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Helping the Gangsters in Mexico

By José de la Isla
Mexico's biggest national security problem stems from its fight with drug cartels. Its domestic body count of nearly 6,000 people last year has sounded the alarm. Prominently listed among the grizzly assassinations were gangsters, police, and journalists, members of the military and government officials, plus a multitude of collateral victims.

Anturo Santibañ, Mexico's ambassador to the United States, argues that the current violence is a blow-back following the squeeze that government has put on the drug cartels. The criminals are murdering each other over trade routes. The head of Mexico's national defense commission of the Chamber of Deputies Jorge González Betancourt says his country wants the United States to share more information, stop arms trafficking, and curb money laundering and curtail consumer demand for drugs if his country is to gain the upper hand in the fight.

These expressions follow a U.S. State Department warning about travel to Mexico. Texas Gov. Rick Perry has called on the Department of Homeland Security to send a thousand troops to the Mexican border.

Don't I care whether they are military troops, or National Guard

troops or whether they are customs agents," said the governor. His concern is that Mexico's drug war may be spilling into U.S. territory. Some of the worry comes from a Homeland Security report that six drug cartel-related kidnappings have

Ferriz has moved his family to El Paso. It's true that the mayor owns a house in El Paso. So did the previous Juárez mayor.

Bad it bad enough without embellishments, and hysteria isn't a good way to cope with the matter.

have argued that our current financial crisis happened because Wall Street never simulated a worst-case scenario. If we had, would that have meant that, by our own standards, the U.S. is a failed state?

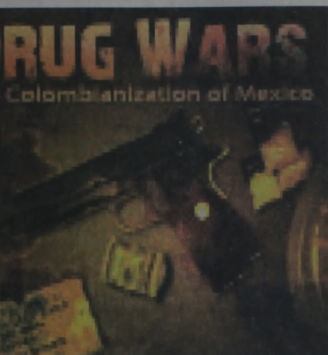
Back in 2005 the Dominican Republic was declared a failed state in another report. Then the United States passed the Central American Free Trade Agreement, which included that nation. So, by our own practice, the designation "failed state" could mean be a reason for "trading partner."

U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, from Texas, has stated that drug-related violence is turning some communities there back into "the Wild West." And Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut is calling for hearings later this month on border violence.

A better reason for hearings would be to address the recommendations in a November 2008 Brookings Institution report. Its study group, headed by former Mexico president Ernesto Zedillo and former U.S. Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering, asked us to ratify the United Nation's protocol against the illicit manufacture and trafficking in firearms, gun parts and ammunition.

If we want to get hysterical over Mexico's violence, we should crack down on the gunrunning, originating with us, that is abetting the gangsters next door.

José de la Isla, author of *The Rise of Hispanic Political Power* (Archers Books, 2003) writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. He may be contacted by e-mail at joseisla3@yahoo.com.)



occurred in El Paso, Texas, across the border from Ciudad Juárez, where the infamous Sinaloa Cartel is fighting to maintain its franchise to supply this country.

The only problem is that when NewspaperTree.com reporter David Crowder checked, the El Paso police had no record of any such kidnappings, except possibly one.

Another story circulating has that

Our own officials need to get a grip. Wasn't it this kind of mentality that got us into, say, the Iraq debacle?

Some of the justification for our shrimps comes from a U.S. military preparedness report that included a "worst case" scenario on what could occur if Mexico's or Pakistan's governments failed and either or both became a "balked state"....

In a parallel way, some bankers

Ayudando a los Gangsteres de México

José de la Isla

El mayor problema de seguridad nacional para México parte de su lucha contra los cárteles de narcotráficos. Los casi 6,000 asesinados a nivel doméstico el año pasado han dado el toque de alarma. Prominente entre los horrendos asesinatos se encuentran periodistas, policías, periodistas, miembros de las fuerzas militares y funcionarios de gobierno, además de una multitud de víctimas adicionales.

Anturo Santibañ, embajador de México a los Estados Unidos, manifiesta que la violencia actual es resultado del apretón que el gobierno le ha dado a los cárteles. Los criminales se matan entre ellos luchando por las rutas comerciales. El director de la Comisión de Defensa Nacional mexicana de la Cámara de Diputados, Jorge González Betancourt indica que su país quiere que los Estados Unidos comparta más información, que se detenga la venta de armas, que se detenga el lavado de dinero y limite la demanda del consumidor por las drogas para que su país pueda preservar en la lucha.

Estas expresiones siguen una advertencia que emitió el Departamento de Estado estadounidense sobre el peligro de viajar en México. El gobernador de Texas, Rick Perry, ha pedido al Departamento de Seguridad Nacional a enviar miles de tropas a la frontera con México.

No me importa que se traspasen fronteras, me da la Guardia Nacional o si son agentes de aduanas," dijo el gobernador. Lo que le preocupa es que la guerra de la droga en México está entrando en territorio estadounidense. Parte de esa preocupación se debe a un informe del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional que hubo seis secuestros relacionados a los cárteles de drogas en El Paso, Texas, al otro lado de la frontera de Ciudad Juárez, en la que el infame cartel Sinaloa se pelea por mantener su concesión para suplir la demanda en este país.

El único problema es que cuando lo organizamos NewspaperTree.com investigó, la policía en El Paso no dio indicación de haber registrado ningún secuestro del estilo, sino simplemente uno.

Otro cuento que circula es que el alcalde de Ciudad Juárez, José Reyes Ferriz, ha transferido a su familia a El Paso. Si bien es cierto que el alcalde tiene una casa en El Paso, también era el caso para el alcalde anterior.

adornos, y la historia no es la forma de lidiar con el problema. Nuestros propios funcionarios tienen que armarse de valor. No fue acaso esta mentalidad la que nos metió en, digamos, la debacle en Irak?

Hay alguna justificación para los nervios gracias a un informe de disposición militar estadounidense que incluyó un escenario de "peor caso" sobre lo que ocurriría si los gobiernos de México o de Pakistán fallaran y uno o ambos se convirtieran en "estado fracasado".

De manera paralela, algunos comentaristas han mantenido que nuestra crisis financiera actual ocurrió porque Wall Street nunca montó un simulacro de un escenario del peor caso. Si lo hubiera hecho, habría significado que según nuestras propias normas, los EEUU, es un estado

fracasado?

Allá por el 2005, en otro informe se llamó a la República Dominicana un estado fracasado. En ese entonces, los Estados Unidos aprobó el Tratado de Libre Comercio Centroamericano, el cual incluyó esa nación. Por ende, siguiendo nuestra misma práctica, el designar un estado "fracasado" podría indicar razón de hacerlo "socio comercial".

Representante Lamar Smith, de Texas, ha declarado que la violencia relacionada a las drogas está volviendo a algunas comunidades a la era del "Wild West". Y el senador Joseph Lieberman de Connecticut está convocando audiencias a fines de este mes para discutir el tema de la violencia en la frontera.

Una mejor razón para convocar las au-

dencias sería para dirigirse a las recomendaciones de un informe de noviembre del 2008 de la Institución Brookings. Su grupo de estudio, que encabezó el ex presidente de México Ernesto Zedillo y ex subsecretario de estado de los EE.UU. Thomas Pickering, nos pidió que ratificásemos el protocolo de las Naciones Unidas contra la manufactura ilícita y el tráfico de armas de fuego, partes de pistolas y municiones.

Si queremos preservar históricamente la violencia en México, deberíamos dar con fuerza al tráfico de armas, que origina con nosotros y que nos hace cómplices de los gangsteres al lado.

José de la Isla, autor de *The Rise of Hispanic Political Power* (Archers Books, 2003), redacta un comentario semanal para Hispanic Link News Service. Contactarse con él a joseisla3@yahoo.com.)

Latino-America Dream put on hold

By Froma Harrop
Open most any urban newspaper to the foreclosure notices, and you'll find the list heavy with Hispanics. Times are tough for Americans of every demographic, but for Latinos they are grimmer still.

This is the end of the Latino-American dream? The answer, in Spanish, is "no."

President Obama has just unveiled a \$75-billion plan that includes helping homeowners who are behind in their monthly payments

but could keep up if their mortgage terms were eased a bit. Many Latinos would fit this category.

Almost one in 10 Latino homeowners reported struggling a mortgage payment — or being unable to make a full one — in 2008, according to a Pew Hispanic Center survey. Over a third said they feared their own home might go into foreclosure.

