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U.S. Immigrant Population Grows to More Than Four Million

Despite U.S.'s recent economic slow down, the number of U.S. immigrants raised to 34 millions in 2004, a raise of 4.3 millions since last 2000, a study showed today.

Carried out by the Center of Immigration Studies (CIS), the report stated that the fact migration flows remained the same, despite bad times, proves economy not to be the main reason off this phenomenon.

"The fact that migration levels remained high despite job creation was low, proves immigration a complex process boosted by many factors" Steve Camarota, CIS head researcher, stated.

By quoting a National Census Office analysis, still unpublished, the report assured half of the growth registered by immigrants during the last four years is due to the arrival of undocumented immigrants.

The immigrant population accounts for a 12% of the whole population in the U.S. now, being this the highest percentage in the last 80 years.

A 31% of this population is Mexican-rooted, increasing its numer a 3% in

comparison to the 28% in 1000, and almost twice as much as the 16% in 1980.

Between the years 2000 and 2004, some 6.1 million of immigrant made it to the United States, legally or illegally, according to the study. It also explained the final figure of 4.3% was modified to the deaths and returns to their homecountry.

To reinforce his thesis stating immigration does not respond to economic factors solely, the CIS remembered this figure topped the 5.5 millions who arrived in the country during the previous four years when the last economic expansion was still at its best.

The CIS, one of the main groups opposing the ease of migration laws, stated this report proves enforcing law and modifying the migration system as the only way to control immigration that go beyond economic adjustments. Despite the fact the report's primary source obeys to the census analysis, the group rejected some of the official conclusions.

Thus, even though the census analysis indicated the number of undocumented immigrants may account for some nine millions, the CIS referred to previous estimations according to which such figure may reach the 10 millions.

The report remarked the rhythm of immigrants growth turns out to be amazing since unemployment levels within this field have dropped to 6.1%.

The states reporting a higher percentage of immigration include Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, Arizona and Pennsylvania.

Experts Divided on Rice's Concern About Latin America

By Fresia Rodriguez Cadavid

Latin and other analysts and community leaders are expressing contradictory views on what the appointment of National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State will mean in a second Bush administration for U.S.-Latin American relations.

Rice, who is expected to be confirmed by the Senate when it reconvenes in January, would replace Colin Powell, a political moderate who has paid close attention to hemispheric affairs.

Rice, provost at Stanford University from 1993 to 1999, is considered to be more focused on Europe and the Middle East.

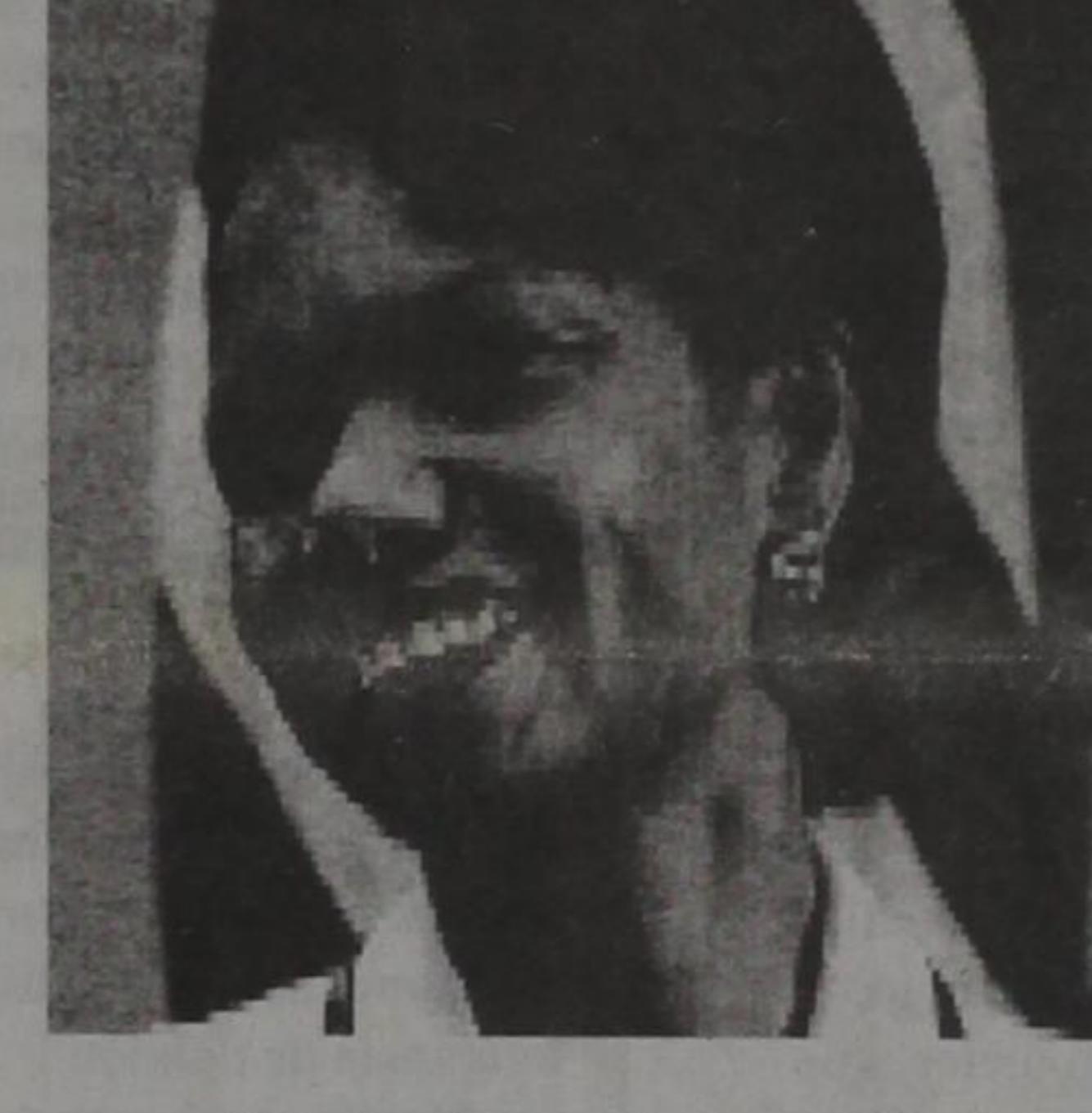
Miguel Diaz, a senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., does not question her competency and awareness of the strategic importance of Latin America.

In terms of immigration policy, he says, "She's going to follow the lead of Powell, going toward immigration reform slowly. In Congress, there is no appetite for 'the whole enchilada,' as (Mexico President Vicente) Fox has put it. We are going to have to do it piecemeal."

Issues topping her Latin American agenda, he says, will include the political struggles in Haiti, trade and immigration.

"Her biggest challenge will be to win back the hearts and minds of Latin America," severely tested over the war in Iraq, he says.

Rep. Mario Diaz Balart (R-Fla.) calls Rice "incredibly intelligent, extremely



accomplished and more than capable of fulfilling the duties," of Secretary of State.

Given her record and areas of expertise, her appointment means nothing for Latin America, according to Moises Naim, the Venezuela-born editor of Foreign Policy magazine and a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

As the United States has been "distracted" with strategic concerns in the Middle East and North Korea, "Latin America doesn't pose the same type of urgency," says Naim. "There is a lot of goodwill toward Latin America and concern about drugs, immigration, the destabilizing activities of leaders such as Venezuela's (President Hugo) Chavez and Cuba President Fidel Castro, and the

emergence of new insurgent groups that are destabilizing democracies. However none of these reaches a level of threat that can compete for the high-level attention that other emergencies and global priorities have from Washington," he adds.

