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"El Respeto a Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
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It's Father's Day for Latino Teenage Dads, Too

By Marisa Treviño

When most people see a single teenage Latina with a basketball belly, they make two immediate assumptions.

The first is based on the obvious pregnancy.

The second is based on a negative stereotype. It's the assumption that the father of the unborn baby has abandoned both the mother and his responsibility.

Assumptions can be wrong.

While it's sadly true that Latinas have the nation's highest teen birth rates, it's also true that a good number of Latino teen dads don't just walk away and never look back.

In fact, according to the Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study and the Young Unwed Father's Project report, more than 70 percent of young dads provide both financial and other support during the pregnancy and see their children on at least a weekly basis once they're born.

If anyone doubts those statistics, they should meet Victor.

At 17, Victor worries incessantly about not having enough money to support his 10-month-old son. A high school dropout with no father figure in his own life, Victor works sweaty construction jobs to pay for diapers and food and to be the kind of father that he wished he had.

And then there's Arturo, Art to his friends. This 19-year-old, even after finding out his girlfriend had cheated on him and the baby she was carrying may not be his, still stuck with that mother and child. He dropped out of school, found a job delivering plywood and gets his greatest thrills these days from the smiles of the 3-month-old he feels in his heart is his biological daughter.

Family and the baby mean very much to most of the boys. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy reports that Latinas actually have lower pregnancy rates than African-American teens, but birth rates are so high because the couples want to have their babies.

The assumption that all teen Latino dads are deadbeats is wrong.

What is not wrong is the fact that the issue of Latino teen fathers is a complex problem that deserves well-funded prevention and coping programs.

But before the help can begin, it's important to know why some Latino teens father children.

"It's an attempt for them to find purpose and worth in their lives," explains Jerry Tello, director of the National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute in Los Angeles.

Having worked with the issue for 25 years, Tello explains that the majority of these teen fathers are low-income, higher-stress individuals who suffer from very low levels of vision in their lives.

Aside from being young, they have low literacy rates and limited education. They struggle to balance a bicultural, bilingual reality that imposes two different sets of expectations, and no real job skills. But they do have that universal human need to have a relationship.

And to someone who feels the school system, the local community and even family members have given up on him, the unconditional love of a child can ease that pain.

"My baby is what I live for right now. She's my world," declares 19-year-old Alejandro of his 2-month-old daughter.

So what do we do?

Do we just applaud these boys for owning up to their responsibility by working low-paying jobs and dooming themselves to a future among the "working poor"?

Do we just preach and expect abstinence in a society that dramatizes and sings about easy sex?

Do we push these children into marrying one another for "the sake of the baby" and the efforts of Washington's \$300 million marriage promotion?

Do we shrug our shoulders indifferently and say, "So what?"

Thankfully, there are visionaries in our society who realize that today's problem is tomorrow's crisis, and that it's not too late to do something.

Programs such as the National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute and Texas' pilot initiative, Fragile Families, in which Victor, Arturo and Alejandro participate, as well as other fatherhood programs around the country, are helping boys to break the cycle of hopelessness. They do it by encouraging education, teaching parenting skills and assisting in the precarious balancing act between being a responsible teenager and a responsible father.

They are programs that are proving Latino teen dads want and deserve help, guidance and a second chance.

They are programs that don't deserve their funding to be cut to make way for marriage-only agendas.

They are programs that are proving assumptions can't be trusted.

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El Editor Lo Mejor En Noticias!

Rights Groups to Protest Fox Speech

SAN DIEGO ---- Immigrant rights groups plan to protest today when Mexican President Vicente Fox addresses hundreds of Latino journalists in Tijuana.

Immigration advocates say Operation Gatekeeper, a U.S. Border Patrol strategy aimed at deterring illegal immigrant traffic by pushing it from urban San Diego County to the dangerous terrain east, causes hundreds of deaths each year.

This week, the groups will highlight their concern during events at the National Association of Hispanic Journalists conference in San Diego. President Fox will deliver the opening speech at Tijuana's Centro Cultural.

On their way back to San Diego from the speech, the journalists will see a billboard near the San Ysidro port of entry asking: "Who cares about the 2,000 dead immigrants?"

"I think it's a shocking human rights tragedy happening right in our own back yard that has received very little local or national media scrutiny," said Jordan Budd, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union in San Diego.

Budd will participate in a press conference planned by various immigrant advocates Thursday at the conference in San Diego's Town & Country Inn.

There have been nearly 2,000 bodies found along the border by U.S. and Mexican authorities, said Claudia Smith, an Oceanside attorney and border project director for the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. Smith began counting the bodies when Operation Gatekeeper began in 1994.

Smith and others blame Operation Gatekeeper for the deaths.

But immigration authorities say Operation Gatekeeper is working. They point to lower arrest rates in the county to suggest there are

fewer illegal immigrants crossing through the area and blame smugglers for putting immigrant lives in danger.

"(Illegal immigrants) are not from the immediate area, so people that come to cross are unaware of the terrain, so they seek smugglers to get them across and it's the smugglers that put (an immigrant's) life in jeopardy," said Raul Villarreal, a spokesman for the U.S. Border Patrol's San Diego sector, which stretches from the coast 66 miles inland to Imperial County.

Villarreal said the Border Patrol also has implemented search-and-rescue efforts to minimize death and injuries to illegals.

Immigrant advocates say no amount of search-and-rescue efforts can prevent the deaths.

Last week, 14 bodies were found near the Arizona border with Mexico.

"It's the beginning of summer and the deaths in Arizona are just a preview of what's to come," Smith said. "But most (immigrants) die one by one, that doesn't make the media



A Mexican man gestures towards the Arizona border, as he waits for darkness and cooler temperatures to make an illegal crossing from outside the town of Los Vidrios, Mexico.

(reports.)

While the number of arrests have dropped along California's border with Mexico, the number of immigrants arrested along the Arizona border have more than doubled, Border Patrol figures show. Immigration authorities use arrest figures to estimate the number of illegal immigrants coming across.

In fiscal year 1995, there were 561,548 arrests in California and 282,927 in 2001. But in Arizona, arrests increased from 248,423 to 528,060 in the same time period, suggesting the immigrant traffic had shifted.

Arrests for the entire Southwest border which includes California, Arizona and Texas have risen from 979,101 in fiscal year 1994 to 1,235,717 in 2001, prompting immigrant advocates to suggest that Operation Gatekeeper and its counterparts in Arizona and Texas are not working.

"The question for the federal government is what kind of border strategy it wants, because right now it has no border enforcement strategy in place," Budd said.

Furthermore, the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and the American Civil Liberties Union say U.S. border protection strategies such as Operation Gatekeeper are a violation of human rights.

Both groups have taken the case to the United Nations Organization and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights --- part of the 34-nation Organization of American States --- saying that while they recognize the right of a country to protect its borders, it does not have a right to "funnel immigrants to their deaths."

Both the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission are still investigating the claims.

Juan Pablo II podría anunciar su dimisión en agosto

Praga - El papa Juan Pablo II podría anunciar su dimisión en agosto próximo durante un viaje a Polonia, en Cracovia, su ciudad natal, afirma este lunes el semanario checo Tyden, citando fuentes religiosas polacas.

Esa posibilidad es considerada como "una certeza cercana al 100%" por "eclesiásticos polacos que mantienen estrechos vínculos con el Papa", según Tyden.

La renuncia de Juan Pablo II sería "acogida favorablemente por los medios liberales y conservadores" en el seno de la Iglesia católica, según el semanario checo.

Dos importantes cardenales, el alemán Josef Ratzinger y el hondureño Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, plantearon directamente a mediados de mayo la hipótesis de que el Papa, de 82 años, que sufre de Parkinson y de artrosis en una rodilla, dimita.

Según fuentes eclesiásticas polacas, si Juan Pablo II abandonara su puesto por voluntad propia, podría retirarse a un monasterio en Polonia.

Tambien es el Día de los Padres Para los Papas Adolescentes Latinos

Por Marisa Treviño

Cuando la mayoría de la gente ve a una adolescente latina soltera con la barba como una bola de baloncesto, enseñada supone dos cosas.

La primera se basa en el embarazo obvio.

La segunda se basa en un estereotipo negativo. Se supone que el padre del bebé por nacer ha abandonado tanto a la madre como a su responsabilidad.

Las suposiciones pueden estar incorrectas.

