

Casualties of  
War in Iraq  
4,264  
as of Apr.  
2, 2009



# El Editor

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

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## Sharp Growth in Suburban Minority Enrollment Yields

### Modest Gains in School Diversity

The student population of America's suburban public schools has shot up by 3.4 million in the past decade and a half, and virtually all of this increase (99%) has been due to the enrollment of new Latino, black, and Asian students, according to an analysis of the most recent public school data by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. Once a largely white enclave, suburban school districts in 2007 educated a student population that was 41.4% non-white,

up from 28% in 1993. Despite the sharp rise in the racial and ethnic diversity of suburban district enrollments overall, there has been only a modest increase in the racial and ethnic diversity of student populations at the level of the individual suburban school. For example, in 2007, the typical white suburban student attended a school which had a 75% white student body; in 1993, this same figure had been 83%.

When it comes to changes in the geographic locus of minority education, the suburbs are where most of the action has been over the past decade and a half. In 1993 city school districts educated a majority of the nation's minority students. That is no longer the case. The movement of minority students into suburban schools has had the overall effect of slightly reducing levels of ethnic and racial segregation throughout the nation's 93,430 public schools.

The report also examines the changes since 1993 in individual suburban school districts. It lists the suburban school districts that have had the fastest growth in minority enrollment, as well as those with the highest levels of racial/ethnic segregation.

## Hillary Pays at Basilica in Mexico

By José de la Isla

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton drew attention to the U.S. "insatiable" demand for drugs and U.S. arms sales that end up in the hands of narco-traffickers in a policy paradigm shift, characterized as a "mea culpa" in the Mexican press. Clinton's statement was taken as a major admission in the violent quagmire engulfing Mexico.

The militarization in Mexico to dismantle the drug cartels has led to violence in some border cities and travel warnings for parts of Mexico. Tijuana, Cd. Juárez, Laredo and Reynosa, with sister U.S. cities, have often figured prominently among U.S. concerns.

The number of drug-related casualties has been variously reported as just under 6,000 when the campaign began after the election of President Felipe Calderón and 9,000 in a little more than in the past two years. Some heinous assassinations of combatants, police, journalists and some well-placed citizens have received wide attention and public disgust. Shock waves have moved across the border with speculation that narco-violence has already or can potentially spread to the United States is a raising concern.

In response, the Obama administration has announced it is placing 450 new law-enforcement officers on the border.

The major Mexico City daily newspaper, El Universal editorialized that Clinton's acknowledgement that U.S. demand for illicit drugs and the supply of arms was "a self-critical discourse like never before heard from a high-level U.S. official." The press opinion reflects the widely held view in that country that the U.S. is quick to criticize but does not take responsibility for its contributions for some of Mexico's problems.

During a press conference on her arrival in Monterrey March 26, Clinton called the drug-related violence "intolerable." She said, "The United States recognizes that drug trafficking is not only Mexico's problem. It is also America's problem."

El Universal's Washington correspondent J. Jaime Hernández noted in that daily that Clinton has a longstanding affinity for Mexicans, Latinos and the border region. He reports Clinton has said, "Mexico is a strategic ally and we have to be with them," to collaborators at State and the National Security Council.

In Mexico City, Secretary Clinton met with Calderón March 25 at Los Pinos, the presidential residence. Her visit comes, and perhaps lays the groundwork, for the state visit by President Obama to Mexico in mid-April. Assistance to Calderón to combat drug trafficking, trade and immigration are expected to be themes when the two presidents meet.

Clinton's visit also precedes official visits by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Eric Holder April 1. Clinton, on her visit to Mexico City, toured a new command and control installation of the federal police.

Before leaving for Monterrey, Clinton prayed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the shrine where the Virgin Mary appeared and her image mysteriously transferred onto the mantle of Saint Juan Diego, which is on public display. Julián Sánchez and Silvia Otero reported in El Universal that Clinton, who is Methodist and accompanied by the Basilica's rector, Diego Monroy, said she was very "impressed and impacted" by the explanation about how the 16th century image was transferred to the rough agave fabric.

"Who painted it?" the Secretary asked, to which the rector told her it was done by God.

[José de la Isla's latest book, Day Night Life Death Hope, is distributed by The Ford Foundation. He writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service and is author of The Rise of Hispanic Political Power (2003). Contact him by e-mail at joseisla3@yahoo.com.]

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## HILLARY OFRECE MEA CULPA SOBRE NARCOVIOLENCIA Y REZA ANTE LA BASILICA EN MEXICO

José de la Isla

Secretaria del Departamento de Estado, Hillary Clinton, llamó la atención a la demanda "insaciable" por las drogas y las ventas de armas de los Estados Unidos que acaban en las manos de los narcotraficantes en una transformación del paradigma de políticas, que la prensa mexicana caracteriza como una "mea culpa". La declaración de Clinton se consideró una importante admisión en cuanto a la misma violencia que aborda México.

La militarización en México por desmantelar los carteles de narcotraficantes ha llevado a más violencia en algunas ciudades fronterizas y resultado en advertencias para los que quieren viajar en algunas partes de México. Tijuana, Juárez, Laredo y Reynosa, con ciudades estadounidenses hermanas, con frecuencia figuran prominentemente entre lo que a Estados Unidos concierne.

El número de muertes relacionadas al narcotráfico se ha reportado o de apenas menos de 6,000 cuando empezó la campaña después de ser electo presidente Felipe Calderón, y de 9,000 poco más de dos años más tarde. Han recibido amplia atención y una reacción de severo disgusto público algunos terribles asesinatos de combatientes, policías, periodistas y algunos ciudadanos importantes. Oleadas de temor han cruzado la frontera con especulación que la narcoviolencia ha pasado ya o podrá pronto transferirse a los Estados Unidos.

Como respuesta, la administración de Obama ha anunciado que colocará a 450 nuevos agentes de policía en la región de la frontera.

Un diario importante de la Ciudad de México, El Universal, opinó que el reconocimiento por parte de Clinton que la demanda estadounidense de drogas ilícitas y la provisión de armas fue "un discurso auto-crítico nunca antes oído de un funcionario estadounidense de alto nivel". La opinión de la prensa refleja la perspectiva generalizada en ese país que los Estados Unidos rápidamente crítica, sin embargo no asume responsabilidad por lo que contribuye a algunos de los problemas en México.

Durante una rueda de prensa cuando llegara a Monterrey el 26 de marzo, Clinton dijo que la violencia relacionada a las drogas era "intolerable". Dijo, "Los Estados Unidos reconoce que el narcotráfico no es sólo un problema para México. También es un problema para los Estados Unidos".

Corresponsal en Washington para El Universal, J. Jaime Hernández, notó en aquel diario que Clinton tiene una afinidad de muchos años por los mexicanos, los latinos y la región fronteriza. Reporta que Clinton ha dicho que, "México es un aliado estratégico y nosotros tenemos que estar con ellos", a colaboradores en el Departamento de Estado y el Consejo de Seguridad Nacional.

En la Ciudad de México, la secretaria Clinton se reunió con Calderón el 25 de marzo en Los Pinos, la residencia del presidente. Su visita representa, y tal vez es preparatoria, de la visita que hará el presidente Obama a México a mediados de abril. Se anticipa serán temas de la reunión de los dos presidentes la asistencia a Calderón con combatir el narcotráfico, el comercio y la inmigración.

La visita de Clinton también precede visitas oficiales de la secretaria del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional, Janet Napolitano, y fiscal de la nación, Eric Holder el primero de abril. Clinton, en su visita a la Ciudad de México, visitó una nueva facilidad de comando y de control de la policía federal.

Antes de partir hacia Monterrey, Clinton rezó en la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, donde apareció la Virgen María y cuya imagen se transfirió al manto de San Juan Diego, y que está a la vista del público. Julián Sánchez y Silvia Otero reportaron en El Universal que Clinton, quien es metodista y acompañada del rector de la Basílica, Diego Monroy, dijo que le "impresionó e impactó" mucho la explicación sobre la manera en que la imagen del siglo XVI se hubiera transferido a la tela burda de agave.

"¿Quién la pintó?" preguntó la secretaria, y el rector le respondió que la pintó Dios. [José de la Isla, cuyo último libro Day Night Life Death Hope, lo distribuye la Fundación Ford, redacta un comentario semanal para Hispanic Link News Service. También es autor de The Rise of Hispanic Political Power (2003). Comuníquese con él a: joseisla3@yahoo.com.] © 2009



## NCLR PRAISES WHITE HOUSE NOMINATION OF JOHN TRASVIÑA AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAIR HOUSING

Washington, DC—Today, Janet Murguía, President and CEO of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., praised President Obama's nomination of John Trasviña as Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Trasviña is the outgoing Chair of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLEA), of which NCLR is a member, and President and General Counsel of MALDEF.

