

El Editor

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

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Overall Hispanic Unemployment Swells; Women Gain Jobs

By Kyle Fellenz
The Hispanic unemployment rate jumped from 5.4 percent in April to 5.8 percent in May, according to data released Friday by the U.S. Department of Labor. This increase equated to 76,000 more Hispanics unemployed for the month.

Overall, unemployment across the U.S. remained at 4.5 percent through May. The gap between the national unemployment rate and that of Hispanics now stands at 1.3 percentage points.

Some 95,000 fewer Hispanics were employed in May than had been in April, while the number of Hispanics not in the labor force increased by 111,000. This last figure reflects that the total working population — people of working age, even if they're not entering the workforce — increased by 91,000 for the month, while the labor force — representing those actually entering the job market — declined by 20,000.



Hispanic employment has risen by 644,000 since May 2006. However, at 5.8 percent, the current unemployment rate for Hispanics is quite a bit higher than the 5.0 percent posted at this time last year.

unemployment increase of 22,000.

Hispanic women actually saw their unemployment rate fall from 5.1 percent in April to 4.8 in May. Some 40,000 women became employed while 16,000 entered the labor force, decreasing the total number of unemployed by 24,000.

The unemployment rate for Hispanic teenagers (age 16 to 19) rose to 19.7 percent in May from 17.1 percent in April. Hispanic teens lost a total of 32,000 jobs last month. This number reflects a decrease in the labor force of 6,000, coupled with an unemployment increase of 26,000 (the discrepancies are due to rounding).

Teenagers typically have the highest unemployment rates since they have fewer job skills and less experience. Therefore, they may have difficulty being hired. Teenagers also tend to be less attached to the labor market, often entering and exiting as their school enrollment status and geographic location change. For example, the labor force participation rate of Hispanic teens in March and April was only 36 percent.

Looking at May's seasonally unadjusted data for Hispanic subgroups, the unemployment rate for Hispanic men 20 and older increased to 4.3 percent from 4.2 in April. Hispanic men lost 8,000 jobs net as a result of which represent a labor force increase of 14,000 and an

Avances y tropiezos en debate migratorio

Republicanos y demócratas se acusan de boicotear el plan

Maribel Hastings
Washington, D.C. — El proyecto de reforma migratoria que debate el Senado superó ayer otro intento de minar el plan de legalización adquirida para los indocumentados. Pero al cierre de esta edición, demócratas y republicanos se acusan mutuamente de tratar de descamilar la medida luego de que el líder de la mayoría demócrata, Harry Reid, anunció que invocaría un voto parlamentario para cerrar el debate con miras a agilizar el voto final sobre la medida.

Los republicanos lo acusaron de impedir la presentación de enmiendas y Reid dijo que los republicanos sólo quieren entorpecer el avance de la medida alargando el debate. El voto parlamentario de cierre sería mañana jueves y requiere 60 votos. Pero Reid advirtió que si estos no se reúnen dejaría de lado el tema migratorio para proceder con otros asuntos.

"¿Cuándo suficiente es suficiente?", cuestionó Reid al argumentar que muchos de los republicanos que se quejan no tienen intención alguna de apoyar el proyecto ni importa los cambios que se le hagan. Agregó que nadie —él incluido— está del todo satisfecho con el proyecto, pero que es necesario completarlo para que el proceso continúe en la Cámara Baja y eventualmente se concilie por negociadores de ambos organismos.

"Queremos ser razonables", agregó Reid, pero dijo que el debate no puede proseguir por una o dos semanas adicionales.

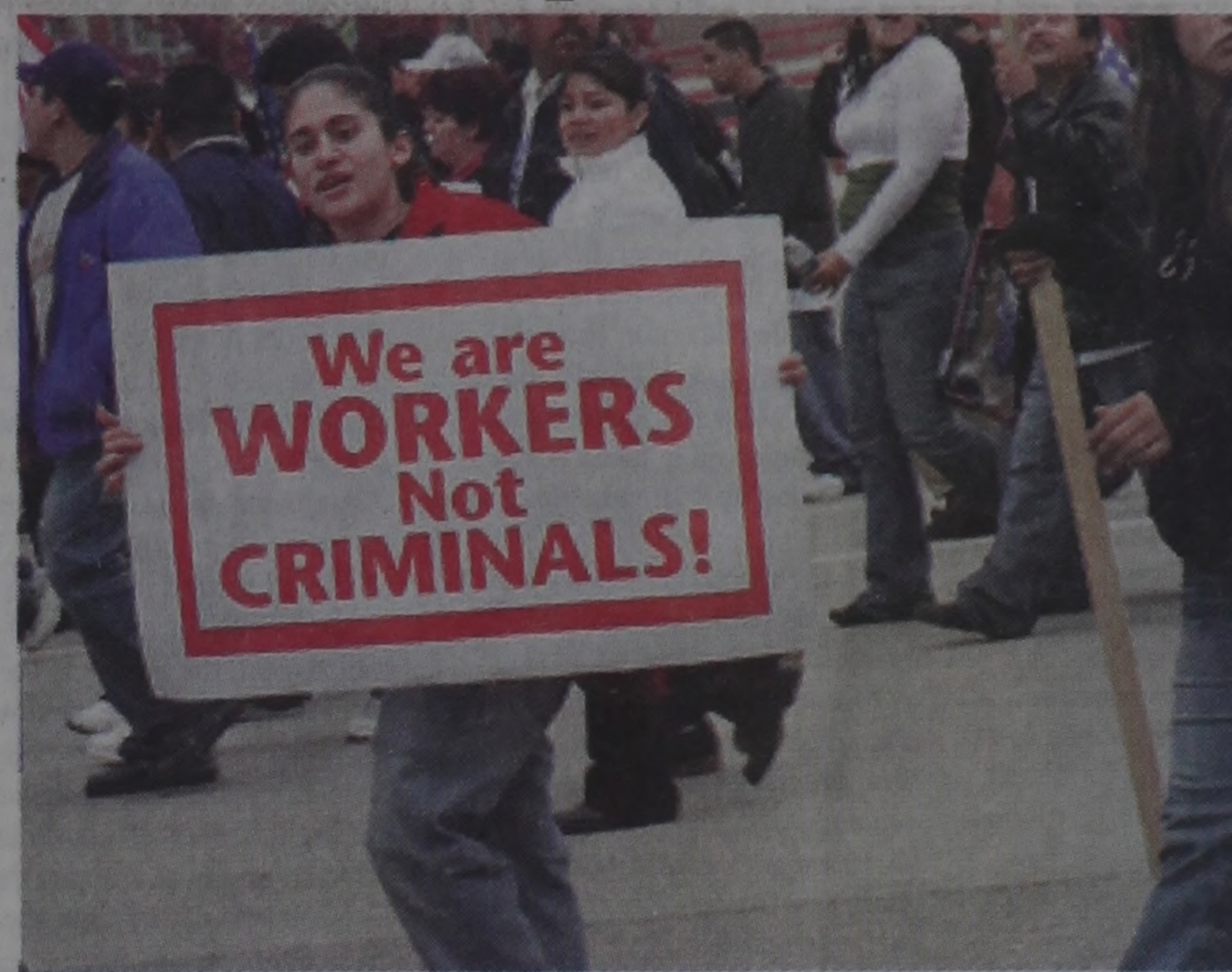
Al cierre se decidía cómo proceder con los votos de las enmiendas pendientes y cuáles otras procederían. Senadores de ambos partidos entienden que se trata de tácticas de presión para garantizar que se limite la cifra de enmiendas antes de proceder con el voto final.

En votación 62 sobre 31 el Senado derrotó la enmienda del senador republicano de Colorado, Wayne Allard, que le habría dificultado la obtención de tarjetas verdes a los indocumentados que obtuvieran la llamada Visa Z. Bajo el proyecto, al cabo de ocho años con una Visa Z la persona puede iniciar la ruta a la residencia pero bajo el sistema de puntos que regiría la inmigración legal.

La enmienda de Allard eliminaba puntos que esos indocumentados podrían acumular por haber trabajado o por ser propietarios de un hogar, entre otras cosas.

El Senado aprobó en votación 71-22 otra enmienda de los senadores Dick Durbin y Charles Grassley, demócrata de Illinois y republicano de Iowa, respectivamente, para garantizar que los patronos recluten trabajadores estadounidenses antes de ofrecer el empleo a un extranjero bajo el programa de trabajadores huéspedes.

Y retiró una enmienda del líder republicano Mitch McConnell para que los votantes presentaran una tarjeta de identificación con foto emitida por el gobierno. La medida requería de 60 votos y obtuvo 52. Grupos defensores de los derechos civiles consideran que los



requisitos de fotos para votar en comicios afectan desproporcionalmente a las minorías reduciendo su participación en el proceso político.

El plan de legalización enfrenta otro escollo hoy miércoles con la enmienda del senador republicano de Texas, John Cornyn, que tiene el potencial de denegar la vía de legalización a cientos de miles y según algunos a millones de indocumentados. La misma amplía la lista de delitos que impedirían que la persona se beneficie del futuro plan de legalización incluyendo a quienes violaron órdenes de deportación o permanecieron más allá del tiempo autorizado por sus visados. También impediría la eventual legalización de quienes hayan usado números de Seguro Social u otros documentos falsos para trabajar.