Mientras es una verdad lamentable que las latinas tienen los índices de natalidad en adolescentes más altos de la nación, también es cierto que un gran número de los papás adolescentes latinos no sólo se van sin mirar hacia atrás.

De hecho, según el Estudio sobre las Familias Frágiles y el Bienestar de los Niños y el informe sobre el Proyecto de Padres Jóvenes Solteros, más de un 70 por ciento de los papás jóvenes provee tanto ayuda económica como otras ayudas durante el embarazo, y ven a sus hijos por lo menos una vez a la semana después de nacer.

Si alguien pone en duda estas estadísticas, debería conocer a Victor.

A sus 17 años, Victor se preocupa de manera incesante de no tener suficiente dinero para mantener a su hijo de 10 meses. Victor, un desertor de escuela superior sin la figura de un padre en su vida, trabaja en sudorosos empleos de construcción para pagar los pañales, la comida y para ser el padre que deseaba haber tenido.

También está Arturo, Art para sus amigos. Este joven de 19 años, aun después de descubrir que su novia lo había engañado y que el bebé que llevaba no era suyo, no abandonó a la madre ni al niño. Deserbió de la escuela, encontró un trabajo entregando contrachapados y en este momento recibe sus mayores ilusiones de las sonrisas de una niña de 3 meses que en su corazón siente es su hija biológica.

La familia y el bebé significan mucho para la mayoría de estos chicos. La Campaña Nacional para la Prevención de Embarazos en Adolescentes informa que actualmente las latinas tienen índices de embarazo más bajos que las adolescentes africanas-americanas, pero los índices de natalidad son tan altos porque las parejas quieren tener los bebés.

Los supuestos de que todos los papás adolescentes latinos son unos vagos son incorrectos. Lo que no es incorrecto es el hecho que el asunto de los padres adolescentes latinos es un problema complejo que merece programas de prevención y manejo de dificultades bien financiados. Pero antes que la ayuda pueda comenzar, es importante saber por qué los adolescentes latinos quieren tener hijos.

"Es un intento de encontrar un propósito y valor a sus vidas", explica Jerry Tello, director del Instituto Nacional Latino de la Paternidad y de la Familia en Los Angeles. Luego de haber trabajado por 25 años con el problema, Tello explica que la mayoría de estos padres adolescentes comprenden la población con bajos ingresos, altos niveles de estrés sin perspectiva a largo plazo para su vida.

Aparte de ser jóvenes, tienen bajos niveles de alfabetización, educación limitada, luchan para balancear una realidad bicultural y bilingüe que impone dos grupos de expectativas diferentes, y carecen de verdaderas destrezas de trabajo. Pero tienen la necesidad humana universal de establecer una relación.

Y para alguien que siente que el sistema de educación, la comunidad local, e incluso su familia lo han abandonado, el amor incondicional de un niño puede aliviar ese dolor.

"En este momento vivo para mi bebé. Ella es mi mundo", manifiesta Alejandro de 19 años, sobre su hija de dos meses.

Entonces qué hacemos?

Simplemente aplaudimos a estos chicos por asumir su responsabilidad trabajando por sueldos bajos y condonarse a un futuro de "trabajo pobre".

¡O sólo predicamos y esperamos la abstención en una sociedad que exagera y vocifera sobre el sexo fácil!

¡Empujamos a estos chicos a casarse por "el bienestar del bebé", y a los esfuerzos de Washington de \$300 millones para promover el matrimonio!

¡Qué tal si encogemos los hombros de manera indiferente y decimos, "Y qué?"

Menos mal, que en nuestra sociedad hay visionarios que se dan cuenta de que los problemas de hoy son las crisis del mañana, y que no es demasiado tarde para hacer algo.

Programas tales como la iniciativa piloto del Instituto Nacional Latino de la Paternidad y de la Familia en Texas, las Familias Frágiles, en el cual participan Victor, Arturo y Alejandro, al igual que otros programas de paternidad alrededor del país, están ayudando a los chicos a romper con el ciclo de desesperanza. Lo hacen fomentando la educación, enseñando destrezas para la crianza de los hijos, y ayudando en el precario acto de conseguir un balance entre ser un adolescente responsable y un padre responsable.

Son programas que demuestran que los padres adolescentes latinos quieren y merecen ayuda, orientación y una segunda oportunidad.

Son programas que demuestran que le corten los fondos para crear agendas sólidas para matrimonios.

Son programas que demuestran que no se puede confiar en las suposiciones.

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Birthing Community Radio In Guatemala

By María Emilia Martín

They're located in the smallest communities -- tiny *aldeas* not reached by newspapers or even television. Some are located in humble homes, next to the patios where indigenous women weave intricate patterns on back-strap looms.

Others are in tiny *tiendas*, the closet-size neighborhood stores selling everything from a single cigarette or envelope to a bottle of soda.

The only way you know these locations house the local radio station is by the telltale antennas reaching up from metal or stucco roofs to the Guatemalan skies. Community radio is being birthed in this tragic and beautiful land -- born of the hopes raised by the peace accords that ended the continent's longest civil war in 1996. It was a bloody, armed conflict that took 200,000 lives.

Much of the burden of the violence fell on the indigenous rural populace, which makes up more than half of the country's population. The peace accords opened the door to the hope that Guatemala's indigenous majority, marginalized for over 500 years, might someday enjoy the promise written in the accords for a "multiethnic, multilingual society."

The country's Maya population, who make up some 22 different language groups, and the black *Garifuna* population of the Atlantic coast hoped the peace accords would usher in an era of greater access to the media. They dreamed especially of media that would reach their communities in their own language.

Almost six years later, many of the hopes for a more democratic country have fallen short. In fact, there are widespread fears that under the current corrupt government of Alfonso Portillo, the country is returning to the days of death squad violence.

But in the area of radio, there is still hope for democratic initiatives to open up the media. Thousands of people -- from poor *campesinos*, to evangelicals to former guerrillas -- are coming together to try to create radio *comunitaria* -- a system of local, community-run radio stations that would, in the words of Archbishop Romero, "give voice to the voiceless."

For months now, hundreds of these community radio advocates have come from villages throughout the country, riding many hours on crowded buses to ask the government in Guatemala City to recognize the community radio stations. Most of these stations are now illegal under the current telecommunications law.

Just a few weeks ago, they again came to the Congress -- carrying thousands of petitions in support of a proposed Law on Community Media and Mass Communication. This bill would reserve certain radio frequencies on national, regional and local levels for the use of "associations and community councils, at the service of the community."

Its proponents say allowing local people working with civil society groups to run community radio stations would strengthen local identity and democracy, and help the country work toward a culture of peace.

Commercial broadcasters at first opposed the idea. Now spokespersons for the Camara de Difusión -- the Chamber of Broadcasters -- say they support the idea of community radio, but only to an extent. They say the proposed law would create confusion and competition in the already existing "legal" broadcast system.

"No porque yo soy indígena que me van a dar todo porque soy el rey del pueblo ... el estado debe velar por los desposeídos sin discriminar," Camara President Roberto Baccatelli told representatives of the community radio organizations. "Just because you are indigenous doesn't mean you're the king of the hill, and the government shouldn't discriminate." I found this charge of

reverse discrimination interesting, considering how soon this comes after the signing of the peace accords -- and when so few of those promises have been kept to a people so long marginalized and discriminated against.

But more than two decades of experience in U.S. Latino community/public radio have shown me enough not to be surprised at the resistance to changes in the status quo. Thirty years after the first Latino-owned and -operated community radio station went on the air in this country (KBBF-FM in Santa Rosa, Calif.), for instance, there are still no Latino editors at National Public Radio.

In Guatemala, meanwhile, the struggle for a more inclusive media continues. The community radio bill is still being discussed in Congress. As this process continues, a government auction to sell off the remaining radio frequencies to the highest bidder is scheduled to take place in August. Whether Guatemalan community radio continues its birth process, or whether this will be one more unkept promise of the peace accords, will depend on what happens between now and then.

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66,698 historias tristes, hasta cuando?

Tras conocer un informe del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS) de Estados Unidos, en el que menciona que durante los últimos nueve (9) meses deportó a más de 66 mil mexicanos y que la mayoría de ellos son "criminales" dicen por parte del INS.