"Our nation faces a serious housing crisis, and what we need is someone who will ensure that the dream of homeownership remains available to all Americans, including Latinos. John Trasviña—a devoted public servant and civil rights leader—is that person" said Murguía. "When John served as Special Counsel in the Clinton administration, he led the only federal government office for immigrant workplace rights and was the highest-ranking Latino attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice. As Chair of the NHLEA, he has worked to unite many voices on the critical issues facing the Latino community and has involved community groups throughout the nation to advance an agenda of opportunity for all. John's leadership will be vital in removing obstacles that impede the hard work of families and young people in reaching the American dream of homeownership and financial security."

"NCLR is pleased that the Department of Housing and Urban Development will include a leader who understands the vulnerability of Latino families as they seek to secure affordable housing and become homeowners. Latinos are twice as likely as White families to end up with a subprime loan and are more susceptible to home foreclosure, which threatens the significant gains in homeownership that the Latino community has made over the last decade," Murguía added. "John Trasviña is a talented attorney and committed advocate who will be in the right place at the right time."

## AARP Applauds Senator Kennedy

Washington, D.C. – AARP today applauded the U.S. Senate and House for passing the Edward M Kennedy Serve America Act—a bill that will strengthen and expand civic engagement and volunteer opportunities for people of all ages. Designated as a "key vote" by AARP on behalf of its 40 million members, each elected official's vote is posted on AARP's Government Watch site (www.aarp.org/governmentwatch) so individuals across the nation can see how their legislators voted on this important bill.

Bob Jackson, State Director for AARP Texas, released the following statement today:

"In a survey conducted for AARP last year, millions of boomers and older Americans said that in the next five years, they want to increase their volunteer service to improve their communities and our world."

"AARP members voluntarily share their time and skills to meet a range of community needs and the Serve America Act will provide additional service opportunities for people age 50+. AARP currently has 2.5 million members in

## Consumer Reports Poll: Nearly 3 in 10 Hispanics

Struggling to meet health care costs, 29 percent of Hispanic adults said they had decided against filling a script for cost reasons, according to a national poll conducted by the Consumer Reports National Research Center. Survey respondents said that they also economized by asking their doctor for free samples, skipping doses, taking smaller doses, or sharing a prescription with someone else on the same medicine.

Consumer Reports' poll demonstrates that the majority of Hispanic consumers in the U.S. are struggling with healthcare costs. When asked about how easy or difficult it is to afford healthcare, 66 percent responded "difficult" or "very difficult," including 88 percent of those without health insurance. Three-quarters of consumers earning under \$50,000 and those born outside the U.S. or Puerto Rico reported difficulty dealing with cost, along with nearly 7 in 10 of those under the age of 55.

CR's poll shows a large portion of Hispanics do not have health insurance (44 percent). Those most likely to be without health coverage were ages 18-34 (55 percent), in households earning less than \$25,000 per year (54 percent), or foreign born (56 percent). Hispanics without health insurance are more than twice as likely as those

with health insurance to forego a prescribed medication because of cost. They are nearly twice as likely to skip a dose to take a prescribed medication last longer. Moreover, one-quarter of uninsured Hispanics reported taking a smaller dose to make a prescription last longer versus 16 percent of Hispanics with health insurance. The uninsured also are more than 4 times as likely to share a prescription with someone else. This "sharing" trend is also popular with the younger Hispanics ages 18-34 years – 22 percent said they had shared.

"We were surprised by the extent to which Hispanic consumers are cutting corners and the risks they're taking to save money. The most important thing is for patients to talk to their doctors about the cost of medicines. This can be challenging for some patients, especially where there are language and cultural barriers," said Dr. Jose Luis Mosquera, medical expert for Consumer Reports.

New Magazine Identifies Proven, Cost-Effective Alternatives

The poll is being released in conjunction with Consumer Reports Best Drugs for Less, a 60-page magazine that rates more than 200 prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines for more than 20 conditions including heart disease, asthma, diabetes, and depression. Consumer Reports Best Drugs for

Less can be purchased by visiting www.ConsumerReportsHealth.org, where the Ratings can be accessed for free. The Ratings are part of a larger initiative by the newly launched Consumer Reports Health Ratings Center to provide consumers with health Ratings based on independent and unbiased review of the best scientific evidence available. (This information is available in English.)

Cutting Corners on Prescriptions  
Over the past six months, 38 percent of Hispanic adults have taken a prescription medication. Recent Rx use tracked strongly with age, with 80 percent of Latinos ages 55 years or older having used a medication, compared with just 19 percent of those under age 35. Similarly, the poll found that one-third of Hispanics are currently taking a prescription drug.

Nationwide, Hispanics currently taking a prescription medicine spent out-of-pocket an average of \$65 on medicines during the past 30 days, the poll shows. Respondents without health insurance spent far more than the insured (\$81 vs. \$58), and those earning at least \$50,000 spent nearly as much (\$78).

Of those taking prescribed drugs, 51 percent are doing one or more of the following to save money: 29 percent did not fill a prescrip-

tion that is too expensive; 28 percent have requested free samples from their doctors; 19 percent have skipped a dose of prescription medication or have taken a smaller dose (like cutting pills in half); and 6 percent have shared a prescription with someone who takes the same medication. The figures are even higher for those without health insurance.

Drug Advertisements Influence Consumers' Choices – Skepticism About Generics

Most Hispanics (70 percent) have been exposed to prescription drug ads, and among them, more than one-quarter (27 percent) have asked their doctor about a drug they learned about through advertising. Those in the lowest income-bracket (under \$25,000) were also the most likely to ask their doctor about an expensive, brand-name drug they had seen or heard advertised. CR also found that doctors prescribe advertised medications that their patients request 43 percent of the time.

Many Hispanics who could benefit from generic prescriptions expressed skepticism about them. At least half of those without health insurance, aged 18-34, or those earning under \$25,000 said they believe that generic medicines sometimes or never work as well as brand-name drugs.



# Editorial

## Guest Commentary

### THE RACE FOR THE FUTURE

By Janet Murguía

The "Race to the Top" is the Obama administration's name for the new education fund in the economic stimulus package. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently set out his game plan for this fund, which includes setting higher academic standards, tracking student achievement, and encouraging innovative programs such as those employed at charter schools.

The National Council of La Raza — the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States — has long supported these objectives. For our nation to win a race to the top, policymakers must pay special attention to Latino students. We cannot make it to the finish line unless Hispanic children have greater access to high-quality preschool and the academic support to graduate from high school and be ready for college at the same rate as their white peers.

President Obama and Secretary Duncan must consider where Hispanic children stand today at both ends of the education spectrum: preschool and high school. More than 60 percent of Latino children do not attend a structured preschool program, thereby entering kindergarten with a learning gap that persists through high school. This means that their achievement levels fall below that of white students from their very first day of school and stay that way for the next 12 years. It comes as no surprise, then, that the national high school graduation rate for Latinos is a dismal 58%, compared to nearly 78% for whites.

The first step toward higher achievement is for Secretary Duncan to strengthen access and services to students who are learning English, the majority of whom are Hispanic. English language learners (ELLs) are learning content appropriate to their grade level, including math, social studies and science, at the same time they are learning a new language. To do this well, they need teachers with the right training, instructional and assessment tools appropriate for their language needs, and the support of educators who believe that ELLs can and must meet high academic standards.

Early childhood education programs are vital to getting Hispanic children on the right track, but there are not enough of these programs for Latinos. One stumbling block has been a severe lack of facilities that can house programs for toddlers and preschoolers in Latino neighborhoods. Also, there are not enough teachers trained to work with young children learning English, teachers who can provide support in the children's native languages.

It is a long way from preschool to high school, but every policy decision along the way counts in a child's education. The administration must make sure that the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) lives up to its promise to improve the academic achievement of all students and close the achievement gap between Hispanic and white students.

NCLB can help Latinos and ELL students gain access to the rigorous coursework necessary to meet the same high standards as their peers. Under NCLB, schools must determine how these students are doing — including giving them tests in their native languages—and accurately measure their progress regularly. Also, NCLB requires schools to keep parents informed so they have the tools to become engaged in their children's education and hold schools accountable for preparing their children to meet high academic standards.

Secretary Duncan has stated bluntly that our nation is losing ground educationally. The "Race to the Top" is a crucial attempt to improve an alarming situation that should be a priority for us all. At a time when the economy is at the forefront of our national consciousness, we appreciate that President Obama recognizes that education goes hand in hand with economic strength. It is telling that he unveiled his education plan when speaking to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, an audience that understands how important it is to support our economic interests by investing in education. As President Obama has said, "We now live in a world where the most valuable skill you can sell is knowledge."

(Janet Murguía is president and CEO of the National Council of La Raza, based in Washington, D.C.)

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## The Our Father

By: Ysidro Gutierrez

Its Easter Season and there is nothing more appropriate to write about than the joy that Easter brings. Last week I share what I learn from the Catholic Catechism about Holy Week. I like to express my gratitude to the readers of El Editor for their kind words and prayers. A couple of friends suggested I write at least one more article fitting to the celebration. I believe the most fitting topic for the season is, "The Lord's Prayer" so here it goes.