For foreign-born Latinos, that number rose to 53 percent. (Pew doesn't ask about immigration status.)

Many Latinos bought or refinanced

homes at the worst possible time — just before the housing bubble went splat. Lots of people fell for the pitch that real-estate was an up-only escalator into the American Dream.

But with more than half of Latino families still renting their homes, they became a very juicy target for the builders, brokers, loan originators and banks seeking to prosper off mortgage mania.

As with other fans of easy credit, many Latinos were reckless in their borrowing. Some lied about income

on their loan applications, often egged on by brokers and mortgage companies. But were more simply clueless.

Mortgage companies wrote contracts designed to confuse even the most fluent speakers of English. Those with limited English were especially hard-pressed to understand the terms.

Subprime mortgages were invented for borrowers with poor credit ratings. They come with higher interest rates and often-punishing fees to supposedly compensate lenders for the added risk. But the road to riches was to make the deal, collect the fees, then palm the dodgy loans onto other investors.

Wall Street took its cut packaging the mortgages into securities. For an unimpeachable lender, the ultimate win-win is convincing a good credit risk that he or she isn't one — and can only qualify for an expensive subprime mortgage. Subprime lenders found minority neighborhoods fertile ground for playing this trick. For example, 40 percent of African-Americans who took out subprime mortgages would have qualified for more affordable mainstream loans.

The subprime crisis crested in 2005. That year, less-than-prime mortgages sold to Hispanics jumped 169 percent. (They rose 110 percent for whites and 122 percent for blacks.) Further lowering the guard of His-

panic homeowners were the ORK effect on their so-called allies

— low-income housing groups and Latino lawmakers — to herd them into the tent.

The Hispanic Congressional Caucus, Subprime's Hope (SEARCH) in Spanish initiative was funded by the subprime industry. Subprime executives served as advisors.

California Rep. Joe Baca, a Democratic, pushed for lower lending standards as a way, he said, to "open the door to the American Dream."

Brokers hawking the most toxic subprime products reeled into his \$8-percent Hispanic San Bernardino district, now one of America's foreclosure capitals.

The question must be asked: How many people would be OK had they been given the easier terms of a prime mortgage? The Obama Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan may provide part of the answer.

Things will calm down. The United States will recover from the economic crisis. Debt-burdened families will restore sanity to their personal finances. (They've already begun.) Meanwhile, lower real-estate values could help some who lost their home get back in the homeownership game. For the many Latinos among them, the American Dream is not dead. It's just been put on hold.



totalled more than \$980 billion in 2008, according to market research publisher Packaged Facts in the all-new report, "The Hispanic (Latino) Market in the U.S. A Generational View, 7th Edition."

Packaged Facts has been tracking the U.S. Hispanic market since 1996, and predicts that the buying power of Hispanics will continue to grow at a relatively rapid pace underlined by the present dry outlook for consumers as a whole. Ultimately, Latino buying power is projected to reach \$1.3 billion in 2013, with a cumulative growth rate of 31%.

"Latinos will change the profile of American society over the next four decades. The Hispanic population will grow much quicker than other population segments, and Hispanic consumers will represent an increasing percentage of the American consumer base," says Tajana Meernan, publisher of Packaged Facts.

Gen-Y Latinos (ages 18-29) and Gen-X Latinos (ages 30-44) are particularly influential, because they control more than 60% of all Hispanic buying power. These young Hispanic adults generate significant consumer spending both for themselves and their families. Consequently, they have a disproportionate impact on a number of industries in the American economy, including entertainment, apparel, and children's items.

"The Hispanic (Latino) Market in the U.S. A Generational View, 7th Edition" highlights the attitudes and behavior of Hispanic adults ranging from Gen-Y and Gen-X Latinos through younger and older Boomers. Trends, opportunities shaping the Hispanic market, demographic characteristics of the Hispanic population, assessment of Hispanic consumers' buying power, in-depth analysis of immigration and acculturation trends, and much more are examined in the report. Profiles of seven Hispanic national segments (Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Dominicans, Dominicans, Guatemalans, and Colombians) are also provided. For further information visit: <http://www.packagedfacts.com/Hispanics-178309/>

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NAACP Says...
Stop Foreclosure
Restructure Loans,
Not
Repossess Homes

Hispanics wary of future in GOP

By David R. Sands

Five years after former President George W. Bush attracted nearly half the Hispanic vote in the 2004 presidential election, Hispanic Republicans are worrying that support for the party among Latinos is in a free fall.

The move was distinctly downward at times at a recent Capitol Hill gathering sponsored by the Republican National Hispanic Assembly (RHNA) on the "Future of Hispanics in the GOP." For some, the basic question was whether there was any future to discuss.

Leading Hispanic Republican strategists say the natural attraction the party should enjoy with church-going, socially conservative Latino voters is being overwhelmed by a single issue: the party's hard-line stance on illegal immigration.

"We know that the party will not recover its majority until we get this right," said RHNA chairman Danny Vargas.

Conservative pundit and former Maryland Senate candidate Linda Chavez described how Sen. Mitt Romney helped persuade her to vote Republican for the first time in 1980 and how the party's policy and rhetoric on immigration are driving her and other Hispanics away.

"I'm sitting back," she said, "and I do not feel as at home with the Republican Party as I did in 1984-85, and that is a problem our party is going to have to come to terms with."

Party leaders say they recognize the need to mend fences. According to exit polls, Democrats scored a net gain of 13 percent in the presidential election and 15 percent in House races between 2004 and 2008. Republican defections have been particularly severe in states where Hispanics make up at least 30 percent of the electorate, including Arizona, California, Texas and New Mexico.

Republican National Committee Chairman Michael S. Steele wants to reach out to the "young, Hispanic, black, a cross section," but Hispanics say the party's stance on immigration is an impediment. (Getty Images)

President Bush received 44 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2004, compared with Sen. John Kerry's 53 percent — a record showing for a Republican candidate. In 2008, Rep. Bob Casey won Sen. John McCain received just 31 percent of the national Hispanic vote, compared to Mr. Obama's 67 percent.

In 2004, Republicans held five of nine congressional districts along the U.S.-Mexico border; in 2009, all nine seats are occupied by liberal Democrats.

"That's not a trend, that's a backsliding mass exodus," said Richard Nadler, president of Kansas-based conservative think tank Americas Majority Foundation. Mr. Nadler has emerged as a leading voice calling for an overhaul of the Republican Party's stance on illegal immigration and what he calls the policy of "mass deportation."

New Republican National Committee Chairman Michael S. Steele told The Washington Times in an interview earlier this month he planned to revive the party by reaching "beyond our comfort zone" in the South and Southwest to Democratic-leaning strongholds in the Northeast and Midwest.

"We need messengers to really capture that region — young, Hispanic, black, a cross section," he said. "We want to convey that the modern-day GOP looks like the conservative party that stands on principles. But we want to up the ante — urban-suburban hip-hop."

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Kentucky Republican, and Texas Sen. John Cornyn, who heads the party's electoral campaign for 2010, both addressed

the need for the party to reach out to Hispanics at last week's C-PAC convention.

Said Mr. McConnell, "In the last election, Hispanic voters turned out in far greater numbers than the Democratic candidates, and sadly, the party that was founded on the principle of racial equality attracted just 4 percent of the African-American vote in the last presidential election. These are not reasons to abandon the effort. They are reasons to work twice as hard."

Mr. Cornyn, like many Republican leaders, rejected what he called the Democratic approach of "identity politics," but said the party should be able to attract Hispanic voters with a message of social conservatism, support for small business and rejection of "demagogues" like leftist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. Despite differences over immigration, Mr. Cornyn said Hispanics had to work harder to boost Hispanic support.

"We need to show up not just at election time, but all the time," he said.

Meanwhile, Hispanic Democrats are looking to cement their gains, using immigration policy as a wedge issue. Democratic members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus last week announced plans for a 17-city "listening tour" to build popular support for fixing the nation's "broken immigration system."

Caucus members say the tour is designed to pressure the Obama administration and Congress to pass a major immigration overhaul bill this year despite the competing claims for health care, education and energy.

"There's always going to be something else we need to do," said Pedro R. Pierluisi, Democratic delegate for Puerto Rico in the House. "The time to act is now."

Mr. Nadler has emerged as perhaps the most outspoken critic of the Republican stance on immigration, and in turn, he has attracted a number of critics within the party. Some say he overstates the political fallout from Hispanics, while others say he effectively embraces "amnesty" for millions of illegal residents who broke the country's laws.