Al centro de la tormenta están además las tres enmiendas enfocadas en la reunificación familiar y que el principal negociador republicano del acuerdo bajo debate, el senador Jon Kyl, de Arizona, asegura que pueden "matar" el proyecto de ley.

El senador Edward Kennedy indicó ayer que comprende y respeta las preocupaciones porque se trata de un tema muy "emotivo" pero "me mantengo con el acuerdo (que se debate)". Demócratas como Kennedy se encuentran entre la espada y la pared porque para lograr la eventual legalización de millones de indocumentados han debido hacer concesiones en otros rubros. Insisten, empero, en que el tiempo apremia y la medida puede enmendarse en otras etapas del proceso legislativo, si sobrevive en el Senado.

De otra parte, republicanos como Kyl también sienten la presión de diversos grupos de interés, particularmente de organizaciones religiosas que piden que se mantenga intacto el concepto de reunificación familiar que ha regido el sistema migratorio de EU.

El senador demócrata de Nueva Jersey, Rob-

ert Menéndez, encabeza los esfuerzos sobre reunificación familiar junto a otros demócratas como Hillary Clinton, de Nueva York, Chris Dodd, de Connecticut, y el senador republicano de Nebraska, Chuck Hagel. Por ejemplo, la enmienda Menéndez-Hagel dice que todos los residentes legales deben beneficiarse de la proyectada reducción del rezago de solicitudes de familiares. El proyecto dice que se beneficiarían únicamente las personas que sometieron sus peticiones antes del 1 de mayo de 2005 dejando fuera a unas 833 mil personas que entonces deberían competir bajo el sistema de puntos y no únicamente por tener lazos familiares en EU. La idea es cambiar la fecha límite al 1 de enero de 2007.

La enmienda Clinton-Menéndez-Hagel quiere que se provea a los residentes permanentes el mismo trato que reciben los ciudadanos para garantizar la reunificación inmediata con sus cónyuges e hijos menores de edad. Hay un rezago de años porque existe un tope de 87,500 visas anuales destinadas a esos cónyuges o hijos menores de edad. El proyecto que debate el Senado deja el tope en 87 mil visas. La enmienda elimina ese límite. Y la enmienda Dodd pide que el tope de visas disponibles para los padres de ciudadanos estadounidenses se eleve a 90 mil. El proyecto las limita a 40 mil anualmente.

Léa El Editor Primero El Editor First in Local Hispanic News

Councilwoman Linda DeLeon On Recall Effort

By Abel Cruz and Bidal Aguero

The wounds from the grueling political battle she has just gone through are still fresh; both in her mind and evident in her demeanor. It would be impossible not to notice the toll that the recall effort which was started against her has taken on the woman who has been the target of verbal accusations and in her view, misconceptions about what she stands for.

Has she taken it personal? Yes. Has it been hurtful? Yes again; especially to someone who feels that she has dedicated and devoted the best years of her life to representing those who have no voice in city institutions; 18 years on the LISD school board and 3 years on the Lubbock City Council.

But her dedication has not come without a price; personally, profession-



City Secretary to Conduct Petition Recount

Apparently the effort to recall Lubbock City Councilwoman Linda DeLeon from office is not over.

City secretary Becky Garza says that she will conduct a recount of the signatures turned in by organizers after they presented her with an affidavit challenging her final decision. Although Garza had already ruled that the organizers had come up short, she has agreed to a recount since the results were close to the number of signatures petitioners were required to obtain to force a recall election.

Initially Garza had discounted 200 of the original 672 signatures turned in because they either did not live in District 1 or were not registered to vote. Organizers needed 494 signatures and Garza validated 472; 22 short of the needed amount. Garza plans to complete the recount by Monday of next week.

On its web site, local television station KLBK was reporting that organizers had re-submitted 43 signatures which should have been counted as valid and that recall supporters hope that it sends a clear message that things in District 1 need to change.

On the other side of the controversial issue, Councilwoman Linda DeLeon maintains her assertion that some people who were approached to sign the petition were misled as to the purpose of the petition. In a statement to El Editor concerning the recount, Councilwoman DeLeon emphasized her confidence in the system and in City Secretary Becky Garza, saying that "Becky is our elections officer and I have no doubt about her professionalism in conducting the count".

Since Garza first issued her results report, DeLeon has steadfastly maintained that in a lot of cases, people were told that it was a survey and that the person asking for their signatures had not fully explained the reason they were being asked to sign.

Late Wednesday night, El Editor learned that at least 2 affidavits have also been turned in to the City Secretary from people who signed the petition; claiming that they were misled into signing. Councilwoman DeLeon issued the following statement confirming the 2 affidavits:

"Yes, two individuals that were counted toward removing me from office have come forward to make a statement that they were misinformed or misled into signing the petition. There are many others, especially the elderly, but it is difficult to ask them to come to city hall to make a statement. These individuals are being approached by neighbors or friends and are being asked how they were approached when they signed the petition."

DeLeon also suggests that people who signed the petition not knowing that it was to remove her from office contact the City Secretary's office.

El Editor will continue to follow this story and will post updates on our website, www.eleditor.com as new information becomes available.

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property. At this point, it becomes known to city staff that although Mousa owns the buildings, Lubbock businessman Chris Gonzales, doing business as BeGo Enterprises, is leasing the building and has the right of first refusal on the property or to match any offer to purchase the property. After the City makes an offer to Mousa in December 2006, the document states that Mousa informs Gonzales about the city's offer since Gonzales does have the right of first refusal. Gonzales' lease with Mousa was set to expire in February of 2007 and it became apparent that Mousa would sell the property to the city if Gonzales did not exercise his right to match the offer.

In January of 2007, Development Services Assistant City Manager Rob Allison meets with Chris Gonzales to discuss the purchase of the property and shortly thereafter, Mousa is informed by Gonzales that he intends to exercise his right of first refusal. Mousa then suspends the contract with the city for 90 days to give Gonzales the contractually agreed upon time to exercise his right to purchase.

By January 2007 however, rumors begin circulating in the community and finger pointing soon follows after DeLeon makes a public statement during a Hispanic Agenda meeting in January that the city was in the process of purchasing South Beach. Chris Gonzales is quoted in a story in El Editor saying, "I want to know why Linda DeLeon is saying that the city is going to tear down my business". This quote appeared in February 22, 2007 story about a DeLeon town hall meeting in which Chris Gonzales organizers had confronted DeLeon about the building purchase.

More notably, it does indicate a contradiction with organizer's claims that they were not informed about the city's intent and that DeLeon had not reached out to them to answer their questions. The timeline document shows that Chris Gonzales met with Assistant City Manager Allison on January 16, 2007 and had been made aware of the city's intentions to purchase the building. DeLeon says that Allison scheduled the meeting at her request. In addition, the document states that the building owner, Mousa, received notice from BeGo Enterprises that they intended to exercise their right of first refusal; that item is dated January 26, 2007. If the timeline is accurate, and there is no reason to believe that it isn't,

(Continued on Page 2)

Our Air -- Still a White Male Province

By Joseph Torres
"We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. ...From the press and the pulpit we have suffered much by being incorrectly represented."

So wrote John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish 180 years ago in the inaugural issue of Freedom's Journal, the first African-American newspaper founded in New York City. It is sad that their quote is as relevant today as it was in 1827.

Two centuries later, even though people of color make up a third of the U.S. population, the media are still struggling to integrate diverse voices in news coverage and staffing. Media

El Alacran

Parere que todavia no hace nuestra gente bastante progreso aqui en Lubbock. Un grupo de fotos de todos los del United Way salieron en el periodico esta semana. Se miraba todo blanco.

Quien sabe si el reonto de los nombres submitidos a la Secretaria sera bastante pero cuando meno se dio un susto y quizas puedan tener un barrio mas limpio en el futuro.

Dice Linda que los de la Camara de Comercio no estan haciendo nada.

Hasta la proxima!

companies are quick to pledge their support for newsroom diversity, but their actions still fail to match their rhetoric.

The same can be said for the Federal Communications Commission's commitment to fostering greater racial, ethnic and gender diversity on our airwaves. It has failed to take any action on this growing crisis.

And it is a crisis. The national non-profit media reform organization Free Press released a study June 5 that found people of color own just 7.7 percent of the nearly 11,000 radio stations in the United States. African Americans own just 3.4 percent, Latinos 2.9 percent and Asian Americans 0.9 percent of all stations. Women own only 6 percent.

Last fall, the group released a report on local TV stations that found people of color owned just 3.26 percent, of the 1,349 full-power TV stations in the country. African-American owners account for just 1.3 percent; Hispanics 1.1 percent. Women owned just 5 percent.

Both studies found that broadcast owners of color thrive in more competitive, less concentrated markets. But neglecting the issue of non-white ownership is part of the FCC's legacy. It took two decades after the federal government created a commission to regulate the airwaves that the first person of color received a radio license to operate a station. In 1945, Raúl Cortez launched WCAR in San Antonio, Texas. Three years later, Jesse Blayton became the first African-American owner of a radio station when he launched WERD in Atlanta.

Three decades following these

historic firsts, persons of color barely made up 1 percent of all broadcast station owners when the FCC implemented policies for the first time that provided people of color with greater opportunities to purchase stations. The most effective policy adopted was a "minority tax certificate" program, which provided a tax benefit to broadcasters selling their stations to persons of color. Non-white ownership increased to 3 percent from 1978 to 1995.

