

Casualties of
War in Iraq
3,545
as of June 21,
2007

El Editor

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

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Support Efforts to Rename Canyon Lakes Drive

Hispanic Agenda Working to Meet Individually with Mayor and City Council Members

Although the vote to rename Canyon Lakes Drive in honor of Cesar E. Chavez has yet to come up before the Lubbock City Council, a local organization wants to make sure that when it finally does,



the Mayor and the rest of the council members are aware of the Lubbock organization's support for the renaming.

Hispanic Agenda (HA) a local Hispanic organization whose mission it is: "to promote, achieve, and maintain proportionate Hispanic empowerment, participation, and representation at all levels of decision making and problem solving processes in the public and private policy making institutions of the City and County of Lubbock" plan to meet individually with council members to make them aware of their support for the renaming.

According to Alice Lozada who has been an active member of HA for several years, the meetings with council members were initiated by the organization and the purpose is to "obtain support for Cesar Chavez Dr. and to determine each council member's level of commitment to this effort.

In the past few weeks, several Lubbock residents have also addressed the council in support of the renaming;

among them, former councilwoman Maggie Trejo who appeared before the council in support of the name change. Others have also addressed the council in support of the effort including Janie Landin Ramirez, who in 2004 ran as a candidate for the council's District 2 seat and currently serves as programs coordinator with Raiders Rojos; a Texas Tech alumni organization. Jessie Rangel, who recently retired after 30 plus years with Texas Tech, reminded the council that if it was a sin to help people, as Chavez did, then everyone is a sinner. Rangel seemed to be referring to those who have called Chavez a "controversial figure".

Grace Garza, a member of local LULAC Council 263 informed the council that a resolution in support of the name change had been unanimously adopted recently at the Texas State LULAC Convention. According to Garza, the resolution will now be presented at the LULAC National Convention which will be held July 9-14 in Chicago. The hope is that it will also be adopted by the organization's membership.

In her first appearance before the council in May, Garza serenaded the council with her rendition of a song verse from a song written about Cesar Chavez. Before her acapella rendition, Garza had emphasized the impact Chavez had; not only on farm workers but on her family and society in general.

The meetings with council members and the mayor are scheduled for 30 minutes each. According to a schedule provided by HA, members were scheduled to meet with Councilwoman Phyllis Jones on Monday June 18, with Councilman John Leonard on June 19th. Plans were underway to schedule meetings with other council members, Mayor David Miller and newly elected

District 3 councilman Todd Klein.

In Klein and Price, HA members may find that both members may have already made up their mind.

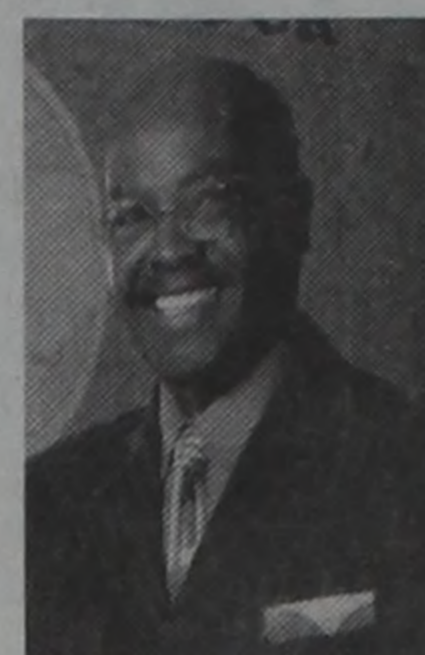
According to El Editor Publisher Bidal Agüero, Klein has gone on record as being opposed to the street selected. Klein told Agüero that he would prefer a larger more visible street to be named after Chavez. Price has indicated in the past that he is against renaming any street after an individual; and recently voted against renaming the street next to All Saints Episcopal School in south Lubbock to All Saints Way. The name change was ultimately adopted by the council by a 6 to 1 vote; despite Price's objections.

In the past, and before he became a city council member, Price supported the efforts to rename Quirt Ave in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Now it seems that his way of thinking has changed; at least when it comes to Chavez. But that could be due to the pressure Price may be feeling from some of his constituents.

Price may be feeling pressure to vote no by some leaders and residents from the black community who live in District 2 who have repeatedly said they are against the renaming. More than a few residents from east Lubbock neighborhood associations and District 2 have appeared before the council to voice their opposition to the renaming.

Most of those residents have been in agreement that Chavez deserves some kind of recognition; just not the renaming of the section of Canyon Lakes

Drive which runs through the eastern-most portion of the lake system. Those who have appeared before the council opposing the change have made it a point to cite Chavez's accomplish-



ments and impact on this country; not only Hispanics but people in general; much like the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s impact. They just don't agree that the name change should be made to a section of

the drive which they feel is in a mostly African American section of District 2.

Their main argument seems to be a territorial one. They seem to have taken an "it's ok to honor Chavez, just 'Not in My Backyard' position". The crux of their argument seems to be that the eastern most portion of Canyon Lakes Drive which runs east from east 19th street through the lake system should remain as it is because doing otherwise would somehow violate their territory.

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Gilbreath has also been cited as having said in the past that in his view Chavez was too controversial a figure; which might be a good indication of where he stands. A credible source, who spoke to El Editor on condition of anonymity, says that if the renaming issue were to come up for a vote today, proponents would come up short; with Miller and DeLeon voting for; Price, Gilbreath, Leonard, and Klein voting against and Jones being a toss up.

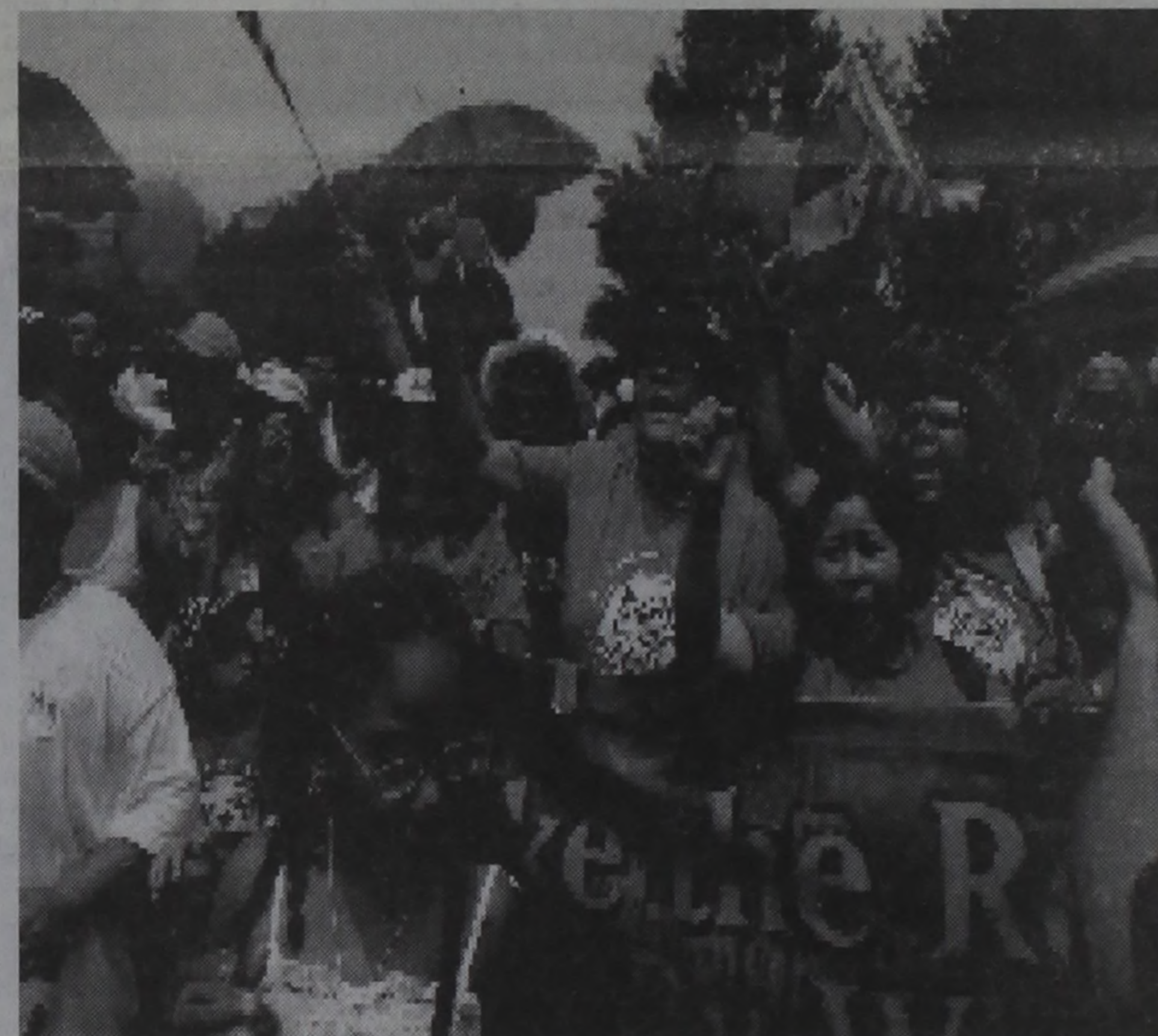
Nevertheless, Lozada and the rest of Hispanic Agenda members are participating in the democratic process and putting into practice the organization's values as stated in Hispanic Agenda's "values statement" which reads:

"We value the fundamental principles of our democratic form of government, our heritage, multiculturalism, and inclusiveness. These values, it is our belief and commitment, become our principle force and are the underpinnings for continued efforts to bring about change."

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Abogan en marcha por la reforma migratoria

Después de servicio religioso, líderes comunitarios e inmigrantes llegan a la Casa Blanca
Maribel Hastings



Con la inminente reanudación del debate migratorio en el Senado como telón de fondo, más de mil personas marcharon por las calles de esta capital hasta llegar a la Casa Blanca pidiendo una reforma migratoria justa y un alto a las redadas.

La marcha se llevó a cabo mientras el liderazgo demócrata del Senado planifica reanudar la consideración del proyecto migratorio y contempla mecanismos parlamentarios para evitar el bloqueo de la medida por parte de la oposición.

Es probable que hoy, miércoles, el líder de la mayoría demócrata del Senado, Harry Reid, presente la moción para proceder con el debate, aunque la votación sobre dicha moción podría ser el viernes. Requiere 60 votos. Hay necesario recalcar que nada es definitivo, pues de por medio está completar el proyecto de Energía.

Mientras tanto, un grupo de congresistas republicanos en la Cámara Baja presentó un proyecto de ley que se centra en la seguridad fronteriza y en centros de trabajo; rechaza lo que catalogan de "amnistía" por parte del Senado, pero deja fuera la medida de criminalización de indocumentados aprobada en ese organismo el año pasado.

Pero, entre otras cosas, la medida prohibiría el uso de la matrícula consular, declara el inglés como el idioma oficial de EU, no concede vía de legalización, pide la detención y deportación de todos los pandilleros, además de limitar el plan de trabajadores temporales a los del sector agrícola, pero reduciendo los requisitos de sueldo y eximiendo a los patrones de proveerles vivienda. Los autores de la Ley para Asegurar Primero las Fronteras son los congresistas republicanos conservadores Peter King, de Nueva York, y Lamar Smith, de Texas. Elton Gallegly, de California, también aportó componentes al proyecto que constituye un abierto reto al presidente George W. Bush, que ha pedido el avance de la medida retomada por el Senado.

Senadores republicanos como Jeff Sessions, de Alabama, apoyan los mismos preceptos, y presentó una resolución con esos mismos fines.

Y ayer hubo reportes de que los demócratas en la Cámara Baja estarían considerando dividir su proyecto de reforma migratoria en varias medidas para lidiar primero con lo más sencillo. Esto iría en contra de los deseos del Senado y de la Casa Blanca de que todo se aborde a la vez. Sin embargo, sólo es una idea que ha circulado.

Entre tanto, más de mil indocumentados, residentes con documentos legales, ciudadanos, activistas, estudiantes, líderes religiosos y sindicales marcharon para que el Congreso apruebe este año una reforma migratoria amplia.