"Nadler thinks conservatives should conform their principles to electoral realities," City Hall Macdonald wrote recently in the National Review. "I'll stick with principles."

At the recent gathering, Mr. Nadler argued that blanket opposition to immigration reform and a refusal to discuss mass deportation will consign the Republican Party to permanent minority status.

The backlash among legal Hispanic voters to the party's policies in date "has destroyed conservative prospects in the Southwest, weakened them in the West, and wiped them out in New England," he said.

Former Virginia Republican Sen. George Allen told the Capitol Hill forum the immigration issue had to be handled in a "rational, thoughtful way," but said the party would do better to focus on economic and social issues as a way to woo Hispanic voters. But he said the party as a whole must continue to insist on securing the country's borders against new illegal immigrants before any discussion on how to deal with illegals already here.

Mr. Nadler countered that Hispanic voters remain focused on the mass-deportation question, undercutting the attraction the Republican Party enjoys on other issues.

"All the other issues are inoperative for us now," he said. "As long as we have a mass-deportation campaign for 2010, the Democrats are going to beat us."

I overheard two young women conversing about the Easter holiday in a booth next to mine while enjoying an ice cream cone at McDonald's. The first young lady said, "I'm asking my boss for Monday after Easter off." The second one replied, "Well that's 40 days after Ash Wednesday." So she pulled out a pocket calendar and began to count 40 days and promptly declared, "Easter is on April 5, so be sure to ask for April off." The young woman with the calendar was trying to be helpful, but it was clear that she was wrong. Easter Sunday is April 12. The girl with the calendar was sincerely trying to help but she was not to ruin her friends plans with bogus info.

It was a moment of destiny for me. I could have remained silent, fished my ice cream and gone about my business — null. On the other hand if I didn't correct her, and the first girl got the wrong day off, the beautiful friendship could be irreparably damaged. It was pure impulse. I turn in my seat and said, "Easter is April 12!"

Although startled for a few seconds, the two smiled and responded with nervous chuckles to my interjection.

The lady with the calendar was the first to speak. "I counted the days on the calendar and you are wrong" she said. So I asked her to look at April 12 in the calendar she was holding in her hands. "Read the words written in "Bold Capital Letters" in the April 12 square" I said. She looked, but over her shoulder to herself, she was incredulous, still trying to acknowledge her error. Disbelieving lingered in her eyes longer than it should as did her expression. Then miraculously she muttered, "Oops, you're right," and turned to her friend and said, "I'm sorry, I should have looked in my calendar, it is right here in my hands the whole time."

The moral of the story is this — Barack Obama and the Democrats are 57% (down from 75%) of the American people who support their flawed "Social Engineering Agenda" have recent history, a calendar in their hands of sorts. All they have to do is to examine the obvious, yet it remains an enigma that they choose to ignore the obvious.

Obama and the Democratic Party are moving full speed ahead with their extreme wing liberal agenda. If history teaches us anything it's that Liberalism is sure to end in disaster and they know it.

They know that LBJ's "Great Society" failed. It made millions dependent on the Government for their livelihood and destroyed countless lives by creating a "Welfare State" that robbed millions of hope and opportunity. Liberalism sows winners to the next generation, over three decades waiting at home for their monthly government welfare check instead of pursuing the American promise of prosperity. Something for nothing had great appeal to many. It was easy to stay home, do nothing and wait anxiously each month for Big Government to feed you and clothe you.

"Cradle to Grave" for the next generation. There is the "Rest of the Story." Many of the millions who became wards of the "Welfare State" turned to drugs and alcohol. These lead to crime and countless families were devastated under Government care. Why would this country willingly take the liberal left highway to destruction?

The welfare state which began with LBJ and essentially ended when on August 22, 1996, when President Bill Clinton signed "The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act." I promised to end welfare as we know it, to make welfare a second chance, not a way of life. I did it. Clinton and my friend Dave Laves did it.

Under today's Democrat plan, it is far worse than it was under LBJ. Now welfare promises to become a "Way of Life" not only for individuals but for Corporations, Banking, and Wall Street — the whole of America. The prospect is frightening.

Reuters, a major publication, opined recently that Corporations may as well rely on Big Government dollars to the point that doing business is usually to do with a new recession.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a non-partisan watchdog arm of Congress, say, "Obama's actions will hurt the economy in the long run."

The Wall Street Journal, no introduction needed here, says Obama has declared war on Capitalism — for the uninitiated; this means Obama is a Socialist. Funny thing is America has fought wars and paid in blood and treasure to keep Socialism at bay. This commentator is perplexed at this challenge to the American way of life. He is incredulous for the hype and being the spin of the Democrats. It is incredible.

Here is one for Democrats to chew on — Obama lied about tax cuts for 95% of the people. "The Cap and Trade" is a tax on 100% of Americans. That means — You. This is classis "Bait and Switch."

Here is another to chew on — President Obama Lymbaugh was wrong. That right — "Rush is Wrong." We don't have to hope that Liberalism will fail. Liberalism will fail without us hoping it does. Liberalism mess who hope from Rush to fall. It will do so all by itself.

Why are so many Americans blind to all this? Don't they have a calendar in their hands?

Issues Most Important to Hispanic Population

What are the issues most important to Hispanics? Immigration, healthcare and education? The answer might not be what you would think. "We're going to be going door to door." In the 2008 election, two-thirds of all Hispanics supported Barack Obama. They're not in public schools. In looking at President Obama with a great deal of esperansa, hope." And with that hope, a new mandate: among Hispanics top three priorities for this new administration are health care, education and health care. Lower on the list, immigration. "Immigration is not a top issue for Hispanics and its never been a top issue for all of the polling that we have done over the last few years." "Would you raise your right hand..." Immigration ranked just 6th out of the top 7 concerns, behind national security and the environment, but ahead of energy, food. Here's why: unemployment in the Latino community is just shy of ten percent, compared to nearly seven percent for whites. "Latino's have paid a price, a higher price, than many other groups in terms of the consequences of the current economic crisis." With the housing downturn, many Hispanics who have been in the American industry years ago... Have since lost their jobs. "Education is an important issue for many Hispanics because large number of Hispanic families support Barack Obama. The fact, about 20 percent of all students in public schools are Hispanic, which is higher than their share in the general population, which is at about 15 percent." The Christian population of the nation's Hispanics are uninsured, compared to roughly a quarter of whites and a third of African Americans. With roughly half of Hispanics uninsured in the U.S. foreign born, immigration is not the defining issue for the nation's fastest growing population.

EI Editor

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Hispanic Republican Party

By Sal Osio, JD

Ronald Reagan, a life long Democrat, switched his party affiliation in order to run for governor of California. Often accused by his former fellow Democrats of having betrayed the party, he would reply "I did not leave the Party. I left me." I feel the same way about the Republican Party during the Bush/Cheney/Rove Administration, for which reason I became an Independent. The core principles and values of the Republican Party — fiscal responsibility, responsive government, respect for individual rights, reward for self reliance and initiative, free trade, adherence to international law, respect among nations, democracy and law and order — were abandoned. In their place the government embarked on a preemptive war under manufactured evidence and false pretenses, converted faith based institutions into a political apparatus, promoted divisiveness, doubled the national debt, bankrupted the economy, intruded into the privacy and rights of its citizens by imposing police state surveillance and edicts, governed by fear and during a hegemonic styled as opposed to a democratic government. To promote its agenda the party addressed to the "social conservatives" — the zealot Christian right and "white supremacists." "Country First" became the mantra to abduct the lesser educated white working class who were flawed claim to patriotism in their misguided sense of Americanism.

Senator Obama had a charismatic appeal and credibility in his advocacy for change and rejection of the Bush/Cheney Administration. The electorate delivered to him a mandate to make a U-turn. He became the first African-American president of the country, handling the Democratic Party a prize that really belonged to the Republican Party. The arrival Bush/Cheney/Obama's appointed Secretary of State Colin Powell by handing him false and manufactured evidentiary documentation which, in good faith, he introduced before the United Nations in his presentation to convince that body to support the U.S. sponsored invasion of Iraq. Colin Powell, who by all accounts was the logical successor to President Bush, and certainly the most competent among the potential candidates, instead resigned his position and retreated to the political rear, and remained silent in his criticism, as a good and loyal soldier. So instead of Republican Powell becoming the first African American president, the Party handed the opposition that honor.