The Lord's Prayer gets its name from its author, the Lord Jesus. Therefore the first point we must make about it is that its words are of Divine origin and like all things born of Heaven, it is miraculous. The miracle of it quickly becomes obvious to those who love the Lord. The Prayer has the power to convert the sinners heart and soothe the minds of saints. It has the power to heal pain and suffering and to take away grief, anger, bitterness and hate. It is a miracle that an adult can spend a lifetime meditating on its few lines and words yet a child can easily commit its lines to memory. Another important miraculous aspect is that in its short lines — the whole of the Old and New Testaments can be clearly seen.

Easter is about Faith that gladdens the heart and so is the Lord's Prayer. The Bible says Faith comes from hearing the word of God (Romans 10-17) and defines faith as "the assurance of things hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Heb 11:1). To pray the Our Father is an act of faith. When we turn to God in prayer - we believe. It was God the Holy Spirit who inspired the sacred authors to record the Lord's words for us in Scripture. It was a Divine and freely given gift of Grace for all generations unto the end of time. Its words are written in Matthew 6: 9-13. This is the long version used by the Church. The shorter version is found in the Gospel of Luke 11: 1-4.

The two are one as the four Gospels are one. Most Christians seldom take the time to reflect upon the words that make the Prayer miraculous but we should. Let's take the first word as an example. The word "Our" is plural. Our refers to all people everywhere in all times and places past, present and future. "Our," is an inclusive word — no one is left out. It implies that Jesus desires that His people pray together and promised that where two or more are gathered in His name — there He shall be present in their midst. "Our" is about relationships. If He is our Father, then we

are His adopted children, and we are brothers and sisters and Jesus is our brother. We are family if He is "Our Father" "Our" is non-judgmental. Everyone is included: sinners and saints alike. The prayer is for everyone. All are equal before God. He loves us all. "Our" makes the whole group — "ONE". In Jesus' prayer, we are of one mind, one heart, one body, one people; we are a family. "Our" is an expression of the "here and now" — this moment, this hour, this day. There is no past nor future in eternity — only the present. It is the same Yesterday, Today, and Forever.

The second word in the prayer is "Father." This is really important for Christians to understand. Jesus is the first person in Scripture (indeed in History) to refer to God as "Father." No one prior to Jesus ever spoke of God as Abba Father. This is a "New" teaching and an essential element of the New Covenant. In the Old Testament, we don't see men and women of God pray to the Lord in this way. Jesus opened up to us new and greater paths of intimacy with God — our Father. A Father stays with His children. He will not leave you orphan. He will never forget His own. As our Father, he loves us. He cares for us, guards us, provides for us, loves us, and protects us. He gives us all that a Father would give His own children. God chastises those He loves and draws them into Himself. Here was one of the important clues of the new and everlasting covenant of faith which God had promised centuries earlier. That He would write His Word in our hearts. Can there be anything more endearing to inscribe upon the human heart than Father?

"Who art in heaven" were four essential words, not for our Lord Jesus, but for us. These four words distinguishes the Father of Jesus' prayer as our creator. He is not father Abraham or David or Moses. He is "The Father" who is in heaven. The Jews of 2000 years ago would immediately understand Jesus' meaning when they heard that Our Father was a Divine Father Creator of Heaven and Earth. With these words Jesus is clear. He is the God of Creation: He is a God of power and might: He is omnipotent and omniscient.

I sure would like to continue to the "Amen" but I promise to continue with the rest of this reflection in next weeks El Editor. After all, there is still one more week before Easter. Don't you just love the Easter Season? Aren't you filled with joy?

## LA CARRERA HACIA EL FUTURO

Janet Murguía

La "Carrera a la Cima" es el nombre del fondo educativo dentro del paquete de estímulo económico de la administración de Obama. El secretario del Departamento de Educación, Arne Duncan, recientemente delineó su plan de juego para este fondo, incluyendo el establecimiento de estándares académicos más altos, el dar seguimiento a los logros del estudiante, y el fomentar programas innovadores como los que usualmente emplean las escuelas "charter".

El Consejo Nacional de La Raza — la organización nacional más grande de defensa de los derechos civiles de los hispanos en Estados Unidos — ha apoyado estos objetivos por mucho tiempo. Para que nuestra nación pueda ganar una carrera a la cima, los forjadores de política pública deben prestar particular atención a los estudiantes latinos. No podremos llegar a la recta final a menos que los niños hispanos tengan mayor acceso a escuelas preescolares de alta calidad y reciban el apoyo académico que necesitan en la escuela secundaria para comenzar sus estudios universitarios al mismo tiempo que sus pares blancos.

El presidente Obama y el secretario Duncan deben considerar en qué estado están hoy día los niños hispanos dentro del espectro educativo, tanto en escuela preescolar como en escuela secundaria. Más del 60% de los niños latinos no asisten a un programa preescolar estructurado, y por ello, entran al kindergarten con una laguna educativa que los persigue hasta la escuela secundaria. Esto significa que su nivel de rendimiento escolar será más bajo que el de los estudiantes blancos desde el primer día de clase, manteniendo esta disparidad hasta la escuela secundaria. Dada esta realidad, no es sorprendente que el índice nacional de latinos egresados de escuela secundaria sea un funesto 58% en comparación al casi 78% de los blancos.

El primer paso hacia un rendimiento escolar más alto es que el secretario Duncan refuerce el acceso y los servicios provistos a los estudiantes de dominio limitado del inglés (ELL, por sus siglas en inglés), quienes en su gran mayoría son hispanos. Los ELL aprenden el contenido apropiado de las materias para su grado escolar—matemáticas, estudios sociales y ciencias—y aprenden un nuevo idioma a la vez. Para llevar a cabo este proceso bien, necesitan maestras con la preparación adecuada, instrucción y herramientas de evaluación apropiadas para sus necesidades lingüísticas, y el apoyo de educadores que crean firmemente que los ELL pueden y deben alcanzar altas metas de rendimiento académico.

Los programas de educación temprana son vitales para que los estudiantes hispanos se mantengan encarrilados, pero no hay suficientes programas de esta índole para latinos. Una piedra en ese arduo camino es la falta de instalaciones que alberguen estos programas para niños preescolares en los vecindarios latinos. Otro agravante es el hecho de que no existan suficientes maestros preparados para educar y apoyar a los estudiantes con dominio limitado del inglés en su lengua natal.

La ruta de la escuela preescolar a la secundaria es larga, pero cada decisión de política pública que se toma en el camino cuenta para la educación de nuestros niños. La administración tiene que asegurarse que la ley Que Ningún Niño Quede Atrás (NCLB, por sus siglas en inglés) cumpla su promesa de mejorar el rendimiento académico de todos los estudiantes y cierre la brecha que existe entre los estudiantes hispanos y blancos.

Esta ley puede ayudar a los estudiantes latinos y a los ELL a tener acceso a rigurosos cursos y currículos que son necesarios para alcanzar el alto rendimiento escolar de sus pares. Bajo la NCLB, las escuelas deben determinar el éxito del rendimiento académico de estos estudiantes — incluso proveer exámenes en la lengua natal de los estudiantes — para medir adecuada y regularmente su progreso académico. Esta ley también requiere que las escuelas mantengan informados a los padres sobre el proceso educativo de sus hijos para darles las herramientas necesarias para involucrarse en la educación de sus hijos y exigirles a las escuelas que les provean a sus hijos la mejor preparación académica para que alcancen un alto rendimiento escolar.

El secretario Duncan declaró rotundamente que nuestra nación está perdiendo terreno en el campo de la educación. La "Carrera a la Cima" es un esfuerzo crucial para mejorar la alarmante situación que nos asecha. En estos momentos, cuando la economía está en la delantera de nuestra conciencia nacional, apreciamos que el presidente Obama reconozca que el mejoramiento de la educación y de la economía van a la par. Tanto que él develó su plan educativo mientras hablaba ante la Cámara de Comercio Hispana de los EE.UU., un público que entiende claramente la importancia de apoyar los intereses económicos mediante la inversión en el sistema educativo. Como bien dijo el presidente Obama, "Vivimos en un mundo donde la destreza más valiosa que podemos vender es el conocimiento".

(Janet Murguía es presidenta y ejecutiva principal del Consejo Nacional de La Raza en Washington, D.C.)

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## Guadalupe Officers Elected

New officers were recently elected to the Association's Board of Directors. They were Carlos Quirino Jr., President, Lile Medina-Quirino - Vice President, Marti Sosa - Secretary, Diana Vasquez- Treasurer, and Lala Chavez - Palimentarian.