Se reunieron en la Iglesia Metodista Episcopal Afroamericana (AME) del centro de Washington, y allí el senador de Massachusetts, Edward Kennedy, principal negociador demócrata del acuerdo del Senado, les hizo una promesa: "Voy a luchar por ustedes en el pleno del Senado de EU para conseguirles la reforma migratoria integral".

Tras el servicio de oración, los manifestantes iniciaron la caminata hasta la Casa Blanca, encabezados por decenas de madres con bebés en carritos.

La intensidad del calor sólo era superada por el entusiasmo de la multitud que coreaba "Legalización es la solución", "No somos uno, somos millones" y "Bush escucha, estamos en la lucha", entre otras consignas. Varios estudiantes portaban una pancarta que decía "Clase de 2007, Todavía Soñando", en referencia a la esperada DREAM Act, que permitiría la legalización de estudiantes indocumentados.

(Continúa en la página 2)

News Briefs:

Man Beaten to Death at Austin Apartment Complex

In a chilling example of how some people have no regard for human life; the Austin American Statesman reported on Wednesday that a man was killed by a group of men after the vehicle the man was a passenger in accidentally struck a child outside an east Austin apartment complex. The incident took place Tuesday June 19th.

Police say that at least 3,000 people were in the vicinity after a Juneteenth celebration when the beating took place. Police also say that they had been unable to find any witnesses who saw anyone intervening on the man's behalf.

Police arrived at the scene to find David Rivas Morales, 40, with severe injuries to his head and body. Morales was taken to Brackenridge Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The 3 year old who was struck by the car Morales was a passenger in, in an apartment complex parking lot, was treated at a local hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

Witnesses told police that a "group of men assaulted Morales when he stepped out of the car to try and stop the crowd from assaulting the driver".

Morales' sister who lives at the complex where the beating took place, was quoted as saying her brother was a "loving, caring man... I can't imagine him gone out of our lives forever".

Man Catches Fire after Being Tasered by San Angelo Police

Can a man who has been Tasered by police catch fire?

San Angelo police are trying to figure out just what happened after a man literally caught fire after being Tasered by San Angelo police.

The San Angelo Standard Times reported that Juan Flores Lopez, a 47 year old San Angelo resident died from his injuries on Tuesday after Lopez was involved in a confrontation with police on Monday. Police said they used pepper spray to try and subdue Lopez; who police say had a small lighter and a can of gas in his hand at one point during the altercation.

According to 2 of Lopez's sons, their father had threatened to burn his home and himself in the past. They also said Lopez had a history of mental illness.

According to reports, the Texas Rangers have gotten involved in the investigation and are trying to find out just what happened. They also were trying to ascertain whether a taser shock can cause something or the intended target to ignite and whether the lighter held by Lopez played any role in Lopez igniting.

The use of Tasers by law enforcement has become more and more controversial. In Lubbock alone, three instances of Taser use by officers with the Lubbock Police Department have resulted in one man's death and 3 lawsuits filed against the city.

In April 2006, Juan Manuel Nunez died after being Tasered by a Lubbock police officer. Until recently Nunez's lawsuit named the Taser manufacturer as a defendant; but this past week the manufacturer was dropped from the lawsuit. El Editor was unable to verify why the Nunez family decided to drop the Taser manufacturer from the lawsuit.

North Texas Town Votes English Official Language

Despite opposition from the majority of residents in attendance at the Denton County council meeting and the majority of people who emailed council members; the council voted to make English the official language of the town of Oak Point.

By doing so, the town of Oak Point follows in the footsteps of other cities like Farmers Branch, TX, who have passed a resolution making English their official language.

Town Oak City Manager Richard Martin said the resolution affects only Town Oaks operating policies and not individual businesses or persons. But it is impossible to think that resolutions such as these do not affect the town's citizens; since most people are forced to choose sides.

Because of the controversy and emotion surrounding the immigration issue, cities are moving closer to passing resolutions and city ordinances in an attempt to have local influence over how illegal immigration will be addressed.

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Hispanic NASA Astronaut Returning to Earth

By Leandra Martinez

John "Danny" Olivas, one of NASA's eight Hispanic astronauts, is expected back on Earth on Thursday after contributing to the repair of an essential component of the Atlantis space shuttle.

As lead for the shuttle's Special Purpose Dexterous Manipulator Robot, Mobile Transporter and the Mobile Base System, he was



responsible for repairing the insulating blanket on the outside of the spacecraft, which had blown back during launch. The blanket protects the back end of the spacecraft from temperatures of up to 1,000 degrees experienced during the shuttle's re-entry into Earth atmosphere.

Shortly after Atlantis docked at the International Space Station on June 10, all six computers at the station crashed. The computers control the oxygen generator, temperature, and a carbon dioxide scrubber, all essential for human survival in space.

After Russian astronauts fixed the computers by isolating a switch that appeared to be responsible for the malfunctions, two American astronauts - Mr. Olivas and James F. Reilly II - conducted a space walk to fix the blanket.

Mr. Olivas repaired the heat blanket that folded during the launch by using 21 stainless steel pins to connect the blanket to thermal tiles. Mr. Reilly replaced a water-discharge vent with a hydrogen vent as part of the station's new oxygen generation system.

Because of the malfunctions the International Space Station experienced, the 11-day Atlantis mission was turned into a 13-day mission. During the Atlantis' stay at the space station, astronauts conducted four space walks, installing a new truss segment, unfurling a pair of power-generating solar arrays, repairing the thermal blanket, and activating a rotating joint that enables the solar arrays to track the sun.

Twelve more construction missions are expected in the future to meet the 2010 deadline to finish building the International Space Station. The Atlantis mission is Mr. Olivas' first space flight.

Interviewed from the shuttle by his hometown TV station, El Paso, Texas' KFOX, Mr. Olivas found the experience almost left him speechless. "Words don't do it justice," he told KFOX. "There's just a tremendous feel of the vehicle as you're making an ascent and once you get into orbit, the feeling is just phenomenal and we've been enjoying it since we got here so it's... words are hard to describe."

NASA chose Mr. Olivas, who holds a Ph.D. from Rice University, as an astronaut candidate in 1998. Before becoming an astronaut, he worked as a senior research engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

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Cross Your I's and Dot Your T's

By Carlos Quirino, Jr.

Last week's decision by the City Secretary's office to disallow over sixty signatures which were submitted in good faith by District 1 registered voters is an about-face to the principles of fair and impartial elections and voter participation in our political system.

The issue is also compounded by the fact that the city's legal advisor has now jumped into the ring and in essence made a legal ruling which in the future may jeopardize future efforts by other Lubbock registered voters to petition for redress and recall any City Council member.

In light of the fact that an exerted effort has been made to portray Recall 2007 as a single issue campaign to unseat Councilwoman Linda De Leon, many have failed to realize that signatures on the petition were provided by registered voters who are tired, frustrated, and fed-up with an inattentive city hall who continues to ignore their needs. Residents of District 1 have been working diligently to remedy some of the most striking situations affecting their neighborhoods.

For example, the need to create real and meaningful recreation centers and facilities; the desire to beautify their barrios and change the appearance of the area where they live; and the desire to comply with code enforcement regulations now under the auspices of the police department. Residents of District 1 need to be recognized as an integral part of the City of Lubbock by being seriously considered in all aspects of economic growth and development.

So, how does this relate to efforts to call for a recall election in November? If I'm a registered voter and wish to sign a petition for whatever reason, I would expect that my signature be counted even if I did not dot the "I's" in my last name. For it was my full intention to be

included and counted on the petition regardless of whether the City Secretary or City Attorney considers my handwriting as legible. Does it really matter if your first name on your registration form says Antonio, yet you prefer to sign as Tony? After all, since very early in life teachers chose to change our names to their English versions, strictly for convenience. Since the presidential elections in 2000, the "Chad-gate" fiasco sent our countries electorate a clear message that not all was well with the methods being utilized to elect our officials.

Voters who signed the petition have every right to a true understanding of why their signatures were disqualified. Can they be assured that an independent party was present during the actual count? Where does the registered voter's intention come into play when deciding to disqualify a person's signature?

If we look at the State of California, we will begin to realize the importance of recall elections. Their present Republican governor was voted into office after just such an endeavor. Is this to become the order of the day? If so, what safeguards should be put in place to assure the legitimacy of the electoral process. This becomes even more critical if we consider that computers that are now being used in elections are not accountable. That is to say, it's very hard to establish a "paper trail".

Therefore, how can we really expect those with the authority to review and verify the signatures on a petition and in the end do the "right thing"? Only with the complete review of the recall process can District 1 voters be assured that their manifested discontent has truly been represented.

It would behoove those of us who hold our civil and political liberties close to our hearts to seek whatever legal recourse necessary to maintain those guarantees.

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Talk About It!

Where is the Diversity on Television?

By Kirk Shelton

Why does it seem so difficult to find television shows starring Chicano and Latino characters? The results of a recent study conducted by the nonprofit organization Children Now attempts to answer that question by demonstrating that Latinos are heavily underrepresented in primetime television among the major nationwide networks. Census 2000 data shows that 12.5% of the population of the United States is Hispanic, but the Children Now study reports that only 6.5% of the characters appearing in primetime television are Latinos.

The study also noted that Latinos only account for 4% of the young characters that appear in primetime television and that Latinos were 4 times more likely to play domestic workers and almost 3 times as likely to play criminals when compared to white actors. The findings from the study were not all bad news. The percentage of Latino characters has risen from 4% to 6.5% between 2001 and 2003. Latino characters also appeared in over 50% of the dramas that were included in the study.

Underrepresentation in primetime is not a problem that Latinos face alone. Asian characters are also difficult to find in primetime television, accounting for only 3% of total characters and a mere 1% of main characters. Native American characters did not appear in any of the shows included in the study.

Debates rage over why there are so few Latino roles on broadcast television. One common complaint is that television writers do not create roles for Latinos and that network executives often reject shows that star Latino characters. A UCLA study in 2002 looked at primetime television and found that Latinos accounted for only 0.8% of directors, 1.7% of writers, and 1.7% of network executives in charge of programming. These numbers are staggering low considering the large percent of the television viewing audience that is Latino. Network insiders counter that there is no audience for Latino shows. Despite the success of shows such as The George Lopez Show on ABC, some point to the failure of recent shows such as Luis (FOX) and Greeting from Tucson (WB) as evidence of the lack of interest in Latino themed shows. Ratings play an integral role in determining the success of new television shows. Luis was cancelled after only three episodes due to poor rating performance.

The Nielsen ratings have been under siege by advocacy groups that suggest that Nielsen ratings fail to correctly account for Latino viewers. The Nielsen Media Company has attempted to deal with these criticisms by creating the Nielsen Hispanic-American Television Index (NHATI) that aims to measure the viewing habits of Latinos and by developing a new model that will weight the viewing habits of Latinos. The NHATI English language ratings have consistently shown that Hispanic viewers prefer shows such as American Idol, Simpsons, and Friends to shows that star Latino characters such as The George Lopez Show. If the Nielsen ratings are correct,

why are Latinos not interested in watching shows starring Latino characters? There are many answers to this question that revolve around the selection of shows that are offered to Latino viewers. With only one show in primetime television that has a Latino-only starring cast, it is unfair to hold up a single show as a standard bearer for all Latinos against over one hundred other shows in primetime television. Focusing on English language primetime also fails to recognize the effects of Spanish language programming. Univision attracts over three million Spanish language viewers on an average night and Telemundo reaches almost another million. Spanish language programming features almost exclusively Latino characters and many bilingual Latinos can turn to Spanish programming when English programming fails to meet their needs. Shows that include Latino characters in leading roles, including CSI: Miami and Without A Trace along with reality shows ranging from Survivor to American Idol, have also been very successful among Latino audiences and the entire market in general. Latinos make up an ever-increasing percentage of the American population and their voice, preferences, and spending power is not something that the broadcast networks are going to be able to afford ignoring for much longer. The talent already exists within the Latino community to produce writers and actors that can portray realistic roles for Latinos. The television viewing market is hungry for entertaining shows that accurately depict the diversity of our nation. The Children Now study suggests that progress towards a greater Latino presence in primetime may be slow, but it is occurring. It is up to the major broadcast networks to continue and accelerate that progress so that more Latinos are appearing in front of the camera and also behind the camera as writers, directors, and network executives. The monopolistic control that the Nielsen Media Company has in the television ratings market also needs to be examined by independent auditing to ensure that the Nielsen ratings are a fair and accurate assessment of the American viewing audience. When viewers tune in during primetime, they should find Latino actors and actresses playing important roles on television just as Latinos play an integral role in American society.

