

# Gore, Bush Latch On To Hispanic Congress Members Early

By Patricia Guadalupe

Nearly all of the 18 Hispanic voting members in Congress are doing their presidential election-day shopping early. With still a year of speeches and promises to go, they are following partisan lines and backing their parties' front-runners for the presidency. Vice President Al Gore has collected endorsements from 13 of

Congressional Hispanic Caucus. "He wants to help us in a way that empowers us to help the community. We want someone who can help us help ourselves, and I believe he can do that."

Rep. Robert Menéndez, who serves as House Democratic Caucus vice chair, passed over Bill Bradley, a fellow popular New Jersey political figure, to support Gore. He cites mostly economic reasons.

"Gore has always been an advocate for our community, says Menéndez. "Whether it was lifting more than one million Hispanics out of poverty through the Earned Income Tax Credit or unveiling an aggressive plan to have the Small Business Administration make \$25 billion in loans to Hispanic businesses, or helping obtain more funds for Hispanic education, Gore has been a fighter."

By early September, Gore had lined up as backers more than 500 Hispanic elected officials and community leaders from across the country, releasing the impressive list then. Most of the Latino Democrats in the House of Representatives weighed in at that time.

"Not only is he the best candidate, but he is a veteran and he understands the issues and concerns of our country's veterans," adds Rep. Charlie González of Texas.

The three Hispanic House members who have signed on



PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENTS FROM HISPANIC VOTING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS -- GORE: Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.), Charlie González (D-Texas), Rubén Hinajosa (D-Texas), Matthew Martínez (D-Calif.), Robert Menéndez (D-N.J.), Grace Napolitano (D-Calif.), Ed Pastor (D-Ariz.), Solomón Ortiz (D-Texas), Silvestre Reyes (D-Texas), Ciro Rodríguez (D-Texas), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.), Loretta Sánchez (D-Calif.), Nydia Velázquez (D-N.Y.) BUSH: Henry Bonilla (R-Texas), Lincoln Díaz-Balart (R-Florida), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Florida) UNDECIDED: Luis Gutiérrez (D-Ill.)

with GOP front-runner George W. Bush are Henry Bonilla of Texas, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Lincoln Díaz-Balart, both of Florida, where George W.'s brother Jeb sits in the state-

house. Bonilla offers this praise for his governor: "I've been with him in the barrios along the Texas-Mexico border. People (there) can tell pretty quickly if you're

comfortable and you are sincere. People see that Bush cares about them, is concerned about them and is sincere."

Adds Díaz-Balart, co-chair of the Bush campaign in Florida, "He has done a great job. He is a very open person, and he genuinely sympathizes with the Hispanic community. "He would be very positive for the Hispanic community, and I will be doing whatever I can to urge Hispanics to vote for him."

Díaz-Balart, a Cuban American, adds to Hispanic Link that

Bush's stance against lifting the U.S. embargo against Cuba is another persuasive factor. "He personally assured me that he will not lift the embargo while the Castro dictatorship has political prisoners and does not hold free and democratic elections."

The two endorsement hold-outs are Democrats José Serrano of New York and Luis Gutiérrez of Illinois. Explains Gutiérrez spokesperson Billy Weinberg, "He's still looking at the issues and seeing where the candidates stand."

## News Briefs

### Thousands Remember Dead in Day of Dead Celebrations

Calexico, California, - Various Hispanic groups in 18 U.S. cities, on the Day of the Dead, remembered by placing thousands of crosses the would-be immigrants who died trying to cross into the United States.

"With government (efforts) to seal the borders, immigrants are forced to cross through dangerous areas, where they face dehydration, attacks and even death," said the director of the National Network for the Defense of Immigrant-Refugee Rights, Cathi Tactaquin.

In the activist's opinion, U.S. Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS) efforts to seal the border have made crossing into the United States more dangerous and she called on politicians to stop "immigration strategies which result in the loss of human lives."

Tuesday's ceremonies, including wakes, marches and protests, were organized based on a University of Houston study which shows that INS policies have been responsible for some 300 immigrant deaths per year.

