Texas Tech University LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409 **Latinos Express Cautious Opti Over Bush's Education Plans**

By RICARDO VAZQUEZ

SAN FRANCISCO, Quickly moving on what became the central issue of his election campaign, President George W. Bush unveiled Tuesday his proposal for education reform.

The plan would give states more funding as well as more control on how to spend federal grants. It also includes regular testing of student performance on reading and math abilities.

Many of Bush's proposals, which enjoy widespread bipartisan support, were warmly - if cautiously - received by Latino activists.

"I think there weren't a lot of surprises in his proposal," said Raul Gonzalez, education analyst for the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). "But it does say something that [Bush] is leading with education. He made a promise to focus on education during his campaign and he's doing as he promised. Still, there's room for improvement."

With the caveat that the legislative language of the Bush plan is not yet available, Gonzalez said he hopes the bill includes more effective ways for funding and teaching bilingual education.

"Bush's previous proposals have focused almost exclusively on English language acquisition for students in bilingual programs," Gonzalez said. "But we want to make sure that these students are also learning math, science and social studies - especially if they're going to be tested. We're not clear how [the Bush plan] would encourage states to do

In fact, although most Latino experts say proposal so far is more of a blueprint than a

"We're waiting for specifics," said Angelo bills out there and we're going to be looking at

At the same time, Amador said he was

"Paige's school district in Texas has some

very good bilingual programs," he said. "And President Bush is on record saying he would support any bilingual education program that works."

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

Bush's plan also includes increasing federal funding for low-performing schools, an expansion of programs for preschoolers and more money for special education. But true to his campaign promises, the measure incorporates the controversial voucher proposal that has broad opposition among Democrats.

"The voucher program isn't as big a concern anymore because it's not center stage," said Amador. And even Bush signaled his flexibility to compromise on the issue, saying that he did not want his voucher plan - that would give parents with children in failing schools the option of a voucher to send them to another public or private school -- to be a deal

As more details regarding the different education plans become available, Amador said the Hispanic Education Coalition will attempt to reach a consensus among its members and take a position on the different proposals. He expects that will happen by

ews Briefs 71 Mexican prison officials under house arrest after jailbreak

The warden and 70 officials of a high-security prison were placed under house arrest at a Mexico City hotel pending an investigation over the escape of drug kingpin Joaquin Guzman Loera, alias "El Chapo," authorities said Tuesday.

The District Attorney's Office booked two floors of a hotel directly across from the offices of the Unit Against Organized Crime, where it intends to keep Puente Grande Prison Warden Leonardo Beltran, four assistants, 34 prison guards and 32 staffers under house arrest.

The officials were arrested Jan. 20 for their alleged involvement in the jailbreak of El Chapo, considered the leader of the Sinaloa drug cartel, Jan. 19 from the Puente Grande prison located near Guadalajara, capital of the state of Jalisco, 480 kilometers (298 miles) west of Mexico City.

A judge authorized the house arrest for 45 days to give prosecutors time to determine whether there is enough evidence to convict the officials for allowing the escape of the drug lord, who was implicated in a shooting that killed Mexican Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo on May 24, 1993, at the Guadalajara airport.

The 71 suspects were placed under house arrest at the hotel, where the rooms cost an average \$66 a day, and are being watched by an undetermined number of police officers.

The judicial decision makes sure that the District Attorney's Office does not allow overcrowding and offers the only woman arrested a suite of her own.

Authorities have attributed El Capo Guzman's escape to the high level of corruption inside the Puente Grande prison.

Guzman had been allowed to freely walk in and out of the prison, as well as to introduce beverages, drugs and women, according to human rights organizations.

South Carolina Hispanic minister sentenced to 60 years

It will be difficult for this small town to forget how a minister hired to serve the area's growing Hispanic population instead preyed on its children.

But the people he was supposed to help does not easily discuss the Rev. Fernando Garcia's crimes.

The 42-year-old Baptist minister was sentenced to 60 years in prison Monday after he admitted to sexually molesting nearly two dozen children and videotaping the acts.

"Ninety percent of the parents ... are still in denial," said grocery store owner Genara Bautista.

Victims and their parents have turned down counseling services offered by community leaders, Bautista said.

"They don't think it will help the kids later on," she said. Garcia admitted in court to abusing 23 children, ages 5 to 13. He pleaded guilty to 32 counts of performing lewd acts and 15 counts of criminal sexual conduct.

He said he is an example of what can happen without that counseling. As a boy growing up in Mexico, Garcia said he was abused by a Roman Catholic priest.

"Your kids need special counseling," he said. "What you are seeing here is the result of somebody who never took the chance to be counseled.'

Garcia stared at the courtroom floor while the mother of two of the victims, boys who were 10 and 12 years old at the time, called Garcia "this evil incarnate" and said her family would never be the same.

The judge took 15 minutes to review 62 photographs from the videotapes and hand down sentences that totaled 60 years.

I have children and if somebody did that to them I'd want the death penalty," Sandra Bryan said.

The encounters with the children took place at Garcia's church office and at an elementary school where he worked as a library

Police said they found in Garcia's office 26 videotapes of him sexually abusing children. The tapes came to light after an 8year-old boy told his mother in May he had been molested by

Garcia. Garcia was arrested two days later. Police also found a list of 145 names indicating Garcia may

have molested more children. Police said the videotapes also showed at least two other victims, one from Atlanta and another from Carson City, Nev. They said those cases would not likely be pursued because investigators could not pinpoint where and when the attacks

The local school district and church said nothing turned up in their background checks before Garcia was hired. Police and prosecutors said Garcia did not have a criminal record.

"Not having the ability to recognize him as this type of person doesn't ease the pain for the community," said Randy Vaughn, assistant superintendent for the school district. "This situation has caused us to examine our procedures.

Garcia came strongly recommended when he arrived here in 1998 to work with the Abbeville Baptist Association, leaving a ministry in Carson City. He was hired to serve the growing

Hispanic population in this textile town of 20,000 people. He held Sunday night services in Spanish at a local church and

performed counseling. Garcia's wife, Leticia, sobbed as she spoke in Spanish about her husband. "This is a different Fernando than what I used to

know," she said through an interpreter.

Hispanic couple awarded \$80 million for accident A Hispanic couple from Texas was awarded \$80 million for

njuries caused by a product to repair flat tires, local media reported Sunday.

Robert Perez, 21, and Melissa Elizondo, 20, were both seriously injured when the aerosol can they were using to fix their flat tire exploded.

A Texas jury from the small coastal town of Alice awarded

Elizondo, who lost the vision in her right eye and suffered serious injuries in one leg, \$60 million. Do you think this product should be pulled off the market?

Perez, who suffered fractured and burned hands, preventing him from returning to work at an oil drilling site, was awarded

The product's manufacturing company, based in Akron, Ohio,

announced that it is considering filing an appeal. Meanwhile, Perez said that he was not completely satisfied

with the results. "I wanted them to pull the product off the market. They have changed our lives and now they must pay,'

The product, called Patch-A-Flat, is an aerosol that seals the inside of a tire while inflating it. During the trial, the plaintiffs' lawyer, Anthony Constant, told the jury that the product, containing propane and liquid gas, is a bomb about to explode, however, users are not warned as to the extent of the danger they are exposed to and the need to take special precautions. Perez said at the trial, which began on Monday, that while

using the product he saw a screw stuck in the tire, when he tried to pull it out, a spark set off the explosion right in front of them. Elizondo said that she has undergone 10 surgical operations. She still limps when she walks and she was forced to leave her job and her studies at the university because of her injuries, she

they are glad Bush is making-education his number one priority, they caution that his bill. Senator Joseph Lieberman and other Democrats are introducing their own education measures that also have support from moderate Republicans.