## Civil Rights Leader Cesar Chavez Honored Nationwide With Marches and Celebrations

LULAC urges Senators and Members of Congress to Pass a National Cesar Chavez holiday

Washington, DC - The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Hispanic civil rights organization in the country, organized events in celebration of Cesar Chavez's legacy and what would have been his 82nd birthday. Cesar Chavez is known by many as an environmentalist, a labor leader and co-founder of the United Farm Workers.

Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) introduced legislation today in the Senate to pass a resolution declaring National Cesar Chavez Day. Similar attempts were blocked by some Republicans in the Senate. Nine states have adopted the Cesar Chavez holiday, which is celebrated March 31st.

"Cesar Chavez is a true American hero. He fought for the rights of farm workers and all Americans and deserves a national holiday honoring his legacy," said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. "Our LULAC leaders from around the country are honoring his work by holding vigils, rallies and marches."

Some of the states and counties that celebrate the holiday include California, Michigan, Pima County in Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Rhode Island.

The California legal holiday set into motion a wave of initiatives resulting in optional and commemorative Cesar Chavez Days.

LULAC is one of the partners of the Cesar E. Chavez National Holiday along with other national organizations.

The United Farm Workers Union along with LULAC are pushing for comprehensive immigration reform and an end to immigration raids. The UFW has advocated for the rights of low-wage workers and health care for farm workers.

The labor leader's rallying words "Sí Se Puede" "Yes We Can," hold powerful emotions for American workers who fought for better work-

## "Freedom of Expression"

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

Dr Neale Pearson writes

One week ago when I was testifying at Hearings of the Bi Partisan House Committee on How Texas Should Respond to the Obama Stimulus Package, Chairman Jim Dummam (D-Waco) instructed his staff to look into arrangements to hold hearings on the weekends of forthcoming Saturdays in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, El Paso and Lubbock. He asked them to provide some different scenario in terms of flying into those cities, e.g. Dallas, Lubbock, El Paso, or Houston, San Antonio, El Paso, Lubbock, etc. Because of the limited down that the House and Senate would have to respond to that package—and possibly deal with a Gubernatorial veto if there is a recommendation to accept additional funds for unemployment assistance—I would guess those hearings would be held soon. Of course, if the Governor used his line item veto in the last week of the 140 day session—the Legislature could not over-ride the veto because the Governor would never call a Special Session to consider over-riding his vetoes. You might wish to inform some of your contacts in the Chamber of Commerce, Port of Plains, and other groups as well as be prepared for coverage of the event.

I went to Austin Wednesday March 17 to attend hearings of the House Corrections Committee on various bills, testify at the Dummam-chaired Committee Hearings and attend a Reception for Mary Wilson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States who had gone to Austin to speak to Legislators on the Voter Photo I. D. legislation before the Senate and the House.

I was the fifth person to testify in hearings focused on Corrections) Police and Judicial) and Transportation but the Chair and his Vice Chair Myra Crowmover, R-Denton, did not restrict people from discussing some other matters.

Preceding me were the Deputy Chairman of the Cameron County Planning Commission who wanted money for Expansion of Port of Plains and Evacuation Routes from Harlingen and other cities who emphasized the poverty of that county and region; second were individuals from Corpus Christi who focused on transportation projects to connect to Port of the Plains and evacuation routes in case of another severe hurricane; third and fourth were officials of the Austin based Metro Rail System and Metropolitan Transportation planning asking for funds to complete Metro Rail Planning and other matters. The two of them were the targets of sharp questioning from Dummam about the characteristics of some of their obligations and financing. In addition, formal inauguration of the system from Leander to downtown Austin has been postponed because Federal dept. of Transportation discovery that many of the crossing gates and signals were not operating properly.

When I spoke I addressed (1) Transportation concerns involving fund for completion of the Marsha Sharp freeway and two FM roads in Hale County and Castro County that were the subject of an AJ article about a month ago. A subsequent Dallas Morning News article said Dallas officials wanted the Obama Stimulus funds to help Dallas, Austin and San Antonio to deal with their high traffic counts and congestion to the detriment of rural areas. I noted the need for funds for rural roads to bring the food and fiber produced in rural areas of the state to port facilities for export. Two, I spoke on behalf of funds for judicial and correctional facilities and programs that were the object of unfunded mandates; and third I spoke on behalf of Texas accepting funds for unemployment assistance noting that there were many poor counties in West Texas and citing the example of the city of Eden, which is in Drew Darby or Jim Pitts district. The pioneers who settled that community on the west side of the Hill Country really had an optimistic view of the future that has not been realized.

After my testimony the Executive Director and Chief Planner of Tex DOT asked me to step aside and told me that funds were assured for completion of the Marsha Sharp Freeway and the two FM roads mentioned.

When I returned to the hearing, there was testimony from a variety of spokesman for police officer organization asking for funds to advance their education to retain them in office, Texas Council on Family Violence, and other groups concerned with increasing crime, rehabilitation measures including drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs to help meet the increasing crime and violence linked to the economic recession.

I thought you might be interested in the remarks from the Tex DOT officials about funds for Marsha Sharp Freeway and rural FM roads. I spoke later to Delwin Jones, a young man in Carl Isett's Office, and Rep. Joe Heflin, Crosbyton, about my testimony.

Dr. Neale Pearson

Dear Editor,

I was one of the honored people to have participated in the 10th Annual Cesar Chavez March to celebrate the life and accomplishments of great American. Cesar Chavez fought peacefully for justice for farm workers. My grandparents and mother were all migrant farm workers, so participating in this march meant something to me. It not only meant something to me because of my family, but it meant something because he stood for so much more. He stood for justice, equality, peace, and hope. Cesar Chavez took a stand against all odds and made a difference in so many lives. In the Hispanic community, in particular the Mexican-American communities, he is an inspiration and a man to be admired.

I was extremely disappointed that there were not as many people as there should have been at the march. We, as a Mexican-American community, should be filling the streets with banners and flags, singing De Colores, and yelling Si Se Puede together united as a community. Don't get me wrong, the people that did come we did just that. However, there should have been more. When are we going to wake up and take a stand for something? I know people are busy and it was cold, but Cesar Chavez went days with out food. We can't walk for thirty to forty-five minutes in the cold? If it was that big of a concern, you could have followed in your car behind us. I was also disappointed in the lack of Hispanic community leaders not being able to participate in the march. I guess it is not an election year or some were too busy tearing our Mexican-American community apart in other newspapers. I do want to say thank you to Councilwoman Linda Deleon and Dr. Sheryl Santos for their continued participation in the Cesar Chavez March. One day we are going to be the majority in Lubbock and in the state of Texas, but it will not matter. We as a whole do not vote, let people walk over us, and are apathetic about the concerns around us. Everything can not be handed to you. You have to fight for it!!

I'm not trying to be negative, but I am just tired of it. I do want to say thank you to everyone who did participate in the march. I also want to thank Christy Martinez and the other members of the Committee who planned the march. I was proud and honored to march for Cesar Chavez. When I think about who he was and what he stood for, it gives me a great sense of pride. It is a feeling that I can not put in to words, but I know that every Mexican American in this community feels that same feeling when you pass through Aztlan Park on a Sunday afternoon and look at the mural that is there. Que viva la raza!! Annikka Hernandez

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# Secretary of State Clinton reaches out to Mexico



Holder. Obama plans to visit April 16-17. Since Mexican President Felipe Calderón launched a military crackdown on drug gangs just days after taking office in December 2006, more than 6,300 people have been killed in related

violence. About 50,000 troops, more than the United States has in Afghanistan, are patrolling deserts and city streets, searching cars for drugs at highway checkpoints and disarming corrupt local police.

"We will stand shoulder to shoulder to you as you undertake all of these actions," Clinton said during a news conference with her Mexican counterpart, Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa. The military offensive has netted more than 45,000 drug suspects, as well as dozens of suspected ringleaders, including the arrest Wednesday of one of the country's most-wanted trafficking suspects.

"This is the kind of action that the U.S. side has always hoped for, that Mexico would make arrests on the scale that we are seeing today," said Gabriela de la Paz, director of the Center for North American Studies at the Monterrey Institute for Technological and Advanced Studies, one of Mexico's leading universities. Trade, meanwhile, has been a sticking point between the two countries. In February, the U.S. House of Representatives angered Mexico, Canada and other free-trade partners by trying to require that U.S.-made materials be used in projects stemming from Obama's economic-stimulus plan. The U.S. Senate later watered down the "Buy America" clause.

Then in March, the Democrat-controlled Congress canceled funding for a pilot program allowing Mexican trucks into the United States.

Mexico says the cancellation is a violation of the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement. Last week, it retaliated by slapping tariffs on \$2.4 billion in U.S. exports.

Clinton and Espinosa said they agreed to try to address the trade spat before it weakens both economies.

"We are working very hard to achieve a resolution on this issue," Clinton said. "We have to get the global economy moving, we've to get jobs being created again, we have to get incomes rising. So, we are committed to working this through."

Espinosa urged the United States to stand by its free-trade ideals, saying a surge of trade nationalism during the 1930s only worsened the Great Depression.