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Information on Children Now and their study can be found at www.childrennow.org. The UCLA study can be found at www.chicano.ucla.edu/press/briefs/default.htm. Information on Nielsen's Nielsen Hispanic-American Television Index is available at: Kirk Shelton received his Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Southern California, School of Policy, Planning, and Development. His previous research includes analyzing diversity in the University of California system, conducting a feasibility study for the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, and serving as a research assistant for a book on social movements in Latin America.

Inmigración

Sigue de la Primera

Vinieron de todas partes, representaban a diferentes países y continentes, diversas razas y edades. Algunos hicieron el recorrido con andadores, otros en sillas de ruedas.

Al llegar al Parque Lafayette, frente a la Casa Blanca, Eleazar Cruz, un joven de 16 años, de Pico Union, en Los Ángeles, dijo a La Opinión que vino a la capital representando a cientos de miles de estudiantes indocumentados como él que aguardan por la DREAM Act.

"Necesito la DREAM Act. Quiero estudiar administración de empresas, pero no puedo recibir dinero de becas porque no tengo papeles", indicó.

Su mensaje para la Casa Blanca y los políticos del Congreso fue claro: "Los estudiantes somos el futuro y vamos a beneficiar al país".

El padre Luis Ángel Nieto, de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles, tuvo un mensaje para la Casa Blanca y para los legisladores de ambos partidos: "Que se dejen de sinvergüenzadas. Lo que están haciendo es un doble discurso con mucho cinismo".

"Lo vergonzoso está en que han ido a defender derechos afuera derramando sangre, cuando no han tenido el valor para defender los derechos en casa. Ahí está el cinismo. Ahí está la sinvergüenzada, tanto de unos como de otros", indicó.

Angélica Salas, directora ejecutiva de CHIRLA, dijo a este diario que las organizaciones a nivel local "están en una postura muy difícil", pues quieren que el proceso legislativo siga su curso "porque nuestra comunidad está sedienta de una reforma".

Pero tampoco desean una medida que suponga la separación de familias. Por eso, agregó, "hay que seguir adelante" con la presión por los cambios.

El proyecto que el Senado retomará incluye el lenguaje que asigna 4,400 millones de dólares para la seguridad fronteriza y aplicación de leyes en los centros de trabajo, además de que considerará una veintena de nuevas enmiendas. Incluye las enmiendas aprobadas antes de que la medida se retirara del pleno. En esa oportunidad las enmiendas de reunificación familiar fueron derrotadas.

De ahí que muchos teman que el producto que emerge del Senado se aparte demasiado de los preceptos que ellos defienden. El argumento de los senadores que negociaron el acuerdo es que aunque la medida sea imperfecta hay posibilidades de mejorarla cuando llegue a la Cámara Baja (si es que sale del Senado) o en la negociación bicameral.

Cristina López, subdirectora ejecutiva del Centro para el Cambio Comunitario, dijo que mantendrán la presión por los cambios, y aunque salga del Senado sin éstos, "seguiremos luchando cuando llegue a la

Tom Adams' Bureaucratic Apologia

By Abel Cruz

He would be the last speaker to address the Lubbock City Council. An unusual occurrence for sure; it's not every day; rare in fact, that a city employee uses the "comment period" of a regularly scheduled city council meeting to address the council. He walks up to the podium and begins to speak:

"My name is Tom Adams", he then gives his home address. "I appreciate the chance to make a few comments. Let me begin by making an apology if I might (like if he's asking for permission). This is an inconvenience for our citizens, it is much more than an inconvenience for many businesses and for that I am more than willing to accept responsibility and make a public apology for the situation we find ourselves in." He continues, "I know the news and press have tried in their various ways to point blame and in many circumstances council takes the heat for that when it's not council's responsibility".

He continues, "It was my assumption that we should proceed and complete the project even though the August deadline forces us to do construction in the summer. That was my assumption. It was my decision and I could have notified, should have notified council accordingly. This is not just a water distribution line that takes water to a few homes, this is a water supply line and we were not able to communicate that effectively to TxDot, even the August 1st deadline, they still don't understand how significant that is to the city". "The rains we have had, we saw we were not going to be able to complete this project, pushing us into the summer months, our staff insured we could meet the essential needs and I made another assumption if we could meet essential needs, we would be Okay".

It's an inconvenience for the city and much more for many citizens," Adams said. "I am more than willing to assume responsibility (second time) and make a public apology for the situation we find ourselves in."

And the winner of the 2007 "CYA Award" is none other than Deputy City Manager Tom Adams; whose new mantra in the future may include the phrase "water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink".

And there you have it; in less than 300 words and in less time than it takes for water to evaporate on a hot west Texas day, Mr. Adams jukes and weaves his way through a bureaucratic apologia which would have even impressed "Brownie"! You remember Brownie of Katrina fame don't you? I tell you, there was so much smoke and mirrors in that performance I thought Adams would transform himself into the magician David Blaine right before our very eyes.

Let's face it; Adams attempt at an apology was just an orchestrated event staged to apologize to the Lubbock City Council for making them look bad and to pretend to fall on his sword in an effort to absolve himself and blame the media who in his words "point blame".

If Mr. Adams includes me as one who points blame; then he's right. Though I call it just telling it like it is without pussyfooting around like a "girlie-man" would do (with credit to Arnold for the girlie-man description). His apologia was not aimed at city residents and business owners who have been financially affected; at best it was a pathetic attempt to make sure residents would not blame the council and a blatant attempt to do some damage control. And believe me; I know damage control when I see it; I've seen it from the very best.

It takes just a few lines before the typical bureaucrat in Adams starts to come out. As I wrote last week, most bureaucrats are loathe to blame themselves for any mistakes or bad decisions; it's always someone else's fault; in this case the media. Two lines into it he says; "let me begin by "making an apology if I might"; only a bureaucrat talks that way.

He then apologizes to the council for bringing "heat" on them when they don't deserve it, he says. What about the business owners; do they deserve what they have gotten due to Adams' inept performance?

Mr. Adams then goes on to understate the severity of the situation by labeling what has happened as an "inconvenience" for residents and "much more than an inconvenience" for businesses; notice how he doesn't elaborate so as to not to let us in on the serious consequences business owners and their employees have had to suffer through. Does Adams honestly think that describing the impact on city landscape business owners and others who depend on water to make a living as "much more than an inconvenience" do justice to the situation?

In fact the next to last speaker, right before Adams spoke, was a gentleman by the name of John Smothers who owns a local landscaping business and is a member in a trade organization which represents these types of businesses. Mr. Smothers informs the council that "1,000 jobs have been affected in Lubbock and that there has been a 50% drop in normal sales volume"; that's a lot of jobs! He goes on to point out that the landscape business is a time sensitive business and this is their peak season. I'm sure Adams heard this; but rather than acknowledge Mr. Smothers comments and apologize to him personally and publicly and by extension other affected employees and business owners who have been negatively impacted, Adams, in typical bureaucratic style just sticks to what seems to be his prepared statement.

For those of you who are thinking that I'm being too hard on Adams and should cut him some slack; well, we'll just have to disagree on this one.

Because my view is that Adams' job performance has been abysmal; and is grounds for dismissal; he should be fired! I guarantee you low level management employees have been fired for less.

Ok, I haven't been personally affected; I don't own a landscaping business; my lawn is ok thanks to the rains, but when do we reach a point where residents of this city hold city management responsible and accountable for their inept and poor performance? If City Manager Dumbauld won't do it; if the mayor and city council can't do it because they cannot interfere directly with employees; then who is left to hold civil servants accountable if it's not the tax paying residents of this city?

In this instance Adams decisions and "assumptions" he says he made resulted in some serious consequences. Businesses have lost significant amounts of money. If the services offered by those businesses are taxable services, the city has lost potential tax revenue. The city sells water to us, its customers, and not only charges for water usage but taxes us as well. How much revenue will the city wind up losing since residents have been unable to "buy" more water; what about those lost revenues? And how about the people who have been laid off from their job; according to Mr. Smothers, 1,000 people have been affected. What about them; who makes them whole again? How do they recoup their lost wages; how do they pay their bills?

The latest is that the city has asked the contractor working on the Sharp project to work 24/7. The contractor already has crews working 16 hour shifts and now the city wants round the clock shifts to fix Adams' mess. By the way, who will pay the tab for the extra hours; the city; us?

But all Adams has to do is put on a show during the citizens comment period and all of a sudden he's let off the hook. I would remind Mr. Adams that the citizen comment period is for citizens to address the council. It is not designed for employees who screw up to appear and continue to give flimsy excuses framed as an apology.

Luckily for Mr. Adams, it seems to have had the desired effect. Here's Mayor Miller being quoted in an AJ story published the day after Adams spoke to the council: "I appreciate a man stepping up and assuming responsibility."

Ok let's say Adams' assumed responsibility; now what does City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld plan to do next? Absolutely nothing would be my guess if history teaches us anything. Will there be any accountability; will Adams bear any consequences at all for his inept performance, poor decision making and inability to adequately communicate the severity of the "assumed" consequences to TxDot? A suspension perhaps; a reprimand maybe; I wouldn't hold my breath.

The mayor is a business owner. I ask him, if one of his employees made a decision, similar to Adams' which caused him to lose a very significant amount of revenue and resulted in his having to lay off employees or caused his major clients to lose money and negatively impacted Spirit Ranch's business reputation; would he just shrug his shoulders and let the person responsible skate by just because he "assumed responsibility"? I don't think so.

The question then becomes, why should this situation be handled any differently than it would in the business world? Why should performance standards, if any exist in our city government; and I'm beginning to think that they don't, be lowered to accommodate one person; Mr. Adams?

One thing is to assume responsibility; that's fine. But what's next? If there are no consequences to bear, then what's the point of assuming responsibility? Once upon a time, if someone accepted responsibility for one's actions; you can bet there were always consequences to bear. And what of the staff which "assured" essential needs could be met. What are the consequences for them?

Then there's Mayor Pro Tem Jim Gilbreath's comment: "I don't want to point fingers but I will say that there was, it looks to me that there was a significant communications breakdown and Tom got up and apologized and I appreciate him doing that." Listen closely to what he said: "a significant communications breakdown". See how bureaucrats and politicians dance around the issue and try and find just the right words to suit their purpose? "I don't want to point fingers; it looks to me that"; just tell it like it is Mr. Gilbreath; quit beating around the bush!

So that's it; it's over; no further consequences. If you are Adams all you have to do is use the word apology once, dance around the real issues; strike your chest a few times as you utter the words "mea culpa, mea culpa" and viola you are "The Man Who did Nothing Wrong".

Here's an excerpt from the local AJ which is Adams' most telling quote of all: "Adams said as director of the city water department, he was responsible for the projects and that "elements that would like to beat up the council" over the restrictions were aiming at the wrong target. "It's not appropriate that they've taken the hits that they've taken in this instance," he said of the council members.

Adams is clearly more concerned with the "elements that would like to beat up the council" and the "hits" the council has taken than he is about being sincere and directing his apology to the people most affected.

In short Adams' supposed mea culpa was just a disingenuous sideshow. In my view, Adams' performance and subsequent dog and pony show's sole objective was designed and performed to impress the wrong people.

In case you're wondering about my use of the word "apologia"; I've used it because it is the perfect word to describe what Adams really did here.

