

El Editor

"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez

Deaths in Iraq
2503 U.S.
225 Coalition
6,370 Iraqi
Military
42,889 Iraqi
Civilians

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Latino Political Leaders Hold Annual Convention

Latino political leaders will focus on energizing young Hispanics and legal residents to become voting citizens as they hold their annual convention this week.

They'll try to motivate the two groups of potential voters by capitalizing on the massive participation seen during April's pro-immigrant marches.

Many of those who crammed into the downtown streets for the Dallas rally included families pushing strollers with their children, students and ice cream vendors who placed American flags on their carts. The peaceful crowd consisted of an estimated 350,000 to 500,000 marchers.

"The immigrant march really did spark an enthusiasm ... really inspired a sense of hope among this community," said Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Vargas is among the more than 5,000 Latino officials from around the country expected at the NALEO convention which runs Thursday through Saturday in Dallas.

Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman and Democratic National Committee



Chairman Howard Dean, and U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., are among the speakers lined up for the 23rd annual convention.

They'll gather in a city where 42 percent of residents are Hispanic, and Latinos hold several seats on the city council and state House.

But despite a strong presence,

Latinos' demographics still pose a challenge in getting more to the polls. More than a third of Dallas Hispanics are too young to vote and out of the remaining, more than half aren't citizens.

Still, some figures show potential. Voter registration could more than double if only half of the

nearly 192,000 non-citizen Latinos in Dallas gain citizenship and register to vote, according to NALEO.

That's why NALEO members plan to volunteer helping legal residents apply for citizenship at a workshop before the start of the convention. However, it could take years for those who qualify for citizenship to gain it.

Latinos account for 13 percent of Dallas' registered voters. Nearly one-third of them are under 30, meaning they have years ahead to continue voting. In the meantime, large numbers of Hispanic teens will continue to turn 18 and start voting.

Hispanics are already exerting their voting power in other parts of the country. During this fall elections, control of the House could hinge on wins at Arizona, Colorado, Illinois and New Mexico congressional districts where Latinos make up more than 10 percent of the population

Latinos in office up by 37% in decade

By ANABELLE GARAY
DALLAS — Latinos have increased their presence at all levels of government over the last decade, with nearly half of them serving in Texas, a Hispanic political group reported.

At the start of this year, 5,132 Hispanics were in elected office around the country — a 37 percent increase from 1996, when 3,743 Latinos were in elected posts.

The results were part of a study announced today in Dallas to kick off the annual convention of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

"It's in everyone's interest, it's in every party's interest to cultivate the number of Hispanic elected officials," said Adam J. Segal Director, of the Hispanic Voter Project at Johns Hopkins University.

Latino elected officials now hold office in 43 states. Out of the more than 5,000 Latino elected officials nationwide, 42 percent hold office in Texas.

Most other Latino officials were elected in areas with large Hispanic populations, such as California, Florida, New Jersey, New York and Illinois, the study said.

In 1996, there were no Latino senators and some states had no Hispanics in office.

By 2006, there were three Hispanics in the U.S. Senate, representing Colorado, Florida and New Jersey.

Alaska, Kentucky, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Virginia now have one Hispanic elected official each. Georgia has seven and New Hampshire has three after having none ten years ago, the NALEO Educational Fund study found.

In California, Antonio Villaraigosa became Los Angeles' first Latino mayor since 1872. His election last year saw a record 25 percent Hispanic voter turnout, though blacks and left-leaning whites also spurred his victory.

In 2004, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson was considered a good choice to be John Kerry's running mate. Richardson is now seeking a second term as governor in November and has been mentioned as a possible name on the Democratic ticket in the next elections.

"I think Americans are getting used to voting for Hispanics, it was a novelty before," said Simon Rosenberg, president of the New Democrat Network.

Although they hold the posts of governors, federal officials and state lawmakers, two-thirds of the country's Hispanic officeholders were working at either the municipal or school board level.

Among the federal ranks, there are 25 Latinos; seven serve as statewide officials, including governors. But the majority of Latinos, 1,836, are school board or education officials, the study showed.

Bodies Found of Missing American Soldiers

"They Were Killed in a Barbaric Way"

By Abel Cruz
In what can only be described as a heartbreaking ending for the families of the two American soldiers who had been missing in Iraq, the bodies of 23 year old Pfc. Kristian Menchaca of Houston and Pfc. Thomas Tucker, 25, of Madras, Oregon were found late Monday by the military south of Baghdad.

Although officials declined to confirm the bodies were those of Menchaca and Tucker until autopsies could be performed; most news reports were reporting that the bodies were indeed those of the 2 soldiers who had been missing since late last week.

Menchaca from Houston was a young 23 year old soldier who had gotten married right before leaving for his tour of duty in Iraq. In September Menchaca had married his wife, Christina from Big Spring, TX and left for Iraq in October of 2005.

His mother, Maria Guadalupe Vasquez, who lives in Brownsville, was inconsolable. She issued a one sentence handwritten statement saying that, "I am against the war, and I feel very hurt by what happened to my son". Other relatives in Texas also were grief-stricken by what had been done to Menchaca. Gabriela Garcia, a cousin of Menchaca was especially distraught to know "what he may have gone through". Other relatives mourned Menchaca's death, with an uncle of Menchaca questioning why the U S Government had not done more to find them; like offer a monetary reward.

Although military officials have not been very specific or forthcoming as to the manner of death suffered by the 2 soldiers, differing news reports and Iraqi officials were quoted as saying that the 2 men were killed in a "barbaric way".

In a web site posting, Islamic religious extremists were claiming responsibility for the killings. The web site claimed that the supposed new al-Qaida leader in Iraq, who took over upon the death of Al-Zarqawi, Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, had been responsible for "slitting their throats".

But in fact, it had been a senior Iraqi military official, Maj. Gen Abdul-Aziz Mohammed, who had been widely quoted in the world media as saying, "With great regret, they were killed in a barbaric way". The U S military declined to either deny or confirm the report or the Iraqi official's assertion.

Unfortunately, Menchaca's family was not the first to know what had happened to their loved one. An uncle, Mario Vasquez, was reportedly sitting at his home watching news reports when he got a call from his niece saying that the bodies of both soldiers had been found; she had heard it on the news.

The 2 soldiers had been missing since last Friday when they were abducted by Iraqi gunmen, at a highway checkpoint, when the Iraqis had created a diversion which caused the other soldiers in the detachment to take off in pursuit of the insurgents who had fled.

Upon the other soldiers leaving, Menchaca and Tucker and another third soldier became sitting ducks. Insurgents quickly killed the third soldier, Spec. David Babineau.

Since then, about 8,000 American and Iraqi soldiers had been searching for the 2 American servicemen.

Unfortunately, they were not successful until the 2 bodies were discovered Monday night; not very far from where they had been abducted. Their bodies had been laid out in the open, and were surrounded



by booby traps and explosives, placed there by insurgents hoping to kill more American soldiers. Several news organizations reported that the bodies were not moved until daylight; with military officials being concerned about the explosives going off.

Grimly, daylight did not make the discovery of the bodies any easier. Menchaca and Tucker's bodies were so disfigured that military officials were not willing to confirm the cause of death or confirm positive identification until DNA tests and other forensic tests could be performed on the bodies.

Menchaca's and Tucker's deaths, bring the total number of American soldier who have died in Iraq to 2,506 since the beginning of the war in 2003. And there seems to be no end in sight. Just this week, Congress declined to set a timetable for U.S. troop withdrawal or redeployment from Iraq.

And in another developing story, the military revealed on Wednesday that two American soldier's deaths, which had previously been attributed to an Iraqi ambush, had been shot by at least 3 Iraqi civil defense officers.

As usual, complete details from the military were not disclosed.

To Comment on this story: email: acruztc@aol.com

U.S. Senate to Minimum Wage Earners: Live with It!

Amendment to increase minimum wage fails in Senate

For those people in Lubbock and the surrounding area who were hoping, once again, for an increase in the minimum wage, once again, you'll have to wait until Democrats take control of both houses of Congress for the minimum wage to increase.

And for that, you can thank the Republican controlled House and Senate.

Once again, in a mostly partisan vote, the Senate voted 52-46 (the amendment offered by Senator Ted Kennedy, D-Ma. needed at least 60 votes to pass)

against raising the minimum wage that a lot of the working class in this area still earns. The minimum wage of \$5.15 has not been raised by Congress since 1994; the last year the Democrats controlled Congress.

By contrast, the salary of United States Representatives and Senators have gone up at least 7 times in the same 9 years; with the last raise coming just a few short weeks ago.

At the current minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour, a full time employee earns \$10,712 a year; hardly an amount that can be called livable wages. In fact, if that

worker has a family of 3 and he or she is the sole wage earner, the family would fall below the national poverty level by \$6,000.

Democrats had proposed a gradual increase in the hourly wage which would have gradually settled in at \$7.25 an hour over a 2 year period. But Republicans countered by saying that raising the amount would result in jobs being lost because small business owners would not be able to pay the higher wage and they would be forced to lay some workers off.