Amador, executive director of the Hispanic Education Coalition. "There are several other those as well."

encouraged by statements from Bush and from his Secretary of Education, Rod Paige.

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz. Respect for the Rights of Others Is Peace Lic. Benito Juarez

Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers Week of February 1 thru 7, 2001 Lubbock. Tx Lubbock, Tx Vol. XXIIII No. 18

Bush Se Propone Mejorar Relaciones Bilaterales Con México

Por Olivia P. Tallet

Con el próximo viaje a México del presidente George W. Bush las relaciones bilaterales "estarían arribando a una nueva era" de cooperación en temas como el narcotráfico y el

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

President Bush met with the Black Congressional Caucus this week to address many of the problems faced by African Americans. Since President Bush is the president who has received the fewest amount of African American

votes than any other President, it seems only natural that now Bush is trying to find out why and trying to make amends. There is no word yet as to

when or if Bush will meet with the Hispanic Congressional Caucus.

To me, it seems that after all the hoopla of parading Hispanics in front of cameras prior to elections, Bush would make a special effort to also get back into the good graces of Hispanics.

The everyday Hispanic on the street would probably think that his effort to name Linda Chavez to the Cabinet was a step in the right direction. To the educated Chicano voter the move was clearly a effort to "darnos atole con el dedo". His futile efforts to nominate a Hispanic that did not speak Spanish and had continually opposed everything that is good for Hispanics including affirmative action, bilingual educational and equal opportunity laws was noticeably not even supported by his own staff as they stayed away at every opportunity.

Some persons might point to Bush's appointment of Mel Martinez as a sign of acknowledgment of Hispanics.

The Cuban born Martinez has been said to live up to the slang name of "gusano" very often used to refer to Cubans who care little about Hispanics and care more about their position and how fast they can

say "yes sir". If Marinez and Chavez prove to be Bush's only efforts of "inclusiveness" of the Hispanic community, Hispanics in 2004 will do well to give Bush "atole con el dedo" when it comes to our

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El nuevo presidente George W. Bush espera abrir nuevas puertas de cooperación en temas como el intercambio comercial cuando viaje a México el próximo mes a visitar a Vicente Fox. (Foto/AFP)

intercambio comercial, afir-

maron hoy analistas políticos. Como primer gesto en su política internacional y tal como lo prometió en agosto tras la visita de Fox a Texas recién asumida su presidencia, Bush ha enviado con este anuncio un mensaje claro de su prioridad hacia México en asuntos exteriores, según explicó el director asociado del Centro de Estudios México-Americanos de la Universidad

de Houston, Lorenzo Cano. Para otros como Bernard Aronson, antiguo secretario asistente de estado para asuntos interamericanos durante el gobierno del ex presidente George Bush, el nuevo presidente "va a trabajar para desarrollar una muy estrecha relación con México, muy parecida a los lazos especiales que disfruta Estados Unidos con el

Reino Unido y Europa". Las semejanzas entre los dos nuevos mandatarios también han llamado la atención de los observadores como indicadores optimistas.

Ambos fueron gobernadores de estado, tuvieron la ambición de llegar a la presidencia y vienen imponiendo un estilo de sombreros y botas en las capitales políticas de las dos naciones.

El encuentro entre los mandatarios el próximo 16 de febrero tendrá lugar en el rancho de Fox en Guanajuato al centro de México, y no en las oficinas presidenciales como manda la tradición, lo que no deja de ser un gesto de intimidad, y reciprocidad también a la reunión previa que sostuvieron en la finca de

Bush en Texas. Las empatías de personalidad dejan el terreno abonado para la posibilidad de un diálogo promisorio, si se logran acuerdos en puntos neurálgi-

Uno de los aspectos fundamentales en la agenda de Fox es la flexibilización en la apertura de fronteras para los trabajadores mexicanos y el trato justo para ellos, sobre lo cual lo más posible es que se ponga en práctica un nuevo programa de braseros que podría legalizar la presencia de miles de inmigrantes en Estados Unidos y permitir la entrada temporal de otros al país bajo ciertas condiciones.

En una reciente visita a Fox por parte de los senadores Phil Gramm de Texas y Pete Domenici de Nuevo México, entre otros, los legisladores aseguraron que apoyarán la aprobación de un programa como este, pese a que Gramm en particular ha mostrado históricamente posiciones ultraconservadoras.

Fox aspiraría con el Tratado de Libre Comercio de Norteamérica (TLC) un tipo de relaciones similar al que existe entre los países de la Unión Europea, sin barreras de comercio, libre flujo de trabajadores y subsidios a los países más pobres, pero los analistas consideran que, al menos en el corto plazo, esto no será posible.

En las relaciones económi-

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TA (TLC) para los pequeños negocios y trabajar en el "desarrollo económico en áreas de México que envían inmigrantes ilegales a este país". El narcotráfico es otro de los puntos que estarán en la

cas con su vecino, Bush ha

señalado la importancia de

"abrir las promesas del NAF-

mesa. Fox ha dado señales claras de su intención de expandir la cooperación con Estados Unidos contra los carteles de la droga y el tráfico ilegal, al tiempo que espera que su vecino del norte termine con la práctica de certificación anual para su país, donde esto es considerado una actitud ofensiva.

Librarse de la certificación ha sido una meta de México por largo tiempo", declaró Delal Baer, investigador del Centro de Estudios Internacionales y Estratégicos de Washington.

Sospecho que habrá un acuerdo cuando escuchemos de México que ellos están dispuestos a embarcarse en operaciones conjuntas que no han estado dispuestos" a asumir en pasados gobiernos, agregó Baer en declaraciones al periódico Houston Chronicle.

Agregó que también se esperaría que México esté dispuesto a garantizar las extradiciones expeditas de mexicanos que cometen delitos en Estados Unidos, sobre lo cual el gobierno de ese país ya ha mostrado interés.

En el contexto del alza de los precios del petróleo, el enfriamiento de las relaciones políticas con el gobierno venezolano principal abastecedor del crudo para Estados Unidos-, y de la crisis eléctrica

que atraviesa el estado de California, el tema energético cobrará relevancia en el encuentro presidencial, de acuerdo con analistas.

Para Lorenzo Cano, podría reactivarse la construcción de un gasoducto en el norte de México para la distribución de gas natural en California y el sur de Estados Unidos.

"Estoy seguro de que el tema energético será de mucho interés para Bush, quien viene de una familia petrolera, y tomando en cuenta la situación actual en este campo", dijo.

De la parte mexicana, el recién designado asesor de Fox para asuntos estadounidenses, Juan Hernández, ha dicho que "nosotros tenemos muchas cosas maravillosas que ofrecer a los Estados Unidos y necesitamos estar más cerca. Estados Unidos es un país al que le gusta mirar al futuro. Los mexicanos estamos esperando mucho de George Bush".

Agregó que hay muchas cosas por hacer y que "la mesa ya está puesta. Ahora lo que falta es servir la comida".

Vieques Will Be No Paradise Island for Bush

Not even Hillary Clinton could persuade her husband, when he was still the president, to stop the U.S. Navy from bombing the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.