Con detalles ellos afirman que las deportaciones llevadas a cabo por la agencia entre el 1 de octubre de 2001 y el 31 de mayo de 2002, período en el que fueron expulsados de Estados Unidos 66,698 mexicanos, de los cuales 42,144 fueron calificados como "criminales".

Cuantos calificativos mas los mexicanos vamos ha soportar mientras no tengamos VOZ en este sistema, cuantos más abusos e injusticias vamos a soportar los mexicanos en este gran sistema o hasta cuando nos vamos a decidir en organizarlos hasta cuando, o cuantos miles mas van ha deportar para poder ser mas humillados y eso creemos que ya basta.

"La inmensa mayoría de los mexicanos que nos trasladamos a Estados Unidos lo hacemos con el objetivo de incrementar nuestro ingreso y, por supuesto, consideramos que tenemos una importante contribución a la economía y cultura estadounidense".

"Muchas de las faltas cometidas por nuestros connacionales son de tipo administrativo, como por ejemplo haber sido capturados por manejar nuestros vehículos en estado de ebriedad o haber ayudado a un familiar para que ingrese a Estados Unidos, o el haber usado otro nombre para poder trabajar entre muchos otros".

El alcanzar el gran sueño americano para nosotros los mexicanos no ha sido nunca fácil, pero lo que si es fácil es hacer de nuestros compatriotas la carnada fácil de esta institución del I.N.S. para decirnos que no a una posible Regularización por el simple hecho de que los Mexicanos por mas de 70 años no hemos tenido la representación necesaria ni una Organización que claramente abogue por estas faltas que ellos dicen y finalmente nos dicen Criminales, Mojados y Mexicanos sin papeles, etc.

El organizarce como tal ya es hora Compañeros, y tener VOZ para poder pedir una posible Regularización que por cierto ya no la merecemos los 3 y medio millones de mexicanos que vivimos sin papeles, aqui en el norte.

Cabe recalcar que mientras no nos pongamos de acuerdo los mexicanos dia a dia seguirá muriendo uno de los nuestros al tratar de cruzar la frontera para llegar al norte y eso sin contar a los que no pueden identificarse.

Mi reflexión de hoy es que debemos de asegurarnos los mexicanos de trabajar en agendas generales y más viables para recobrar el tiempo perdido y evitar el desgaste de nuestra gente que cada dia sufre desde que se fija la meta de llegar al norte.

Muy Sinceramente

Julio Cesar Aragón

EL EDITOR
Lo Mejor En Noticias

Nace La Radio Comunitaria En Guatemala

Por María Emilia Martín

Están localizadas en las más pequeñas y diminutas aldeas comunitarias donde no llegan los periódicos, ni la televisión. Algunas se encuentran en casas humildes, al lado de los patios donde mujeres indígenas tejen complicados modelos a mano. Otras están en tiendas diminutas del tamaño de un armario donde se vende de todo, desde un cigarrillo o un sobre, hasta botellas de refrescos.

La única forma de saber que estos lugares albergan la estación de radio local es por las reveladoras antenas que sobresalen de los techos de metal o de yeso para alcanzar el cielo guatemalteco.

La radio comunitaria que ha nacido en esta trágica y hermosa tierra, nace de las esperanzas que surgieron por los acuerdos de paz que terminaron con la guerra civil más larga del continente en 1996. Fue un conflicto armado sangriento que se llevó a 200,000 vidas.

Los defensores afirman que permitiría a la gente local trabajar con grupos civiles sociales en la dirección de las estaciones de radio comunitarias fortalecería la identidad local y la democracia, y ayudaría al país a trabajar para una cultura de paz.

Al principio los locutores comerciales se opusieron a la idea. Ahora, los portavoces de la Cámara de Difusión dicen que apoyan la idea de una emisora comunitaria, pero hasta cierto punto. Expresan

de que bajo el actual gobierno corrupto de Alfonso Portillo, el país está regresando a los días violentos de los escuadrones de la muerte.

Pero en cuanto a la radio, todavía quedan esperanzas de iniciativas democráticas que permitan mayor acceso a los medios. Miles de personas, desde campesinos pobres, evangelistas y antiguas guerrillas, se están uniéndole para crear radio comunitaria, un sistema local de emisoras radiales dirigidas por la comunidad que podría, en las palabras del arzobispo Romero, "darles voz a los que no la tienen".

Desde hace meses, cientos de abogados que representan a estas emisoras comunitarias han venido desde aldeas alrededor del país, viajando largas horas en autobuses atiborrados de personas, para pedirle al gobierno de la ciudad de Guatemala que reconozca a las emisoras radiales comunitarias. La mayoría de estas emisoras

son ilegales bajo la actual ley de telecomunicaciones.

Hace apenas unos años, volvieron al Congreso, cargando con miles de peticiones de apoyo para la propuesta Ley sobre los Medios Comunitarios y los Medios Masivos. Esta ley mantendría algunas frecuencias radiales a nivel nacional, regional y local para el uso de las "asociaciones y de los consejos comunitarios, al servicio de la comunidad".

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que la propuesta ley crearía confusión y competencia en el ya establecido sistema de radiodifusión "legal".

"No porque yo soy indígena que me van a dar todo porque soy el rey del pueblo ... el estado debe velar por los desposeídos sin discriminar", le dijo el presidente de la Cámara, Roberto Baccatelli, a los representantes de las organizaciones de las emisoras comunitarias.

Encuentro interesante esta acusación de discriminación revertida, considerando lo pronto que llega luego de haber firmado los acuerdos de paz, y cuando se han mantenido muy pocas de estas promesas a unas personas por tanto tiempo marginadas y contra quienes se discrimina.

Pero experiencia de más de dos décadas en la radio local y comunitaria en los Estados Unidos me ha enseñado lo suficiente para no sorprenderme de la resistencia al cambio en el status quo. Por ejemplo, tte-

Si se aprueba la propuesta, los hispanos en la nueva, y aún sin nombre, ciudad del Valle, mandarían una ligera ventaja sobre los blancos en la población, un 43 por ciento a un 41 por ciento. Cinco de los catorce distritos municipales propuestos se han escogido para favorecer a los latinos.

Localizado al norte del centro de la ciudad, el Valle de San Fernando ha sido parte de Los Angeles desde 1915. Es una región económicamente robusta compuesta en su mayoría de residentes trabajadores y de clase media, con una presencia latina que crece a un ritmo constante.

Criado en el Valle, el ambicioso y carismático Richard Alarcón se ha señalado como un candidato a alcalde formidable, si se da la separación. En noviembre estará corriendo para un segundo término en el senado de California.

Alarcón, 48, representó a los residentes del Valle en el Consejo de la Ciudad de Los Angeles, la población afroamericana aumentaría de un 11 por ciento a un 15 por ciento. Su apoyo fue decisivo en la elección como alcalde de James Hahn, quien es blanco, sobre el latino Antonio Villaraigosa el año pasado.

Hahn ganó la contienda por 40,000 votos, un 53.5 por ciento a un 46 por ciento. Cuatro de cada cinco de los 93,000 negros que fueron a las urnas votaron por él. Un apoyo tan abrumador no representó un rechazo al candidato hispano, sino, un legado del padre del ganador, Kenneth Hahn, quien trabajó como supervisor del estado en la comunidad negra del sur de Los Angeles por 40 años.

Mientras que Villaraigosa,

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En Guatemala, por el momento, continúa la lucha por medios más globales. La ley sobre las emisoras comunitarias todavía se está discutiendo en el Congreso. Mientras continúa el proceso, una subasta del gobierno para liquidar las restantes frecuencias radiales al mejor postor está programada para agosto. Si la radio de la comunidad continuará su proceso de nacimiento, o si ésta será una promesa más sin cumplirse de los acuerdos de paz, dependerá de lo que pase entre ahora y después.

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Las medidas de separación, Alarcón todavía no ha declarado su posición. Pero si le indicó a Hispanic Link que los argumentos adelantados de los defensores separatistas son "algunos de los mismos elementos" que utilizó en la exitosa campaña de 1993, para el consejo de la ciudad.

Llamó al movimiento separatista una "clásica revuelta de contribuyentes", ya que muchas de las personas que apoyan la separación de Los Angeles sienten que pagan más impuestos de lo que reciben en servicios.

Al final de este mes, Alarcón tendrá que decidir si apoya la separación y anunciar su candidatura para alcalde del Valle. Si la separación fallara, también existe la posibilidad de que decide correr para alcalde de Los Angeles en el 2005.