Despite this slight increase, people of color still faced challenges, including historic barriers in securing loans. Increases in non-white ownership ended following the repeal of the tax certificate program in 1995 by the newly elected Republican Congress. And passage of the 1996 Telecommunication Act that ushered in a new era of media consolidation.

Radio was most impacted. The '96 act removed national limits for radio ownership that resulted in the purchase or sale of more than 40 percent of the 10,000-plus stations nationwide in just two years. Clear Channel went from owning 40 stations to more than 1,200.

The FCC and federal government have made little effort to address or monitor this matter. Throughout the 1990s, the National Information and Telecommunication Agency conducted an ownership study every two years. Its last study in December 2000 found that media consolidation threatened the future of non-white ownership. But once the Bush administration took office, the studies stopped.

Instead, under new chairman

Michael Powell — and intense industry pressure — the FCC tried to unleash further media consolidation. In 2003, the agency voted to relax the broadcast ownership rules that would have permitted one company to own up to three TV stations, eight radio stations and the daily newspaper in larger markets.

But after an unprecedented public outcry against the rule changes which saw some 3 million people contact Congress and the FCC, the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the rules in 2004 and criticized the commission for using a flawed methodology to justify its changes and chastised the agency for not addressing efforts to increase non-white ownership.

Despite the court's admonishment and the agency's continuing failure to provide accurate data, the FCC issued a new rulemaking procedure last year and is once again considering relaxing the broadcast ownership rules. It still has not addressed how to bring parity to ownership.

A history of racism and segregation in the United States prevented the integration of the airwaves, not only in ownership, but in the presence of people of color working on radio and TV and in programming addressing the needs of communities of color. Sadly, 180 years after the founding of Freedom's Journal, people of color are still struggling for a chance to "plead their own cause."

It's time we got the chance to speak for ourselves.

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propietarios que no son blancos es parte del legado de la Comisión. Llevó dos décadas después que el gobierno federal creara una comisión destinada a regular las ondas radiales que la primera persona de color recibiera una licencia de radio para operar una estación. En 1945, Raúl Cortez lanzó WCAR en San Antonio, Texas. A los tres años, Jesse Blayton fue el primer africano-americano propietario de una estación de radio cuando lanzó WERD en Atlanta.

Tres décadas después de estos pioneros históricos, las personas de color apenas consistían el 1 por ciento de todos los propietarios de estaciones de transmisión cuando por primera vez la Comisión implementó políticas que ofrecieron mayores oportunidades de compra de estaciones a las personas de color. La política más eficaz que se adoptó fue un programa de "certificado de impuesto de minorías", un beneficio impositivo para los dueños de estaciones que las vendían a personas de color. Los índices de propiedad de personas de color incrementaron a 3 por ciento de 1978 a 1995.

A pesar de este pequeño incremento, las personas de color todavía se enfrentaban con retos, incluyendo las barreras históricas en conseguir préstamos. Terminaron los incrementos en índices de propiedad de personas de color cuando se revocó en 1995 el programa de certificado de impuesto durante el recientemente elegido congreso republicano y la aprobación de la ley de telecomunicaciones de 1996 que inició la era de consolidación de los medios de comunicación.

El radio sufrió el mayor impacto. La ley de 1996 eliminó límites nacionales para la propiedad de radio que resultó en la compra o venta de más del 40 por ciento de las más de 10,000 estaciones a nivel nacional en sólo dos años. Clear Channel pasó de ser dueño de 40 estaciones a tener más de 1,200.

La Comisión y el gobierno federal han hecho poco por controlar o atender a este asunto. Durante la década de los noventa, la National Information and Telecommunication Agency realizaba un estudio de propietarios cada dos años. Su

último estudio en diciembre del 2000 encontró que la consolidación de los medios amenazaba el futuro de la propiedad en manos de personas de color. Pero una vez que la administración de Bush asumiera la presidencia, cesaron los estudios.

En su lugar, bajo el nuevo director Michael Powell — e intensa presión por parte de la industria — la Comisión intentó dar rienda suelta a más consolidación. En el 2003, la agencia votó por hacer menos estrictas las reglas de propiedad de transmisiones que habría permitido que una compañía fuera dueña de hasta tres estaciones de televisión, ocho estaciones de radio, y el diario en los mercados mayores.

Pero tras un clamor público nunca visto contra el cambio en las reglas, unas tres millones de personas se pusieron en contacto con el Congreso y la Comisión. El resultado fue que el Tercer Tribunal Federal de Apelaciones rechazara las reglas en 2004 y criticara a la Comisión por usar una metodología fallida para justificar los cambios y castigara a la Agencia

por no dirigirse a los esfuerzos por aumentar los índices de propiedad de personas de color.

Una historia de racismo y segregación en los Estados Unidos previno la integración de las ondas de radio y televisión, no sólo en cuanto a la propiedad, sino también en cuanto a la presencia de personas de color que trabajen en radio y televisión y en programación, atendiendo las necesidades de las comunidades de color. Es triste que a 180 años de la fundación de Freedom's Journal, las personas de color sigan en la lucha por la oportunidad de "defender su propia causa".

Es hora que tengamos la oportunidad de hablar por nosotros mismos.

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LETTERS TO THE Editor

Send Mail to:
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Why are American's go adamant about keeping illegal Mexican aliens out of America?

Look at Mexico today; polluted over populated, dangerous, corrupt government, ignorant, diseased, low skilled and refuse to learn anything other than where is the next free meal.

If Mexico is such a great place, why are the most ignorant and criminal minded coming here?

The aliens invading America add very little to America and take more than they give. If America does not stop this massive influx of ignorant low skill people, we will turn into a country like a third world nation, unable to be affective in the world arena. Why don't you work to make your country a better place and keep your people?

Thank you.

Terry Clarke

El Editor:

My name is Andrew F. Pacheco, Jr. I was born in Plainview, Tx 1-6-54. I moved away to Brownwood, Texas, Florida, California, Utah, New Mexico.

I went to Brownwood, Tx for a quick trip on my way back I stopped in San Angelo, Tx to visit. I saw and read the Midland, Texas newspaper about the 2 chicanos killings. The following day I started to make my way back to Albuquerque, NM..

However, I stopped in Lubbock, Tx at the Michocan store to eat something. As we shopped, I saw your newspaper. I asked the owner there how much. She said it's free. So, I took a few. I read it — Outstanding! — just outstanding. Add me to your mailing list.

Keep up the good work. Please do send me a note to let me know you got this package.

P.S. Keep educating our RAZA — our gente.

Gracias.

Andrew F. Pacheco, Jr.

DeLeon On Recall (From Page 1)

this would seem to indicate that at the time Gonzales made the statement that he had no knowledge about what was going on, he had already met with Allison and had communicated his intent to exercise his right of first refusal to Mousa.

DeLeon also maintains that Gonzales knew for 4 years that the building was for sale and if he wanted to make sure that no one else purchased the building he should have made more of an effort to purchase it. "If you lease a building you always run the risk of the person that owns the building (saying) you know, I want to get out of this business so I'm going to sell it to somebody; you've got to look at that fact too, you cannot just look and say well Linda you should have voted against it. If he was a prudent businessman he should have gotten himself out of the line of fire and that's by purchasing the building". DeLeon goes on, emphasizing that others too have an obligation to help minority owned businesses: "What is the Hispanic Chamber responsible for" DeLeon asks rhetorically. "They have an obligation to Chris Gonzales (since he's a member) ...where was the Hispanic Chamber; he's a member of that chamber...that's their obligation to do that, it's not mine to grab him from the hand and say look you're running a risk here; I've got my own business to run and I put in so many hours on the city council that it's the chambers obligation to do so."

When asked if she regrets voting the way she did DeLeon says she never thought the minority community would be so upset about the sale of the building. "I still go back on the facts; I didn't go by the color of his skin. I didn't make a judgment call on that cause I thought we were beyond that; because I don't want people to judge me by the color of my skin. I want them to judge me as a person and say that when I speak, I speak the truth because of the needs of the community and don't do it just because I'm Hispanic." Asked whether she means the needs of the community or her district DeLeon clarifies that she meant "the district".

Besides DeLeon maintains that once Gonzales signed a "release and quit claim agreement" with the City, she felt that he relinquished his rights. She also points to the fact that he has another building and it's not like he was put completely put out of business. She also says that it was at her insistence that Gonzales received 4 months of free rent. She claims that the city was under no obligation to do anything for Gonzales and says, "I guarantee you they wouldn't have ever given them 4 months free rent" after he signed the release; but that she went ahead and worked with the rest of the council to get them to agree to the free rent agreement.

And what of the community; a community that in the past few weeks has seen deep divisions that will be difficult to heal and have left feelings of ill will toward present Hispanic leaders. It is reasonable to think that the council, with the addition of a new member representing District 3, will look toward the Hispanic community and its leaders for some direction on what the needs of the community are and what is needed to accomplish the much needed improvements in District 1. Whether these divisions will have an impact right now is anybody's guess.

During the recall effort, the majority of local media portrayed the recall effort as an effort initiated due to a single issue; the South Beach closing. DeLeon herself says that she believes that it was only due to that one issue also. But other underlying reasons were brought to the front, such as the one by a newly elected Guadalupe Neighborhood Association, led by Carlos Quirino Jr. who alleges that DeLeon had and was ignoring the need to clean up areas like the "arroyo" or Canyon Lakes portion of the Guadalupe neighborhood and by other blight created by closed businesses.