She tried, at least she said she would, but nevertheless President Clinton left the White House without putting an end to the five-decade bombardment of that civilian-inhabited island.

During his last days in office, as Clinton frantically gave out pardons and issued executive orders, he was lobbied by many Puerto Rican leaders of every party affiliation to do the right thing for the9,400 people who live on Vieques.

The new Puerto Rico governor, Sila Calderón, who took office two weeks before Clinton left the White House, had mounted an impressive lastminute campaign to pressure him to halt the bombings. Many others wrote to him, pleading for mercy for innocent people at a time when he was pardoning criminals.

For a while, their efforts looked promising. Calderón presented a new local study that found that Viegues residents had a high rate of heart abnormalities, which could have been caused by noise from the Navy bombings.

The Clinton administration immediately ordered a federal study on the potential health hazards on Vieques. And the new Senator Clinton wrote Calderón a letter, noting that she would ask her husband "to order a cessation of all bombing and shelling" until the Department of Health submits a report.

Many Puerto Ricans were optimistic that perhaps Viegues had seen its last bombing raid, especially since the election of Calderón had served as a clear referendum against the Navy staying in Vieques. She ran on a platform that called for the immediate cessation of the bomb-

But no way, José. The former president didn't budge -- not even for Hillary -- from the agreement he had reached with former Puerto Rico Gov. Pedro Rosselló. Under that deal, the Navy will not leave Vieques until May 2003, and then, only if Vieques residents vote to boot it out in a referendum set for Nov 6, 2001.

Tucked between a Navy training ground and a weapons depot, many Vieques residents have long resented their living 'conditions. But it reached a climax in April 1999, when a Navy jet dropped a stray bomb and killed a civilian security guard at the base.

Military exercises were suspended as months of protests followed. When the protesters were forcibly removed from the bombing range and the exercises were resumed, the Navy stopped using live bombs.

However, if Vieques voters allow the Navy to stay, it will be with the understanding that live bombs will again be used.

ECOTORILIOO TOBANKITUOS Texes Tech University

Nevertheless, some Puerto Ricans fear that between now and November, with promises of rebuilding the island, the Navy can woo enough Vieques

Calderón has threatened to offer another referendum that includes the option of making the Navy leave immediately. The threat was apparently taken seriously by Clinton, who just one day before leaving office instructed the Pentagon to seek alternatives to training exercises on the is-

He didn't do it to help the people of Viegues. He did it in case Calderón follows through with her threat and Puerto Rico voters decide the Navy should leave before 2003.

"A new governor, legislative majority and mayor have recently taken office on a platform of obtaining an immediate end to training," Clinton noted. "They have also pledged to take actions that would be inconsistent with the resolution of these issues previously reached."

Although he will not be there to receive it, Clinton asked Pentagon officials to report to the White House by May 9 on how military training exercises could be accomplished through May 2003 without using

Calderón called it "a step in the right direction" but not enough. Other Puerto Rican leaders were less diplomatic, saying that Clinton "lacked the courage to tell the Pentagon to pull out of Vieques.' It's true, but it's water under the bridge.

The question now is how President George W. Bush, who has said he would abide by the Clinton-Rosselló accord, is going to react to the call for an immediate cease-fire.

Told that Calderón had repudiated and practically abridged the Clinton-Rosselló agreement, Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer responded, "The president is very well aware of the sensitivities on that issue in Puerto Rico, and I think he's going to want to talk with officials of the Dó (Defense Department) about that before proceeding."

Ironically, Senator Hillary Clinton said she would also ask the Bush administration to halt the bombings immediately. Fat chance.

If Clinton didn't do it, don't expect it from Bush. He may get out of Vieques in 2003, if the island's voters say so, but he'll do so as grudgingly as the Navy has been about leaving its favorite place for playing war games.

(Miguel Pérez is a columnist with The Record in Bergen, N.J. He may be reached by e-mail at perez(AT SIGN)bergan.com)(c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Serv-

La Isla De Vieques No Sera Ningun Paraiso Para Bush

Ni Hillary Clinton pudo convencer a su esposo, cuando era aún presidente, que parara el bombardeo de la fuerza naval estadounidense contra la isla puertorriqueña de Vieques.

Lo intentó, al menos así dijo, pero no obstante el presidente Clinton dejó la Casa Blanca sin poner fin al bombardeo de aquella isla habitada por civiles, que dura cinco décadas ya.

Durante sus últimos días como presidente, mientras indultaba a acusados y profería órdenes ejecutivos frenéticamente, varios líderes puertorriqueños, de todos los partidos, le instaban a que hiciera lo justo para las 9,400 personas que viven en Viegues.

La nueva gobernadora de Puerto Rico, Sila Calderón, quien asumió el mando dos semanas antes de que Clinton partiera de la Casa Blanca, había organizado una campaña impresionante de último minuto para ponerle presión a Clinton a que parara los bombardeos antes de dejar la presidencia. Muchos otros le escribieron pidiendo misericordia por el pueblo inocente, en el momento en que él perdonaba a criminales.

Por un tiempo parecía que sus esfuerzos darían fruto. Calderón presentó un estudio nuevo local que describe un alto índice de anormalidades cardíacas entre los residentes de Vieques, posiblemente causado por el estallido de las bombas navales.

De inmediate la administración de Clinton ordenó un estudio federal sobre los posibles peligros para la salud en Vieques. Y la nueva senadora

Ricon Poético

dos

(a Liliana)

Pienso en ti, y

y cadena de oro,

en el perder dos cruces

como perder palabras

Como el perder dos anos

huvendo, tal vez buscando,

las letras de la palabra "love,"

sin reconocer el camino a esto,

pareciendo como aislamiento

que nos ilumina la faena

de dia a dia. Que causa

que en un par de dias

en corazon de noche.

esta deriva. Todo

bajo el mismo sol

deseo de enochezer

Clinton le escribió a Calderón ite que la fuerza naval se indicando que le pediría a su esposo "que ordenara un cese a toda clase de bombardeos" hasta que el Departamento de Salud emita su informe.

Muchos puertorriqueños sentían optimismo que quizás Vieques había sufrido su último bombardeo, en particular por lo que la elección de Calderón, quien hizo campaña con el tema del cese inmediato del bombardeo, servía de referéndum claro contra la presencia contínua de la fuerza naval en

Pero, ni modo. El ex-mandatario no hizo nada -- ni para Hillary -- a parte del acuerdo al que había llegado con el exgobernador de Puerto Rico, Pedro Rosselló. Con este acuerdo, la fuerza naval seguirá en Vieques hasta mayo de 2003, y se irá sólo si los residentes de Vieques votan para que abandone la isla en un referéndum que tendrá lugar el 6 de noviembre de 2001.

Metidos entre un campo de prácticas naval y un depósito de armas, hace años que muchos de los residentes de Viegues resienten sus condiciones de vida. Esta frustración llegó a un punto culminante en abril de 1999, cuando un jet de la fuerza naval dejó caer una bomba perdida que mató a un guardia del personal civil en la base naval.

Se suspendieron las prácticas militares en tanto que siguieron meses de protestas. Cuando se llevaron a la fuerza a los manifestantes de la zona de bombardeo y se reaundaron las prácticas, la fuerza naval dejó de usar bombas cargadas. En todo caso, si Vieques perm-

faith

At five he wondered

was uncertain and

in her voice. "No veo

he'd say and wonder

He looked for immense

Imagined God's eyes

movement in reflections

in dusk's autumn silence.

madrigal

across a thrift store's window.