It is a sentiment that is shared by current Congressman Randy Neugebauer, who in 2004 told El

COMMUNITY VOICES

Editor's Note:
Sometimes, a single event comes along to remind us just how important our culture and heritage is in our everyday life. In this week's edition you will read about a young man whose last name was Menchaca and who was brutally killed in Iraq.

Shortly after he died, the media contacted his poor heartbroken mother, who lives in Brownsville, Texas, for a comment or reaction to her son's death. Although the mother, Maria Guadalupe Vasquez, did not agree to be interviewed, she did provide the media with a one sentence statement in Spanish. Not in English, the language that the U.S. Senate so arrogantly wants to make this country's "National language", but in her native language: Spanish.

My guess is that Ms. Vasquez may not have been able to express herself in English so she relied on the language she felt comfortable in to make her statement. What if one day, the ability to do that was taken away? What would she have done then?

It's ironic to me that we are repeatedly told that we are fighting this war to protect "American democratic values", yet Congress continues to pass legislation which is aimed at making this a unilingual, uni-cultural society, with zero tolerance for diversity.

Who is fighting for the rights of people like Ms. Vasquez to express herself in the language of her choice; when forced to comment on the loss of her son to a senseless war?

This week readers continue to weigh in with their thoughts on the; making English our "National language" amendment, recently passed by the Senate.

Seeing that this is America, it would seem logical that English would be the official language.

Would you be comfortable if English became the official language of Mexico?

We need to use our heads instead of our attitudes.
Courtney James

"Another way of keeping down the fastest growing minority."
Salvador Becerra, Lubbock via email

English as the national language is meaningless! My mother-in-law lived with us for 20 years and never learned English. Indeed some people can't learn a second language — whether due to aptitude, age or desire.

The notion is meaningless because it can't be legislated beyond its symbolic value. How would it be enforced? How would 911 treat an emergency called in, in Spanish?

Even Geno's cheese steak place in Philadelphia backed down. He put a sign over the order window which stated something like "speak English when ordering food at Geno's." When interviewed about this, (the owner) Geno said that he wouldn't refuse service to anyone.

There are many ideas surfacing in Congress now that are restrictive in nature: whether they pertain to gays/lesbians or how to treat the flag or this cockamamie English proposal. I'm for expanding freedom in areas that don't affect or harm others.

I don't think however that Hispanics are losing their language. Their tendencies toward close families and extended families would slow such a progression if not preclude it altogether.

Nevertheless there probably are people with Hispanic backgrounds who don't speak Spanish. I'm thinking of one well known woman, Linda Chavez, prominent in the Reagan administration.

She has no apology for not learning Spanish.
Garney
Cope, Tampa, Florida via Email

It is a shame, when elected officials, who are supposed to be representing "all" their constituents decide to pass legislation aimed at pitting one group of voters against another. The Senators who voted for this ridiculous amendment know it is meaningless, mean spirited, and borders on racism. Yet they insist on including this in a bill that's supposed to deal with "Immigration Reform". How does this fit into reforming the laws that govern our borders and our immigration policy? It doesn't.

Where it does fit in, is in certain Senator's and Congressman's mindset of holding on to their party's control of Congress by pandering to their right wing conservative base using tactics like this.

One doesn't have to look far to see a similar tactic being used by our very own representative from the 19th District, Randy Neugebauer. His vote in favor of HR4437 sent a clear signal to the people of the district who still have real values (and some of us still do) like compassion for your fellow man; equitable and fair laws to deal with people who in desperation cross the border illegally; that our views do not matter. They should matter; we are American citizens too.

He has wrapped himself in a cloak of veiled hypocrisy and aligned himself not only with the right wing zealots of the Republican wing but with xenophobes who run around crying that this country is being invaded by aliens; all the while looking the other way when the so called "aliens" serve them their food at their country clubs, and make their beds in their fancy hotel rooms, build their housing developments, mow their manicured lawns, and do their landscaping for their high dollar homes.

A. Juan Nolimporta, Lubbock via email
I feel that the amendment the Senate passed is not going to be much help. I do feel this is a just a political grandstand by the Senate. For many years Spanish was the national language in the United States because the United States was part of Mexico. But before that, what was the national language? Native American. The Native Americans were here first. Why can't the national language be Native American? They were here first. Why does it have to come down to voting what the national language is? I feel that the amendment will not have much of an impact on the Hispanic population in this country. Why, you may ask? Because there are so many Hispanic people who already REFUSE to teach their own kids the Spanish language. I know they will use the amendment as a cop-out to say that English is now the national language. Come on, who are you kidding? If Hispanics in the United States are losing their native language, it's not because of the amendment. It's because of them. Why are they ashamed of being Mexican Americans/Hispanics? They should be proud of their heritage and teach their kids their own native language. AND speak to them in Spanish also, not just English. I have seen first-hand people coming from Mexico and people born here who refuse to teach their kids Spanish and prohibit their kids to speak Spanish. This is one thing I will never understand. If you speak another language other than English, teach your kids that language also. Isn't the United States a country of many languages? ¡Viva el Español!

Minerva Alaniz
"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. You may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive language, offensive or distasteful content, or personal attacks, and for space. Mail your comments to Community Voices, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comments to acruztc@aol.com

Editor in a candidate's Q&A that, "Raising the minimum wage hurts job-creating small businesses that employ most West Texans". Although, Republicans offered no evidence of the job loss occurring at any other time the minimum wage has been raised. But in this case, it seems they are protecting the interests of the business lobby who are some of their highest campaign contributors.

To the contrary, a study conducted by David Card of the University of California at Berkeley and Alan Krueger of Princeton University showed no negative impact on the number of jobs lost

when wages have gone up as required by law.

In this case, Republicans seem to be out of touch with most of their Republican constituency. In a survey conducted by the Pew Research center in April, 83% of the public favors raising the minimum wage by \$2. According to the study, that percentage figure includes 72% of Republicans, and 76% of people with household incomes of \$75,000 or higher.

But while, 8 Republican Senators voted in favor of the amendment along with the Democrats, Texas' 2 Republican
(Continued on Page 6)

Lou Dobbs, the new Hispanic journalist

Is the line between activism and objectivity blurred?

By Rafael Prieto Zartha
The Floridian Ballroom of the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center was packed last Friday at noon. There, the so-called Great American Immigration Debate took place.

More than 2,000 Hispanic journalists watched how the vociferous CNN anchor Lou Dobbs crushed his opponents with his anti-immigrant point of view.

Former Mexican foreign minister Jorge Castañeda and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson were no match for the "Broken Borders" architect.

"The president says we can't deport people. The fact is that we can," Dobbs said, in reference to the destiny of the 12 million undocumented immigrants who reside in the US.

Neither Castañeda nor Richardson could suitably answer his rhetoric, while a polite PBS newscaster, Ray Suarez, asked the audience to "keep emotions well mannered."

Dobbs left smiling from a room

filled with individuals who have close relatives caught in the middle of the immigration dispute.

But my surprise came later, during the induction of Maria Elena Salinas, the Univision Network anchor, into the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) Hall of Fame. Saturday night, on the ceremony's gigantic TV screen, the name of Dobbs appeared in golden letters. He was among a limited group of people who paid to become a lifetime member of NAHJ.

Two decades ago, I was one of the founding members of that organization. I know that the description of the NAHJ mission includes the phrase: "to foster and promote a fair treatment of Hispanics by the media."

Dobbs is one of the worst examples of "promoting fair treatment" of Latinos on the airwaves. The news commentator has referred to Mexican immigrants in the US as an "army of invaders." Known as much for his personal opinions as for his anchoring, he takes licenses that many other

cable news network broadcasters don't have.

"Our standards and practices guidelines prevent our employees from taking a stand on controversial issues," said Christopher Crommett, senior vice president of CNN en Español, in an interview with IPS News Service about the May 1 Latino rallies.

"It's a living, breathing effort. Things come up almost daily that we discuss and ask ourselves, 'How can we cover this in the best traditions of CNN?'" explained Crommett, who supervises 130 staff employees and a worldwide network of approximately 50 Spanish-speaking reporters.

The question is why the Spanish-language side of CNN must maintain journalistic objectivity in its coverage of immigration while Mr. Dobbs is not required to do so.

I believe the networks have opened a window for the Hispanic community to ask for news programming that presents the other perspective

on this controversial issue.

In Charlotte, the same request should be made to local radio outlets. The leading talk radio format station, WBT 1110, has only anti-immigrant voices. One of its personalities is Rush Limbaugh, the national syndicated hard-line conservative broadcaster.

Locally, Keith Larson and Jason Lewis preach the same raucous speech as Dobbs. They have not asked themselves: "When is the line between activism and objectivity blurred?"

People in the mainstream of the society deserve to know the other side of the immigration debate.

The general public must be informed that the matter goes beyond the term "illegal."

The debate has to be unlocked from the right-wing viewpoint. Tolerance must prevail. After all, Dobbs is a new member of NAHJ.

Rafael Prieto Zartha is the editor of the Charlotte-based Spanish-language newspaper Mi Gente.

