

Illegal Immigration Latino's Biggest Issue, LULAC Says



Miembros de LULLAC de toda la nacion se juntaran en Phoenix esta proxima semana. Uno de los principales topicos de discusion sera la de imigración.

PHOENIX - Illegal immigration along the Arizona-Mexico border is the biggest issue facing the state's Latinos, the president of one of the nation's largest Hispanic groups said yesterday.

The League of United Latin American Citizens, a 115,000-member organization, will address border crossings and other issues during its convention this week in Phoenix.

The event is expected to draw 7,000 delegates and community members to the Phoenix Civic Plaza.

LULAC members also cited Arizona's voter rejection of bilingual education and a high dropout rate among Latino high school students as concerns for the Hispanic community.

Awareness of border crossings needs to increase across the country, especially after the deaths of 14 illegal immigrants who died last month while trying to cross the desert near Yuma, said Rick Dovalina, the group's president.

"This is not a dilemma where you have options," he said. "You have to stop people dying."

The U.S. Border Patrol said 106

people died while crossing southern Arizona's deserts during the 12-month period that ended on Sept. 30, 2000. About 5,000 others have been rescued since 1998.

Although Dovalina admits that he doesn't have the answer to the problem, he suggested that any discussion of alternative policies should involve Mexico.

U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes, a Texas Democrat who is chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, agreed.

"One life (lost) is one too many," Reyes said. "Mexico has to be a part in coming up with a solution."

Reyes, a former Border Patrol agent, said he would like to see Mexico do more to educate its citizens about the dangers of crossing the border through the desert.

Dovalina said border policy needs a long-term agenda.

"We need to bring our government officials to recognize that the policy is not working," Dovalina said. "We need a plan to understand this is not only an issue for the Hispanics, but an issue for us as a society."

Suspects Linked To Border Deaths Nabbed

TUCSON, Ariz., -- Four alleged illegal alien smugglers believed connected to the deaths of 14 Mexican immigrants in the Arizona desert last month were arrested by Mexican authorities in a Sonora border town, the Arizona Daily Star reported Tuesday.

The Tucson newspaper said the four were picked up on unrelated smuggling charges in the town of Sonoyta, located across the border from Lukeville, Ariz., shortly after the tragedy in a remote area known as the "Devil's Path" was discovered by U.S. authorities on May 23.

"They are here in prison," said Eduardo Santos Acosta-Michel, head of the Mexican Federal Attorney General's Office in Nogales.

Santos told the Star that the four had not been charged with crimes directly related to the Arizona incident, however they were believed to be part of the smuggling ring that organized the ill-fated crossing.

A group of 30 illegal immigrants was abandoned in the searing heat with little food or water by two guides who allegedly reassured them that a highway was nearby, when in fact it was about 30 miles away.

By the time U.S. border agents discovered the group, 14 of them were dead and the remainder of them needed to be hospitalized. Santos confirmed to the Star that one of the two guides was among the dead; the other guide, Jesus Lopez Ramos, was arrested and remained lodged in an Arizona jail on 25 felony counts.

Los Latinos Votan En Masa El 43% De Los Empadronados Acudieron a Las Urnas

Patricia A. González-Portillo
Reportera de La Opinión

La fuerza electoral latina se hizo sentir ayer cuando miles de votantes de esta comunidad llegaron a depositar sus votos en las elecciones históricas de Los Angeles.

De acuerdo al Instituto William C. Velázquez, un 43% de los votantes latinos arribaron a las casetas electorales, comparado con el 35% que lo hicieron en el mes de abril, durante las elecciones primarias.

Esto significa que, entre 130 mil y 135 mil de los 315 mil electores latinos registrados salieron a ejercer su derecho constitucional, según esa organización.

El Instituto Velázquez basa dichos datos en una encuesta de salida que realizó entre un grupo selecto de precintos de votación, contando el voto latino a través de formularios escritos.

Por su parte, los resultados preliminares de una encuesta de salida realizada por el periódico Los Angeles Times y un sondeo de los votos por correo reflejan los mismos resultados, al afirmar que más latinos votaron en estas elecciones que en las elecciones primarias.

"Hubo una gran participación latina, un poco más alta que la de abril", manifestó Susan Pinkus, directora de las encuestas del Times.

Pinkus explicó que datos preliminares del sondeo y de los votos por correo señalaban a James Hahn "con una ventaja leve" sobre Antonio Villaraigosa.

Agregó que en estas elecciones participaron más votantes liberales y menos republicanos, en comparación con los sufragios de abril.

"El voto judío estuvo dividido, pero tendió a favor de Villaraigosa", señaló Pinkus. "En nuestra encuesta de salida los votos estuvieron divididos y los votos por correo van a marcar una gran diferencia".

Miles de votos latinos
"En abril pasado hubo 110 mil latinos que votaron de los 309 mil que estaban registrados", señaló

Antonio González, director del Instituto Velázquez.

González atribuyó el aumento de esta participación latina al registro de nuevos votantes de esta comunidad y a la candidatura de un latino, Antonio Villaraigosa, en la contienda por la alcaldía.

"Hubo buenos candidatos y buenas campañas", comentó González.

Tomando en cuenta que los resultados de una encuesta similar hecha en las elecciones de abril arrojaron cifras parecidas a los resultados finales, González consideró que en esta ocasión las conclusiones de la encuesta de ayer también podrían reflejar lo mismo.

Marcelo Gaete, director de participación civil de la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Elegidos y Nombrados (NALEO), piensa que el índice de votos latinos incrementó porque "hay un sentimiento de que este es nuestro tiempo".

"Los latinos estamos tomando la responsabilidad de votar", señaló Gaete.

NALEO, al igual que otras organizaciones comunitarias, estuvo haciendo un intenso trabajo previo a la elección, para impulsar el votante latino a través de comerciales en la radio.

NALEO también mandó más de 100 mil cartas a este grupo de electores y tocó puertas e hizo llamadas, en este esfuerzo.

"Durante las últimas dos semanas hemos estado llamando, recorriendo precintos tratando de identificar aquellos de mayoría latina", dijo Arturo Vargas, director de NALEO.

Más del 70% de los latinos registrados a votar se empadronaron después de 1995 y el 48% de ellos son menores de 35 años, según Gaete.

"Esto es consistente con el trabajo que hicimos con Voces del Pueblo, donde fuimos a las calles a preguntar a los votantes que usualmente son ignorados porque no votan", afirmó Vargas. "Esta noche se escucharon sus votos".

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

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Latino Congressional Survey Delivers A Message to the Hill

By Cynthia L. Oroscó

As never before, this nation's two major political parties have been whispering sweet nothings into the 80 million ears of the nation's 40 million Hispanics.

George W. Bush invigorated the courtship competition last fall during his presidential campaign by defining himself to Latinos as a new and "different" Republican. He chided fellow GOP members for not showing more sensitivity on such issues as immigration, bilingual education and relations with Mexico.

That recharged the Democrats' passion for Latinos to the point where today both parties are professing their ardor in the romance language of Spanish, as well as in English.

So here in the wedding month of June, which suitor has serious intentions?

Are either talking sweet nothings -- or is it still sweet nothings? The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, a coalition of 32 major national advocacy and professional groups, offers a possible answer in a survey it will release later this month. Using Hispanic interests in key pieces of legislation that were taken up during the second session of the 106th Congress, which concluded last December, it checked the voting records of every member in both chambers.

Then it produced its fifth "pro-Hispanic scorecard," using 10 issues in the House of Representatives and eight in the Senate. These included such legislation as the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, funding for education and low-income housing, a minimum wage increase, and Senate confirmation vote on Judge

Richard Paez's nomination to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The collective result was no surprise. Added together, Democrats voted "pro-Hispanic" about three times as often as did Republicans, 88.8 percent vs. 29.4 percent.

The percentages, by chamber:

Demo...Repub
Senate.....87.7%.....30.1
House.....89.6%.....28.6

The NHLA presented only the scores of individual congressional members. Hispanic Link News Service did its own arithmetic to come up with the party totals.

There may be a reason for the NHLA's reluctance to do so. Among its members are such organizations as the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the League of United Latin American Citizens and the National Puerto Rican Coalition, groups that have often been at odds on issues with Republican leadership. The NHLA has to work with congressional members on both sides of the aisle. Why embarrass the GOP members collectively?

Actually, says NHLA Chairman Manuel Mirabal, the results include some very good news for Republicans like President Bush who are concerned with their image among Hispanics. The GOP "pro-Hispanic" rating has improved dramatically over two years earlier.

The percentages for the first session of the 106th Congress (1997-98) were:

Democrats...Republican
Overall.....82.2.....4.5
Senate.....97.4.....2.7
House.....78.9.....4.9

There are no Latinos in the Senate. While scores remained high this time for the 15 Hispanic



Democrats Take Control of the Senate

Sen. James Jeffords, center, walks with Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT), as he points, and Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, June 5, 2001. Jeffords was departing a weekly Democratic Caucus just hours before he was to officially defect from the Republican Party and give control of the chamber of his new political allies.

Democrats in the House -- seven earned perfect scores and five got 90 percent grades -- ratings for the three Latino Republican members increased significantly:

1st Session	2nd Session	Percent	Percent
Lincoln Diaz-Balart (Fla.)	9	60	
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Fla.)	0	40	
Henry Bonilla (Texas)	0	30	

Mirabal says the scorecard process has enabled NHLA members to have greater and more effective contact with members of Congress. Now it is advising the politicians in advance on what legislation will be included in measuring their concern.

"Many more members of the Republican Party have found reasons

to vote favorably on our issues," he says.

Mirabal expects that the scorecard -- now compiled annually by NHLA -- to become a strong instrument to use in educating Congress on Latino concerns in the future.

(Cynthia L. Oroscó is editor of the national publication Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C. She may be contacted by e-mail at cynthia@HispanicLink.org)

For printed copies and cost of the 32-page NHLA Congressional Scorecard for the 106th Congress, contact NHLA, c/o National Puerto Rican Coalition 1700 K St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20006. (202) 223-3915. The scorecard can also be viewed on the NHLA Web site: www.bateylink.org/nhla.htm

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Puertorriqueña, que muchas veces han tenido conflictos sobre ciertos temas con el liderazgo republicano.

El Programa de Liderazgo Nacional Hispano tiene que trabajar con los miembros del congreso de ambos lados del pasillo. ¿Para qué avergonzar de manera colectiva a los miembros del partido republicano?

En realidad, señala jefe del Programa, Manuel Mirabal, los resultados incluyen algunas noticias muy buenas para los republicanos como el presidente Bush que se preocupan por su imagen entre los hispanos. Las calificaciones del partido republicano han mejorado dramáticamente desde hace dos años. Los porcentajes para la primera sesión del Congreso número 106 (1997-98) fueron:

Demócratas...Republicanos	Porcentaje...Porcentaje
Total	82.2.....4.5
El Senado	97.4.....2.7
La Cámara de Repre	78.9.....4.9

No hay ningún latino en el Senado. Si bien las calificaciones fueron altas para los 15 demócratas hispanos en la Cámara -- de ellos siete sacaron calificaciones perfectas y cinco 90 por ciento -- las calificaciones para los tres miembros latinos republicanos aumentaron de manera significativa:

Primera sesión...Segunda sesión	Porcentaje...Porcentaje
Lincoln Diaz-Balart (Fla.)	9.....60
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	0.....40

(Fla.).....0.....40
Henry Bonilla (Texas).....0.....30

Mirabal dice que el proceso de las libretas de calificaciones ha permitido que los miembros del Programa de Liderazgo Nacional Hispano tengan mejores y mayores contactos efectivos con los miembros del Congreso. Ahora está avisando por adelantado a los políticos sobre las legislaciones que se incluirán en la medida.