Send your Valentine's

poems in to El Editor

1502 Ave. M, Lubboc, 79401

beauty brown eyes

that hid the toil.

of her sadness,

his family's next meal

his mother assured him

Su mano darnos comida,"

"Dios provee." A tranquility

about omnipotence when

quede en la isla, se volverán a usar bombas cargadas en las prácticas militares.

No obstante, algunos puertorriqueños temen que entre ahora y noviembre, con promesas de reconstrucción de la isla, la fuerza naval ganará suficiente apoyo entre los residentes para quedarse.

Calderón amenaza con presentar otro referéndum que incluiría la opción de que la fuerza naval se vaya inmediatamente. Por lo visto Clinton tomó en serio la amenaza, tanto que un día antes de partir emitió instrucciones al Pentágono para que buscara alternativas a las prácticas en

No lo hizo para hacer lo justo por los residentes de Vieques, lo hizo por si Calderón cumple con presentar la opción y los puertorriqueños votan que sí, que la fuerza naval debe abandonar la isla para mayo

Una nueva gobernadora, una mayoría legislativa y un alcalde han asumido poder recientemente habiendo hecho campaña en base al cese inmediato de las prácticas militares," notó Clinton. "Además han prometido tomar acciones que no son consistentes con la resolución de estos asuntos a la que se ha llegado anteriormente.'

A pesar de que no estará presente para recibir el informe, Clinton le ha pedido al Pentágono que presente su informe a la Casa Blanca el 9 de mayo en cuanto a cómo se podría llevar a cabo las prácticas militares hasta mayo 2003 sin geles Times Syndicate Internausar la isla de Vieques.

Para Calderón la orden de Clinton es "un paso en la dirección correcta," pero no es suficiente. Otros líderes puertorriqueNIos han respondido de forma menos diplomática, al decir que a Clinton "le faltó el valor" de ordenar que el Pentágono abandone Vieques. Es verdad, pero a esa agua hay que dejarla correr.

Lo importante ahora es la reacción al llamado a un cese inmediato del presidente George W. Bush, que ha dicho que se acataría al acuerdo de Clinton con Rosselló.

Al oir que Calderón había repudiado, es más, práctica-mente eliminado el acuerdo entre Clinton y Rosselló, Ari Fleischer, vocero de Bush, respondió que "el presidente tiene muy presentes las sensibilidades del caso de Puerto Rico, y me parece que va a querer hablar con oficiales del Departamento de Defensa antes de proceder."

Es irónico, pero la senadora Hillary Clinton dijo que también le pediría Bush que cese inmediatamente los bombardeos. Buena suerte.

Si no lo hizo Clinton, no hay que esperarlo de Bush. Es posible que salga de Vieques en 2003, si así votan los residentes de la isla, pero lo hará de tan mala gana como lo hace la fuerza naval, que se resiste a dejar su lugar preferido para jugar a la guerra. Miguel Pérez es columnista de

The Record en Bergen, New Jersey. Contátese con él por correo electrónico a pérezbergen.com) (c) Hispanic Link News Service, 2001. Distribuido por el Los An-

During this energy crisis we feel safe that we have enough funds to assist the clients that are coming through our doors. State funding coupled with the grant from Energas we appear to have adequate funds to handle the most critical of needs.

Since Monday, we have seen close to 1000 households seeking assistance with over 300 confirmed appointments scheduled. The process is somewhat slower than we would like because of the time limitations. It is very helpful if clients are patient with us. This allows us to cover a lot of ground while the crisis is still at hand.

It has been more evident that people have some hard choices to make between medications, house payments, car payments and food because of the extremely high bills. For this reason we make extra effort to serve elderly, disabled and families with children under age 6. In addition the program is open to those who meet other criteria such as income and need.

We would like to also publicly acknowledge the generous assistance Energas has provided to the community with the \$27,400 grant and their continued efforts to get the community involved with this energy crisis.

Thank you for sharing this information with our public. Richard Lopez **Executive Director**

Seniors Deserve Respect, Not Neglect

By Congressman

Ciro D. Rodriguez

A report I released during the 106th Congress detailed the deplorable conditions and glaring heath care deficiencies seniors endure in many nursing homes. More than half of Texas' 1230 nursing homes had violations so severe residents were actually harmed or placed at risk of death or serious injury. Unsanitary conditions, medical neglect, and the improper use of restraints, among other miserable conditions, plague Texas' 86,000 elderly patients.

The examples are heart In one nursing breaking. home, state inspectors found mislabeled medical instructions for dozens of patients who were supposed to receive cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in an emergency.

Their charts read, "Do not resuscitate." In other cases, unsupervised residents simply wandered away from the home. Malnourishment, broken bones, lacerations, and overdoses were also documented in patients. Other residents did not receive needed pain medication. In any other context, we would call this

One reason seniors face this health care crisis today is the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 which set Medicaid reimbursement rates too low, particularly for nursing homes. In turn, 93% of Texas nursing homes do not meet preferred minimum staffing levels. And, according to state inspectors' reports, four out of five Texas nursing homes fail to meet minimum federal health and safety standards. Unfortunately, this problem is not unique to our state, but that does not lessen our responsibility to act.

In the 107th Congress, we must set priorities based on our highest human values. Federal and state laws place necessary health and safety of care nursing homes provide. regulations on nursing homes but fail to provide the necessary funds to meet those quality care mandates. As a result, we are regulating our mised for fiscal or nursing homes into bankruptcy political concerns.

and doing nothing to improve the conditions for those who suffer the most. Federal, state, and local authorities have to step up and take responsibility for this crisis.

If a \$1.6 trillion tax cut remains the new Administration's top goal, the budget will be balanced on the backs of America's seniors, not only those confined to long-term care facilities, but seniors who depend on Medicare and Social Security for their independence and livelihood. It is an unacceptable alternative when the needs of so many go unmet.

Congress, the state, and the nursing home industry itself must work together to ensure that, when a family makes the tough decision to seek longterm care, the facilities they choose are properly equipped and responsive to the needs of their patients. No one would want a parent or grandparent to live under the awful conditions identified in my report. Seniors deserve respect, not neglect.

But what is the delay? After a tremendous effort, we were able to add a modest amount of funding for our hospitals, providers, home health agencies, and nursing homes. We need to do more. In the 106th Congress, I called on the House Leadership to reinstate the necessary Medicaid funds our seniors need. Legislation I cosponsored, the Nursing Home Quality Protection Act of 2000, could have strengthened caregiver standards and provided the targeted resources care-givers need to comply with those standards. The legislation, which I will co-sponsor again in the 107th Congress, would impose tougher sanctions on nursing homes that violate federal health and safety standards, provide more resources for nursing homes to increase staffing and improve care for residents, and increase public information about the quality

In the 107th Congress, priorities matter. Seniors' quality of life, especially in their final years, should not be compro-

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Letters To the Editor

Bidal, Marlise Ferrell in a letter to the AJ editor on Friday 1-26-01 addressed the seemingly poor status of county roads in New Deal by stating " We have voiced our complaints to our commissioner, Gilbert Flores on numerous occasions, but always get the same com-'funds are not available,' " yet road construction and maintenance continues in Southwest Lubbock County." El Editor's readers should be made aware of the particulars of the purported

to the query submitted on 1-Perhaps the lack of funds in question are directly Commissioners Court approved a measure in 1996 to increase the Road & Bridge (R&B) fee from \$7 to \$10 to fund the expansion of 82nd Street.

shortage of funds.