Greitas en la Muro de la Frontera

José de la Isla

Una importante entrevista sobre la política migratoria de los Estados Unidos tuvo lugar la semana pasada ante 1.600 miembros de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispánicos, en su congreso anual en Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

El gobernador de Nuevo México, Bill Richardson, comentarista de CNN, Lou Dobbs, anterior ministro del exterior de México, Jorge Castañeda, y David Beckmann, presidente del grupo de base religiosa Bread for the World (Pan para el Mundo), tuvieron una discusión sobre el controvertido tema. La sesión, con potencial teatral, duró una hora, moderada con finura por Ray Suárez, del programa noticioso Newshour de PBS, el canal público de televisión.

En su preámbulo Suárez marcó el tono de la discusión: "No soy ninguna Oprah Winfrey, y éste no es el programa de Oprah", advirtió.

La discusión fue todo lo contrario a una plática de sensibilidad emocional; fue tal que yo quisiera que a nivel nacional se realizara la misma discusión sobre este tema tan complicado, y muchas veces discordante.

Se expresaron muchos puntos conocidos con las mismas palabras de siempre, sin embargo, y más para este público en particular, el que se presentara más de un solo ángulo de la problemática - en este caso se presentaron cuatro - conllevó a un discurso civilizado y envidiable -- una metafórica lucha

libre que más parecía un ballet.

Richardson es el hispano de mayor visibilidad en el partido demócrata estadounidense. A comienzos del año pasado declaró estado de emergencia a lo largo de la frontera sur de Nuevo México.

Al principio de la conversación sobre la inmigración, se apresuró en elogiar al presidente Bush, aunque reconoció también la incapacidad del presidente de progresar dentro de su propio partido sobre el tema de la reforma migratoria. Los republicanos de la Cámara de Representantes han resultado ser un gran obstáculo en cuanto a las concesiones legislativas que presenta el Senado.

Lo que se necesita sobre todo, dice Richardson, es un "camino a la legislación" y un proceso con el cual la gente puede "salir de la penumbra", un préstamo prácticamente literal de lo que ha dicho Bush.

Lou Dobbs, cuya hipérbole y cuyos comentarios con frecuencia pasan por reportaje periodístico, se midió ante este público, equilibrándose cual acróbata, dando a su posición el viso de "silogismo"; que para él no tiene sentido ninguna reforma migratoria sin antes establecer control sobre la frontera. Mantuvo que las grandes empresas son las culpables y la clase media está en riesgo, para después agregar que la parte de la economía que desplazan y ponen en riesgo los trabajadores sin

documentos no es muy grande.

Para Dobbs los problemas son la frontera "porosa" y las relaciones bilaterales con México.

Fue entonces que Jorge Castañeda, anteriormente catedrático, señaló que una historia de cien años de migración mexicana para trabajar en los Estados Unidos expone una "crisis manufacturada". Reconoció que muchos de aquellos migrantes regresaban a casa después, con frecuencia apoyados por tales iniciativas estadounidenses como la "Operation Wetback" (Operación Espalda Mojada).

Castañeda indicó además que antes que se aprobara el Tratado de Libre Comercio Norteamericano, se estaba considerando propuestas que llevarían a otro tipo de convenio que habrían atendido a algunos de los requerimientos de desarrollo mexicano, y que hubieran hecho al país más competitivo económicamente con menos, o ninguna, migración obligada por la extrema necesidad. Como ministro de relaciones exteriores en el 2002, Castañeda había propuesto legalizar el estatus de los mexicanos que ahora viven en los Estados Unidos, como su homólogo de entonces, Colin Powell, declara hoy.

Si bien las declaraciones parecieran ser rodeos de los mismos temas, lo que las hizo diferentes fue la conexión que ofreció el reverendo Beckmann con

su perspectiva de pastor luterano, economista y nuevo tipo de activista quien incorpora al discurso político un elemento de la moralidad.

Beckmann notó que un estudio realizado por la escuela de periodismo Walter Cronkite, de la universidad estatal de Arizona y la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispánicos halló que las revistas Time, Newsweek y U.S. News & World Report habían publicado sólo 18 notas sobre los hispanos, o el 1,2 por ciento de las 1.547 notas que salieron el año pasado en estas revistas. De las 18 notas que tocaron el tema de lo hispano, 12 tuvieron un enfoque en la inmigración.

Este tipo de reportaje causa un desequilibrio en la percepción pública y distorsiona la temática de lo que afecta a la gran mayoría de la población hispana.

Gracias a Ray Suárez, quien pudo dirigir el diálogo y recordar a los participantes que el público, comprendido de periodistas inteligentes e informados, los estaba juzgando, lo superficial se mantuvo ausente y se evitó las imágenes incendiarias y falsas. De lo contrario, lo que tuvo lugar fue algo más a tono con las realidades sociales, lo cual resultó en una discusión interesante y civilizada, aunque por momentos tensa.

Parecía ser un intercambio justo y equilibrado, tanto en su presentación como en su contenido. © 2006 Hispanic Link

Cracks in the Border Wall

By José de la Isla

An important newsmaker interview on U.S. immigration policy took place before 1,600 members of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists convention in Ft. Lauderdale last week.

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, CNN commentator Lou Dobbs, Mexico's former foreign secretary Jorge Castañeda, and David Beckmann, president of the faith-based group Bread for the World had a give-and-take about the contentious issue. The hour-long, potentially theatrical session was moderated with finesse by Ray Suárez of PBS's News Hour.

Suárez set the tone in his opening remarks. "I ain't Oprah Winfrey and this ain't the Oprah Winfrey Show," he said.

The opposite of a touchy-feely discourse occurred. It was one that makes me wish the same discussion were taking place throughout the nation over this complicated, often divisive, matter.

Many familiar points were expressed in the same well-known words. But, more so for this

audience, having more than one angle presented - in this case four - led to enviable civil discourse and a lucha libre that seemed like a ballet.

Richardson is the most visible Hispanic in the Democratic Party. Early last year he declared an emergency along the New Mexico border. As the immigration conversation began, he was quick to laud President Bush. But he recognized the president's inability to make headway within his own party on this issue. House Republicans have been a major stumbling block on compromise legislation with a Senate bill.

What's needed, said Richardson, was above all a "path to legalization" and a process for people to come "out of the shadows," borrowing Bush's words almost exactly.

Lou Dobbs, whose hyperbole and commentary often pass for reporting, did a balancing act before this audience. He claimed no immigration reform makes sense to him unless border control comes first, referring to his position

in terms of a "syllogism." He contended that major corporations were at fault and the middle class was at risk. Then he added that the portion of the economy that undocumented workers displaced and put at risk was not very big. The "porous" border and relations with Mexico were the issue for Dobbs.

That's where Jorge Castañeda, himself a former academic, pointed out that a hundred years of Mexican migration across the border to work in the United States) exposes "a manufactured crisis." Many of those migrants returned home later, sometimes, he acknowledged, supported by such U.S. policy initiatives as "Operation Wetback."

Castañeda further pointed out that before the North American Free Trade Agreement was approved, proposals were on the table for another kind of agreement that would have addressed some of Mexico's development requirements to become more competitive economically with fewer, if any, people forced out by dire economic necessity. As foreign minister in

2002, Castañeda had called for regularizing the status of Mexicans in the United States as his homologue back then, Colin Powell, declares now.

While on appearances the statements may have seemed like a rehash, what made them different was the connecting perspective by Rev. Beckmann, a Lutheran minister, an economist and a new brand of activist who brings to political issues an element of morality.

He pointed to a study released that week, conducted by the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University and NAHJ, which showed Time, Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report had published only 18 stories about Hispanics, or 1.2 percent of the 1,547 stories appearing last year in those newsmagazines. Of those, 12 of the 18 focused on immigration.

Reporting like that imbalances public perception and distorts matters affecting large portions of the Hispanic population.

Because of Ray Suárez's ability to keep the dialogue on track and the participants' awareness that an audience of smart and informed journalists was judging them, flim-flam was for the most part absent and fake incendiary images avoided. Instead, something more in keeping with the social realities took place. The result was engaging and civil, albeit tense at times.

It had the look and feel of fair and balanced. © 2006

PICK UP AND AT YOUR FAVORITE RETAIL STORE ON TUESDAY OR READ EL EDITOR ON THE INTERNET

Who are These People?

By Abel Cruz

I couldn't help myself. I laughed my behind off when I saw the front page story in Wednesday's AJ about the couple who wrote a song to counter the Dixie Chicks new song, "Lubbock or Leave It". It's called, ok are you ready for this: "Trouble in the Henhouse". Pretty clever from a guy who graduated from Monterey High School don't you think? Wonder how long it took him and his wife to come up with that jewel.

Almost as good as that all time favorite, "My Achy Breaky Heart!"

Who are these people??

The line that really got me going is the one that says something to the effect that this, I assume they're talking about Lubbock, or pardon me, "The Giant side!" is as close to "paradise as you will ever be".

Paradise? Have these people never visited any place other than Lubbock? Oh wait. The writer, Billy Briggs and his wife loved their "Lubbock Paradise" so much that they decided to move to their present paradisiacal city, Dallas.

Kind of reminds me of Mac Davis's tribute to this city which proudly proclaimed that "happiness is Lubbock, Texas in my rearview mirror". Ok, he does end by saying that he wants to be buried here when he dies. But what good is that; he's dead!