"It seems like we are always the last ones on the agenda," said Quirino. To this the Councilwoman says "they have to give me a chance" to get things done. In essence she says she spent the first 2 years fighting the McDougal and Martin led city council and points to the fact that she "was the only one standing by myself" working hard to get a new community center for the Guadalupe neighborhood and that not even District 2 Councilman Floyd Price stood with her. DeLeon says that people "don't know how much I fight behind (closed) doors." She continued, "I don't do it publicly because the first thing they'll do is people will say, there she goes again, Ms. Troublemaker".

In reference to the bond money that was moved to the Challenger Field, DeLeon says that she did vote for that because she felt that handicapped children deserve a place where they can play and that kids from all over the city, including Hispanic kids, will benefit from the park. She says she voted against other bond money being moved.

She also says that her political beliefs remain intact and that she hasn't changed saying that there are some issues she believes in so strongly that she will stand for them even if she "stands alone".

It is impossible to speculate the amount of damage this whole event has had on DeLeon. When asked whether she will run again, she responds quickly with a "No". But when asked again she seems to indicate that she is leaving her options open. She feels unappreciated; and that people don't recognize her efforts and all she has managed to accomplish despite her always having to fight against a majority for the things she believes in. She questions her decision to stay in public office at times and points to the extraordinary time commitment she devotes to serving for which she receives only \$25 per month. "I spend a lot of hours working in this district being an advocate for this district but nobody knows about it".

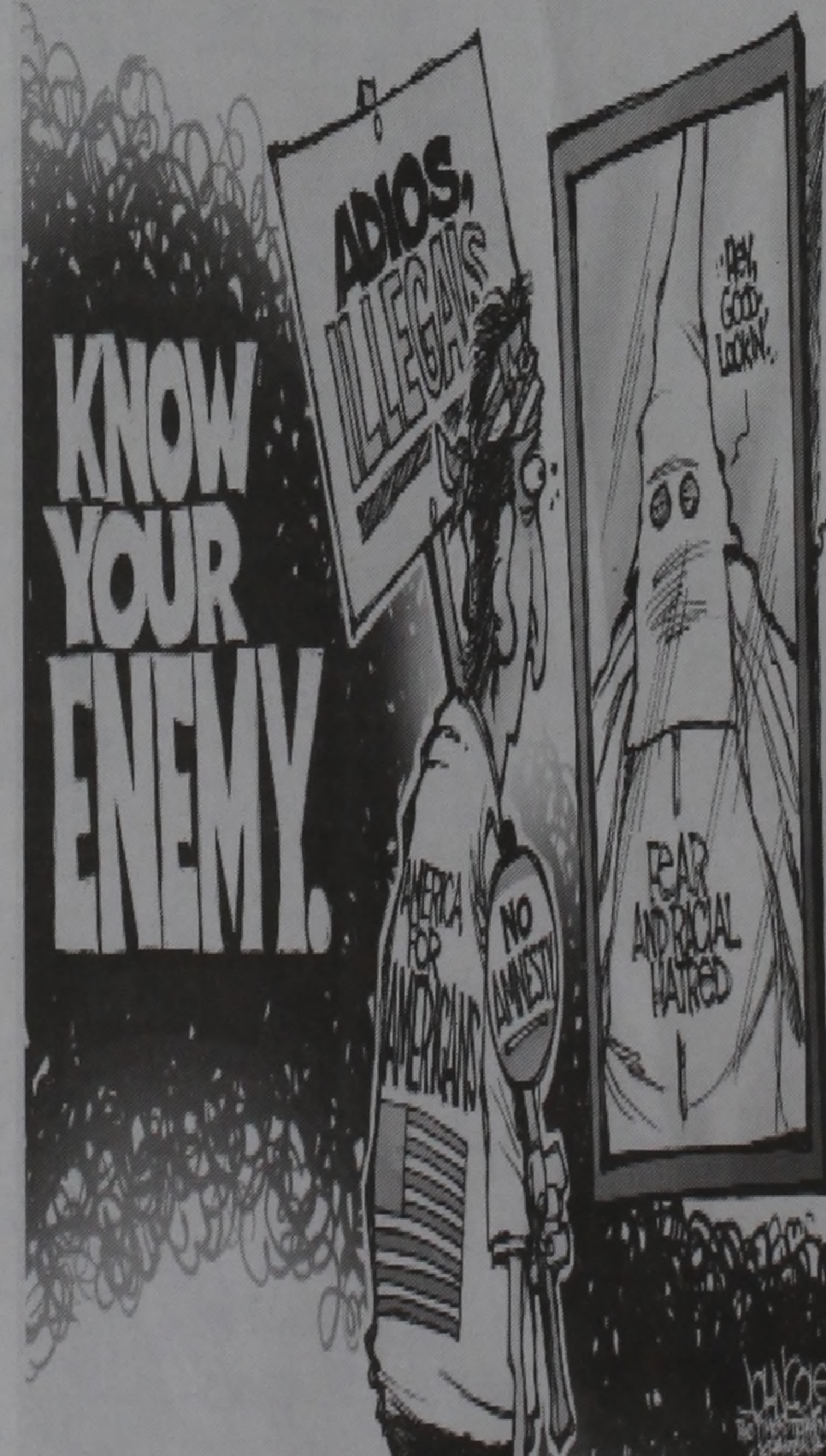
As the interview concludes, DeLeon is asked if there's anything she would like to say after going through what she has. Her answer is somewhat surprising but without hesitation she says, "I would say, don't run for political office, because people don't appreciate your work."

That statement would seem to confirm that the wounds from political battles such as these will take a long time to heal.

Olga Riojas Agüero also contributed to this report.

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El Editor - Number One in Local Hispanic News



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THE OTHER DRUG WAR

By José de la Isla
MEXICO CITY — Not everyone knows but perhaps they should. The New World people conquered Europe beginning in the 16th century with their fresh fruits, vegetables, condiments and confections. Sugar was one of them.

The other thing that most of us don't think about too much is that sugar became as addictive as heroin. It went from a luxury to a necessity to a mind- and body-altering food. Over the last five centuries, sugar consumption has come to be virtually measured in terms of mountains instead of teaspoons.

The evolutionary consequences of all that is now showing up in the North American human body.

After only the United States, for instance, Mexico is second in soft drink consumption in the world. It represents a total 300 million cases annually. The value of the Mexican market is around \$15.5 billion, according to a report by México Alimentaria.

Another related finding by the same group is that Mexico also occupies second place in childhood obesity. One in four children between five and 11 years are overweight.

About 71 percent of women and 67 percent of men over 20

years old are overweight, also. These have become health and economics issues for Mexico and other countries throughout all of North America.

Mexico's 700,000 corner stores are the economic mainstay for many families. They have been severely impacted by the proliferation of supermarkets and warehouse stores. This is not unlike the United States, where neighborhood stores, except in megacities, have become a thing of the past.

Mexican corner-store sales declined during the past four years. In March, they were down 5.2 percent over the year before. Meanwhile, large organized commerce grew 8.2 percent.

But the bigger problem might be the products the "tienditas" dispense. In many cases they are soft drinks and cigarettes. Both products in some way pose major Mexican health hazards.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation released a report, "Growing Up in North America," in May. It shows that Canada, the U.S. and Mexico together report obesity rates 26 to 30 percent among their 120 million children. Obesity rates in the U.S. and Canada are soaring.

Now here's the paradox: growing numbers of obese

children are malnourished and suffer anemia to a significant degree.

Is it any wonder, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation committed \$500 million in May to tackle childhood obesity over the next five years. The focus will be on affordable healthy foods and physical activity.

Another approach — whether a godsend or not — is the partnership between Coca-Cola Co. and Cargill Inc., partnering to commercialize a natural sweetener. Rebiana, the new product without calories, believed to sweeten a product naturally. It may pose a challenge to the soft-drink market dominated by cane sugar, corn syrup and synthetic sweeteners. Sounds good, but there's a rub to this technical fix. Rebiana could have some toxic effects.

This takes us back to our drug analogy.

While Rebiana is natural herb in South America, it is prohibited in the United States and Europe. In 1985, it was found to be associated with hepatic — meaning liver — concerns.

Rebiana's roll-out as a food additive will occur where it is not prohibited: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and other South American countries.



Social evolution may have reached a point in North America where foods that previously nourished humans are now used to feed the economy. And along the way, we overlook their long-term consequences.

Now we should hope that those political fanatics who like scaring people into Latinamericaphobia and a "reconquista" are right. If the reconquista is like the original one, it will revive eating fresh fruits and vegetables. Maybe our survival will depend on it.

Lack of data on illegal workers skews U.S. economic picture

In this country, at least, the sounds of power hammers and Spanish banter are inseparable. That's because Hispanic immigrants, legal and illegal, make up such a huge chunk of the U.S. construction work force. They've become a vital but elusive cog in the U.S. economy.

And therein lies the dilemma for economists: Everyone knows they're there, and yet they can't be adequately counted or tracked. As the U.S. economic behemoth slows, we're getting a disturbingly fuzzy snapshot of what's happening because the industry most responsible is producing some quirky data.

Housing starts and sales have plunged in the past nine months. Under normal conditions, you would expect massive layoffs and a surge in the jobless rate. Instead, the U.S. labour market seems pretty healthy for an economy that is flirting with no growth (0.6 per cent annualized in the first quarter). The jobless rate is at 4.5 per cent, its lowest level in six years, and the economy continues to create jobs (157,000 in May alone).