Two of the three dollars inplaced in a county wide road future. improvement fund. With full knowledge that those funds would basically benefit South-

west Lubbock Commissioner Flores conceded to this unprecedented action. R&B funds have always been equally divided between the four precincts but it seems that precinct three has adversely been affected by Flores' action. While the 82nd street project may be justified the fact remains that precinct three may not be receiving the funds for maintenance as it could have. Flores was out voted last December when the commissioners voted to continue this practice. It is estimated that to date this fund has collected The following is in reference approximately \$562,000 and with December's vote pre-26-01 by Marlise Ferrell rela- cludes the possibility of pretive to the maintenance of cinct three maintenance funcounty roads in the New Deal ding being restored to its previous levels. Revenues collected could

attributed to the fact that the have been applied to needed paving but Mr. Flores' initial vote in agreement denies approximately \$112,000 to precinct three R&B services every year. Given the history of Flores' acquiescent voting behavior this shortage may not crease were authorized to be change any time in the near

> Frank Gutierrez 744-5002

madrigal

trae la muerte de una princesa

en azules hasta el amanecer.

en imagenes por la televisor,

Emparejando a **Bush y Fox**

Por José Carreño

Sombrero tejano y botas vaqueras; una cuidadosamente cultivada imágen de ranchero que lo ayudó a llegar de gobernador a presidente luego de una relativamente corta carrera política al menos en público... ¿George W. Bush o Vicente Fox?

Si alguna vez México y los Estados Unidos parecen tener coincidencias mayores que el interés en el otro es ahora, con el inicio de un nuevo milenio que además ve a los dos paises más entrelazados e interrelacionados que nunca.

Aúnque Bush y Fox se conocieron varias veces cuando eran gobernadores de Tejas y Guanajuato, Bush viajará el 16 de febrero, apropiadamente, a San Cristóbal, el rancho de Fox, para sus primeras sesiones diplomáticas como presidentes de los paises vecinos.

"Los dos usamos botas vaqueras, los dos amamos nuestros paises, los dos queremos un mejor futuro para nuestros pueblos y los dos queremos resolver los grandes problemas en la relación entre Estados Unidos y México, como inmigración, como narcotráfico," declaró Fox a una cadena de televisión estadunidense.

Las coincidencias parecen acrecentadas por las también aparentes similitudes entre sus nuevos mandatarios, que de hecho comienzan sus gobiernos de manera simultánea.

Más allá, sin embargo, uno y otro resultaron vencedores mediante campañas que no sólo iniciaron en aparente desventaja sino en las que buscaron establecer una imágen campechana, campirana y aún de rudeza que pareció hacer olvidar a sus adversarios que liauténticos

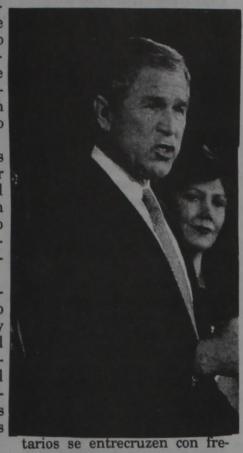
urbanos: vaqueros` un "cowboy" de Yale (una prestigiosa y tradicional universidad estadounidense), un vaquero de la ibero (por la prestigiada Universidad Iberoamericana en México).

De hecho, a los dos les gusta pasar tiempo en sus respectivos ranchos. Y tanto en México como en Estados Unidos la idea del rancho, de la vida campirana, evoca no sólo imagenes de la mitología nacional sino también ideales que con harta frecuencia son confundidos con simplicidad respecto a la "sofisticación" urbana. Y eso ha ayudado a que algunos de sus rivales los sub-

Los dos se distinguen en todo caso como comunicadores personales, por un uso incesante del teléfono como instrumento de comunicación directa y personal con otros, al grado que Fox ha sido presentado como un "presidente con celular" y que Tomás Yarrington, gobernador del estado mexicano de Tamaulipas en la frontera con Texas, señale que Bush también le gusta usar ese intrumento.

Para nadie ha sido una sorpresa que Fox haga un esfuerzo por comunicarse con posibles aliados en Estados Unidos y de hecho que tenga una considerable popularidad entre los grupos hispánicos, especialmente mexicanos, dentro de las fronteras de este país.

Al mismo tiempo, Bush ha cortejado y corteja al voto hispánico, con lo cual no es extrano que los caminos -- y los intereses -- de los dos manda-



Más allá, Bush ha subrayado la importancia que para el tiene México y la resolución de problemas comunes como migración o narcotráfico, y posibles areas de cooperación, como energía. En la poco conocida lista de sus invitados a la inauguración del 20 de enero estaban Yarrington y el gobernador de Veracruz, Miguel Alemán, así como Juan Hernández, comisionado mexicano para temas de migración, y Juan Felipe Bravo, presidente del Partido de Acción Nacional, que llevó a Fox al poder.

Igualmente, uno y otro son "delegadores." Fox creó de entrada una estructura de gobierno con "coordinadores" en algo que al menos en México parece un audaz experimento, pero en la que el es quién toma la decisión final. Bush afirma que será una especie de Presidente y Director General (CEO) en una estructura en la que al menos en el papel, la mayoría de sus Secretarlos tiene más experiencia

Los dos, curiosamente, entregaron la dirección de su política exterior a personas a su izquierda, como concesión a grupos aliados útiles y más que eso en sus respectivas campañas. Fox tiene un Jorge Castañeda, un prestigioso académico conocido por posiciones liberales; Bush tiene a Colin Powell, un prestigioso militar de tendéncias modera-

Y ambos entregaron puestos clave de su gobierno a personas identificadas con "el sistema" y en algunos casos a su propia derecha: Fox a Carlos Abascal, Secretario del Trabajo, Bush a John Ashcroft, Procurador General de Justicia.

Políticamente, ambos se encuentran en una situación similar: ambos enfrentan Congresos con grandes complicaciones: el Partido de Acción Nacional (PAN) que respaldó a Fox no tiene la mayoría en el Congreso; el Partido Republicano que eligió a Bush tiene una mayoría tan raquítica que a veces puede ser más una desventaja que una ventaja. Pero los dos actúan como si hubieran conquistado mandatos claros e indiscutidos.

(José Carreño Figueras es corresponsal en Washington, D.C., para El Universal, basado en la Cuidad de México.)

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By José Carreño

Texan hat and cowboy boots -- a curiously cultivated rancher image that helped him rise from governor to president after a relatively short political career, at least in public.

Is this George W. Bush or Vicente Fox?

If there was ever a time that the United States and Mexico appeared to share coincidences other than a common interest in the other, it is now, at the beginning of a new millennium that finds the two countries more enlaced and interrelated than ever before.

Although Bush and Fox have met while serving as governors of Texas and Guanajuato, Bush will travel, appropriately, to Fox's San Cristobal ranch Feb. 16 for their first diplomatic sessions aspresidents of the neighbor nations.

"We both wear cowboy boots, we both love our countries, we both aspire to a better future for our people, and we both want to resolve the big problems concerning U.S.-Mexico relations, such as immigration, drug trafficking," Fox explained recently to a U.S. television interviewer.

The coincidences appear more and more because of the apparent similarities between the two new leaders, who will began their administrations in a similar manner.