J. Michael Waller, professor of international relations at the Washington-based Institute of World Politics, observes that Latin America is one part of the world to which Rice hasn't given much thought. Because of Rice's national security background, Waller expects her to take a more hardliner approach to illegal immigration. "She's going to bring her national security priorities into focus," he forecasts.

Both Waller and Naim say they see Rice's impact as minimal on the Central American Free Trade Agreement — legislation expected to be taken up in the new congressional session — and other trade issues. It remains unclear how Latin American countries will accept Rice's nomination.

According to Jose Carreño, Washington correspondent for Mexico's daily El Universal, Mexico President Vicente Fox and his administration had a positive relationship with Powell, who visited the country earlier this month and said that the Bush administration would like to work with the U.S. Congress next year to develop a temporary worker program.

"(Fox's) main relationship is with Bush," says Carreño. "I believe Mexico would rather be dealing with Powell, but

in the end it doesn't matter who they deal with. It's that they deal with somebody."

The only Latin American leader who may openly disapprove of her nomination, other than Castro, is Chavez, who frequently uses ad hominem attacks against Bush and his senior officials.

Naim sums up prospects for the United States paying attention to Latin America under Rice: "Latin America is no longer the backyard of the United States. Now it's Atlantis, the lost continent."

Cecilia Burciaga, a former associate dean at Stanford, concurs and adds an additional concern. "She has no academic background in Latin America or Latin American affairs or history, and it doesn't bode well for the attention and respect that Latin American will receive."

Burciaga was the highest-ranking Latina administrator at the university, having served Stanford for 20 years when in 1994, Rice eliminated her associate dean position. The layoff and other issues related to the treatment of the university's communities of color under Rice sparked campus-wide protests and a hunger strike. Strikers' demands included a formal apology to Burciaga, among others.

The apology never arrived. "(The nomination) is not good news for anyone, much less the Latino community. At Stanford she showed a complete lack of sensitivity for the Latino community," says Burciaga.

(Fresia Rodriguez is editor of Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C. She may be reached at Fresia@HispanicLink.org)

Expertos No Son de Acuerdo Sobre el Interes de Condolizza Rice hacia America Latina

Por Fresia Rodriguez Cadavid

Los hispanos y otros analistas y líderes comunitarios han expresado puntos de vista contradictorios sobre lo que implica el nombramiento como secretaria de estado de la asesora de seguridad nacional, Condoleezza Rice, para las relaciones entre Estados Unidos y América Latina en el segundo mandato de Bush.

Rice, para quien se anticipa una confirmación cuando el Senado vuelve a reunirse en enero, reemplazará a Colin Powell, un político moderado que ha seguido de cerca los asuntos del hemisferio occidental. Rice, quien fue rectora de la Universidad de Stanford de 1993 a 1999, es vista como una persona más centrada en los asuntos de Europa y el Oriente Medio.

Miguel Diaz, un catedrático del Centro para Estudios Internacionales y Estratégicos en Washington, no pone en duda su competencia y su conocimiento sobre la importancia estratégica de América Latina. En cuanto a la política de inmigración, Diaz asegura que "ella seguirá los pasos de Powell y que se encaminará lentamente hacia una reforma de inmigración. Al Congreso no le apetece "la enchilada completa", como lo presentó el presidente de México, Vicente Fox. Vamos a tener que introducir poco a poco." Entre los principales asuntos latinoamericanos que tratará Rice, dice Diaz, estarán la lucha política en Haití, el comercio y la inmigración. "El reto más difícil que enfrentará será recuperar el favor de

América Latina", el cual fue puesto a prueba severamente durante la guerra en Irak, añadió Diaz.

El representante de Florida, Mario Diaz Balart, la describe como una persona "increíblemente inteligente, extremadamente competente y muy capaz para cumplir con sus deberes" de secretaria de seguridad nacional.

Según el venezolano Moisés Naim, editor de la revista "Foreign Policy" y miembro del Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, su nombramiento no significa nada para América Latina dados su historial y sus áreas de experiencia. Mientras que los asuntos estratégicos en el Oriente Medio y en Corea del Norte "han distraído" a Estados Unidos, "lo latinoamericano no tendrá el mismo grado de urgencia". También añadió que hay mucha buena voluntad hacia América Latina y mucha preocupación en cuanto a las drogas, a la inmigración, a los actos de desestabilización de líderes como el presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, y el presidente de Cuba, Fidel Castro, y a la apariencia de nuevos grupos de insurgentes que están desestabilizando las democracias. Sin embargo, ninguno de estos asuntos es tan amenazante como para que pueda competir con el alto nivel de atención que otras emergencias y prioridades globales representan para Washington.

J. Michael Waller, profesor de relaciones internacionales en el Instituto de Política Mundial con sede en Washington, comentó que América Latina es una parte del mundo

en la que Rice no ha pensado mucho. Debido a su historial en seguridad nacional, Waller supone que ella le dará un enfoque más rígido a la inmigración ilegal y pronostica que "traerá a consideración sus prioridades de seguridad nacional".

Tanto Naim como Waller consideran que Rice tendrá un impacto mínimo en el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América Central (cuya legislación se espera que sea acogida en la nueva sesión del Congreso) y en otros asuntos relacionados con el comercio. Todavía no está claro cómo los países latinoamericanos tomarán la nominación de Rice.

De acuerdo con José Carreño, corresponsal en Washington del diario mexicano El Universal, Vicente Fox y su administración tenían una buena relación con Powell, quien visitó México a principios de este mes y dijo que a la administración Bush le gustaría trabajar con el Congreso de Estados Unidos para desarrollar el año que viene un programa para el trabajador temporero. Carreño dice que Fox se relaciona principalmente con Bush. "Creo que México preferiría tratar con Powell, pero a fin de cuentas, no es importante con quién se trate, sino poder tratar con alguien."

Además de Fidel Castro, el único líder latinoamericano que se ha expresado abiertamente contra la nominación de Rice ha sido Hugo Chávez, quien con frecuencia, hace ataques personales

contra el Bush y sus funcionarios de alto nivel.

Naim resume las posibilidades de que Estados Unidos le preste atención a América Latina bajo la gestión de Rice: "América Latina ya no es la vecina de Estados Unidos, ahora es Atlántida, el continente perdido".

Cecilia Burciaga, ex decana asociada de Stanford, comparte su sentir y añade otra preocupación. "Ella no tiene ninguna experiencia académica en cuanto a América Latina o en historia o asuntos latinoamericanos; eso no augura nada bueno a la atención y al respeto que recibirá América Latina."

Burciaga era la administradora hispana de más alto rango en la universidad, tras haber trabajado en Stanford durante 20 años, hasta que en 1994, Rice eliminó la posición de decano asociado. El despido y otros asuntos relacionados con el trato a las comunidades universitarias de color bajo la gestión de Rice causaron protestas y huelgas de hambre en todo el campus. Los huelguistas pedían, entre otras cosas, una disculpa formal para Burciaga, la cual nunca llegó.

"La nominación no es buena para nadie, mucho menos para la comunidad hispana. En Stanford, ella demostró absoluta insensibilidad hacia las comunidades hispanas", afirmó Burciaga.

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Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero

The little that I remember about my childhood Thanksgivings includes the fact that our holiday dinner seems to have always included one of our many chickens that we raised. Chickens were the norm around our home. This although I grew up fairly close to downtown Lubbock in the infamous "Barrio Nuevo" which was located adjacent to the better known "Barrio Viejo". I have no idea whether zoning laws even existed during that time and if they did, I feel reassured that none of the zoning officers bothered to come to our part of town.