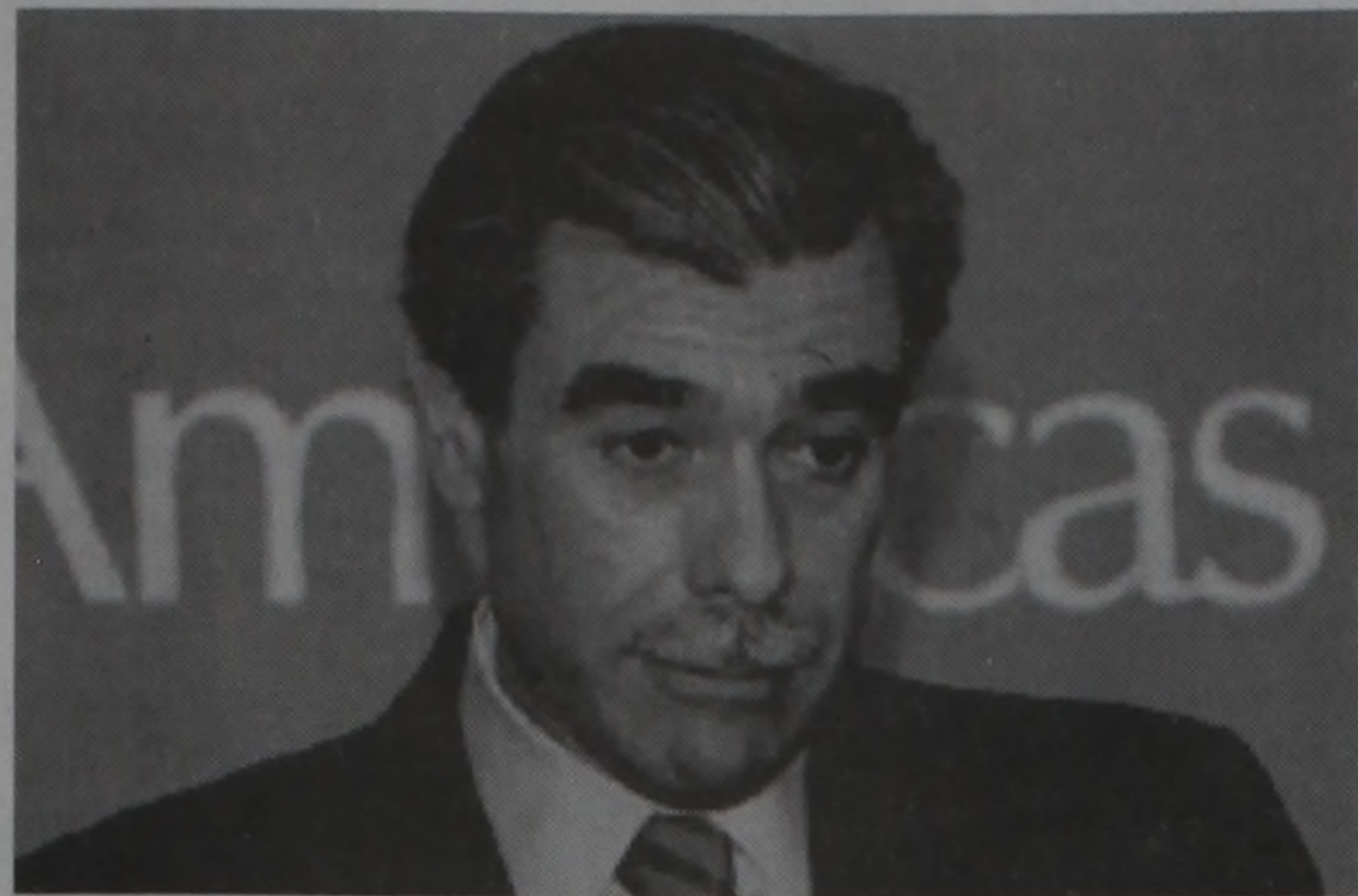
Apologia - A statement that justifies or defends something, such as a past action or policy.

Better go, I hear someone in my alley messing around with my water meter!
email: acruztc@sol.com

Gutierrez Says Economy Growing Faster Than the Work Force

Immigration legislation is vital to national security and to the economy, U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez said Monday.

"Our economy is growing faster than our work force," Gutierrez said in an interview after he addressed the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at the Hyatt Tamaya. "That can't continue. I'm hearing from business people all the time they just can't find people to do the jobs that are open."



Polling shows most Americans "want comprehensive reform that makes sense, that finds the balance," Gutierrez said. "But you do find the very loud minority that's overwhelming members of Congress" with telephone calls and letters opposing immigration legislation.

The Senate, after a bruising debate, failed to pass a bipartisan immigration reform bill earlier this month. Senate leaders say they expect to renew the immigration debate before July 4.

"Immigration brings growth," Gutierrez said. "It brings vitality. It brings energy to the country."

Gutierrez said some worry that too many immigrants don't speak English and have poor job skills. The Commerce secretary, whose family immigrated from Cuba when he was 6 years old, has said he learned to speak English from a Miami bellhop.

"The next generation (of immigrants) goes to school and gets college degrees," he said. "Conceptually, there is one group (of opponents) unwilling to accept anything other than mass deportation" of the estimated 12 million people living in the United States in violation of immigration laws, he said.

Other opponents object to provisions of the bill that would admit fewer immigrants on the basis of family ties to current residents and more because of the job skills they can offer, Gutierrez said.

Americans go through periods of hostility toward immigrants, he said. "I think it's part of our course as a nation," he said. "There used to be signs that said no Irish need apply."



In photo is the June winner of the Guadalupe Neighborhood "Yard of the Month". Receiving the check from the Yard of the Month committee is winners Frankie & Veronica Valderaz who reside at 222 Ave. K.. Joe & Sandy Cisneros serve as members of the Yard of the Month Committee. Also honorary mention for the Yard of the Month were Rudy & Teresa Balderez who reside at 204 N. Ave. M (in photo). July Yard of the Month will be selected the middle of next month.

Immigration bill offers a military path to US dream

A little-noticed provision in the proposed immigration bill would grant instant legal status and ultimately full citizenship to illegal immigrants if they enlist in the US military, an idea the Pentagon and military analysts say would boost the Pentagon's flagging efforts to find and recruit qualified soldiers.

The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, or DREAM Act, is part of the stalled package of proposals that many in Congress are seeking to resurrect. The proposal, applicable to an estimated 750,000 undocumented residents of military age, stipulates that those who arrived in the United States before age 16, graduated from high school, and meet other qualifications could immediately enter the path to citizenship in exchange

for at least two years' service in the armed forces.

Though the overall immigration bill was sidetracked earlier this month amid bitter infighting, the prospect of using military service as one pathway to citizenship appeals both to lawmakers who side with immigration rights advocates and those who want tougher immigration laws and tighter borders.

The DREAM Act is among a series of proposals that make up the immigration bill, the subject of high-stakes negotiations between President Bush and congressional lawmakers from both parties. Proponents urged Bush to use his influence to get it passed, and the president predicted the controversial changes would succeed, despite lingering opposition from some in his own party.

Bill Carr, the Pentagon's acting deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy, said the measure should become law because it would be "good for readiness" -- particularly at a time when the military, under pressure from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, is struggling to attract high-quality recruits. At the same time, the Army and Marine Corps want to increase their ranks by nearly 100,000 over the next five years.

The prospect of recruiting foreigners to defend the United States has been a charged issue in the past. The Pentagon, for example, has opposed several proposals from leading defense specialists to recruit troops overseas -- a move critics liken to hiring mercenaries.

Using the military service

option for select illegal immigrants, however, appears to have widespread support as one way to deal with the burgeoning illegal immigration problem.

There are currently about 35,000 non citizens serving in the US military and about 8,000 join each year to take advantage of an accelerated path to citizenship, according to Pentagon statistics. The government wants to further accelerate the process; about 4,000 immigrants serving in uniform became citizens in 2005, compared with 750 in 2001.

Under current law, only citizens and non citizens who are legal residents and hold green cards qualify to serve in the armed forces. By allowing undocumented residents to serve, the DREAM Act would make hundreds of thousands more young people



Eligible.

Those who enlist under the provision would become eligible for a so-called Z visa, granting them probationary, or conditional, status as a legal resident -- the first step toward full citizenship. Upon enlistment they would also become eligible for federal student loans and other benefits they are currently denied as undocumented immigrants.

A summary of the provision, a version of which was first introduced in Congress in 2001 but never gained momentum, said that among those who would qualify for military service are high school graduates who are "honor roll students, star athletes, talented artists, aspiring teachers, and doctors."

"The DREAM Act provisions would enable a group of highly qualified, ambitious young people to contribute to our society by pursuing higher education or serving in the US Army," the summary adds.

The pool of qualified young people would be significant: The government estimates that there are at least 750,000 undocumented youths of military age in the United States. Only some of them would meet the standards of the DREAM Act, but even 10 percent would equal a typical full year's worth of new recruits.

The Migration Policy Institute, a Washington think tank, estimates that as many as 280,000 illegal immigrants between 18 and 24 would qualify for the program.

"A significant share . . . may join the military as it offers college tuition and job training benefits, as well as for patriotic reasons," according to a policy paper about the issue drafted by the institute.

Choosing military service could bring expedited citizenship for family members of undocumented residents, according to the institute.

"It's a substantial pool of people and I think it's crazy we are not tapping it," said Max Boot, a senior fellow at the Council

on Foreign Relations. Boot has previously suggested the United States go a step further by recruiting foreigners overseas to serve in the military.

Josh Bernstein, director of federal policy at the National Immigration Law Center, which advocates for low-income immigrants, said most illegal immigrants who would be eligible for military service under the law come from a demographic group that is already disposed toward voluntary military service.

For example, a 2004 survey by the government-funded Rand Corporation found that 45 percent of Hispanic males and 31 percent of Hispanic females between ages 16 and 21 reported they were "very likely" to serve on active duty in the next few years, compared with 24 percent for white men and 10 percent for white women.

"Many of them would naturally otherwise go into it," said Bernstein.

Because the bill makes eligible only illegal immigrants considered high quality -- high achievers with no criminal histories -- the provision has supporters among even those who oppose the overall immigration package and criticize it as "amnesty."

"It is not perfect, but it is far better than some of the ways they are talking about to grant illegals new status here," said retired Air Force Lieutenant General Thomas McInerney, a conservative commentator and military analyst.

McInerney added that those eligible would probably be higher caliber than some of the recruits who have joined the Army, because education and other standards have been lowered in recent years to meet recruiting goals. And they would be making the ultimate demonstration of loyalty to their adopted country, he said, putting their lives on the line.

"This is a very talented generation," added Bernstein. "Many are over achievers. They are poised to make a great contribution if they are allowed. And they are not going anywhere."

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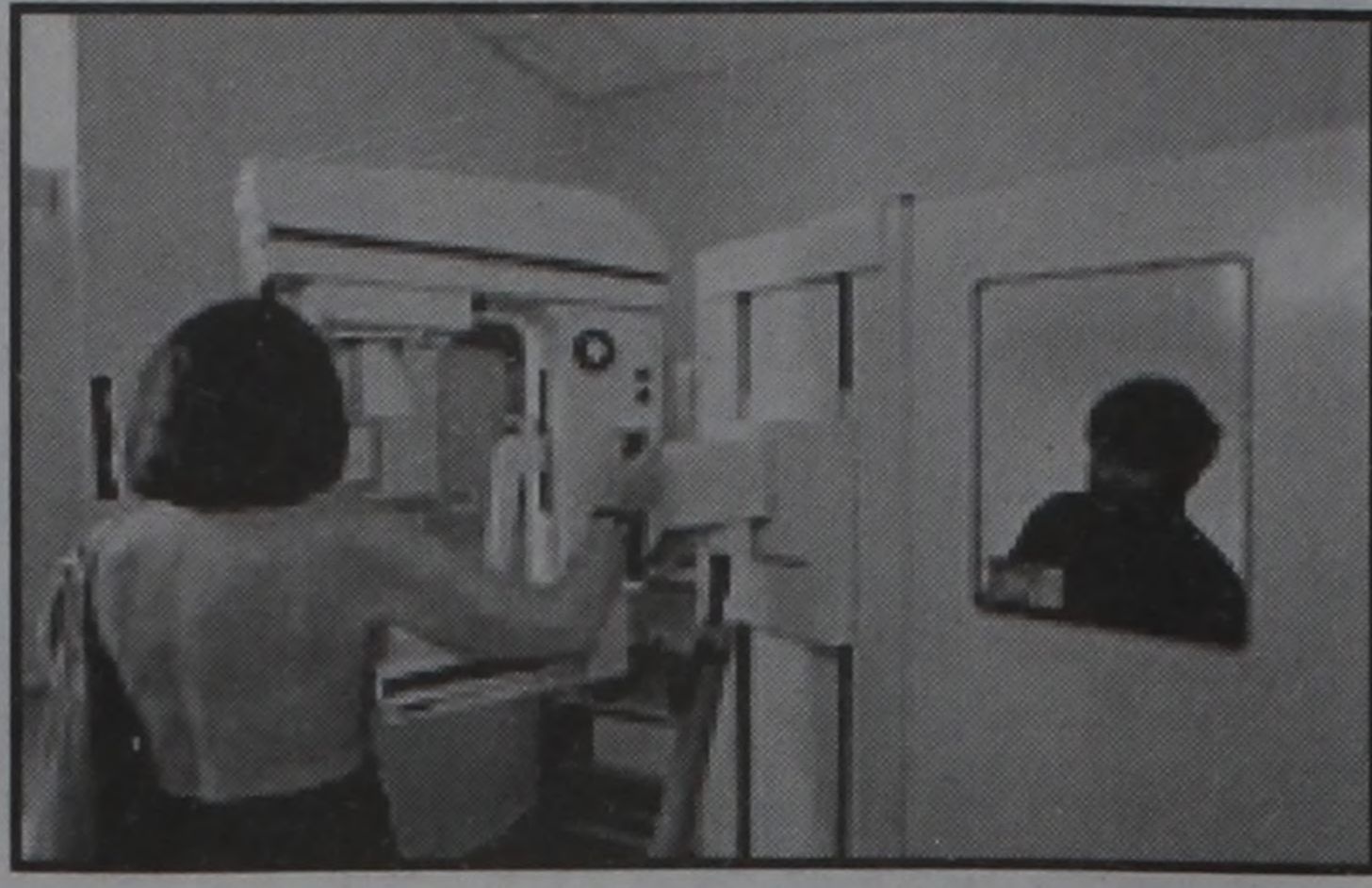
Financial, cultural barriers prevent many Hispanic women from getting mammograms in Texas

