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For Democrats, It's the Dream Team

Democrats finally got their Dream Team, even if they lost a little sleep in the process.

Ron Kirk fended off a stiff challenge by Victor Morales in Tuesday's runoff, creating an ethnically diverse ticket that Democrats hope will energize minority voters in the fall.

The outcome sets up a historic contest guaranteed to attract national attention and the interest of the White House. At stake could be which major party dominates Texas politics after GOP gains in the Bush era.

Should they win in November, Mr. Kirk would be the only black member of the U.S. Senate and Laredo businessman Tony Sanchez would be the first Hispanic governor in Texas history.

Democrats, who hold a one-vote margin in the Senate, want to take the seat being vacated by Sen. Phil Gramm. Republicans would like to keep the seat and avoid seeing President Bush embarrassed in his home state.

"This is an extremely significant set of elections," said Earl Black, a political scientist at Rice University.

"The question for Democrats is whether this ticket can stimulate turnout, especially among Hispanics and blacks, sufficient to bring Democrats back to victory," Mr. Black said.



"For Republicans, it's going to be a real challenge to see if they can hold these major statewide offices when they don't have someone like Bush leading the ticket," he said.

State Democratic Chairwoman Molly Beth Malcolm celebrated Mr. Kirk's victory, saying he will "lead a diverse ticket that will change the face of Texas." His GOP rival, Attorney General John Cornyn, promised "a vigorous and civil debate."

In addition to the Kirk-Cornyn showdown for the Senate, Mr. Sanchez is challenging Gov. Rick Perry in the governor's race, and John Sharp will face GOP Land Commissioner David Dewhurst for lieutenant governor.

After seeing their party lose every statewide office in 1998, Democratic leaders recruited Mr. Sanchez, a millionaire Laredo banker whose deep pockets could help finance the race and whose Hispanic surname would energize a growing constituency that traditionally votes Democratic.

Mr. Kirk's candidacy will not only boost the turnout among black voters, party leaders predict, but also attract millions of dollars in national Democratic Party money to the state.

"Both Sanchez and Kirk can deliver a moderate message that is safe," said Democratic consultant Jeff Montgomery. "But underneath all that, there is a potential for an undercurrent of energy and passion in the African-American and Hispanic communities the likes of which Texas has never seen."

Republican consultant Royal Masset described the Democratic slate as attractive and likable but said it won't be enough to reverse the GOP gains of recent years.

"The more that Hispanics are piled into the thing and Sanchez makes it a Hispanic campaign, frankly, the more Anglos will tend to go to the Republican column," said Mr. Masset.

Some Republicans were heartened by a Dallas Morning News poll that last week showed not only that Mr. Perry leads Mr. Sanchez but



also that he has the support of 63 percent of white voters.

Mr. Masset said Republicans would need to focus on areas with swing voters in the fall. And he said the GOP, which has had great success using phone banks to build the party, should duplicate the Democratic "ground war" techniques of knocking on doors and driving voters to the polls in November.

Mr. Sanchez, who spent \$20 million to win the nomination, is expected to spend millions more for the fall campaign. Republicans could match those sums, probably producing the most expensive state political race in Texas history.

Mr. Masset said he anticipates

that Republican strategy in the governor's race will be to match Mr. Sanchez issue for issue.

"If Sanchez is for education, Perry will be for education. If Sanchez wants to help the Valley, Perry wants to help the Valley," said Mr. Masset. "It's sort of like tacking in a sailboat race. We've got the fastest sailboat, but the other guy, if he can shift more than us, can beat us. So we'll basically match him."

While the key issue of the fall campaign is likely to be education, analysts say how Texans respond to a racially diverse ticket could determine the outcome.

Mr. Sharp, who lost the race for lieutenant governor in 1998, said the appeal of the Democratic ticket is not just its diversity but also its attractiveness to moderate voters who have strayed from the party in recent years.

He said Mr. Kirk was successful as mayor of Dallas dealing with business interests, and Mr. Sanchez has proved himself as a successful businessman in his own right.

"This is going to be the most pro-business ticket that the Democratic Party has fielded in 20 years," said Mr. Sharp.

University of Texas political scientist David Prindle said the Democratic Party would be wise to move to the middle. He predicted that Republicans will seek to exploit Mr. Sanchez's support of affirmative action, a potentially hot-button issue among moderate white voters.

"If Perry manages to bring the issue into consciousness, it will galvanize the conservative white turnout," said Mr. Prindle.

"The only way the rainbow coalition can win is to galvanize the left without galvanizing the right," he said. "That means not playing up the fact that Sanchez is Hispanic while at the same time broadcasting lots of radio and TV in South Texas in the Spanish language."

Mexico's Fox Lambasts Opposition After Trip Veto

By Pau Jordan

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexican President Vicente Fox on Tuesday lambasted the nation's former ruling party for vetoing his trip to the United States and Canada and accused the opposition of openly blocking executive initiatives.

In an indignant address to the nation, the president accused the majority opposition Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which ruled Mexico for seven decades before Fox came along, of using their congressional muscle against him.

"It appears that the opposition has taken it upon itself to make sure that my government does not fulfill the promises of change that you all voted for," Fox said in a televised address hours after the Senate ruling.

Mexico's Senate, led by the PRI, made history earlier in the day by issuing the first-ever veto of a presidential trip on the grounds that it was a personal visit.

Fox was elected to the Mexican presidency in July 2000, vowing to change Mexico's decades-old system of patronage and boost the livelihoods of Mexican citizens.

Fox, solemn and stern before television viewers, said the U.S.-Canada trip could have seen accords for thousands of new jobs to Mexican seasonal workers in Canada. In the United States, Fox said his goal was to meet with the Hispanic community and draw more foreign investment to Mexico.

"This will not be possible because of the opposition led by the PRI," he said.

A Senate spokesman said 71 members voted on Tuesday against the planned trip and 41 in favor. Mexican presidents require the permission of both Houses of Congress to make official visits out of the country.

More than just a canceled trip, the veto represents the latest blow in a thrust-and-parry battle between the PRI and Fox's National Action Party (PAN) government since he assumed the presidency in December 2000.

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Announces Groundbreaking Hispanic Judiciary Initiative

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) unveiled today a new Hispanic Judiciary Initiative to promote the appointment of qualified judicial nominees with records of having been involved in, supportive of, and responsive to the issues, needs, and concerns of the Hispanic community. Working with the White House and the Senate Judiciary Committee, the CHC will address the underrepresentation of Hispanics in the federal judiciary.

The CHC's initiative includes evaluating and issuing recommendations on Hispanic judicial nominees and on nominees to federal benches in areas with large Hispanic populations. CHC support or opposition will be based on qualifications and experience, but the nominees' positions on issues of importance to the nation's Hispanic community will also be considered.

"Through this unprecedented His-

panic Judiciary Initiative, the CHC will serve as a valuable resource throughout the judicial nomination process, beginning with the White House's preliminary candidate selection process and continuing through the Senate's confirmation process," said Rep. Silvestre Reyes, Chair of the CHC. "To that extent, we have reached out and received a positive response from both the White House and the Senate. In particular, the Senate Judiciary Committee - which has already confirmed three of President Bush's five Hispanic judicial nominees - has agreed to work with the CHC in its consideration of nominees."

"As the White House and the Senate continue to work on the nomination and confirmation of judicial nominees to federal benches that impact the nation's Hispanic community, it is important for the Hispanic Caucus to take on this new role. Our goal is quite simple

- as a voice for the Hispanic community we want to help identify those qualified judicial candidates who best reflect our community and will bring needed diversity to the federal courts," stated Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, Chair of the CHC Civil Rights Task Force.

"We're pursuing this initiative so that when those candidates who merit the Hispanic community's support are identified, we can ensure that they are treated fairly and are not subjected to the stonewalling that caused Judge Richard Paez's nomination to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to linger in political limbo for over four years as it did in a Republican-controlled Senate," said Rep. Robert Menendez, Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus.

"While there is no official role for

the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in the judicial selection process, we firmly believe that the Caucus will prove a vital resource and that our participation and input will help ensure that pertinent concerns are addressed and the interests of the nation's Hispanic community are thoroughly considered," said Rep. Gonzalez.

Founded in 1976, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus is an informal group of 18 Hispanic members of Congress dedicated to supporting and advancing, through the legislative process, issues affecting Hispanic Americans. The CHC also monitors Executive and Judicial policies that affect the Hispanic community.

The CHC's Hispanic Judiciary Initiative will be headed by Congressman Charlie Gonzalez, a former Texas State District Judge.

Read About the Latest in Local Softball Tournament Page 4

Mexico Says Farewell to La Doña

The fiery Mexican actress Maria Felix, who awed audiences with her beauty and inspired poets and composers, died here early Monday of an apparent heart attack.

It was her 88th birthday.

In the golden age of Mexican cinema, Felix made 47 movies from 1942 to 1966, playing seductive and powerful women who reflected her lifelong commitment to feminism, as well as her independent spirit.

"I have been a woman with the heart of a man. A woman at war!" Felix, who was married four times, said in one of her last interviews.

With her long, brown hair, piercing auburn eyes, thick eyelashes and voluptuous figure, Felix was popularly known as "La Doña," translated as "The Lady," or "The Boss," a nickname taken from the movie "Doña Barbara."

Her death threw the nation into mourning.

"I say it from the bottom of my heart how much I lament her death," President Vicente Fox said. "She was one of the strongest advocates of Mexico's democratic transformations."

Speaking at a factory in the northern city of Matamoros, in Tamaulipas on the Texas border, Fox said: "May God keep her in his glory for our respect and admiration Mexicans had for her."

Last year, Felix criticized Fox in



public, saying he was a stooge of Zapatista rebels.

On Monday afternoon, her body lay in state at the Palace of Fine Arts, where a memorial service was held that evening. Fans were lined up around the museum, where a marble staircase was draped in black.

"One of the greats of Mexican cinema has gone," said one admirer, Irene Maldonado, 37, a school secretary. "There will never be another like her. She was a bit of a despot, but a great actress, not like the stars of today. She knew what she was doing."

While most of her films were not critically acclaimed, she attracted

audiences in droves. Her last movie, "La Generala" (The Woman General), about the role of women in Mexico's 1910-1920 Revolution, was a critical hit.

As she aged, she withdrew from movies, becoming a cultural icon. When she appeared in public, she was in command: glamorous, flawlessly coiffed, bejeweled in gold and dressed in haute couture.

She did not mince words. In an interview with the Associated Press, she bragged about her love life.

"I cannot complain about men. I have had tons of them and they have treated me fabulously well," she said. "But sometimes, I had to hurt them to keep them from subjugating me."

She had one child, Enrique Alvarez Felix, who died in 1996 while Felix was in Paris, where she owned an apartment and lived with an artist.

Enrique Alvarez was the son of her second husband, Mexican crooner Jorge Negrette. The illustrious Mexican composer Agustin Lara, her fourth husband, wrote one of Mexico's most popular songs, "Maria Bonita" or "Beautiful Maria," about her.

She was also reportedly a lover of artist Diego Rivera. And she was a friend of Ernest Hemingway, often spending time at his home in Havana.