It's a puzzle that Ben Bernanke and his colleagues on the Federal Reserve Board acknowledged in the minutes of their May 9 meeting.

You would barely know there was a recession in construction. Even while housing starts have tumbled by more than a third, the number of jobs was stagnant in May, and down an average of just 3,000 per month this year.

Economist Maury Harris of UBS Securities in New York warned in a report yesterday that investors need to be mindful that the jobs numbers are suspect. Undercounting of illegal Hispanic workers offers a credible hypothesis for what he called "one of this year's most intriguing economic puzzles."

Some of these illegal workers may have moved into commercial construction. Some have simply vanished from the ledger, uncounted by either the household survey or the survey of employers because — technically — so many were never there.

The result, Mr. Harris suggested, is that the U.S. economy could prove to be even weaker than it looks. Unemployment may be higher and job losses more sizable if illegals aren't being picked up in the U.S. Labour Department's household survey.

"With potential measurement problems possibly clouding the

meaning of labour market data, spending data — especially by households — should become relatively more important," he concluded.

If these workers don't have jobs, they don't get paid, and they and their families can't spend.

Enormous as it is, the hidden work force may have been badly undercounted as the economy boomed, and now too as it cools. The Pew Hispanic Center has estimated that foreign-born Hispanics — legal and illegal — accounted for half the increase in total U.S. employment between 2000 and 2006. Two-thirds of all Latinos who joined the work force in recent years may be here illegally. All told, there are some 11 million to 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States — men, women and children.

Now, there is some evidence already that many of them are already returning to their home countries — and many others are not making the dangerous trip north to work, because the work has vanished.

This all matters, of course, to more than just a picture of where the economy is headed. The U.S. Congress is wrestling — once again — with an immigration reform package that George W. Bush has vowed will bring 12 million people out of the shadows.

The debate is emotionally and politically charged. But it's also a debate about economics and fairness. And, like it or not, the massive and highly mobile Hispanic work force has become an integral part of the U.S. economy.

Critics complain that illegal immigrants are a drain on government expenditures and create a downward spiral in low-skilled wages.

Most credible evidence suggests that isn't so. Millions of them work, pay their payroll taxes, pay local taxes through rents or property taxes, and contribute massively to the economy by spending their money on taxed consumer goods and services.

And because they are illegal, many of them will never collect the fruits of their labour — social security and Medicare when they retire.

In the meantime, this vast and flexible labour pool has helped make the U.S. economy a powerhouse.

Americans owe it to themselves to acknowledge reality and bring their illegal population into the light of day.

Univision proposes debates held in Spanish

Univision, the most popular Spanish-language TV network in the United States, has invited the Democrats and Republicans running for president to Florida for the nation's first presidential debates conducted in Spanish.

The Democrats would face off Sept. 9, while the Republicans would meet Sept. 16 at the University of Miami.

Simultaneous translation would be provided to the candidates and viewers, creating a United Nations-like atmosphere on national television.

Of the 18 declared candidates, two Democrats are known to speak Spanish fluently: Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico and Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut. "Hispanics will play a pivotal role in this crucial presidential election, and Univision is excited and honored by the prospect of

hosting this historic event," Univision spokeswoman Stephanie Piliersdorf said.

The invitation comes as the debate over immigration boils over on the campaign trail and in Washington, where the Senate is weighing a plan to allow millions of illegal workers to earn citizenship.

Republican candidate John McCain went to immigrant-rich South Florida on Monday to deliver an impassioned defense of the bill and accuse his rivals in the party of "silent amnesty" if they don't put forth their own plans.

Republican Mitt Romney responded in a written statement that he opposed "special incentives" for people who came to this country illegally.

Meanwhile, Florida voters are poised to play their biggest role ever in choosing the presidential

nominees. A new law moves the primary from the second Tuesday in March to the last Tuesday in January, pushing the nation's biggest battleground state to the vanguard of the 2008 primary campaign.

It was not clear Tuesday whether the campaigns would accept Univision's proposal. Officials from several campaigns, deluged with debate proposals, said they would consider the invitation.

Network officials said they believed the size and importance of the audience would make it difficult for candidates to decline.

Univision is the fifth-most-viewed network in the country, behind the major broadcast networks but ahead of English-language cable channels such as CNN, Fox News and MSNBC that have broadcast their own debates. It ranks No. 1 some nights

among young adults 18 to 34. Last week, Univision averaged 3.5 million viewers.

The forum would be moderated by Univision's news anchors, Jorge Ramos and Maria Elena Salinas.

Invitations were sent to all of the declared candidates and the national parties Friday, signed by Joe Uva, chief executive officer of Univision, and Donna Shalala, president of the University of Miami.

The invitation letter said Hispanic voters could prove decisive in key early primaries — including California's and Florida's — and decide the general election in states such as New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado.

Plan a Memorable and Culturally Aware Vacation

School is coming to a close for the year and this is the time when many families across the country look for new ideas for vacations or day trips chances to enjoy important family time while also kicking back to relax. While your trip certainly should be enjoyable, it can be educational too. Why not visit a location that is rich in cultural history and will leave a lasting impression on all those who visit? Consider San Antonio, Texas, home of The Museo Alameda, the largest Latino museum in the country.

Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company has provided a score of opportunities for generations through charitable projects through the years. One of the company's premier efforts includes support of the Hispanic community through projects that celebrate American heritage and legacy.

One of Ford's recent projects involves funding of The Museo Alameda in San Antonio, Texas. The museum is part of The Alameda National Center for Latino Arts and Culture. In its new permanent location in historic Market Square, the Museo is continuing the tradition of telling the story of Latinos in America through history, art and culture. It has already drawn national attention for its striking architecture and for becoming the first official affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Thanks to Ford's multimillion-dollar contribution, the Alameda Museum will share the Latino experience in America with over 400,000 visitors annually by combining art, history, cultural education and live performances. Ford actively supports the

Hispanic community because they understand the value of Hispanics to their business. Ford's support of the Museo Alameda reinforces education through the arts and fostering of cross-cultural exchange.

"Through our partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and Kennedy Center, the Museo is poised to become a national destination, not only for Latino art and culture but also as a teaching museum with an already proven track record of world class Latino scholarship," said Henry R. Mu-

ñoz III, Founding Chairman of The Alameda National Center for Latino Arts & Culture.

The Museo has devoted a gallery to objects from the Smithsonian's many collections. The inaugural exhibition features about 50 Smithsonian objects, including the Emperor Maximilian's emerald ring, Incan vessels from Peru, Paloma Picasso jewelry and much more. The gallery will change several times a year, so there will always be something new to explore.

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Hispanic military museum is planned

They have been left out of documentaries, history books and movies, but if a grass-roots proposal gets off the ground, Latino veterans would be immortalized in San Antonio.

Today, a committee of Hispanic veterans and others is set to announce plans for a proposed 21,500-square-foot facility that would highlight the accomplishments and contributions of Hispanics in the military.

If it becomes reality, the National Hispanic Military Heroes Museum would honor 42 Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients, Latino astronauts, fighter pilots, Latino admirals and generals, Hispanic astronauts, fighter pilots, Latino veterans who are female and the "Aztec Eagles," pilots and support personnel from Mexico who were in World War II, also known as El Escuadrón 201 (Mexican Expeditionary Force 201st Fighter Squadron), among other exhibits.

The museum also would recognize "everyday" Latino veterans, according to a preliminary proposal.

The projected cost for a new

building is about \$17 million, although the plans also call for finding an existing structure or land, said Virgil

Fernandez, head of the committee. If all goes well, the museum could open in four to five years.

The group has no money in hand, although some committee members will be approaching local, regional and national corporations and foundations for donations for the museum project, said Fernandez, a San Antonio Navy veteran who wrote a book in 2006 called "Hispanic Military Heroes."

"Here we are in 2007, and if you look at different museums, we're mentioned as a footnote," said Fernandez, a disabled veterans outreach coordinator for



the Texas Workforce Commission from 1987 to 1996, and a radio and television news

reporter in San Antonio in the 1970s and early 1980s. "We're much more than footnotes."

The committee will kick off its campaign to raise funds during a news conference today at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 76 at 10 10th St., near Broadway Boulevard — the oldest post in Texas.

The committee also includes Delia Guajardo, president of the San Antonio Veterans Parade; Tony Alvarado, director of the Fiesta Flambeau parade; Sylvia Sanchez, commander of VFW District 20; Tony Vasquez, commander of VFW Post 76; Robert Larios, U.S. postmaster in San Antonio; accountant Luis Hernandez; Walter Herbeck,

a volunteer with the League of United Latin American Citizens and the VFW; and museum architect Alfonso Fernandez, according to Virgil Fernandez. The group is finalizing nonprofit status.

Virgil Fernandez said he and retired Army Maj. Gen. Alfred Valenzuela, who also is on the committee, tossed around the idea for a museum last November with others as an expansion of Fernandez's book and other efforts to recognize Latino veterans.

Valenzuela led the U.S. Army South, which moved from Puerto Rico to Fort Sam Houston, for three years.

Some of the other efforts, Valenzuela said, include the work of Professor Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, who runs the U.S. Latino & Latina World War II Oral History Project at the University of Texas at Austin, and the work of San Antonian Rudi Rodriguez, who runs TexasTejano.com a firm that focuses on historical research.