Los separatistas entienden que la nueva ciudad del Valle será más fácil de manejar que el antiguo Los Angeles.

La nueva versión reducida de Los Angeles estará por debajo de Chicago en población, y se convertirá en la tercera ciudad más grande de la nación. Mantendrá la distinción de ser la ciudad más grande de la nación donde los hispanos, con al menos una ventaja numérica de dos a uno sobre los residentes blancos, superan todos los otros grupos raciales y étnicos.

¿Para Los Candidatos Latinos, Es Mejor Tener Dos Los Angeles en Vez de Uno?

Por Anthony McCartney

Los electores de Los Angeles están preparados para crear otra ciudad estadounidense dominada por latinos este otoño.

En noviembre 5 dia de las elecciones, un referendo que abarca toda la ciudad decidirá si el Valle de San Fernando y los 1.35 millones de residentes se dividirán del resto de la ciudad.

de hecho, creando dos Los Angeles, cada uno con una pluralidad creciente de residentes latinos.

Si la propuesta gana apoyo mayoritario, la ciudad perdería más de 500,000 hispanos de su población actual de 3.6 millones. Pero el porcentaje de hispanos en la población de la ciudad en realidad aumentaría, de un 46 por ciento a un 49

por ciento, mientras que la población blanca disminuiría de un 30 por ciento a un 23 por ciento.

La división crearía la oportunidad para que un individuo en el cuadro creciente de líderes hispanos del sur de California ascendiera al puesto de alcalde en una, o incluso, en ambas ciudades.

De acuerdo con el analista del

Tomas Rivera Policy Institute (instituto político de Tomás Rivera), Matt Barreto, la separación del Valle aumentaría el porcentaje de electores latinos registrados en el empeñado Los Angeles, de un 14 por ciento a un 22 por ciento, mejorando de forma considerable las oportunidades de los políticos latinos.

Con los candidatos correctos, los latinos podrían ganar en las dos ciudades, afirma Barreto.

En la versión reducida de Los Angeles, la población afroamericana aumentaría de un 11 por ciento a un 15 por ciento. Su apoyo fue decisivo en la elección como alcalde de James Hahn, quien es blanco, sobre el latino Antonio Villaraigosa el año pasado.

Hahn ganó la contienda por 40,000 votos, un 53.5 por ciento a un 46 por ciento. Cuatro de cada cinco de los 93,000 negros que fueron a las urnas votaron por él. Un apoyo tan abrumador no representó un rechazo al candidato hispano, sino, un legado del padre del ganador, Kenneth Hahn, quien trabajó como supervisor del estado en la comunidad negra del sur de Los Angeles por 40 años.

Mientras que Villaraigosa, Hahn, el ex alcalde Richard Riordan y otros prominentes líderes de negocios y políticos locales prometieron defender



Congress Takes Mistaken Aim at the Tourism Goose and its Golden Eggs

By Barnard R. Thompson

Tourism, one of Mexico's key industries, is again being exposed to risk due to rising prices. But today this is unlike the late 1970s to early 1980s, when the sector's industrialists kept increasing rates until they priced themselves out of the market — only to be rescued by the foreign debt crisis, that led to the 1982 devaluation of the peso, that in turn had the (somewhat bizarre) effect in dollar terms of returning hotel rates and related prices to sensible and competitive levels. This latest blow is dealt by federal congressmen, elected representatives proving how shortsighted politicians truly can be, as they have added taxes and increased fees in a number of areas that could do more harm than good.

The whole world heard the clamor over items in the fiscal reform package that went down to defeat in the recently concluded session of congress, items such as a value added tax on food, medicine and some other basic products that had been proposed by the executive branch of government. However congress voted not to tax much of the proposed merchandise, claiming that to do so would add too great a burden on those who can least afford to pay. Instead, taxes were increased on certain items and services seen as "luxuries" in order to relieve the shortfall in revenue in the government's proposal, money President Vicente Fox Quesada continues to say is vital to Mexico's future needs.

But more than this, in the eleventh hour congress added or increased a number of fees and charges that have been less publicized internationally, quite a few being tourism related costs that could prove to be a Pyrrhic victory. It just might be better to make a smaller profit from a lot of business than to try for a bigger gain from each in a reduced number of visitors.

Mexican tourism is a business and industry that is crucial in a cycle that includes foreign exchange inflow and job creation, among others things. Tourism is among the nation's top four to five revenue sources, behind oil and oil product exports and vying with things such as manufactured goods and other product exports, the maquiladora industry and money sent home by Mexicans living and working abroad. Tourism minister Leticia Navarro, according to published reports, said earlier this month that year 2001 tourism earnings will be US\$8.5 billion, up slightly from 2000, although the 19.6 million tourist count was down some 5 percent from 2000 — largely due to September 11. Visitor spending was up 6.7 percent.

So, people have heard that the 15 percent value added tax on hotel rates was increased by congress to 20 percent as of January 1, 2002 (plus, in some areas there is an additional 2 to 3 percent in local taxes). Too, that 5 percent tax now applies to restaurant patron expenditures, moving those to the 20 percent category. But here is "the rest of the story," from the Federal Fees Law and a few other norms for 2002.

The fee for tourists to travel beyond certain border region limits, and/or to stay in the country for more than 72-hours, is not new (it was increased last year from MP\$150.00 to MP\$185.00 per person), although the stronger peso now makes the fee US\$20.26 [MP\$9.13 to US\$1.00] compared to the US\$15.00 when it was initiated.

It should be noted that — in addition to food, lodging, transportation, et cetera — the following expenses are over-and-above those for toll roads and bridges; requisite Mexican automobile, trailer and trailer boat insurance; fishing licenses and boat permits; et al.

Tourists destined for coastal areas, with adjacent "natural protected areas" and national marine parks, will in most cases have to pay to use those waters. Anyone engaged in skin diving, scuba diving, water skiing and trips on motorized or non-motorized boats must pay US\$1.19 per person per day. Those include popular locations near Cancun, Isla Mujeres and Cozumel; the Veracruz reef area; Cabo Pulmo and Loreto in Baja California Sur; Huatulco; et al.

To stay overnight on federal land within the natural protected areas, the fee is US\$11.39 per person per night.

While fees for boats engaged in whale watching are not applicable to incidental viewing from non-commercial vessels, service



providers must now pay a seasonal fee of US\$111.72 per seat per vessel. If this is extrapolated to a skiff fleet of 20 boats that hold six passengers each in say San Ignacio Lagoon, Baja California Sur, the total would be US\$13,406.00, and those fees will have to be passed on to customers.

To go ashore on almost all Mexican islands a permit from the Secretariat of Government has long been needed, but now there are charges for the same. First there is a US\$37.35 administration fee for the application, and second there is

a per-person per island fee of US\$7.67. Those fees have to be paid before the permit will be issued, so in most cases they are based on the maximum capacity of the boat. Those charges are plus the requisite vessel and per-person entry fees charged by the National Ecology Institute for islands located within biosphere reserves, natural protected areas and national parks.

Hunters take a real hit. In addition to license fees, the military gun permits for each qualifying sport gun have gone to US\$54.76. Then you have to hunt

through a registered service provider, on a duly registered plot of land and usually with a guide, all with charges for services and access. Game stamps are US\$16.70, with per specimen or bag limit fees of US\$29,572.84 for desert bighorn sheep; US\$1,642.94 for mule deer and whitetail deer in Sonora (elsewhere the fee for mule deer is US\$876.23); ring-necked pheasant US\$547.65; waterfowl US\$438.12; wild turkey US\$328.59; peccary US\$219.06, and dove US\$284.78.

More defensible amounts have been set for museum, monument and archeological site individual entry fees, although they still swell the bottom line. Those amounts now range from US\$2.41 to US\$3.83.

The news report also quoted Secretary Navarro as saying Mexico's tourism "industry will recover its growth trend." Well, someone had better tell the congress. And the congress might best serve the nation by considering less myopic adjustments immediately. So far it seems that too many legislators think the way to make more money is to increase prices, when greater earnings will come from prices that are competitive — and that thusly bring in lots of tourists. Otherwise travelers will simply pick from many other attractive and more reasonable destinations, saying adiós to Mexico.