Empowering Women For the Future

For the past several months members of the Hispanic Association of Women (HAW) have been planning a women's conference and preparing for their annual scholarships and awards banquet. Members have been working to create a program that would allow women an opportunity to empower themselves now and for the future.

The Hispanic Association of Women, which was begun by a group of civic-minded individuals concerned about the lack of programs for Hispanic women, was incorporated in 1983, in Lubbock, Texas.

The organization is dedicated to empowering Hispanic women and exists for the purpose of providing personal and professional development, as well as for serving as a venue to collectively voice knowledge about culture, politics and the community. Members of the non-profit organization are diverse in talents, professions and backgrounds, and affiliation is open to any individual or corporation who supports the goals, purposes and objectives of the organization. The women are dedicated to the idea of bettering the Lubbock community.

The conference, which was customized to fit the needs of Hispanic women today, is open to individuals in Lubbock and the surrounding

area. The organization, along with the Texas Tech Health Sciences School of Nursing, and University Medical Center, joined efforts to provide women in Lubbock an opportunity to be informed and educated about issues affecting Hispanic women. Four central issues that will be focused on include health, professional development, personal enrichment, and business and financial matters.

Christy Martinez, President of HAW and conference coordinator, said that the topics and event activities were developed based on the requests made by many women, as well as various reports and recommendations made by local agencies and health providers.

"This conference was developed with the Hispanic woman in mind. Because of our culture and busy schedules we tend to put ourselves at the bottom of the list. We want women to understand their importance and how being aware of their health, the various programs that exist, and the opportunities present in the community, can help them to be effective and prosperous," she said.

Martinez further said that the goal of the conference was to give women the tools necessary to succeed in today's society. She said that all of the session presenters

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Proyectos de Ley de Licencias de Conducir, Identificaciones Se Enredan con Asuntos de Inmigrantes

Por Lorenley Báez

Cuestiones de seguridad nacional, seguridad en las carreteras y justicia para la creciente población inmigrante -- tanto legal como indocumentada -- se están acumulando una tras otra a medida que legisladores tanto en Washington como en varios estados consideran o aprueban leyes que afectan la capacidad del recién llegado de conducir legalmente.

Nueve estados están ahora básicamente a favor de permitir que los solicitantes de licencia de conducir utilicen formas de identificación distintas de su número de seguro social. Los estados son California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Nevada, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah y Virginia. El número de identificación de contribuyente federal es una forma de identificación aceptable.

Estas acciones están incitando a un número de legisladores a crear legislación que hace más restrictivos los requisitos de la solicitud.

En California, donde la movilidad es con frecuencia crítica para la supervivencia económica, un proyecto de ley aprobado por la legislatura el año pasado, pero vetado por el gobernador Gray Davis hubiera permitido que inmigrantes indocumentados solicitaran licencia de conducir si sometían una solicitud para legalizar su estatus al mismo tiempo. El 21 de marzo, Davis anunció que firmaría una versión revisada del proyecto de ley.

"(Los conductores inmigrantes) van a estar en las carreteras de todas maneras, así que deberían conocer el código de carreteras", dijo Dan

Savage, jefe de personal del miembro de la Asamblea californiana Gil Cedillo, a Hispanic Link. Cedillo, coautor del proyecto de ley original, y Davis están trabajando con un proyecto de ley paralelo que atendería el problema del robo de identidad, el cual, dice Davis, es su preocupación principal. Se espera que un proyecto de ley aceptable se escriba para el 1 de junio.

En la esfera federal, la oficina del representante congresional Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) ha diseñado legislación similar a una ley de Arizona que hace que las licencias de residentes legales temporales caduquen en la misma fecha de caducación de sus visas o antes. Flake, un miembro del Subcomité de Inmigración y Reclamos, presentó su legislación el 15 de febrero, y declaró, "El gobierno federal tiene que hacer un mejor trabajo de seguir el paradero de los visitantes a nuestro país. Esta legislación no es en lo absoluto la respuesta final, pero toma un paso en la dirección de hacer un poco más fácil ese trabajo".

Wamaid Mestey-Borges, abogado principal de legislación de la oficina del medio oeste del Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (fondo mexicano americano para la defensa legal y educación), dice que la propuesta de Flake "transfiere el costo de hacer cumplir las leyes de inmigración del gobierno federal a los estados en un momento en que los estados se encuentran en una crisis fiscal severa".

El senador congresional Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) ha presentado legislación que enfoca el problema del

robo de identidad. "Las discrepancias entre los estados respecto al proceso de emisión de licencias y el grado de seguridad de la tarjeta como tal pueden causar muchos problemas de envergadura nacional, por ejemplo: la seguridad de las carreteras, jóvenes bajo la edad permitida, criminales y padres divorciados o separados que huyen de la responsabilidad del pago de su pensión alimentaria," comentó Durbin en un borrador de la propuesta.

La representante estatal de Georgia Barbara Mobley sometió un proyecto de ley en su estado que les permitiría a inmigrantes indocumentados que tienen estatus de residencia pendiente solicitar una licencia, pero el proyecto de ley no recibió suficiente respaldo. Ella ha formado un comité para analizar cómo otros estados han atendido este problema.

Grupos conservadores como la Georgia Coalition for Immigration Reform (coalición de Georgia para la reforma de inmigración) (GCIR) se opusieron al proyecto de ley de Mobley. La organización aboga por una reducción de la inmigración de todos los países y estátrabajando a favor de un plan de la American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (la asociación americana de administradores de departamentos de vehículos motorizados) (AAMVA) que crearía una red que conectaría todas las bases de datos gubernamentales de información del conductor con el poseer un número de seguro social.

Las licencias de conductor y las tarjetas de identificación estatales permiten que inmigrantes indocu-

mentados aparenten ser legales y evadan el escrutinio de los funcionarios del cumplimiento de la ley", dice la líder del GCIR, Donna Locke.

En Michigan, un proyecto de ley que está bajo consideración haría más difícil para los inmigrantes la solicitud de una licencia si no tienen estatus de residencia legal o pendiente. Los Unidos, un grupo hispano de acción política con sede en Pontiac, Michigan, llevó a cabo una manifestación el 19 de febrero para protestar contra el proyecto. Reclaman que la legislación fomentará el hostigamiento de trabajadores migrantes.

Intercalado en el proceso de desarrollar legislación de licencias de conducir uniforme nacionalmente, el conflicto surge por las preocupaciones a raíz del 11 de septiembre. Savage, el ayudante legislativo de Cedillo en California, arguye que "lo que necesitamos hacer es atender el terrorismo en general. Un terrorista no es lo mismo que un inmigrante y ser inmigrante no equivale a ser terrorista".

Estas propuestas aparecen en un momento en que la AAMVA quiere aumentar las medidas de seguridad por todo el país mediante la implantación de una base de datos nacional.

Según Jason King, el funcionario de relaciones públicas de la AAMVA, este tipo de legislación es "excede nuestros límites. El gobierno federal tiene que ser líder en este tema y guiarnos".

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Supreme Court decision undermines the rights of all American workers

By Raul Yzaguirre, President and CEO National Council of La Raza

I am appalled by the recent Supreme Court decision that bars undocumented workers from receiving back pay if they are unlawfully fired for union organizing. This decision gives incentives for businesses to hire undocumented workers and to violate labor laws. It represents a victory for unscrupulous employers and a slap in the face to employers who treat their workers fairly and humanely.



In a 5-4 decision, the United States Supreme Court ruled that federal immigration policies prohibit the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) from awarding undocumented workers "back pay" under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). Under NLRA, workers who are fired for engaging in union activities are awarded back pay as compensation for the wages they would have earned had they not been fired. This decision has enormous implications for the rights of all workers and for the labor movement.

First, by allowing employers to use undocumented workers as strikebreakers, the Supreme Court has undermined the rights of all union members. Employers who fear unionized workers who are fighting for better wages and working conditions now have an added incentive to hire undocumented workers, knowing that they will not have to compensate the workers they fire for otherwise lawful union activities.

Second, the Hoffman decision sends a message to employers that they can, with impunity, violate labor laws, discriminate against undocumented workers, and subject them to poor work environments.

Third, this decision will result in a perverse situation that actually encourages employers to hire already vulnerable and exploitable undocumented workers because they have even fewer rights.

This is an untenable situation for all American workers. For years, employers in the U.S. have knowingly hired undocumented workers because it is assumed that they are less likely to complain about working conditions. As a result, undocumented workers are concentrated in low-paying and dangerous jobs. Unscrupulous employers that seek out and hire these undocumented workers have an unfair competitive advantage over law-abiding employers that treat all workers lawfully and fairly. The Hoffman decision further exacerbates that incentive and puts workers at risk since they too, face eroding wages and working conditions.

Labor unions, civil rights organizations, business leaders, and others have condemned the Hoffman decision because of its far-reaching consequences that go far beyond the undocumented population and harm all workers. NCLR firmly believes that employers who violate labor laws and hire undocumented workers must not be immune from the legal consequences of labor law violations.

While the Hoffman decision undeniably erodes labor protections, employers should not take this decision as a license to violate other civil rights laws and labor laws that are not affected. For example, under the Fair Labor Standards Act any worker, regardless of immigration status, is fully entitled to be paid for the time he or she has actually worked. All workers are still covered under the NLRA and are still entitled to organize a union to improve wages and working conditions. Like all other workers, undocumented workers who have suffered employment discrimination are still covered by Title VII, are entitled to bring legal action, and may still recover compensatory and punitive damages. Undocumented workers who are injured on the job are entitled to the protections of state worker compensation laws in most states. And undocumented workers are still covered under the federal minimum wage and overtime law as well as state wage and hour laws. Federal and state agencies must continue to enforce these crucial laws.

We will seek immediate Congressional action to overturn this extremely unfortunate decision. Furthermore, NCLR demands that any subsequent appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court make a public commitment to protecting the rights of all workers. Finally, NCLR firmly urges the Administration, employers, and those charged with enforcing our nation's labor and civil rights laws to remain committed to protecting the rights of all our workers.

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Driver's License, ID Bills Confuse Immigrant Issues

By Lorenley Báez

Concerns about national security, highway safety and fairness to our increasing immigrant population -- both legal and undocumented -- are touching bumpers as legislators both in Washington and several states ponder or pass laws that affect newcomers' ability to drive legally.

Nine states now generally favor allowing driver's license applicants to use forms of identification other than Social Security numbers. These are California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Nevada, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah and Virginia. One acceptable ID is a federal taxpayer identification number.

This is prompting a number of lawmakers to come up with bills that tighten application requirements.

In California, where mobility is often critical to economic survival, a bill passed by the legislature last year but vetoed by Gov. Gray Davis would have allowed undocumented immigrants to apply for a driver's license if they had submitted an application to legalize their status. On March 21, Davis announced that he would sign into law a revised version of the bill.

"(Immigrant drivers) are going to

be on the road anyway, so they should know the rules of the road," Dan Savage, chief of staff to Assemblyman Gil Cedillo, told Hispanic Link. Cedillo, who co-authored the original bill, and Davis are also working on a companion measure that would address the issue of identity theft, which Davis says is his biggest concern. An acceptable new bill is expected to be drawn up by June 1.