Perhaps what both writers are trying to say is that this is paradise when you don't have to live here or when you're buried here?

Oh but I'm willing to bet that the people who have been writing those anti-Chick letters which have appeared in the local paper, are ecstatic; they probably think that Briggs should have a statue built in his honor right here in a city he wasn't even born in!!

My advice to Mr. Briggs, "don't quit your day job".

Well, now that I have stopped laughing and regained my composure, let me continue!

Speaking about letters, seriously, have you seen some of what has been coming in to the local paper for public consumption? Makes you wonder, just who are these people?

In a lot of ways, the letters confirm what the Chicks have written about this city. Their song is talking about the critical wrath a person incurs if one dares to be critical about Lubbock or say something which they don't agree with; or heaven forbid look different and speak a second language. In short, the letters are filled with hypocritical superiority.

And the ones that define how some people really feel about the Hispanic community in this city are the most hateful and a true reflection of the intolerance in this city. For example, a letter writer recently made reference to Hitler using illegal immigrants to further his ambitions, and asks how long we think it will be before Mexico does the same thing. The writer finishes his attack on "illegals" by saying he doesn't mind "legals" coming here to work; as if that's all people coming into this country are good for. Unbelievable!

But also sad. Sad, but also true that this intolerance is imbedded in the pea sized brains of the very people who profess to be Christian and claim to be proud of their "steeple lined" city.

¡Español no Se Habla Aquí!

Pretty soon, we'll all have to change our names, at least those of us that have Spanish surnames, to names that, well, do not sound like Spanish. I know it sounds ridiculous; but not any more ridiculous than some of the stuff some people have been trying to pull lately.

- Here are 3 examples:
- Last week the Republican mayor of Hazleton, Pennsylvania Lou Barletta, (guess where his ancestors came from; wonder if they came here legally; or is that where the term, WOP, "without papers" came from) introduced, and the City Council tentatively approved, a measure that would revoke the business licenses of companies that employ illegal immigrants; impose \$1,000 fines on landlords who rent to illegal immigrants; and make English the city's official language.
 - A city zoning board in Wilkes-Barre Pa. has put off opening a store called "La Esperanza", a store which would carry Mexican products; because they are afraid the store would be a gathering ground and hang out place for "kids and Mexican gangs"
 - A place in Philadelphia called Geno's Cheese Steaks put up a sign that says that a person must order in English

Once again, who are these people?

That my friends, is what you get when Republican politicians like Sensenbrenner, and Tancredo, Senator John Kyl from Arizona, and our own Randy Neugebauer from "the giant side of paradise" pass legislation like HR4437 and then proceed to run around like chicken little's claiming that we are being invaded by "illegal aliens": All in the name of patriotism and homeland security, and the global war on terror, and on and on and on.

Sooner or later, those people who are like ticking time bombs, just waiting to explode, will jump on the anti-immigrant bandwagon and pretty soon, what we wind up is legislation that tells those of us who are smart enough to know and speak a second language that we can no longer speak it.

Well translate this: *Gente Pendeja! Son una bola de idiotas!*

A Truer Quote was Never Spoken

Congressman Jack Murtha from Pennsylvania, a decorated former Marine who served in Viet Nam, commenting on criticism he had heard from Karl Rove, Senior Advisor to President Bush, on the Iraq war

"He's (Karl Rove) sitting in his air-conditioned office on his big, fat backside-saying stay the course. That's not a plan!"

And finally, my good friend Doc tells me that if the local AJ gets any smaller, his newspaper carrier will be able to provide "real home delivery". He can just stick it right through the key hole!

Email: acruzisc@aol.com

EL EDITOR

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Che Guevara's iconic image celebrated in London

The iconic image of the Latin American revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara, which appears on everything from student posters to condoms, has become a goldmine celebrated at a London exhibition.

"Che Guevara: Revolutionary and Icon," running at the Victoria and Albert Museum, is centred around a single picture of Guevara taken by Cuban photographer Alberto Korda on March 5, 1960.

The famous portrait, "Guerrillero Heroico", was taken when he briefly stepped onto the memorial service podium at a funeral for more than 100 Cubans killed during the explosion of an ammunition-filled Belgian ship bound for Havana.

It has gone on to become one of the most reproduced images in the history of photography, according to Trisha Ziff, the exhibition's curator.

The Victoria and Albert Museum, one of the world's most important centres for applied arts, focuses on the image's history over the past 45 years, bringing together photography, posters, films, fine art, clothing and artefacts from more than 30 countries.

Korda, whose real name was Alberto Diaz Gutierrez, only took two frames of Guevara during the funeral, both on display at the exhibition.

On the original negative, Guevara stands between another man and some palm leaves, but in developing the photograph, Korda isolated Guevara -- and thus was born the famous image.

After the death of the Marxist revolutionary leader in 1967 at age 39, the image became a tragic testament to a lost cause, earning its place as a symbol of the struggle against capitalism and the market society.

But at the same time, the pic-



ture of Guevara gave birth to a wealthy industry that now plasters the image on a wide array of commercial products.

Aside from global distribution of Che Guevara T-shirts and posters, the image was used on condoms in Mexico. In the United States, it appears on disposable handkerchiefs. In France, it turns up on wine bottles and in Spain, the image is stamped on cigarette packs.

Brewers have used the portrait on beer bottles, and an Australian ice cream firm has even used the name of the guerrilla leader to advertise its "Cherry Guevara" flavour.

Recently, US pop singer Madonna has used a Guevara-style picture of herself on her "American Life" album cover, and French fashion designer Jean-Paul Gaultier uses "Guerrillero Heroico" on a sunglasses campaign.

A lip cream manufacturer used the image as its trademark. "Rebel against dry lips", its slogan reads.

The museum in London -- whose curators scoured flea markets and the Internet for "Che" objects -- is selling T-shirts in all colours, from which Guevara continues to stare into the future with his enigmatic gaze.

"Che Guevara: Revolutionary and Icon" runs until August 28.

Miami win first NBA title with win over Mavericks

Greg Heakes
Dallas, U.S., June 21, 2006 (AFP) - The Miami Heat made their first trip to the finals a memorable one by defeating the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday to claim the National Basketball Association's biggest prize.

Dwyane Wade scored a game-high 36 points and Udonis Haslem had 17 points and 10 rebounds as Miami beat Dallas 95-92 to win the first championship in their 18-year franchise history.

Miami capped a rare comeback on Tuesday by becoming only the third team to rally from a 0-2 series deficit to win the Larry O'Brien Trophy in six games.

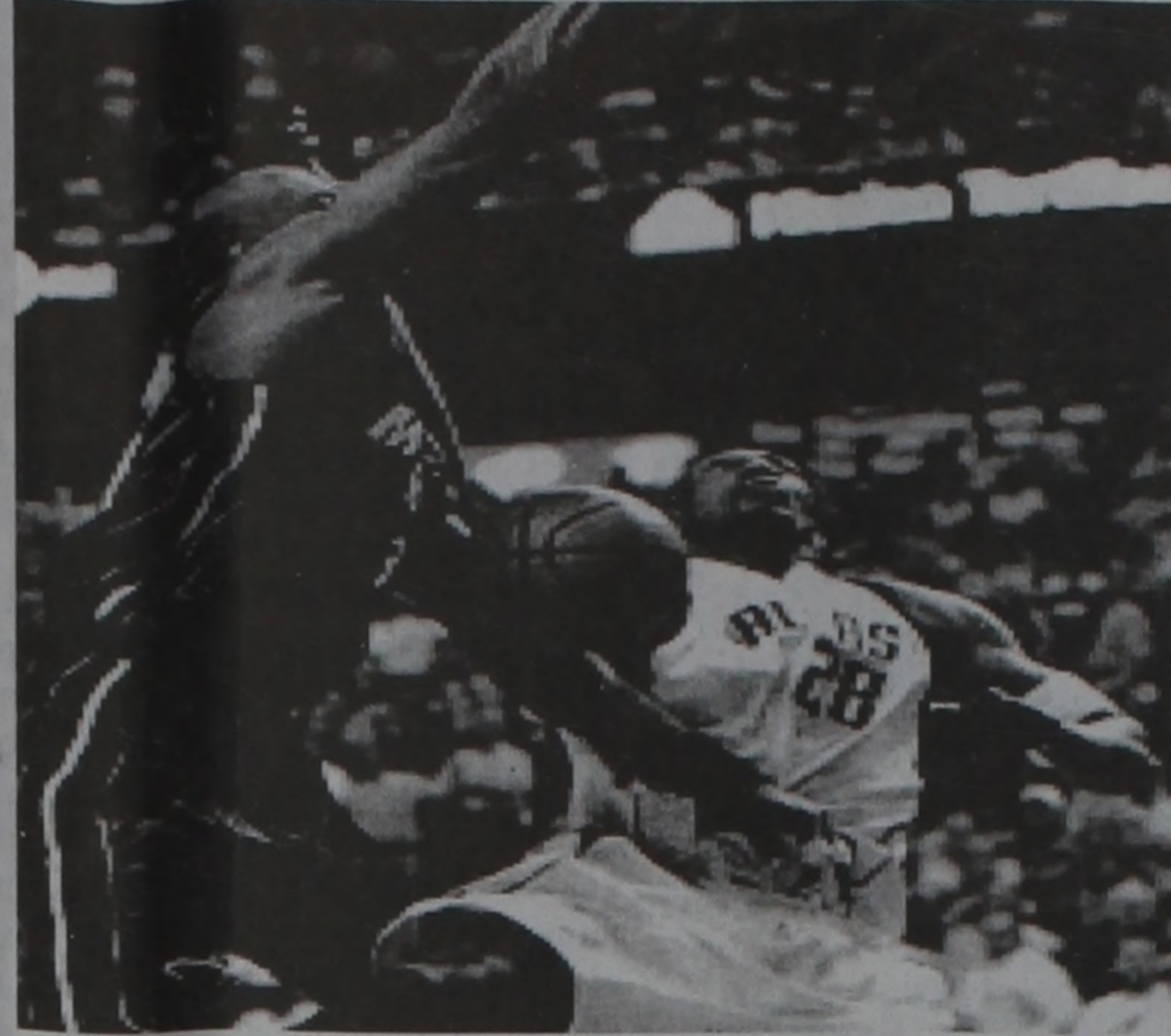
"We are not a team that ever comes out and complains," Wade said. "Everybody forgets that we lost Shaq (Shaquille O'Neal) for 18 games this season. We are a team that was built for the playoffs and that's what makes this so sweet."

