses and/or individuals interested in providing these professional services should contact Irma Guerra, SPCAA - Transportation, P.O. Box 610, Levelland, Texas 79336. Phone (806) 894-3800 FAX (806) 894-2759.

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## Those Who Don't Speak Spanish May Be Left Behind

By Deborah Sharp

¿Entiende Ud. español? If your answer to, "Do you understand Spanish?" is "no," get ready to be left behind. With the surge over the past decade in the Hispanic population in the United States, speaking Spanish is becoming more of a necessity than a choice in many parts of the country. From feedlot managers in Nebraska to New York City stockbrokers, Americans are scrambling to learn a language that is now spoken by many of the 35.3 million Hispanics in the United States.

For many, it's time to learn Spanish

Americans are finding that not knowing Spanish can be a handicap, whether dealing with immigrants or schmoozing at a business lunch in the boss' native tongue. Even pop culture references sail over the heads of the unilingual — from the taco-craving Chihuahuas' "Yo quiero Taco Bell" to the crazy life, "La vida loca," made famous by singer Ricky Martin.

"There's nothing foreign about Spanish anymore. It's the second language of the United States," says Sam Slick, who founded Command Spanish, the nation's largest firm specializing in teaching Spanish for the workplace.

But the rising linguistic tide also has sparked tension and resentment in many communities. Mauro Mujica, who heads the one-language advocacy group U.S. English, says it's fine for people who speak English to learn Spanish but not if it creates the notion that those who speak Spanish needn't learn English.

"The problem is we are slowing down the assimilation of new immigrants by making it way too easy to come to this country and not learn English," says Mujica, a native of Chile.

"An immigrant is an invited guest to this country," he says. "We invited ourselves. The least we can do is integrate and become part of the new country."

Type "studying Spanish" in to any Internet search engine, and thousands upon thousands of options appear.

Spanish dominates all other foreign languages in the USA's public schools. Enrollment has nearly doubled over the past two decades to about 3.3 million high school students. Similar statistics aren't available for adults in thousands of night classes and private Spanish language courses. But school owners say the numbers are soaring, even in the most unexpected areas.

Many have discovered that dim high school memories of conjugating verbs and reciting "¿Dónde está la biblioteca?" ("Where is the library?") mean nada (or nothing) in the workplace. So, in Ontario, Ore., Orchard Bank foots the bill for its staffers to study Spanish. In Washington, a teachers union offers lessons to members. And in Fountain Inn, S.C., and Detroit, law enforcement officials are lining up para habla español (to speak Spanish).

"The need is tremendous," says Conce Magaña, who teaches workplace Spanish at Garden City Community College in Kansas. Kansas has seen its Hispanic population double in the past decade, to 188,252 in 2000.

### Necessary phrases

Such courses are not aimed at fluency, which takes the average English-speaking adult about five years to achieve. Instead, they cover basics and workplace pleasantries such as "Please come in. Sit down." (Pase, por favor. Siéntese.) Teachers often tailor phrases and commands to specific occupations: For police, "Stop! Drop the weapon!" (¡Alto! Suelta el arma!) For medical workers, "Where does it hurt?" (¿Dónde le duele?)

Though no one expects fluid conversations to ensue, Magaña says the simple Spanish phrases

serve as a starting point for better communication. His students include everyone from bank tellers to firefighters in Finney County, Kan., where the Hispanic population has jumped 110%, to nearly 18,000 in the past decade. Hispanics make up 43% of the county's population of 40,523. Meatpacking and food-processing jobs have lured thousands of Mexican immigrants to the southwestern county.

"I'm learning how to communicate — getting people's names, asking if they have questions on their bills," says Amanda Shumate, 21, a propane company clerk and one of Magaña's Spanish students.

"It's amazing how much more valuable you are as an employee in Garden City if you can speak two languages," she says.

President George W. Bush made bilingual history last weekend when he delivered his first regular radio address in English and Spanish, both with a Texas twang. Democratic leaders countered immediately with plans for their own weekly rebuttals, also en español.