"Muchos más miembros del partido republicano han encontrado razones por votar favorablemente por nuestros temas", dice.

Mirabal supone que la libreta de calificaciones -- ahora copilada anualmente por el Programa -- se volverá un instrumento para educar al Congreso sobre los temas de importancia para los latinos.

(Cynthia L. Oroscó es editora de la publicación nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, D.C. Contactese con ella por correo electrónico a cynthia@HispanicLink.org) Para obtener copias impresas y el costo de la Libreta de Calificaciones del Congreso del Programa de Liderazgo Nacional Hispano, de 32 páginas, para la segunda sesión del Congreso número 106, contactese con NHLA, c/o National Puerto Rican Coalition, 1700 K Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20006. (202) 223-3815. La libreta también se puede ver en el sitio de internet del Programa: www.bateylink.org/nhla.htm

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Encuesta Congressional Latina Manda Mensaje Al Capitolio

Por Cynthia L. Oroscó

Como nunca, ambos partidos políticos principales estadounidenses han estado susurrando cositas a los 80 millones de oídos de los 40 millones de hispanos de esta nación.

George W. Bush avivó el cortejo competitivo en el otoño durante la campaña presidencial, definiéndose a los latinos como un republicano nuevo y "diferente". Regañó a sus compañeros republicanos por no mostrarse más sensibles a los temas de inmigración, educación bilingüe y relaciones vecinas con México.

Tanto fue que se revitalizó la pasión de los demócratas por los latinos a tal punto que hoy los dos partidos profesan su ardor en el idioma romance español, al igual que en inglés. Por ende, ahora en junio, el mes de las bodas, ¿cuál de los dos pretendientes tendrán

tenciones serias? ¿Es que alguno quisiera consolidar las cosas -- o siguen siendo dulces susurros?

El Programa de Liderazgo Nacional Hispano (National Hispanic Leadership Agenda), una coalición de 32 grupos importantes de apoyo y profesionales, ofrece una posible respuesta en su encuesta que sale este mes. Basándose en los intereses latinos de porciones claves de legislación que se vieron durante la segunda sesión del Congreso número 106, concluido en diciembre del año pasado, el Programa analizó los votos hechos por cada miembro de las dos cámaras.

A continuación produjo la quinta "libreta de calificaciones pro-hispana", basándose en 10 temas de la Cámara de Representantes y ocho

del Senado. Los temas incluyen legislación así como el Acta de Justicia Latina e Inmigrante (Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act), el Acta de Prevención de Crímenes de Odio (Hate Crimes Prevention Act), fondos para la educación y las viviendas de bajo costo, incremento en el salario mínimo, y el voto de confirmación del Senado en el nombramiento del Juez Richard Paez al noveno tribunal federal de apelaciones.

El resultado conjunto no fue una sorpresa. En suma, los demócratas votaron "pro-hispano" unas tres veces más frecuentemente que los republicanos, 88.8 por ciento a 29.4 por ciento.

Los porcentajes, por cámara:
Demócratas...Republicanos
E
Senado.....87.7.....30.1
Cámara
Rep.....89.6.....28.6

El Programa de Liderazgo Nacional Hispano presentó sólo las calificaciones de miembros del Congreso como individuos. Hispanic Link News Service hizo sus propios cálculos para llegar a los totales por partido.

Es posible que haya una razón por la reticencia del Programa en hacer la suma. Entre sus miembros están organizaciones como el Fondo Mexicano Americano de Defensa Legal y Educación, la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos y la Coalición Nacional

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For Mexico's Fox, Pledges Come Easier Than Results

By Raymond Rodriguez

The U.S. press has dutifully completed its evaluation of President George W. Bush's performance during his first 100 days in office. That's a ritual we've come to expect with new presidents.

Now it's Mexican President Vicente Fox's turn. Fox, who took office Dec. 1, seven weeks before Bush, is experiencing scrutiny from the media and the Mexican people on his first six months in office.

This is a rather novel experience for our neighboring nation. In the 72 years that the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, ruled Mexico, few dared to question, much less criticize, the president's actions or motives.

Part of the democratic change Fox is attempting to implement is a more open, independent press. No longer fearing political, economic or personal reprisals, members of the Mexican media and other analysts are taking a close look at what he has accomplished.

The reviews are mixed. So far, the tendency is toward patience and tolerance. The effects of 70 years of one-party rule cannot be undone overnight. Reforms don't arrive by Federal Express. Most Mexicans are willing to give the new president that benefit.

Both friend and foe believe that President Fox has created a major problem for himself. He needs to

satisfy people's high expectations.

Not only did he promise too much during the campaign, but he continues to do so. People feel disappointed when a man's deeds do not match his words. Their criticism is that he hasn't fully defined his programs or established his priorities. While they admire his optimism, even his admirers believe he should be more realistic in his political orientation.

However, it was his unbridled optimism that enabled Fox to achieve his greatest triumph to date: getting the Zapatistas in Chiapas to come to Mexico City and present their demands for greater autonomy to the Mexican Congress. There were many individuals, even members of his own National Action Party (PAN), who believed a peaceful, productive meeting could not be arranged and advised him against any conciliatory attempts by the federal government.

What occurred as a result of his effort was considered a political masterstroke by nearly everyone. It relieved the tension and distrust that had allowed the dissent to fester.

Now there is a strong possibility that the Congress will finally begin to address the plight of Mexico's 10 million indigenous people.

The most vocal criticism is directed at Fox's attempt to levy a 15 percent value-added tax on

foodstuffs, medicines and other basic necessities. The plan's opponents fear it will hit the poorest segment of the population the hardest. Currently, income taxes contribute less than 15 percent of the nation's income. Fox says he must have the additional revenue if he is to forge ahead with his social programs and provide better services for everyone.

His austere economic approach is also drawing criticism. He believes that to encourage foreign investment and create the million new jobs needed annually, international confidence must be established in the Mexican economy. Due to his efforts to date, U.S. business and banking firms are expressing a renewed interest in acquiring or forming partnerships with their Mexican counterparts.

A stable economy will also discourage the practice of Mexicans shifting their money to the United States as a safeguard against economic or social crises.

Two other areas where Fox gets mixed reviews are in controlling drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

While a concerted effort is being made to work more effectively with U.S. authorities in intercepting and prosecuting drug traffickers, it is too early to ascertain how successful the cooperation will be.

Rather than degrading or ignoring Mexican nationals who fled to the United States, he calls them heroes and acknowledges their immense contributions to his nation's economic well-being. Critics believe his attitude encourages more individuals to enter the United States illegally. His efforts, they insist, should be to increase opportunities at home.

That, of course, is precisely what Fox is attempting to do.

When George W. Bush assumed the U.S. presidency Jan. 20, a full complement of democratic machinery was in place for him to utilize in advancing his ideas and programs.

For Fox, the task is not just to postulate and implement programs. In a country with far fewer resources and democratic traditions, the task includes building the machinery, too.

The next six months could be crucial.

Raymond Rodriguez, a retired university professor residing in Long Beach, Calif., is author of "Decade of Betrayal" (University of New Mexico Press), an account of the repatriation of a million Mexicans from the United States during the Great Depression. He may be contacted by e-mail at rayrodriguez@earthlink.com (END ITALIC)

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NCLR STATEMENT ON SENATE APPROVAL OF TAX CUT PLAN

Washington, DC - [The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) today applauded the inclusion of important measures for low-income families in the U.S. Senate's tax cut package, but cautioned lawmakers against enacting an expensive final tax plan tilted too far in favor of wealthy families. Full text of the statement of NCLR President Raul Yzaguirre follows.]

NCLR has long been concerned that under the Administration's tax cut plan, more than six million Latino children - most in families with workers - would have received no direct benefit. Thanks to the hard work of key lawmakers, however, the tax bill passed by the Senate yesterday includes two important measures that will benefit a large share of Latino families with children. First, the Senate bill provides a "partially refundable" child tax credit, which permits most low-income families with children to claim a portion of the child credit. Second the bill includes an expansion of benefits under the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for married couples who are both working. These provisions alone will help to ensure that millions of working Latino families with children will no longer have to raise their children in poverty. Overall, more than four million more Hispanic children will benefit from the Senate bill than under the Administration's original tax proposal.

Nevertheless, as noteworthy as these benefits are, the bill comes at too high a price. The vast majority of Latino families are working hard to make ends meet. While many need tax relief, they also need targeted investments in health, nutrition, and education programs to help them raise healthy, well-fed, well-educated children.

Unfortunately, the Senate tax cut plan contains provisions that shower benefits on only the wealthiest of families and that could bust the federal budget over the long run. These provisions help only a handful of American families, but the excessive cost endangers other important national priorities. Specifically, for Hispanic families, improving health insurance coverage and ensuring that all children have equal access to quality education programs are two important priorities that will require major federal investments in the future. The bill's \$1.35 trillion price tag, and hidden related expenses not included in this total, will seriously undermine the ability of this and future Congresses to address these priorities.

The tax cut plan now moves to a Senate-House conference committee where some participants have already signaled a determination to gut any provisions that help low-income families in an effort to provide even more benefits to wealthy families. This is unfair and unacceptable. It is also unwise. As a series of Senate floor votes over the past few days made clear, any weakening of the refundable child credit or EITC expansion would make passage of a final tax cut package virtually impossible.

And we call upon the Administration to oppose gutting these provisions and give its support to the refundable child credit and EITC expansion; at the very least, to start providing some substance to its considerable symbolic efforts to reach out to the Latino community. Over the next few years, scholars and the media will surely document the enormous tax breaks this bill will provide to the wealthiest Americans. It will not be lost on Latinos if this Administration goes on record as having opposed the two provisions that help families at the other end of the income scale.

While many lawmakers provided great support to low-income families during this debate, I would be remiss not to recognize the courage and wisdom of Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME), who bucked her party leadership as she fought to make sure that all children benefit from the bill through a refundable child credit. Similarly, Senators Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) and James Jeffords (R-VT) put principle above partisanship in their consideration of this issue. We also thank Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Senators John Kerry (D-MA) and Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) for their insistence that any tax bill include at least some benefits for low-income working families.

Para Fox, De Mexico, Se Hacen Mas Faciles Las Promesas Que Los Resultados

Por Raymond Rodriguez

La prensa de los Estados Unidos ha reunido responsablemente su evaluación de los resultados efectuados en los primeros cien días de la presidencia de George W. Bush. Es un ritual al que hemos venido a esperar con cada nuevo presidente.

Ahora le toca al presidente de México, Vicente Fox. Fox asumió la presidencia siete semanas antes que Bush, y está sintiendo en carne propia el escrutinio de los medios de comunicación y del pueblo mexicano ahora que cumple los seis meses de presidente.

Esta experiencia es bastante novedosa para nuestra nación vecina. Durante los 72 años que el Partido Revolucionario Institucional, o el PRI, gobernó el país, pocos osaron cuestionar, mucho menos criticar, las acciones o los motivos del presidente.

Como parte del cambio democrático que Fox quiere implementar está la apertura e independencia de la prensa. Librados del miedo de represalias políticas, económicas o personales, los miembros de los medios de comunicación en México y otros analistas están mirando muy de cerca los logros de Fox.