At the federal level, legislation by U.S. Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) is modeled after an Arizona law making legal temporary residents' licenses expire on or before the date the visa expires. Flake, a member of the House Immigration and Claims Subcommittee, introduced his bill Feb. 15, stating, "The federal government must do a better job of keeping track of the visitors we let into our country. By no means is this legislation the final answer, but it is a step to make that process a little easier."

Wamaid Mestey-Borges, legislation staff attorney for the Midwest office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, says Flake's proposal "shifts the cost of enforcing immigration laws from the federal government to the states while the states are experiencing a severe fiscal crisis."

U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) has introduced legislation that targets the issue of identity theft. "The disparities among states on the license issuance process and the level of security of the card itself can cause numerous problems of national concern, e.g., highway safety, underage youth, criminals and deadbeat parents," Durbin commented in a draft proposal. Georgia State Rep. Barbara Mobley submitted a bill in her state that would allow undocumented immigrants with pending U.S. residency status to apply for a license, but the bill did not receive enough support. She has formed a committee to analyze how other states have dealt with the issue.

Conservative groups such as the Georgia Coalition for Immigration Reform opposed Mobley's bill. It advocates for reduced immigration from all countries and is pushing for an American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators' plan to create a network that links government databases of driver information and the requirement of a Social Security number.

"Driver's licenses and state ID cards enable undocumented immigrants to look legal and escape the scrutiny of law enforcement offi-

cers," said GCIR leader Donna Locke.

In Michigan, a bill is under consideration that would make it harder for immigrants to apply for a license if they do not have legal or pending U.S. residence status.

Los Unidos, a Pontiac-based Hispanic political action group, staged a rally Feb. 19 to protest the measure. It claims the bill would lead to harassment of migrant workers. The conflict imbedded in development of uniform driver's license legislation stems from concerns raised since Sept. 11. Savage, Cedillo's legislative aide in California, contends, "What we need to do is address terrorism across the board. Terrorists do not equal immigrants and immigrants do not equal terrorists."

These proposals come at a time when the AAMVA wants to increase security measures across the country with a national database.

According to Jason King, AAMVA manager of public affairs, such legislation is "bigger than us. The federal government has to take the lead on this one and guide us."

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Bush Nominees Face Hard Questions

Difficult issues ranging from cloning to preparing doctors for terrorism to shaping up a nation of couch potatoes face an Arizona trauma surgeon seeking Senate approval for the role of surgeon general and a university administrator nominated for director of the National Institutes of Health.

PRESIDENT BUSH on Tuesday nominated Johns Hopkins University radiologist Dr. Elias Zerhouni as head of NIH, which performs and funds medical research, and Dr. Richard Carmona -- a trauma surgeon who moonlights on the SWAT team -- to serve as the nation's highest-ranking doctor.

"These are distinguished physicians who have worked tirelessly to save lives and to improve lives," the president said Tuesday in an East Room ceremony at the White House attended by the nominees and their families.

"They bring exceptional knowledge and skills to these critical jobs and they are absolutely dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all Americans."

While Tuesday brought mostly praise for the candidates, the Senate confirmation hearings can be potential minefields.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat whose committee oversees health

nominees, pledged prompt hearings. He called Zerhouni "a distinguished scientist" and said he looked forward to learning more about Carmona, a surprise pick.

Zerhouni said he never dreamt of such a privilege when he and his wife immigrated here from Algeria 27 years ago. Carmona, his voice breaking as he alternated between speaking Spanish and English, called his own nomination the American dream for "a high-school dropout and poor Hispanic kid."

Now Carmona, a clinical professor of surgery and public health at the University of Arizona, is ready to assume the nation's health bully pulpit, the surgeon general's job that traditionally means cajoling, even scolding, Americans to improve their health.

NIH CHIEF Bush has proposed the biggest increase ever in funding for NIH to help combat the threat of bioterrorism, and said Zerhouni, executive vice dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, was ready for the tough job ahead.

Zerhouni will have to figure out how to administer more than \$20 billion in grants and assure new discoveries get to patients quickly.

Zerhouni, 50, met the administration's twin goals of finding a respected scientist who could live within Bush's ethical constraints on controversial research

involving cloning and embryonic stem cells.

Bush made clear that he expects Zerhouni to hew to a careful balance on what research can be done with embryonic stem cells -- only a limited amount -- and to opposition of the cloning of human tissue.

"Dr. Zerhouni shares my view that human life is precious and should not be exploited or destroyed for the benefits of others," Bush said.

But how much cloning should be allowed, and whether Bush's rules on embryonic stem cells are too strict or not strict enough, are controversial issues in Congress and are sure to arise in Zerhouni's confirmation hearings.

Zerhouni has not published his views on stem cells or human cloning. But the issues were discussed in his interviews for job, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson told reporters.

Thompson said there was no litmus test for the two nominees, but the president's anti-abortion position was another topic in screening candidates.

After coming to the United States with his medical degree, "little money, no family and no friends," Zerhouni invented a better way for doctors to peer deep into a patient's body, spun off a successful medical

company and became a top administrator at Hopkins, one of the nation's most respected medical schools.

The NIH has struggled in the two years without a director since the departure of Harold Varmus, with several top researchers leaving. Six institutes of the NIH institutes need new directors, positions that are expected to be filled once the top job is settled.

RESUME LIKE A HOLLYWOOD SCRIPT

Bush has been looking for a surgeon general ever since David Satcher, President Clinton's appointment, announced last year that he would step down when his four-year term ended last month.

For his part, Carmona, 52, can expect all kinds of grilling -- from his views on teen sex to condoms -- largely stemming from disagreements politicians have had with past surgeons general. Satcher clashed with the Bush administration last year over a sex education report he released that challenged the success of teaching abstinence and urged promoting birth control.

Bush charged Carmona to focus on the problem of drug and alcohol abuse, leading a national "healthy living campaign" and preparing doctors for bioterrorist threats.

One of the surgeon general's duties is administering the 5,600-

member Public Health Commission, which was deployed to New York and Washington on Sept. 11 and during the subsequent anthrax attacks. What changes Carmona would make and just how health officials should account for the billions they're spending preparing for terrorism are sure to come up.

Carmona evidently dazzled Bush's selection team with a resume that reads like a Hollywood script.

Carmona, a registered as an independent, was born in Harlem. He dropped out of high school, joined the Army and earned a G.E.D. He then became the first member of his family to graduate from college and medical school.

In 1992, the doctor grabbed headlines and inspired a made-for-TV-movie by rappelling from a helicopter to rescue a person stranded on a cliff. This and other feats helped him earn one of 10 Top Cop awards from the National Association of Police Organizations in 2000.

In 1999, Carmona happened upon a car accident in Tucson, and stopped to help. Instead, he got into a shootout with one of the drivers.

The man, who had been assaulting a female driver, died, but not before Carmona attempted to mend his fatal wounds. The man

turned out to be a suspect in the murder of his own father.

Carmona's scalp was grazed by a bullet, his second wound in the same place. He got the first while fighting in Vietnam as an Army Green Beret.

In 1985, he created the first trauma care system in southern Arizona. A year later, he joined the Pima County Sheriff's Department as a SWAT team member.

Bush joked that he almost nixed Carmona's nomination after hearing how the doctor once dangled from a moving helicopter as part of a rescue mission.

"I worried that maybe he wasn't the best guy to educate our Americans about reducing health risks," Bush teased.

Surgeon general and NIH director are two of several important federal health jobs that have gone vacant while Bush advisers searched for replacements for Clinton appointees. The top position at the Food and Drug Administration has been empty for a year.

EL EDITOR
Los Mejor En
Noticias!

A Mother's Garden Cultivates Understanding: Children Deal With their Mom's Cancer Thanks to a Story

"Teachers are always thinking about kids." "Teachers are always thinking about kids," says Donna Bianco, a breast cancer survivor and special education teacher in Westchester County, N.Y. So it seemed natural that Bianco write a story to explain to her own children that she had breast cancer.



At the time she was diagnosed her son was nine and her daughter was five.

"My daughter saw the surgical drain that I had in for about a week and began to act cranky and oppositional," says Bianco. "I didn't put two and two together until she had a real meltdown."

"When I asked her what was wrong," Bianco tells *ACS News Today*, "my daughter said, 'You are bleeding, Mommy!' It was then that I realized that what she was imagining was much worse than the reality of my illness," says Bianco. "So I sat my children down and drew a story about my breast cancer."

"It was the best thing I could have done for my children," she says. "It didn't take away the fear but it gave them a way to talk about it."

In *Mom's Garden: A Healing Story*, Bianco writes from her daughter's perspective. "Everyone gets sick sometimes, and then they get better. Every kid knows that. But my mom did not get better. She was tired and worried and she just didn't look like herself. I noticed she wasn't going to her exercise class and that she was having lots of friends cook our dinners. She

didn't seem to have time to be with me or help me with my homework.

"Then one night she fell asleep without helping me with a really important science fair project. I had a meltdown. Why was she so tired all the time and why didn't she look like herself? I told my dad and my brother that I was not going to school or to my skating lessons or anywhere because my mom was too tired to care about me.

"Believe it or not, mom knew that I really didn't mean what I said. She wasn't mad, even though I woke her up with my speech. That's when she took out some markers and paper and drew me a story."

In Bianco's drawings there is a weed-choked garden inside the mother. The weeds are breast cancer, and she takes chemotherapy to kill the weeds. Bianco also drew a radiation machine, to zap the weeds with a ray of light, and when the weeds were gone she'd be her old self again.

"Mom seemed to be pretty confident about all of this and it made me relax a little," says her daughter, who accompanies her mother to some chemotherapy and radiation treatments. "Everything she said was true, and that made me feel better. I watched TV in the waiting room while [Mom] was zapped. It took a long time for Mom's garden to be okay...I was actually glad

when she started nagging me about my book reports."

"Now my mom still gets checked for weeds in her garden, but I don't worry about it much anymore. Since then we have planted lots of flowers in our real garden. Mom says she has a beautiful garden inside and out."

May 2001 was the two-year mark for Bianco's diagnosis. "By telling my children, it gave me the courage to be able to speak about my cancer to elementary school students. I think I am more sensitive to the concerns and worries of children because I saw firsthand how a disease could impact the lives of my own children."

Bianco says when she was in the hospital a social worker told her about the American Cancer Society (ACS). She contacted the ACS before she left the hospital. "I needed them right away," she says. "I needed their computers, I needed their resources, I needed their kindness."

The ACS put her in touch with a Reach to Recovery volunteer who also had navigated diagnosis, treatment choices, and other issues Bianco now faced. "I am still finding the ACS a valuable resource," she says. "Now that I am done with my treatment I can find ways to help others who are faced with cancer." This year she is her school district's Making Strides team captain and will be walking Oct. 14.

Detección y Síntomas Guías de Detección Temprana

Seguir las guías de la Sociedad Americana del Cáncer para la detección temprana del cáncer aumenta las probabilidades de diagnóstico del tumor en una etapa precoz y de su tratamiento exitoso.