I particularly remember one Thanksgiving when my family chose to host one of my pet roosters as the main dish. I had raised the big red rooster since it was a chick and although I couldn't pet it, like one of my many dogs, my fondness for it brought a tear to my eye when my father announced that it was the rooster's turn to be our main course.

I think my father wanted to rid our neighborhood of this specific rooster because I recall that he was considered "one mean chicken". By this I mean that I remember that it very often was seen chasing dogs, cats and people out of our yard.

My father was the expert at killing chickens. It was my job to catch them. If any of you have ever done this, you probably know that one needs to be fast and the secret lies in cornering them and literally just jumping at if as if to tackle a fast running back. It was quite a job this six or seven year old. The challenging task was made more difficult knowing that one cold expect the red rooster to peck his hardest when he was caught.

I can recollect that I didn't try too hard to catch it. Perhaps my admiration for it overshadowed the fact that I knew the turkey would taste spectacular once my mother had cooked and filled it with all the dressings or perhaps I was just plain scared of it.

Once my father took over the job of catching the rooster, it seemed to only take a couple of minutes. Once caught a chicken took a couple of seconds to be ready for the oven as my father would twist their neck twirling it around and around. Being that the rooster was quite a bit bigger than a chicken, my father opted to use the old ax to cut off his neck. After the job was done, it was again me and my siblings turn to pluck all the feathers.

I don't know why I vividly remember this particular Thanksgiving other than the fact that the rooster was the only red rooster I ever had and I remember being hesitant to eat it. You might say that I had a few reservations but those inhibitions were quickly forgotten as soon as my mother took the turkey - rooster - out of the oven.

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving Day.

In Good Company with the Immoral Minority

By Bessy Reyna

Until Nov. 3, I had never considered myself immoral or evil. I had been complacent in my belief that I lived in a country that welcomed the exchange of ideas. I thought that social issues like education, health care, employment and others affecting millions of people were important enough for me to voice an opinion and to advocate for the reforming conditions that have produced and maintained social inequalities.

The day after the election, my way of thinking was vilified.

Now I am not just a "liberal" — that word used as an epithet by both Bush #1 and Bush #2 when running for president against candidates from Massachusetts. I am expected to believe that what I stand for is incompatible with what some people consider "moral values."

Lucky for me, I am not alone. There are 55 million others scattered around the country who share at least some of my thinking. We have become the immoral minority. I am proud to be in such good company.

Being an opinionated liberal, as my readers often remind me, I have always cherished the fact that I live in a secular democracy, in a country in which the free exchange of ideas

is part of the fabric of who we are, or who we tell the world we are.

Sadly, from the looks of the red and blue states, we no longer have just a geographical Bible Belt. It has now grown to become a Bible corset, a region that would constrain politicians with religious dogma to codify particular ideology into restrictive laws. The referendums prohibiting gay marriage in 11 states are only the beginning.

I am very concerned about the prospect of living in a society that stifles debate and imposes ideological homogeneity. It doesn't matter what label is used — right wing or left wing — extremism seeks to repress individual expression and rights. Who we are, how we live our lives and what we believe cannot be molded to fit into one ideological pattern. A country as diverse as ours has been enriched by the intellectual discourse between religious, social and political views.

The Sunday before the election, I drove to Manchester, N.H., to attend the rally for Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kerry. I waited for several hours with a crowd of hundreds of people. A young man standing next to me was

very excited to be there. He told me that he had spent every Sunday for the past four months campaigning for Kerry. He was tall, friendly and so articulate that I thought he was a college student. Much to my surprise, he turned out to be a sophomore in high school.

At that rally there was a sense of community the likes of which I hadn't felt for a long time. There was also a sense that by participating in the electoral process we were honoring democracy and making a difference.

I can only hope that the outcome of this election will not signify the further erosion of our civil liberties and the utilization of hatred and narrow-mindedness as our new national standard and dogma.

But if that is what awaits us, then we, the immoral ones, the ones who believe that religious beliefs should not displace science in the schools and elsewhere; the ones who think women, who have the right to carry weapons, should also have the right to control their bodies; the ones who think that loving someone of the same sex is more beneficial to society than supporting those who engage in serial paternity without recognizing or caring

for their offspring, or that allowing for gay weddings makes more sense than permitting a felon serving a life sentence to marry and divorce as many times as he can find a willing female; we, the ones who think that it is our right, our patriotic duty, to question what our commander in chief is doing as our representative and in the name of democracy in other countries; we who care deeply about the future of this country and who are far from being immoral or evil are not going to let a few reactionary ideologues endanger our rights.

This is not the first time in our history that the country has been divided.

President Thomas Jefferson encouraged differences of opinion "on religion and on every other topic of human inquiry." He also warned, "These valuable privileges are much perverted when permitted to disturb the harmony of social intercourse and to lessen the tolerance of opinion."

He was, and is, so right.

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Immigrants or Illegals

By Abel Cruz

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free"

Written by Emma Lazarus, these words are taken from a poem called The New Colossus. Most people recognize them as the words that are engraved on a plaque in an interior wall of the pedestal that holds up the Statue of Liberty. For many years and even today, these words have been pointed to as the words that welcomed immigrants to the "land of the free, and the home of the brave".

By contrast, you would be hard pressed to find any monument or similar words located along the southern border of this country. Rather what you are apt to find are warning signs against entering this country illegally. In other parts of some border states you are more likely to see miles and miles of fencing in an effort to keep people from crossing over the "Rio Grande".

I was reminded of the words written by Ms. Lazarus this past weekend when US House of Representatives Rep. Sensenbrenner, R-Wisconsin led an effort along with Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-California to block the vote on the passage of an Intelligence Bill that was tailored after the recommendations of the September 11 Commission. Here's an excerpt from Saturday's New York Times.

House and Senate negotiators said that Mr. Sensenbrenner had been equally responsible for the decision to block a vote on the bill, which did not include a variety of provisions he had championed to broaden the powers of law-enforcement and immigration agencies.

"Regrettably, the Senate thus far has been hellbent on ensuring illegal aliens can receive drivers' licenses, regardless of the security concerns," Mr. Sensenbrenner said in a statement.

So on the one hand, you have a magnificent monument that embodies the virtues of a mostly European people that came to this country and are looked upon as contributors to the success of this nation. On the other, you have a group of people who are looked upon as illegal aliens who pose a security threat to this country.

More importantly, how dangerous is it when you have 2 Congressmen who are so strong in their anti immigration stance that they manage to hold up a bill that could strengthen the security of this country? What's next, are we who happen to be of a different skin color and perhaps happen to look Mexican, Salvadoran, or Middle Eastern, going to be forced to carry a copy of our birth certificates in order to prove that we are in this country legally? What about our children, will they be forced to prove the same?

Of course if you happen to be of a particular ethnic group and are anti immigration and are tired of "all those Mexicans" coming over here and taking all the jobs that nobody else wants, then Mr. Sensenbrenner's philosophy is right up your alley.

Until you're pulled over and asked to prove that you are here legally, that is.

(c)acruz2004

En Buena Compañía con la Minoría Inmoral

Por Bessy Reyna

Hasta el 3 de noviembre, nunca me había considerado inmoral o malvada. Había estado satisfecha conmigo misma en mi creencia de que vivía en un país que le daba la bienvenida al intercambio de ideas. Yo pensé que los asuntos sociales como la educación, el cuidado de la salud, el empleo y otros que afectan a millones de personas eran suficientemente importantes para yo dar una opinión o abogar por reformar las condiciones que han producido y han mantenido las desigualdades sociales.