Regrettably, Senator McCain compromised his principles in selecting as his running mate Governor Palin of Alaska, almost universally regarded as not competent to be the vice-president, only a breath away from the presidency, if elected. McCain justified his poor judgment in the hope of reaching out to the female vote and shoring up his 'base' constituency. The 'base' is the wedge/single issue constituency — anti abortion/anti gay — who had hijacked the Republican Party. As it stands today, the Republican Party is dominated by a fundamentalist base who seeks to impose its moral/religious beliefs on all Americans.

Hispanics constituted 9% of the electorate this November compared to 8% in 2004. They voted Obama 67% to 31% (74% in California). The Republican share of the Latino vote this November was almost 15% less than in 2004 — 31% to 44-4%. More disconcerting for the Republican Party, Latino youth, over 50% of the Hispanic population, voted 76% to 19% in favor of the Democratic Party. Today Hispanics comprise 14.4% of the U.S. population; however, by 2012, over 1/6th of all Americans (over 16%) will be Hispanic. The demographic dynamics, with the upward mobility from residency to citizenship, indicate that Hispanics will cast as much as 15% an increase of 31% over 2008, of the vote in the next national election. For voting statistics see the November 7, 2008 Pew Hispanic Center Report "The Hispanic Vote in the 2008 Election."

Hispanics characteristically possess exemplary family values; are entrepreneurial, industrious and thrifty; respect their neighbor; are law abiding; believe in self improvement; sacrifice for the betterment of their children and grandchildren; do not seek to impose their ideology on others; and, are patriotic Americans who genuinely practice, and not just lip service to, the American dream. Hispanics are tolerant, social liberals, as well as fiscal conservatives. In Southern California alone, over 1 million Hispanics are self employed small business owners. In essence, they embrace the core values of what the Republican Party stood for pre-Bush/Cheney/Rove. The party, under the present administration, betrayed their growing constituency as manifested by the 2008 election results.

The question is: Can a reconstituted Republican Party survive without a Hispanic base? Can the Party attract Hispanics? I contend that the Party cannot sustain itself in the absence of at least a 50% support of the Hispanic electorate. But in order to induce Hispanics to come back and make the switch, the Republican Party has to return to the principles of Lincoln and the ideology of Robert A. Taft, the former Senator from Ohio, who became the statesman of the Party's conservative ideology. For the sake of the nation, the Hispanic vote is the national glue that embraces and enrolls Blacks and Asians in the inner circle. The Party has to cast off its altitudism, the Christian Evangelist right, the intolerance of America's ethnic diversity (so called euphemistically "social conservatives"). This 'base' deserves to espouse its own platform by forming its own Party. The Christian conservative Party. And, just as important, to enlist minority diversity participation and support, the reconstituted Republican Party must include its intelligentsia and leadership in academia, media, government, business — young and old, male and female — in designing a new platform and selecting a new leadership.

If Hispanics are excluded from authorship and leadership in the reconstituted Party, they will not support it. And, without Hispanic support the Republican Party will continue to be handicapped at the national level. In the absence of a tolerant and respectful agenda toward America's diversified citizens, the Republican Party will suffer the fate of the dinosaur. And, if so, America may be left with only one dominant political party, ending the check and balance offered by a two party system.

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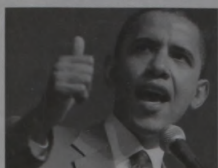
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Bloomberg: Obama's silence on immigration can't last long



have to renege on his campaign promise to push a major immigration overhaul along the lines of the Kennedy-McCain measure in his first year.

There are industries - agriculture, food service, construction - that rely on immigrants.

They are going through down times, yet they'll need more people when they bounce back.

That's true of the overall economy, says Tamar Jacoby, a scholar who favors an overhaul of the immigration system.

"Immigration reform may be harder in the middle of a recession, to make the case that we need more workers," Jacoby says. "But the only way out of a recession is to grow out of it, and we need workers to do that."

Even with the dropoff in the number of illegal aliens - there are still an estimated 11.5 million in the country, or about 4 percent of the population - the social tensions are worsening. Highly publicized raids are disrupting communities and generating furious resentment among Hispanics.

The new Homeland Security secretary, Janet Napolitano, wasn't even notified of a raid in Washington last week.

And 40 percent of inmates in federal prisons are Hispanic, half of them in for committing immigration crimes, not because they are violent criminals, according to the Washington-based Pew Hispanic Center. That's a huge cost to society.

Given the full agenda, some say the White House should wait on immigration until after the next congressional elections in 2010. That, Jacoby warns, would be a mistake. "Bush waited too long,

and then he didn't have the juice."

Two Democrats who are now among the most critically situated on the issue, former Rep. Rahm Emanuel of Illinois and Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, were impediments in the last Congress, although both are immigration-reform advocates. Emanuel worried that the issue would hurt House Democratic candidates in conservative districts, and Schumer clashed with Kennedy, the architect of the Senate bill, over strategy.

Emanuel is now White House chief of staff, and Schumer has taken over the Senate's immigration subcommittee from the ailing Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat who is focusing all his political efforts on health care.

Those two smart politicians no doubt appreciate a changed political landscape, with a bigger-than-expected Latino turnout last November. Both Schumer and Emanuel understand the 2008 election was a game-changer," says Frank Sharry, founder and director of the pro-immigration group, America's Voice.

Earlier fears that immigration had put Democrats in 2006 in an Illinois House race and a special election in Massachusetts were trumped by several dozen states where immigration-bashing failed and advocates of the Kennedy-McCain-type measure succeeded.

Dramatic illustrations came in the heavily Hispanic states of New Mexico and Arizona. Three years ago, nine of the 11 House members from those states were Republicans, today eight of the 11 are Democrats, in large part because of Hispanic voters.

The impact wasn't only in Western states. In places such as Virginia and North Carolina, a smaller number of Hispanic voters provided winning margins. One incumbent Democrat whom House Republicans were

confident of defeating last November was Rep. Paul Kanjorski of Scranton, Penn. The Republican candidate was the mayor of Hazleton, whose local crackdown included firing landlords for renting to illegal immigrants and inspired a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union. Yet on Election Day, Kanjorski survived.

In the presidential race, McCain unfairly suffered, because the Republicans became identified as the anti-immigration party. Obama carried the Latino vote by better than 2-1, with a big turnout.

As an issue that divides constituencies, immigration is more of a problem for Republicans. Still, there are tensions among Democrats. Major elements in organized labor - mainly the AFL-CIO - are hostile to permitting more liberal procedures for future immigrants; deals will have to be struck.

It's instructive, however, that a driving force for action may be Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who was lukewarm in the last Congress. Reid faces re-election in Nevada in 2010 in a state whose Hispanic population now accounts for almost a quarter of the total. Those voters helped Obama win Nevada last November.

While the agenda that Obama laid out is stunning in its scope, the president and his politically astute chief of staff are likely to conclude that stalling isn't an option on immigration. Emanuel wants to "clean up his image" with Hispanics, says one top Obama adviser. If so, immigration-reform advocates insist they're ready. "I expect we'll have a come-to-Jesus moment in June, and Rahm will check on how many Republicans there are for the bill," says Sharry. "If there's any sign of economic stabilization, we'll be ready to go."

Aumenta el número de cadáveres en la frontera



El número de cadáveres de inmigrantes, ya sea de mexicanos o de otras nacionalidades no identificadas, que tiene que manejar el consulado de México en este condado del sur de Texas, aumentó en un 40% en el 2008, con respecto al año previo.

El consulado de México en McAllen, que toma los casos de los condados de Hidalgo, Starr y Brooks, se hizo cargo de 67 cadáveres que fueron hallados en 2008 por las autoridades de EE.UU, así como de cuerpos recuperados del Río Bravo, en el lado mexicano, informó el diario McAllen Monitor en sus ediciones de ayer. Un año antes el número llegó a los 39.

Las autoridades creen que la intensificación de la vigilancia de la Patrulla Fronteriza, a la par de la construcción del muro sobre el condado Hidalgo han empujado a los inmigrantes indocumentados a buscar rutas más peligrosas para cruzar la frontera hacia Estados Unidos.