Beyond that, they both were victorious because of campaigns that not only began at an apparent disadvantage, but also in which they looked to establish an easygoing, rancher image. And although this may sound harsh, the two seemed to make their opponents forget that they were up against real urban cowboys: one from Yale, the other a graduate of Mexico's prestigious Universidad Iberoamerica-

They both enjoy spending time on their ranches. And equally in Mexico as in the United States, the idea of the rancho, of country life, evokes images not only of the national mythology of that lifestyle, but also ideals that are frequently confused with simplicity in terms of urban sophistication. This has often led their rivals to underestimate them.

Both Fox and Bush distinguish themselves in every instance as communicators because of their incessant use of the telephone as an instrument of direct and personal communication with others, to the point that Fox has been described as "the president

with a cell phone." Tomás Yarrington, governor of the Mexican state of Tamaulipas on the Texas border, is another Mexican leader who can confirm than Bush also enjoys using a cell phone.

It comes as a surprise to no one that Fox has made an effort to communicate with potential U.S. allies, and that he is quite popular among Hispanic groups, especially Mexicans, inside that county's bor-

At the same time, Bush has courted and continues to court the Hispanic vote, and with this, it will not be uncommon for the paths -- and interests -of these two leaders to cross frequently.

Beyond that, Bush has underlined how important Mexico and resolving common problems such as migration and drug trafficking, and possible areas of cooperation, such as energy, are to him. Among those on the little-known list of those invited to the Jan. 20 Bush inauguration were Yarrington and Veracruz Gov. Miguel Alemán, along with Juan Hernández, Mexican commissioner for migration issues, and Juan Felipe Bravo, president of the Partido de Acción Nacional (PAN), which led Fox

They are delegators. Fox created a governmental structure made up of "coordinators" in something that at least in Mexico appears to be a daring experiment, but in which he makes the final decision. Bush confesses that he will be the kind of president and CEO in a structure that at least on paper the majority of his Cabinet Secretaries have more experience than he does.

The two, curiously enough, entrusted the leadership of their external politics to people on the left, a seeming concession to useful ally groups and more than that in their respective campaigns. Fox has Jorge Castañeda, a prestigious academician known for his liberal positions: Bush has Colin Powell, a prestigious military man with moderate tenden-

And both gave key posts in their administrations to people who are considered part of the "system" and in some cases on the right: Fox to Carlos Abascal, Secretary of Labor, while Bush nominated John Ashcroft to be his Attorney Gener-

Politically, they find themselves in similar situations: Both are faced with largely complicated Congresses. The Partido de Acción Nacional (PAN) that backed Fox is not the majority in the Congress. The Republican Party that chose Bush has a majority that is so weak that at times it appears to be more of a disadvantage than an advan-

Both won election with less than 50 percent of the vote. But each acts as if he had been elected with a clear and indisputable mandate.

(Jose, Carreño is the Washington, D.C., correspondent for the Mexico City daily El Universal.) (c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate



Red Wine May Not Help Hearts

Although drinking red wine may be an appealing ritual for heart health, medical authorities caution that it's not the most proven.

To ward off heart attacks, doctors with the American Heart Association say nothing beats the time-honored practices -- eating healthfully, exercising regularly and maintaining a healthy weight.

"We want to make clear that there are other risk-reduction options that are well-documented and free of the potential hazards associated with alcohol consumption," Dr. Ira J. Goldberg, a member of the AHA's Nutrition Committee, said in a statement.

"There is no scientific proof that drinking wine or any other alcoholic beverage can replace these effective conventional measures."

Goldberg said studies suggest that drinking a moderate amount of red wine can increase blood levels of high-

density lipoprotein cholesterol, often called good cholesterol.
However, a similar increase is seen with exercise programs and medication, Goldberg said.

Much of the hypothesis that red wine counteracts the effects of dietary cholesterol and saturated fat came from population surveys. They showed lower rates of heart disease, despite high-fat diets, in parts of Europe where people drink wine regularly.

But Goldberg said this observation could be attributed to other differences in diet between Americans and EuroTAX REFUND TAX REFUND TAX REFUND

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By Mary Helen Ponce

It's been a while since I've found myself killing time. Doing nothing, that is.

Just now, I'm waiting for a music store in a nearby mall to open so I can buy Jazz CD's on sale. But my watch is fast. I arrived too early, so I can either go home or wait it out. Still, it's irritating to waste time. To

I could make a run to Mc-Donald's for coffee, then sit to think.

I could dash to the post office to mail the package that's been in my trunk a week, or drive to Home Depot for Gromulch and a washer for my leaky garden hose. There's even time to drive to Mission College to research an article. Or I could sit here and do nada.

It's hard to kill time!

Doing nothing, estar de oquis, is, in Mexican culture, akin to mortal sin. Those who sit around are seen as lazy, unproductive and without direction. We admire men who never rest for being muy trabajadores.

From childhood, we're socialized to make good use of time. To do something! Kids kept busy stay out of trouble.

Killing Time Can Be A Mortal Sin

To working-class folks -- carpenters who hammer for long hours, mechanics who rarely come up for air and bakers who rise at dawn to get the bread out -- time is money. More than white-collar workers, they are caught in an eternal hustle. For los pobres, working more hours means extra bucks for rent and food.

And so it goes. Yet the world's greatest inventors and thinkers -- Thomas Edison, Marie Curie, Jonas Salk, José Ortega y Gassett -- took time to think. To do nothing. To allow the ideas (and dreams) in the subconscious to emerge. To give order

As a child, I spent hours daydreaming. Locked away in my brother's room, I made up songs and stories. Atop our pepper tree, I watched clouds drift by. In summer my friends and I thought nothing of doing nothing. Little was expected of us, other than we not fight, and wash our hands for dinner. We were free to do nothing. To daydream about what we would be when we grew up and grammar school was just a memory.

For my mother, time well

spent was its own reward. Like most Mexican mothers. she worked hard to keep her brood clean and fed. She washed on Monday and ironed on Tuesday. An afternoon nap kept her going. She collapsed at night, worn from so much doing, doing.

My father, a Mexican immigrant, came from a family of rancheros who worked the land. One day of slacking off -doing nada -- put them behind a week. Once he arrived in this country, he worked hard but also took time to read. Most Sundays he sat to read Los Angeles' Spanish-language daily newspaper, La Opinión.

To the artist, time is everything. The dearth of Chicana artists, dancers and poets is due not to a lack of talent, but to lack of time. Time to create. To paint a picture of museum quality or write songs Sting might record.

A novelist tells me she wrote her best book while pregnant and confined to bed. Rather than watch TV, she put pen to paper. She gave birth to a new baby and a new book. My writer friends with day jobs fight for writing time. Those married with children put on hold the novels stewing in their heads to ensure a happy family life. When possible, they jot down story plots and character sketches. I get up at 5 a.m. to write.

open. I empty my tepid coffee and walk to the store. If I time it right -- and traffic going home is light -- I can soon be listening to John Coltrane without interruption. Now, that is good use of time.

It's time for the store to

Mary Helen Ponce, of Sunland, Calif., is author of "Hoyt Street: An Autobiography," published by University of New Mexico Press. (c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate

By Marcelo Wheelock

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Rep.-FL) and Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (Rep.-FL) on Thursday urged thousands of illegal immigrants in the United States to take advantage of the reinstatement of Section 245(i) of the federal immigration law, which will allow them to legalize their status in the country.

The reinstatement of Section 245(i) for six months, which could benefit some 250,000 illegal immigrants living in the United States, was approved at the end of last year by Congress and ratified by former President Bill Clinton.