The controversy surrounding Ken Burns' forthcoming PBS documentary on veterans of World War II, which initially made no mention of Latino veterans, brought the museum proposal to the forefront.

"We've been instrumental in war and peace. We've had generals and admirals," Valenzuela said. "We've all contributed. The idea of a museum is very critical."

Antonio Gil Morales, national commander of the American GI Forum, the country's largest Hispanic veterans organization, said San Antonio is a good fit for the museum.

"We were discussing where was the best place to have this museum, and we agreed that San Antonio is Military Town USA, and we've had a lot of our Medal of Honor recipients from San Antonio," said Morales, of Fort Worth, who's on the museum's organizing committee. "San Antonio is a great place to have it."

Fernandez met last week with Edward Benavides, executive

assistant to City Manager Sheryl Sculley, to see if the city might be able to donate, or sell at low cost, surplus land or a building for the museum.

"At this time, the city could not make any commitment towards the project, but asked him to keep us apprised as he moves forward with his capital campaign," Benavides said Thursday.

Fernandez said the group will reach out to other organizations and private corporations and foundations to see if they have surplus buildings or land.

The museum proposal is embraced by another prominent veteran, retired Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, who led the Iraq war for more than a year after Baghdad's fall.

"I think it would be an understatement that we need something like that to recognize the contributions of our Hispanic men and women who, over the course of American history, contributed to the security of this nation," said Sanchez, a three-star general who retired in San Antonio.

Minority Students Account for Over 40 Percent of U.S. School Enrollment

Minority students now account for 42 percent of public school enrollments in the United States, up from 22 percent three decades ago, driven mainly by an extraordinary influx of Hispanics, U.S. media reported Friday.

A statistical survey of the nation's educational system portrays sweeping ethnic shifts that have transformed the schools. The changes have been most striking in the West, where, the survey says, Hispanic, black and Asian students together have outnumbered whites since 2003, The New York Times reported.

The annual survey was cited as showing that all regions in the country have seen growth in minority student enrollment, particularly by Hispanics, who accounted for one of five public school students in 2005, the last year for which data were available.

The Congressionally mandated report, "The Condition of Education," draws on data collected from state education agencies, schools and colleges by the National Center for Education Statistics, the data-gathering arm of the Department of Education.

The most pronounced development in school demographics has been in Hispanic growth. Hispanic students accounted for just 6 percent of public school enrollment in 1972, but by 2005 their numbers had grown to 20 percent, the survey found.

During the same period, white enrollment declined to 58 percent of school population, from 78 percent. African-American enrollment changed little: blacks were 14.8 percent of all students in 1972 and 15.6 percent in 2005.



The distribution of groups differs considerably by region. The Midwest remained the whitest region in 2005: 74 percent of students there were white, and 26 percent members of minorities.

In the South, 24 percent of students were black, more than anywhere else. In the West, 46 percent of students were white, 37 percent were Hispanic, 7 percent were Asian, 5 percent were black, and the rest were Pacific Islanders, American Indians or students of more than one race.

Mucho ojo con el glaucoma

Si sus padres o algún otro familiar padece de glaucoma, empiece a preocuparse y tome sus precauciones para impedir que el mal afecte su propia visión. Tenga en cuenta que hasta puede quedar ciego.

Si es de ascendencia mexicana, está incluido en el grupo de más riesgo, según un reporte del Instituto Nacional del Ojo (NEI), una razón más para considerar una visita al oftalmólogo aun si su visión es perfecta.

"Es posible que tenga 20/20 de visión y padezca la enfermedad. El glaucoma es tan silencioso que no presenta síntomas. Que uno vea bien, no significa nada", advierte Hanna Coleman, oftalmóloga del NEI, una organización que depende del gobierno federal y que ha declarado mayo como el Mes de la Salud Visual.

La razón por la que se está poniendo énfasis en el glaucoma es debido al riesgo que representa para millones de personas. Se estima que en Estados Unidos existen 2.4 millones de personas a las que se ha diagnosticado glaucoma y que otros dos millones padecen la enfermedad sin saberlo.

Son particularmente vulnerables —además de las personas de origen mexicano— la comunidad afroamericana (específicamente de más de 40 años), los adultos mayores de 60 años, los pacientes con diagnóstico de diabetes y toda aquella persona que tenga familiares con el mismo problema.

¿Por qué los mexicanos?, se preguntarán muchos. La razón, según la doctora Coleman, está directamente vinculada a cuestiones genéticas: "Tiene que ver con la ascendencia indígena y con la forma y pigmentación de los ojos, entre otros factores", explica.

Si bien no existe una cura para

el glaucoma, lo que sí pueden hacer los médicos es demorar el progreso de la enfermedad a través del tratamiento que incluye gotas y pastillas e incluso cirugía.

"Por eso es tan importante que cada año las personas se hagan un examen de dilatación de pupila. El mal detectado a tiempo puede ser tratado y controlado", recomienda la doctora Coleman.

El NEI, localizado en Bethesda, Maryland, conduce y apoya investigaciones con el fin de encontrar tratamientos para salvar la vista.

"Gracias a los estudios hemos descubierto, por ejemplo, que hay tendencias epidemiológicas, es decir, predisposiciones. Además, hemos desarrollado medicinas más eficaces y métodos de diagnóstico más precisos", indica Coleman.

"Una vez que se detecta el problema, el tratamiento debe ser de por vida, no puede ser interrumpido. Lamentablemente, algunos pacientes no lo entienden. Como no tienen síntomas, descuidan o interrumpen el tratamiento", afirma la oftalmóloga al momento de explicar que algunas de las gotas que se usan para controlar la presión del ojo deben aplicarse entre dos o tres veces al día.

Otro inconveniente es el costo de las medicinas. Las gotas o pastillas deben estar incluidas en el presupuesto familiar, una situación que puede afectar la economía del hogar.

Lo que muchos desconocen, según el NEI, es que el Medicare cubre los gastos de un examen completo de los ojos con dilatación de pupilas una vez al año para pacientes en riesgo; se

incluyen personas con diabetes, con una historia familiar de glau-



coma o personas de descendencia afroamericana de más de 50 años.

Si bien los médicos hablan de glaucoma en general, existen diversos tipos y el más frecuente es el denominado de ángulo abierto que, como los otros, puede afectar a un ojo o a ambos.

"Algunos pacientes señalan que se chocan con las paredes, que mientras conducían no vieron el árbol que estaba a su lado, y la explicación es que se va perdiendo la visión periférica. Es como si estuvieran viendo a través de un túnel", explica Hanna Coleman.

Con el tiempo, la visión central (hacia al frente) disminuye también y si no se toman medidas correctivas, se acaba perdiendo la visión.

Independientemente de estar o no en el sector de alto riesgo, una visita al oftalmólogo no le vendría mal a nadie. "Incluyendo a los jóvenes, quienes piensan que nada malo puede ocurrirles. El glaucoma se presenta incluso en niños", concluye.

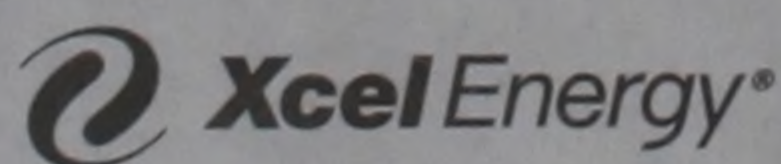
Sí. El tratamiento para el glaucoma incluye medicamentos y cirugía láser y convencional. Aunque estos procedimientos pueden proteger la vista del paciente, no pueden recuperar la visión perdida.

Algunos hacen que el ojo produzca menos líquido. Otros ayudan a drenar el líquido que se produce en exceso, disminuyendo así la presión del ojo.



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9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday, June 9

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- climbing wall
- canoe rides
- lectures on diabetes & nutrition
- car seat safety
- child immunizations
- basketball (3 on 3 tourney; call Brandon Hughes at Premier Sportsplex, 771-GAME)
- bike safety
- child fingerprinting
- see a firetruck and an emergency helicopter