Hispanic women in Texas, hobbled by the twin issues of money and culture, are far less likely to get mammograms, state health officials say.

The result, according to the American Cancer Society, is that breast cancer, which is unlikely to be fatal if caught early, is now the leading cause of cancer deaths among Hispanic women.

Because one out of every four Texans does not have health insurance — the worst rate in the nation — hundreds of thousands of women in the state do not get regular mammograms. In fact, federal data show that Texas ranked 42nd in the nation last year in terms of the percentage of women receiving regular mammograms.

The most recent data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta show that last year, 38 percent of Hispanic women in Texas did not have regular mammograms. By contrast, that number was 21 percent for African American women and 27 percent for white women.



“Those without insurance are less likely to receive preventive services, screening and the treatment that goes with early detection,” explained Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, a former Texas health commissioner.

The situation is particularly acute in the Hispanic community.

“The Latinos are much more likely to not have insurance than blacks, who are only slightly less likely to have insurance than whites,” Sanchez said.

In fact, federal government data from 2005 show that 55

percent of Hispanics in Texas said they did not have health insurance, versus 25 percent of African Americans and 14 percent of whites.

Although the state has a program to provide free mammograms for low-income women, it barely begins to meet the state's needs.

Margaret Mendez, a state health official, says she gets about \$6.4 million each year for the state's mammogram program. But with that amount, she can reach only about 3 percent of the more than 700,000 women who would be eligible.

However, money is not the only

problem. Sanchez and other health officials said cultural issues also play a role in fewer Latino women getting breast exams.

Patricia Chalela, a health care researcher in San Antonio who investigated the low rate of mammograms among Hispanics, said they do not have a tradition of preventive care. “Hispanics don't see a doctor if they don't feel sick.”

She also said the family-centered values in the Latino culture tend to work against women going to the doctor.

Hispanic women “always think in terms of family first,” Chalela said. “Women are the ones that take care of the family. So any needs that they have are put last.”

At the same time, Chalela said, some Hispanics encounter a language barrier when they try to get a mammogram. In one clinic, she found that Hispanic women went to a mammography center where the staff only spoke English.

Chalela also said there is a certain fatalism about cancer.

“They think it is a death sentence,” she said. “They would prefer not to know.”

This fatalism is especially tragic since the cure rate for breast cancer is 95 percent if caught early.

But state officials such as Mendez question how important these cultural factors are in discouraging women from getting mammograms.

“It has been our experience that when you provide a service and people know about it, that they are actually very happy to be informed about it and to participate,” Mendez said.

Health care experts argue that there should be a greater effort to encourage Hispanic women to get mammograms.

Dr. Kenneth Shine, executive vice chancellor for health affairs at the University of Texas, cited the success of a similar effort among African American women, who have a higher incidence of breast cancer than Hispanics

and a higher death rate.

Mary Lou Adams, who is on the nursing faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, was in charge of one such outreach program that began in 1998.

“It's one thing to go tell people to go get screened,” Adams said, “but you have to tell them where to go and how this is going to be funded.”

Adams trained a cadre of volunteers, promoted the program in the black community and worked with the mammography centers. She said that by 2003, the program had been responsible for 8,000 women being screened.

But today, the program is no longer in operation. Adams said she had to close it because the funding ran out.

“Ours is a disease-chasing medical care system as opposed to a health-promoting health system,” Sanchez explained. “When all is said and done, it may very well be the case that if we did prevention and early detection well, in the end, we could not only save lives, but we could also save dollars.”

Padres se inclinan a apoyar límites al contenido de la TV

Dos tercios de los padres están muy preocupados por la alta dosis de sexo y violencia a que los medios de comunicación exponen a los niños, y muchos apoyarían una iniciativa para limitar ese tipo de contenidos, según un sondeo difundido ayer.

Aun así, el informe emitido por la Kaiser Family Foundation encontró que dos de cada tres padres dijeron que ya vigilan lo que ven sus hijos en la televisión y el uso que hacen de la internet y los videojuegos.

Sólo uno de cada cinco padres admitió que debería hacerlo mejor —aproximadamente la misma cantidad de los que dijeron que sus propios hijos ven mucho material inapropiado. Los padres, maestros y amigos tienen mucha más influencia sobre los niños que los medios de comunicación, dijeron los encuestados.

“Existe una presunción común

de que [los padres] se sienten abrumados cuando se trata de sus hijos y la internet, como si tuvieran una desventaja tecnológica”, afirmó Vicky Rideout, que dirigió el estudio de Kaiser. “Pero no hallamos eso”.

Sin embargo, los padres “se engañan” si creen que tienen tanto control, indicó un experto en los efectos de los medios de comunicación en los niños, durante una discusión que acompañó la difusión del informe.

“Los padres creen que controlan los medios de comunicación — los hijos dicen que no es así”, afirmó Víctor Strasburger, profesor de pediatría de la Facultad de Medicina en la Universidad de Nuevo México.

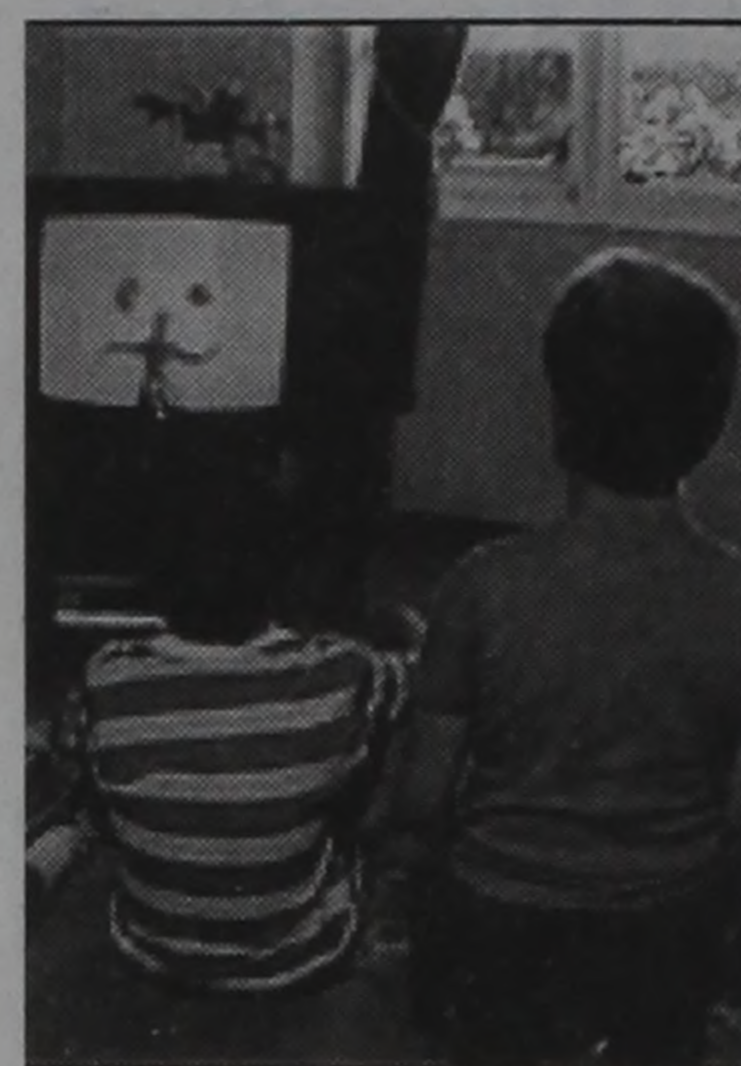
Kaiser, que realiza investigaciones sobre salud, difundió su estudio en momentos en que

aumenta la atención del público en el impacto de la violencia, el sexo y el lenguaje procaz en la televisión, la internet, la música, los videojuegos y las películas.

A principios de mes, un tribunal federal de apelaciones invalidó una prohibición emitida por la Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones (FCC) contra la emisión accidental de obscenidades.

En abril, la FCC envió un informe al Congreso indicando que los legisladores podrían regular la violencia en la televisión sin menoscabar el derecho a la libre expresión garantizado por la Primera Enmienda de la Constitución, que se refiere a la libertad de expresión.

Según el estudio, dos tercios de los padres respaldarían nuevas limitaciones en el contenido de los programas televisivos, especialmente limitar las escenas de violencia y sexo en las primeras



horas de la tarde.

“Claramente, existe una necesidad, tanto de la industria como de nuestros servidores públicos, de considerar cómo mejorar esto”, indicó Tim Winter, presidente del Parents Television Council. La entidad se opone a la violencia y el sexo en los medios.

Regulators Quiet as Lenders 'Targeted' Minorities

The U.S. agencies that supervise more than 8,000 banks haven't censured any of them for violating fair-lending laws, three years after Federal Reserve researchers began assembling data showing blacks and Hispanics are more likely than whites to be saddled with high-priced home loans.

Minorities stand to be hardest hit by rising delinquencies and foreclosures in subprime loans. While Census Bureau data show that homeownership rates rose to records among blacks in 2004 and among Hispanics in 2005, they still trail whites by 25 percentage points, and the gap may widen in the current bust.

“Black people and Hispanics have been targeted,” said Alphonso Jackson, secretary of Housing and Urban Development, whose department is hiring to expand its own probe of discriminatory lending.

“Low and moderate-income people get one shot at home ownership,” Jackson said in an interview in Washington. “And if they don't make it work, they don't get a second shot.”

Subprime loans — those made at higher interest rates to people whom banks consider risky or who have sketchy credit histories — accounted for more than half of the home foreclosures in the fourth quarter of last year. The Fed's review, conducted by economists from its research and statistics division, covered lending data from 2004 and 2005, the first two years of expanded disclosure requirements for banks and the final two years of Alan Greenspan's tenure as chairman.

Closer Scrutiny

Fed researchers singled out 470 lenders for closer scrutiny over two years, with some lenders showing up in both 2004 and 2005. The Fed has turned the names over to the relevant regulators and other authorities, including in some cases state officials.

The central bank says its research isn't conclusive on whether discrimination occurred. Details on how lenders price loans, such as borrowers' credit histories and the ratio of the loan amount to the value of the home, weren't provided by banks.

Even so, concentrations of high-cost mortgages “shouldn't break down so blatantly and crudely to race,” said Sarah Ludwig, co-director of the Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project in New York and a member of the Fed's Consumer Advisory Council. “Neighborhoods are getting mauled, and the regulators have been asleep at the wheel.”