Por ahora la tendencia de los críticos es hacia la paciencia y la tolerancia. Los efectos del gobierno unipartidario de 70 años no se pueden deshacer en un día. Las reformas no llegan por Federal Express. La mayoría de los mexicanos está dispuesta a conceder

eso. Pero tanto los amigos como los enemigos creen que Fox mismo se ha creado un gran problema. Debe cumplir con las expectativas de la gente.

Fox no sólo prometió demasiado durante la campaña, sino que continúa haciéndolo. La gente se decepciona cuando los hechos de una persona no corresponden con sus palabras. Le critican por no haber definido enteramente sus programas ni establecido prioridades. Si bien le admiran el optimismo, los mismos admiradores creen que debe tomar una táctica más realista en su orientación política.

No obstante, fue su optimismo sin tregua que le permitió lograr el mayor triunfo hasta hoy: que los zapatistas llegaran a la Ciudad de México para presentar sus demandas por más autonomía ante el Congreso de México. Hubo muchas personas, incluso miembros de su propio Partido de Acción Nacional (PAN), que no creyeron que se podría concertar en una reunión pacífica y productiva, y aconsejaron a Fox que el gobierno federal no diera pasos conciliatorios.

Lo que ocurrió como resultado de sus esfuerzos fue considerado por casi todos un golpe maestro. Logró aliviar las tensiones y la desconfianza que habían nutrido la discordia.

Como resultado, ahora existe una buena posibilidad que después de tantos años el Congreso comenzará a tomar en cuenta los problemas de los 10 millones de indígenas mexicanos.

Las críticas más vociferantes son las que se oponen a la intención de Fox de gravar los viveres, la medicina y otras necesidades básicas con un impuesto de valor agregado de 15 por ciento. Los que se oponen al plan temen que el impacto caerá con más fuerza sobre el sector más pobre de la población. Actualmente, el impuesto a la renta contribuye menos que el 15 por ciento de las rentas nacionales. Fox dice que le hace falta mayores ingresos para continuar con sus programas sociales y proveer mejores servicios a todos.

Su enfoque económico austero también es blanco de críticas. Fox cree que para alentar la inversión extranjera y crear el millón de nuevos empleos que se necesitan anualmente, tiene que establecerse la confianza internacional en la economía mexicana. Gracias a los esfuerzos de Fox hasta hoy, empresas estadounidenses de la banca y comerciales están expresando de nuevo interés en la adquisición o la formación de asociaciones con sus contrapartes en México.

Además, una economía estable servirá para recortar la práctica mexicana de transferir fondos a los Estados Unidos como salvaguarda contra las crisis económicas o sociales. Con las áreas del control del narcotráfico y la inmigración ilegal Fox también recibe críticas contradictorias.

Si bien hay un esfuerzo conjunto para cooperar con mayor efectividad con las autoridades de los Estados Unidos al detener y llevar a juicio a

los narcotraficantes, es muy pronto para determinar el éxito del programa. En vez de degradar o pasar por alto a los mexicanos que huyeron a los Estados Unidos, Fox los llama héroes y hace reconocimiento de su inmensa contribución al bienestar económico del país. Los críticos creen que esta actitud sirve de aliciente a que más personas entren a los Estados Unidos ilegalmente. Sus esfuerzos, insisten, deben dirigirse a incrementar las oportunidades en México.

Y es eso, precisamente, lo que Fox quiere lograr.

Cuando George W. Bush asumió la presidencia de los Estados Unidos el 20 de enero, ya estaba en su lugar todo un complemento de instalaciones democráticas para que avanzara sus ideas y programas.

La tarea de Fox no es simplemente proponer e implementar programas. En un país que cuenta con muchos menos recursos y tradiciones democráticas, tiene que crear las instalaciones también.

Los próximos seis meses pueden ser cruciales.

Raymond Rodriguez, catedrático jubilado que vive en Long Beach, Calif., es autor de "Decade of Betrayal" (University of New Mexico Press), que es una narración premiada de la repatriación de un millón de mexicanos de los Estados Unidos durante la gran depresión. Contáctese con él por correo electrónico a: rayrodriguez@earthlink.com

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uo de 60,000 turistas anuales -- entre los cuales me cuento yo -- y de la población local que ahora son 16,000 habitantes. Baquerizo Moreno, donde nací, es hoy una ciudad pequeña de 4,000 personas, con un muelle de hormigón, calles pavimentadas, y casas de cemento. La casa en la que yo nací ha desaparecido entre la nueva base naval ecuatoriana. Hay todavía animales en esta isla, la de más habitantes en el archipiélago, pero hay que viajar una buena distancia al extremo oriental para ver las aves -- piqueros de patas rojas -- que se anidan allí. La coexistencia entre los seres humanos y las especies en peligro de extinción es difícil.

La gran aumento del turismo hacia las islas ha resultado en un aumento de la población local, la mayoría de ellos procedentes del continente y que llegan aquí en busca de mejor día. Algunos trabajan en el turismo; otros se dedican a la pesca. Aquí es cuando comienzan los conflictos.

Los pescadores son un ejemplo. No quieren acatarse a las regulaciones gubernamentales en cuanto a las temporadas y la cantidad de peces y crustáceos que pueden cosechar. Hace sólo unos meses se alzaron en protesta del cierre de la temporada para cosechar langostas. Hubo ataques contra el personal y las propiedades del Parque Nacional Islas Galápagos. Los pescadores sienten

resentimiento contra una política que ellos perciben favorece a los animales antes que a las personas. Yo les quiero decir: "No se dan cuenta que si no hay animales, no habrá turismo, y sin turistas no habrá ingreso de dólares?"

No obstante, aunque vienen aquí los turistas porque adoran a los animales y su entorno, es irónico que el petróleo que gotea del antiguo buque Jessica era para un barco turístico. ¿Estaremos matando con amor a nuestras adoradas Galápagos?

Cuando estaba aquí mi padre construyó la primera escuela de las islas. Existe aún, y lleva su nombre Escuela Fiscal No. 1 Alejandro Alvear. Tiene 450 estudiantes entre los años kinder a ocho. Estos niños son el futuro de las Galápagos y deben entender que son los guardianes de un tesoro natural. Yo regreso todos los años para visitarlos. Les he llevado computadoras y mi intención es conectarlos a la internet. Quizás cuando crezcan encontrarán la forma de lograr el equilibrio correcto de coexistencia pacífica. Quizás.

(Cecilia Alvear, productora de NBC News, se basa en Burbank, California, y es nativa de las Islas Galápagos. Es presidenta de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos). (END ITALIC)

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Una Hija De Las Galapagos Opina Sobre El Destino Frágil De Las Islas

Por Cecilia Alvear

Siempre que digo que nací en las Galápagos, invariablemente me responden, "No sabía que había gente en las islas Galápagos. Creía que solo animales extraños vivían allí." A lo que yo contesto que gente -- extraña y no tanto -- también llegaron a las islas.

Durante siglos las islas permanecieron sin habitantes, aunque se las conocía. Existen historias orales de un Inca que llegó hasta las islas en balsa. La primera crónica escrita nos llega del obispo de Panamá que arribó a las islas a la deriva, al verse desviada de su curso la nave en que viajaba en 1535. El clérigo desplazado se abasteció de agua dulce, observó el paisaje volcánico y las criaturas extrañas, y declaró que le recordaba al infierno, ofreció una misa y abruptamente partió.

En los años siguientes las islas, llamadas "Las Encantadas," se volvieron un refugio para piratas y bucaneros. En el siglo dieciocho las islas fueron paradero de balleneros en las que se abastecieron de agua dulce e inmensas tortugas que cargaban como vianda.

En 1832 la nueva república del Ecuador tomó posesión del archipiélago y en 1835 les hizo la visita un joven inglés llamado Darwin.

Y el resto es historia -- o si prefiere -- evolución.

Durante los primeros años el gobierno de Ecuador ensayó una variedad de planes de colonización de las islas. Al no funcionar, los colonos dejaban detrás animales domesticados que volvieron a un estado natural salvaje, los cuales hasta el día de hoy amenazan las especies autóctonas.

Entre los personajes más pintorescos de la saga de las islas Galápagos se destaca el legendario Manuel Cobos que cultivó la caña de azúcar y administró un ingenio y un ferrocarril en la isla de San Cristóbal con mano de obra presidiaria. Fue asesinado en un levantamiento.

Unos años después inmigrantes noruegos intentaron establecer una planta procesadora de pescado. No se logró por falta de transporte adecuado. Llegaron otros europeos a continuación. En la década de los 1930 llegó una mujer que se auto denominaba

ba baronesa y vivía con tres amantes en la isla Floreana donde pretendía abrir un hotel. Misteriosamente desaparecieron ella y su muchachito preferido -- pero ésa es otra historia.

Hubo también varios alemanes que llegaron huyendo de los horrores inminentes, además de un par de proto-hippies, Ainslie y Francis Conway, originalmente de Berkeley, California.

Llegaron en 1939 mi padre, Teniente Coronel Alejandro Alvear, con mi madre, Laura Triviño de Alvear y my hermana mayor Alexandra. Mi padre había sido nominado el nuevo Jefe Territorial, o gobernador militar, del archipiélago. Baquerizo Moreno en ese entonces era un pueblo pequeño de chozas de bambú, madera y chapa ondulada. En todo el archipiélago vivían sólo 800 personas.

Mis padres vivían en una casa de madera frente a la "Bahía Naufragio" -- cuya vista era del lugar en que la Jessica encalló. Allí nací yo, y pasé los primeros años de mi vida.

Aunque sólo estuve allí po-

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Lo mejor en Noticias que Importan

Qué es la diabetes

Hahn Holds On To Win LA Mayor's Race

La diabetes no es una sola enfermedad, sino una serie de enfermedades con una característica común: la incapacidad de nuestro organismo de usar apropiadamente la glucosa o azúcar sanguínea, el combustible que hace posible que nuestro cuerpo funcione. La glucosa es para nuestro cuerpo lo mismo que la gasolina para un automóvil.

¿Cómo llega la glucosa a nuestro cuerpo?

Principalmente a través de lo que comemos. Los hidratos de carbono - como los azúcares, las harinas, los almidones, los productos lácteos, las frutas y los vegetales- son la principal fuente de glucosa. Cuando nuestro organismo está funcionando de manera normal, nuestros niveles de glucosa o azúcar sanguínea se elevan luego de alimentarnos. Cuando la glucosa es depositada en la sangre, la insulina - una hormona fabricada por el páncreas- saca la glucosa o azúcar de la sangre (causando así una reducción de la misma) y la distribuye a través de nuestras células, donde la glucosa es usada como combustible.

Sin embargo, la diabetes afecta este procedimiento. En la persona con diabetes, el páncreas deja de producir insulina por completo (diabetes del Tipo 1), o produce insulina, pero la misma no funciona efectivamente. El resultado en ambos casos es que, en vez de distribuirse el azúcar sanguíneo en las células, lo que hace es acumularse en la sangre, llevando los niveles de glucosa sanguínea a niveles anormales. Los niveles normales de azúcar en la sangre deben ser de 80 a 110 miligramos por decilitro de sangre. Cuando los niveles se mantienen por determinado tiempo a un nivel anormal, la persona es diagnosticada con diabetes.