Gobierno Mantendrá Lucha Contra Pornografía Infantil

El gobierno de Estados Unidos "tratará de mantener al máximo nivel su lucha contra la pornografía infantil" tras la decisión de la Suprema Corte que permite las imágenes informáticas "virtuales", es decir que únicamente simulan actos sexuales con participación de menores.

"Quiero trabajar con el Congreso para poner en marcha medidas energéticas para luchar contra la pornografía infantil, que sobreviven al escrutinio judicial", anunció el secretario de Justicia, John Ashcroft.

Ashcroft, un conservador religioso que incluso ordenó cubrir con paños dos estatuas semidesnudas que adornan el gran salón de la sede del Departamento de Justicia, no ocultó su decepción por la decisión de la Corte.

Pocas horas después de esa decisión, Ashcroft dio instrucciones a su departamento para modificar varias acusaciones a fin de evitar que sean desestimadas siguiendo la decisión de la Corte.

El máximo tribunal de Estados Unidos revocó ayer una medida que prohíbe la pornografía infantil "virtual", tras decidir que la Constitución protege cualquier imagen pornográfica computarizada en la que sólo se simule el acto sexual entre niños.

En su fallo, por seis votos contra tres, los magistrados apoyaron el argumento de pornógrafos y cineastas de que dicha prohibición habría limitado la expresión artística al penalizar la representación de escenas sexuales.

El juez Anthony Kennedy dijo concretamente que dos cláusulas de una ley contra la pornografía infan-

til, aprobada por el Congreso en 1996, contienen un lenguaje muy impreciso y que además viola la Primera Enmienda de la Constitución, que defiende la libertad de expresión.

La ley contra la pornografía infantil prohíbe cualquier contenido sexual explícito que involucre o "dé la impresión" de que aparece un menor de edad.

El Congreso aprobó la ley ante el aumento de tecnología computarizada que permite la alteración o manipulación de imágenes de niños de carne y hueso.

Aunque esas imágenes no involucran en la realidad a niños, el Congreso consideró que éstas perjudicarían a los menores de edad

porque satisfacen el apetito lascivo de los pederastas.

"La Primera Enmienda exige que la restricción sea más precisa", dijo Kennedy.

Pero la jueza Sandra Day O'Connor, que emitió uno de los tres votos disidentes, dijo que la ley incluye imágenes sexuales generadas por computadoras que no pueden distinguirse de los niños de la vida real.

La Coalición para la Libertad de Expresión, que incluye a grupos productores de pornografía, montó una campaña en contra de la ley por considerar que ésta perjudicaría la creación legítima de filmes y fotografías.



Private Lenders Criticize Fannie Mae

Government-sponsored mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac lag behind private lenders in nearly every large city in making home loan financing available to black and Hispanic borrowers, a private analysis of lending data says.

The report, commissioned by financial institutions long critical of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, comes as the Bush administration is putting a premium on increasing minority homeownership, which is rising to record levels but remains much lower than the national average.

Market-by-market conclusions of the study, obtained by The Associated Press and set for release Wednesday, mirror national data compiled by federal regulators.

Created by Congress but owned by shareholders, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are the nation's largest sources of financing for home loans. They pour money into the multibillion dollar market by buying most of the nation's single-family home loans from primary lenders and reselling them to investors as securities.

The Congressional Budget Office (news - web sites) calculated the benefit of their government charters, which includes lower debt costs, tax and regulatory exemptions, at \$10.7 billion in 2000.

Federal rules require a certain percentage of mortgage purchases by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, called government-sponsored enterprises, be in minority and low- and moderate-income communities. They have met or exceeded the goals for several consecutive years.

The study by the organization FM Watch found, however, that in 97 of the 100 metropolitan areas with the largest black populations, mortgages to blacks in 2000 made up a smaller share of the two companies' business than of conventional lenders' portfolios.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac also trailed private industry in 89 of the 100 largest Hispanic markets, the study found.

FM Watch is a coalition of large mortgage companies, including GE Capital Services Inc., Wells Fargo & Co. and American International Group, that often partner with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. They oppose expansion of the two and want their low-income lending requirements brought in line with the more stringent ones that banks face.

The study examined only loans for the purchase of single-family homes and excluded refinancing and home equity loans.

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Relaciones Publicas Informa Sobre el Censo Asne De Las Salas de Redaccion

Por Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte

La publicación de las cifras del censo anual de salas de redacción de la American Association of Newspaper Editors (Asociación americana de editores de periódico, ASNE) provee un indicio más de que lo hilvanado por las compañías de relaciones públicas afecta ya incluso las noticias más próximas a su fuente.

El 9 de abril, Editor & Publisher, la revista gremial de la industria, cubrió la noticia. Esta lamentó "la merma de periodistas más pronunciada en 25 años", pero apuntó que "la encuesta también reveló un pequeño aumento en el por ciento de reporteros minoritarios que trabajan en periódicos diarios, un aumento de casi medio punto porcentual".

No obstante, la cuenta real de periodistas minoritarios en el 2001 indica 6,600; en el 2002, la cifra se mantuvo en 6,600. Al mismo tiempo, el número de periodistas no minoritarios decayó, de 56,400 a 54,400, una pérdida de 2,000 redactores. La ganancia porcentual de las minorías es el resultado de las bajas en el número de profesionales blancos, y no de ningún aumento en la participación de minorias. Se trata de una diferencia de matiz importante.

Durante casi un cuarto de siglo, las salas de redacción han tratado de aumentar el número de reporteros minoritarios. Sin embargo, durante ese período — desde que ASNE anunció su meta de paridad para el año 2000 — la participación minoritaria ha progresado a paso de tortuga de 4 por ciento al comienzo, en 1978, hasta 12.7 por ciento hoy día. Un precario aumento de 8 por ciento en los últimos 24 años. Esto significaría alrededor de un tercio porcentual por año. De hecho, las cifras de este año demuestran que si bien se contrataron a 447 reporteros minoritarios para salas de redac-

ción, 443 se dieron de baja, de manera que la ganancia neta fue de 4.

Cuando las cifras son tan pequeñas, el aumento porcentual no tiene importancia. Aunque el reportaje de ASNE alega una ganancia porcentual "significativa" en el número de internos minoritarios, el número de personas en realidad disminuyó por 43.

A duras penas un relato de éxito.

Sin embargo, la industria, tanto por el lado de la prensa escrita como televisada (dónde las cifras no están mucho mejor), insiste en utilizar métodos gastados para atender el problema. La industria y sus dependencias de adiestramiento profesional han gastado millones de dólares en talleres, programas, proyectos y premios. Y, con la excepción del profesional ejemplar ocasional, ni la cobertura ni la cultura de la sala de redacción se han tornado más diversas.

De hecho, cierta codificación en base al color de la piel perpetúa la

manera tradicional de hacer las cosas.

Quizás un ejemplo claro de cómo la negación contribuye a derrotar la meta de ASNE se encuentra precisamente en comunicados de prensa y reportajes que tergiversan la realidad. En este caso, el artículo de E&P alega que un grupo progresa basándose en el declinamiento de otro.

Al esbozarse en un lenguaje de relaciones públicas, en lugar de un lenguaje preciso, el reportaje manipula las cifras. Si la única manera de aumentar el porcentaje minoritario es mantener las cifras de las minorías en el mismo lugar mientras se disminuyen los números de periodistas no minoritarios, más que diversificar las salas de redacción, las encogeremos.

Eso difícilmente se podría ver como una ganancia.

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Sanchez & Perry Reach Out to Hispanics at LULAC Convention

from page one

Both candidates said it is especially important to recognize the contributions of immigrants since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which have led to widespread concern about immigration policies.

Mr. Cornyn, the Texas attorney general, said he supports a formal guest-worker program.

"Our laws need to be changed to recognizing guest-worker status where hardworking immigrants who want to come here under official recognition through a guest-worker program can work and earn a living, and perhaps send money back to their families back in Mexico," he said.

Later in a speech, Republican Gov. Rick Perry emphasized his record on education. He said providing students with access to technology is crucial, and that the state has already begun making improvements by investing millions of dollars to wire public schools for the Internet.

"We must continue to bridge that gap between those who have technology and those who do not, because technology use and proficiency is critical to preparing our youngest Texans for the opportunities of the future," he said. "My focus as governor will be to eliminate opportunity gaps wherever they may exist."