La Sociedad Americana del Cáncer tiene recomendaciones específicas con respecto a los exámenes en relación con el cáncer, así como a la detección temprana del cáncer del seno, la próstata, el colon y el recto, y el útero.

Signos y síntomas

Un síntoma es un indicio de

enfermedad, dolencia o lesión, o de que algo no funciona bien en el cuerpo. Los síntomas son experimentados o advertidos por el paciente, pero nadie más puede observarlos con facilidad. Por ejemplo, los escalofríos, la debilidad, el cuerpo adolorido, la dificultad para respirar y la tos son síntomas que pudieran indicar una neumonía.

Un signo es también un indicio de enfermedad o lesión, o de que algo no funciona bien en el cuerpo. Sin embargo, los signos se definen como observaciones hechas por un médico, un(a)

enfermero(a) u otro profesional de atención a la salud. La fiebre, una frecuencia respiratoria rápida y los sonidos respiratorios anormales que se escuchan a través de un estetoscopio son signos que pudieran indicar una neumonía.

Es posible que la presencia de un síntoma o signo no proporcione suficiente información para sugerir una causa. Por ejemplo, en un niño, una erupción pudiera ser síntoma de diferentes cosas, incluyendo una dermatitis por contacto con zumaque venenoso, una infección generalizada

como la rubéola, una infección limitada a la piel, o una alergia a algún alimento. Sin embargo, si la erupción va acompañada de fiebre alta, escalofríos, cuerpo adolorido y dolor de garganta, el conjunto de todos estos síntomas ofrece un cuadro más completo de la enfermedad. En muchos casos, los signos y síntomas del paciente no proporcionan suficientes indicios para determinar la causa de una enfermedad, y es posible que sea necesario llevar a cabo exámenes médicos tales como radiografías, pruebas de sangre o una biopsia.

Aunque algunos signos y síntomas generalizados, tales como una pérdida de peso inexplicable, fiebre, cansancio o la presencia de masas (protuberancias), pueden deberse a varios tipos de cáncer, a menudo éstos se deben a otras enfermedades. Otros signos y síntomas son relativamente específicos de un tipo de cáncer en particular. Para más información, refiérase a las secciones sobre Detección y síntomas de los Centros de recursos contra el cáncer individuales.

Women's Conference

from Page 1

were bilingual, or would have translators to answer questions in Spanish or English.

The event, which has invited over 25 community agencies to provide information, will also be providing scholarships for women to attend the conference from the Stork's Nest, the Maggie Trejo Senior Citizens Center, and various other organizations that cater to women.

The four central topics will have sessions at 8:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 10:00 a.m. The Health pod will provide important health information and updates impacting Hispanic women, as well as the necessary steps to improvement; will be sponsored by Diane's Boutique and Accessory. Xcel Energy will sponsor the Professional Development pod, which will provide information for women who are interested in career and education goals. The Finance and Business pod sponsored by the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will provide tips on managing money, to starting a business. And, the Personal Enrichment Pod, sponsored by Brito Communications, will inform participants how to balance life with information about stress management, spirituality and other holistic topics.

In an effort to provide participants an opportunity to learn why their vote makes a difference, the League of Women Voters will host a short reception. The "Coffee Talk" session will allow those in attendance to meet their local elected officials & candidates from City, County

and School Board offices for coffee and causal conversation.

The conference will also address today's high health risks and problems, allowing participants time to attend the "No Excuse" Health Fair & Community Agency Exhibition. This segment will further encourage participants an opportunity to ask health care providers questions one-on-one, as well as set aside time for general health screenings.

Immediately following the events the conference will conclude with the President's Luncheon, which will recognize the legacy of the Hispanic Association of Women and distinguish the inspiring leaders who have been committed to Lubbock's largest Hispanic women's organization.

The conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2002 at the McInturf Conference Center, located at University Medical Center Hospital. The event will begin with early check in from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m., followed by a continental breakfast at 8 a.m. Conference fees are \$20 for women, \$10 for HAW members, and \$10 for students.

The banquet will be held at the same location beginning with a reception at 6:30 a.m. and the awards and scholarship dinner at 7:00 p.m., and will provide scholarships to women pursuing a college degree. In addition, seven women will be honored in categories ranging from Media/PR, Business/Professional, Education, Legal, Medical, Civic/Church, and Youth. Tickets are \$20 for individuals and \$200 for reserved tables of eight.

Covenant Offers Girl Talk for Young Women, Parents

Lubbock-Covenant Health System will offer a free seminar to help parents and young women answer questions concerning adolescence.

Girl Talk will be presented on Tuesday, April 16, from 7 to 9 pm, at Covenant Medical Center-Lakeside's Arnett Room, 4000 24th St., on the sixth floor. The program is designed to offer guidance for parents and young women, ages 10 to 14, regarding their concerns about the physical changes experienced through adolescence; the importance of communication; and working hard to succeed.

Speakers and topics for the program include: *Cynthia Dunn, M.D., OB/GYN, "My Body's Changing"; *Ronda Eade, Ph.D., Licensed Professional Counselor, "I'm Trying to Talk But I Keep Getting Disconnected"; and *Members of the Texas Tech Lady Raiders basketball team presenting a motivational message.

Light refreshments will be served, and each young women will receive a small gift. Mothers are encouraged to attend with their daughters, but everyone is welcome.

Registration deadline is 5 pm Monday, April 15. To RSVP or for more information call 725-6382.

Cancer Screenings for Men and Women!

In observance of Minority Cancer Awareness Week, April 15-20

Day and evening screenings! Financial aid available! Pick the screening you're interested in and call the number listed for that screening to make an appointment. For more information, please call 725-6579.

Saturday

Saturday, April 13

Information Booth w/event fliers and Cancer Educational Materials
South Plains Mall
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

"Ask the Dentist, Ask the Nurse" & Free Blood Pressure Checks
Covenant Community Services
4122 22nd Place
10 a.m. - 12 noon
Ask questions and get information, one-on-one.

Monday

Monday, April 15

Breast Cancer Screenings
UMC-Dimensions Center
602 Indiana
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Appointment required.
Financial assistance available.
Call 743-4377 to schedule an appointment.
Call 743-1900 for financial assistance.

Breast Cancer Screenings
Covenant Mobile
Mammography at Maggie Trejo Community Center
3200 Amherst
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Appointment required.
Call 725-6579 to schedule an appointment.
Financial assistance available.

Tuesday

Tuesday, April 16

Breast Cancer Screenings
Covenant Mobile
Mammography at Byron Martin Vocational Center
32nd & Ave. Q
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Appointment required.
Call 725-6579 to schedule an appointment.
Financial assistance available.

Cervical Screenings
Presbyterian Women's Clinic
1318 Broadway
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
NO COST.
Call 765-2600 to schedule an appointment.

Wednesday

Wed., April 17

Breast Cancer Screenings
Covenant Mobile
Mammography at Parkway Neighborhood Center
405 N. MLK Blvd.
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Appointment required.
Call 725-6579 to schedule an appointment.
Financial assistance available.

Breast Cancer Screenings
Covenant's Arrington Breast Center
4101 22nd Place
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Appointment required.
Call 725-7908 to schedule an appointment.
Medicaid accepted.

Thursday

Thursday, April 18

Prostate Screenings & Cervical Screenings
Chatman Clinic
2301 Cedar
NO COST.
Appointment required.
Call 743-1900 to schedule an appointment.
Provided by Southwest Cancer Center.

Clinical Breast Exams
Presbyterian Women's Clinic
1318 Broadway
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
NO COST.
Appointment required.
Call 725-6579 to schedule an appointment.

Oral Cancer Screenings
Covenant Dental Clinic
4122 22nd Place
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
NO COST.
No appointment required.
Call 725-5825 for information.

Breast Cancer Screenings
Covenant Mobile
Mammography at Community Health Center of Lubbock
1318 Broadway
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Appointment required.
Call 725-6579 to schedule an appointment.
Financial assistance available.

Saturday

Saturday, April 20

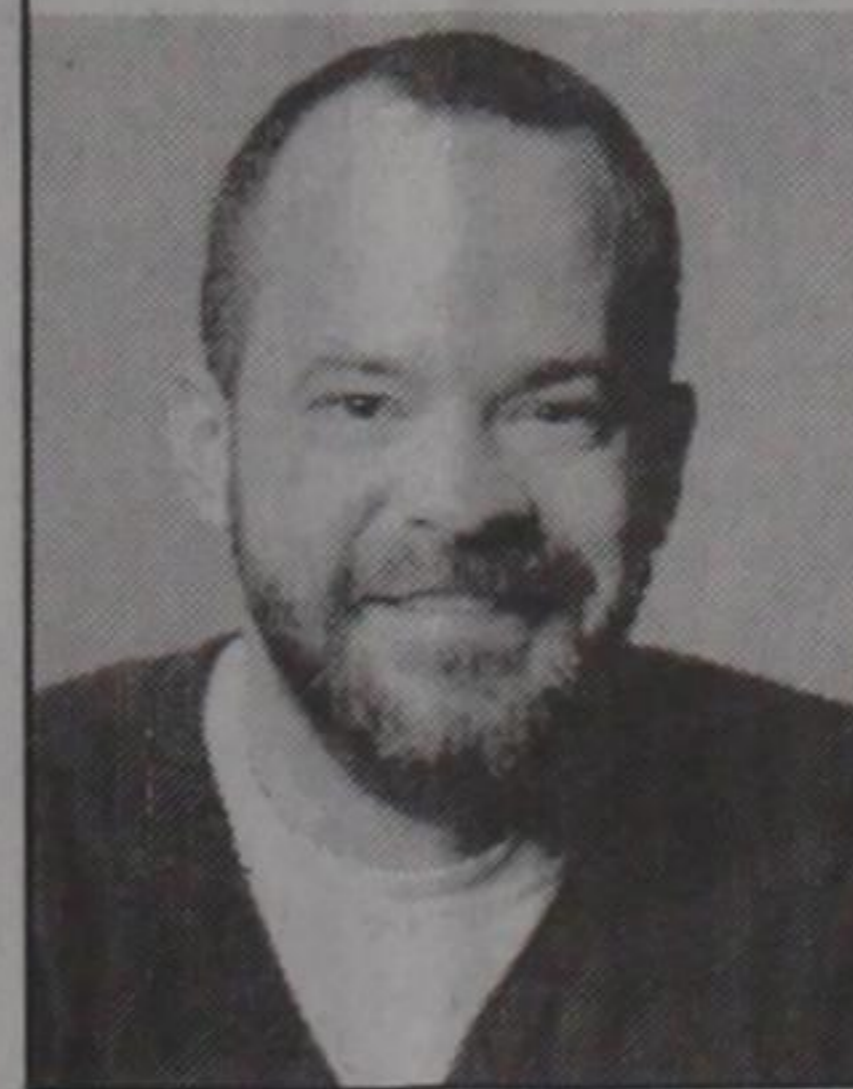
Hispanic Women's Conference: Breast Cancer Risk Assessment
Southwest Cancer Center, McInturf Center
11 a.m. - 12 noon
Contact: Wendy Carr, 743-3133