Wade was named Most Valuable Player of the finals as he scored 36, 43, 36 and 42 points in the final four games of the series.

Miami center O'Neal, who had nine points and 12 rebounds, won his fourth NBA title and first since 2002 with the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I didn't have the type of finals I usually have, but D-Wade took over," O'Neal said. "He was very unselfish about the way he did it."

Heat coach Pat Riley earned his fifth ring. He coached the Los Angeles Lakers to four NBA titles in the 1980s.



Riley said he treasures this championship more than all the others combined.

"I would give all of them for this one," said Riley, who replaced Stan Van Gundy as Miami coach during the season. "Not to be disrespectful to the others, but when you keep chasing it you get tired."

"This one gives me a sense of freedom from ever having to chase it again."

Riley said he sensed late in the game that they would take the trophy.

"I felt a settling calm during the last minute and a half and felt we were going to win it," Riley said.

Miami joins the 1977 Portland Trail Blazers and 1969 Boston Celtics as the only NBA champions to rebound from two losses to start the final series.

Wade finished with 10 rebounds, five assists and four steals as Miami won their first game in Dallas after four consecutive losses in the regular season and post-season.

Dallas showed once again that they were a team in disarray as they dropped the last four games of the series, including three straight in Miami.

Their owner Mark Cuban was fined 250,000 dollars by the league earlier Tuesday. Coach Avery Johnson could also be facing a fine for comments directed at the league earlier in the series.

The Mavericks welcomed Jerry Stackhouse back into the lineup after his one-game suspension in game five for a hard foul on O'Neal in game four.

Stackhouse had 12 points while Dirk Nowitzki collected

29 points and 15 rebounds for the Mavericks.

Johnson, the NBA's coach of the year, said they were disappointed not to win the title but will take some positives from the experience and hope to be back next year.

"A great season would be actually winning it," Johnson said. "But this is a tremendous learning experience for our players and coaches."

"We came up short. We know they don't give awards for being second, but we provided a whole lot for the whole city of Dallas and our families and fans."

Wade made clutch free throws down the stretch and his 208 points in the series is the second most by a player in his first six games in the finals. Rick Barry had 245 points in the 1966 finals.

Wade finished 16-of-21 from the free throw line and shot 10-of-18 from the field after a slow start in front of a crowd of 20,522 at the Dallas arena.

He collected five assists including a crucial setup to James Posey late in the game. Posey nailed a three-point dagger that gave the Heat a 87-81 lead with 3:41 left in the game.

Wade scored the final four points of the game from the free throw line and had a chance to make it six straight but missed two free throws with 10 seconds on the clock.

Jason Terry tried to send the game into overtime but his three point shot at in the final seconds missed the mark.

If DeLaHoya fights again, Mayweather will be foe

Oscar De La Hoya thought the ocean air might clear his mind and help him decide what to do. So he got on his yacht and set off to one of his favorite islands off Puerto Rico to contemplate his future.

Five days later he returned, as conflicted as before.

He wasn't ready to retire just yet. But he wasn't ready to fight again, either.

Faced with a deadline to make up his mind, De La Hoya instead did the next best thing -- he moved the deadline back. He said Wednesday he won't fight this year, but he hinted strongly that he would fight one last fight next May against unbeaten Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"At this point I'm leaning toward not retiring," De La Hoya said. "I do want to fight. This is what I love."

De La Hoya had to make some sort of decision on his future plans because a proposed Sept. 16 date loomed for a fight against Mayweather that could be the richest non-heavyweight fight in history.

The money would be immense -- by some calculations \$40 million for De La Hoya alone -- but De La Hoya wasn't ready to commit to getting back into the ring so quickly for the one fight that he says will end his career.

"At this point in my career I do feel I have the right to call my own shots," De La Hoya said. "It was just too much for me, it was overwhelming. That's why I postponed my final decision."

Listening to De La Hoya during an hour-long conference call it seems clear that decision will

be to fight again. And, if it is, the fight will be a 154-pound matchup between De La Hoya and Mayweather next May 5 in Las Vegas.

Mayweather, who holds the 147-pound title and the unofficial title of the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, would move up in weight for a fight that would have even more intrigue because his estranged father, Floyd Sr., would likely be working De La Hoya's corner.

The senior Mayweather at first

said he wouldn't train De La Hoya against his own son, but said recently he probably would.

"That's obviously going to influence my decision also," De La Hoya said. "If it's not Floyd Sr. training me, I won't fight."

While De La Hoya said he hasn't made up his mind, he has made it up about two things: The only fight that interests him is against Mayweather, and the fight will be the last one of a career that began as a youngster on the streets of East Los Angeles.



Successful premiere of "Nacho Libre" in the U.S.

The film "Nacho Libre," starring Jack Black and Ana de la Reguera, set to open in Mexico next August, grossed more than 27 million dollars during its opening weekend in the US.

The film, directed by Jared Hess, tells the adventures of "Ignacio" (Black), the cook of an orphanage who, when night falls, turns into a masked wrestler who fights to earn money to buy food for the children.

During his adventure in the ring "Nacho" is faced with multiple challenges such as trying to impress "Sister Encarnación" (de la Reguera) who is in charge of the orphans.

The film has had excellent reviews by both the critics and the general audiences thanks to the actors' work and the funny story.

Jared Hess learned Spanish during his stay in Venezuela where he spent two years as Mormon missionary. Most of the cast was formed by Spanish speakers.

On the other hand, the shooting of "Nacho Libre" took place in several part of the Mexican state of Oaxaca

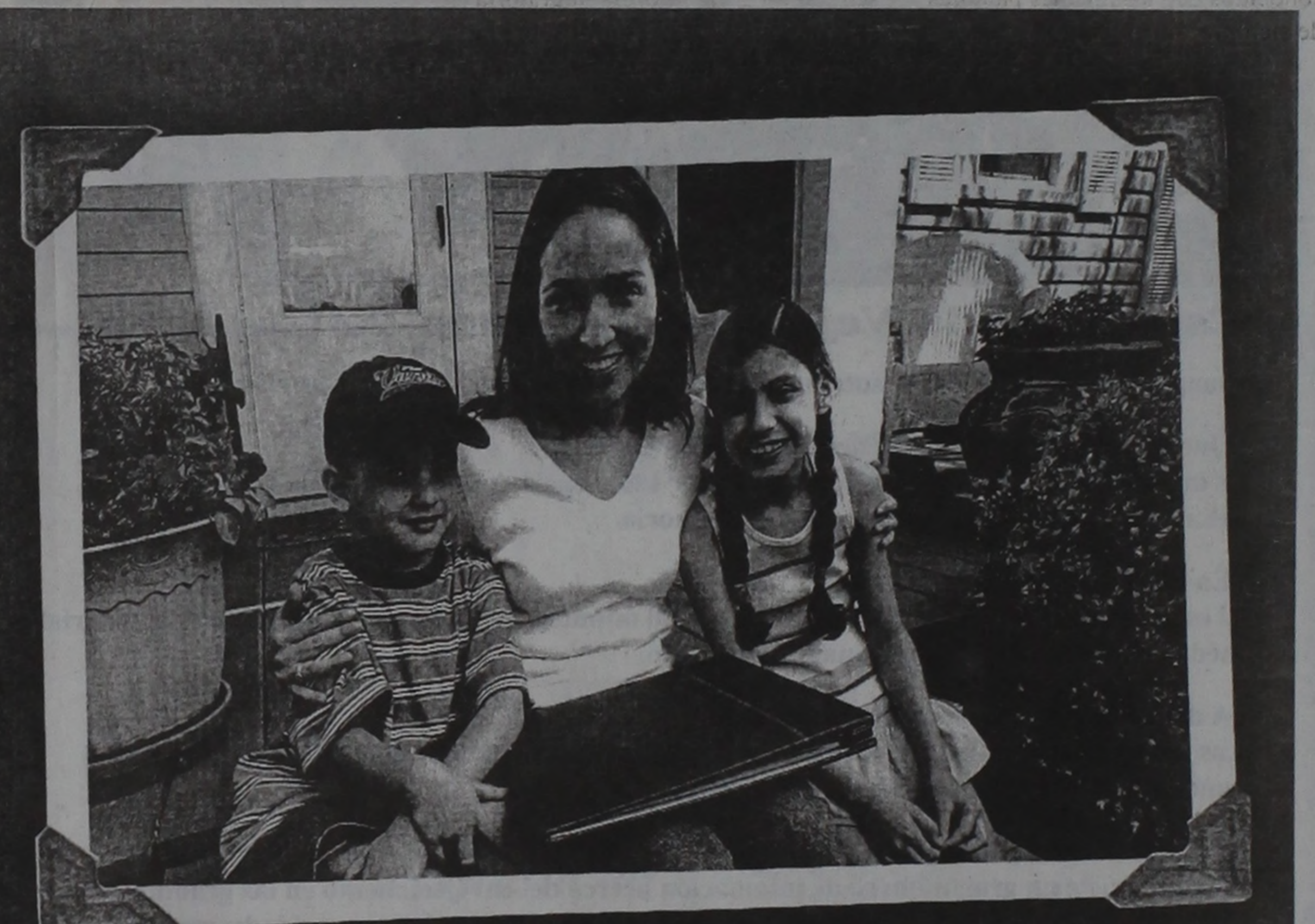
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Cerca de un Millon de Latinos van a Universidades de 2 Años