Hundreds of wooden, white-painted crosses appeared this morning by the metal fence on the international border in Calexico, California, to remember illegal immigrants who died while trying to cross into the United States.

Each one of the 451 crosses placed in Calexico stands for an undocumented immigrant who has died in California trying to cross the border since the INS launched Operation Guardian in 1994 to stop them.

Of the 451 illegal immigrants deaths in California, 212 were due to exposure in desert or mountains along the border, while another 111 drowned while trying to cross the canal along the border with Calexico. It was not specified how the remaining immigrants died.

In San Diego, several community groups staged a religious ceremony to draw public attention to what they believe is a growing problem.

On Tuesday evening, Mexicali, Mexico, Bishop Jose Isidro Guerrero Macias will hold a religious ceremony in memory of the illegal immigrants who died on the California border.

And in Tijuana, Mexico, Bishop Rafael Romo Muñoz will hold another ceremony to remember these deaths.

Monica Oropeza, director of the Desert Youth Lodge, which provides social services for young illegal immigrants, told EFE that 111 would-be immigrants had died in the area since last year.

"It makes us despair to think how many more crosses we will have to set up next year," said Sister Lourdes Arias of Tijuana's Scalabrini Migratory Pastoral Center, which helps female and minor illegal immigrants.

### Bradley Says He Will Not Normalize Relations with Cuba

Miami, - Bill Bradley, Democratic hopeful for the U.S. presidential nomination said Friday in Miami that, if elected, he would not normalize relations with Cuba.

Bradley, who was campaigning in South Florida - home to the country's largest Cuban-American community - said the U.S. economic embargo imposed on Cuba in 1962 is "an important part of the way to put pressure on Castro."

The former New Jersey senator is vying for the nomination with Vice President Al Gore. Bradley has managed to reduce Gore's advantage in public opinion polls in the past few weeks. He also referred to his plan to provide medical insurance to the

49 million U.S. citizens who do not have coverage, a plan that would cost about 69 billion dollars.

Bradley stressed that a high percentage of young Hispanic families do not have health insurance and with his plan, the children of those families who make less than 32,000 dollars a year could receive free medical coverage.

### Mexicans in California Ask for Right to Vote in PRI Primaries

Los Angeles, - The "Committee in Favor of the 2000 Vote," to which thousands of Mexican residents in the United States belong, on Monday sent a delegation to Mexico to propose to electoral authorities the installation of ballot boxes on the border where they can vote in the primaries Sunday.

The delegation will speak to Jose Waldenberg, president of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), so that the organization will place voting stations at the main ports of entry between San Diego and California on Nov. 7.