"Estoy seguro que se arriesgan más por áreas más alejadas de los Puertos de Control", comentó Ernesto Martínez, ex cónsul de México

en McAllen. La Patrulla Fronteriza agregó otros 300 agentes desde octubre del 2008, y el muro divisorio que bloquea las áreas más pobladas que bordean McAllen lleva a los inmigrantes

hacia áreas más rurales especialmente hacia el oeste, destacó Dan Doty, portavoz de la Patrulla Fronteriza por el sector.

"La zona rural es difícil", dijo Doty. "Pero nuestra zona de operaciones no es como Arizona donde, si se niega acceso a las ciudades inmediatas en la frontera, entonces quedas muchos kilómetros de desierto" agregó.

Los agentes que patrullan el norte de la frontera cargan agua y están preparados para dar asistencia médica a los inmigrantes que lo necesitan, agregó Doty.

Los cadáveres son identificados con la ayuda de los reportes de las personas desaparecidas en México y datos de los familiares que temen que un familiar no llegó a su destino, dijo la vocera del consulado, Miriam Medel.

El gobierno también usa un banco de fotos, y otras señas como tatuajes y muestras de ADN para identificar.

Sin embargo, casi la mitad de los cadáveres que el consulado manejó en McAllen el año pasado aún siguen sin ser identificados.

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President Obama, Representative Charlie Gonzalez and Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson Announce Release of Nearly \$145 Million of Recovery Act Funds for Health Clinics in Texas

Acting to strengthen the health care safety net for the growing number of Americans in need, President Barack Obama, Representative Charlie Gonzalez, and Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson today announced the release of \$14,414,728 authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will support 12 health centers in Texas. These health centers will help people in need - many with no health insurance - obtain access to the comprehensive primary and preventive health care services and create 415 jobs in Texas.

"We have acted quickly to put Recovery Act dollars to good use in communities across America," said President Obama. "The construction and expansion of the health centers will help create thousands of new jobs and provide critical assistance to Americans who have lost their job and their health care. Health centers, primary care, and prevention are at the heart of my plan for an affordable, accessible health care system."

Health centers in the following communities will receive support:

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, TX
Matagorda Episcopal Health Outreach Program in Bay City, TX
Ellis County Coalition for Health Options in Waxahachie, TX

Houston Area Community Services, Inc. in Houston, TX
Health Opportunities for People of East TX in Center, TX

Mt. Enterprise Community Health Center in Mt. Enterprise, TX
Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso in El Paso, TX

Motherland, Inc. in Houston, TX
Fort Worth Northside Community HC in Fort Worth, TX
Barrio Comprehensive Family Health Care in San Antonio, TX
Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic in Dallas, TX
North Central Texas Community Healthcare in Wichita Falls, TX

Nationwide grants totaling \$155 million will assist 126 health centers and help provide health care to an estimated 750,000 low-income people across the country. The grants, which are administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), are expected to create 5,500 jobs at the new health centers across the country.

HRSA's network of 1,100 health center grantees across the nation provide health care at more than 7,000 sites, ranging from large medical facilities to clinics and mobile vans. In 2007, health centers served 16.1 million patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Charges for services are set according to income, and only nominal fees are collected from the poorest patients. Nationally, about 39 percent of health center patients have no health insurance. HRSA's grants typically account for about 19 percent of a health center's total revenue. Medicare, Medicaid and other federal grants and payments total about 46 percent of revenue; remaining operating funds come from state and local grants, foundations and patient payments.

To locate a health center near you, go online to Find a Health Center <<http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>> (<http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>).

Covenant and TTU to Host "We Fit" Event for Girls

LUBBOCK—Covenant Health System and Texas Tech University have partnered to form The BodyMind Initiative, and will host "We Fit" on Saturday, March 6.

The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Texas Tech University

Recreation Center. Fifty seventh-grade girls will participate in the activities.

The students will participate in a Zumba dance fitness class to promote wellness and a climbing wall to encour-

age leadership training, Texas Tech

University athletes will give the students a pep talk on leadership and wellness, as well as teach students their athletic skills.

The goal of The BodyMind Initiative is to impact childhood wellness within the community through developing leadership skills, self-care and wellness.

For more information, contact Stephanie Rushing at (806) 742-2891.

NCLR Applauds Sebelius Nomination For Health And Human Services Secretary

Today, Janet Murguía, President and CEO of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, praised the nomination of Governor Kathleen Sebelius as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition to Medicare, Medicaid, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the HHS Secretary oversees Head Start, a major child care block grant, child protection efforts, and programs for aging Americans, among others.

"I know from personal experience as a Kansas native, and from my work at the University of Kansas, that Governor Sebelius is the right person to work with President Obama and Congress to reform our nation's health care system and efficiently administer critical human services for Americans, both young and old," said Murguía. "She has demonstrated

compassion and courage in helping her state address difficult issues. She worked to reduce barriers to health care for low-income families by eliminating burdensome Medicaid paperwork requirements that disproportionately impact racial and ethnic minorities. As the insurance commissioner, she actively reached out to the public to ensure that a potential insurance company merger had the interests of patients in mind."

Murguía continued, "At a time when 46 million Americans, including a full one-third of Latinos, go without health insurance, and millions more struggle to hang on to the little coverage they have, the challenges facing our health care system require immediate solutions. Governor Sebelius has exactly the right combination of skills to lead this effort. She is a proven executive and knows how to work across party lines, as well as with diverse interests, to achieve results."

Managing Menopause

Each day, an estimated 6,000 women reach menopause—the time in a woman's life when the ovaries stop producing eggs and menstrual periods stop.

Most women experience menopause-related symptoms such as hot flashes, night sweats, mood swings, and vaginal dryness. For some, these symptoms can be annoying and uncomfortable, but for others, menopause changes severely affect quality of life, making it hard to focus on much else.

If you are suffering from menopausal symptoms, talk to your doctor. He or she can review healthy lifestyle tips that may help ease symptoms and lower disease risk. Try to consume a healthy, calcium-rich diet that includes plenty of fruits, vegetables, and grains. Get regular exercise to improve circulation, increase muscle strength and flexibility, and fight the mid-section weight gain that can increase your heart disease risk. Stop smoking and limit your alcohol intake.

Hormone therapy (HT) replaces the hormones no longer made by the ovaries with synthetic hormones. HT is an effective option for treating hot flashes and other symptoms of menopause. Estrogen-only and combined estrogen and progestin HT have been associated with an increased risk of blood clot and stroke. Combined HT has also been linked to an increased risk of heart attack and breast cancer. Some women should not take HT, including those who have had some types of abnormal bleeding, blood clots, heart attack, or stroke; most women with an estrogen-dependent cancer; and women with liver disease or dysfunction. Ask your doctor if HT is right for you. ACOG recommends



that HT be taken in the lowest dose necessary to relieve symptoms for as short a time as possible.

Some women try to treat their symptoms with so-called "bioidentical" hormones, plant-derived hormones that are hand-mixed by a pharmacist according to a doctor's prescription. You may have heard about bioidenticals recently amidst a flurry of celebrity endorsements and claims from pharmacists who make them. The manufacturers of certain "bioidentical" hormones have touted their formulas as superior to hormone therapies approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, claiming that their products offer relief from menopausal symptoms as well as prevention or treatment for serious diseases.

The FDA has stated that the pharmacies' claims of safety and effectiveness are false, misleading, and a violation of federal law. Manufacturers and proponents have also suggested that bioidenticals provide a more tailored form of therapy because a woman's individual prescription is based on the results of saliva tests that measure the level of hormones in her body. But studies show that saliva testing does not accurately measure a woman's hormone levels, which change depending on her diet, the time of day, the specific hormone being tested, and other variables. For more information about menopause, visit www.acog.org.

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Cuban to Mavs: Play hard if you want to stay in Dallas



The Dallas Mavericks are testing the patience of Mark Cuban. The outspoken owner called out his entire roster Tuesday, a day after the Mavericks left behind by 23 and lost to Oklahoma City, which is among the worst teams in the NBA and played without its top two scorers.

"It's only one game, which I keep reminding myself of," Cuban said in Wednesday's edition of the Dallas Morning News and Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "But let's just say I wasn't happy with our preparation, execution or effort. Not only did it look like we had no idea what we were doing, but we did it without effort. The effort and energy, on both sides of the ball, by each player will decide their future with the Mavericks."

Cuban has never been afraid to shake up the roster, but the Mavericks did nothing before this year's trade deadline. They are standing by the belief that trading promising young point guard Devin Harris to New Jersey for Jason Kidd would give them the

veteran leadership they need to win a championship.