Mi manera de pensar se vilipendió el día después de la elección.

Ahora no sólo soy una "liberal", esa palabra fue usada como un epíteto por Bush I y Bush II cuando hicieron campaña por la presidencia en contra de candidatos de Massachusetts. Se espera que yo crea que lo que represento es incompatible con lo que alguna gente considera "valores morales".

Por suerte, no estoy sola. Hay otros 55 millones dispersos por todo el país que al menos comparten parte de mi manera de pensar. Nos hemos convertido en la minoría inmoral. Estoy orgullosa de estar en tan buena compañía.

Al ser una liberal obstinada, como mis lectores a menudo me recuerdan, siempre he apreciado el hecho de que vivo en una democracia secular, en un país en

el que el libre intercambio de ideas es parte de la estructura de quiénes somos, o de lo que le decimos al mundo que somos.

Lamentablemente, al echarle un vistazo a los estados rojos y azules, ya no tenemos una correa bíblica, una zona donde impera un fundamentalismo protestante. Ahora se ha convertido en una faja bíblica, una región que limitará a los políticos a un dogma religioso para codificar una ideología particular en leyes restrictivas. Los referéndum que prohíben el matrimonio entre homosexuales en 11 estados son sólo el comienzo.

Estoy bien preocupada con la posibilidad de vivir en una sociedad que reprima el debate y que imponga una homogeneidad ideológica. No importa qué etiqueta se use, ala derecha o ala izquierda, el extremismo busca reprimir la expresión y los derechos individuales. Cómo somos, cómo vivimos nuestras vidas y en lo que creemos no puede ser moldeado para encarar en un patrón ideológico. Un país tan diverso como el nuestro ha sido enriquecido por el discurso intelectual entre visiones religiosas, sociales y políticas.

El domingo antes de la elección, manejé hasta Manchester, N.H., para asistir al mitin del candidato demócrata a la presidencia John F. Kerry. Esperé

durante varias horas con un grupo de cientos de personas. Un joven que estaba parado al lado mío estaba muy emocionado de estar ahí. Me dijo que había pasado todos los domingos de los últimos cuatro meses haciendo campaña a favor de Kerry. Era alto, amistoso y tan elocuente que pensé que era un estudiante universitario. Para mi sorpresa, resultó ser un estudiante de segundo año de escuela secundaria.

En ese mitin había una sensación de comunidad parecido a algo que no había sentido por mucho tiempo. También había una sensación de que al participar en el proceso electoral estábamos honrando la democracia y haciendo una diferencia.

Sólo pude esperar que el resultado de esta elección no significase más deterioro de nuestras libertades civiles y el uso del odio y la intolerancia como nuestro nuevo estándar y dogma nacional.

Pero si eso es lo que nos espera, entonces nosotros, los inmorales, los que creemos que las creencias religiosas no deben desplazar la ciencia en las escuelas ni en cualquier otro lugar; los que pensamos que las mujeres, que tienen el derecho de portar armas, también deberían tener el derecho de controlar sus cuerpos; los que pensamos que amar a alguien del mismo sexo es más beneficioso para la sociedad que apoyar a los que se convierten en padres una vez y otra vez y no reconocen o cuidan a sus hijos,

que permitir las bodas entre homosexuales tiene más sentido que permitirle a un criminal cumplir una cadena perpetua y poder casarse y divorciarse todas las veces que encuentre a una mujer que esté dispuesta a hacerlo; nosotros, los que pensamos que es nuestro derecho, nuestro deber patriótico preguntar qué está haciendo nuestro comandante en jefe como nuestro representante y en el nombre de la democracia en otros países; los que nos preocupamos por el futuro de este país y que para nada somos inmorales o malvados no vamos a permitir que unos pocos ideólogos reaccionarios pongan en peligro nuestros derechos.

Esto no es la primera vez en nuestra historia que el país ha estado dividido. El presidente Thomas Jefferson fomentó las diferencias de opinión "sobre religión y cualquier otro tema de razonamiento humano". También advirtió, "Estos privilegios valiosos son muy pervertidos cuando se permite perturbar la armonía de las relaciones sociales y disminuir la tolerancia de opinión".

El tenía y tiene razón.

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Driver's Licenses are Less than a Right

By Marisa Treviño

In this nasty fight over immigration reform, critics are so intent on not giving an inch to illegal immigrants that they are labeling everything as being a "right." Actually, it's less than that.

The latest issue spreading across the country is whether to grant undocumented immigrants driver's licenses.

The critics say it's a right only our citizens should have.

This train of thought doesn't take into account the fact that driving is no longer even a privilege. It is a common global skill that has evolved for many — even undocumented immigrants — into a necessity.

According to the United States Chamber of Commerce, there are 10.5 million illegal workers in the country. Not all of them get to their jobs by foot, bicycle, bus, subway or being picked up at day labor centers.

A lot of them have cars, which they drive without licenses, and most probably without insurance too.

Far from symbolizing a true citizenship right like a voter's registration card, the driver's license should be seen as an accountability tool. It allows us to know that the person with the license not only knows the traffic laws, but is at least familiar with safer driving techniques, road manners and proper procedures in case of an accident.

Yet, those who would rather pretend that denying illegal immigrants a driver's license will

make them pack the family car and return home don't understand that's not how life works when there's no job to go home to.

These critics are deluding themselves and endangering the rest of us unnecessarily.

If ever there was a population aside from teen drivers who needs to know what the laws of the road are, it's people not born here.

That became very clear in Wisconsin. Miles from our southern border but with a sizeable Latino population, community leaders saw the need for local Latinos to know driving laws when a German tourist was run over by an undocumented immigrant from Mexico.

In Mexico, where the only pedestrians who have the right of way on city streets are the ones wanting to commit suicide, the driver may have assumed that the tourist knew to get out of the way.

Unlicensed drivers also reveal another big problem — uninsured drivers.

The Insurance Research Council in their last study on uninsured motorists reported that 14 percent of drivers across the country are uninsured.

Going state-by-state produces a more alarming picture.

Colorado ranks highest, with 32 percent uninsured. New Mexico stands at 30 percent, California has 22 percent, Florida has 20 percent and Texas is 18 percent.

It's not that surprising that these states with high undocumented populations should be ranked among the top ten states with the most uninsured motorists.

Hand-in-hand with these statistics is the fact that the costs of auto insurance coverage for policies covering uninsured motorists (UM) are rising.

Carolyn Gorman, vice president of the Insurance Information Institute, says prices for UM coverage are "going up at a faster rate than any other part of the auto insurance policy."

Things don't have to be this way.

Right now, from Washington to Austin, lawmakers have before them bills that would allow undocumented immigrants to apply for driver's licenses.