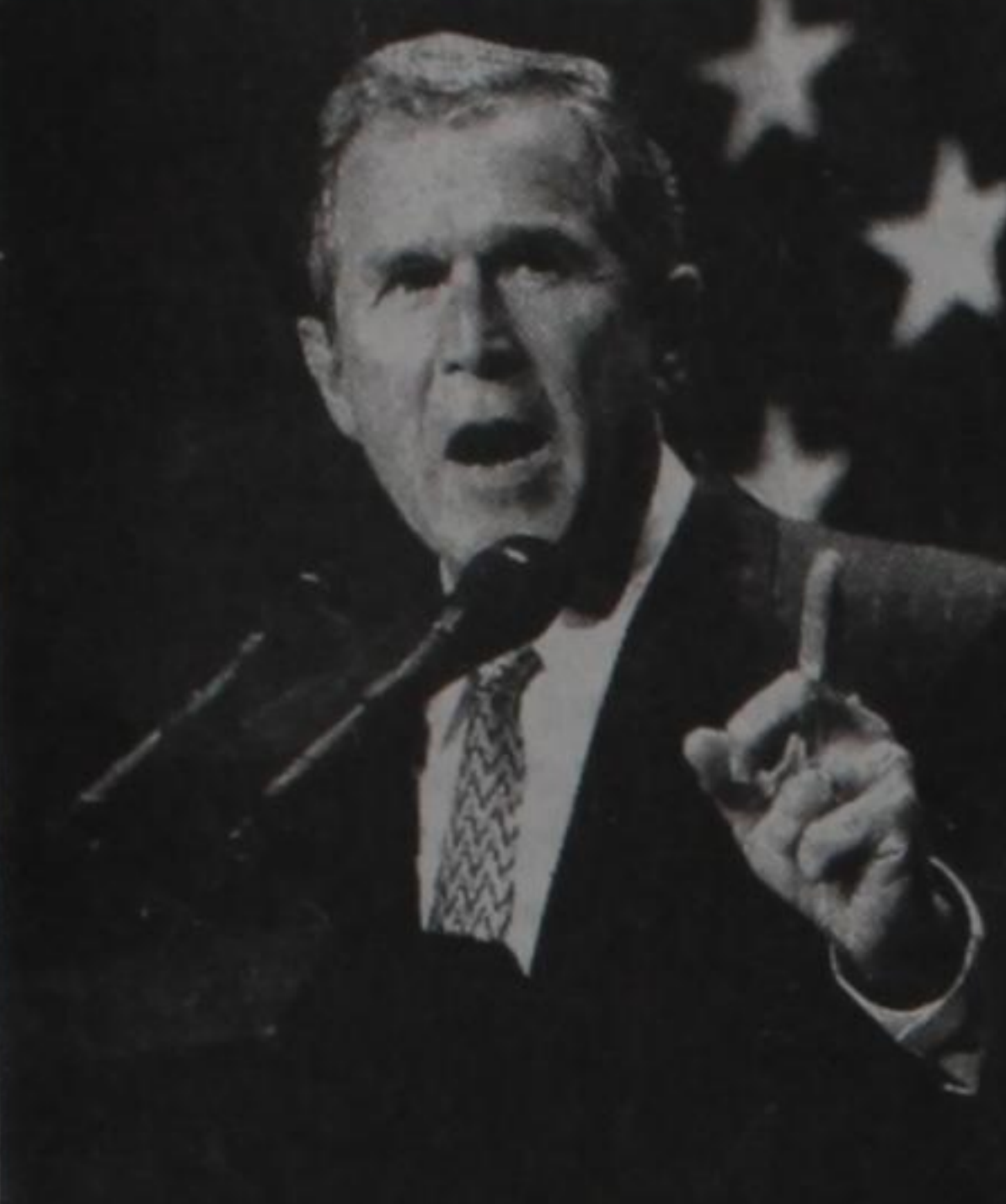
The committee seeks to obtain the right to vote outside Mexico because "those of us who live in the United States can also elect the PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) presidential candidate," Committee Director Felipe Arriaga told EFE.

But the Mexican Senate had already rejected a similar petition by the Committee when it recently debated a package of electoral matters.

The PRI, which has governed Mexico for the past 70 years, will hold primaries for the first time in history. On Sunday, its presidential candidate will be democratically elected for the general 2000 election.

In this way, the PRI will leave behind its tradition of an outgoing president appointing his successor, a procedure known as the "dedazo."

The party called for all Mexicans with current voters' registrations to vote for a candidate.



Top of his campaign: George W. Bush at a fundraiser last Tuesday in New York.

the 15 Hispanic Democrats, while Texas Gov. George W. Bush has reeled in the three Republican Hispanics who serve in Congress.

"I am endorsing Gore because I think he is the most qualified and the most experienced person running," says Californian Lucille Roybal-Allard, chair of the

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

# EL EDITOR

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## Gore Y Bush Reciben Apoyo De Congressistas Hispanos

Por Patricia Guadalupe

Casi todos los 18 miembros hispanos con voto en el Congreso ya han dicho a quién apoyarían en la contienda presidencial del año que viene. Aunque todavía hay un año de discursos y promesas por transcurrir, ellos están siguiendo sus partidarios y respaldando a los que llevan la delantera de sus respectivos partidos para la presidencia.