Mr. Perry also said he would create mentoring and summer school



programs to target students at risk of dropping out. He noted his recent proposal for a \$20 million competitive grant program to help students afford college.

Mr. Perry's reception was less spirited than that of rival Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tony Sanchez when he entered the room Friday night. Mr. Perry was greeted with applause, while the crowd stood, applauded and chanted "Tony!" when Mr. Sanchez arrived.

Friday night, Mr. Sanchez, a Laredo multimillionaire, delivered

much of his speech in Spanish and promised to increase technology for students through his public school plan.

Mr. Sanchez has not put a price tag on his education plan, but the Perry campaign believes it would cost at least \$5 billion. Perry spokesman Ray Sullivan said Friday that Mr. Sanchez "owes LULAC and the citizens of Texas an honest explanation of the funding source."

LULAC, a nonprofit organization, advocates economic, educational and civil rights equality.

Univision shareholders would have approximately 73.5 percent and Hispanic Broadcasting shareholders 26.5 percent of the combined company's ownership.

The Hispanic population grew 58 percent between 1990 and 2000, the most recent U.S. Census said, with about one of every eight people in the United States being of Hispanic origin.

The importance of reaching the Spanish-speaking audience was solidified when General Electric Co.'s NBC television network earlier this year completed the acquisition of Univision's closest rival, Telemundo.

Telemundo trails Univision by a wide margin, but NBC's programming know-how and its pull with advertisers is considered a potential threat to Univision's dominance.

Univision, which also runs cable station Galavision, an Internet site and a music record label, launched a new television network, TeleFutura, in January.

El Editor

Univision Buys Hispanic Broadcasting

Univision Communications Inc., the No. 1 U.S. Spanish-language television group, on Wednesday bought leading U.S. Spanish-language radio broadcaster Hispanic Broadcasting Corp. for \$3.5 billion in stock, as it solidifies as a media powerhouse targeting the 35 million U.S. Latinos.

The merger allows Univision to add Hispanic Broadcasting's 55 radio stations to its television, music and Internet holdings.

"Univision's entrance into this business will provide us with revenue enhancement and earnings diversification as well as significant growth opportunities through coordinated sales and promotion efforts," said Univision's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Jerrold Perenchio.

Univision's popular television soap operas, or telenovelas; talk shows; and sports programs reach 97 percent of U.S. Hispanic households. Its main programming provider is Mexico's Grupo Televisa, the world's leading Spanish language media company.

Hispanic Broadcasting similarly dominates radio. It operates the top Spanish station in nine of the leading markets, including Los Angeles, New York and Miami. Some of its stations are among the leaders in their regions regardless of language.

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Mr. and Mrs. Luis, Leonora Estrada would like to invite all their family and friends to attend the 15th birthday celebration of their daughter Lezlie Estrada which will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2002. Lezlie is a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. She attended Wilson Jr. High and participates in competitive athletics and was the secretary for the PTA. Lezlie will now attend Coronado High in the fall.

Also the parents would like to give special thanks for all the people that contributed toward the quinceañera of their daughter. ¡Mil Gracias!

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TRIPLE CROWNS



Shaq, Kobe and the ringmaster do it again in dominating style, sweeping the Nets 113-107 to complete the treepeat. Mike Kahn says it's owed to coach Phil Jackson, who first turned the Lakers' talented duo into champions.

Holmes Coming Out of Retirement to Fight Esch

Even at 52, Larry Holmes said, "I still got that fast, lightning left jab," and he plans to prove it July 27 when he fights Eric "Butterbean" Esch in a one-fight comeback.

Holmes, the former heavyweight champion, will be fighting for the first time since Nov. 17, 2000, when he knocked out Mike Weavers in the sixth round.

Holmes said he's in good shape financially and is returning to the ring "because I want to. I have all these things but I still want to fight and I still can fight."

Holmes said he's going to make \$250,000 from the bout; Esch, 35, declined to reveal what he will be paid.

Esch, a 6-foot, 355-pounder, is a former Toughman competition champion who has become known as the "King of the Four-Rounders" in his seven years as a professional. In Esch's last fight on May 5, he knocked out Weavers in

four rounds.

The 10-round fight, announced Wednesday, was ostensibly set up to settle a score between the fighters after Holmes wrote in his book, "Against the Odds," that boxers like Esch have no place in the sport. But at a news conference, Holmes downplayed

the fight as a grudge match.

Nonetheless, he promised to make Esch's first venture into big-time boxing an unpleasant experience.

"When Eric gets in the ring, he's going to see something coming at him at 100 mph," Holmes said. "And that is my left jab."

"I've always wanted to step up," he said. "It's going to be a brawl. Larry might want to run and jab, but it's going to be a brawl."

The fight, to be held at Scope arena in Norfolk and made available on pay-per-view, will be the main event on a card also featuring Jacqui Frazier-Lyde, daughter of Joe Frazier, in one of five or six undercard bouts, promoter Daryl DeCroix said.

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Nominación del Juez Miguel Estrada Languidece en el Senado

El día 9 de mayo del año pasado el Presidente George W. Bush envió al Senado la nominación del Juez Miguel Estrada para ocupar un asiento en la Corte de Apelaciones para el Distrito de Columbia el cual incluye la capital de la nación; si llega a ser confirmado, Estrada será el primer Juez latino en ocupar una posición en ese juzgado.

Miguel Estrada nació en Tegucigalpa, Honduras, habiendo emigrado a los Estados Unidos cuando era un jovencito que prácticamente desconocía el uso del idioma inglés. En 1983 se graduó de Bachiller con honores en el Columbia College de Nueva York y en 1986 obtuvo su título en jurisprudencia también con honores en la afamada Escuela de Leyes de la Universidad Harvard, donde fue editor del Harvard Law Review.

De 1986 a 1987 trabajó con la Juez Amalya L. Kearse de la Corte de Apelaciones de los EE.UU. para el Segundo Circuito, de 1988 a 1989 en la misma capacidad con el Juez de la Suprema Corte de Justicia de los EE.UU. Anthony M. Kennedy y de 1992 a 1997 fue asistente del Procurador General de los EE.UU.. En su carrera legal el Juez Estrada ha argumentado 15 causas ante la Suprema Corte de Justicia.

Una audiencia para considerar los méritos del Juez Estrada depende de la aprobación del Senador Demócrata por el estado de Vermont, Patrick Leahy, presidente del comité judicial del senado que está controlado por la mayoría demócrata.

"Si ponemos atención a la expe-

riencia y las calificaciones de Miguel Estrada nos damos cuenta que es un candidato que puede hacer un excelente trabajo en la corte," dijo exclusivamente para La Raza el asesor legal del Presidente Bush, el abogado tejano Alberto González quien agregó "Se me ha informado que Estrada ha sido considerado demasiado conservador. Sin embargo, debo decir con toda franqueza que probablemente estén un poco temerosos de que alguien que tiene su capacidad llegue a la corte y se convierta en el líder de la misma; me parece que ésto puede ser una razón para la demora en su confirmación."

En la actualidad el término "demasiado conservador" es usado frecuentemente, de acuerdo con mi entrevistado: "Demasiado conservador es una descripción muy fácil de aplicar a alguien con quien no se está de acuerdo por cualquier razón, y es particularmente desafortunado en el caso de Miguel quien es considerado bien calificado por la Barra de Abogados del país para ser un excelente Juez. Esperamos que el comité actúe en su nominación tan pronto como sea posible."

"Sería muy conveniente que los lectores de La Raza se movilicen para lograr que el Juez Estrada sea confirmado, y uno de los recursos a su disposición es escribir al Senador Richard Durbin haciéndole saber sus deseos en ese sentido y pidiéndole su apoyo," concluyó el abogado González.

Con objeto de conocer el ambiente relativo a la nominación de Miguel Estrada existente en el comité del senado, le pregunte al

Senador Durbin, (quien es miembro del comité que confirmará o rechazará al Juez Estrada), su posición en favor o en contra de la nominación.

"Cuando regrese a Washington participaré en una serie de reuniones del comité para considerar futuras audiencias, y tengo entendido que el Senador Leahy ha prometido que habrá una audiencia para discutir la nominación del Juez Estrada."

Aún no sé si durante esas discusiones se establecerá una fecha definitiva para considerar su nominación, lo más probable es que esto suceda entre ahora y la primera semana de agosto, esta es mi especulación, nuevamente puedo decir que el Senador Leahy ha prometido que habrá una audiencia para el Juez Estrada" declaró a La Raza el senador por Illinois.