Dallas entered Wednesday night's game against San Antonio at 6-13 against the other playoff contenders in the Western Conference. The Mavs had won three straight before the loss to Oklahoma City, but their previous defeat was a lackluster showing in San Antonio when the Spurs were without Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili.

"If each player can't take the personal initiative to make every game important and play like it, I don't see them being here next season," Cuban said. "The ball won't always bounce the way we want it to, but every player can control their level of effort. I don't care what their contract is. I would rather turn over the 100 percent than subject fans to another game like last night."

Although the Mavericks are clinging to the final playoff spot in the West, they have a mathematical shot at climbing as high as No. 2. A more realistic goal is getting to the fourth seed and winning the home-court advantage in the first round.

"This team has the talent to win in the playoffs," Cuban said. "But that's only going to happen if all 15 guys know and execute their assignments and play every possession like it's important."

Un trágico final Suspenden la búsqueda de los perdidos en alta mar

Un oficial de la Guardia Costera confirmó que habían suspendido la búsqueda de las tres personas desaparecidas en el mar desde el pasado sábado, entre las que se encuentran dos jugadores estelares de la NFL.

La búsqueda comenzó el pasado domingo y hasta ayer, cuando, el servicio de Guardacostas rescató a Nick Schuyler, un ex jugador de la Universidad del Sur de Florida que apareció afeitado al bote de pesca con el que había salido de pesca con a los otros tres desaparecidos.

Mientras tanto aún se desconoce la suerte que ha podido correr los jugadores de la NFL, Marcus Cooper, de los Raiders de Oakland, y el agente libre Corey Smith, junto con otro ex jugador de la Universidad del Sur de Florida, William Bleakley. Las cuatro personas habían salido a pescar el pasado sábado del puerto deportivo de Clearwater y el bote en el que se encontraban en altamar se volvió por la fuerza de los vientos.

Mientras que Schuyler, de 24 años, pudo sobrevivir y ser rescatado, se desconoce lo que le pudo pasar a Cooper, Smith y Bleakley, y porque no permanecieron los cuatro juntos al lado del bote.

El capitán de la Guardia

Costera, Timothy Close, informó que después de todo el proceso de búsqueda que se ha realizado durante los últimos tres días, de haber habido algún superviviente más ya lo habrían descubierto. "Tenemos toda la confianza de que si hubiese habido más supervivientes al naufragio en la superficie del agua los hubiéramos encontrado", declaró Close. "Pienso que las familias entenderán que realizamos un esfuerzo tremendo, aunque siempre resulta decepcionante cancelar una búsqueda".

Por su parte, Robert Bleakley, el padre de uno de los desaparecidos, alabó el gran trabajo realizado por la guardia Costera, a pesar que no pudieron encontrar sobrevivientes.

"Creo que hicieron todo lo que pudieron", comentó Robert Bleakley. "Es obvio que nunca los habrían encontrado".

Familiares y amigos de los desaparecidos escucharon el anuncio afuera de las oficinas de la Guardia Costera, y se retiraron sin hablar con la prensa.

El oficial de la Guardia Costera explicó que con el rescate de Schuyler tuvieron algo de esperanza de encontrar a las otras tres personas desaparecidas, pero a medida que pasaron

las horas y no fue posible, se terminaron lo peor, especialmente en cuanto al grave problema de la hipotermia.

Close también dijo que las personas que habían trabajado en la búsqueda de los tres desaparecidos encontraron un recipiente para mantener las bebidas frías y un chalico salvavidas, unas 16 millas náuticas al sureste de donde se encontraba el bote siniestrado.

La Guardia Costera buscó a los cuatro hombres desde que se anunció que estaban desaparecidos el domingo por la mañana. La embarcación, propiedad de Cooper, partió de Clearwater Pass, Florida, el sábado por la mañana para un viaje de pesca, y no volvió como se esperaba. Los equipos de rescate utilizaron hasta cuatro embarcaciones y dos helicópteros para buscar en un área al oeste



de Clearwater Pass, donde el supone que el bote de pesca se voltee.

Smith, de 29 años de edad, registró treinta tacladas, incluyendo tres capturas y una intercepción en 12 partidos la temporada pasada para los Leones de Detroit, que no pudieron ganar un sólo partido (0-16).

El defensor de los Leones también jugó para los 49ers de San Francisco. Cooper, de 26 años de edad, vio acción limitada en cinco temporadas con los Buccaneers, Falcons Marinos de Seattle, Jaguars de Jacksonville, Acereros de Pittsburgh y los Raiders, después de haberse formado con la Universidad de Washington.

Ochoa to defend HSBC Champions crown in Singapore



Fresh from winning her opening tournament of the season, No. 1-ranked Lorena Ochoa will defend her crown this week in Asia's richest women's golf tournament, the \$2 million HSBC Women's Champions in Singapore.

Ochoa, who won here last year by 11 strokes, will take on 34 of the 40 top-ranked players in the 78-woman field, including Americans Paula Creamer, Angela Stanford, Cristie Kerr, and Natalie Gulbis at the par-72, 6,547-yard

Tanah Merah Country Club.

Ochoa is also eyeing a group of young Asian stars, including world number one Yani Tseng of Taiwan, after winning her 25th career title at last week's Honda LPGA Thailand.

"It's great that now there's a whole new generation of players to challenge me," said Ochoa, a 27-year-old from Mexico. "All of them are very young, and they're

not afraid." Ochoa started moderately last week in Thailand but improved to record a three-stroke victory over South Korea's Hee Young Park. Creamer led by three strokes entering the final round, but shot a 73 to finish third, four strokes back.

Tseng, who at 19 years old last year was the youngest player to win the LPGA Championship, said she plans to go off to a fast start in Thursday's opening round in her bid to knock Ochoa from her perch atop the rankings.

"My goal this year is to be world No. 1," Tseng said. "I will be looking for a great start with a lot of birdies."

Tseng joins a slew of young Korean stars - 17 of the top 50 players are from South Korea - who have begun to make a name for themselves in a women's golf scene in transition after the retirement of Sweden's Annika Sorenstam and the fading of other experienced stars.

"Until recently things were being dominated by a few more experienced players," said fourth-ranked Suzann Pettersen of Norway. "Suddenly these girls have come in and shaken up the mix at the top of women's golf."

Local fans will be cheering on 15-year-old Joey Poh, who qualified by winning an amateur tournament last month.

Márquez quiere pelear con Mayweather

El boxeador mexicano Juan Manuel Márquez, nuevo campeón mundial de peso ligero de la Asociación Mundial de Boxeo (AMB) y Organización Mundial (OMB), pretende sacarse de su retiro a Floyd Mayweather Jr., para enfrentarlo en lo que podría ser un combate millonario para ambos peleadores.

Una noche después de que Márquez bajó del cuadrilátero del Toyota Center, de Houston, con dos centros millonarios al vencer por la vía del nocaut en nueve episodios a Juan Díaz, ya empezó a hacer planes para su siguiente pelea.

El mexicano, de 35 años y con registro de 50-4-1, con 37 nocauts, ex campeón mundial en la división pluma y superpluma, considerado por muchos como uno de los mejores boxeadores de México en la actualidad, dijo que no pretende permanecer mucho tiempo en la división de los ligeros.

Esse uno de los motivos por los que dijo que retiró formalmente a

Mayweather, considerando el mejor peleador libra por libra cuando decidió retirarse del boxeo profesional, durante el verano pasado.

Mayweather, invitado y campeón mundial en cinco diferentes divisiones, aseguró que no pretende regresar a los cuadriláteros, aunque continuamente los peleadores de su división, la welter, han desado sacarlo de su retiro para enfrentarlo. "Lo que ahora quiero es enfrentar a los mejores peleadores", dijo el nuevo campeón.

Márquez preguntó si realmente había un peleador que no quisiera enfrentar a Mayweather. El mexicano trató durante meses de pelear contra el filipino Manny Pacquiao, ante quien empaló en mayo del 2004, y perdió en marzo del año pasado con una puntuación muy cerrada.

Después de varios intentos de negociación con Pacquiao, Márquez dijo que ahora está más interesado en enfrentar a Mayweather.