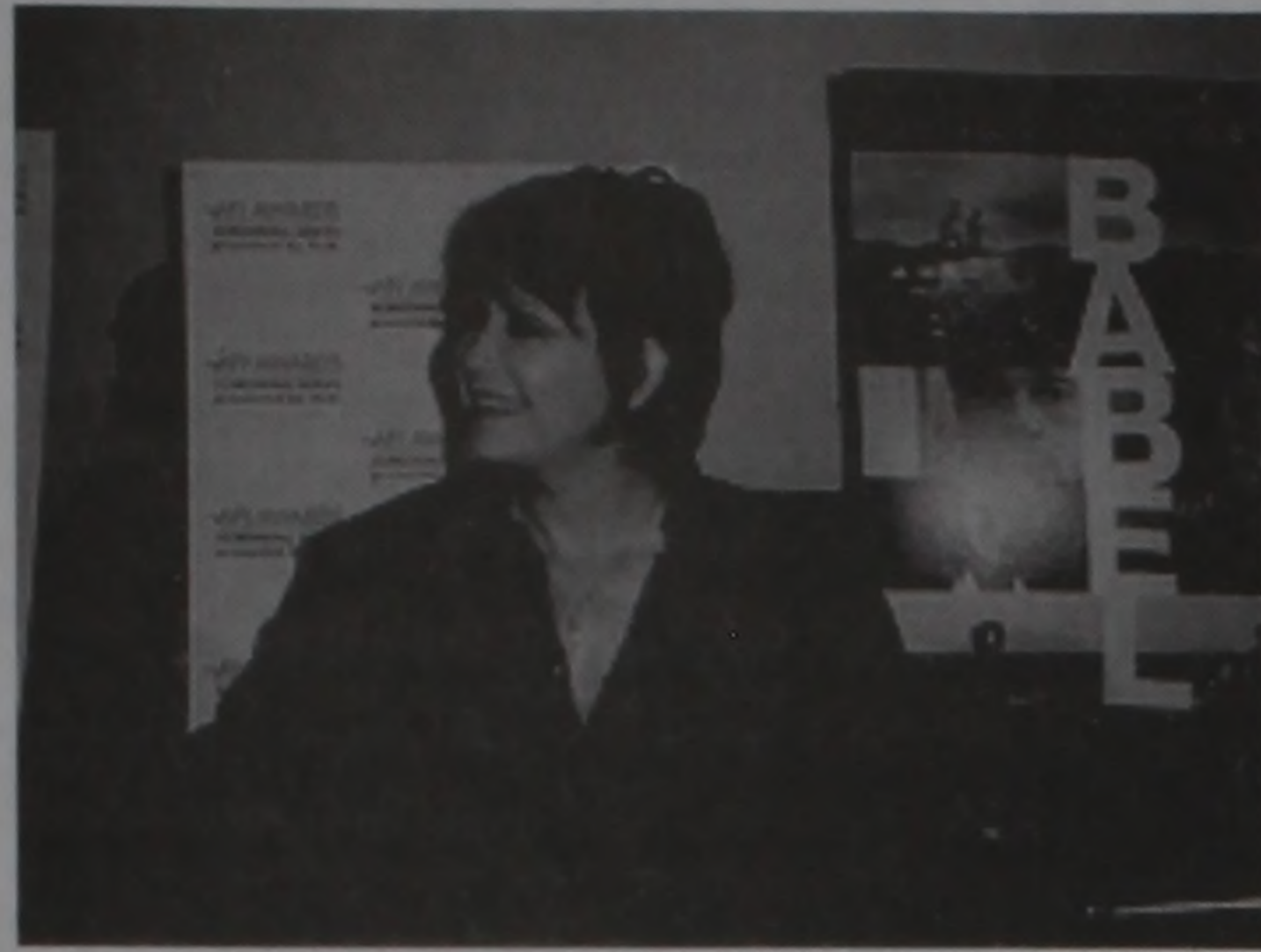
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'Babel,' 'Betty' sweep ALMA awards

Latin Grammys Heading For Las Vegas



"Babel" won four awards, including outstanding motion picture, while the quirky TV comedy "Ugly Betty" also captured multiple honors Friday at the 2007 ALMA Awards, which honor achievements by Hispanic artists.

"Babel," which wove together stories in several languages on three continents, also earned the movie director award for Alejandro González Iñárritu, movie actress honor for Adriana Barraza and outstanding screenplay for

Guillermo Arriaga.

The outstanding movie actor was Jesse Garcia for his work in "Quinceañera."

"Babel" was nominated for seven Academy Awards and won an Oscar for best score this year.

"Ugly Betty" earned the ALMA award for outstanding television series, miniseries or TV movie. Based on a Colombian telenovela, the ABC comedy-drama centers on a dowdy young Latina with a blazing spirit who intends to make her mark on the

world.

Its star, America Ferrera, was named outstanding actress, Ana Ortiz earned the supporting actress award and Silvio Horta received a writing nod for the pilot.

The National Council of La Raza, the country's largest Hispanic advocacy organization, created the ALMA Awards in 1995 to honor Hispanic performers and promote positive images of Hispanics in entertainment. ALMA stands for American Latino Media Arts and also means "soul" in Spanish.

The awards were presented at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. The ceremony was televised Tuesday on ABC.

ALMA WINNERS

A complete list of winners of the 2007 ALMA Awards:

Motion Picture: "Babel."

Actor in a motion picture: Jesse Garcia, "Quinceañera."

Actress in a motion picture: Adriana Barraza, "Babel."

Director of a motion picture: Alejandro González Iñárritu, "Babel."

Screenplay for a motion pic-

ture: Guillermo Arriaga, "Babel."

Television series, miniseries or TV movie: "Ugly Betty," ABC.

Actor in a television series, miniseries or TV movie: (tie) Edward James Olmos, "Battlestar Galactica," Sci Fi Channel; and Michael Peña, "Walkout," HBO.

Actress in a television series, miniseries or TV movie: America Ferrera, "Ugly Betty."

Supporting actor in a television series, miniseries or TV movie: Benito Martinez, "The Shield," FX.

Supporting actress in a television series, miniseries or TV movie: Ana Ortiz, "Ugly Betty."

Director of a television series, miniseries or TV movie: (tie) Edward James Olmos, "Walkout"; and Kenny Ortega, "High School Musical," Disney Channel.

Writing for a television series, miniseries or TV movie: Silvio Horta, "Ugly Betty" pilot.

Made-for-TV documentary: "From Mambo to Hip Hop: A South Bronx Tale," PBS.

Special achievement in television: George Lopez. Pioneer in music: Los Lobos.

The Latin Grammy Awards will be held in Las Vegas for the first time in its eight-year history.

Organizers announced Tuesday that the awards ceremony, which had previously been held in Miami, Los Angeles and New York, will kick off November 8th at the Mandalay Bay casino-hotel.

Nominations will be announced August 29th.

Organizers say Las Vegas ranks as the nation's top destination for Hispanics.

According to the Travel Industry Association of America, 2.4 million US Hispanics visited last year and spent \$1.7 billion on non-gambling activities alone.

Last year, the program was broadcast live on Univision from New York, reaching approximately 11.3 million viewers.

The 8th annual event will air live on Univision at 8 pm Eastern time and is expected to be seen in more than a hundred countries.



Children's Miracle Network Broadcast Sets All-Time Record

The twenty-fourth annual Children's Miracle Network Broadcast Celebration concluded this afternoon at UMC's Children's Hospital. \$832,085 was raised during this year's event, which began yesterday at 11 a.m. This represents a record amount for an individual year's broadcast.

"The generosity of this region continues to be demonstrated through events like Children's Miracle Network," said Greg Bruce, Vice President of UMC Health System.

"One hundred percent of the funds generated through CMN remain local, helping care for the children of the South Plains and Eastern New Mexico."

Chair for this year's Children's Miracle Network broadcast was Stephen Fannin. "The incredible generosity of the South Plains continues," said Mr. Fannin.

"This money will be used for the care of patients right here in Lubbock. The South Plains and Eastern New Mexico are extremely fortunate to have the UMC Children's Hospital. This is truly one of the nation's premier children's hospitals and I am very proud of the work that is done here."

Returning as co-hosts for this year's event were Karin McCay and Abner Euresi of NewsChannel 11. McCay and Euresi have hosted the local CMN broadcast

since it began in 1983, making them the longest serving co-hosts of a local broadcast.

Children's Miracle Network is an alliance of premier children's hospitals. Currently, there are 170 hospitals who are members of CMN. Headquartered in Salt Lake City, CMN was founded in 1983.

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• 5th Annual South Plains Women's B/C/D NIT

***June 16-17**

• 14th Annual Hub City Men's C NIT (World Series Qualifier)

• 14th Annual Hub City Men's E NIT (World Series Qualifier)

• 14th Annual Hub City Mixed B/ C/D NIT (World Series Qualifier)