En lo relativo a su apoyo u oposición a la confirmación de Estrada el senador Durbin dijo: "No sé mucho acerca de sus antecedentes por lo que, en este momento no puedo comprometerme en uno u otro sentido y esperaré a que la audiencia tenga lugar para decidir si

es una persona que puede hacer un buen trabajo.

En estos casos me baso en el análisis de tres aspectos: primero, si el nominado está legalmente calificado para actuar como juez; segundo, su integridad y tercero si es moderado, en otras palabras que no se inclina hacia ninguno de los extremos; en este caso no tengo una idea preconcebida. Espero la oportunidad de conocerle y ojalá que pueda darle mi apoyo."

La confirmación de los juristas nominados a ocupar puestos en los diferentes circuitos ha sido, es y seguirá siendo víctima de la lucha política; demócratas y republicanos se acusan mutuamente de negar la oportunidad a muchos de sus respectivos nominados para enfrentarse personalmente a los miembros del comité y dar a conocer sus puntos de vista e ideologías. Lo ideal y democrático sería que los aspirantes a jueces fueran juzgados por sus méritos exclusivamente, sin importar su afiliación partidista.

En respuesta a nuestras preguntas concernientes a la nominación del

Juez Estrada la oficina del Senador Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) por conducto de la vocera jurídica Mary Devlin nos confirmó lo declarado por el Senador Durbin, pues en su comunicado dice: "El senador Leahy no se ha referido oficialmente a Estrada pero ha declarado que todos los nominados, controversiales o no recibirán un voto a favor o en contra."

En el senado anterior la nominación de candidatos controversiales generalmente no producía una audiencia en el comité jurídico del mismo, nos explicó la Sra. Devlin.

En su comunicado también nos explica que en algunos círculos existe la preocupación de que el temprano período judicial del Juez Estrada no le permita dictaminar justamente en algunos casos, citando declaraciones, entre otras, de Paul Bender quien fuera supervisor de Estrada cuando éste trabajaba en la oficina del Procurador General y de Juan A. Figueroa del Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLEDF).

Aún cuando la cámara baja del congreso no tiene ninguna interferencia en la aprobación o el rechazo de las nominaciones para jueces ya que son potestad exclusiva del comité jurídico del senado, conociendo la importancia de tener un número de jueces consistente con el aumento de la población latina pedí al congresista Luis Gutiérrez su punto de vista en la nominación de Miguel

Estrada.

"El congresista Gutiérrez apoya decididamente la iniciativa de aumentar la diversidad en la corte federal, particularmente en este momento cuando los derechos de los inmigrantes están siendo disputados en el sistema jurídico de los EE.UU., las comunidades se pueden beneficiar teniendo jueces nacidos en otros países, quienes -deseamos sinceramente- pueden ser sensibles a las necesidades y aspiraciones de las personas que vienen a este país en busca de una vida mejor."

"Hasta este momento el congresista Gutiérrez considera que tanto él como miembros del senado no poseen suficiente información para decidir la controversia; sin embargo el hecho de que las preguntas existan son razones válidas que favorecen en lugar de perjudicar la posibilidad de que el Juez Estrada tenga la oportunidad de ser oido por el Comité Jurídico del Senado, pero más importante aún la oportunidad que el Senador Leahy y sus colegas tendrán de interrogarlo directamente," nos dijo el Secretario de Prensa del Congresista Gutiérrez, Billy Weinberg.

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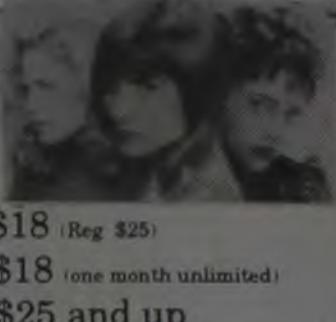
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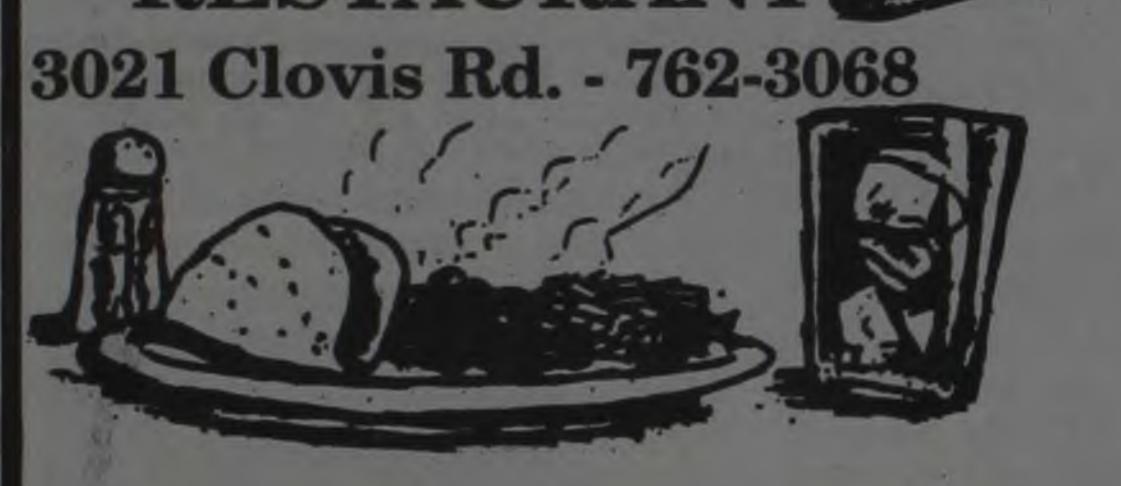
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Lo Mejor En Comida Mexicana



For Latino Candidates, Are Two Los Angeleses Better Than One?

By Anthony McCartney

Los Angeles voters stand poised to create another U.S. city dominated by Latinos this fall.

A citywide referendum on Nov. 5 election day will decide whether the San Fernando Valley and its 1.35 million residents will split from the rest of the city, creating in effect two Los Angeleses, each with a growing plurality of Latino residents.

If the proposition wins majority approval, the city will shed more than half a million Hispanics from its current population of 3.6 million. But the Hispanic percentage of the city's population would actually increase, from 46 percent to 49 percent, while the white population would drop from 30 percent to 23 percent.

The split would create the opportunity for an individual within Southern California's growing cadre of prominent Hispanic leaders to ascend to the mayor's office in one -- or even both -- cities.

According to Tomás Rivera Policy Institute analyst Matt Barreto, the Valley secession would boost the percentage of Latino registered voters in the shrunken Los Angeles from 14 percent to 22 percent, thus improving a Latino politician's chances considerably.

With the right candidates, Latinos could win in both cities, he says.

In the trimmed-down version of L.A., the African-American population would increase from 11 percent to 15 percent. Their support was decisive last year in electing James Hahn, who is white, as mayor over Latino Antonio Villaraigosa.

Hahn won the race by 40,000 votes, 53.5 percent to 46.5 percent. Four out of five of the 93,000 blacks who went to the polls cast their ballots for him. Such an overwhelming endorsement came not as a rejection of a Hispanic candidate, however, but as a legacy from the winner's father, Kenneth Hahn, who served the black community in South Los Angeles as a county supervisor for 40 years.

If the proposition passes, Hispanics in the new, as-yet-unnamed Valley city would hold an immediate slight edge in population over whites -- 43 percent to 41 percent. Five of its proposed 14 council districts have been drawn to favor Latino candidates.

Situated north of downtown, the sprawling San Fernando Valley has been part of Los Angeles since 1915. It is an economically robust region of mostly working and middle-class residents, with a steadily growing Latino presence.

Raised in the Valley, ambitious and charismatic Richard Alarón is being touted as a formidable mayoral candidate should it secede. In November, he is running unopposed for a second term in the California Senate.

Alarcón, 48, represented Valley residents on the Los Angeles City Council for five years. Articulate in Spanish as well as English, he has built constituencies in both Latino and non-Latino communities.

While Villaraigosa, Hahn, former Mayor Richard Riordan and several other prominent business and local political leaders have pledged to defeat the secession measure, Alarcón has yet to declare his position. He did tell Hispanic Link that the arguments being advanced by the proponents of secession are "some of the same elements" he used in his successful 1993 campaign for City Council.