"It is important to avoid protectionism, to not go into the temptation of protectionism," Espinosa said. Clinton also assured Mexicans that Obama plans to renew the push for an overhaul of U.S. immigration laws.

Under President George W. Bush, the White House had championed bills to legalize millions of illegal immigrants currently in the United States. All those attempts failed in Congress.

"It is and will be a high priority for (Obama) and his presidency," Clinton said. "We believe strongly that there have to be changes made, and we hope we will be able to pursue those in the coming months."

Rushing to mend rifts with the United States' southern neighbor, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Wednesday praised Mexico's progress against drug cartels, offered an olive branch in a fierce trade spat and promised action on the long-dormant issue of immigration reform.

As she launched a two-day visit to Mexico, Clinton repeatedly blamed U.S. gun sales and drug use for fueling a deadly wave of violence that has swept over Mexico and alarmed politicians in U.S. border states.

"The criminals and kingpins spreading violence are trying to corrode the foundations of law, order, friendship and trust between us and that support our continent," Clinton said. "They will fail."

She is the first in a parade of high-level U.S. officials, including President Barack Obama, to visit Mexico in coming weeks, as concern over the drug-related violence mounts in the United States. Clinton's visit came a day after the U.S. government announced a raft of new measures aimed at bolstering border security and aiding Mexico's crackdown on the cartels. A congressional delegation will visit in coming days, followed by trips by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Eric

# House GOP to Offer Alternative Budget

U.S. House Republicans picked up the Democrats' gauntlet Thursday, saying they would offer an alternative budget proposal next week.

"(While) we criticize, we propose," Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., said during a news conference. "And next Wednesday, we're going to go to the Congress ... with a budget that does not recklessly mortgage our children's future, that gets our borrowing under control, that does not pursue a gusher of new and frivolous spending, and that does not raise taxes on the American people, on small businesses, on people with savings plans in the middle of a recession."

The GOP alternative would reduce taxes, spending and borrowing, the House Republican Conference chairman said.

"And it's going to be a budget

that says here's how best to get America out of this struggling economy" while preserving "the legacy of this country which is to leave the next generation better off," he said.

President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats have disparaged Republicans for criticizing Obama's \$3.6 billion budget outline without offering an alternative.

In the Senate, Democratic leaders said GOP senators' criticisms rang hollow because they failed to offer an alternative, The Hill reported.

"If you have people that are pontificating on how bad something is, they have the obligation to come forward with something they think would be better,



and they haven't done that," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

A spokesman of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky used comments by Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., when his party was in the minority.

"As chairman Conrad said, 'The majority has the responsibility to offer a budget' and 'We will offer a series of alternatives by amendment,'" spokesman Don Stewart said.

# Napolitano: Mexican drug cartels threaten U.S. cities

Mexico's increasingly brazen drug cartels have infiltrated as many 230 U.S. cities and now represent the most serious organized-crime threat to the United States, top administration officials told lawmakers Wednesday.

"The cartels have fingertips that reach throughout the United States," Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano told a Senate panel.

The former Arizona governor and federal prosecutor agreed with assessments by lawmakers that the drug cartels represent "an existential threat" to the Mexican government, and that the violence they've spawned fighting each other has started affecting innocent Americans.

It was one of the gravest assessments by Napolitano to date of the chaotic situation along the border, where murders have spiked in Mexico and kidnappings have risen to alarming levels in border communities, most notably Phoenix.

"The danger here is clear and present," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Napolitano's testimony before the committee came a day after the Obama administration unveiled a major escalation of interdiction efforts along the southern border.

On Tuesday, the administra-

tion announced it's sending hundreds of federal agents, along with high-tech surveillance gear and drug-sniffing dogs, to the Southwest, mainly to keep violence from bleeding over the U.S.-Mexico border.

National Guard troops could be sent to protect the border if the situation worsens, Napolitano said.

But Obama administration officials have stressed that they are not eager to militarize the border.

The violence has prompted a series of high-level visits, which are already under way. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was heading to Mexico on Wednesday for talks with President Felipe Calderon and his administration.

Napolitano, Attorney General Eric Holder and Obama are also scheduled to visit Mexico in the coming days and weeks.

Still, some lawmakers voiced concern that the ramp-up might not be enough.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., commended the Obama plan, but warned, "I'm convinced that we must do much, much more," including cracking down on demand for drugs in the U.S.

In a rare moment, Lieberman asked Napolitano if she needed more funding.

"If we need to scale up, that is something we will bring to you," Napolitano said.

Much of the U.S. support

for Mexico comes through the Merida Initiative, a security deal with Mexico and Central American countries that funds training, intelligence and equipment to combat drug trafficking and money laundering.

Congress allocated \$300 million for the Merida Initiative for 2009 - \$150 million less than the Bush administration and Mexico had sought. Congress and the Obama administration are now working on the 2010 budget.

Napolitano said the administration's plan is focused on: - Stopping gun and cash shipments from going south into Mexico. This is a major part of the problem, she said.

"We need to get beyond getting lucky at lane inspections," she said. A recent quick sweep by U.S. officials netted almost 1,000 guns and \$300,000 in cash, all headed into Mexico, Napolitano said.

She also called for tracing guns used in crimes in Mexico.

Holder has talked about re-instating the ban on assault weapons that expired in 2004 during the Bush administration, but Napolitano said existing laws could be used to effectively prosecute the gunrunners supplying the Mexican cartels.

"I've got to play the hand of cards I have," she said.

"President Calderon has taken courageous and decisive action," said James Steinberg, deputy secretary of state.

# Repaying Sallie Mae Starts Before Graduation

"The freshman 15" may no longer just apply to college weight gain. Now the extra baggage a student carries during the first college year could be fiscal. Sallie Mae, the nation's largest provider of private student loans, is replacing its usual version of the student loan with a shortened model that will require some students to begin repayment while they are still in school. While many students count on a six-month post-graduation cushion to begin repayment of loans -- giving them time to secure employment, particularly in a tough labor market -- they may no longer have such a safety net if they need private money to finance higher education.

The lender, formally known as SLM Corp., announced plans Friday that will require private student-loan repayments to start when the borrower is a freshman, with the amount due

rising as he or she moves closer to graduation.

The goal: by the time a student graduates, he or she will be paying solely on the loan's principal, having already paid off the interest while enrolled. While the new loan will create an obvious quick cash flow for lending banks and can save students money, it can also drive some students with already tight budgets away from private lenders. College students typically rely on federal student loans and private loans, or both. Jack Hewes, the chief lending officer for Sallie Mae, said the cost of a private student loan would be cut by 40 percent, and students and families would repay the loans more quickly, in five to 15 years instead of 15 to 30 years.

The new financing, available starting Monday for the 2009-2010 academic year, will also keep loans from bal-

looning out of control over the years because of deferred interest, which often puts some students in a deeper hole.

Sallie Mae said a student who borrowed \$17,000 over two years would have freshman-year payments that could start out at as little as \$40 per month. By the time that student enters the second semester of sophomore year, the payments could reach \$160 per month -- until graduation. After that, the student would be responsible for repaying just the \$17,000 principal, cutting the time to repay the entire loan significantly, with the final cost of the loan at \$28,000 rather than \$45,000. With the new loan requirements, Sallie Mae could potentially lose clients, one higher-education specialist said.

Beyond that, banks dealing with young student borrowers may be building long-term relationships, he said.

# Come to LISD Kindergarten Orientation

Wednesday, April 8 - 1:30 p.m.

Children who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2009, are invited to bring their parents to Kindergarten Orientation at all Lubbock ISD elementary schools.

Parents, be sure to bring:

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- ✓ Child's social security card
- ✓ Immunization records
- ✓ Proof of address (utility bill, rent receipt, etc.)

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# Tens of Thousands Languish in Immigration Detention Without Hearings or Bond

# Stimulus dollars to be released for schools



"Tens of thousands of people languish in U.S. immigration detention facilities every year — including a number of U.S. citizens — without receiving a hearing to determine whether their detention is warranted, Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) said in a report released today. The report, Jailed Without Justice: Immigration Detention in the USA, shows that, in just over a decade, the number of immigrants in detention each day has tripled from 10,000 in 1996 to more than 30,000 in 2008. Numbers are likely to increase in 2009. A majority of the detainees have extreme difficulty retaining a lawyer or help navigating the complex legal process. In some cases, individuals become so desperate that they agree to deportation even if their circumstances don't warrant it.

The people detained include lawful permanent residents, undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers and survivors of torture and human trafficking. For some people, an immigration official is the final and only decision maker on detention — others receive no detention review at all. In the current system, rife with errors and lacking mean-

ingful oversight, being detained in and of itself can virtually seal an immigrant's fate.

"America should be outraged by the scale of human rights abuses occurring within its own borders," said Larry Cox, executive director of AIUSA. "Officials are locking up thousands of human beings without due process and holding them in a system that is impossible to navigate without the legal equivalent of GPS. The United States has long been a country of immigrants, and whether they have been here five years or five generations, their human rights are to be respected. The U.S. government must ensure that every person in immigration detention has a hearing to determine whether that detention is necessary."