Still, Mujica's group, based in Washington, is lobbying to revive legislation that would make English the legal language of the federal government. It would require, with some exceptions, that U.S. documents be printed, and meetings conducted, only in English. A similar provision passed the House of Representatives in 1996 but stalled in the Senate.

At least half the states have passed language laws in the past decade. Mostly they amount to symbolism more than substance. Often the laws simply designate English as the official language, without prohibiting the use of any other language. In other cases, so many exceptions are included — from election ballots to health and safety needs — that English is the legal language in name only. And court challenges are common.

\* Alaska's English-only law passed in 1998, but it's been stalled by lawsuits filed by Alaska Native groups.

\* Alabama's measure came under scrutiny by the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in April that a Spanish-speaking immigrant did not have the right to sue to receive a driver's license exam in her native tongue.

English-only battles are nearly always divisive. One of the latest was in Utah, where voters finally passed a provision in November after three rancorous campaigns in the state Legislature. Challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union, Utah's measure remains on hold. Meanwhile, the language and culture of Latin America have flooded the nation through the force of sheer numbers. Around the globe, more people speak Mandarin Chinese — 885 million — than any other language. Spanish is second, the first language of 332 million. About 322 million worldwide speak English as a first language.

### Hard to ignore

It's increasingly difficult to ignore the spread of Spanish in the United States. Bank ATMs offer instructions in Spanish. The Yellow Pages in many cities adds a Spanish-language insert. And Spanish is working its way into everyday use. Is there an American left who can't order fajitas with spicy jalapeños using the proper Spanish-accented flair? (Say the J like an H: fah-hee-tas, hal-a-pain-yos).

From magazines to music, Spanish-language media have exploded. Radio stations more than doubled in the last decade, to 533. Broadcast TV stations jumped 70%, to 53, according to industry estimates. And those figures don't include cable and satellite or numerous outlets that devote only a portion of radio or TV programming to Spanish. Even Walt Disney World se

unió a esta tendencia (jumped on the bandwagon) this year, with the launch of a Spanish-language Web site for Hispanics.

For Command Spanish, business has boomed. Slick says the firm, based in Petal, Miss., offered its first certifications in 1997. Since then, the number of instructors authorized to teach the company's materials has exploded by more than 1,000% to 600 today. In workplaces and classrooms nationwide, about 25,000 students take Command Spanish lessons each year. The materials are used in hundreds of community colleges. Classes are tailored for clients, from the Alabama Criminal Justice Center to the Wisconsin Tissue Corp.

As a former college professor of Spanish, Slick says traditional language training leaves many ill-prepared for workplace needs. "At the end of two years of high school or college Spanish, you can read Don Quixote, but you can't help someone open a bank account. You can't arrest someone in Spanish. You can't start a hospital IV."

Even so, parents are increasingly urging their children to study Spanish. Spanish class sign-ups have soared more than 90% since the 1970s. The U.S. Department of Education projects total high school enrollment this year at 13.3 million students, and experts say more than one-quarter of them are studying Spanish. The last detailed study done in 1995 showed French followed Spanish in popularity, with 1.1 million high school students studying French. German was third, with 326,000 students.

In college in the 1960s, French was the language most students studied. Now it's a distant second to Spanish. Of 1.2 million language students at colleges and universities, about 17% studied French in 1998, the latest year figures are available from the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages.

Spanish's dominance has sparked concern that other languages are being ignored. The USA's lax participation in foreign-language education was the focus of Senate hearings last fall. Witnesses told members of the committee on governmental affairs that unilingual Americans have become ill equipped to deal with everything from global warfare and international commerce to espionage.

Spying is the furthest thing from the minds of most of Mark Alway's clients. Those who contact his Phoenix-based firm, Spanish Abroad, just want to string together some coherent sentences.

The firm acts as an intermediary between Americans who want to learn Spanish and immersion-style language schools in foreign countries. It will send about 1,000 clients to 11 nations this year. He says at least 100 other U.S. companies have sprung up in recent years to provide the same service.

"We get more and more people saying, 'Everyone I deal with is Hispanic. I need to be able to communicate,'" Alway says. His business has doubled each year since 1996. "Based on demographics alone, the need is only going to grow."