Even industry executives are disturbed by the higher incidence rate of high-cost loans among minorities.

‘Negotiate More’

“There's absolutely a good argument that those who can afford the least shouldn't be charged the most,” Angelo Mozilo, chief executive officer of Countrywide Financial Corp., the largest U.S. home lender, said in an interview. “When you compare whites to minorities, you'll find they usually don't get a better deal because they were offered a better deal, but because they negotiate” more.

The supervision of America's 8,650 banks is split among five agencies: the Fed, the Office of Comptroller of the Currency, the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the National Credit Union Administration. Each has the power to uphold fair-lending laws and to punish offenders.

None of the five national regulators has published an enforcement action based on the data, according to agency spokespeople. Some lenders have been referred to the Justice Department for possible action, and investigations are continuing.

Some Benefits

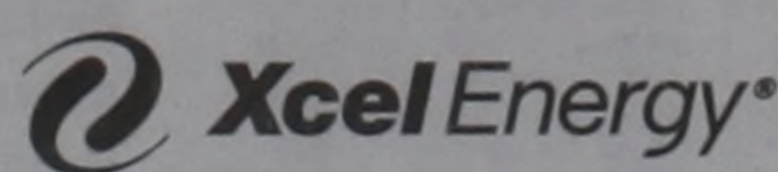
Interagency cooperation has benefited minorities in the past. A 2002 Fed referral to the Justice Department on lending practices by First American Bank of Carpentersville, Illinois, resulted in a \$5.7 million consent order in 2004 for new branches, investment and education in black and Hispanic neighborhoods.

Consumer groups say minority neighborhoods may be intentionally marketed for high-cost loans by non-bank lenders, while poor financial literacy among low-income borrowers may lead to wrong choices. A legacy of discrimination that has kept minorities from owning assets, building wealth and improving credit history may also put them at a disadvantage when loans are priced.



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Fallece el cantante Antonio Aguilar

Antonio Aguilar, una de las voces más poderosas y reconocidas de México a nivel internacional, murió el martes en la noche tras luchar por varios días contra una neumonía que lo sumió en un agotamiento agudo del que no se recuperó, informaron sus médicos. Tenía 88 años.

"El Charro de México", como también se le conocía, falleció en un hospital de la ciudad de México, dijo su médico, el cardiólogo Jaime Arriaga Gracia, citado en medios locales de comunicación.

"A pesar de todos los esfuerzos que se hicieron, el señor (Aguilar) falleció poco antes de la medianoche, tratamos de reanimarlo, pero ya no respondió",

dijo el doctor en declaraciones publicadas por el diario Reforma.

"Cuando alguien llega a su parte final... el corazón no responde debido a una falla multiorgánica, es decir, un desgaste total, eso ocasionó el deceso", agregó.

El lunes pasado, Arriaga había confirmado la intención de la familia de trasladar el cuerpo del cantante a su estado natal de Zacatecas, sin embargo, no estaba claro si primero se le harían honras fúnebres en la capital.

Aguilar es considerado junto con José Alfredo Jiménez, Pedro Infante, Jorge Negrete y Vicente Fernández, como uno de los más grandes intérpretes de música popular mexicana, la que plasmó en más de 150 discos.

Fue pionero en la difusión de las canciones rancheras y de mariachi fuera del territorio mexicano, según destacó siempre Vicente Fernández.

"Antonio fue el que nos abrió las puertas en Estados Unidos y Latinoamérica, con su espectáculo tan bueno. Toño es una persona que, comparada con Pedro Infante, pues trabajó más. Incluso en España conocían más a Antonio Aguilar", dijo recientemente al diario El Sol de Sinaloa.

Luego de vender más de 25 millones de copias de discos alrededor del mundo, en el 2000 recibió una estrella en el Paseo de la Fama de Hollywood, lo que calificó como uno de los "mejores episodios de mi vida".

Alcanzó popularidad con temas como "Albur de amor", "La paloma", "Gabino Barrera", "Caballo prieto azabache" y "Puño de tierra", entre otras. De hecho, su registro de voz era tan amplio que en sus inicios interpretó óperas. Aguilar había contado que esa

aptitud por la música se la debía a su madre, María de los Angeles Barraza, quien cantaba en el coro de su iglesia.

Pero Aguilar no se hizo artista por casualidad. En su juventud se fue a Hollywood a estudiar actuación y canto.

Ya para el 1952 hizo su debut en el cine con la cinta "Un rincón cerca del cielo", al lado de Infante. Cuatro años más tarde hizo su primer papel protagonista en "Tierra de hombres". También compartió créditos con el legend-

ario John Wayne en la película del viejo oeste "The Undeafed" de 1969.

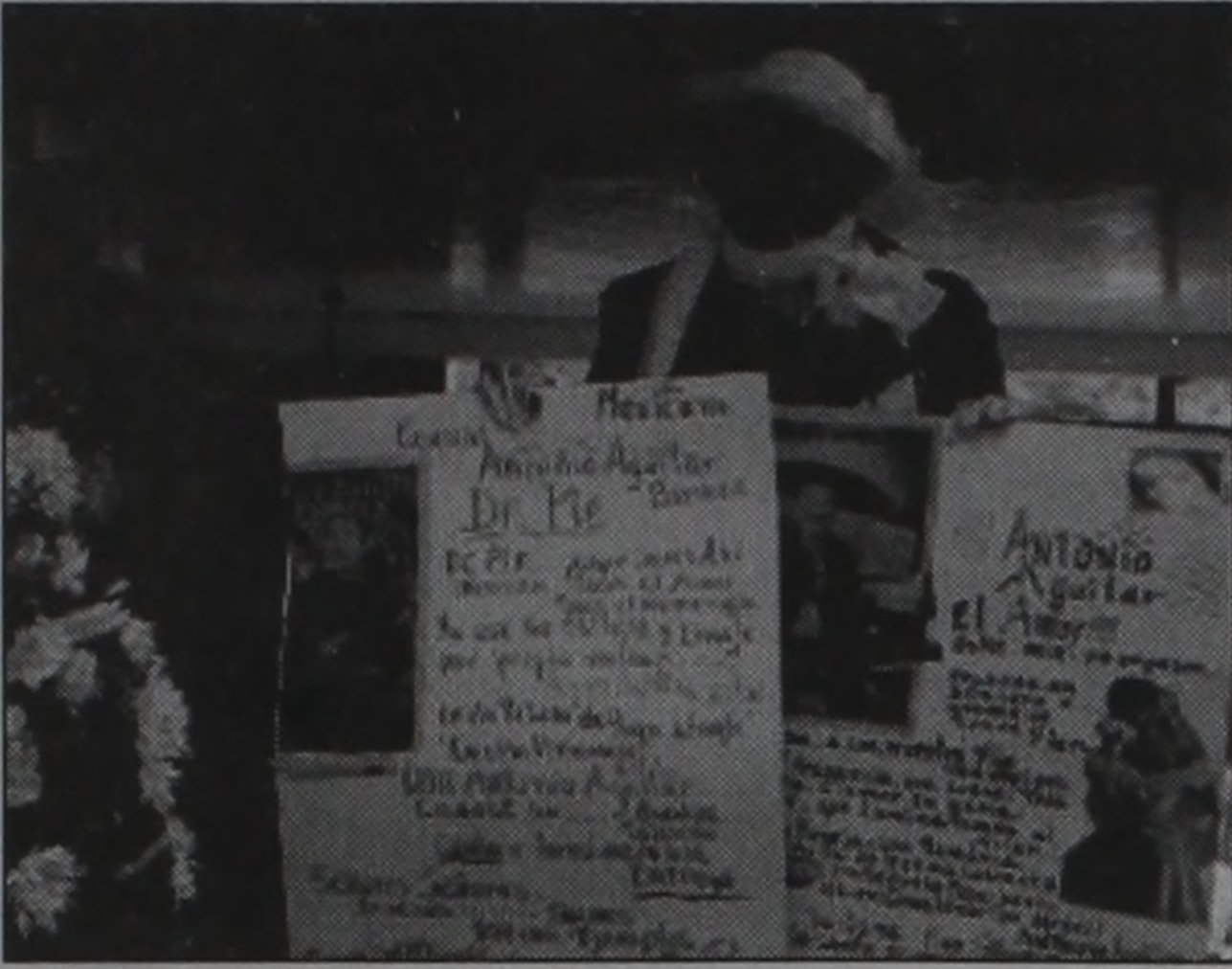
En total, actuó en 150 películas la mayoría protagonizadas, escritas o producidas por él, entre las que destacan múltiples comedias rancheras o personajes populares e históricos, como Heraclio Bernal y Emiliano Zapata. Aguilar era además amante de los caballos y junto a su esposa la cantante y actriz Flor Silvestre creó un innovador espectáculo que llevó por toda la república mexicana y varios países, en el que hacía que los equinos bailaran al ritmo de su música.

Con ese espectáculo inició a sus hijos, incluyendo al ganador de un Grammy Pepe Aguilar, en la industria de la música. Artistas como Joan Sebastian han seguido esa tradición. Fue Gran Mariscal del Desfile de la Independencia de México en Los Angeles, y recibió las llaves de esa ciudad en los años de 1973, 1974 y 1996.

La condición de salud del artista -nacido en Zacatecas el 17 de mayo de 1919- había desmejorado desde el 2003 cuando le colocaron un marcapasos. En años recientes también tuvo varios problemas pulmonares por lo que también recibió atención médica.

Para su sobrina, la también cantante Guadalupe Pineda, fue un tío generoso, cariñoso, emprendedor y líder natural.

Dijo que de niña el cantante los acompañaba al río y a recorrer su rancho en Zacatecas. Ya de adulta recuerda sus Navidades y despedidas de año en la casa del artista donde siempre encendían una fogata, cocinaban e inevitablemente terminaban cantando.



Acclaimed 'El violin' depicts Mexican social conflicts

It took months, but Mexicans finally are getting to see the movie that some here have called the country's most socially significant work of cinema in many moons.

Even before it arrived in theaters here at the beginning of May, "El violin" (The Violin), the debut feature by writer-director Francisco Vargas, had been showered with more than 30 international awards. A number of Mexican film critics have pronounced it an unalloyed masterpiece. One prominent Mexican journalist, Carmen Aristegui, said it ranked among "the most important movies that have been produced in our country in the last years."

Yet because Hollywood movies dominate the multiplexes, it has taken Vargas more than a year to bring his film to his native land. Now that it has arrived, this deceptively modest movie about an octogenarian fiddle player embroiled in an Indian peasant uprising has had to elbow its way through the summer-escapist thickets.

While big-budget sequels-of-sequels commandeer scores of screens in the Mexican capital, "El violin" has been showing in about 18 theaters. The movie, which was funded by the Mexican national film agency, is being distributed by Canana Films.

But while some commentators have decried how long it has taken for "El violin" to reach Mexico, its director isn't complaining. On a recent evening over tacos and beer at an out-of-the-way restaurant here, Vargas held forth calmly and openly about the challenges his movie has faced and about what he hopes it may achieve.

He was joined by Gerardo Taracena, who plays Genaro, the musician son of the main character, the one-handed violinist Don Plutarco. But playing music is only the men's day job, so to speak.

Father, son and even Don Plutarco's grandson (Mario Garibaldi) are supporting a ragtag army of indigenous rebels fighting to hold on to their ancestral farmlands. The conflict puts the rebels on a collision course with the Mexican army and leads to a fateful encounter between Don

Plutarco and the captain in charge of quelling the uprising (Dagoberto Gama).

Shot in poetic black and white by director of photography Martin Boege Pare, "El violin" is a seemingly simple film composed of multiple harmonies and dissonances, much like the aching folk music that supplies its soundtrack.

"There are two things, two forces, two characters, dramatically speaking," Vargas says. "On one side, the guerrillas, on the other, the army. On one side the sound of weapons, of war, and on the other side the sound of the country, of tradition, of custom, of the people, of the forest -- which is the music. And it makes us see that war is a stupidity, that those that believe war is the way of solving things are mistaken."