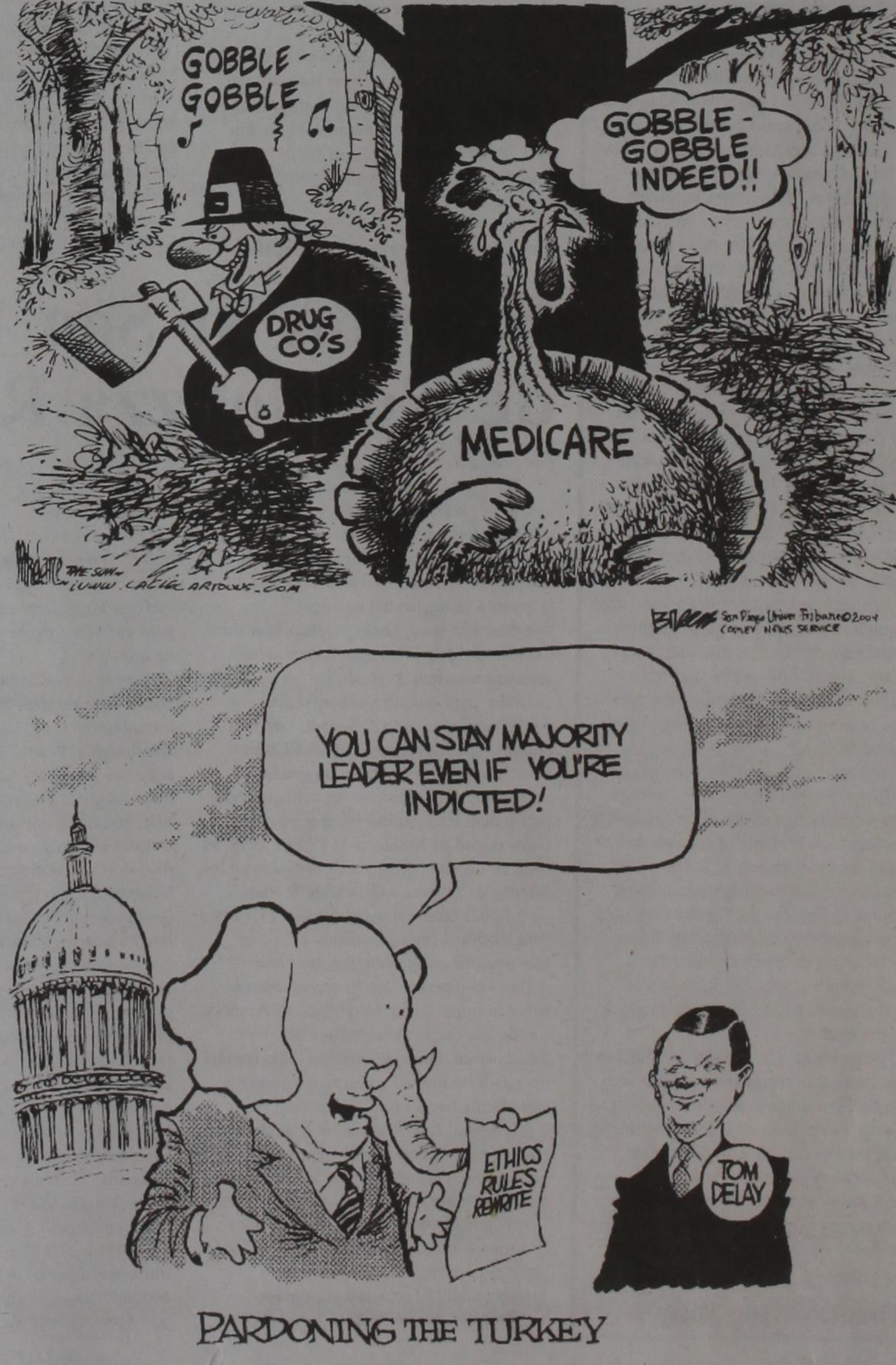
If the bills pass, does it mean that the undocumented will always signal when turning left or not drive drunk or without insurance or run a red light?

Just as with any other driver's license holder, it will be up to the individual to make those kinds of personal choices about following the law.

But by having in their possession that laminated piece of plastic with the bad picture it does mean that there was an honest attempt to do what was right.

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Demos Gracias to Good Health Por Nuestra Salud

Las diversas maneras de cocinar el pavo

Una experta ofrece recetas y trucos para comprar, descongelar y preparar el guajolote para la cena del Día de Acción de Gracias

Una experta ofrece recetas y trucos para comprar, descongelar y preparar el guajolote para la cena del Día de Acción de Gracias

Este año no tiene excusa para no servir en su mesa un pavito dorado, jugoso y con un sabor como para chuparse los dedos.

Las expertas de la línea gratuita de Butterball® le aclaran todas las dudas que pueda tener a la hora de preparar este tradicional platillo de Acción de Gracias.

"Existen alrededor de ocho métodos diferentes para cocinar el pavo", dijo Christina Eilers, nutricionista y experta de la citada compañía desde 1991.

"Se puede hacer desde frito, ahumado, en olla al vapor, en el horno de microondas, en parrillas de carbón o de gas, en hornos convencionales —que tienen un abanico que gira el calor dentro del horno y hacen que los alimentos se cocinen con más rapidez— en asadores eléctricos y al horno".

Al horno, según la experta, es la forma más segura y con la cual se pueden experimentar más recetas.

"En Butterball® promovemos la preparación asada al horno, en una bandeja no muy profunda y sin tapar las primeras tres partes del tiempo de cocción. El secreto está en cocinarlo lentamente, a una temperatura de 325°F, por el tiempo necesario según el tamaño del pavo. Al final, se cubre con una lámina de papel aluminio fina para evitar que se reseque las pechugas", dijo Eilers.

El pavo debe estar descongelado y se coloca en la bandeja para asar con la pechuga hacia arriba. No es necesario condimentarlo, porque a estos pavos les añaden sal y caldo de aves antes de congelarlos, pero a la mayoría de las personas les gusta ponerle sal, pimienta, ajo en polvo y un poquito de aceite.

"Mi mamá suele hacerlo en una olla con tapadera, cocido, y media hora antes de que esté suave le quita la tapa y deja que se dore. Le queda un pavo bonito y dorado, como de fotografía".

"Lo importante es cocinarlo a la temperatura adecuada, continúa la experta, para no dar oportunidad a que se desarrollen bacterias. A 325°F, un pavo de 10 a 18 libras se cocina en tres horas y media, sin relleno. Si



utiliza relleno, considere cocinarlo por 45 minutos más".

En cuanto a higiene, la cocción del pavo con o sin relleno ha sido siempre una preocupación para el ama de casa.

Eislers señala que se puede cocinar el pavo con relleno sin ningún peligro, si éste se prepara el mismo día y se introduce caliente en el pavo crudo. "Hay unos termómetros de carne que se pueden colocar en el relleno antes de ponerse a cocinar y cuando el termómetro marca 160 grados significa que el pavo está listo. Para saber si el pavo con relleno está listo, también se puede colocar un termómetro en el muslo del ave y verificar que tiene una temperatura de 180°F".

Butterball® tiene 50 años ofreciendo a través de su línea telefónica gratuita recetas e información para preparar el pavo.

Desde hace varios años tiene operadoras que hablan español y ahora tiene un sitio en la internet en español con toda la información para hacer de su cena una noche inolvidable.

"Entre las preguntas más comunes que recibimos se encuentran cómo calcular el tamaño del pavo para el número de personas; para ello tenemos un programa que hace el cálculo de inmediato. También nos preguntan cómo descongelarlo y cómo prepararlo más saludablemente".

La experta señaló que tienen recetas bajas en grasa, así como sugerencias para los platillos acompañantes y postre, más nutritivos y con menos azúcar.

"Promovemos mucho el uso de frutas naturales y yogur para los postres, y pan integral y verduras para el relleno, y, sobre todo, comer con moderación", concluyó.

Para recetas o información sobre cómo preparar el pavo, visite el sitio en la internet www.butterball.com y vaya a la ventanilla que dice "En español". También puede llamar al teléfono 1 (800) BUTTERBALL y marcar el #7 para recibir atención en su idioma. Las operadoras contestarán sus llamadas incluso el Día de Acción de Gracias.

¡Buen provecho!

Las Fiestas y Su Dieta

No deje que sus estados físico y mental se vean comprometidos por las indiscreciones culinarias y el ajetreo típicos de los meses que se avecinan.