Have you or have you helped a friend to take advantage of the reinstatement of Section 245(i) of the federal immigration law?

The measure, which expires April 30, will enable immigrants that meet the necessary requirements to gain residency without having to return to their countries of origin, where they would have to remain for between three and 10 years awaiting the approval of their

leer. Casi todos los domingos

se sentaba a leer el periódico

en español, La Opinión, de

Para el artista, el tiempo es

todo. El que falten artistas

chicanas que bailen o escriban

poesía, se debe no a la falta

de talento sino a la falta de

tiempo. El tiempo para crear.

Para pintar un cuadro digno

de un museo, o escribir can-

ciones que Sting quisiera gra-

escribió su mejor novela cuan-

do tuvo que guardar cama du-

rante un embarazo difícil. En

vez de ver la televisión, cogió

la pluma. Dio a luz a un bebé

y a un libro. Mis amigos es-

critores que trabajan en otras

cosas durante el día tienen

que pelear por el tiempo para

escribir. Los que están casa-

familiar armoniosa.

Ya se abre la tienda. Termi-

Una novelista me dijo que

Los Angeles.

residency request.

"We are encouraging everyone in our community not to forget that they have the opportunity until April 30 to try to legalize their immigration status," Ros-Lehtinen said, speaking with her colleague at a press conference.

Furthermore, the congresswoman encouraged all immigrants that qualify not to "waste this unique opportunity," despite the fact that it costs \$1,000 to apply, and warned that if they miss the cutoff date they could be deported.

"This law will enable you to remain here with your families without legal problems," Ros-Lehtinen said.

The expiration of the measure, which was created provisionally in 1994, caused many families to be separated.

The reinstatement of Section 245(i) was rejected by Congress for two years before finally gaining approval last December.

"The new 245(i) requires (immigrants) to be physically present in order to be eligible. Those who present a visa or work certification application before April 30, 2001, must prove they were in the country on Dec. 21, 2000, the day the new extension was ratified," Diaz-Balart's office indicated.

The measure was approved by Congress, along with a "late amnesty" for immigrants who arrived in the United States before 1982, after intensive negotiations with Clinton's administration and could enable more than two million immigrants to legalize their current status, according to Diaz-Balart.

Ros-Lehtinen and Diaz-Balart also indicated that they would again submit to Congress the 1999 Andean Adjustment Act (AAA) which, if approved, would grant permanent residency to all Colombian and Peruvian immigrants who entered the United States before Dec. 1, 1995.

"We will continue fighting for the Triple A. The situations in Colombia and Peru are extremely worrisome," Diaz-Ba-

lart said. The president of the Colombian-American Political Action Committee, Fabio Andrade, told EFE that his organization, as well as other Hispanic groups, will continue seeking support for the measure in

Congress. "The project has not been blocked, it is still in the process, but we need much more support," Andrade said. Peruvian-American Coalition President Sergio Massa was optimistic that the measure would be passed, adding that it already has the support of some 50 lawmakers.

"I think that with the backing of Lincoln and Ileana we will be able to accomplish much more," Massa said, adding "the president (George W. Bush) can help us, since he is from the same party as (the two representatives)."

Matar El Tiempo Puede Ser Pecado Mortal

Por Mary Helen Ponce Hace mucho tiempo que no mato el tiempo. En otras palabras, estar sin hacer nada. En este momento estoy esperando que se abra una tienda de música en un centro comercial cercano para poder comprar unos discos compactos de jazz que están en rebaja. Pero estáadelantado. reloj Llegué muy temprano, entonces o puedo volver a casa, o puedo esperar. De cualquier forma, me molesta perder el tiempo. Desperdiciarlo.

Podría pasar rápido por el McDonald's por un café y sentarme a pensar.

Podría correr a la oficina de correos para enviar el paquete que está hace una semana en la maletera de mi auto, o ir hasta Home Depot por fertilizante y una arandela que le falta a mi manguera que tiene gotera. Hasta me alcanza el tiempo para ir a Mission Col-

La FHA le puede poner 450

lege y hacer un poco de investi- Más que los trabajadores progación para un artículo. O me podría quedar aquí sentada sin hacer nada.

¡Qué difícil es matar el tiem-

El hacer nada, estar de oquis, es, para la cultura mexicana, prácticamente un pecado mortal. A los que se quedan sentados, inactivos, se les considera ociosos, poco productivos, carentes de dirección. Admiramos a los hombres que nunca descansan por ser muy trabajadores. Desde la infancia se nos inculca hacer buen uso del tiempo.

¡Hacer algo! Los chicos activos no cometen travesuras.

Para la gente obrera, el tiempo es dinero; los carpinteros que se pasan largas horas martillando, los mecánicos en las entrañas de los autos, casi sin ver la luz del día, y los panaderos que se levantan al alba para hacer el pan.

fesionales, los obreros se encuentran en un eterno quehacer. Para los pobres, el trabajar más horas significa más dinero para casa y comida.

Y así es.

Pero los inventores y pensadores más grandes del mundo -- Thomas Edison, Marie Curie, Jonas Salk, José Ortega y Gasset -- tomaron el tiempo para pensar. Para hacer nada. Para permitir que las ideas (y los sueños) del subconciente surgieran. Para imponer orden al caos.

De niña me pasaba horas soñando despierta. Encerrada en el cuarto de mi hermano, inventaba canciones y cuentos. Encaramada en las ramas más altas del pimentero, contemplaba el paso de las nubes flotantes. Durante el verano, a mis amigos y a mí no se nos ocurría pensar nada de no hacer nada. Se esperaba poco de nosotros, más que no peleáramos, y nos laváramos las manos antes de comer. Teníamos la libertad de no hacer nada. Soñar con lo que haríamos de grandes y la primaria fuera sólo un recuerdo.

Mi mamá se sentía premiada con sólo aprovechar bien el tiempo.

Como muchas madres mexicanas, trabajaba mucho para que sus hijos estuvieran limpios y bien alimentados. Lavaba los lunes y planchaba los martes. Se refrescaba con una siesta cada tarde. Caía exhausta cada noche, cansada de tanto hacer y hacer.

Mi padre, inmigrante mexicano, era de una familia de rancheros que trabajaba la tierra. Si dejaban que pase un día sin hacer nada, se atrasaban toda una semana. Una vez que llegó a los Estados

dos y con hijos tienen que sac-Unidos, trabajó duro, pero rificar las novelas que les rontambién tomó el tiempo de dan la cabeza por tener una INCOME TAX INCOME TAX INCOME TAX Cuando pueden, anotan ideas para tramas y hacen rápidos INCOME TAX RETURNS bosquejos de los personajes. Yo me levanto a las cinco de la FAST REFUNDS mañana para escribir. no el café medio frío y entro a **Electronic Filing** la tienda. Si calculo bien el tiempo -- y el tráfico de regreso Competitive Rates a casa es leve -- puedo estar muy pronto escuchando a John Coltrane sin interrupciones. Eso es aprovechar el tiempo. 2321 50TH SUITE J



(Mary Helen Ponce, de Sunland, California, escribió "Hoyt Street: An Autobiography," publicada por la University of New Mexico Press). (c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distribuido por el Los Angeles Times Syndicate Interna-



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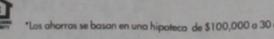
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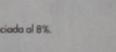
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con las instituciones financieras o los agentes de bienes raíces de su localidad.



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mericano.