The AIUSA report shows that the average cost of locking up an immigrant is \$95 per person, per day, or approximately \$2,850 per month — which amounts to hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars per year. Effective alternatives to detention are available and cheaper — costing as little as \$12 per

day. A study of one alternative program documented a 91-percent appearance rate before immigration courts.

According to international law and standards, detention should only be used in exceptional circumstances, must be justified in each individual case and must be subject to judicial review.

For many immigrants, release from detention is out of reach because bonds are set impossibly high. And although immigration judges have the authority in some cases to release immigrants on their own recognizance or with a minimum bond of \$1,500, reports indicate that the judges are now less likely to do so. According to the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), in 2006, immigration judges in the United States declined to set bond in 14,750 cases. In 2007, the number increased to 22,254, and in the first five months of 2008, immigration judges had already refused to set bond in 21,842 cases.

Moreover, lawful permanent residents can be placed in "mandatory detention" with no right to a bond hearing before an immigration judge or judicial body. The categories of crimes that trigger mandatory detention are broad and difficult to define. In one case, a 37-year-old lawful permanent resident was deported to Haiti for possession of stolen bus pass transfers. The

court found that these convictions constituted two "crimes of moral turpitude" warranting mandatory detention and deportation.

Even more astounding, in 2007 alone, legal service providers identified 322 individuals in detention who may have been able to claim U.S. citizenship. For instance, Mr. W, born in Minnesota, was placed in immigration detention in Florence, AZ. Because he was detained, he could not access his birth certificate. He was finally released after a month of working for a dollar a day in the prison kitchen to earn the \$30 necessary to order a copy of his birth certificate.

Immigrants are often put in excessive restraints, including handcuffs, belly chains and leg restraints, and are detained alongside individuals incarcerated for criminal offenses. Immigrant detainees also find it difficult to get medical attention; at least 74 immigrants have died in detention during the last five years.

To rectify these issues, AIUSA calls on the U.S. government to:

- Pass legislation mandating that immigration detention be used only in exceptional circumstances, and ensuring that alternative non-custodial measures, such as reporting requirements or affordable bond, are always considered first;
- Ensure that all immigrants and asylum seekers have access to individualized hearings before a judicial body at the outset on the lawfulness, necessity and appropriateness of detention;
- Enact enforceable human rights detention standards in all facilities that house immigration detainees and hold facilities accountable for any violations.

The first round of school stimulus dollars from the economic stimulus law is going to states this week.

To mark the occasion, Education Secretary Arne Duncan on Wednesday is visiting first- and fifth-grade classes at Doswell Brooks Elementary School in Capitol Heights in the Maryland suburbs of Washington.

Public schools will get an unprecedented amount of money double the education budget under President George W. Bush from the stimulus law over the next two years.

On Wednesday, the administration is making available half of the dollars for federal programs that fund kindergarten through 12th grade and special education. In addition, Duncan will provide applications for states to get money from a special fund to stabilize state and local budgets.

President Barack Obama says the stimulus will save teachers' jobs, although there is no estimate of how many jobs will be rescued. Nationwide, about 294,000 teachers — 9 percent — may face layoffs because of state budget cuts, according to a University of Washington study.

However, loopholes created by Congress could let states and school districts spend the money on other things, such as playground equipment or new construction.

The White House has stymied efforts by lawmakers in South Carolina to accept that state's share of \$48.6 billion made available under the stimulus law to help states cope with their budgets and keep teachers employed. South Carolina Republican Gov. Mark Sanford has said he may

decline more than \$700 million because the White House won't let him spend the money to pay down his state's debt.

In a letter to Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., the White House said there was no provision in the stimulus law for a state legislature to accept that money without approval by the governor. In its letter, obtained by The Associated Press, the White House Office of Management Budget urged Congress to change the law.

"It would be an unfortunate (and we believe an unintended) policy outcome if the children of South Carolina were to be deprived of their share of federal stimulus dollars ... because the governor chooses not to apply for stimulus funds," OMB Director Peter Orszag wrote Tuesday.

Duncan said last week he will "come down like a ton of bricks" and withhold the second round of funds from anyone who defies Obama's wishes.

At the same time, the administration wants to do more than save teachers' jobs. Obama wants to transform the federal government's role in education. His administration views the stimulus bill as a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put lasting reforms in place.

In their applications, states must show improvement in teacher quality, data systems, academic standards and tests and supporting struggling schools.

States and districts will also have a chance to compete for money from a \$5 billion fund solely for these kinds of innovations. Previous education secretaries had a fraction of that, about \$16 million a year, to distribute for their own priorities.

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# Mexico's drug gangs drive film crew out of town



starting to think twice. Security has been a growing problem since 2005, when Jennifer Lopez and Antonio Banderas's Bordertown was forced to move production to New Mexico

Mexican drug cartels don't like rivals treading on their territory; they don't like the police poking around; and now, it seems, they don't much care for Hollywood taking an interest in their business.

Producers of a film about the murder of a cocaine smuggler, which would have starred Eva Mendes, Josh Hartnett and Sir Ben Kingsley, have been forced to abandon filming on the Mexican coast after the movie-makers received death threats.

Queen of the South, based on a novel by Arturo Perez-Reverte, was due to be filmed in Sinaloa, on the country's northern coast. But, following a decision by Jonathan Jakubowicz, its Venezuelan director, and two of his producers, the plug has now been pulled on the project. "I've worked really hard to make this beautiful movie, but the safety of my family and my team comes first," Jakubowicz told Variety. "Making this movie [would have] put us all at risk, not only in Mexico but in the US."

The news will heighten fears that Hollywood production, which has become a growing contributor to the Mexican economy, may disappear from the country, amid the surge in violence which has killed nearly 7,000 people in the past year. Jakubowicz and his family apparently received threats while at home in Los Angeles. The shaken film-maker this week warned colleagues to think twice before attempting to take on similar projects. "I beg those involved to be responsible and mindful of the dangerous territory the subject matter inevitably gets them into," he said.

"We wanted to shoot in the city of Culiacan in Sinaloa, northern Mexico, the epicentre of the drug wars, but it just wasn't possible. The world should pray for peace in Mexico."

Many other Hollywood producers, who may be tempted to shoot south of the border because of lower production costs and tax incentives, are also now

after its crew was followed and had their hotel rooms ransacked.

Last year, the makers of a Paramount film called El Traspaso (The Backyard) reported that an actress from Ciudad Juarez, where they were shooting, had found a slaughtered lamb on her doorstep, with a death threat pinned to it. She was replaced, for her own safety. Several other crew members on the film, about local drug murders, reported receiving sinister anonymous phone calls.

The jumpiness in Hollywood is bad news for the Mexican economy, which has been hit by the global downturn together with a precipitous decline in the tourist trade after the US State Department advised citizens against crossing the border. Free-spending foreign visitors are virtually absent from resorts such as Tijuana, which would in the past have been packed with revellers for spring break, when North American schools are closed for the week.

The escalating security problems, which have seen hundreds of gruesome public murders, are the result of a government crackdown on drug cartels which control the cocaine trade into the US, worth \$5.5bn (£4bn) a year. Although several drug cartel bosses have been arrested, rival groups are now battling over their former territories. Thousands of police officers, many with financial ties to cartels, have been killed. Army units are being brought in to patrol some border areas.

The US government is concerned that if the violence continues to spread, Mexico could acquire the label of "failed state". Hillary Clinton, the US Secretary of State, who visited the country last week, publicly admitted that the security problems were being fuelled by the failure of the US to stem both the supply of drugs into its border areas, and the flow of weapons in the opposite direction.

Catorce años después del asesinato de la joven cantante tejana Selena, cuando tenía sólo 23 años, su público no la olvida y su música sigue sonando.

Para los amantes de la música, el 31 de marzo marca un día de profundo dolor.

Ese fue el día, en 1995, en que Selena Quintanilla Pérez, a quienes sus fans bautizaron la Reina de la Música Tejana, murió trágicamente a manos de la presidenta de su fan club, Yolanda Saldívar, quien se alega había estado robando fondos de negocios familiares y enfrentada por la cantante, le disparó mientras la joven intentaba huir.

La noticia estremeció a la opinión pública porque la creadora de Como la flor, No me queda más y Amor prohibido, entre muchos otros éxitos, era más que una chica guapa con una deslumbrante sonrisa y una hermosa voz.

"Lo que hace a Selena especial, va más allá de la artista; tiene que ver con quien ella fue como persona", expresó Abraham Quintanilla, el padre de Selena y el motor detrás de Q Productions, una compañía radicada en Corpus Christi, Texas, que representa artistas y produce videodiscos de conciertos en directo.