He called the secession movement a "classic taxpayer revolt," since many people who support separation from Los Angeles feel that they pay more in taxes than they receive in services.

Alarcón will have to decide by the end of the month whether to support secession and declare his candidacy for Valley mayor. Should secession fail, there's also the possibility he'll decide to run for mayor of Los Angeles in 2005.

Secessionists contend that the new Valley city would be more manageable than old Los Angeles. The new, trimmer Los Angeles would fall below Chicago in population and become the nation's third largest city. It would retain the distinction of being the nation's largest city where Hispanics, with an almost 2-to-1 numerical advantage over white residents, outnumber all other racial/ethnic groups.

If a majority of voters approve secession, the new San Fernando Valley city would instantly become the third largest U.S. "Hispanic" city, trailing only San Antonio and Los Angeles.

Nominated to Texas Hall of Fame Pete Morales Inducted into Buddy Holly Terrace Walk of Fame

Last month Lubbock musician Pete Morales was inducted into the Buddy Holly Terrace Walk of Fame for his contributions to music in West Texas. The following is a letter submitted by Tom Garcia to the Guadalupe Cultural Center to nominate Morales in the Texas Conjunto Musicians Hall of Fame.

Dear Mr. Rejeda

The purpose of this correspondence is to introduce to you one of the first and most influential musician accordionist of conjunto Music in the West and Panhandle of Texas.

This committed representing Conjunto Music Lovers are hereby petitioning to the Guadalupe Culture Arts Center to enter Pete Morales "El Amigo de Todos" as a nominee for induction into the conjunto music hall of fame in recognition to his dedication and contribution to conjunto music for the last thirty-nine years.

Some of us have known Pete Morales for over forty years and it is with pride and pleasure that we tell you about the Pete Morales we know and admire. We hope to do him justice in this stating only facts that lead up to his tremendous accomplishments during his career of thirty-nine plus years.

Born in Big Foot, Texas near Devine in Central Texas, January 18, 1934, Pete launched his musical career at age fourteen. Oddly, he did not start on the accordion. His brothers (Polo, Willie & Miguel) and a nephew (Mike Jr.) all played the guitar, so naturally he was exposed to that instrument first. He began playing the guitar and bajo sexto almost exclusively, until he became serious in the accordion in 1950.

A close friend of his (Tom Gloria), at that time had taken up playing the accordion at local dances. Being such close friends and always together, the interest in the accordion was a bond they had in common plus their destined to marry two Ortiz sisters in later years. That was the beginning of his inspiration to becoming at least half as good as his idol Valerio Longoria. In time he developed a style only attributed to him. His accordion style sounds elegantly simple, and it is in many ways telling of his roots in West Texas for he calls Lubbock, Texas his home.

Pete recalls his first public appearances during intermissions at the Tahoka Dance Hall at age sixteen. His guitarist was Benny Ortiz who in later years became his brother-in-law. From there it seemed more exciting playing with his own conjunto in neighboring towns. Tino Castillo got him in Radio in 1953 at station KKUB in Brownfield, Texas.

Soon, he was ready to go into the recording business. Joe Martinez Records of Midland, Texas gave him his first break in 1954. Then it was Rangel Records in San Antonio in 1957, followed by Sunglow Records in 1969 and Vega Records in 1970 in Lubbock. His latest recording was in 1979 for Joe Records in San Antonio.

Pete has to his name ten singles, one album and two 8-track tapes and plans to return to the recording studio in early 1990. He feels that the following recordings were accepted real well by the public and became quite popular: "El Album de mi Vida" (Bolero); "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain" (C&W); "There Won't Be Anymore" (C&W) "Quisiera Ser Pajarillo" (Can-Ran) "Vuelve a

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Bush Juzga y Condena a Padilla

El presidente George W. Bush, desechando toda consideración de orden constitucional, aseguró ayer que el presunto terrorista José Padilla, "está donde tiene que estar: detenido", y prometió una "cacería en gran escala" de asesinos y potenciales asesinos que se sumarán a la lista de los que ya están bajo custodia.

Los expertos en derecho, sin embargo, han comenzado a decir que el gobierno debe acusar de algo si pretende mantenerlo preso indefinidamente.

Bush habló el día después que el gobierno anunció la detención de Padilla, ciudadano estadounidense de origen puertorriqueño que resulta sospechoso de conspirar para fabricar y detonar una bomba radiactiva (llamada "sucia"). Padilla o Abdalá Al Mujahir ha sido designado por las autoridades como enemigo combatiente contra Estados Unidos y detenido indefinidamente en una prisión militar.

En Nueva York, la abogada de Padilla, Donna Newman, solicitó a un juez federal la liberación del detenido, argumentando que no ha sido acusado formalmente de nada y que, como ciudadano estadounidense, tiene derechos constitucionales. La detención indefinida de Padilla en una prisión militar sin haber sido acusado, es preocupante en el ámbito constitucional, según Newman.

"El gobierno utilizó los medios de comunicación para pintarlo como un malhechor, pero ni siquiera presentó cargos", dijo.

A eso responde el gobierno diciendo que, al unirse al enemigo, Padilla renunció a sus derechos constitucionales según las leyes de guerra, y que por eso será detenido indefinidamente, inclusive sin derecho a tener asesoría legal.

Como ciudadano, Padilla no enfrentaría un tribunal militar, pero sí podría enfrentar una corte marcial, en cuyo caso tendría derecho a asesoría legal. Ayer se intensificó el debate entre expertos legales que afirman que el gobierno tiene que acusar a Padilla de algo para poder justificar su detención indefinida.

Jueces Bush y Ashcroft

El presidente Bush, sin embargo, no mostró preocupaciones de orden constitucional al emitir un juicio de culpabilidad y de sentencia: "Este Padilla es un mal tipo y está donde tiene que estar: detenido".

Por otro lado, el secretario de Justicia, John Ashcroft, afirmó en Budapest que la detención indefinida de Padilla es totalmente justificada por la gravedad de la amenaza que supuso el presunto plan para fabricar y detonar una bomba sucia.

Con su detención, dijo Ashcroft, "se interrumpió de manera significativa un potencial complot para desplegar una 'bomba sucia' en Estados Unidos".

Por su lado, el secretario de Defensa, Donald Rumsfeld, que ahora tiene la custodia de Padilla, indicó que el interés no es tanto procesar o castigar al hombre de 31 años de edad sino recabar toda la información que pueda ofrecer sobre la red terrorista Al Qaida, a la que aparentemente está asociado.

Reportes contradictorios aseguran que en todo el mes que ha estado bajo custodia del gobierno Padilla no ha colaborado con las autoridades, pero otros, como su abogada, aseguran que sí lo ha hecho.

Sea cual sea el caso, Bush insistió en que su detención indefinida está justificada y que Padilla es sólo uno de muchos "potenciales asesinos que Estados Unidos tiene bajo custodia".

"Este tipo, Padilla, es uno de los muchos que hemos arrestado... La coalición que hemos integrado [para combatir el terrorismo] ha detenido a 2,400 personas y ahora pueden decir que son 2,401. Hay una cacería en gran escala. Seguiremos cada pista, cada indicio", declaró Bush en una reunión en

la Casa Blanca con líderes del Congreso sobre los planes para establecer el Departamento de Seguridad Interna.

Ayer el Congreso abrió las audiencias sobre el mayor plan de reestructuración gubernamental desde finales de la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Padilla, también conocido como "Puchito", nació en Brooklyn, Nueva York, de padres puertorriqueños y desde los cuatro años de edad vivió



Donna Newman, attorney for Jose Padilla.

Defensora del presunto miembro de Al Qaida señala el derecho constitucional de no ser detenido sin cargos.

en Chicago, donde se involucró con pandillas y se inició en una vida delictiva que lo llevó de Chicago a Florida y de ahí aparentemente a ser reclutado por la red terrorista Al Qaida.

Padilla es el segundo hispano de origen puertorriqueño en ser vinculado a Al Qaida o a los talibanes. Justo tras el arresto de otro ciudadano estadounidense, John Walker Lindh, por aliarse con el enemigo para combatir soldados estadouni-

nidenses, se reportó que un joven de origen puertorriqueño, Hiram Torres, luchaba junto a los talibanes, pero hasta el momento no ha sido encontrado. Al parecer, el nombre árabe de Torres era Mohamed Salman.

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