El vice presidente Al Gore ha

recogido el apoyo de 13 de los 15 demócratas hispanos, mientras que el gobernador de Texas, George W. Bush, ha recibido las de los tres congresistas hispanos republicanos.

"Estoy respaldando a Gore porque creo que él es el mejor calificado y la persona de mayor experiencia que está postulándose," dice la californiana Lucille Roybal-Allard, presidente del grupo congresional hispano. "El quiere ayudarnos de modo que nos habilite para ayudar a la comunidad. Necesitamos de alguien que pueda ayudarnos a que nos ayudemos a nosotros mismos, y creo que él puede hacer eso."

El representante Robert Menéndez, el vice presidente del grupo congresional hispano, pasó por alto a Bill Bradley, una figura política popular de su estado de Nueva Jersey, para apoyar a Gore. Menciona razones primordialmente económicas para respaldar al vice presidente.

"El ha sido siempre un defensor de nuestra comunidad," dice Menéndez. "Ya fuera sacando a más de un millón de hispanos de la pobreza mediante el Crédito Fiscal por Ingresos Ganados o develando un plan agresivo para que la Administración de Pequeñas Empresas (SBA en inglés)

haga préstamos a los negocios hispanos por \$25,000 millones, u obteniendo más fondos para la educación de los hispanos, Gore ha sido un combatiente."

A principios de septiembre, Gore había recibido el apoyo de más de 500 funcionarios hispanos electos y líderes comunitarios a través de todo el país. La mayoría de los demócratas latinos de la cámara de representantes manifestó su apoyo en aquel momento.

El representante Charlie González, de Texas, agrega: "No sólo él es el mejor candidato, sino que es un veterano y comprende de los asuntos y las preocupaciones de los veteranos de nuestro país."

Los tres miembros hispanos de la cámara que apoyan al presunto nominado por el partido republicano, George W. Bush, son: Henry Bonilla, de Texas, e Ileana Ros-Lehtinen y Lincoln Díaz-Balart, ambos de la Florida, donde el hermano de George W. Jeb, ocupa la mansión estatal.

Bonilla ofrece este elogio para su gobernador: "He estado con él en los barrios a lo largo de la frontera entre Texas y México. La gente ahí puede ver si uno es agradable y sincero. Ellos ven que Bush se preocupa por ellos,

que está interesado por ellos y que es sincero."

Y Díaz-Balart, co-presidente de la campaña de Bush en la Florida, agrega: "El ha hecho un trabajo excelente. Es una persona muy franca y simpatiza genuinamente con la comunidad hispana. El sería muy positivo para la comunidad hispana, y yo haré todo lo posible para instar a los hispanos a votar por él."

Díaz-Balart, un cubano-americano, dijo a Hispanic Link que la postura de Bush contra el levantamiento del embargo a Cuba es otro factor de persuasión. "El me aseguró personalmente que no levantará el embargo mientras que la dictadura de Castro tenga presos políticos y no lleve a cabo elecciones libres y democráticas."

Los dos que siguen indecisos son el demócrata José Serrano, de Nueva York, y Luis Gutiérrez, de Illinois. El portavoz de Gutiérrez, Billy Weinberg, explica: "El todavía está revisando los temas para ver qué posturas tienen los candidatos."

(Patricia Guadalupe es la editora del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report, con sede en Washington, D.C. Oswaldo Zavala colaboró con ella en este reportaje. Pueden comunicarse con Patricia por e-mail al indicativo zapoteco(AT)SIGN@aol.com?

## More Than 1.2 Million Immigrants Become Citizens

Washington, - U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and Immigration and Naturalization Service head Doris Meissner reported Thursday that more than 1.2 million immigrants had become U.S. citizens in the fiscal year ended September 1999.

They also said that the process of approval had been reduced to one year - previously it took as long as 28 months - and that efforts were being made to cut it down to only six months.

The officials said that in fiscal year 1999, 872,485 immigrants from various countries took the oath of U.S. citizenship.