De Japón, Alemania, España, Australia y toda América Latina, los fans de Selena visitan el museo que ha creado su familia en su honor, donde se exhiben sus trajes, sus discos de oro, y es posible revivir la vida de la chica



que comenzó a cantar a los seis años como parte de Selena y los Dinos, un grupo creado por su padre y compuesto por ella y sus hermanos.

"De vez en cuando surge una artista que el público recuerda por su humanidad, por lo que les entregaba como persona. Selena no era mecánica; era genuina, natural, positiva. Es por eso que tantas personas aún vienen de todas partes del mundo a recordarla", agregó Quintanilla.

Al principio, los Quintanilla cantaban en ferias, bodas, fiestas de quinceañeras e, incluso, en las esquinas de Corpus Christi. Pero cuando Selena grabó su primer álbum, a los 14 años de edad, la vida cambió para siempre para

la humilde familia mexicano-americana.

A partir de ese momento, la joven comenzó a sonar con fuerza. En 1987, Selena ganó el prestigioso premio Tejano Music Award a la Mejor Vocalista, categoría que dominó durante los próximos siete años.

En 1990, grabó Ven conmigo, un álbum con temas de la autoría de su hermano, A. B. Quintanilla. Uno de ellos, Baila esta cumbia, se convirtió en un éxito entre los hispanos de Estados Unidos, y este se convirtió en la primera grabación de una artista de música tejana en alcanzar el preciado Disco de Oro.

En 1992, Selena se casó con Chris Pérez, uno de los

músicos de su banda, y aunque al principio su padre se opuso a la relación, eventualmente la aceptó y Selena comenzó una nueva etapa en su vida, con sueños de ser madre y de dedicarse de lleno a su otra pasión: el diseño de moda.

Su vida personal y profesional estaban en su mejor momento: en 1994 abrió boutiques en Corpus Christi donde vendía su propia línea de ropa, y un año después hizo el crossover con el tema Dreaming of You, que alcanzó el Disco de Platino, y tuvo una aparición en el film Don Juan de Marco, al lado de Marlon Brando y Johnny Depp.

Selena, aseguró Quintanilla padre, sigue viva en los corazones de todo aquel que ella tocó con su música o con su presencia. Pero, a veces, incluso ese amor puede doler. "Para su familia, esto es agri dulce. Nos sentimos muy agradecidos de que el público recuerde a nuestra hija, pero a la vez esta fecha nos trae muchos recuerdos. Y aunque es hermoso recordarla, yo preferiría que Selena estuviera aquí con nosotros", expresó Quintanilla.

"Yo mantengo viva su memoria a través de su música. En el estudio, hacemos nuevas mezclas y arreglos para mantenerla vigente. Me involucro tanto en eso que, para mí, Selena sigue viva", finalizó.

# Pau presume amor

En los dos últimos años, Paulina Rubio ha vivido de todo: una romántica boda, vida en pareja, encuentros con amigos, apego a sus convicciones y una evolución constante que ha plasmado en su nueva producción discográfica bajo el título de Gran City Pop.

Este remolino de experiencias ha hecho que la llamada "Chica Dorada" se encuentre en una etapa en la que se siente segura de compartir con sus fans sus vivencias, tanto el amor como el desamor, lo profesional y lo íntimo, en un álbum que verá la luz el 23 de junio.

"Me veré renovada creo que tengo una propia personalidad, yo aprendo de mis errores y de mis triunfos, estoy en un momento en el que la reflexión me da la oportunidad de cantar también temas más espirituales, que tienen que ver con mi forma de ser y de amar", comparte Paulina en una entrevista exclusiva que concedió a REFORMA.

Sin titubear, la intérprete señala que en este disco no habrá repeticiones, que se ha renovado y que gracias al trabajo que desarrollaron los compositores Estefano, Coti, Rafael Vergara, Cachorro López, Chris Rodríguez y Lester Méndez ha crecido junto con su música. "Es un álbum muy pensado en el que he trabajado muchos meses, se han quedado temas fuera, pero al final tenemos un álbum muy sólido, renovado, con una fórmula musical no escuchada, creo que he crecido y eso me lo han dado los productores. "El disco va a dar mucho de

qué hablar, sigo varios géneros y eso es parte del crecimiento, de no estancarme, en el que, incluso, hay canciones más maduras", asegura, presumiendo algunas como "Melodía de tu Alma" y "Enséñame".

Y es que desde que Pau se convirtió en el 2007 en la esposa de Nicolás Vallejo, sus sentidos se han avivado y no se conforma con contemplar el trabajo de producción desde afuera: se involucra en todo.

Es por eso que lejos de preocuparse por el look o el nuevo video, lo que le importa es el mensaje que llevan las canciones y los riesgos que tomará con nuevos géneros musicales en temas como "Más que Amigo", "Algo de Ti", "A Contraluz" y "Danza del Escorpión".

"Mi imagen siempre ha tratado de ser con mucho glamour y al mismo tiempo con mucho punto de rock, eso es lo que estamos tratando de reflejar porque Gran City Pop tiene una colaboración muy cercana con el rock y tiene diferentes géneros dentro de un mismo álbum, conforme vayamos presentando cada canción vamos a tratar de matizar", puntualiza la mexicana que participará el 23 de abril en los Premios Billboard.

Y será ahí donde la cantante muestra por primera vez "Causa y Efecto", de la autoría de Mario

Domm, single con el que arancará la presentación del disco que contiene 12 temas.

"La canción la compuso conmigo, hablando y preguntando: ¿Qué quieres decir?, ¿En qué estás?, yo

hablaba con él de toda la causa y el efecto de lo que hacemos y de que muchas veces las cosas se dan la vuelta, como en una relación que ahí (en la canción) se plantea las cosas pueden cambiar.

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**TEXAS LOTTERY**



# Power Rankings: One of the bleak will inherit Blake



of Griffin.

2. Memphis (19-54): The Grizzlies have taken one nice step at a time with Michael Conley and O.J. Mayo in the backcourt and Rudy Gay and Hakim Warrick up front. They are a dominant big man away from being the next Portland. Griffin's that guy. Without him, they're the next Oklahoma City.

3. Oklahoma City (20-53): The Thunder are a year behind the Grizzlies in terms of the grand plan, but their foundation of Russell Westbrook, Kevin Durant and Jeff Green trumps Memphis' best three. Like the Grizzlies, the biggest remaining hole is in the middle, which is the hardest to fill. That's why landing Griffin, a native of the Oklahoma City area, would be a dream come true -- and an instant ticket to the playoffs.

4. Minnesota (21-53): Kudos to Kevin McHale for getting the most out of the least this season. This collection of talent without Al Jefferson should be challenging the Kings for lottery favoritism. But with a healthy Jefferson and Kevin Love up front, the Timberwolves need Griffin far less than the top three on this list. After making a Love-Mayo draft-day trade last June, they need this year's Mayo, who probably doesn't exist.

5. Los Angeles Clippers (18-56): If this rag-tag organization lands the No. 1 pick, there should be an immediate do-over. With Baron Davis, Ricky Davis, Zach Randolph and Marcus Camby, the Clippers waste more talent than any two teams west of New York City. They're going nowhere anytime soon, and Griffin's career will go nowhere if he lands with this group.

6. Washington (17-58): Let's be honest: This is not one of the six worst teams in the league. With Gilbert Arenas in the lineup a majority of the season, the Wizards would have at least 10 more wins, which would put them on the fringe of the playoff chase in the East. They don't need Griffin to be right back there next year.

So, who's No. 30 in this week's CBSSports.com Power Rankings? It's gotta be the Clippers, because the worst team in the league (Sacramento) has too much pride to reside there.

The Blake Griffin Sweepstakes is heating up. Or, if you've noted the shooting percentages of the clubs most desperate to attain his services, perhaps cooling down would be a better way of phrasing it.

As the calendar flips to vacation month for the league's lightweights, the Kings, Wizards, Clippers, Grizzlies, Thunder and Timberwolves remain in the running for pole position at the NBA Draft lottery, where this year's grand prize is grander than most.

Griffin, the Oklahoma standout, might not be the best rookie ever to enter the NBA. But rarely has there been a year when the gap between Nos. 1 and 2 was so great.

Simply stated: If you luck into the No. 1 pick and add the super Sooner to your frontcourt, even a 20-game winner could challenge for a playoff spot next season. Whereas if you pick second (or below), you better look elsewhere for your chief means of improvement ... or plan on another game of pingpong next May.

Throwing records and lottery odds aside, it's clear who should get the No. 1 pick in June. Here's how I rate the weakest of the weak in the NBA today (record through Monday's games in parentheses):

1. Sacramento (16-56): The sad part about the Kings' worst-in-the-league record is they offer no excuses. Everybody has been relatively healthy, their best player (Kevin Martin) is having a good season and their past two lottery picks (Spencer Hawes and Jason Thompson) have potential. This team is so bad, it's the only one in the league that probably wouldn't make the playoffs even with the addition

# López conquista la corona supermosca



El puerorriqueño José 'Carita' López conquistó el cetro supermosca de la Organización Mundial de Boxeo

de Posuwan por su constante agresividad.