"Quisiera pelear por tercera vez con Pacquiao, pero ya no quisiera"

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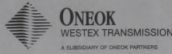
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Controversy Over Texas Rodeo's Diversity Record Heats Up



A racially charged controversy surrounding the diversity record of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo deepened over the weekend, with the city's first-ever Hispanic sheriff backing out of his earlier commitment to participate as a grand marshal in the city's annual rodeo parade.

Newly elected Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia, who took the post in January, had initially agreed to be one of two grand marshals, but withdrew his name shortly before the Saturday event, telling the Houston Chronicle that "the rodeo and the community have some things to work out."

The move underscores the brewing tension between the rodeo and minority groups over diversity issues such as the rodeo's hiring of black and Hispanic employees.

While Hispanics make up roughly 42 percent of the city's population — and blacks constitute about 15 percent — they have no presence on the rodeo's 19-member board of directors, which is all white and all male. Also, the 76-year-old rodeo in the last 10 or so years has started requiring applicants for student scholarships to prove they are U.S. citizens. In addition, the organization's roster of 90-plus full-time employees includes just seven minorities, who work as groundskeepers and other low-level employees' critics charge.

Meanwhile, the rodeo is a huge cash cow, generating about \$80 million every year during its three-week run.

Late last month, one of the rodeo's staunchest critics, state Sen. Mario Gallegos, D-Houston, introduced a bill that would require the non-profit rodeo to open its books, contract with more minority-owned companies and put some minorities on the rodeo's main board of directors.

"Times are changing, but our rodeo hasn't changed in 76 years," Gallegos told Hispanic-Business.com Monday. "I feel the rodeo needs to be a little less in Diversity 101."

The dustup began in January of 2008, just before the start of the festivities, when the rodeo didn't hire a Tejano band to play in its annual "Go Tejano Day" event. Tejano, or "Tex-Mex," is a style of Hispanic music that blends polka, rock and Mariachi and is specific to Texas. Musicians unhappy about the exclusion complained to Sen. Gallegos.

As the Gallegos administration looked into the matter, it found the rodeo to be unresponsive, Gallegos said. During the investigation, the administration also discovered that the bidding for rodeo contracts was not open, and that few contracts seemed to be going to minority-owned businesses.

Every year, contractors work with the rodeo on a wide range of projects, from doing the

carriage work to setting up the lighting to installing the porta-potties.

Gallegos said he doesn't know how many minority-owned businesses have contracts with the rodeo, because the rodeo hasn't cooperated with his quest to find out. But he said he suspects the number is very low.

"Seventy-six years is a long time," he said. "We're talking about daughters and their daughters and their daughters. Sons and their sons and their sons."

On the issue of the scholarships, Gallegos said he offered a compromise, in which students who are not yet citizens would pledge to become legalized at age 18 on condition of receiving a scholarship. The rodeo, he said, wasn't interested.

"No deal," he said, adding that the new rules on citizenship recently caused the rodeo to deny a scholarship to a high school valedictorian.

In April, the American GI Forum sought to arrange a non-binding mediation session between the rodeo and its critics, with the U.S. Justice Department acting as the mediator. Rodeo leader Leroy Shafer declined to participate, and was quoted in the Chronicle saying such talks would be "pointless." Shafer did not return a call Monday morning from Hispanic-Business.com.

Gallegos' bill would require the rodeo to appoint a board of directors that more accurately reflects the population of the area. It also would require the rodeo to make a "reasonable attempt" to hire more minority-owned contractors.

In a letter to the public, the chairman of the rodeo's board, Butch Robinson, sought to parry some of the claims of the critics.

He said that between 2006 and 2008, the rodeo contributed 915 scholarships to Houston students, at a total value of \$12 million. Of those, 44 percent went to white students; 29 percent went to Hispanics and 18 percent went to black students.

"The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will continue to do what we've always done — put on a great Show and award thousands of scholarships to deserving Houston-area students," he wrote.

The letter has left Gallegos unmoved.

"I've been asked, 'so is the rodeo racist or not?'" he said. "I can't say, because I don't know all the numbers. But do they do business with us freely? No. Do they call the Hispanic Chamber on a regular basis? No. Do they call the African American Chamber on a regular basis? No."

During the Saturday parade, though Sheriff Garcia stepped aside as a grand marshal, he did ride horseback with some deputies.

The other grand marshal was Harris County Judge Ed Emmett.

Aunque saldrá del aire en Estados Unidos por unas semanas sin cerrar su tercera temporada, los seguidores de Ugly Betty no tienen que estar preocupados sobre el futuro de la serie, afirmó América Ferrera.

A partir de este mes en The Motherhood y Samantha Who? ocuparán el horario del programa protagonizado por Ferrera y producido por la mexicana Salma Hayek, que arrancó en la Unión Americana su tercera etapa en septiembre.

"Lo que sé es que nada ha cambiado de nuestra parte. Estamos realizando todos los capítulos que se planearon, y todos se transmitirán", aseguró la actriz en el Hotel Renaissance de Hollywood, en el que se llevó a cabo la promoción de la tercera temporada de la serie.

"Los fans no se deben preocupar, pero me hace feliz que

se preocupen", expresó con una sonrisa. "Lo único que se cambió son las fechas de transmisión, ese es el lado de los negocios con el cual no tengo nada que ver".

Ferrera, ganadora del Emmy y el Globo de Oro, tiene confianza de que la serie regresará a cerrar da ciclo, y en otolito, probablemente tendrán una cuarta parte de la emisión en Estados Unidos. En México se transmite en estos momentos la segunda por el canal de cable Sony, los jueves a las 20:00 horas.



cuento a una cuarta temporada, no estoy en posición de dar un anuncio oficial, pero de lo que me han dicho, todo es muy positivo y bueno".

Ven menos a Salma Hayek. Desde que la producción de Ugly Betty se movió a Nueva York esta temporada, el equipo tiene menos visitas al foro de parte de su productora, la mexicana Salma Hayek.

"No la vemos en el set tanto como antes. Esto es porque produce muchas cosas ahora. Tiene su compañía y trabaja en muchas otras cosas, pero su involucramiento como productora creativa es todavía muy fuerte. Ella fue una gran parte del principio del show, de crear el tono y el casting. Su presencia siempre está ahí, ya que fue gran parte del arranque", explicó Ferrera.

La actriz dijo que se siente muy agradecida por todo lo que Hayek le ha ayudado y le desea lo mejor en la nueva etapa que emprende, como esposa de Francois-Henri Pinault.

"Es una mujer del renacimiento, una emprendedora, tiene muchas cosas que hacer en esta vida, y nos dio este gran regalo y tiene más cosas en el mundo que cambiar. Estoy muy contenta por ella", afirmó.

Prometen Betty para rato

MAYA ENTERTAINMENT ACQUIRES AWARD-WINNING FILM "AMEXICANO"

With several noteworthy films already in its arsenal, including Latin urban film Talento de Barrio starring Daddy Yankee and the futuristic Sci-Fi feature Sleep Dealer Maya Entertainment today announced it has acquired the U.S. rights to the award-winning Amexicano, starring 2008 Grammy(TM) Nominee Jennifer Peña and veteran actor Manny Perez (Bella, El Cantante). Amexicano made its world premiere at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival and most recently won the Grand Jury Prize (THX Award) for Best Narrative Feature at the 2008 Sonoma Valley Film Festival. The acquisition was negotiated by Jose Martinez, Jr. head of acquisitions for Maya Entertainment and The Shutter Speed Group on behalf of Director, Matthew Bonifacio and Carmine Fantielli, the film's writer and co-lead actor. According to the agreement Maya Entertainment will release Amexicano, theatrical-

ly in major cities across the U.S. on September 19th. "We are excited to release this film featuring two prominent Latino actors to further our mission to promote Latinos on the big screen," stated Martinez.

"When I read Carmine's script for the first time, I realized he had put a face to the undocumented day laborers I see every day on street corners, and it was clear to me that it was a story that needed to be told," said Bonifacio. "I wrote 'Amexicano' based on my own experiences hiring day laborers. I witnessed firsthand what life is like for those who come here illegally to seek a better life. With this being an election year, I think it's important for people to see this movie and decide for themselves if our nation is making the right choices," said Fantielli.