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## Latinos Book & Family Festival Comes to New York

By DEEPTI HAJELA

When Edward James Olmos and Kirk Whisler started the Latino Book and Family Festival in California five years ago, they were hoping to spur interest in Latino authors and promote literacy.

They succeeded, with the 2000 Los Angeles show drawing 45,000 people over two days and becoming, according to festival manager Whisler, the largest Latino trade show in the country.

The festival is making its New York debut at the Jacob Javits Convention Center this weekend. Organizers are hopeful that 15,000 to 20,000 people will attend the free event, being held Saturday and Sunday.

"They're going to have a good time, centered around books," Olmos, the actor best known for his role in "Stand and Deliver," said in an interview Tuesday. "They'll be exposed to culture in ways they normally aren't able to be. ... There's nothing like it."

The festival is organized around seven themes or "villages" — books, culture, career and education, health, "mi casita" or home ownership, recreation and travel, and technology.

Musical acts will perform on several stages, and 15 authors and poets will offer readings, said Mario Cobian, festival director. Among the authors scheduled to be at the event are Jose Luis Orozco, Yolanda Nava, and Stephen Loza.

"This has probably become the premier event for Latino authors and poets," Cobian said.

In California, the festival is held in Los Angeles, San Diego and San Bernardino. It's also been held in Chicago since 1999.

Whisler said over 30 communities around the United States have expressed interest in hosting the festival, appreciating that it offers a substantive family event.

"For years, the only real community events in Latino communities were Cinco de Mayo-type festivities" which are primarily parties with an emphasis on food and alcohol, Whisler said.

But a growing population of Hispanics is demanding more, organizers said. According to the 2000 census, there are 35.3 million Hispanics in the United States, about the same as the population of blacks, making them the two largest minority groups in the country.

"There is truly a hunger" among Latinos for this type of event, said Marcela Landres, associate editor of trade publications at Simon & Schuster and a festival participant.

Landres said she hopes the publishing industry sees the response to the festival and pays more attention to Latinos — just as the music industry has in recent years.

There are signs that is happening. Earlier this year, Random House Inc. became the second major publisher in the past year to start a Spanish-language imprint, announcing that it would issue 15 to 20 titles annually.

Other publishers have Spanish-language imprints or at least a line of books intended for the Hispanic community. HarperCollins last summer started Rayo, which will publish in both Spanish and English, and Simon & Schuster has actively sought books by and about Hispanics. Vintage Espanol, another Random House imprint, issues Spanish-language paperbacks.

The industry magazine Publishers Weekly now publishes Criticas, which concentrates on the Spanish-language market.

But Stephanie Oda, editor of the newsletter Subtext, said the publishing industry hasn't done enough.

"It's a market that has to be addressed, has to be fed. ... I hope they'll do more," she said.

Bush Requests Trade Authority from Congress

U.S. President George W. Bush urged Congress on Monday to grant him trade negotiating authority he needs to pursue a free trade agreement among North and South American nations.

"I urge the Congress to restore our nation's authority to negotiate trade agreements and I will use that authority to

build freedom in the world, progress in our hemisphere and enduring prosperity in the United States," Bush said in a speech to the Council of the Americas, an influential business group.

Warning that "a new kind of protectionism" has developed in the United States, he said the concerted effort among many Democrats to attach labor and environmental standards to free trade agreements represented a "new kind of protectionism."

"By failing to make the case for trade, we've allowed a new kind of protectionism to appear in this country," Bush said.

Bush is expected to formally ask Congress to give him the authority to negotiate trade deals later this week. Congress can vote up or down trade deals negotiated by Bush.

The president's trade authority expired in 1994 under President Bill Clinton and has never been renewed as lawmakers spar over how to handle labor and environmental issues associated with trade.

A group of 61 senators sent Bush a letter Monday warning him that they will strongly oppose any new trade agreement that would weaken U.S. protection against unfair imports or import surges.

The bipartisan group said U.S. anti-dumping laws to protect domestic producers were "a critical element of U.S. trade policy."

"Each of these laws is fully consistent with U.S. obligations under the World Trade Organization and other trade agreements," the senators said in the letter.

The letter was signed by Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott, Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle and a majority of the Senate Finance Committee.

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