Monday

Monday, April 22

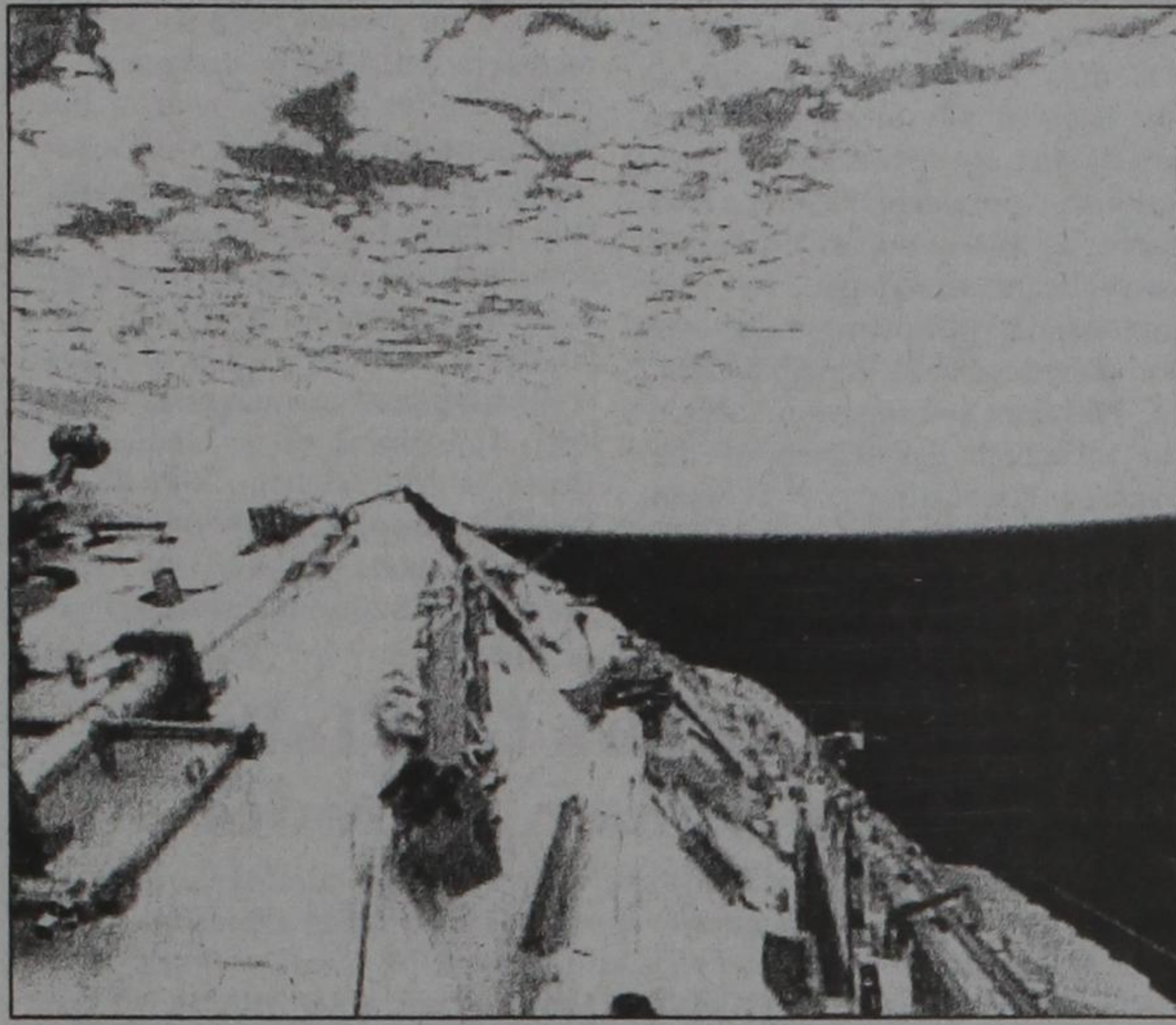
Breast Cancer Screenings
UMC Dimensions Center
602 Indiana
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
NO COST.
Call 743-4377 to schedule an appointment.

Special Note: Fecal Occult Cards for Colon Screenings will be available at most screening sites during the week; please ask for a kit.



Participants: Covenant Health System: Community Outreach, Arrington Breast Center, Joe Arrington Cancer Center. University Medical Center: Dimensions Center, Southwest Cancer Center. Lubbock Area Affiliates: Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, YWCA Breast & Cervical Program, Community Health Center of Lubbock, Presbyterian Women's Clinic, Texas Tech University Office of Community and Multicultural Affairs and the American Cancer Society.

Atlantis Docks With Space Station



"We're just raring to go," astronaut Ellen Ochoa said.

The shuttle was scheduled to dock with space station Alpha on Wednesday. A day later, Ochoa will use Atlantis' robot arm to physically place a 44-foot-long, 14-foot-wide aluminum girder that is full of plumbing and wiring onto the space station. Then two teams of spacewalkers will take turns over several days latching the truss segment and making power and data connections.

Ochoa said she wasn't too nervous about handling the \$600 million girder, the first piece of a framework that ultimately will be bigger than a football field.

"The training I think has prepared us very well for it," she said.

The girder will serve as the founda-

tion for a framework that will extend 356 feet and support a collection of giant solar wings and radiators. A \$190 million railcar and track already are attached to the girder and will be used to transport the space station's robot arm and cargo from one end of the complex to the other.

Astronaut Jerry Ross will be performing two of the four spacewalks needed to fully install the girder. He already holds the U.S. spacewalking record, with seven outings. With Monday's launch, he claimed another record: the first person to fly in space seven times.

Alpha's three-man crew has been living aboard the space station since December and is set to return to Earth in June.

Otra Forma De Reducir Muertes Entre Trabajadores Hispanos

Por Terence O'Sullivan

Una vez más, el gobierno informa que las muertes entre trabajadores hispanos crecen vertiginosamente -- un aumento de 53 por ciento en los últimos ocho años, mientras que los casos de heridas entre otros grupos obreros disminuyen. En total, han muerto miles de hispanos en el lugar de empleo y decenas de miles han sido heridos seriamente.

El Departamento de Trabajo estadounidense ve con mucha preocupación esta epidemia de muertes y heridas, y está entablando relaciones con contratistas de construcción hispanos para ayudar a educar a los obreros y lanzando un sitio de web en español sobre la seguridad personal en las obras de construcción, donde ocurren la mayoría de las muertes y heridas. Sin duda las iniciativas gubernamentales son de buena intención, pero difícilmente prevendrán muchas muertes o casos de heridas serias.

La razón en parte es porque muchos inmigrantes obreros de construcción trabajan para contratistas anglohablantes, y no para empresas hispanas, y por lo que muchos de los obreros de construcción carecen de habilidades suficientemente desarrolladas de lec-

tura.

Con todo, lo más importante, los sitios de web y las relaciones con contratistas hispanos no llegan a la raíz del problema -- la falta de una verdadera voz en el lugar de trabajo y el miedo en el que se ven forzados a vivir los obreros de construcción indocumentados, ocultos en la penumbra de nuestra sociedad.

El Concilio Nacional de La Raza calcula que más de medio millón de obreros de construcción son inmigrantes sin documentos que a diario temen que si expresan sus dudas sobre la seguridad o la falta de capacitación perderán su trabajo, hasta podrán ser deportados. Para los miembros de las comunidades por todo el país que son generalmente productivos, contribuyentes al impuesto federal, el precio de alcanzar el sueño americano es aceptar el riesgo de la muerte o de ser herido a manos de empleadores sin escrúpulos.

Durante generaciones, los sindicatos han sido autores de los programas de capacitación en la construcción más grandes y más avanzados de todo el país. Al disminuir la planilla de miembros de sindicato entre los trabajadores de construcción, ha disminuido también el

número de obreros de construcción con capacitación en la seguridad de obras.

Sin lugar a duda la capacitación en la seguridad en la obra beneficia a la industria de la construcción. Un estudio importante realizado por la Universidad de California-Davis demostró que 84 por ciento de los obreros de construcción miembros de sindicato recibieron capacitación en cuestiones de seguridad, mientras que sólo 48 por ciento de los que no eran miembros de un sindicato recibió capacitación.

El mismo estudio señaló que más de la mitad de los trabajadores en obras de construcción creía que sus supervisores hacían lo posible por hacer segura la obra, en comparación con un tercio de los obreros en lugares sin apoyo sindical, y tres cuartos de los trabajadores de sindicato participaban en reuniones llevadas a cabo regularmente sobre la seguridad. Esto se compara con poco menos de la mitad de los trabajadores sin apoyo sindical.

Hoy los sindicatos de obreros de construcción están al frente de instituir la capacitación en español para hacer la obra más segura para los inmigrantes de los países latinoamericanos. En el sindicato del

que yo soy miembro, es rutinaria la capacitación en varias lenguas. Pero por mucha capacitación que haya, no servirá de nada si los contratistas constantemente obstaculizan la entrada de los obreros a sindicatos, lo cual les daría una voz en el lugar de trabajo.

La concientización y los sitios de web pueden jugar un papel en el asunto. Pero para salvar vidas y prevenir heridas, nuestro país tendrá que liberar a los obreros inmigrantes de la penumbra con un programa de legalización que reconozca sus contribuciones y elimine el miedo que existe con alzar la voz en contra de los peligros a la seguridad en el trabajo. El Departamento de Trabajo debería alentar a los contratistas a que cesen la resistencia y conflicto cuando sus obreros deciden organizarse, y en cambio que reconozcan que son clave a la seguridad los trabajadores bien facultados y capacitados.

Hasta que no ataquemos en su raíz el problema, para muchos el precio de venir al norte continuará siendo la muerte o herida en el lugar de trabajo.

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Here's a Different Way to Reduce Hispanic Worker Fatalities

By Terence O'Sullivan

Once again, the government is reporting that fatalities among Hispanic workers are soaring -- up 53 percent over the last eight years -- while injuries among other workers decline. In all, thousands of Hispanic workers have died on the job and tens of thousands have suffered serious injury.

The U.S. Department of Labor is taking this epidemic of death and injury seriously, working with Hispanic construction contractors to help educate workers and launching a Spanish-language Web site on construction site safety, where the bulk of deaths and injuries occur.

While these initiatives are well-intentioned, they are likely to save few lives or prevent few serious injuries.

That's partly because most immigrant construction workers are employed by English-speaking contractors, not Hispanic firms, and because many recent immigrants in construction work have poor reading skills.

But even more important, Web sites and working with Hispanic contractors don't attack the root of the problem -- the lack of a real voice on the job and fear among undocumented construction workers who are forced to live in the shadows of our society.

The National Council of La Raza estimates that more than half a million construction workers are undocumented immigrants who fear daily that expressing concerns about safety or the lack of proper training will cost them their jobs, even deportation. For these gener-

ally productive, tax-paying members of communities around the country, the price of reaching for the American dream is accepting the risk of death or injury at the hands of unscrupulous employers.

For generations, unions provided the biggest, most advanced construction training programs in this country. As the ranks of union construction workers have declined, the numbers of construction workers with safety training have declined as well.