"Fue una pelea fuerte, pero estaba preparado para él (Posuwan) y su ritmo de pelea en el ring", comentó López.

En el cuarto asalto, el boricua estuvo más efectivo con el jab, logrando buenas combinaciones para ganar el episodio, aunque luego de la campana el tailandés le tiró varios golpes, siendo amonestado nuevamente por el árbitro.

Posuwan, de 39 años, se mantuvo activo todo el tiempo y tuvo varios pasajes de amenaza para su rival.

El séptimo episodio fue el más emocionante de la pelea, ya que ambos intercambiaron fuertes golpes en el centro del cuadrilátero. A los dos minutos, López conectó una fuerte derecha que puso en mal estado a Posuwan.

Pensando que lo había derribado, le dio la espalda y comenzó a caminar hacia la esquina neutral, pero el árbitro le ordenó que continuará la pelea y el capítulo terminó con un intercambio de golpes en el centro del ring.

Durante la pelea hubo de todo un poco, entre ellos cabezazos, golpes a los planos bajos y el árbitro también tuvo que detener en cuatro ocasiones el combate en el octavo asalto para amarrarle los guantes a López.

López implantó su ley desde el cuarto round, luego de que en el tercero cayera en el saco

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# Final Four forecast: shivers, anti-Detroit sentiments ... and Tar Heels

Congratulations North Carolina, Michigan State, Villanova and Connecticut.

You're headed to the Final Four. Now I hope you like rain and snow!

Because while the average fan was checking the opening lines, I was checking the 10-day forecast at weather.com, and sources close to the 10-day forecast told CBSSports.com that it's going to be cold and wet and possibly icy, which would be great if this were the Winter X Games. But this is the Final Four -- not the Frozen Four -- and the Final Four is something best held in a warm climate, as is pretty much everything ... except the Winter X Games.

Which is not a knock on Detroit. Let's be clear about that.

I hate it when writers pick on a city with a questionable reputation, because it's something that happens to my hometown all the time, mostly because my hometown excels in shady politics and violent crimes. But you know what? I love my hometown and all of its flaws. So I can sympathize with Detroit residents who will almost certainly spend this week reading one bad joke after another about their city, and I'm here to promise right now they won't read those jokes from me, because any city with a Marriott and a bar is tolerable for a week, far as I'm concerned.

It's just that I hate cold weather. It makes me cold.

But I'll pack a coat and deal with it the best I can.

And here's your first look at the Final/Frozen Four ...The matchups

• Connecticut vs. Michigan State (on Saturday at 6:07 p.m. ET)

• North Carolina vs. Villanova (on Saturday at 8:47 p.m. ET)

(After I checked the weather, I did check the opening lines because I feel it's necessary to keep the degenerate gamblers informed. For those curious, UConn is favored by 4.0 points over Michigan State while UNC is favored by 7.5 points over Villanova. My advice: Lay the points!)

1. Hansbrough's last chance: Tyler Hansbrough's college career

is among the best in NCAA history from a statistical standpoint, but he'll be viewed one way if he never wins a national title, another if he gets this done. The ACC's all-time leading scorer is a four-time All-American who has now made three Elite Eights and two Final Fours. But that national championship is missing, and if he doesn't get it, his career will forever be missing something.

2. MSU in Detroit: It's 91 miles from the Breslin Center to Ford Field, so you can expect to see a lot of green in the building Saturday, which should give the Spartans a home-court advantage. Of course, last time they played at Ford Field, they lost to UNC by 35 in December, and they had a nice home-court advantage then, too. So who knows?

3. From fourth in the Big East to the Final Four: Villanova finished fourth in the Big East, lost to Louisville by 14 in the Big East tournament semifinals, and the Wildcats were never considered among the best in their league. People argued the merits of Connecticut, Louisville and Pittsburgh, debated the order of those three all season. But almost nobody allowed the Wildcats into that conversation, and yet here they are, two wins away from a national title. Good for them.

4. Those cheating UConn Huskies: This should be a great time for UConn fans, and I'm sure it is. But there's no denying every great thing that happened last week is -- and every great thing that could happen later this week will be -- somewhat tainted by the alleged recruiting violations surrounding Nate Miles, a student-athlete who enrolled but never played at the school. Like it or not, that's reality. And I just hope Jim Calhoun figures out some better answers to the questions before the press conferences Thursday, because the press conferences last week didn't go so smoothly.

# Hatton: Pacquiao's De La Hoya win a fluke



Ricky Hatton thinks Manny Pacquiao's big win over Oscar De La Hoya in December was a fluke. Hatton (45-1, 32 KOs) is counting on beating the Filipino star on May 2 in Las Vegas.

"Any win against Oscar is a magnificent one. Is that the Oscar De La Hoya we have come to love? I don't think so," Hatton said. "And only Oscar can say what happened on the scales. He looked a shell of the Oscar we know. I don't think it was hard to beat Oscar that night."

Pacquiao (48-3-2) and Hatton were at a red carpet event at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood to promote the junior welterweight title fight for the first and only time in the U.S.

Actor Mickey Rourke walked the red carpet, as did UCLA men's basketball coach Ben Howland and former NFL linebacker Willie McGinest.

Pacquiao wants the IBO title, which belongs to Hatton.

But Hatton thinks he will have a leg up against one of the sport's best pound-for-pound fighters.

"A lot of people are seeing it as size versus speed and a lot of people thought Paulie Malignaggi would outspeed me and that wasn't the case and that was only after seven weeks with my new training team," Hatton said.

"We're even quicker again. If you could see how fast I'm

performing, there's not that big a gap there. Ultimately I think size will play a big factor. He has dangers in other areas, like his speed and footwork but I'm boxing a lot cuter than I was a few years ago."

Pacquiao is known for his speed. But he could be fighting his biggest opponent in Hatton. Pacquiao was fighting in the super featherweight division last March and weighed 129 pounds. He moved up to welterweight to fight De La Hoya, who lost weight for the matchup.

De La Hoya didn't come out of his corner after the eighth round. Hatton suggested that De La Hoya tried to make weight too early.

"That's what people believe. Maybe they were rooting for Oscar and maybe they were fans of Oscar," Pacquiao said. "It's hard to make reasons or alibis after the fight. It's not good."

Pacquiao told reporters he weighs 148 pounds. He is training with Freddie Roach in Hollywood and said camp was going well.

Hatton, who is training in Las Vegas, said he was feeling good at 150. "We started training camp earlier, started sparring earlier, started running earlier. It's just because of the size of the fight. It's a fight I massively believe I can win. A boxer can't get any higher if he's the number one pound-for-pound fighter in the world, so I need to just go about me business more so than ever."

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Aplican impuestos federales, estatales y locales. Además, Alltel puede cobrar cargos mensuales por conectividad, cargos regulatorios, administrativos y por proporcionar el servicio 911 de hasta \$2.19 y tarifas federales y estatales del Fondo de Servicio Universal (ambas tarifas varían según el uso del cliente). Estas tarifas adicionales pueden no ser impuestos o cargos requeridos por el gobierno y están sujetos a cambios. Para obtener más información adicional acerca de tus impuestos, cuotas y tarifas, consulta a un representante de servicio al cliente de Alltel o tu factura mensual. **COMPRA UNO RECIBE UNO:** Para obtener el teléfono gratis, el cliente deberá activar dos (2) líneas de servicio. **Detalles del Teléfono:** Los teléfonos y los reembolsos que apliquen están disponibles por tiempo limitado, hasta agotar existencias con la activación de un plan de tarifas que califique. El reembolso será en forma de una tarjeta de regalo VISA. Limitado a 1 reembolso por compra que califique. El teléfono puede ser devuelto dentro de los primeros 15 días de compra. Si el certificado del reembolso por correo ha sido presentado, Alltel devolverá el precio de la compra menos el monto del reembolso. El cliente tiene que pagar los impuestos que apliquen. Consulta el certificado del reembolso para obtener más detalles. **Información Adicional:** Esta oferta puede estar limitada por tiempo, existencias, cobertura o localidades participantes. Hay un cargo no reembolsable de \$25 por activación por línea. Puede aplicar una tarifa de \$200 por línea por cancelación prematura del contrato. El servicio está sujeto a las Normas y Condiciones para Servicios de Comunicaciones y otra información disponible en todas las tiendas Alltel o en alltel.com. Todas las marcas de productos y servicios indicados son los nombres, nombres comerciales, marcas comerciales y logotipos de sus correspondientes propietarios. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType® y las marcas, símbolos y logotipos relacionados, son propiedades de Research In Motion Limited, y están registrados y/o son usados en los Estados Unidos y en países alrededor del mundo. Las imágenes de las pantallas son simuladas. ©2009 Alltel Communications, LLC. Todos los derechos reservados.