El Editor, Lubbock, Tx.-February 1, 2001

Bush to Discuss California's **Energy Problems with Fox** porarily waive some federal air

By: H. Josef Hebert President Bush is likely to bring up California's power problems in discussions with Mexico's president next month in hopes that Mexico will expand power plant construction so that more electricity can flow into the United States.

Officials acknowledge such initiatives will do little to address California's current electricity shortages. But it will be key to a broader Bush administration effort to promote a North American energy policy involving both Mexico and Canada.

Do you think that Mexico could help solve California's energy problems?

Bush had said on several occasions during the presidential campaign that he viewed U.S. energy policy as transcending

Gutierrez, a lawyer close to the case.

has been accused?

dementia."

to death.

interrogation.

national boundaries. Two senior Bush aides said Thursday that Bush might suggest that Mexico allow more private U.S. capital to help build electricity plants and transmission lines. especially in Baja south of California.

Mexican President Vicente Fox said Friday that his country cannot help California because "we don't have enough electricity for our own consumption."

Fox, attending an international forum in Davos, Switzerland, said he is willing to develop a long-term energy policy with the United States and Canada aimed at boosting energy generation and distribution.

Separately, officials said the **Environmental Protection** Agency was prepared to tem-

Pinochet indicted for military

deaths in Chile

against Gen. Augusto Pinochet on Monday and said the former

Judge Juan Guzman, whose earlier indictment of Pinochet was

struck down on appeal last month, reinstated charges involving

dozens of deaths at the outset of military rule, according to Hugo

For months, the judge has been investigating Pinochet in

connection with the so-called Caravan of Death, a military

squadron that hop scotched Chile by helicopter, executing 75

political prisoners in the early weeks of Pinochet's 1973-90

Do you think that Pinochet is guilty of all the charges that he

"We are very pleased to know Pinochet has been ordered to

face the courts for these homicides," said Gutierrez, adding that

Guzman had no immediate comment on the decision. Under

Pinochet, 85, was resting at his summer home in Los Boldos,

outside the capital and neither he nor his family had any

comment. He was released Saturday from a military hospital

where he had been treated for what doctors described as a brief

The symptoms that forced Pinochet's aides to rush him to the

hospital _ strong headache, a brief loss of consciousness and a

moderate loss of strength in the left side of his body later

Pinochet has been hospitalized repeatedly in recent months for

a variety of ailments, and four days of medical tests ordered by

Guzman this month showed he suffers from "moderate

Under legal interrogation by Guzman earlier this week, Pinochet said the regional military commanders, not him, were

The families of the victims have filed dozens of criminal

complaints against Pinochet arising from that case, in which

prisoners were taken from jails and shot, stabbed and tortured

Guzman according to the published text of the legal

The interrogation was a necessary step. An earlier indictment

of Pinochet was struck down buy the courts for failing to

Last week, retired Gen. Joaquin Lagos told state television

that Pinochet was indeed responsible, because the chief of the

caravan, Gen. Sergio Arellano, was acting as a direct

Lagos, who was commander of the northern military garrison

where most of the executions occurred, said that when he

confronted Arellano, he produced a document "showing that

question the right-wing general prior to issuing charges.

representative of Pinochet at the time of the deaths.

Pinochet had appointed him as his personal delegate."

"I am not responsible. I am not a criminal," Pinochet told

Chilean law, indictments can be appealed to higher courts.

the judge's decision include a house arrest order.

disappeared, according to a hospital communique.

responsible for the killings of the "Caravan of Death."

interruption of the blood flow to his brain.

dictator was being placed under house arrest in connection with

a series of political killings under his 17-year military rule.

A federal judge reinstated homicide and kidnapping charges

quality standards if they interfere in the full use of California's power plants. Such a waiver would be granted only if California requested it to ease some of its current air pollution rules affecting power plants.

The administration "would be favorably disposed" to such a request "if that's what they think they need," said Larry Lindsey, the president's chief economic adviser.

California Gov. Gray Davis said the state's air pollution requirements some of the toughest in the country _ have not hindered power production so far, but that he would ask for a waiver if the need should arise.

"I believe we can get more plants on line and still respect the environment," Davis said Thursday through a spokesman.

The state has made adjustments in air rules when needed to keep power flowing without requiring waivers, said Jerry Martin, a spokesman for the California Air Resources Board.

"Air quality has been a small bump in this energy crisis road," said Mike Scheible, the board's deputy executive officer. "Plants are operating and air quality permit restrictions are not limiting their production."

Two senior federal officials said Bush was expected to raise the issue of more energy imports from Mexico _ including electricity into California when he meets with Fox on Feb. 16, the first foreign trip Bush will make as president.

Some power already flows across interconnecting lines between Baja and Southern California, moving in both directions depending on circumstances. But Mexico's own power demands and little excess capacity has left little room for additional exports,

energy experts said. Maximum power plant pro-

duction in Baja currently is 1,600 megawatts, but domestic demand is 1,200 megawatts, according to the North American Electric Reliability Council, an industry-sponsored group.

But U.S. power generating companies have expressed an interest in building electricity plants in Mexico, where some environmental regulations and permitting requirements are less stringent than in the United States.

While Mexico's electricity system is government-owned and operated, the Mexican government has eased its restrictions on allowing private development of generating plants.

With growing electricity needs, Mexico wants to build 16 new power plants, some of which will export to the United States, according to Alfredo Elias Ayub, director of Mexico's electricity commission. Construction on one of those plants is under way six miles south of the border in Baja, where a Boston-based conglomerate, InterGen Corp., is building a 765 megawatt power plant with about a third of the electricity for export. On average, one megawatt can power about 1,000

The natural gas plant is expected to be ready by 2003, although with the current power problems in California "we're looking possibly at accelerating" the schedule, said John Foster, InterGen's senior vice president for Latin Ameri-

homes.

Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney, both former energy company executives, have said in recent interviews that they would like to see U.S. capital help develop more such plants in Mexico as well as expand shipments of Mexican natural gas into the United States.

Even with the less stringent permitting requirements in Mexico "it takes about two years to complete a major generating facility like this,'

Congressman Rodriguez **Announces Scholarship Opportunities**

Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez today announced the availability of medical school scholarship opportunities for local area students to study at the Latin American School of Medical Sciences in Havana, Cuba. Graduates of the 6 year program earn a Medical Doctor's (MD) Degree and are eligible to practice medicine throughout Latin America.

"The Latin American School of Medical Sciences is recognized as a leading school in general medicine throughout Latin America," Congressman Rodriguez said. "For many of South Texas' brightest, the prohibitive cost of higher education rules out advanced studies -- especially in medicine. The Latin American School is an excellent tuitionfree alternative and I encourage those who are interested to seriously consider this great opportunity."

Four thousand students from Latin American countries are currently enrolled in Cuba's Medical University. For the first time, the program will

also be available to citizens of the United States. Both tuition and living expenses are covered by the Cuban government and students of all academic levels from high school and beyond are encouraged to apply. Applications are available on Congressman Rodriguez' website at or through his Washington, DC office. Completed applications should be mailed to the Cuban Interests Section, Latin American School of Medicine Scholarship, 2630 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20009 or faxed to (202) 797-8521 before Feb.16, 2001. Applications will be considered for 2001 and 2002 freshman classes.

"The Cuban embargo should not stop humanitarian efforts to ease pain and suffering at home and abroad," Congressman Rodriguez said. "I am excited about this outstanding educational opportunity. It's a program that, at the very least, will benefit our students and the communities they will later serve."

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