In the construction industry, it's indisputable that union safety training pays off. One major study by the University of California-Davis showed that 84 percent of union construction workers received safety training, while only 48 percent of those without a union received training.

The same study showed that more than half of union construction workers believed their supervisors did as much as possible to make the worksite safe, compared with a third of workers at non-union sites, and three-fourths of union construction workers participated in regular safety meetings. This compared with slightly fewer than half for workers without unions.

Today construction workers' unions are at the forefront of instituting Spanish-language training to make work safer for immigrants from Latin countries. At my union, multilingual training is now routine. But the training won't help as much as it could so long as contractors routinely block workers from joining unions for a voice on the job.

Web sites and raising awareness can play a role. But to save lives and prevent injuries, our country will have to free immigrant workers from the shadows with a legalization program that recognizes their contributions and eliminates the fear of speaking up about safety hazards. The Labor Department should encourage contractors to halt resistance and conflict when their

workers choose to join together, and instead recognize that well-trained and empowered workers are the key to safety.

Until we attack the problem at its root, the price of coming to America for many will continue to be death or injury on the job.

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Como Director De Cine, Alfonso Cuaron Rechaza Asumir Una Identidad Nacional

Por Antonio Mejias-Rentas

El estreno en Estados Unidos de la película de Alfonso Cuarón Y tu mamá también demuestra un éxito sin precedentes para el director mexicano, cuya película se estrena en versión original, sin censura.

"Y tu mamá también," una película de viaje en coche que cuenta la transición de dos jóvenes mexicanos de trasfondos sociales diferentes y su breve encuentro con una mujer española mayor que ellos, contiene varias escenas al desnudo en contextos muy eróticos. En lugar de arriesgarse a recibir una clasificación de NC-17, la distribuidora IFC Films optó por estrenar la película sin clasificación -- un paso sin precedentes para una

película extranjera. Sin embargo Cuarón, que ha dividido exitosamente su carrera entre películas en español producidas en México (como "Sólo con tu pareja") y producto de Hollywood ("The Little Princess"), afirma que su película no hubiera estado bajo amenaza de censura si hubiera escogido un tema violento en lugar de uno erótico.

"Obviamente, existe un parámetro doble" dijo en su entrevista con el Hispanic Link. "La sociedad estadounidense parece sentirse más cómoda con la violencia que con el sexo. Se trata de una actitud muy dañina, y creo que gran parte de la violencia de la calle de este país se

continúa en la página 5

CD Release

Lubbock Own 4U2NV are scheduled to release a new CD on Southern Komfort Records featuring original hits. The group plays R&B and Rap.

The release party is scheduled for April 19 at Crystals

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April 27 & 28
1-4 Team and Individual Prizes
Two Divisions C & D - Prizes in Both Divisions - Call Robert Narvaiz 792-5037

2nd Annual GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by South Plains Area Community Leadership Council

April 26 - Meadowbrook Golf Course
4 Man Scramble - \$50. per player
includes Green Fee, Cart, Range balls, Drinks & Lunch
* Three Flights with Prize Money
* Closest To The Pin
* Longest Drive
* Mulligans

Entries Must Be in By April 20, 2002
For Registration Information Contact:
Steve Escobedo (806) 788-0228 or pager 767-6726
Mario Ybarra (806) 747-8501
A Bad Dy At the Golf Course, Is Always Better Than A Day At Work!!

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Any Special Occasions.
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1st Annual Memorial Day

May 25 & 26

Super Tournament

Entry Fee: \$135

Men's Classes C&D

Deadline May 22nd

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El Editor, Lubbock, Tx.- April 11, 2002

As a Motion-Picture Director, Alfonso Cuarón Rejects a National Identity

By Antonio Mejias-Rentas
This month's U.S. release of Alfonso Cuarón's "Y tu mamá también" marks an unprecedented success for the Mexican director, whose film is being released here in its original, uncensored version.

"Y tu mamá también," a road movie that tells of the coming of age of two Mexican youths from different social backgrounds and their brief encounter with an older Spanish woman, contains several nude scenes in highly erotic contexts. Rather than risk a possible NC-17 rating, distributor IFC Films opted to release the movie without a rating -- an unprecedented move for a foreign film.

But Cuarón, who has successfully split his career between Spanish-language films produced in Mexico (like "Sólo con tu pareja") and Hollywood product ("The Little Princess"), claims his movie would not have encountered a threat of censorship had he opted for a violent theme instead. "Clearly, there is a double standard," he said in an interview with Hispanic Link. "American society appears to feel more comfortable with violence than with sex. It's a very damaging attitude, and I believe that much of the street violence in this country comes from that attitude."

Notwithstanding the erotic content, Cuarón argued his movie is hardly about sex.

"For me, it is about the search for identity," he explained. "And that search is seen in three separate story lines. First, it is two teenage boys looking for their identity as adults. Then, there's the older woman, looking for her identity as a liberated female. And finally, in a social context, there is Mexico, which to me is like an adolescent country, searching for its identity as a mature country."

"Y tu mamá también" stars two young Mexican actors, Diego Luna and Gael García Bernal -- the latter the star of last year's successful Mexican import, "Amores perros." The fact that the two actors have known each other since childhood, Cuarón said, worked in his favor.

"I am happy to say that this movie is what I wanted to make and better, because I had very generous actors who gave flesh and bones to my characters. And the friendship between Diego and Gael was invaluable to me, because they worked with a certain telepathy, a secret language. Aside from baring their bodies, they were able to bare their emotions."

Cuarón said that filming most of the movie in chronological order allowed for the female lead, Spanish actress Maribel Verdú, to get to know her male co-stars in almost the same way that the characters get to know each other in the storyline.

Like most of Cuarón's work, "Y tu mamá también" was created with his two closest collaborators: his brother Carlos, who co-wrote the script, and his perennial cinematographer, Emmanuel "el Chivo" Lubezki.

It was the multi-Oscar-nominated Lubezki, Cuarón said, who originally suggested the concept for the Mexican road movie, over a decade

'Soccer' Kicks in on Galavision

Game on for Galavision. The leading Hispanic cable network is set to bring "Soccer Slam," a unique hybrid of soccer and professional wrestling, to the Latino market via a deal it has signed with the World Championship Soccer League.

Galavision will broadcast two special matches from the full-contact soccer league April 13 and 20 at 7 p.m. EDT.

"The beauty of soccer is that it has a lot of international appeal, and Galavision is the perfect place to capture that," WCSL commissioner Terry Rich said. "The Latino market loves soccer and professional wrestling, and we've found a way to meld both into an exciting new sport."

The "Soccer Slam" game is essentially an extreme version of soccer that features bigger goals, bonus scoring possibilities, limited use of hands and a second "SlamBall" in play for the last two minutes of each of the three regulation periods. The show also features some of the over-the-top theatrics that have become a staple of professional wrestling.

"Soccer Slam's" unique twist to the game of soccer caught our interest as we continue to key in the market of drawing Latino youth," Galavision general manager Lucia Ballas-Taynor said. "Our hope is that this will attract a loyal audience and advertisers alike."

The games -- which feature such teams as the New York Bruisers, Los Angeles Surf, Miami Storm and Toronto Loons -- will be broadcast in English and Spanish

ago. "Carlos and I tried over the years to write it, but it never came together. Whenever it started to feel like a Hollywood teenage comedy, we'd abandon it. Every two years or so we would take it up again. Then one day, we started playing the Zappa song, 'Watermelon in Easter Hay,' over and over. We decided that was to be the film's tone, decided the context was as important as the characters, and opted to have a narrator telling the story. The writing itself only took one or two months, once we started."

Viene de la pagina 4

debe a esa actitud".
A pesar del contenido erótico, Cuarón arguye que su película apenas se trata de sexo. "Para mí, la película se trata de la búsqueda de identidad", explica. "Y esa búsqueda se narra en tres historias separadas. Primero, hay dos jóvenes adolescentes que buscan su identidad como adultos. Luego, hay una mujer mayor que busca su identidad como mujer liberada. Finalmente, en el contexto social, está México, que es, para mí, un país adolescente, que busca su identidad como un país maduro".

"Y tu mamá también" tiene como protagonistas a dos actores mexicanos, Diego Luna y Gael García Bernal; el segundo fue la estrella de la exitosa importación mexicana del año pasado, "Amores perros". El hecho de que los dos actores se hayan conocido desde la infancia, dijo Cuarón, operó en favor del director.

"Me agrada decir que esta película es lo que yo quería y más, porque tenía a dos actores sumamente generosos que le dieron cuerpo y alma a mis personajes. Y la amistad entre Diego y Gael fue invaluable para mí, porque trabajaban con un tipo de telepatía, un código secreto. A parte de desvelar sus cuerpos, tuvieron la capacidad de desvelar sus emociones".

Cuarón dijo que grabar la mayor parte de la película cronológicamente le permitió al personaje principal femenino, la actriz española Maribel Verdú, conocer a sus con-

Cuarón, who makes his home in New York City, said he is happy splitting his creative time between Mexico and Hollywood. He has separate production companies here and south of the border.

Not surprisingly, the director rejects all labels. "As a filmmaker, I would feel just as comfortable making movies in Europe or in India. That would not make me an European director, nor Indian nor Mexican. I am simply a filmmaker who has always wanted to make the films I feel I have in me."

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trapartes masculinos casi al mismo ritmo en que se conocen los personajes dentro de la historia. Como la mayor parte del trabajo de Cuarón, "Y tu mamá también" fue creada con sus dos colaboradores más cercanos: su hermano, Carlos, coautor del libreto, y su cinematógrafo de toda la vida, Emmanuel "el Chivo" Lubezki.

Lubezki, que ha sido nominado varias veces para un Oscar, fue quien sugirió primero el concepto de una película de trayecto vital mexicana hace más de una década, dijo Cuarón. "Carlos y yo tratamos de escribir el libreto a través de los años, pero nunca cuajó. Cuando empezaba a sonar como una comedia de adolescentes 'hollywoodense', lo dejábamos. Cada dos años más o menos, lo retomábamos. Entonces, un día, nos pusimos a escuchar la canción de 'Zappa Watermelon in Easter Hay,' una y otra vez. Decidimos que ese mismo sería el tono de la película, decidimos que el contexto era tan importante como los personajes, y optamos poner un narrador que relatará la historia. Escribir el libreto como tal sólo nos tomó uno o dos meses después de que empezamos".

Cuarón, quien mantiene un hogar en la Ciudad de Nueva York, dijo que estaba contento con dividir su tiempo creativo entre México y Hollywood. Tiene compañías de producción separadas en Estados Unidos y al sur de la frontera.

Como es de esperar, el director rechaza toda categorización. "Como un creador de películas, me sentiría igual de cómodo haciéndolas en Europa o la India.

"Y Tu Mama" Hits It Big; Method Fest Plans



Whispers and rumors within industry circles predicted the downfall of IFC Films at the end of last year as speculation saw parent Cablevision losing patience with the venture. Whether true or not, it could be simply said this spring that the upstart distributor (which launched in late 2000) needed a hit. Well, now it has one.