Another group foreigners was sworn Thursday, in ceremonies in Los Angeles, California (12,000 people), San Antonio, Texas (250) and Atlanta, Georgia (150).

Another 12,000 will take the oath in Los Angeles Friday, an INS spokesman told EFE.

On the number of people that had been approved to become citizens, Reno said that the total represented a 105 percent increase over 1998.

To grant U.S. citizenship "is the concrete expression of the values of freedom, democracy and equal opportunities in this country," Reno told a news conference at INS headquarters.

She added that improving the naturalization system to make it more efficient and effective would help the United States to

successfully face the challenges of the new millennium.

Meissner said, moreover, that the citizenship-granting process "is one of the most important things that we do, as a nation."

She thanked Reno for her support and Congress for the approval of an additional 176 million dollar allocation, to expedite immigration procedures.

Meissner voiced INS interest

## Hispanics Make Up 12 Percent of the U.S. Population

MIAMI, - By the end of the year, the Hispanic population in the United States will have reached 34 million people, or 12 percent of the population, a newly released study said.

Miami-based Strategy Research Corporation will officially release the study Thursday at its annual conference, company sources said.

According to the study, 63 percent of the Hispanic population in the United States is of Mexican origin, 15 percent is of Central American origin, 11 percent Puerto Rican and 5 percent Cuban.

The report, titled "A Study of the Hispanic Market in the United States in the Year 2000," states that 60 percent of the U.S. Hispanic population is concentrated in 10 cities: Los An-

geles, New York, Miami, San Francisco, Chicago, Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, San Diego, and McAllen, Texas.

In addition, the report says seven states will have a Hispanic population of more than one million people: California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, Arizona, and New Jersey.

The buying power of the Hispanic population will also increase from 273 billion dollars in 1998 to 325 billion dollars, a per family increase from 32,600 dollars to 34,900 dollars, the report states.

Strategy Research based the report on demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau as well as on interviews with 1,600 Hispanics in the 10 principal Hispanic markets across the United States.

### Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

"Papá. What is a 'sigh'?" This was a question asked by Marisol a few weeks ago. "The word was on her spelling list. A few



days later an article appeared in the newspaper that the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund and Lulac had filed a suit claiming that the TAAS test was discriminatory to Hispanic students.

One can easily understand if you are a Hispanic parent that they are right in making that claim being that our kids are sometimes not exposed to many of the experiences of the mainstream anglo student.

The experience with my daughter brought to mind one of my experiences while I was in junior high when our coach made us run a few laps to many -- at least for me. The activity made me want to vomit from exhaustion and I really didn't want to do it in front of my friend. I tried to tell the coach that I need to vomit and suddenly realized that I didn't know the English word for expressing what I wanted to do. I ran to the rest room anyway and had to run a few more laps after I got back.

It is very sad that many of our kids are not exposed to simple English words yet that have the richness of a culture that is admired by everyone.

It's even sadder that a culturally biased test keeps many of our kids from graduating.

Bidal can be reached by e-mail at editor@wsc.net



# Programa De Braceros Lleva Miseria A Trabajadores Extranjeros Y Estadounidenses Por Igual

# El Programa De 'Braceros' Tiene Sentido Pero No Para Los Politicos

Por Dick Meister

Los cultivadores y sus aliados políticos están cantando nuevamente ese pequeño sonneto quejumbroso de cómo "los estadounidenses no quieren hacer trabajo menospreciados."

Lo cual significa que ellos están pidiendo otra vez una reanudación del programa de los "braceros" que durante 22 años suministró a los empleadores del campo agrícola un aprovisionamiento ilimitado de mano de obra mexicana barata, dócil y cautiva para hacer el trabajo que los cultivadores alegaban que los trabajadores estadounidenses no estaban dispuestos a hacer.

El congreso federal eliminó ese programa en 1964 por muy buenas razones. Los cultivadores estaban abusando flagrantemente de los "braceros" mexicanos, contratados a través del gobierno para empleos procurados por trabajadores estadounidenses menos sumisos.