"Hay algo acerca de la época de las fiestas de fin de año que hace a las personas pensar que tienen permiso de olvidar las buenas costumbres que mantienen los otros 10 meses del año", observa Yvonne Nicholson, consejera en nutrición y asuntos de la familia y del consumidor del departamento de Extensión Cooperativa de la Universidad de California.

"Agregue algo diferente a las celebraciones combinando la buena salud con una buena fiesta". Para lograrlo, ponga en práctica algunas de las ideas que brinda esta especialista.

Mantenga el equilibrio entre las calorías que consume y las que quema en actividades físicas. Por ejemplo, una persona de 150 libras de peso tiene que bailar a paso rápido por una hora además de ocuparse en quehaceres domésticos por otros 45 minutos para quemar las calorías de una sola rebanada de pastel de calabaza!

Aumente su actividad física "sin darse cuenta". Lleve al perro a caminar 10 minutos extra o estacione su auto más lejos de la entrada de la tienda, el cine o la oficina para tener que caminar un poco más de lo que acostumbra.

Regale alimentos saludables y no ricos en grasas y calorías. Así no se encontrará probando y engordando al preparar galletas, pastelitos o dulces que generalmente no forman parte de su alimentación cotidiana. Considere obsequiar vinagres de sabor de hierbas diferentes, mezclas para sopas con frijoles, lentejas y especias o panecillos tipo biscotti, que contienen menos grasa.

Haga un contrato consigo mismo de hacer ejercicio antes de dedicarse a otras actividades como, por ejemplo, 20 minutos de actividad física antes de ponerse a hornear o a envolver regalos.

Al preparar el menú de alguna reunión en su casa, agregue una caminata que podrá disfrutar usted y sus comensales al terminar de comer los deliciosos platillos que les sirvió.

Establezca prioridades de antemano. Decida el tiempo, esfuerzo y dinero que realmente puede invertir en compras, visitas y regalos y comparta esta información con familiares y amistades para que nadie tenga expectativas poco realistas.

Trate de seguir las buenas costumbres que contribuyen a la buena salud física y mental, pero no se sienta mal si falla de vez en cuando.

No pierda de vista que la verdadera dimensión de las fiestas de fin de año se experimenta mejor cuando se logra mantener la calma personal, cordialidad hacia los demás y armonía familiar y además se padece menos del "estrés decembrino", tan común en estas fiestas.

Evite el remordimiento del 2 de enero. Este fin de año, permitase cuidar de su salud y de sus relaciones personales al celebrar las fiestas.

Diabetic Foot Ulcers Need Attention

Almost 2 million American diabetics suffer from ulcers of their feet. The number of diabetics in the United States is growing each year. This has caused the increase in diabetic foot ulcers as well as the increase in risk for amputation of a lower limb. With the use of advanced technologies, over 90% of diabetic foot ulcers can be healed and the limbs salvaged.

PREVENTION:

Prevention is the first line of defense against limb amputation. Even a minor injury to a long-term diabetic can bring about the devastation of an amputated limb. Therefore, diabetic education and prevention of foot lesions is critical.

If a diabetic does develop a wound on the foot, early intervention is critical. No wound is too small. If you come to the Wound Care Center we will be very aggressive in the management of your wound.

On your initial visit all the barriers to wound healing will be identified and addressed. It is important that your blood sugar be under control for wound healing. Any medications that would interfere with healing such as aspirin-like medications, Prednisone, and immunosuppressants will have to be managed.

Next, your foot will be assessed as to how much sensation is left. The circulation will be assessed using advanced Laser Doppler and oxygen measuring equipment. A deep tissue culture of the cells next to the living wound bed will be obtained, so we can find out which bacteria is colonizing the wound. Unfortunately, this requires using a local anesthetic (numbing medicine), which is somewhat uncomfortable, but we are very aggressive at managing the pain of wounds.

If the wound does seem severely colonized or infected, we use oral antibiotics or possibly even IV antibiotics. Pain medications will be prescribed as needed.

Dressings will be chosen to control the bacte-

ria and the moisture of the wound, but also with consideration as to how much help the patient has in managing the wound. It is important to remove any pressure loads from the wound, so any special shoes, walking boots, or casting will be addressed during the initial visit.

A study of diabetic foot ulcers in multiple wound care centers showed that only 65% of diabetic foot ulcers heal in 20 weeks. In addition, the amputation rate was 14-20%. We have found in our center that paying attention to all the details up front gives us a much better chance of healing with over 80% of our wounds being healed in 12 weeks! The amputation rate in our patients with diabetic foot ulcers is usually less than 8% for any given quarter. We feel there are three reasons our amputation rate is less than half of the national average for wound care centers.

First, all our personnel are trained in the use of advanced technologies. This is coordinated in a system, which keeps us all alert to the many factors that would cause the wound to not heal. It keeps the personnel of the Wound Care Center and the patient on the same page in healing the wound.

Second, the use of hyperbaric oxygen has dramatically increased the salvage rate of limbs that we thought could never be healed. These successes have taught us that no wound is too bad to try to heal.

Third, there has been a marked improvement in revascularization. Now, most patients can have a catheterization procedure with stenting that will allow increased blood flow to the foot and, thus allow adequate healing.

With our advanced technologies we have found that no wound is too bad, too big, or too small to be healed. The most important thing is to try. Since there have been so many new tools introduced in the last few years for healing wounds, it is definitely worth a try.

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Alberto Carrasco
Beneficiario de corazón

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Broncos & Chargers fighting for AFC's western leadership



Nueva York, U.S., November 22, 2004 (Notimex) - The Denver Broncos and San Diego Chargers are still fighting for the top of the Western Division of the AFC which both share with a 7-3 mark after 11 weeks of NFL action.

Broncos and Chargers are firmly fighting for the leadership of the sector that extended till this day in which Broncos beat New Orleans 34-13 while the "Bolts" beat Oakland 23-17.

The rest of the AFC leaders remain untouched: the Western Division is led by the New England Patriots with a 8-1 mark, leaving the New York Jets behind (7-3). Meanwhile, in the Northern Division, the Pittsburgh Steelers (9-1) won their eighth game in a row to comfortably lead their division.