IFC Films has released a number of critically acclaimed pictures, but none have caught on quite like "Y Tu Mama Tambien." The sexy, Spanish-language road movie grossed nearly \$1.2 million as it expanded this past weekend, hitting nearly \$3 million at the box office in less than a month. The film expanded to more than 180 screens over the weekend, a big jump from 51 the week before, giving it a per-screen take of more than \$6,500. It cracked the top 20 among all films, landing at number 17, above the IFC Production "Monsoon Wedding" from USA Films, which passed the \$5 million mark this weekend.

"When you have a film like 'Y Tu Mama Tambien' doing this well and cracking into the top 20, amidst big budget studio films in English, that is a rather amazing accomplishment," offered Paul Derbarabedian, President of Los Angeles-based box office tracking firm, Exhibitor Relations. He added that the picture is flourishing even at a time when there is a lot of competition in the marketplace. "Y Tu Mama" is doing well in a sea of films that are doing very well,

which makes it even more impressive." The film has nearly earned as much as all of IFC Films' ten previous releases combined.

"This really puts us on the map," IFC Senior Vice President of Marketing & Distribution Bob Berney told indieWIRE yesterday after reporting the weekend's stellar box-office grosses. "Not only the numbers but the campaign -- this is really good for the company, it starts gelling in people's minds who we are and how we are connected to (Cablevision)."

Variety's Peter Bart made the link, touting the success of the unrated film and predicting that the picture would go on to earn \$15 million. "The film scared the hell out of most of its viewers," wrote Bart in his weekly column, echoing the concerns of distributors execs who were turned away by the movie's racy parts.

Of course, the success of "Y Tu Mama" has less to do with its lack of a rating. The achievement of Berney and his team comes from their ability to recognize that the film had a very large potential audience. They are aggressively marketing the picture beyond the traditional arthouse audience, to Latino moviegoers. "Its really great to see a crossover audience," Berney explained yesterday.

"We are very lucky to have a brilliant film ... to show that there is a market theatrically for Latino film," Berney explained yesterday. He added that while there was no real model for his group to follow in releasing the movie, he has consid-

ered the success that Lions Gate had last year with "Amores Perros." That Mexican film grossed more than \$5 million.

"Its really great to see a crossover audience -- 'Amores Perros' opened a door and I think that we were able to push it a little further."

This film will certainly surpass the box-office success of "Perros." Among the markets where the film is finding success are Chicago and California's Bay Area. In Chicago the film opened in 16 theaters this weekend, as opposed to a traditional single screen arthouse debut. IFC Films is cashing in on the large Latino population in the mid-western city and still making money in the specialty market. Likewise it is scoring in San Francisco, Houston, Dallas, Austin (where it debuted), and San Jose, Texas.

In its growing markets, Berney and company are relying on a mixture of PR and marketing. Director Alfonso Cuarón and stars Gael García Bernal and Diego Luna embarked on a publicity tour to promote the release, while IFC Films bought TV and radio ads and at the same time pursued a grassroots strategy with stickers, posters and postcards. For Spanish-speaking areas, they used the same TV and radio spots that were used in the successful Mexican release of the movie. No doubt word of mouth from relatives also helped create buzz for those with family back in Mexico.

On April 19, "Y Tu Mama Tambien" will expand again; Berney says that the film could top out at about 400 prints. "Our sense is that this film is staying," he offered. He added that now in its fourth week in Los Angeles and New York the film is maintaining solid business and even increasing in some venues where the audience mix at arthouses, such as the Laemmle theater in Pasadena, has proven to attract audiences that are up to 50 percent Latino.

As mentioned, the news comes at a good time for fledgling IFC Films. While Berney downplayed corporate pressures to find a hit, he did offer, "Anytime you start up a company, everyone wants (success) quickly -- I think this is pretty quick."

"Like everything else it's a business and people want to win," he concluded. "Not only is this a hit, but it's a really good movie made by a really wonderful, nice guy," he added. "This is the classic business and art combination." [Eugene Hernandez]

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In Rearview Mirror No More

Rudy Rodriguez has long believed there could be a successful marriage between the nation's fastest-growing minority group and its fastest-growing spectator sport. The NASCAR Samsung/RadioShack 500 Winston Cup race at Texas Motor Speedway was postponed Sunday and will be run today at 11 a.m. (TV: FX) With that in mind, the Dallas native joined forces with business partner Mike Vazquez to form the first all-Hispanic NASCAR team. "This has taken a lot of time and knocking on doors to get done," Rodriguez said. "We're committed to seeing this through for a long time." Calling their team HRT (Hispanic Racing Team) Motorsports,

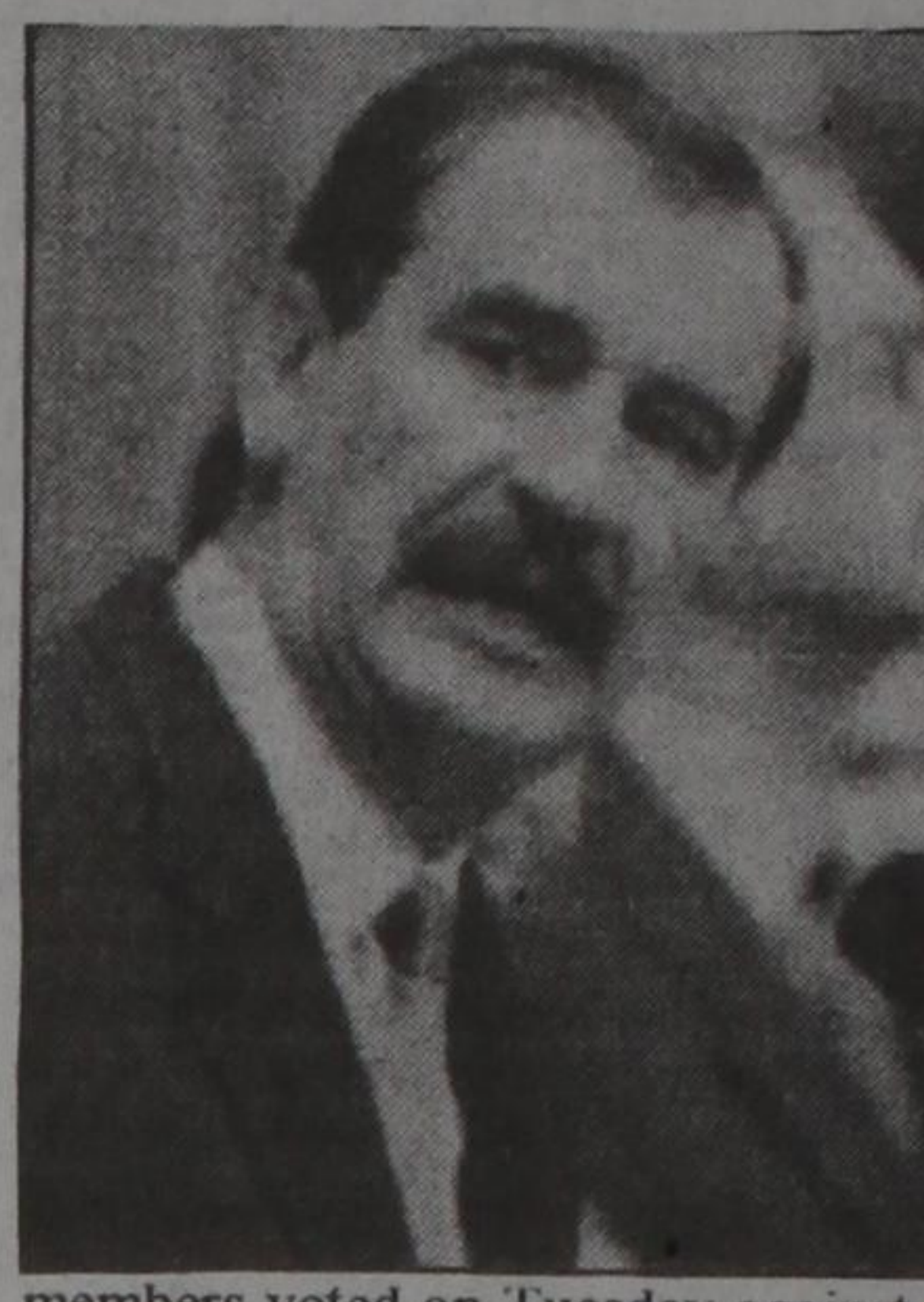
Rodriguez and Vazquez said they plan to enter at least five Busch Series events this season. The team's debut will be May 25 at the Carquest Autoparts 300 Busch Series race at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C. "NASCAR started in Charlotte," Rodriguez said. "So let the Hispanic invasion start in Charlotte." Said Vazquez, "We hope this will open new venues into NASCAR for (Hispanic) race fans all over the world. "NASCAR," Vazquez added, "is the fastest-growing, most exciting form of racing in America today, and the Hispanic community's interest is largely untapped. Hopefully, we can help change that." The group's main sponsor is

Panama-based Ciclon Energy Drink. Veteran open-wheel driver Roberto Guerrero, a native of Colombia who now lives in California, will drive the No. 09 Ciclon Energy Drink Chevrolet at Lowe's. "I'm excited about this," Guerrero, 42, said. "But it's going to be quite an adjustment to go from racing lighter, open-wheel cars to the bigger, heavier stock cars of NASCAR." "The racing in NASCAR is unbelievable," added Guerrero, who finished 25th in the 1999 Indianapolis 500. "It will be a heck of a challenge for me. It won't take me long to get used to the car. The learning curve will be getting used to the actual racing itself." HRT Motorsports plans to participate in the full Busch Series schedule in 2003. If sponsorship can be found, Guerrero's younger brother, Jaime Guerrero, will drive

a second car for HRT in 2003. Said Vazquez, "There are a lot of Hispanic NASCAR fans. We just hope to add more. Our idea isn't to change NASCAR. We just want to add something to it. We want to add the passion of Hispanics and our passion for racing, new faces, new fans and new corporations." Rodriguez, 35, is HRT's president and director of race operations. The graduate of the University of Dallas is a member of the Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and has served as an executive at AT&T and a cigar-manufacturing company. Vazquez, 31, will serve as HRT's vice president and director of marketing and media relations. A former employee of Citibank International, the native of Miami earned a master's degree in business administration from Florida International University.

Mexico's Fox Lambasts Opposition After Trip Veto

Mexican President Vicente Fox on Tuesday lambasted the nation's former ruling party for vetoing his trip to the United States and Canada and accused the opposition of openly blocking executive initiatives. In an indignant address to the nation, the president accused the majority opposition Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which ruled Mexico for seven decades before Fox came along, of using their congressional muscle against him. "It appears that the opposition has taken it upon itself to make sure that my government does not fulfill the promises of change that you all voted for," Fox said in a televised address hours after the Senate ruling.