Christine Senteno

A pesar de que Debru Petrov, una estudiante de 33 años de la universidad comunitaria de East Los Angeles, consiguió una pasantilla de periodismo remunerada, trabajaba para la universidad a tiempo parcial y asistía a clases, pasaba tres semanas sin electricidad en su pequeño apartamento porque no llegaba a final de mes.

Uruguay, y al igual que muchos estudiantes latinos, Petrov está superando obstáculos para aprovecharse del puente que las universidades comunitarias brindan hacia la educación superior. Ella es una de casi el millón de hispanos matriculados en entidades de dos años.

Estas instituciones constituyen el mayor sector de educación superior y de más rápido crecimiento en EE.UU., matriculando en cursos acreditados a más de 6 millones de estudiantes por toda la nación, según la Asociación Estadounidense de Universidades Comunitarias (AACC por sus siglas en inglés), y también ofrecen a unos 5 millones de estudiantes cursos sin créditos académicos.

De todos los estudiantes latinos de pregrado, el 56 por ciento atiende estas universidades.

El doctor José Vicente es un graduado y ahora el presidente

de la universidad comunitaria Miami-Dade, recinto norte, uno de los ocho recintos que comprende el sistema de universidades comunitarias Miami-Dade, el cual otorga la mayor parte de los títulos de asociado (dos años de cursos universitarios) a los latinos en todo el país. El doctor Vicente dice: "Para los latinos, las universidades comunitarias de dos años son realmente el pasaporte a la educación superior, y creemos firmemente en nuestra política de puerta abierta".

El doctor observó que la admisión de libre acceso, la cercanía y una matrícula de bajo costo son la razón por la que 1.200 universidades de 2 años tienen éxito entre los latinos. A nivel nacional, la matrícula cuesta un promedio de \$2.076 al año en estas universidades, comparado con los \$30.000 o más a nivel de universidad de cuatro años estatal o privada, según el College Board, una organización no lucrativa conocida sobre todo por administrar los SATs (prueba académica nacional para postular a la universidad en el último año de estudios secundarios).

Petrov dice que su objetivo educacional no es sólo obtener un título de asociado. Según un estudio realizado el año pasado

por el Centro Nacional de Estadísticas sobre Educación (NCES por sus siglas en inglés), el 37% de los estudiantes latinos comparten como objetivo transferirse a una entidad de 4 años. Petrov tardó cinco años en obtener su título y sólo necesita otro curso de matemáticas antes de presentarse a la universidad.

Los puestos de periodismo requieren normalmente de título profesional de universidad de 4 años, pero para profesiones como enfermería, un título de dos años es suficiente para muchos puestos. NCES revela que el objetivo del 24% de los latinos es obtener título de asociados, de universidad de dos años. Desde 1988 al 2003, el número de latinos que obtuvieron este tipo de título aumentó de 17.800 a 66.175, según la AACC.

Gumecindo Salas, vicepresidente de la Asociación Hispana de Universidades, señala los numerosos servicios de asistencia que las universidades comuni-

tarias ofrecen como una atracción para los estudiantes latinos, y explica que el profesorado de estas entidades consigue centrar su atención en las necesidades de los estudiantes, mientras que el profesorado a nivel de universidad pasa gran parte del tiempo realizando investigaciones y publicando sus estudios.

El Sr. Salas dice que la atención especial del profesorado proporciona un ambiente de apoyo a los estudiantes latinos que quizás lleguen con otro sinnúmero de problemas, como aprender inglés, mantener a la familia o provenir de un ambiente socioeconómico bajo. Para jóvenes procedentes de barrios plagados de pandillas o para padres solteros que estudian y trabajan, el apoyo es más importante aun.

Antonio Pérez, presidente de la universidad comunitaria del Borough of Manhattan en Nueva York, que tiene una población de estudiantes latinos del 28%, dice que muchos estudiantes inmi-

grantes tienen contacto por primera vez con su universidad cuando atienden cursos sin créditos académicos para aprender inglés.

Continúan para atender cursos correctivos, acumulando créditos y tomando el camino que les llevará a la educación superior. El Sr. Pérez dice que los inmigrantes se sienten atraídos hacia las universidades comunitarias por lo que ofrecen una variedad de clases de inglés para extranjeros (ESL por sus siglas en inglés).

Vicente, el presidente de la universidad comunitaria de Miami-Dade, señala que los jefes de empresas se están dando cuenta de lo importante que son las entidades de dos años. Los diplomas de educación secundaria no ofrecen muchas oportunidades de ganar un salario competitivo o estabilidad profesional.

Las universidades comunitarias proporcionan valiosos recursos a los trabajadores que han sido víctimas de una reducción de

personal y del cambio de demanda en el mercado laboral, y también facilitan el trabajo de clase a los trabajadores que están intentando adaptarse a las nuevas tendencias en sus especialidades.

Vicente comenta que su universidad cambió la fecha y el horario de las clases que ofrece para satisfacer las necesidades de los trabajadores y que muchos de sus estudiantes consiguieron encontrar trabajo, sobre todo en enfermería y educación. Dice que muchos de los hospitales en Miami pagan la matrícula a los estudiantes de enfermería si están de acuerdo en trabajar con ellos por unos años después de obtener sus títulos.

Petrov sigue el camino hacia la educación superior; ahora tiene dos trabajos para cubrir gastos de mantenimiento, y mientras su educación y su carrera están en espera, dice que está segura de algo: la universidad comunitaria de East Los Angeles estará ahí cuando ella esté lista para volver.

Hispanic Fellowship Discusses 'Da Vinci,' Islam

By David Raul Lema Jr.

PLEASANT GARDEN, N.C. (BP) - A seminar on "The Da Vinci Code" drew dozens during a training session of the 19th annual meeting of the National Fellowship of Hispanic Southern Baptist Churches June 11 at Pleasant Garden (N.C.) Baptist Church.

In keeping with the fellowship's theme, "Facing the Challenges of the 21st Century," Julio Fuentes, pastor of Iglesia Nueva Vide in Hialeah, Fla., led a seminar explaining what the book and movie are about and then issuing a challenge for believers to be aware of historical errors and theological mistakes in both.

"The book and movie are pure nonsense," Fuentes, also the Fellowship's former executive-director, told the more than 70 people attending the seminar.

In a seminar about Islam, Jason Carlisle, International Mission Board Hispanic mobilization coordinator for North America, co-taught a class with a worker from the North African region whose name is withheld for security reasons. Work in the region is chal-

lenging, the worker said, and yet he has seen many Muslims come to Christ.

"It is a myth of the devil that it takes years to see a Muslim come to Christ," the worker said. "While it is difficult for a Muslim to make

a decision for Christ, it is not impossible."

Other seminars dealt with discipleship, contemporary womanhood, the prosperity Gospel, pastoral ministry and evangelism.

Minimum Wage

(from Page One)

Senators, Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn voted no. All of the opposition to the bill came from Republican Senators.

Democrats have long been known as being allies to low income earners, with the ranking Democrat on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Senator Edward Kennedy, D-Ma., saying that, "This is an issue about the dignity of workers in this country that do hard and difficult work, that are teacher's aides, work in our nursing homes, clean out the great buildings of American commerce".

Kennedy also questioned the Republican side of the aisle about their commitment to family values, telling Republican Senators not to talk to him about family values.

Republicans countered by saying that if minimum wage limits kept people in poverty then those people needed to upgrade their skills so they could get higher paying jobs.