Así, los cultivadores mantuvieron la paga y las condiciones del empleo a niveles miserablemente bajos.

En casi todos los 35 años desde entonces, se han planteado exigencias para el regreso de los "braceros." Este año, dos gobernadores republicanos están dirigiendo el ataque, Jane Hull de Arizona, y Gary Johnson de Nuevo México.

Es bastante comprensible el por qué ellos y sus amigos de los negocios agrícolas están cabildeando en el congreso para que se apruebe un nuevo programa de "braceros." Como el antiguo programa, éste garantizaría a los cultivadores una fuerza laboral de mexicanos desesperadamente

pobres, que vendrían y se irían según la necesidad laboral del cultivador, no tendrían voz en cuanto a cómo los tratarían y no se atreverían a quejarse para no ser sustituidos por otros trabajadores que esperarán ansiosamente en la frontera.

La rápida disponibilidad de tales trabajadores, además, evitaría que los trabajadores nacionales exigieran un tratamiento mejor por temor de ser reemplazados por "braceros" que no se quejaran.

Los que procuran un programa nuevo niegan, por supuesto, que tal explotación sea su propósito. Desde luego, ellos sólo están tratando de cubrir plazas que, sin importar cuán vitales sean para nuestro bienestar, los trabajadores estadounidenses no quieren desempeñar. Ustedes conocen la tonada: "Los estadounidenses no quieren hacer trabajo en que tengan que se bajen para hacerlo."

Oh, de seguro. Entonces, ¿quiénes son los que limpian nuestras alcantarillas y recogen nuestra basura? ¿Quiénes son los albañiles que trabajan con cemento, que pasan casi todo el día arrodillados? ¿Y nuestros techadores, que trabajan con brea caliente todo el día? ¿Y los muchos otros que hacen trabajos de aspejera semejante?

Ellos son, por supuesto, trabajadores estadounidenses a quienes se trata con dignidad, se les paga un salario decente, se les dan circunstancias de trabajo decentes y no se les lanza en competencia directa con trabajadores extranjeros desesperados.

A los trabajadores agrícolas se les ofrece, por lo general, paga

igual o inferior al mínimo legal y pocos, si es que algunos, beneficios y protecciones contra los riesgos para la salud y la seguridad, así como en contra de las acciones arbitrarias e ilegales, que se les dan a la mayoría de los trabajadores no agrícolas.

A muchos trabajadores agrícolas se les niegan hasta las conveniencias en el empleo tales como agua potable y servicios sanitarios, y a la mayoría se les obliga a vivir en viviendas escandalosamente inferiores.

Hay suficientes trabajadores nacionales disponibles para los empleos agrícolas. A pesar del presunto auge económico del país, las tasas del desempleo continúan en cifras de dos dígitos en las principales zonas agrícolas. Pero antes que contratar a trabajadores estadounidenses que podrían exigir un trato decente, los cultivadores han estado contratando a inmigrantes recientes que pueden ser explotados fácilmente - casi el 40 por ciento de ellos indocumentados - que son demasiado vulnerables como para exigir cualquier cosa.

Los inmigrantes no son elegibles, por lo general, para los beneficios del desempleo y de la asistencia económica pública, ni para otras ayudas gubernamentales que hacen que los trabajadores nacionales se hallen menos dispuestos a aceptar las condiciones arbitrarias de los cultivadores. La única alternativa para la mayoría de ellos es regresar a sus países de origen, donde los empleos son escasos y la paga y las circunstancias del trabajo son aún peores.

Unos cuantos cultivadores obtienen a sus trabajadores inmigrantes mediante un programa federal de "trabajadores por temporadas" que fué establecido después que el congreso puso fin al programa de los "braceros." Pero la inmensa mayoría no quieren usarlo, porque les exige que proporcionen vivienda, transporte y otros beneficios a los inmigrantes que se les suministran, y hacer por lo menos algún esfuerzo para mostrar que el reclutamiento de los inmigrantes no surtiría un "efecto adverso" sobre los trabajadores nacionales.