Mexico's Senate, led by the PRI, made history earlier in the day by issuing the first-ever veto of a presidential trip on the grounds that it was a personal visit. Fox was elected to the Mexican presidency in July 2000, vowing to change Mexico's decades-old system of patronage and boost the livelihoods of Mexican citizens. Fox, solemn and stern before television viewers, said the U.S.-Canada trip could have seen accords for thousands of new jobs to Mexican seasonal workers in Canada. In the United States, Fox said his goal was to meet with the Hispanic community and draw more foreign investment to Mexico. "This will not be possible because of the opposition led by the PRI," he said. A Senate spokesman said 71

members voted on Tuesday against the planned trip and 41 in favor. Mexican presidents require the permission of both Houses of Congress to make official visits out of the country. More than just a canceled trip, the veto represents the latest blow in a trust-and-parry battle between the PRI and Fox's National Action Party (PAN) government since he assumed the presidency in December 2000. Tension between the executive branch and Congress became glaringly evident in December and January when legislators broke a constitutional deadline of Dec. 31 to pass the federal budget as they bickered through New Year's Eve, and then produced a second-rate spending and revenue package. In February, Fox struck out at Congress in general, calling for an end to the bickering in the name of progress.

¿QUE PASA?

Women's Protective Services

Women's Protective Services is now recruiting volunteers and interns for training beginning April 30th. Training will be held at the Family Life Center at First Christian Church located at 2323 Broadway in Lubbock. The three day training will be held April 30 - 6-9:30 pm; May 2 - 6-9:30 pm; May 4 - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Volunteers are needed in all areas of the center. If you are interested in volunteering or internships and practicums, contact Hattie Heiner at 748-5292.

15th Annual Kappa Delta Host Benefit For Lubbock's Children Advocacy Center

Forty eight hour See-Saw-A-Thon to benefit Lubbock Children's Advocacy Center & Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA) on April 11 12noon-10 pm; April 12 6 am-10 pm; April 13 6 am-10 pm; April 14 6 am-12noon. This will be held at the Grand Court of the South Plains Mall. This event is part of Kappa Delta's National Shamrock Event fundraising effort. Eighty percent of the proceeds will remain in Lubbock, with the remaining twenty percent benefiting the PCAA. For more information contact 785-2570.

Walk and Roll!!!

The LIFE/RUN Center's 2nd Annual Disability Rights Fun-Run is scheduled to take place May 11, 2002. This event is a fundraiser, focusing on "Community Inclusion". The community's support and inclusion of people with disabilities, especially those who do not have family support, is a very important step towards people sharing life together. This event will be held at Maxey Park in Lubbock. Those interested are asked to take form and get sponsors for \$5 or more. At the event, participants will walk, run or roll around the track as many times as they can in one hour. Persons interested may pick up form at 3212 34th Street in Lubbock.

SPACLC-2nd Annual Golf Tournament

The 2nd Annual Golf Tournament sponsored by the South Plains Area Community Leadership Council will be held on April 26 at Meadowbrook golf course. It will be a four man scramble. The entry fee will \$50. per player which includes green fee, cart, range balls, drinks and lunch. Proceeds benefit High School Student Leadership Training Programs and it is tax deductible. All entries for the tourney must be in by April 20, 2002. For more information call Steve Escobedo 788-0228 or pager 767-6726 or Mario Ybarra 747-8501.

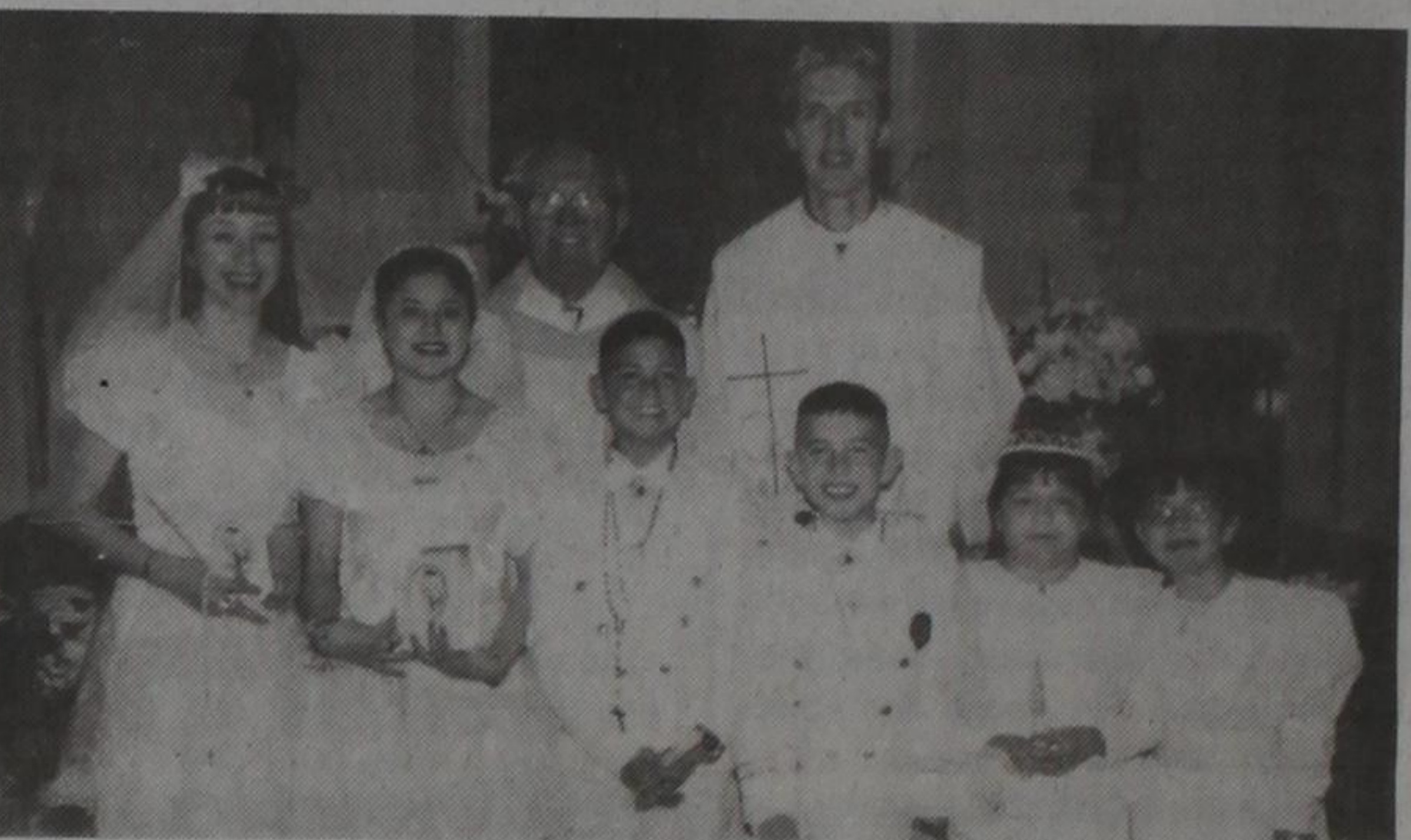
Alemania Dice Tener Propuesta De Paz Para Medio Oriente

Alemania cuenta con una propuesta para lograr la paz en Medio Oriente en un documento de siete puntos, cuya formulación encabezó el ministro alemán de Asuntos Exteriores, Joschka Fischer, informaron ayer fuentes gubernamentales. El gobierno alemán no considera el documento como un plan de paz, sino como un conjunto de propuestas para analizar con los demás gobiernos de la Unión Europea (UE) con el propósito de motivar la búsqueda de soluciones al conflicto en Medio Oriente. Según las fuentes, el documento podría ser uno de los temas a discutir durante el encuentro entre el presidente en turno de la UE, José María Aznar, y el secretario de Estado estadounidense, Colin Powell, que tendrá lugar hoy miércoles en Madrid.

Las fuentes estimaron que también se analizaría el contenido del documento alemán el próximo lunes durante la conferencia de Ministros de Asuntos Exteriores de la UE. La propuesta prevé un inmediato cese al fuego en todos los frentes, incluso los ataques terroristas, la separación de israelíes y palestinos, así como un calendario de dos años para las etapas que deberán seguir las negociaciones para concluir en una paz estable. La noción de separación territorial incluye la renuncia de Israel a los

Primera Comuniones

Fr. Michael O'Dwyer and Fr. Brendan Walsh along with 5 of Yolanda Fierro children made their 1st Communion.



Fr. Michael O'Dwyer and Fr. Brendan Walsh along with 5 of Yolanda Fierro children made their 1st Communion. Minerva Torres Fierro, 16 años de edad padrinos Antonio y Patricia Saucedo de Slaton. Yolda Torres Fierro 14 años de edad padrinos, Jesus y Angela Saucedo Slaton, Tx Francisco Torres Fierro III edad 12 años de edad padrino Zeferino Saucedo de Lubbock. Elías Torres Fierro 11 años de edad padrino Jaime Saucedo de Lubbock; Carmen Torres Fierro 10 años de edad padrinos Gerardo Mora y Lidovina Torres Atlanta; Araceli Torres Fierro de 7 años no iso la primera comunión hasta el proximo año 2003. Nomás 5 de la misma familia iso la primera comunión. La familia son residentes desde 18 años en Lubbock. Photos por John P. Cervantez 744-1654



The Trip That Would Not Be

Fox had intended to make a three-day trip, leaving on April 15 and taking in Seattle, where he planned to meet software giant Microsoft's chairman, Bill Gates (news - web sites), and members of the Mexican immigrant community. He was then due to fly on to Vancouver and Calgary, in Canada, for meetings with businessmen and academics. "My government will abide, as per the Constitution, to the decision adopted by the Senate," said Fox. Fox made 15 trips abroad in 2001, the first full year of his presidency. Opposition politicians, who hold a majority in both Houses of Congress, have said he should spend more time attending to domestic affairs. "This is a trip to which we say no because it has as its main objective a meeting with groups of Mexicans in the United States," said Silvia Hernandez Enriquez, a PRI Senator. PRI Senator Fidel Herrera, interviewed on national television after Fox publicly accused the PRI of plying partisan politics, accused the president of making up the trip

agenda after it was vetoed by the Senate. "Fox is lying," he said. "I think he added all this after the decision and I am calling him a liar." Members of the PRI, which has the largest single contingent in the Senate, and the left-wing Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) voted against Fox traveling. Sources in the Mexican Embassy in Guatemala said Foreign Minister Jorge Castaneda canceled his visit to the Central American nation for Wednesday so that he could talk to lawmakers about the Fox trip veto. The Lower Chamber of Congress was expected to vote on the proposal in the next few days. If it votes in favor it would return to the Senate for a second reading but it was not clear whether there was enough time left to allow the Upper house to vote again before the planned starting date of the trip.

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Mobilizing Community Assets

Non-Profit Provides Drug-Prevention Coalition Training

The Lubbock Housing Authority will host a drug prevention coalition training, **Mobilizing Community Assets**, April 23 and April 24 from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"At this time when America is coming together join us to discover ways we can improve our community," says Executive Director Phil Watson.

The training is of no cost to the public. In order for a coalition to be successful parents, students, organizations, businesses, city governments, churches and service providers are needed to represent the concerns and opinions of their communities. Experiential activities and break out groups take place as well as addressing and directing community concerns and issues in the two-day training.

Drug Prevention Resources, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that provides prevention strategies that empower youth and families to flourish within their environment.

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