But in most cases, this is a catch 22 situation for the American citizens living in the 29 states in which the minimum wage is still

higher than the state wage; Texas included. With dramatic cuts to federally funded educational programs a person would be hard pressed to attend some kind of educational institution to upgrade their skills while trying to support their families on minimum wage earnings. Hardly a reasonable solution which is surely to confirm most low to middle income workers belief that the majority in Congress is just plain out of touch with the realities of American life.

The minimum wage is currently earned by 5.8% of the workforce; with the majority of those workers being either Hispanic or black or some other ethnic group.

For now, those earning a minimum wage and trying to feed and clothe their families will have to rely on social programs for health care or second part-time jobs just to survive.

At least until Democrats control Congress again; with Senator Ted Kennedy saying that "One of the first acts of legislation, [if Democrats regain control of Congress] will be a freestanding minimum-wage bill."

To Comment on this story: Email: acruzts@aol.com



Estudio de la Vejez del Condado de Cochran

Comparta su historia con nosotros y deje un legado en el Condado de Cochran.

¿Qué es el Estudio de la Vejez del Condado de Cochran?

Es un estudio de investigación conducido por La Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad de Texas Tech sobre el envejecimiento y la memoria.

¿En qué consiste?

El estudio consiste en una entrevista de 45 a 60 minutos. Se harán preguntas sobre su historial médico, la memoria y el funcionamiento diario.

¿A dónde tendría que ir para participar?

Las entrevistas serán llevadas a cabo en los centros para adultos mayores, en el hospital del condado o hasta en la comodidad de su hogar.

¿Por qué debería participar?

Aunque existe un gran número de información acerca del envejecimiento en las grandes ciudades, se sabe muy poco sobre el proceso del envejecimiento en las comunidades rurales, tal como en el Condado de Cochran. El Estudio del Condado de Cochran ha sido diseñado para proveer esta información a la sociedad entera para así poder ayudar al cuerpo médico que trabaja en áreas rurales de los Estados Unidos.

¡Sea parte de una buena causa!

Para más información favor de contactarse con Vicki Ramírez
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What is involved? The study involves a 45-60 minute interview. Questions will be asked about your medical history, memory, and daily functioning.

Where do I go to become involved? Interviews will be conducted at local senior citizen centers, Cochran County Hospital, or even in your home.

Why Should I Participate? While a lot of information is available regarding aging in large cities, little is known about the aging process in rural communities such as Cochran County. The Cochran County Study is designed to provide this information to society as a whole in order to help medical professionals working in rural areas in the United States.

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United Supermarkets to Purchase Two Brookshire's Stores, Reopen them Under Hispanic Banner

LUBBOCK, Texas -- Regional independently owned chain United Supermarkets, Ltd., here is growing its Hispanic banner one store at a time, thanks to its recent purchase of two stores that formerly belonged to Tyler, Texas-based Brookshire Grocery Co. United Supermarkets signed an agreement late last week to purchase the two stores in Wichita Falls, Texas, with plans to reopen them on June 23 under the Super Mercado banner.

The stores, located at 3801 Jacksboro Highway and 3164 Fifth Street, will be the second and third of United's Hispanic banner, which is still a work in progress, spokesman Eddie Owens told Progressive Grocer. "These stores will provide us an opportunity to refine our Hispanic format -- to test the concept and see what works," he noted. "We are especially interested in offering more prepared foods that our Hispanic guests will be attracted to. We've already developed some new recipes."

Converting the stores to the Super Mercado banner will take several months, the company said. Guests to the stores will eventually be treated to fresh-made tortillas, tropical fruit frescas, produce from around the world, and a full-service carceria, featuring fresh fajitas, carnitas, and chorizos, among other specialty items.

The company's long-term goal



is to develop more United Super Mercado stores, since it sees Texas' growing Hispanic population as a "very important market going forward," said Owens. United's c.e.o., Dan Sanders, echoed that sentiment in a statement. "Our company is entering a new growth phase. The purchase and rebranding of these two stores under the Super Mercado banner will allow us to better serve the Wichita Falls area while refining our offerings to the rapidly growing Hispanic market," he noted.

Wichita Falls, a city in northern Texas with a population of just over 100,000, is somewhat lighter in terms of Hispanic population than other Texas cities, according to Owens. But the company saw an opportunity to expand the Hispanic banner in the area, since its other banners - the conventional United Supermarkets and the upscale Market

Street -- are already nearby.

The North Texas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will be involved in the development of the new Hispanic stores, which will be a great advantage, said Owens.

"We look forward to working with United to maximize the potential of these two stores on behalf of our citizenry," said Joe Nieto, president and c.e.o. of the chamber, in a statement. Nieto added that he is already working with United officials to form community advisory boards for the two stores.

The company's only existing Super Mercado store opened in June 2000 in Plainview.

In other United Supermarkets news, the company is planning a multi-million dollar investment in the Lake Country area in Graham, Texas, with a hybrid store that implements characteristics from United's conventional ban-

ner and its Market Street banner, according to Owens. The store will retain the United Supermarkets banner.

The project, which is in the early phases of development, will emphasize fresh foods and unique specialty grocery offerings. Plans include a new deli/prepared foods area complete with in-store dining, an upscale in-store bakery, an expanded presence in fresh produce featuring organic vegetables, and a full-service meat department with expanded seafood offerings.

Brainstorming for the concept has been underway for several months, and employed both formal research and informal discussions between United management and members of the company's Community Advisory Board in Graham.

United will temporarily consolidate its operations into the Highway 16 location beginning June 25. The Fourth Street location will close June 24.

"Our vision for the future of our operations in Graham is to operate one larger store, putting our 'best foot forward' and offering our guests a wider variety of unique and targeted solutions to improve the quality of life enjoyed by residents of the Lake Country area," said Sanders.

United hopes to begin construction in February 2007, with completion of the project in summer 2007.

US forced to reinstall relationship with Mexico's government

The United States will have to "actively" restore their relationship with Mexico to the levels prior to the 9/11 attacks. This takes place as Mexico is about to elect a new president, a private report stated.

The report, written by the private organization Foreign Affairs Council, estimated that Washington should also be willing to change their approach within the commercial area if a significant and effective cooperation with the immigration issue is sought.

The document underlined that this new relationship must mean a new beginning, leaving misunderstandings and mistaken attitudes in the past.

"The United States will have to take the first step to change the mood of the relationship, regarding the new Mexican president as a valuable partner in political terms," it affirmed.

"Mexico should do the same and be realistic on several issues like immigration and reforming their pending domestic and security agendas," the author of the report, Pamela K. Starr, affirmed.

The report, entitled "Challenges of a Post-election

Mexico: US Political Issues", stated a new Mexican government offers a fresh start and a chance to bury recent hurtful feelings.

Particularly, the paper highlighted the importance that Mexico remain a politically and economically stable state.

As for the immigration issue, the report affirmed that "the United States is obliged to stop postponing the possibility of negotiating a bilateral immigration agreement with Mexico."

In this sense, it also stated that if the United States is really interested in reducing the immigration flow generated across the Rio Grande, "it should help Mexico create the 500,000 new jobs they need every year to employ potential immigrants."

In terms of competitiveness, the report affirmed the United States will have to adopt a patient stance while Mexico implements a reform agendas within the fiscal, energy, and labor sectors.

It also mentioned the lack of capital investment within the energy sector, lack of competitiveness, inadequate job creation, corruption, and a rise in crime levels.

El Senado debate hoy sobre retiro de tropas de Irak

Hoy culminará un enconado debate sobre la política de Estados Unidos en Irak cuando el Senado discuta dos planes que contemplan el retiro de las tropas norteamericanas del país árabe.

"Para nosotros, ya es hora de hablar sobre el regreso de las tropas estadounidenses, y que sean los iraquíes quienes se encarguen de su propio futuro", dijo Richard J. Durbin, demócrata por Illinois, y el segundo en importancia del Senado.

sobre las dos proposiciones antes de que termine la semana.

La Cámara votó 256-153 a favor de una resolución que vincula la guerra de Irak con la guerra global contra el terrorismo, y dijo que EEUU debe triunfar en ambas contiendas. De igual modo, la resolución declaró que no era del interés de la seguridad nacional fijar "de manera arbitraria una fecha para el retiro o el traslado de las tropas norteamericanas".

Los debates de la Cámara y el Senado sobre la política sobre Irak han sido la discusión más positiva que han tenido los legisladores acerca del curso del conflicto desde que la guerra comenzó en el 2003. Ayer, los líderes republicanos del Senado dijeron que los dos planes demócratas eran el equivalente a "rendirse" en Irak y en la guerra contra el terrorismo.

"Es muy sencillo: dejarle Irak a los terroristas no es una opción. Y rendirse tampoco es una solución", dijo Bill Frist, líder de la mayoría y republicano

por Tennessee. "Mientras sigamos la guerra contra el terrorismo, no podemos retirarnos, no podemos rendirnos. No podemos actuar de forma indecisa. El precio es demasiado alto".

Levin argumentó que su proposición "es muy clara, no es una estrategia de última hora". Levin señaló que no insiste en un plazo límite firme para retirar las tropas, así como tampoco pide que el traslado se inicie de inmediato. Y dijo que la alternativa "para seguir el curso" tampoco es una buena solución.