The Southern Division still

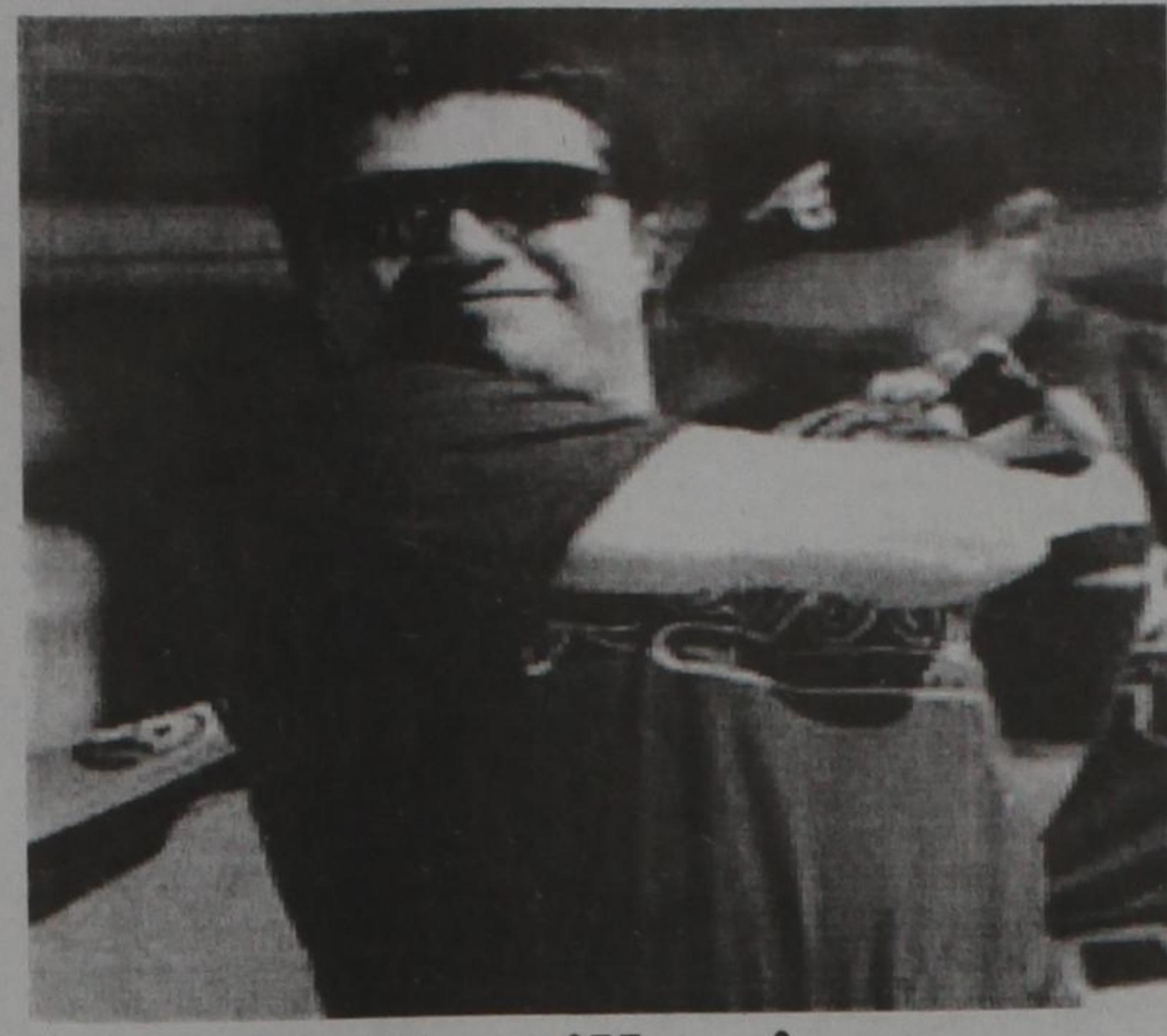
belongs to the Indianapolis Colts (7-3), although the Jacksonville Jaguars (6-4) which lost today against the Tennessee Titans (4-6) are quite near them.

Within the National Conference, on the other hand, the Philadelphia Eagles remain the leaders of the Eastern division with a 9-1 mark right after the New York Giants which hold a 5-5 mark.

The Green Bay Packers are the new leaders of the Northern Division now after beating the Houston Texans for 16-13 despite sharing a 6-4 mark with the sub-leader, the Minnesota Vikings.

While the Atlanta Hawks remains as the undisputed leader of the South with a 8-2 mark and the Seattle Sea Falcons (6-4) still leads the mediocre Western Division.

The Southern Division still



Vinicio Castilla signs on with the Expos for 6.2 MD

Washington, U.S.A., November 17, 2004 (Notimex) - Mexican third baseman Vinicio Castilla was signed on by the Expos after reaching an agreement for a salary of 6.2 million dollars for which the baseball player from Oaxaca will don the colors of the Washington team the next Major League season.

The arrangement reached by the squad, which could change its name again to the Washington Senators for the upcoming campaign, and the National League's RBI champ is for two years, thus the capital city team boosts its defense as well as its offense.

Castilla had his best Major League season yet as he ended at the top of the runs-batted-in list in the "old circuit", 131, over slingers like Scott Rolen and Dominican Albert Pujols, both

in the St Louis Cardinals.

The Mexican third baseman's batting average was .271 with 35 homers that make him one of the most productive batters in the National League; this year Castilla exceeded the 300 home runs record closing the season with 303.

In addition, the Expos also signed on shortstop Cristian Guzman from the Dominican Republic for four years and 16.8 million dollars, to make next season's inside left-hand line look very solid for Washington.

Guzman, a 26-year-old switch hitter, ended the campaign with a .274 batting average, he hit eight homer runs, 46 RBIs, and 10 stolen bases, and he is the American League's number one short stop with a .983 fielding average. NTX

Jermain Taylor vs. William Joppy

Nueva York, N.Y., 23 de noviembre, 2004 - HBO Shorts presenta otra pelea repleta de acción cuando HBO BOXING AFTER DARK: JERMAIN TAYLOR VS. WILLIAM JOPPY salga al aire el SABADO, 4 de DICIEMBRE a las 10:45 p.m. (ET/PT) desde el Barton Coliseum en Little Rock, Ark., exclusivamente por HBO.

En el evento pactado a 12 asaltos, el ascendente contendiente del peso mediano y nativo de Arkansas, Jermain Taylor (21-0, 16 KOs) hace su segunda aparición este año por TV nacional, frente a los fanáticos de su pueblo natal. Después de derrotar a Alex Bunema en el

Se desea usted bajar de peso, duerma más y cómprese un perro

Los expertos han determinado que si un adulto que desea adelgazar duerme más horas y se consigue un perro, puede perder más kilos y mantener más tiempo su nuevo peso bajo.

Científicos de la Universidad de Columbia hallaron que aquellas personas que duermen menos de cuatro horas diarias tienen un

73% más de posibilidades de padecer obesidad que quienes duermen la cantidad recomendada de siete a nueve horas diarias, dijeron los científicos.

Los que duermen un promedio de cinco horas tienen un 50% más de riesgo y los que duermen seis horas tienen un 23% más.

continua en la pagina 6

AVISO LEGAL

Estos juegos de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas terminan el 31 de diciembre de 2004. Tienes hasta el 29 de junio de 2005 para redimir cualquier boleto de estos juegos:

Juego #335 Lucky Loot Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.06	Juego #443 Double Blackjack Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.68	Juego #485 Money Train Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.79
Juego #387 Break The Bank Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.94	Juego #451 High Roller Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.47	Juego #486 Platinum Payout Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.37
Juego #389 Double It! Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.68	Juego #460 Lucky Slots Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.87	Juego #488 All The Marbles Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.76
Juego #392 Tic Tac Toad Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.86	Juego #463 Instant Monopoly Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.65	Juego #465 Lady Bucks Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.78
Juego #424 7 Come 11 Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.59	Juego #466 Easy 10 Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.61	Juego #427 50's Fever Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.65

Las probabilidades mostradas aquí son probabilidades generales de ganar cualquier premio, incluyendo los premios iguales al valor del boleto. Los expendedores de la Lotería están autorizados para redimir premios de hasta \$599. Premios de \$600 o más deben ser cobrados en persona en un Centro de Reclamo de la Lotería o por correo con un formulario de cobro de la Lotería completado; sin embargo, premios anuales o premios de más de \$999,999 deben ser cobrados en persona en la oficina central de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas en Austin. Llama a la Línea de Servicio al Cliente 1-800-37-LOTTO o visita la página de Internet de la Lotería en www.tlottery.org para más información y la dirección del Centro de Reclamo más cercano. La Lotería de Texas no es responsable por el robo o la pérdida de boletos, o por boletos extraviados en el correo. Boletos, transacciones, jugadores y ganadores son sujetos también, y jugadores y ganadores están de acuerdo en cumplir con todas las leyes que se aplican al caso, las reglas de la Comisión, regulaciones, normas, directivas, instrucciones, condiciones, procedimientos y decisiones finales del director ejecutivo. Un juego de raspar puede seguir vendiéndose aun cuando todos los premios mayores han sido cobrados. Tienes que tener 18 años de edad o más para poder comprar un boleto de la Lotería de Texas. Se Responsible. Recuerda, es solo un juego. La Lotería de Texas apoya la educación en Texas; contribuimos a la Fundación del Fondo Escolar. © 2004 Texas Lottery Commission. Todos los Derechos Reservados.