Like other elements of the film, the actors are a mixture of the polished and the homespun, of professionals and nonprofessionals. In the single most daring piece of casting, Vargas recruited Angel Tavera, a real-life musician who'd never acted before, for the part of Don Plutarco.

Vargas previously had met Ta-

vira while filming a documentary, "Tierra Caliente," about the distinctive folk music of the so-called Hot Lands of the central Mexican states of Guerrero and Michoacan.

"He 1/8Tavira3/8 was in front of our noses for four years, and I didn't realize it," Vargas says.

His bold choice paid off. Tavera won a best actor award at the 2006 Cannes festival for his performance as the stoic, inscrutable violinist.

Serious and intense when speaking about his art, Vargas is relaxed and at times almost self-effacing when discussing the plaudits that have come his way.

He says that his personal love of Mexican popular music inspired him to make it the film's thematic center. From the "son," or rural roots music, of coastal Veracruz to the "corridos" sung in the borderlands, Mexican popular music preserves "the customs, the roots, the history of the people," he says. But because much of this traditional music has had minimal commercial value, today it is becoming endangered as young listeners turn to hip-hop and reggaeton.

Discovery en Español to Premiere Ground-Breaking Documentary -

Viviendo En Las Sombras

for at least 5 years.

Oscar left Mexico 7 years ago with no money, but an enormous drive to succeed. Today, he has 30 construction workers under his command, and his crew was responsible for building the tallest building in the city he now calls home. Oscar works from sun up to sun down. He proudly pays his taxes using a personal tax identification number requested by him from the INS so the can report his income. He dreams of the day when he can finally come out of the shadows.

Elvira Arellanos came to this country 10 years ago, escaping the poverty of her native Mexico. In Chicago, she had a baby, Saulito, and began working at the O'Hare airport as a security agent, using a fake social

security. But after a raid by ICE, she landed in jail. Right before she was about to be deported, she ask for sanctuary in a church, challenging immigration to come and drag her out by force. Elvira and Saul had become the face of a movement that seeks to stop the deportations of illegal aliens that have children that are American citizens. The pastor of the church maintains that he fears God more than Homeland Security.

This documentary has one very salient characteristic, all the undocumented aliens that are profiled insisted on showing their faces. Only their names and the name of the cities where they reside were altered. They wanted their stories to be known, their voices to be heard. Indeed, the main objective to VIVIENDO

EN LAS SOMBRAS was to capture the feel of a nation that lives underground, but that is proud, wishes to be out of the shadows, and asks for a chance to belong.

VIVIENDO EN LAS SOMBRAS also touches on the current immigration bill being debated in Congress and presents the opinions of those on both sides of the issue, including politicians, immigration lawyers, and community leaders. By combining dramatic first-person accounts about what it's like to live in the shadows as an undocumented worker with revealing interviews with community leaders and legislators who are at the center of the debate, VIVIENDO EN LAS SOMBRAS provides a compelling examination of the national discourse.

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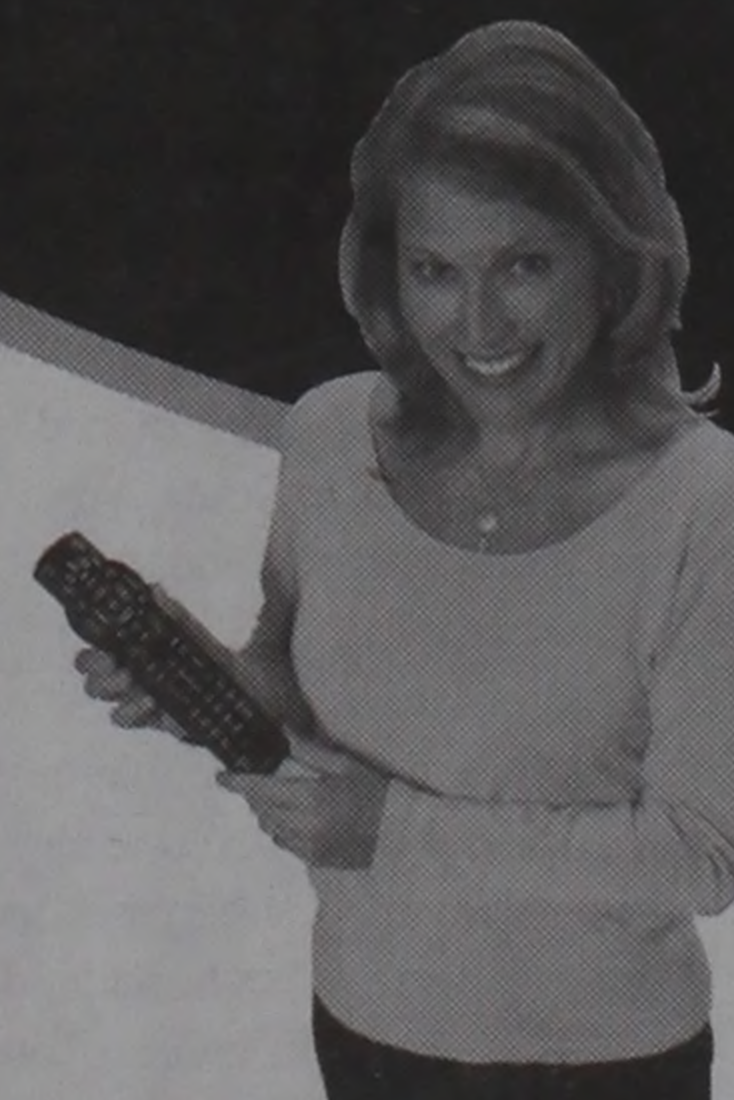
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Mexicanos engalanan victorias en el Madison Square Garden

El mexicano Julio César Chávez junior cumplió su promesa y venció por nocaut efectivo al estadounidense Grover Wiley en el tercer round, en el respaldo de la función "X-Plusive", en el Madison Square Garden.

Desde el primer asalto, el hijo del legendario ex boxeador Julio César Chávez salió decidido a la victoria y aplicó un fuerte castigo al cuerpo y cabeza del rubio rival, ante los gritos de apoyo de los aficionados que llenaron la histórica arena.

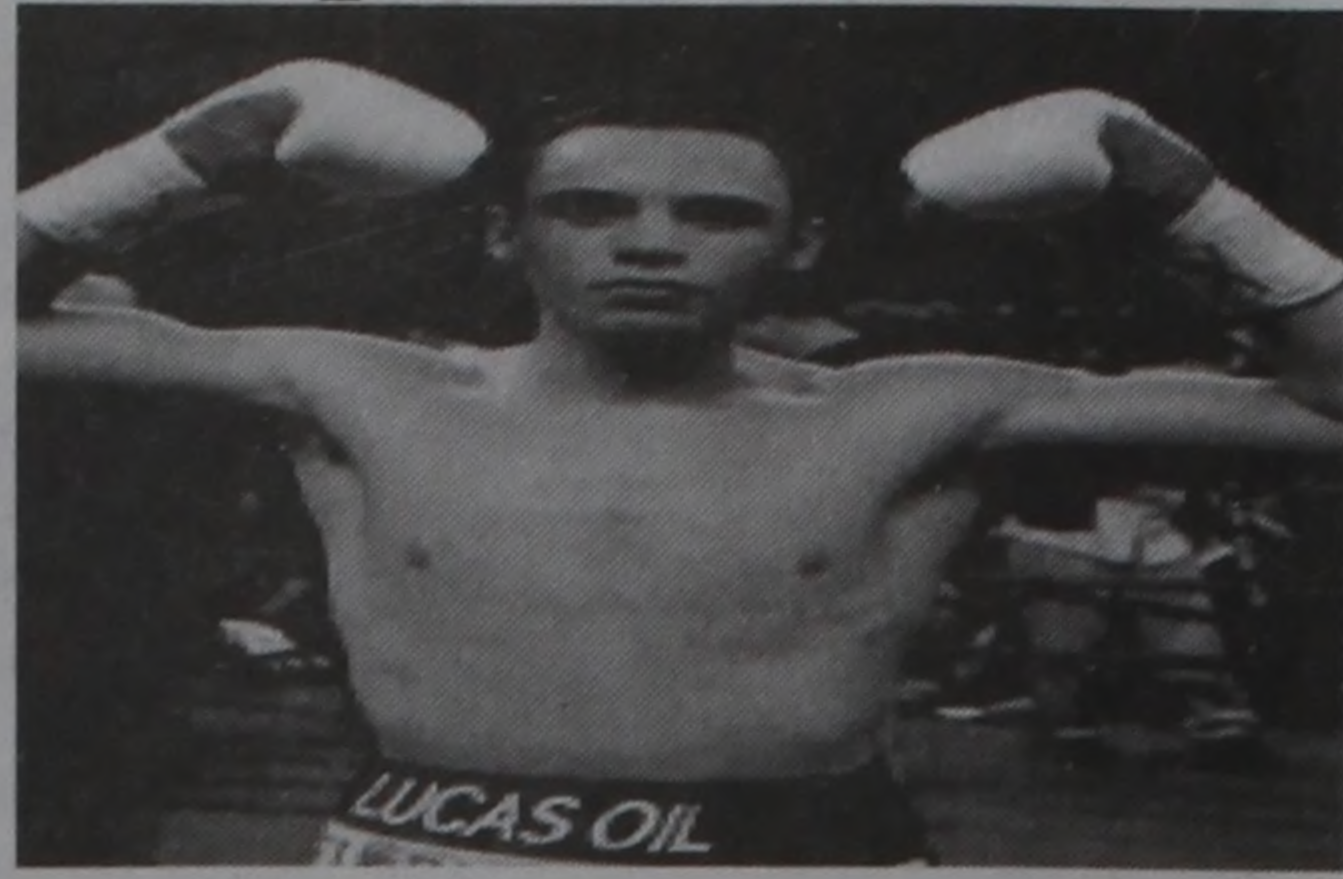
De mayor alcance y poder de puños, Chávez Carrasco envió en tres ocasiones a la lona a Wiley, la primera con un gancho a la zona hepática, del cual se dolió el estadounidense de rodillas, pero alcanzó a reincorporarse para seguir la contienda.

En el segundo giro siguió "el junior" soltando sus mejores golpes a un rival más preocupado en defenderse que en atacar y así fue presa fácil del sinaloense, quien en cada pelea se ve mejor en su ascendente carrera.

Chávez acabó con su rival en el tercer asalto, cuando de nueva cuenta aplicó un fuerte castigo al cuerpo que no resistió Wiley para visitar la lona en dos ocasiones, en la segunda escuchó la cuenta completa del referi Eddie Claudio, a los 2:27 minutos.

Julio César Chávez sigue imbatido en el terreno profesional con 32 triunfos, 25 por nocaut, y un empate. Grover Wiley sumó su décimo revés por 30 victorias, con 14 antes del límite.

Wiley venció a JC Chávez en septiembre de 2005, en la última pelea del tres veces campeón del



mundo en diferente división.

Por otro lado y en lamisma noche el tambien mexicano Humberto Soto venció al filipino Bobby Pacquiao por nocaut efectivo en el séptimo round, en combate en peso superpluma.

"Zorrita" Soto aplicó castigo desde el primer asalto para doblegar la resistencia del oceánico, quien se mostró valiente lo que duró la contienda e inclusive alcanzó a lastimar al sinaloense en el cuarto giro.

Desde el campanazo inicial, Soto salió decidido a la victoria soltando sus poderosos golpes ante el rival zurdo. En los últimos segundos del primer giro derribó a Pacquiao con combinación a la cabeza, pero Bobby se reincorporó para acabar el asalto.

Dueño de las acciones, Humberto golpeó la zona hepática de su rival, quien se dolió por esos impactos a las zonas blandas, pero con gran preparación física pudo aguantar las embestidas del segundo superpluma del mundo.

En las acciones del cuarto round, Pacquiao se cortó la ceja derecha por lo que requirió, por la hemorragia, de revisión del

médico de ring, quien determinó que siguiera la contienda.

Luego de la revisión, Pacquiao alcanzó a Soto con un volado de derecha al parietal que trastabilló a "Zorrita" visiblemente lastimado, pero alcanzó a terminar el asalto esquivando como pudo a su impetuoso rival.