Muchas personas ignoran que tienen diabetes, a veces por falta de síntomas, y sólo se dan cuenta cuando las complicaciones aparecen; en estos casos, muchas veces es tarde para reparar el daño causado por la enfermedad. La diabetes es la cuarta causa de muerte en Estados Unidos.

Las buenas nuevas son que usted no tiene que morir de diabetes. La diabetes, aunque actualmente no existe una cura para esta enfermedad, es controlable, y sus complicaciones pueden ser previstas o pospuestas mediante el control, a través de un trabajo de equipo entre usted, su médico, y otros profesionales de la salud.

¿Cómo se detecta la diabetes?

Si por cualquier causa usted sospecha que puede tener diabetes, ya sea debido a síntomas o por herencia familiar, un simple análisis de la sangre conducido por su médico puede sacarlo de dudas.

Generalmente, su médico chequeará el nivel de azúcar en su sangre mediante una prueba sumamente simple. Si el nivel de azúcar en la sangre es más alto de lo normal, su médico llevará a cabo pruebas más sofisticadas para confirmar si usted está padeciendo de diabetes.

Cuando los niveles de glucosa están altos, a veces los mismos aparecen en la orina, pero esta prueba no está considerada efectiva en el diagnóstico de diabetes. Los médicos generalmente siguen las pruebas de sangre. Sin embargo, las pruebas de la orina son importantes para medir el nivel de cetonas, una sustancia que se acumula cuando la glucosa en la sangre está muy alta, y la cual es dañina para nuestro organismo, debido a su naturaleza tóxica.

Si la diabetes es frecuente en su familia, o si usted tiene síntomas parecidos a los de la diabetes, o si usted se halla en un grupo con alto riesgo de contraer esta enfermedad, un chequeo regular de su azúcar puede brindarle paz mental, si el resultado es negativo, y evitarle complicaciones si, en caso afirmativo, su tratamiento es comenzado en una etapa temprana de la enfermedad.

Actualmente la Asociación Americana de Diabetes (ADA, en inglés) aconseja que todas las personas mayores de 45 años se hagan análisis de sangre por lo menos una vez al año para determinar la existencia de diabetes.

¿Qué causa la diabetes?

No se sabe aún cuáles son las causas, pero se sabe que ciertas personas heredan una tendencia a adquirir diabetes. Sin embargo, no todas las personas con esta tendencia son afectadas por la enfermedad. La diabetes puede también afectar a mujeres embarazadas (diabetes gestacional).

Algunas personas también desarrollan diabetes después de ser afectadas por alguna otra enfermedad.

La diabetes no es contagiosa.

Complicaciones diabéticas

Las complicaciones de la diabetes son aquellos problemas médicos que ocurren más a menudo en personas con diabetes que en personas que no

Síntomas de la diabetes

Los principales síntomas de la diabetes incluyen:

1. Altos niveles de azúcar en la sangre.
2. Altos niveles de azúcar en la orina.
3. Orinado frecuente (cama mojada en los niños).
4. Hambre inusual.
5. Sed excesiva.
6. Pérdida de peso.
7. Debilidad y cansancio.
8. Irritabilidad y cambios de ánimo.
9. Sensación de malestar en el estómago y vómitos.
10. Infecciones frecuentes.
11. Vista nublada.
12. Cortaduras y rasguños que no curan, o que curan muy lentamente.
13. Picaazón o entumecimiento en las manos o los pies.
14. Infecciones recurrentes en la piel, las encías o la vejiga.

Tipos de diabetes

- **Diabetes del tipo 1:** Anteriormente conocida como diabetes juvenil o infantil. Los diabéticos del tipo 1 producen muy poca o ninguna insulina, y necesitan inyecciones diarias para poder sobrevivir.
- **Diabetes del tipo 2:** En este tipo de diabetes, la capacidad del cuerpo para fabricar o usar su propia insulina es afectada, pero el organismo continúa produciendo insulina. Este tipo de diabetes a menudo puede controlarse con dieta y ejercicio, aunque otras veces el paciente necesita pastillas y hasta inyecciones de insulina.
- **Diabetes gestacional:** Afecta a las mujeres embarazadas y generalmente desaparece después del parto. Sin embargo, haber padecido de diabetes gestacional aumenta el riesgo de adquirir diabetes del tipo 2 más adelante.

son diabéticas. A veces, estas complicaciones se inician debido a cambios en los vasos sanguíneos o en los nervios. Entre las complicaciones diabéticas más comunes están:

- Las enfermedades vasculares. Esta complicación se desarrolla a medida que los vasos se hacen más gruesos, lo que provoca que la sangre tenga más dificultad pasando a través de los mismos. Esto puede conducir a problemas cardíacos y derrames cerebrales.
- Daño de los vasos sanguíneos. Los diabéticos pueden sufrir daños en los vasos sanguíneos de los ojos y los riñones, lo que puede conducir a la ceguera y a las enfermedades renales.
- Daño nervioso. La neuropatía es una complicación diabética en la cual los nervios, más a menudo los de las piernas y los pies, son afectados. Esta complicación nerviosa puede conducir a amputaciones en las piernas o a cortaduras se infecta y la persona no acude al médico para recibir tratamiento adecuado.

¿Qué hacer para evitar complicaciones?

No se sabe quién va a desarrollar complicaciones de la diabetes; algunas personas mantienen sus niveles de azúcar bajo control y se mantienen saludables a través de los años, y aún así desarrollan complicaciones. Sin embargo, el control del azúcar continúa siendo una medida efectiva para evitar las complicaciones diabéticas. Como parte de su plan de control regular, trate de seguir las siguientes recomendaciones de la ADA:

- Consulte a su médico regularmente; de esa manera, la complicación puede ser detectada temprano, aun antes de que usted desarrolle síntomas.
- Chequee sus pies diariamente y notifique a su médico de cualquier cambio que note en ellos, por más pequeño que sea.
- Vea al oculista (oftalmólogo) por lo menos una vez al año; comuníquelo cualquier cambio que experimente en su visión, como vista nublada o manchas que usted parece ver.
- Manténgase pendiente de cambios en el color de su piel, aumento de peso, entumecimiento de las manos o los pies, infecciones o heridas que no sanen rápidamente, dolores en el pecho, picaazón vaginal.
- Ejercítense regularmente. Tome una caminata por lo menos tres veces por semana.

• Por último, controle su dieta. Recuerde que la dieta juega un papel vital en el control del azúcar.

La diabetes en los hispanos

Los hispanos componen alrededor de un 12 % de la población en los Estados Unidos (de 20 a 30 millones); de éstos, aproximadamente 1 millón tiene diabetes, o sea, uno de cada diez adultos.

Entre los cubanos y mexicanos en EE.UU., aproximadamente el 10 % tiene diabetes; la cifra aumenta a medida que las edades entre los grupos suben. Por ejemplo, entre los puertorriqueños cuyas edades oscilan entre 45 y 74 años, aproximadamente el 25 % está afectado de diabetes. Diversos estudios de población muestran que las mujeres hispanas que sufren de diabetes tienen una tasa de mortalidad más alta debido a complicaciones de la misma durante el embarazo. Los hispanos en general tienen un riesgo de contraer diabetes más alto que el resto de la población general en Estados Unidos.

Prevención de la diabetes

La diabetes es una enfermedad crónica, lo que significa que mientras más joven usted la adquiere, más temprano se verá afectado por los riesgos a largo plazo. Por tanto, si usted se encuentra en riesgo de contraer esta enfermedad, ya sea por factores genéticos (hereditarios), o si usted está pasado de peso, hay ciertas medidas que puede tomar para evitar, o dilatar, el desarrollo de la diabetes en su organismo:

- Mantenga una dieta adecuada. La misma debe ser baja en grasa y sal, y controlada en los carbohidratos (panes, harinas, almidones, etc.). Prefiera el pollo (sin la piel), a las carnes rojas, y los productos de grano entero a las harinas refinadas (consuma arroz marrón en vez de arroz blanco, y pan integral (negro) en vez de pan blanco).
- Peso adecuado. Si tiene sobrepeso y en riesgo de contraer diabetes, comience a perderlo ahora mismo. Con la ayuda de su médico, envuélvase en una actividad física regular que lo ayude a quemar calorías y bajar de peso.
- Consulte a su médico por lo menos una vez al año si se encuentra saludable, y si tiene más de 40 años, obtenga una prueba de diabetes. Es simple, no toma mucho tiempo, y puede brindarle paz mental y protección. ■



LOS ANGELES, James Hahn took the political legacy that was started by his legendary father to new heights Tuesday by winning the Los Angeles mayoral race and turning aside Antonio Villaraigosa's spirited attempt to become the first Hispanic mayor in the city's modern history.

Hahn won the runoff election with 54.14 percent of the vote to Villaraigosa's 45.86 percent with nearly 80 percent of the ballots counted by early Wednesday.

By winning the office currently held by outgoing Mayor Richard Riordan, the 50-year-old city attorney moved into a position of leadership equal to that of his father, Kenneth Hahn, who spent 44 years in Los Angeles politics as a city commissioner and Los Angeles County supervisor.

"I've never been more proud of my family name," declared Hahn, who could thank his late dad for building a solid base of support in the African American community that has carried on to him.

"Politics and public service is about helping people," Hahn, quoting his father, told supporters.

Hahn appeared on stage with his wife, Monica, and mother, Ramona. He was introduced by former basketball star Earvin "Magic"

Johnson and Rep. Maxine Waters, both high-profile figures in the Los Angeles African American community.

The button-down city attorney was upbeat to the point of dancing and leading a sing-along to the tune "I Love L.A.," however he didn't clearly claim victory during his speech; however Villaraigosa ended the suspense about 20 minutes later by sadly conceding.

"I love this city, Jim, and I know you do, too," Villaraigosa told his disappointed supporters in a voice that had gone hoarse during a flurry of campaigning over the weekend.

Villaraigosa, 48, was seen before the election as having a solid chance to become the first Hispanic mayor of Los Angeles since the 1870s in what is now the second-largest city in the United States and home to large numbers of immigrants from every corner of the world.

While polls showed that Villaraigosa had solid Latino backing, Hahn had similar strong support among African Americans, which left white voters and a myriad of other ethnic communities up for grabs.

"Our campaign has put together a coalition as diverse as this city," Hahn said.