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Nicolas Cage digs up 'National Treasure' at US box offices

Los Angeles, U.S., November 22, 2004 (AFP) - Nicolas Cage's "National Treasure" dug up more riches than its Hollywood competition at the North American box office, beating out three animated flicks to take over first place, according to preliminary figures released Sunday.

Cage's quest to find a treasure hidden by the U.S. founding fathers raked in 35.2 million dollars in its weekend debut, according to box office trackers Exhibitor Relations.

'Harry Potter' director strikes deal with Warner Bros.

Los Angeles, U.S., November 23, 2004 (AFP) - Mexican director Alfonso Cuarón has struck a three-year production deal with Warner Bros. in an agreement showing the Hollywood company's increasing interest in extending its international reach, an industry publication said Monday.

Cuarón, who directed "Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban," will be able to develop mainstream and smaller Spanish-language films in Mexico, the trade publication Variety reported.

Warner Bros. will distribute Cuarón's films in several languages as the company seeks to distribute films outside the United States.

Cuarón, who was nominated for a best original screenplay Oscar last year for the film "Y Tu Mama Tambien," first worked with Warner Bros. when he directed "A Little Princess" in 1995.

"We had a wonderful experience with Alfonso on 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban' and have been longtime admirers of his work," Jeff Robinov, a Warner Bros. producer, told Variety.

"His deal will give us the opportunity to collaborate with Alfonso on movies that make the most of his artistry and vision, and continue to offer him the mainstream worldwide audiences that our studio provides so successfully," Robinov said. AFP

Bajar Peso viene de la pagina 5

"Quizá haya una oportunidad para ayudar a la gente a dormir más, y quizás eso les ayude a resolver sus problemas de peso", dijo el doctor Steven Heymsfield, de la Universidad de Columbia y del Hospital St. Luke's-Roosevelt de Nueva York.

El doctor Heymsfield y el epidemiólogo James Gangwisch, también de Columbia, dirigieron el estudio y presentan sus resultados esta semana ante una reunión de la Asociación Norteamericana para el Estudio de la Obesidad.

Para su estudio, los científicos utilizaron información proveniente de unos 18.000 adultos que participaron en una encuesta del gobierno durante la década de 1980.

El estudio incluyó informes a largo plazo sobre los hábitos de salud y los investigadores lo ajustaron para tomar en consideración otras cosas que pudieran afectar la obesidad, tales como la cantidad de ejercicios físicos o las horas de sueño.

Los científicos dijeron que mientras más tiempo está despierto un paciente, más come, y que además la falta de sueño rebaja el nivel de leptina, una proteína sanguínea que suprime el apetito y parece afectar cómo el cerebro determina que el organismo ha ingerido suficiente comida.

La falta de sueño también aumenta los niveles de grelina, una sustancia que hace que la gente desee comer más.

Entretanto, en Chicago, varios médicos recomendaron un sistema para bajar peso que incluye al paciente y a su perro. En el primer estudio dietético que incluyó a seres humanos y animales, los médicos hallaron que los propietarios de perros perdieron más kilos que los pacientes que no poseían mascotas, y además mantuvieron durante más tiempo su nuevo peso bajo.

"Si uno busca motivaciones y apoyo para bajar de peso, no necesita salir de su propia casa", dijo el doctor Robert Kushner, que realizó el estudio con los expertos Kimberly Rudloff y Dennis Jewell.

Las pruebas de los científicos de Chicago abarcaron a 56 personas, 53 perros y 36 perros acompañados de sus respectivos amos.



"The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie," a cartoon about a sponge living in the ocean floor, took second place with 33.5 million dollars.

The superheroes in Disney-Pixar's "The Incredibles" were knocked out of first place after two weeks atop the list, finishing third with 26.7 million dollars. The film has made 177.8 million dollars since its opening three weeks ago.

"The Polar Express," a 170-million-dollar computer-animated film featuring Tom Hanks' voice, made 15.2 million dollars.

"Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," starring Oscar-winning

actress Renee Zellweger as a 30-something single-woman living in London, finished fifth with 10.1 million dollars.

James Bond star Pierce Brosnan's heist caper "After the Sunset" landed in sixth place with 5.2 million dollars, followed by the Ray Charles biographical film "Ray" which earned 4.6 million dollars.

Horror flicks "The Grudge" and "Seed of Chucky" finished in eighth and ninth place with 3.8 million dollars and 3.1 million dollars, respectively.

The thriller "Saw" round out the top 10 with three million dollars. AFP

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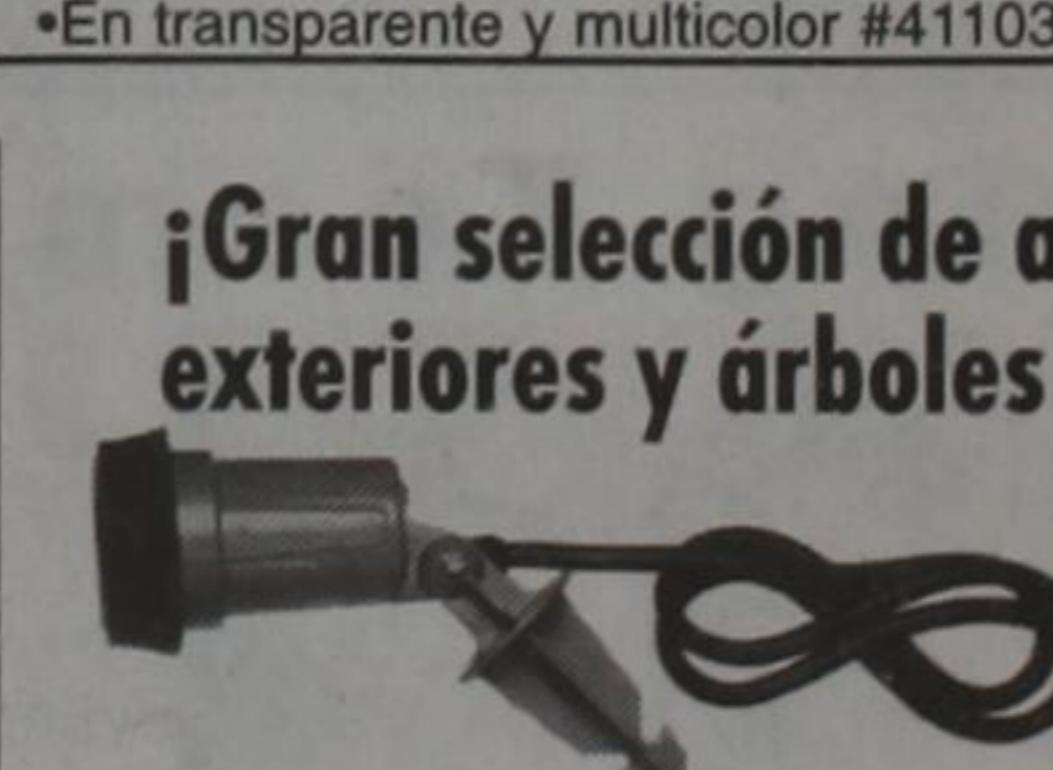
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