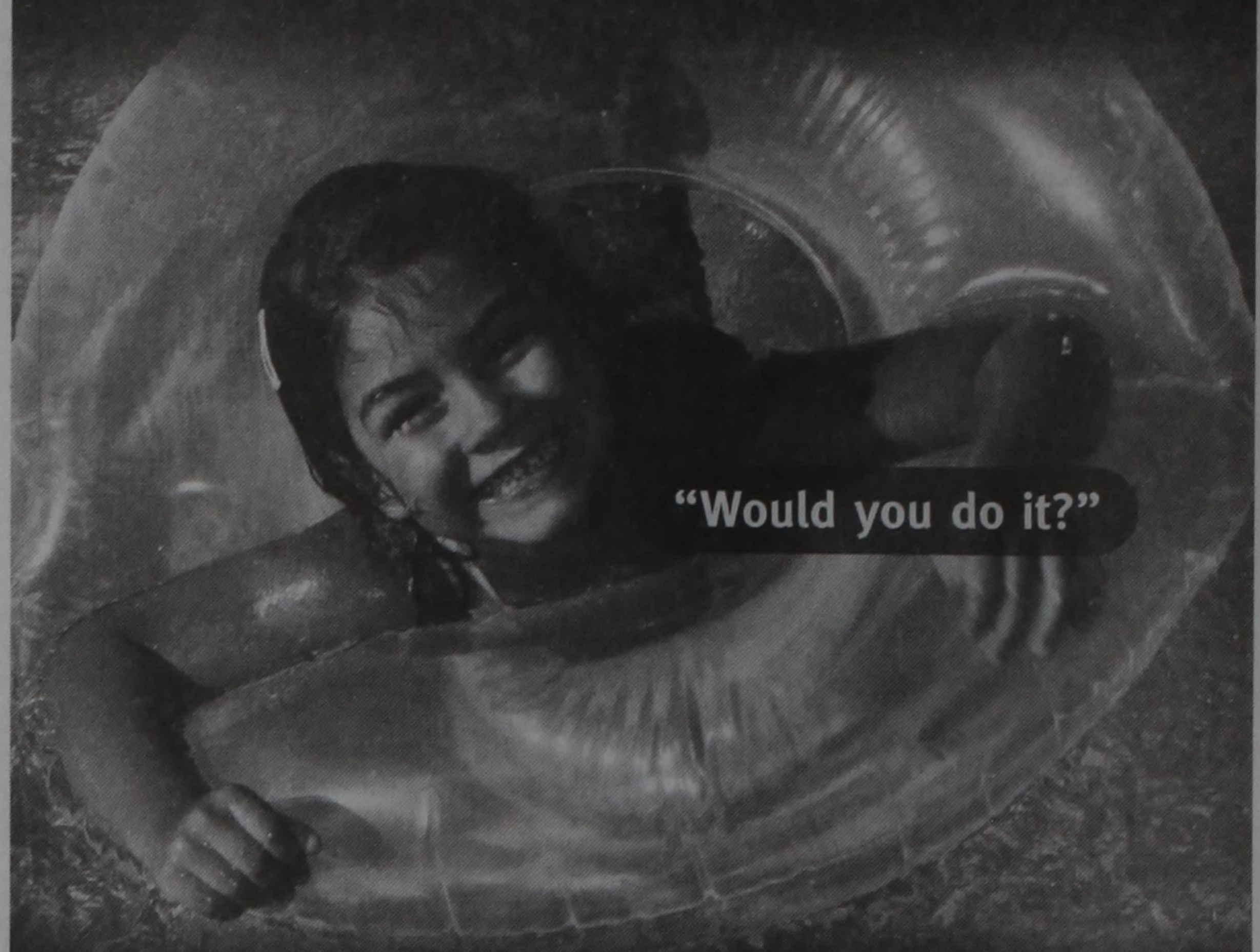
En los episodios cinco y seis, el sinaloense se vio mermado físicamente por el fragor de la pelea y por su afán de soltar sus golpes al filipino, quien vivió sus mejores momentos al replegar en varias ocasiones al mexicano.

El desenlace fue en el séptimo round. Soto alcanzó a Pacquiao con un recto de derecha, del que se dolió Bobby, y remató con un gancho a la zona hepática para que el filipino cayera de rodillas en su esquina.

Pacquiao, visiblemente lastimado, no se levantó a la cuenta de protección del referi Gary Rosato, para decretarse el nocaut efectivo al minuto con 48 segundos de ese séptimo giro, con lo que Soto se reporta listo para enfrentar a Manny Pacquiao.

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Cabrera Raises Bar for Hispanics

Until Sunday, the most memorable feat in South American golf annals had been an arithmetic error.

Facing a playoff at the 1968 Masters, Roberto de Vicenzo didn't notice a mistake on his scorecard that charged him with one more shot than he had taken.

He signed off on the higher score -- leaving Bob Goalby the winner.

"What a stupid I am," was the Argentine's classic quote.

Contrast that with countryman Angel Cabrera's reaction as he was confirmed the U.S. Open champion.

"I felt a winner," he said while enjoying hugs and backslaps from his caddie and interpreter.

He wasn't the only one. Cabrera's triumph at Oakmont -- holding off Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk down the stretch -- might be seen as a triumph for Latin American golf in general.

"Cabrera raised the bar to new heights and proved that our players can make it as far as they want," said Henrique Lavie, commissioner of the Tour de las Americas, a common starting point for pros from Spanish-speaking nations.

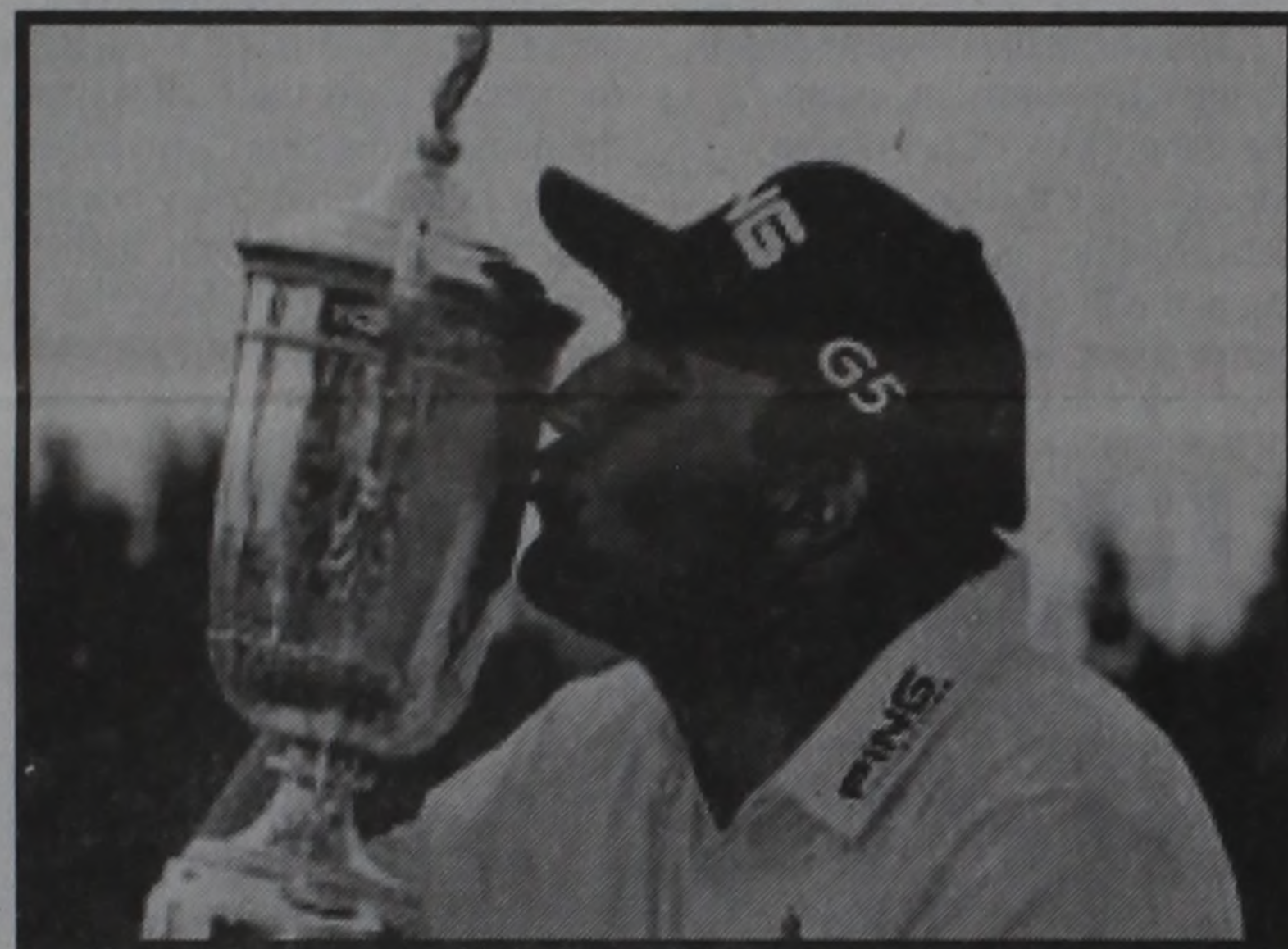
Said Cabrera: "Definitely, this is going to be something to be remembered in Latin America."

Only one other South American has won one of golf's four majors -- although de Vicenzo's 1967 British Open victory is largely overshadowed by his Masters gaffe.

But that was four decades ago. Cabrera's victory shone a light on a contemporary Latin crop making inroads on the pro tours.

•Argentina's Jose Coceres has lost two PGA Tour playoffs this year, including a four-man Honda Classic scum. Also in that playoff was Colombian heart-throb Camilo Villegas, runner-up at Doral last year.

•Mexico's Lorena Ochoa is No. 1 in the women's world rankings. Last fall, Paraguay's Julieta Granada took the LPGA's first \$1 million payday by winning the ADT Championship.



•Argentina might have had a senior major champion this year if Eduardo Romero held on at the Senior PGA Championship. But a double bogey four holes from the end allowed Denis Watson to win.

•The European Tour has produced two Argentine winners this season -- Ariel Canete at the Joburg Open and Daniel Vancsik at the Madeira Island Open.

Lavie summed it up as "a strong message to the world's golf authorities on the potential of our region."

TOP OF THE NEWS

Cabrera's victory, of course, by far spoke the loudest. For one day, anyway, it was enough to relegate the Copa Libertadores soccer final and Manu Ginobili's third NBA championship ring to secondary status in his homeland.

"An historic day for Argentine golf," read the headline in Clarin, South America's largest daily.

La Nacion called Cabrera "an angel in a diabolic U.S. Open."

On an Oakmont layout that yielded only eight rounds under par, Cabrera had two with bookend 69s. Nor did he wilt when bogeys at Nos. 16 and 17 trimmed a three-shot lead to one Sunday.

Cabrera split the fairway, and the pressure, with his drive at No. 18, producing a two-putt par that proved enough.

"Cabrera is now a hero in Argentina. He's my hero!" de Vicenzo told a PGA Tour liaison Monday from his Argentina home.

"I'm 84 years old. I'm very

happy for him because I didn't want to leave this world before I saw something like this."

De Vicenzo suggested that in today's technology, Cabrera's victory at Oakmont will produce more of an impact than his ever could.

"When I won the British Open 40 years ago, not as many saw it," de Vicenzo said. "Millions saw Cabrera win."

Cabrera, 37, isn't old enough to have seen anything but old clips of de Vicenzo's 1967 victory. Cabrera's golfing icon was Seve Ballesteros, a swashbuckling Spaniard who won three British Opens and two Masters.

STARTED AS A CADDIE

Cabrera got his introduction to the game as a 10-year-old caddie at Cordoba Golf Club. Caddies could play on Mondays, and Cabrera taught himself the swing by imitating those he looped for.

One of the members happened to be Romero, who took an interest in Cabrera. He encouraged Cabrera to turn pro at 20, and even helped finance his early career.

"I'm sure he's very happy about this win," Cabrera said.

Romero was in South America and unreachable Monday for comment.

Cabrera owns 16 victories worldwide, but before Oakmont, he had been considered something of an underachiever. Nine victories were in his homeland; just three on the European Tour.

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