By HIL ANDERSON

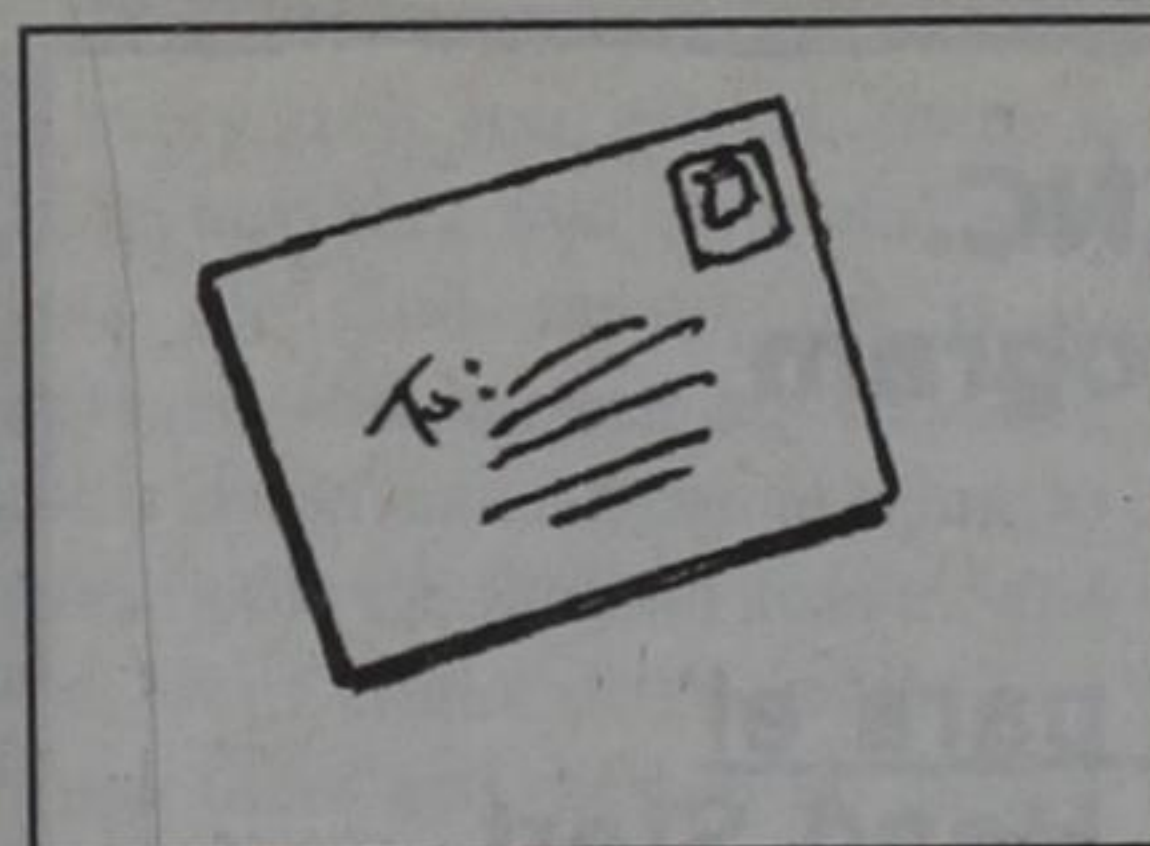
Observando a Texas

Cómo usar el agua con inteligencia

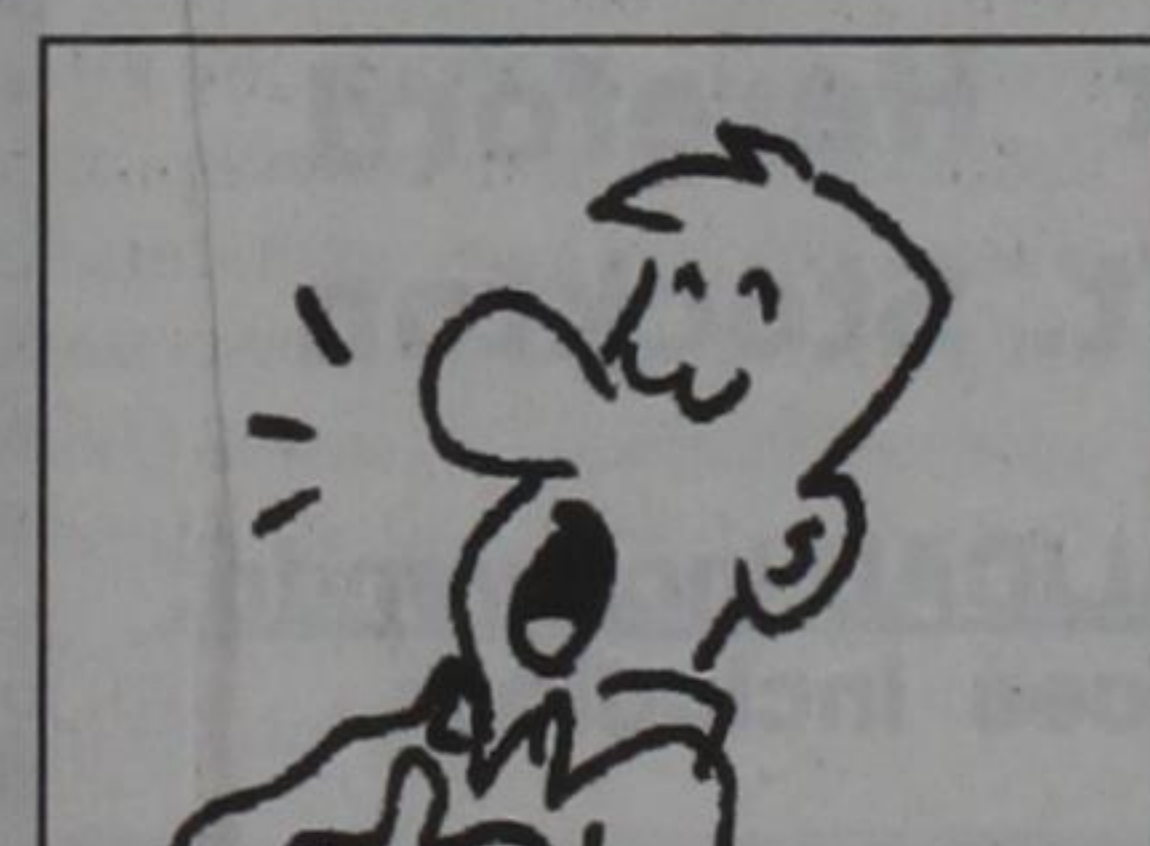
Cuando hay sequía en Texas, las temperaturas pueden elevarse hasta 106 grados o más, haciendo que el agua sea un recurso muy valioso durante los meses de verano. Las sugerencias siguientes pueden ayudar a los propietarios de viviendas a saber cómo pueden conservar y usar el agua con inteligencia:

- Llenar las piscinas a niveles bajos para evitar la pérdida de agua.
- Agrupar las plantas que requieren la misma cantidad de agua.
- Usar rocas, plataformas de madera y patios para reducir las áreas verdes.
- Ajustar los regadores automáticos para que no funcionen cuando llueve.

Origenes: Carole Keeton Rylander, Controladora de Cuentas Públicas de Texas (www.window.state.tx.us) y la Ciudad de Arlington.



Wedding invitations should be sent four to six weeks before a large wedding and up to ten days before a simpler wedding.



The national anthem of the island nation of Vanatu is *Yumi, yumi, yumi*, which translates to We, we, we.

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Southwestern Public Service

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Texas Prison's 'Security Concern' Has Dubious Echo

By Jorge Antonio Renaud

Three months ago (Feb. 8), officials of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice closed the state's 73-year-old prison newspaper, the Echo. While no specific incidents or suspicions were cited, news reports alluded to "security concerns" -- a phrase that has become an excuse for wholesale changes in Texas prisons since the Connally 7 escaped and killed an Irving, Texas, police officer.

TDCJ spokesman Glen Castlebury, peeved at some observers who called the closing a "knee-jerk" reaction, complained that the free-world media knew little of TDCJ's security woes. He said the Echo office was in a "remote" section of the Walls Unit in Huntsville, and that the situation was "not unlike" that at the Connally Unit maintenance shop prior to the escape there, implying that Echo staffers were plotting other than our next issue, and that only

TDCJ's quick action foiled another escape.

Castlebury's comments were absurd, but it must be said that he knows his audience.

He knew he could lash out at the media -- and by proxy, at all Texans -- because historically, neither has shown any inclination to educate itself on penal-related issues until something deadly occurs.

Neither Texas media nor the public believed, or cared, that former Texas Department of Corrections directors George Beto or Jim Estelle presided over corrupt, brutal regimes, not until their lies could no longer be contained. The resulting settlement in Ruiz v. Estelle cost the state billions. The same two groups ignored inmate complaints that Vita Pro, a meat supplement being forced on them, was fit for neither man nor swine.

The media and Texas yawned until then-TDCJ director Andy

Collins was found to have a personal stake in Vita Pro's distribution. After his indictment, Vita Pro disappeared from TDCJ mess halls, but Texans still footed the bill.

Castlebury knew you well. He knew not one member of the Texas media would ask, "Why, after 73 years, is the Echo a security problem?" He knew not one of you would visit the Walls Unit, where you could sit in front of the major's office and look across the yard into the barred windows of the Echo's former third-floor office, in the same building that houses the unit infirmary, dental clinic, pharmacy, computer lab, substance-abuse classrooms and psychological services department; a building 10 feet from a gun tower and adjacent to the execution chamber, perhaps the most secure building in TDCJ.

He knew none of you would ask to read the Echo, because surely a

convict-produced publication is pedantic, poorly written and hardly worth reading.

If you had read it, you might begin to sense another reason for our closing -- our articles probed topics far removed from the stereotype-perpetuating inanities the Texas free-world media usually writes when not chasing death row interviews with the latest serial killer. You would have seen that in the prior 16 months, the Echo's four-man staff produced in-depth stories on the hardships faced by incarcerated mothers and the extraordinary efforts of some TDCJ officials to alleviate those hardships; on the AIDS and hepatitis C epidemics ravaging the nation's prisons; and the explosion of "super max" units and the increasing numbers of mentally ill patients in high-security isolation.

You'd have read editorials denouncing gang violence, promoting personal accountability

and questioning the lack of contact visits for many convicts and how that policy disrupts entire families.

In short, you would have seen why an ad hoc and awkwardly named Committee to Determine the Future of the Echo was formed nine months ago, making the Echo's closing a matter of time.

Writing meaningful stories about current TDCJ policies and practices is impossible without criticism, and if Castlebury has contempt for the media, it is nothing compared to the contempt he and certain TDCJ officials have for convicts.

Our views, our opinions, our proposal -- all are less than nothing, rendered meaningless by our criminal convictions, and if anything we wrote might possibly shed light on TDCJ's classification procedures or lack of anything resembling a coherent policy toward gangs -- well, let's close it down, call it a "security" matter and maybe

reopen with a tighter rein.

It's ironic that Louisiana -- which Texans disdain for a laissez-faire approach to life and politics -- is proud of and nurtures the Angolite, Angola State Prison's award-winning, inmate-written paper.

Given time and support by fair-minded TDCJ officials, the Echo was on its way to equaling the Angolite in quality and reputation. But to continue down that road required something that neither TDCJ nor Texas' myopic media are willing to grant -- the acknowledgment that the Echo was a living, breathing, vital newspaper, worthy of respect and support.

(Jorge Antonio Renaud is an inmate of the Huntsville (Walls) Unit and was serving as assistant editor of the Echo at the time its operations were suspended. He is a former copy editor for the Austin American Statesman.)

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Preocupacion Con La Seguridad de Carceles Tejanas Tiene Un Eco Dudoso

Por Jorge Antonio Renaud

Hace cuatro meses (febrero 8), oficiales del Departamento de Justicia Criminal de Texas cerraron el periódico llamado Echo del sistema penal del estado, que existe desde hace 73 años. Aunque no se citaron incidencias ni sospechas específicas, los informes de prensa hicieron mención de "preocupación con la seguridad" -- frase convertida en excusa para cambios a todo nivel en las cárceles tejanas desde que se escaparon los "Connally 7", quienes asesinaron a un policía de Irving, Texas.

Vocero del departamento, Glen Castlebury, molesto con algunos observadores que criticaron duramente el cierre del periódico, se quejó que los medios del mundo libre sabían poco de los problemas de seguridad del departamento. Dijo que la sala de redacción se encontraba en un sector "remoto" de la unidad Walls, en Huntsville, y que la situación "no era diferente" de la del taller de mantenimiento de la unidad Connally antes de que se escaparan los prisioneros de allí, así

dando a entender que los del personal del periódico planeaban otra cosa que la próxima edición del periódico, y que sólo la reacción rápida del departamento había impedido otra escapada.