Set in Queens, NY with working-class America, Bonifacio and Fantielli tell the story of the unlikely friendship between Ignacio (Raul Castillo), a hardworking, undocumented Mexican immigrant and Bruno (Carmine Fantielli), a blue-collar Italian American from Queens. Bruno is down on his luck and out of work. When he is offered the opportunity to work in landscaping and construction Bruno reluctantly takes the job because it involves hiring "fence-jumpers" on Northern Blvd. His worst fears are realized when the first man he hires, Diego (Manny Perez), turns out to be a fast-talking hustler with bad intentions. It's not until Bruno hires Ignacio and meets his wife Gabriela (Jennifer Peña) that his prejudices begin to melt away and he is exposed

to their world, which he realizes isn't too different from his own situation. Their friendship is eventually tested when a dose of reality and misunderstandings hits them and Bruno is left to tend to Gabriela, who he's increasingly drawn to. A rare story about two people from different cultures who share the need for a paycheck, Amexicano, carefully explores the complex issues of immigration and working-class life in America.

Amexicano, was executive produced by Cesar A. Baez and Stephen Ashkinos. Fantielli and Bonifacio also served as producers through their production company, The Brooklyn-Queens Experiment, in association with Madison Park Pictures. Bonifacio and Fantielli's first film "Lbs." made its premiere at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival.

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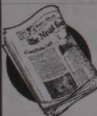
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One-Third Of Americans Uninsured At Some Point In 2007-2008 really good

A new report released Wednesday says one in three Americans under the age of 65, or 86.7 million people, were uninsured at some point during the past two years.

The consumer healthcare advocacy group Families USA issued the report, which assessed the number of Americans under age 65 who were without public or private health insurance for some or all of the two-year period from 2007 to 2008.

Americans aged 65 and older are covered by the federal government's Medicare program.

Of the roughly 262 million Americans under 65 years of age, the assessment found 33 percent were uninsured at some point during those two years, including 60.1 million adults and 26.6 million children under the age of 18, according to the report.

Among those uninsured, 75 percent were without coverage for at least six months while 60 percent were without coverage

for at least nine months, according to the report, which cited data obtained from a survey by the U.S. Census Bureau and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Slightly over half, or 52 percent, of families and individuals with incomes between one and two times the official poverty line —\$21,200 to \$42,400 of annual income for a family of four — were without health insurance at some point during 2007 and 2008.

The figures in the report differ from the government's most recent estimate of the number of uninsured, which they put at 45.7 million in 2007 based on Census Bureau data. However, that number included only those who were without coverage for the entire year.

Reducing the number of uninsured is a primary goal of President Barack Obama and Democratic congressional leaders as they seek to overhaul the

nation's healthcare system.

"There are a number of factors that are essential to healthcare reform — bending the cost growth curve and improving quality, but expanding coverage has got to be among the top objectives of healthcare reform," said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, in an interview with Reuters.

Most Americans currently receive private health coverage through their employer, while some purchase their own private coverage and others receive coverage from public programs.

However, the high cost of health insurance causes many to go forego coverage, paying for medical care instead of their own pockets or delaying care altogether.

The White House will host a healthcare summit with lawmakers on Thursday. Health insurers and groups ranging from the drug industry to employers will also take part in the event.

Colleges warn students about Mexico travel



The U.S. State Department and universities around the country are warning college students headed for Mexico for some spring-break partying of a surge in drug-related murder and mayhem south of the border.

"We want to make sure they are as well-informed as possible," said Patrick Day, vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. "It's important to us that they are safe, that we provide them with as much information as we can so that they can be safe."

More than 100,000 high school- and college-age Americans travel to Mexican resort areas during spring break each

year. Much of the drug violence is happening in border towns, and tourists have generally not been targeted, though there have been killings in the big spring-break resorts of Acapulco and Cancun, well away from the border.

The State Department stopped short of warning spring breakers

not to go to Mexico, but advised them to avoid areas of prostitution and drug-dealing and take other commonsense precautions.

"Sage advice," said Tom Mangano, a spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "We have had documented violence, attacks, killings, shootouts with the drug cartels involving not only the military but law enforcement personnel. It is indiscriminate violence, and certainly innocent people have been caught up in that collateral damage."

Mexico's drug cartels are waging a bloody fight among themselves for smuggling routes and against government forces, carrying out massacres and dumping beheaded bodies in the streets. More than 6,000 people were killed in drug violence in Mexico last year.

But Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora said in an interview with The Associated Press: "There is no major risk for students coming into Mexico in general terms. It is always important to advise the youngsters to behave."

Despite the bloodshed, the number of foreign tourists visit-

ing Mexico surged to 23 million in 2008, up 5.9 percent from the year before, spurred in part by the tumbling value of the peso against the dollar, according to the country's Tourism Department. The department estimates 80 percent of tourists in Mexico come from the United States.

"Cancun has always been one of our most popular destinations and that hasn't changed this year," said Patrick Evans of STA Travel, one of the biggest spring-break travel agencies. "Many of the packages we offer include lodging on the beach and in very nice resorts that take the utmost pride in making sure customers are safe."

Some students said the warnings are unlikely to deter them. University of Arizona sophomore Daniel Wallace is going to Puerto Penasco, or Rocky Point, for spring break, saying he is not worried about violence there. Besides, the 19-year-old said: "It's relaxing, it's warm. I'm a big fan of the beach and the drinking age is lower. It's a fun place to go."

Andrea Corbett, a sophomore at North Carolina State, said she is going snowboarding in Virginia because she couldn't afford Cancun. But three of her roommates are going there. "They really wanted to go," the 20-year-old said. "Honestly, they probably think nothing will happen to them. That's the way I would look at it."

"If anything is going to deter people," said Danielle Jones, a North Carolina State student who is staying close to home because of a family emergency, "it's the recession."



Número de hispanos aumenta en el sistema educativo de EEUU



Aproximadamente una cuarta parte de la matrícula en los jardines de niños en Estados Unidos, formada por menores de 3 a 6 años de edad, son hispanos, lo cual evidencia una tendencia acelerada de que los niños minoritarios serán una mayoría en el 2023.

Los datos del censo revelados el jueves también muestran que los

hispanos representan casi una quinta parte de todos los alumnos de sector llamado K-12: desde el jardín de niños al grado 12. La mayoría de las escuelas de los estados del país tienen 12 grados.

El crecimiento de la población hispana y los cambios en la población joven de seguro influirán por años el debate político sobre empleos, inmigración y educación.

Los cambios étnicos en la matrícula escolar son más evidente en el occidente de la nación. Estados como Arizona, California y Nevada están viendo una afluencia de hispanos debido tanto a la inmigración como a una tasa mayor de nacimientos respecto a

otros grupos étnicos.

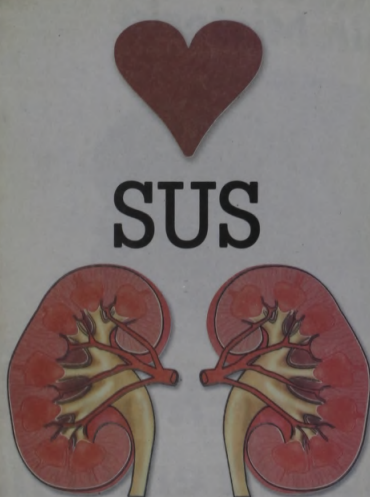
Los estudiantes de comunidades minoritarias en esa región superan a los blancos no hispanos en los niveles de grado preuniversitario, con aproximadamente 37% de alumnos hispanos. Los hispanos constituyen el 54% de los estudiantes en Nuevo México, 47% en California, 44% en Texas y 40% en Arizona.

En el 2007, más de 40% de todos los estudiantes en el K-12 eran de las minorías: hispanos, negros, asiático-estadounidenses y otros grupos. La cifra es el doble de tres décadas atrás. En las instituciones de educación superior llamadas colleges, los hispanos constituyen el 12% de los estudiantes de tiempo completo y de estudiantes de postgrado, 2% más que en el 2006. Aún así, es

poco considerando que los hispanos representan 15% del total de la población de Estados Unidos.

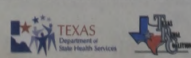
"El futuro de nuestro sistema de educación depende de cómo podamos avanzar a los hispanos a través de los grados", dijo el demógrafo William Frey, de Brookings Institution en Washington. "En muchos casos va a ser un reto, porque son hijos de inmigrantes, y su inglés no están firme. Muchos tienen padres sin una educación secundaria o universitaria."

Según proyecciones, las minorías serán mayoría en el total de la población de Estados Unidos en el 2042. En el caso de los niños de minorías esa situación ocurriría en el 2023, siete años antes de lo calculado en el 2004.



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