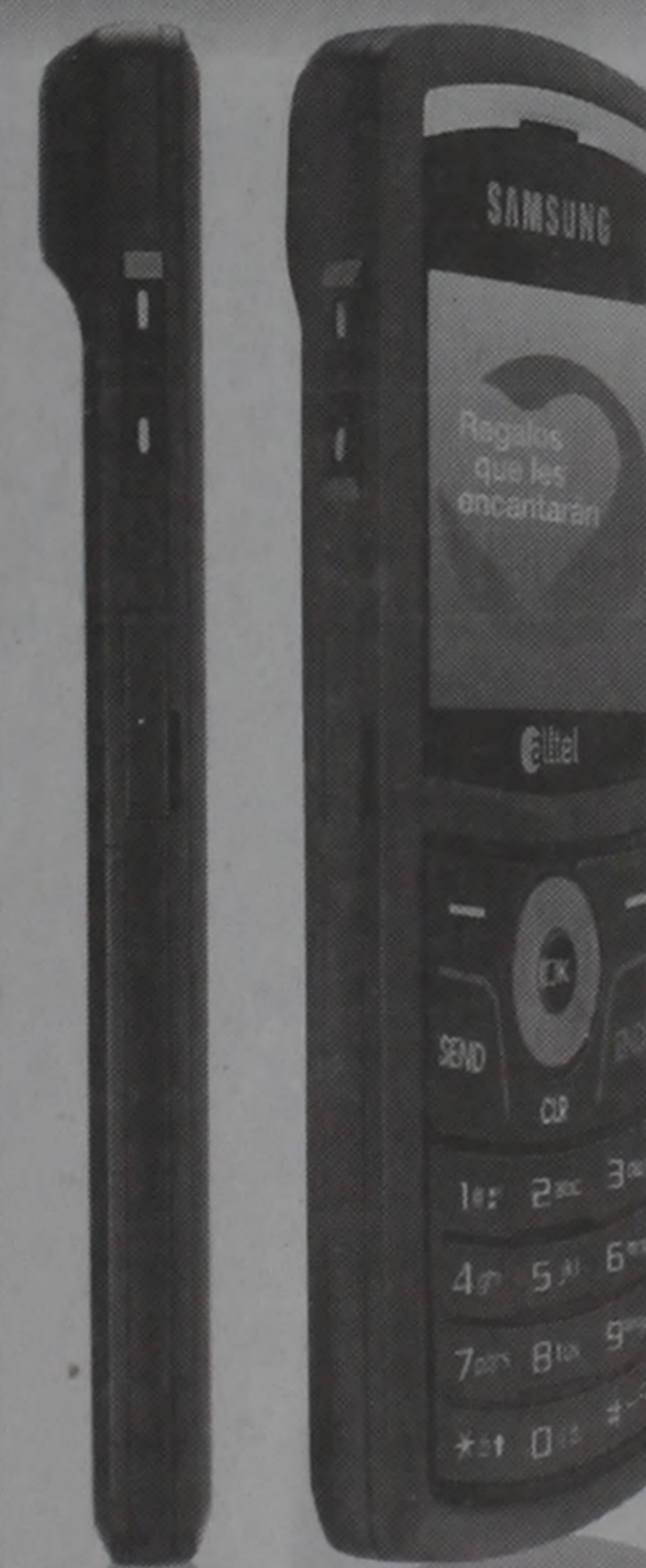
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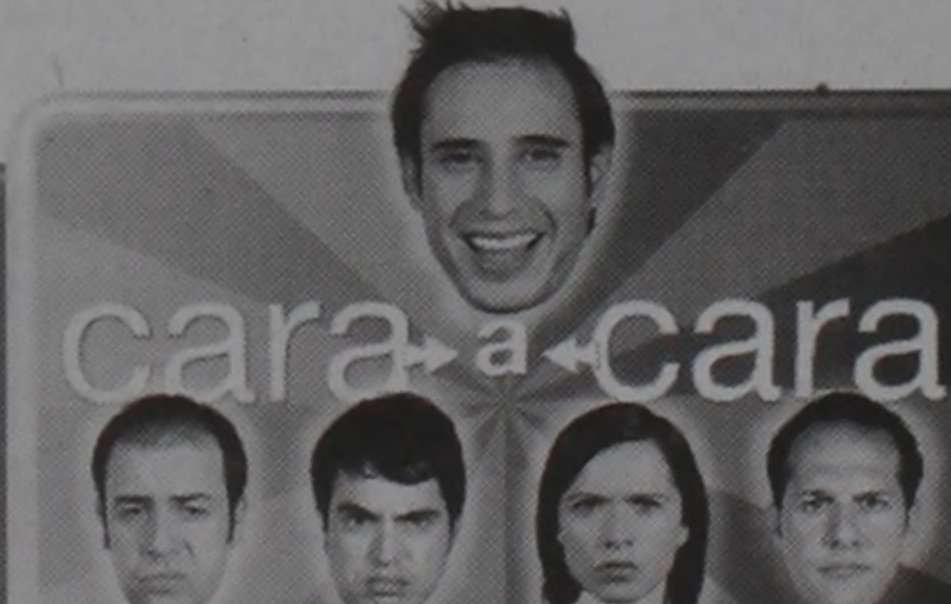


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Relive Latin American history on DVD



It was known to many as the real Caribbean Series. It was the ultimate battle for baseball supremacy in Latin America. Venezuela. Dominican Republic. Puerto Rico. Mexico. Panama.

And appearing for the first time in a competition full of Major League players: Cuba. Of the 16 teams competing in the inaugural World Baseball Classic, six were from Latin America and none were more mysterious than the Cuban National team. So when Cuba took the field for every World Baseball Classic game in March 2006 against the top talent in the Spanish-speaking world, it meant more than just a ballgame.

It was history. "This is not the Pan-Am Games or whatever or a national competition, this is the real game right here," Dominican Republic catcher Alberto Castillo said before his team faced Cuba in the semifinals. "Between the two lines, we will see who is the best."

Cuba won that day at PETCO Park in San Diego. Now baseball

fans get the chance to be winners in their own right by reliving the World Baseball Classic experience and countless other treasures in "MLB Presents Béisbol: The Latin Game," a comprehensive DVD in English from Major League Baseball Productions (\$11.99) that is now available at the MLB.com Shop.

The DVD takes you on a journey through the pageantry of the Caribbean Series to the World Baseball Classic and all the villages, cities, countries and baseball academies in between. From Miguel Tejada to David Ortiz to Alex Rodriguez, many of the biggest names in baseball are of Latino descent. "MLB Presents Béisbol: The Latin Game" gives you a sneak peek and a behind-the-scenes look at Latino players -- who they are, where they come from and where they are going. Baseball would not be the game it is today without Latino players. "Béisbol: The Latin Game" shows fans why.

"It really does not matter what color of skin you are and what ethnic background you come with," former Yankees outfielder Bernie Williams said. "If you can hit, if you can throw, if you can

play well, you are going to get the opportunity to show what you can do. That's just part of the American dream."

The 120-minute DVD features a convenient sorting capability on its menu, allowing fans to go straight to chapters that include:

- Open: Latin Explosion
- Chevy Presents The Latino Legends Team
- Pioneers: Humble beginnings
- Latinos in the Game Today
- The Island of Baseball: The D.R.
- Beyond the Diamond
- Baseball families

"MLB Presents Béisbol: The Latin Game" also features a chapter on Cuba and Mexico, along with a chapter on Puerto Rico and Venezuela. An extensive list of bonus features that highlights career milestones of some of today's top Latino stars is also available on the DVD. Spanish-language features are also available in the bonus section.

In-depth interviews with the Latino stars of yesterday, today and tomorrow highlight the DVD.

"It's great for the kids to look up to us and see in each one of us a sign of hope," Mets pitcher Pedro Martinez said. "They have to believe that if we could do it, why couldn't they?"

Here are a few of the other highlights on the DVD:

• A look at the first Latino players to play in the Major Leagues, including a profile of Cuban pitcher Adolfo Luque, known as the first Latino player to shine in the big leagues.

"What he did was prove to the Americans that Cubans could succeed here, not only at playing, but also at adapting to life in this country and to the Major Leagues," said author Roberto Gonzalez Echevarria.

• A reminder of the social injustices faced by the first Latino players who came to the United States to play in the Major Leagues, and how Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in 1947 impacted Latino players all over the world.

"When I first came to the United States, I did not know one word of English," Hall of Famer Orlando Cepeda said. "Being black and Latin, I used to stay at different hotels. It was very hard for us."

Low key he may be, Timmy D rules key with iron fist

Not too long ago I asked Tim Duncan a simple question. If you were more flamboyant, if you thumped your chest and grabbed your cajones on an hourly basis, would more people consider you the best player in the NBA?

Duncan shrugged his shoulders, his answer unremarkable. Undoubtedly he had been asked this before, and his irritation showed. He grunted something and looked away. Next question.

Even when being complimented, Tim Duncan can be a first bore.

In the sports world of 2007, crass sells, plainspoken does not. And Duncan is simply B-O-R-I-N-G.

This is an ode to boring, however. Thank goodness for boring, thank goodness for Duncan. His is a story about how greatness can come in a package of pick-and-rolls and the intermediate shot. How a great pass from a big man can be as impressive as a two-fisted gorilla dunk. How you do not have to be a selfish, two-faced, headline grabbing player -- all of the things Kobe Bryant is -- to be a Hall of Famer.

This is what Duncan is: champion, low key, top 10 all time (and quickly moving toward the top five), brilliant, leader and team player.

This is what Duncan is not: me-first, crotch-grabber, shirt-popper, defendant or serial caller into talk shows demanding a trade.

He's not charming either. But so what.

Gregg "Kid Dynamite" Doyel is going to induce REM sleep by talking about how great LeBron James is. Wow Gregg. That's original. Why don't you kill a few pronouns and drown some adjectives telling us Michael Jordan was pretty decent. LeBron is good -- really going out on a limb there, dude. By the way, what is your next epiphany? That Oprah is rich?

If I had to rank my top three players in the NBA it would go like this: Duncan, James and Bryant.

Making a case for Duncan over James is dangerous business right now. Currently there is no hotter commodity in all of sports than James. Of course he is scary good.

James, at this stage in his development, is even further ahead than Jordan was at 22.

That's right. James right now is better than Jordan was at the same period of his career.

Still, Duncan is one of those athletes that's a quiet superstar. As he wins championships -- almost in a pedestrian-like manner, like he is going to the movies -- others like James and Bryant slam dunk their way onto the highlight shows. All the while Duncan's greatness gets lost in a haze. James is flash and dash while Duncan is a comfortable pair of lederhosen: solid and effective.

Duncan is better than James because of something once told to me by a Hall of Fame coach.

When it's close, choose the big man. And the rings.

James will win multiple championships, but that is in the future. Now, Duncan already has titles and a few NBA Finals MVP awards.

Of all the statistics about Duncan, this next one impresses me the most. In the 2004-05 season, Duncan was the only player in the NBA to make the All-NBA and All-Defensive first teams. That fact tells you Duncan is a player who hustles not just for points or dunks, but provides post defense and blocked shots.

Duncan is hurt publicly (as are the San Antonio Spurs) because he is not spectacular. He's all rhinestone: a moody, plainspoken great big man.

And he is better than James. At least for now.

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