Los comentarios de Castlebury fueron absurdos, pero hay que reconocer que conoce a su público.

El sabía que podía criticar a los medios de comunicación -- y de paso a todos los tejanos -- porque históricamente, ninguno de los dos ha mostrado interés en aprender sobre temas penales, reaccionando sólo cuando algo fatal ocurre.

Ni los medios de Texas, ni el público creyó ni le importó que los anteriores directores del Departamento de Correcciones de Texas, George Beto o Jim Estelle, presidían regímenes corruptos y brutales, al menos hasta que sus mentiras fueron imposibles de contener. El fallo resultante en el caso de Ruiz versus Estelle le costó al estado billones de dólares. Estos mismos dos grupos se desentendieron de las quejas provenientes de los prisioneros que

Vita Pro, un suplemento de carne que se les obligaba comer, no valía ni para seres humanos ni para animales.

Sólo bostezaron los medios y todo Texas hasta que se descubrió que el entonces director del Departamento de Justicia Criminal, Andy Collins, tenía intereses personales en la distribución de Vita Pro. Después de su auto de procesamiento, Vita Pro desapareció de los comedores del departamento, pero aun así, los tejanos fueron los que tuvieron que pagar.

Castlebury los conocía bien. Sabía que ni un miembro de la prensa de Texas preguntaría, "¿Por qué, después de 73 años, representa un problema de seguridad el Echo?"

Sabía que nadie se acercaría a la unidad Walls, donde se puede estar sentado frente a la oficina del oficial y ver al otro lado del campo las ventanas con barras de la sala de redacción, en el tercer piso, en el mismo edificio que la enfermería, la clínica dental, la farmacia, el laboratorio de computadoras, salones

para el tratamiento de abuso de narcóticos, y departamento de servicios psicológicos; un edificio a 10 pies de la torre armada y al lado de la cámara para ejecuciones, probablemente el edificio más seguro de todo el Departamento de Justicia Criminal de Texas.

Sabía que nadie pediría leer el Echo, porque seguro que una publicación producida por convictos es pedante, mal escrita, carente de valor.

Si el periódico lo hubieran leído, surgiría otra razón por su cierre -- nuestros artículos profundizaban en temas muy alejados de las tonterías estereotípicas que los medios del mundo libre en Texas normalmente escriben cuando no están persiguiendo entrevistas con el último asesino en serie condenado a muerte.

Se habría visto que en los 16 meses anteriores, el personal de cuatro del periódico produjo artículos bien investigados de las dificultades que encaran las madres encarceladas y los esfuerzos extraordinarios de algunos oficiales del departamento para aliviar estas dificultades; de las epidemias del SIDA y el hepatitis C que arrasan con la población encarcelada a nivel nacional; y la explosión de unidades "super max" y los números crecientes de pacientes enfermos mentales aislados bajo alta seguridad.

Se habrían leído los editoriales en denuncia de la violencia de pandillas, otros que promueven la responsabilidad personal y que cuestionan la falta de visitas de contacto para muchos prisioneros, y cómo esta política resulta en la fragmentación de familias enteras.

Por ende, se habría visto por qué un comité ad hoc y mal llamado Comité para Determinar el Futuro del Echo se formó hace nueve

meses, precipitando el cierre del periódico.

Es imposible escribir artículos importantes sobre las actuales políticas y prácticas del departamento sin críticas, y si Castlebury siente desprecio por los medios de comunicación, tanto más desprecio él y otros oficiales sienten por los prisioneros.

Nuestras perspectivas, nuestras opiniones, nuestra propuesta -- valen menos que nada, vueltas sin sentido por nuestras condenas criminales, y si escribiéramos algo que posiblemente vislumbrara los procedimientos clasificatorios del departamento, o la carencia de una política para controlar las pandillas -- la conclusión sería cerrar el periódico, tildarlo de cuestión de "seguridad" y tal vez volver a abrirlo ajustándole las riendas.

Es irónico que Louisiana -- desdeñada por los tejanos por su dejadez con la vida y la política -- tenga orgullo y apoye el periódico Angolite, de la cárcel estatal de Angola, escrito por prisioneros y ganador de premios.

Con el tiempo, y con el apoyo de oficiales justos del departamento, el periódico Echo iba camino a igualar al Angolite en términos de la calidad y fama. Pero el seguir por ese camino implicaba algo que ni el departamento ni los medios míopes de comunicación en Texas pueden conceder -- el reconocimiento que el Echo era un periódico viviente y vital, digno de respeto y apoyo.

(Jorge Antonio Renaud es prisionero de la unidad de Huntsville (Walls) y servía de editor asistente del Echo en el momento del cierre de operaciones. Fue redactor jefe del Austin American Statesman.) (END ITALIC)

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Library System Sets Summer Hours Beginning This Month

Beginning tomorrow, the Lubbock City-County Library will introduce a new schedule for summer hours at Godeke and Mahon libraries, announced Jeff Rippel, Library Director.

The schedule for Godeke, 66th and Quaker will be: Monday and Tuesday-12 Noon to 9 p.m.; Wednesday thru Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm; Closed Sunday.

The Groves and Patterson branches already observe the same schedule Godeke is adopting, and their hours will not change.

The Mahon branch located next to the Civic Center downtown, will follow this summer schedule: Monday thru Wednesday, 9am to 9pm; Thursday thru Saturday 9am to 6pm; Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm.

"We are making these changes for several reasons," Rippel said. "Most important is the need to reduce expenses for the current budget. Significant overruns in the utilities area have created a deficit situation, for which I have frozen some vacant staff positions. However, patterns of customer usage change during the summer, and we are adjusting the available staffing to better match those patterns."

SPC Journalism Winners

South Plains College journalism students won awards at the recent Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention in Wichita Falls. From left are Joe Cavazos from Morton, graphic designer for the Plainsman Press and first place winner in Tabloid Feature Page Design, second in Information Graphic and Illustration and third in Single Ad Design; Amanda Hamilton from Lubbock, reporter, first in Humor Column; Joshua Robinson from Morton, co-editor of the Plainsman Press, first in Tabloid News Design; Tabloid Sports page Design and Tabloid Opinion Page Design, and Amanda Hudnall (right) from Lubbock, co-editor, second in Tabloid Feature Page Design and Tabloid Opinion page Design. Hudnall also received the Plainsman Press Outstanding Journalist Award at South Plains College.



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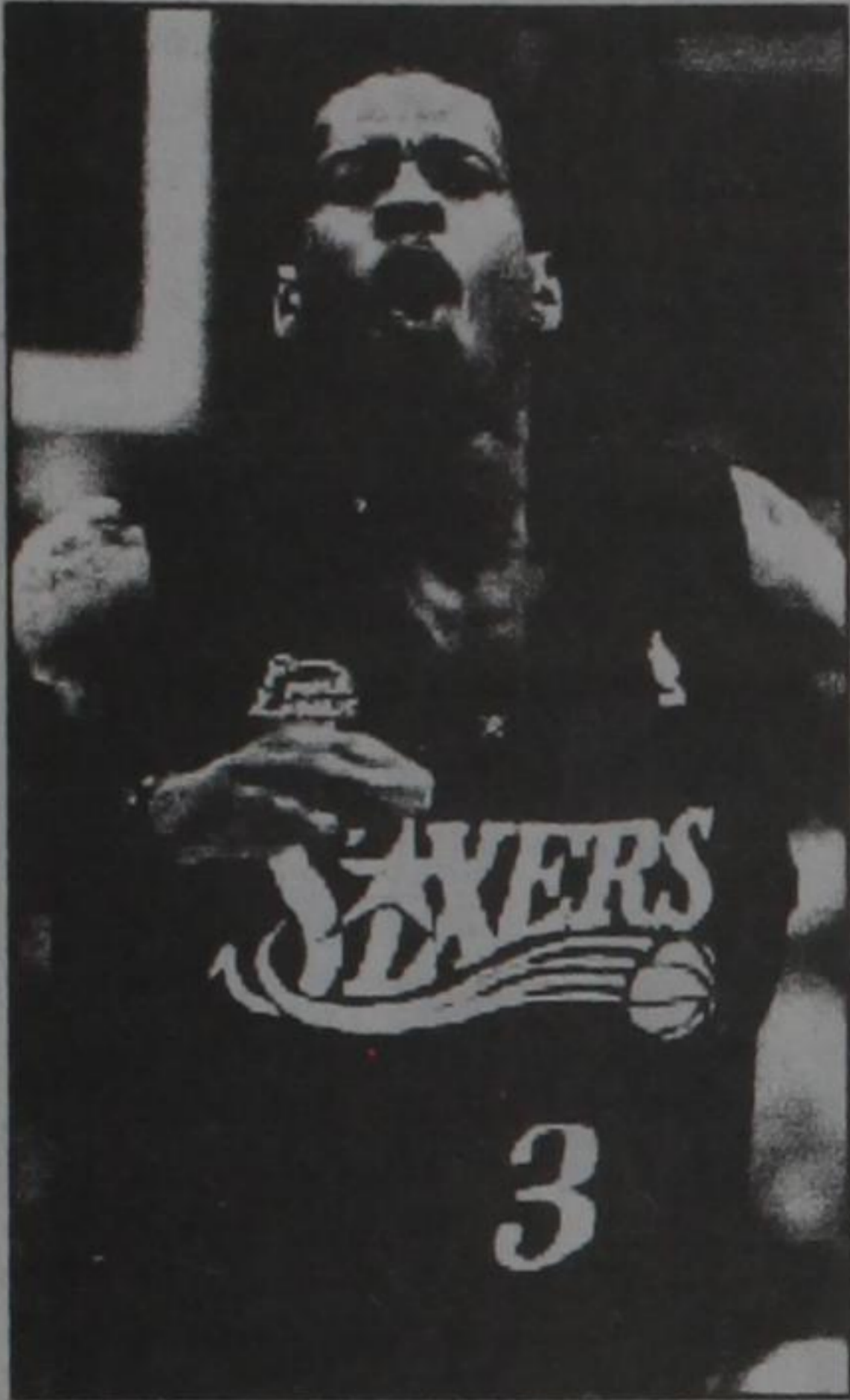
Iverson, Sixers Expose Lakers' Weaknesses In Game 1

By Mike Kahn

LOS ANGELES -- Enough said about the inferior Eastern Conference and the omnipotent Los Angeles Lakers.

Yes, they won 19 games in a row -- including 11 in the playoffs to win the Western Conference -- but none of those victories included the Philadelphia 76ers. And Friday night in Game 1 of the NBA Finals in the Staples Center, they ran into the Sixers.

So much for the streak.



Allen Iverson and the 76ers feel good about winning Game 1. (Allsport)

Allen Iverson poured in 48 points, including seven in a row in overtime, to lead the Sixers to a 107-101 victory and allowing Iverson to say, uh, well, you guys ...

"Big time underdogs ... hmmm," Iverson said, tongue-in-cheek. "That's what it's all about. We've got so many basketball experts out there ... the only guys who know are the guys on the floor. We've got heart. We play with talent second."