"Entre los demócratas hay un fuerte apoyo para que este año empiece el traslado de las fuerzas", dijo Levin. "Obviamente existe un fuerte sentimiento republicano de que todo debe seguir por el mismo camino".

El debate ha revelado las grandes divisiones que hay entre los demócratas, tal como indican la falta de consenso de los demócratas del Senado para ponerse de acuerdo en un plan para el retiro de las tropas.

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Nearly a Million Latinos served by Two Year Colleges

By Christine Senteno

Even though Debru Petrov, a 33-year-old student at East Los Angeles College, landed a paid journalism internship, worked part-time for the college, and attended classes, she still spent three weeks with no electricity in her studio apartment because she was not making ends meet.

Like many Latino students, Uruguayan Petrov is overcoming challenges to take advantage of the bridge that community colleges provide to higher education. She's one of nearly a million Hispanics enrolled each year in two-year institutions.

These institutions are the largest and fastest-growing sector of U.S. higher education, enrolling more than six million students for credit across the nation, according to the American Association of Community Colleges. They also offer courses to some five million non-credit students.

Of all Latino undergraduates, 56 percent attend these schools. Dr. José Vicente is a graduate and now president of Miami-Dade College, North Campus, one of the eight campuses under the Miami-Dade College umbrella which awards the most associate degrees to Latinos nationally. He says, "For Latinos, community colleges are truly the passport to higher education. We are committed to our open-door policy."

Open-access admission, proximity to home and affordable tuition all play roles in Latinos' success at the 1,200 community colleges, he observed. Nationwide, tuition averages \$2,076 annually at community colleges,



compared to \$30,000 or more at the private university level, according to The College Board, a non-profit best known for administering the SATs.

Petrov says her educational objective is not just to earn an associate's degree. According to a National Center for Education Statistics survey taken last year, 37 percent of Latino students share her goal of transferring to a four-year institution. It took Petrov five years to earn her associate degree and she needs only one more math course before she can apply to a university.

Journalism jobs usually require a bachelor's degree but for professions such as nursing, an associate's degree fulfills requirements for many jobs. NCEES reveals for 24 percent of Latinos the goal is to attain an associate's degree. From 1988 to 2003, the number of Latinos earning associate's degrees advanced from 17,800 to 66,175, according to the AACCC.

Gumecindo Salas, vice president of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, points to the many support services community colleges offer as an attraction for Latino students. He explains that community college faculty are able to focus on students' needs while faculty at the university level spend much of their time doing research and getting published.

He says the extra focus from faculty provides a supportive environment for Latino students who may come with a myriad of other issues such as learning English, supporting families, or having a low socioeconomic background. For young men coming from neighborhoods plagued with gangs or single parents attending school and working, support becomes even more important.

Antonio Pérez, president of the Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York, which has a Latino student population of 28 percent, says

many immigrant students make their first contact with his college when they take non-credit courses to learn English.

They move on to take remedial courses, earning credits and entering a pathway to higher education. Pérez says immigrants are attracted to community colleges because they offer a variety of English-as-a-second-language classes.

Miami-Dade College president Vicente notes that business leaders are realizing the importance of two-year institutions. High school diplomas offer little to get a competitive wage or gain career stability.

Community colleges provide valuable resources for workers who have fallen victim to a downsizing and the changing demands of the labor market. They also provide easy access to coursework for employees trying to keep up with new trends in their field.

Vicente mentions how his college realigned class offerings to meet the needs of the workforce and many of its students were able to find employment, particularly in nursing and teaching. He says many of the hospitals in Miami will pay tuition for nursing students if they agree to work with them for a few years after they earn their degree.

Petrov continues on her path to higher education. She is now working two jobs to cover her living expenses. While her education and career are on hold, she said she is certain of one thing - East Los Angeles College will be there when she is ready to come back.

EU activa defensa antimisiles ante amenaza norcoreana

Estados Unidos activó su sistema de defensa antimisiles ante versiones de que Corea del Norte se apresta a lanzar un misil de prueba capaz de alcanzar territorio americano, informó el martes la agencia de noticias japonesa Kyodo.

Estados Unidos está considerando interceptar el misil si Corea del Norte lo dispara, dijo Kyodo citando como fuente al diario The Washington Times.

Corea del Norte declaró el martes que no está obligada por su moratoria unilateral en materia de pruebas de misiles de largo alcance, señaló la agencia noticiosa japonesa Kyodo. Eso hizo que Japón y Corea del Sur prometieran cooperar para frenar los aparentes planes de Pyongyang de lanzar el misil.

Funcionarios estadounidenses han dicho que el misil Taepodong-2, de 35 metros de largo, tiene un alcance de 15 mil kilómetros y podría llegar a la costa occidental de Estados Unidos.

El acuerdo entre Tokio y Seúl se concretó luego de una conversación telefónica de 25 minutos en las últimas horas del martes entre el ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Japón, Taro Aso, y su homólogo de Corea del Sur, Ban Ki-moon, informó la cancillería nipona en un comunicado.

Aso dijo a Ban que una prueba con misiles sería una amenaza a la seguridad regional, en tanto Ban respondió que era necesario cooperar para que Pyongyang cancele el lanzamiento, según el comunicado.

Las potenciales acciones de Corea del Norte sobre el lanzamiento del misil también provocaron advertencias de otros países, aparte de Estados Unidos.

Australia dijo el martes que reduciría sus vínculos diplomáticos con Pyongyang si concreta la prueba con el misil.

En París, el primer ministro Dominique de Villepin dijo que

cualquier prueba con misiles que realice Corea del Norte debe causar "una firme y justa respuesta" a nivel internacional. El secretario general de las Naciones Unidas, Kofi Annan, pidió a los líderes norcoreanos que actúen con cautela.

"Espero que los líderes de Corea del Norte prestarán atención a lo que el mundo les está diciendo. Todos estamos preocupados", dijo Annan en París, donde se encontraba para asistir a la inauguración de un museo.

Horas antes, Corea del Norte declaró que no estaba obligada a acatar una moratoria de pruebas misilísticas anunciada en el 2002.

"Nuestras acciones no dependen de la Declaración de Pyongyang ni de ninguna otra declaración", dijo Li Byong Dok, un funcionario del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Corea del Norte a reporteros, según la agencia japonesa Kyodo.

Corea del Norte y Japón declararon en el 2002 una moratoria de pruebas misilísticas.

"Este asunto tiene relación con nuestra autonomía. Nadie tiene el derecho de afectar ese derecho", dijo Li a periodistas japoneses en Corea del Norte, según Kyodo.

La agencia también dijo que, de acuerdo a Li, las acciones de Corea del Norte no están reglamentadas por la declaración conjunta hecha en las negociaciones internacionales de desarme del año pasado, o en una previa moratoria sobre misiles acordada entre Tokio y Pyongyang en el 2002.

Un acuerdo concretado en septiembre entre ambas Coreas, China, Japón, Rusia y Estados Unidos, no alude específicamente a las pruebas de misiles por parte de Corea del Norte.

La emisora japonesa NHK dijo en horas previas del martes que imágenes vía satélite muestran que Pyongyang sigue cargando un misil con combustible en preparación para un posible lanzamiento.

American State Bank Expande Sus Esfuerzos Educativos a la Comunidad Hispana

LUBBOCK, TX - (30 de Mayo del 2006) - American State Bank (ASB) es una institución financiera que a disfrutado de una larga historia y liderazgo en Lubbock, TX. En reconocimiento de las contribuciones y el gran crecimiento de la población Hispana en el Oeste de Texas, ASB esta expandiendo sus esfuerzos para efectivamente poder servir la comunidad Hispana. "Nosotros queremos que nuestros clientes sepan que haremos por ellos mas que solo abrir cuentas y aprobar prestamos. Nos

dedicamos a ayudar aquellas personas que nos visitan por primera vez porque queremos que sepan todos los beneficios asociados con el uso de nuestros productos bancarios. Hemos desarrollado una serie de consejos bancarios por televisión que ayudaran a entender los beneficios de tener una cuenta de cheques o de ahorros, como tener un buen crédito y como hacer preguntas bancarias," dijo Victor Salazar, Vicepresidente de Comercialización Multicultural.

Salazar dijo que ASB tiene ban-

queros con experiencia la cual están entrenados en ayudar a todos sus clientes sin importar que idioma prefieren - Español o Inglés. "Nuestro servicio es excepcional porque hacemos todo lo posible para educar a nuestros clientes, así ellos podrán aprovechar todos los productos y servicios que nosotros ofrecemos," dijo Salazar, la cual explica que ASB se enfoca en apoyar y celebrar la cultura Hispana.

"En ASB, nosotros sabemos el significado de la cultura Hispana. Estamos dando más atención personal para poder ayudar todos nuestros clientes," dijo Salazar. "Nosotros tenemos el personal que nos va ayudar a realizar los sueños de la comunidad Hispana."

Para aumentar la visibilidad de todos los productos bancarios, ASB a creado una serie de comerciales por televisión, radio, periódico, vallas publicitarias y otros materiales diseñados para educar la comunidad Hispana sobre los productos y servicios bancarios.

El Editor

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