Dikembe Mutombo misses two key free throws but the Sixers pull out the win. (AP)

"We just kept playing. That's it. You get down five points in the Finals, against the L.A. Lakers, and everybody already got their brooms out. That's what we think about; that's what drives us. Everybody saying we can't do it. That's the extra drive. We just didn't give up. As long as you leave everything out on the basketball court, you can look in the mirror and feel good about yourself but if you don't, you as a person will be kind of suspect."

Nobody will be suspicious of Iverson or any of the Sixers on this night. Although they struggled to keep a handle on Shaquille O'Neal, who had 44 points, 20 rebounds and five assists, they did hold Kobe Bryant to 15 points (less than half his playoff average) on 7-of-22 shooting and forced him into six turnovers. In fact the 19 turnovers by the Lakers produced 25 points for

the Sixers, certainly a key to the game.

But there also was the free throw line, where the Sixers made 23-of-25, and O'Neal fell prey to his old ways, making just 10-of-22. Rick Fox added 19 points for the Lakers, while Dikembe Mutombo had 13 points, 16 rebounds and five blocks. Eric Snow came off the bench with 13 points, five assists and the conclusive shot in overtime that put the game away. It looked for all the world as if Iverson had become tired down the stretch, then got rejuvenated with seven consecutive points in the overtime to turn the game back in Philadelphia's favor after O'Neal had given the Lakers the lead.

"I've been waiting for this opportunity all my life," Iverson said. "I'm not thinking about fatigue. Fatigues are army clothes."

You see, Iverson and the 76ers gained so much momentum and strength during their 18-game odyssey through the East, going seven games against both Toronto and Milwaukee, that they seemingly got stronger while the Lakers were lounging for 10 days in anticipation. And at 24-17, they had the best road record in the NBA during the regular season, so they weren't about to be intimidated by the Staples Center crowd

"You know, I always thought that when you play tough games it helps you," Sixers coach Larry Brown said. "With them only playing 11 and us, what did we play, 18? I don't know what that means. If I had my druthers, I would have liked to have a couple more days where we could really prepare."

"But I always underestimate these guys. I'm just excited they have this opportunity and whatever they give me is enough. I know they'll try."

As long as Iverson is around, that was obvious. He struggled coming out of the blocks, presumably because he was so excited, making just 1-of-5. But he finished the first half 10-of-19 with a remarkable 30 points, four rebounds, three assists and three steals. At halftime, he had amassed 100 points over the previous seven quarters. He was driving off steals, sinking 3s and even looping hooks over O'Neal.

Perhaps more obvious was the way Iverson was running rings around Bryant, who couldn't shake the rust at all. Bryant was 2-for-10 from the field, had five turnovers and just couldn't keep up with Iverson as the Sixers overcame a 13-point deficit to build a 56-50 halftime lead.

"We have the best darn ball defenders in the league," Brown said. "You look at Aaron McKie, Eric Snow (even though he's limited with ankle problems), Allen and Raja Bell, they can go at anybody one-on-one. But Kobe didn't have one of his great games. I mean he's so

dangerous. We were just trying to make him not shoot layups and were hoping to contest jump shots."

Rick Fox hit all three of his 3-point attempts and were it not for his 15 points, they would have been looking up at a double-figure deficit in the first half.

But as the half ended, O'Neal slammed through a Bryant miss with such force, the basket was still shaking as the two teams entered the tunnels to the locker room. That proved the Lakers weren't through, especially him.

"We obviously didn't play our best game," O'Neal said. "The streak's over. Now we've got to regroup and get it together Friday. I'm proud of my team and the way we fought back."

It did not prove they were capable of overcoming the Philly defensive pressure. After consecutive turnovers four minutes into the third quarter -- with O'Neal getting tagged with his third foul in between -- Iverson scored on another turnover and a 22-foot fadeaway that pushed the lead to 15 points five minutes into the second half when he already had 38 points.

That's when O'Neal responded big-time, and sent Mutombo to the bench with five fouls. He scored eight of 10 points for the Lakers during a 10-0 run in 90 seconds, and the game was on. They found energy in little-used diminutive Tyrone Lue to run with Iverson and counter the undying ball-pressure of the Sixers defense. Lue had five points and five steals during a six-minute span, and O'Neal finished the quarter with 18 points to key the 19-6 run by the Lakers and close within two.

That set the stage for Iverson and his compadres to end all this fuss about the Lakers and eliminate the home-court advantage.

Mission accomplished?

Incredulous by the accusation that this was good enough, Iverson said: "These are the L.A. Lakers. They haven't lost a game the whole playoffs. If we feel like we won this game and it's over, we came out here for the wrong reason. We didn't come to L.A. just to compete and play hard and get some kind of moral victory. We came here to win. Nothing in life is easy. Nobody told me winning a championship is easy. I approached it like it's hard and it has been."

And what we learned today class is, if we rule out Allen Iverson, well, "I'm just glad nobody bet their lives on this game or they'd be dead."

Read El Editor

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By Pete Prisco

LAKELAND, Fla. -- Roy Jones and Randy Moss are arguably two of the best athletes in the world, dominating their sports.

Jones is the light heavyweight champion of the world, pound-for-pound the best fighter in a long, long time. Moss is an All-Pro receiver for the Minnesota Vikings, who runs past defensive backs with a long, leggy stride that makes you think of a gazelle escaping from a cheetah.

In two sports filled with plenty of nasty, ugly things, they are pictures of beauty when they perform. They are Picassos in an art gallery filled with third-grade drawings.

Which is why seeing them on the basketball court, playing a sport they both love, is so difficult to watch. Painful almost.

The two were on opposite teams Tuesday night in a United States Basketball League game, which would be somewhere beneath the CBA, if the CBA still existed. It is a league full of hopefuls, has-beens and never-will-be players.

Players are paid \$600 to \$700 a week, travel packed in vans to some road games and play mostly in front of crowds that can be counted by hand.

It is not where you would expect to see Jones or Moss, especially considering the risk involved playing basketball. So why bother? Why take the criticism that comes with stepping outside their sports just to play in a small-time league?

They love the game. Roy particularly has a Basketball Jones.

Jones will tell you as much, which he did before his Lakeland Blue Ducks defeated Moss' Pennsylvania ValleyDawgs.

"This gives me peace of mind," said Jones, who has been playing in the USBL for six years, although he never played in high school.

Jones said he couldn't care less about the fans who question why he and Moss even play in this league. Injury risk? We all face that every day, Jones said.

But we all don't have millions to lose.

"Every day you get up, there a chance anything can happen," said Jones. "If God meant for it to happen, it will happen anyway. He (Moss) could have went jogging to get ready for the football season, and some dog could have come up through there and messed up his leg for life. He could go to the club and get hit with a stray bullet and mess up his life. So what does this do?"

As Jones talked, Moss took the court for warmups, but he chose not to talk to reporters. Moss looked much skinnier in a basketball uniform than you would think, skinnier even than Keith Closs, the 7-foot-3 former Clippers player who joined the ValleyDawgs last week.

Moss and Closs? What was this, Team Dental Floss?

In Hoops, Moss, Jones Not In It To Win It

As Moss walked past Jones, he talked some smack to Jermaine Walker, a former University of Miami player who nearly made the Heat last summer after his dream was snuffed out by a drive-by in which he was shot in the leg.

That's the kind of story you hear in the USBL.

"I'm going to be coming all night," Moss told Walker, who laughed. The two hugged.

Walker must have known he had nothing to worry about. Moss does indeed have some basketball skills, which helped him twice be named West Virginia's high school basketball player of the year.

But all this of his someday playing in the NBA is way off base. Moss doesn't even start for the ValleyDawgs, nor should he.

Moss entered Tuesday's game wearing jersey No. 84 -- his Vikings number -- six minutes into the first quarter. He promptly swished his first shot, a deep 3-pointer from the corner.

It was downhill after that.

His stats for the night: four points, four rebounds, two assists, two turnovers and no autographs.

Moss waved off autograph seekers, including several wide-eyed kids, as he left the floor some twenty minutes before the game. Then, just to make sure fans stayed away, a Barney Fife ringer sat in a chair behind Moss all night.

After the game, Moss quickly bolted through a side door, even though a line full of autograph seekers, some holding Vikings helmets, other with Moss cards, waited in hopes he would sign.

The kid who brought the magazine cover with Moss' picture on it never did get it signed.

Moss did play hard when he was in the game, and it didn't appear that he took plays off, which he does in the NFL. He also seemed at ease with what he was doing, although he did make a face a couple of times when the ball didn't come his way. Moss also sat by himself during a

timeout when the rest of the team was huddled around coach Darryl Dawkins, only sticking his hand in at the end of the huddle.

It was as if he was angry about his minutes, since he played just under 20.

Dawkins, in case you're wondering, is Darryl Dawkins of Lovetron fame, the former NBA muscleman who knows a thing or two about individuals doing what they want. He said Moss has not been a problem to him at all.

"He's a guy who wants to play basketball, so he's going to play," Dawkins said. "He's a team player. He's very athletic. Lord knows, he can run and jump. We don't throw him lobs where he can get hurt. He's going to play until they tell him to stop."

During a quiet moment Tuesday, a fan yelled out to Dawkins. "Darryl, you're the best player on the court."

Dawkins raised his hand in the air. "My man," he said while laughing.

The fan wasn't far from the truth.

Walker has NBA skills, and Closs and Henry James of the Blue Ducks both have NBA experience, but the play was very playground. You would think Jones and Moss would excel in such a game, but both struggled.

Jones turned the ball over the first two times he touched it and finished with four points to go with *continued on page 6*

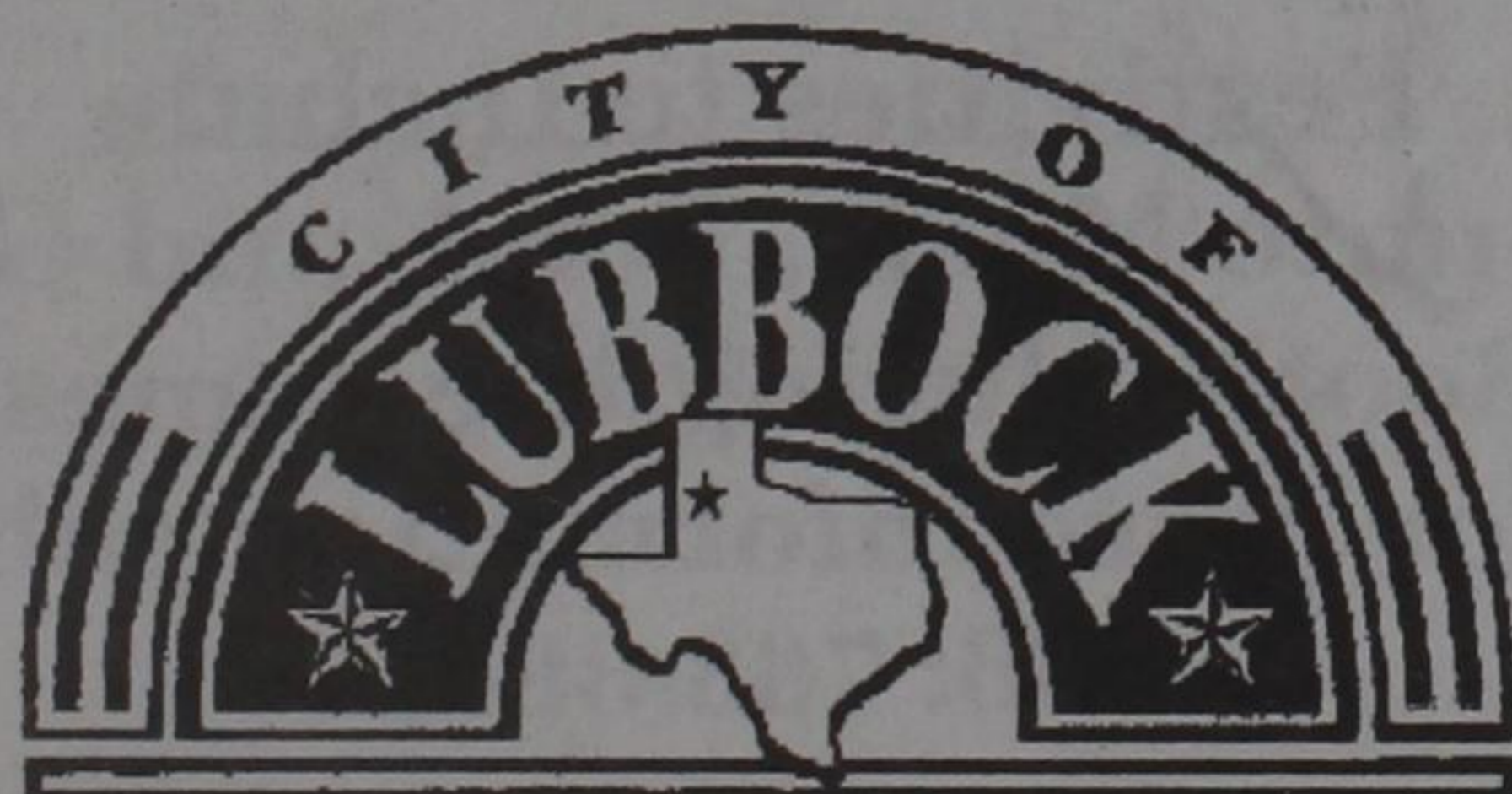
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Lubbock will hold a public hearing Thursday June 14, 2001 at 11:00 a.m. at City Hall 1625 13th Street in the Council Chambers. This hearing will allow for citizen comments on the following amendments to the 2000-2003 Consolidated Plan:

1. Amend the Plan to allow for the Application of 108 Loans to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
2. Deleting the requirement for an advisory board recommendation for funding of projects for the 2001-2002 funds.

For further information you may contact the Community Development Department at 775-2301. This hearing is open to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance please contact the Community Development Department at 775-2301, or write to Community Development P.O. Box 2000, Lubbock, Texas 79457, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.



PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

The City of Lubbock, TX (population 199,000) will be accepting applications for Police Officer positions now through September 7, 2001 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Applications may be picked up at two locations: the Human Resources Department at 1625-13th Street, in Room 104, Monday - Friday. Or, at the front desk of the Lubbock Police Department, 1015 9th Street, Monday - Friday after 5:00 PM, and all day weekends. Applicants must be 21 to 35 years of age. The Police Entrance Exam will be given on Friday September 21, 2001 at the Lubbock Police Academy, Reese Technology Center at 508 Davls Drive at 8:00 AM. All applicants should plan to arrive at 7:30 AM. For more information please call 775-3073 or 1-800-621-0793. **The City of Lubbock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

Salary: \$15.62 Hourly/\$32,506.24 Annually

For more information about the Lubbock Police Department, visit our web site at www.lubbockpolice.com. For more information about the City of Lubbock, please visit www.ci.lubbock.tx.us

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From Page 5

his four turnovers. He starts, but that might be in part because he's one of the team's owners.

It's good to be the king. Or champ.



Roy Jones Jr. enjoys his gig with the Lakeland Blue Ducks but he shouldn't quit his day job. (Allsport)

Jones flew in for the game that day on a Lear jet from Atlanta, where he had been rehearsing for a rap concert. He then drove over from his rented house near Tampa in his new Bentley, which was parked inside the tunnel of the arena for all the players to see. It is one of many Bentleys he has had, a luxury that his teammates will never have.

But Jones is clearly one of the fellas. You can tell his teammates like him, and he likes them. This is fun to him. He played to the fans and did sign autographs long after the game was over.

He is truly a people's champion. When it comes to people, Moss isn't even a contender.

"Nice guy," said one fan holding a Moss card. "How long would it take him to sign something?"

Jones has a championship fight scheduled at the end of July, but he's not too concerned about it. He mingled easily with the fans and with players from both teams.

Jones is training twice a day for the bout against undefeated Julio

Gonzalez of Mexico -- he planned to work out for the second time after Tuesday's game -- and will begin sparring in a couple of weeks. He hopes to meet Felix Trinidad next April, which would be the megafight that has eluded him his entire career. Some boxing fans say he needs Trinidad to validate his greatness.

"Why do I need Trinidad?" Jones said. "I've beaten fighters better than Trinidad already."

For now, he's just a minor-league basketball player, albeit it a very rich one. Same for Moss, who will get a new contract next year when he becomes a free agent, one that could pay him \$100 million and possibly make him the highest-paid player in the NFL.

Both men would seem to have it all, yet here they were in front of 1,247 fans -- including Derrick Brooks (who has known Jones since they were kids in Pensacola) and Warren Sapp of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers -- playing for peanuts, possibly risking everything.

"People think you have to stick to your own game," said Jones. "If you're a cab driver, they think all you can do is drive cabs. They don't think you can be a cab driver by day and a computer programmer by night. Would they be happy if he (Moss) was in the club partying, taking a chance on getting in trouble? What do you expect him to do?"

The Vikings wish he would stick to football, which isn't a bad idea. As a basketball player, Moss has a long way to go if he really does think the NBA is possible for him -- which it isn't.

Deion and Bo can rest easy.

Randy has as much of a chance of making the NBA as he would have of staying upright from a Jones' overhand right.

At least the right would be pretty. That's more than you could say for these two on the basketball court.

Hispanic Network To Air In Houston

Texas Launch Allows Company to Reach 600,000 Subscribers

NEW YORK, — U.S. Spanish-language broadcaster Hispanic Television Network Inc. Monday said that it will start airing in Houston, Texas, through Time Warner Cable's system as the States.

Hispanic Television will air 26

Tres Gigantes A Las Estrellas

NUEVA YORK -- El toletero Barry Bonds es uno de tres peloteros de los Gigantes de San Francisco al tope de sus posiciones en las votaciones para el equipo de la Liga Nacional rumbo al Partido de las Estrellas.

Bonds, el bateador que más pronto ha alcanzado 30 jonrones en una campaña en la historia de las Mayores, encabeza a los jardineros de la liga con 393.508 votos, según resultados dados a conocer ayer.

El dominicano Sammy Sosa (328.562 votos), de los Cachorros de Chicago, es segundo entre los jardineros, mientras que Luis González (208.502), de Arizona, es el tercero.

Rich Aurilia, líder de bateo en la liga, encabeza a los torpederos, con 179.208 votos. Aurilia podría convertirse en el primer torpedero de los Gigantes en ir al Juego de Estrellas desde que Chris Speier lo hizo en 1974.

El otro Gigante que se destaca es el camarero Jeff Kent, con 201.280 votos.

El catcher de los Mets de Nueva York, Mike Piazza, es el jugador con más votos en la liga, con 444.216.

Otros líderes de posiciones son el inicialista Todd Helton (219.080), de Colorado, y el antesalista de Atlanta, Chipper Jones (259.621).

El Partido de Estrellas se celebrará el 10 de julio en Seattle.

hours per week of original programming, 16 of which will be live entertainment and news programs provided by Mexico City-based CNI Canal 40.

Both companies recently struck a deal that also allows Hispanic Television to access CNI's library of over 7000 hours of original programming.

"This is an important step for serving U.S. Hispanics with culturally relevant programming," said Michael Fletcher, Hispanic Television's chief operating officer.

The company "is focused on the Mexican and the Mexican-American viewer and Time Warner Cable is demonstrating its commitment to diversity in entertainment and company seeks to further expand its reach to the fast-growing Hispanic

population.

"This is an important step for serving U.S. Hispanics with culturally relevant programming," said Michael Felcher, Hispanic Television executive.

The Fort Worth based company, whose stock is hovering near a year low as it looks for investors to inject capital, said in a release that its launch in Texas will allow it to reach over 600,000 subscribers of the Hispanic Tier, part of the Houston Time Warner system.

Hispanic Television signed a 10-year distribution contract in mid-March with Time Warner Cable, a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc. The deal gave Hispanic Television potential access to some 12.6 million subscribers in the United

selection for its Hispanic audience," he added.

Hispanic Television competes against market leaders Univision Communications Inc. and privately held Telemundo Communications Group Inc. for a share of the market for Spanish-language broadcasts in the United States. Another competitor, Azteca America, is expected to launch its own network later this year in a bid for a share of the U.S. Hispanic community, which now numbers over 35 million, and is seen by advertisers as an extremely attractive market.

The company's shares, which face delisting from the Nasdaq market, rose 1 cent per share to close at 27 cents on Friday. Over the last year, its price has fluctuated between 23 cents and \$15.13 per share.



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NEWS

OF SPORTS

Tennis Programs Emphasize Family Fun

(NAPS)—As part of a landmark five-year, \$50 million initiative to increase tennis participation in the United States, people of all ages can enjoy special tennis activities ranging from free tennis lessons to low-cost USA Tennis programs. The initiative is called the USA Tennis Plan For Growth, the program comes from the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

After trying tennis with a free lesson, players can continue learning the sport through the U.S. Tennis 1-2-3 program, a low-cost introductory instructional program for all ages and USA Team Tennis that emphasizes fun, fitness and friends for youth and adults.

USA Tennis Month kicked off on May 8 at the USTA National Tennis Center, in New York, site of the U.S. Open. Celebrity couple Jane Kaczmarek of *Malcolm in the Middle* and Bradley Whitford of *The West Wing*, tennis stars Jim Courier, Pam Shriver and Zina Garrison and author Terrie Williams all participated in the family tennis event emphasizing tennis, reading and life lessons.

"I'm thrilled to be a part of USA Tennis Month," said Whitford. "I'm an avid player, and tennis is a great way for parents and their children to stay in shape, spend quality time together and most importantly, have fun."

Kaczmarek adds, "I'm a big tennis fan. USA Tennis Month is a



Players of all ages now have more opportunities for free tennis lessons and low-cost tennis programs.

great opportunity for families to be introduced to a wonderful sport, one where they play together while learning life lessons."

A total of 110 communities across the country are receiving grants to increase participation in USA Tennis programs and expand or develop community tennis associations.

In 2000, the USA Tennis Plan for Growth introduced 308,320 new players to tennis through the USA Tennis 1-2-3 program, far surpassing the goal of 250,000. In just three years, the initiative, spearheaded by the USTA (The national governing body of tennis in America), has attracted more than 775,000 Americans to tennis, and will reach its five-year goal of 800,000 in just four years.

For more information on USA Tennis Month and Tennis programs, visit the Web site at www.usatennis.com.



Barry Bonds

Léa El Editor

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Keeping an Eye on Texas

Water-Wise

Drought conditions in Texas can raise temperatures to 106 degrees or higher, making water an increasingly valuable resource during the summer months. The following tips will help homeowners learn to conserve and use water wisely:

- Fill swimming pools at lower levels to avoid water loss.
- Group lawn plants together that require same amounts of water.
- Use rocks, wooden decking and patio fixtures to reduce lawn area.
- Adjust automatic sprinklers to shut off when it rains.

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us), and the City of Arlington.