Los aliados políticos de los cultivadores les darían un nuevo programa de "braceros" al modificar el programa de trabajadores invitados eliminando la mayoría de los requisitos que ellos hallen desagradables. Así, ellos podrían continuar reclutando trabajadores estacionales con sus propios términos miserables y con ayuda considerable del gobierno federal.

Mark Schacht, de la Fundación de California para la Ayuda Legal Rural (CRLAF en inglés) hace notar: "En una industria que asombra periódicamente al público por la magnitud de su avaricia, ésta es la gestión más descarada y avariciosa en busca de mano de obra barata y susceptible de ser explotada que se pudiera imaginar."

Ninguna cantidad de insensateces sobre el que los trabajadores estadounidenses no están dispuestos a efectuar el trabajo vital de cultivar el alimento que nos sostiene a todos puede ocultar esa realidad.

(Dick Meister es columnista por cuenta propia de San Francisco.)

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Por Domenico Maceri

Con unos 2 millones de trabajadores indocumentados en los Estados Unidos, ¿necesitamos más trabajadores del extranjero? Sí, dicen algunos cultivadores, respaldados sólidamente por legisladores republicanos. Los demócratas dicen que no, que no hay escasez de mano de obra agrícola.

Hacen años, ambos partidos concordaron en que pudiera haber escaseces, y el Congreso aprobó el programa H-2A, un proyecto de ley que permite a los cultivadores traer a trabajadores legalmente por temporadas durante la época de la cosecha. Sin embargo, los cultivadores se quejaron de que el programa no era suficiente y además era demasiado burocrático.

Como respuesta, el Senado de los Estados Unidos aprobó en su última sesión una modificación del programa H-2A, que habría satisfecho a los cultivadores, según dicen algunos congresistas de ambos lados políticos, tales como Ron Wyden, demócrata de Oregón, y Gordon Smith, republicano, también de Oregón.

Los críticos dijeron que el proyecto de ley habría permitido que los cultivadores trajeran a tantos trabajadores como quisieran, y pondría la carga sobre el gobierno federal para probar que no había trabajadores estadounidenses disponibles o dispuestos para hacer el trabajo.

Los cultivadores no tendrían que proveer viviendas ni siquiera pagar el salario mínimo a cada trabajador, siempre que se pagara a un grupo de trabajadores, en promedio, el salario mínimo.

Gracias al cabildéo por parte de los grupos hispanos y a las gestiones de la subdirectora personal de la Casa Blanca, María Echaveste, que se crió en una familia de trabajadores migratorios, el proyecto de ley no fué aprobado en el Congreso. El gobierno no lo apoyó, alegando que no hay escasez de trabajadores. El mismo insistió en que si hubiera realmente escasez, los salarios de la agricultura estarían aumentando.

¿Fué eso una victoria para los trabajadores indocumentados?

Es posible.

Cientos de miles de trabajadores indocumentados trabajan en fincas en los Estados Unidos en circunstancias miserables y sin beneficios, siempre temerosos de que los funcionarios de inmigración los arresten y los deporten. Está claro que ellos estarían todos mucho mejor si se les permitiera trabajar legalmente en los Estados Unidos.

Sin embargo, cada vez que se hace una tentativa para traer a trabajadores agrícolas legalmente a los Estados Unidos, las personas que se preocupan por los trabajadores inmigrantes recuerdan al programa de los braceros. Según varias opiniones, incluyendo las de Wyden y Smith, el programa fué un fracaso.

El aproximado de 5 millones de trabajadores mexicanos que tomaron parte en el programa entre 1942 y 1964 fueron poco más que esclavos. Los derechos de los trabajadores no fueron protegidos, a pesar de los acuerdos preparados por funcionarios mexica-

nos y estadounidenses. Los trabajadores no podían dejar a un empleador sin arriesgarse a ser deportados.

Las autoridades mexicanas se negaron a permitir que sus trabajadores fueran reclutados para ir a Texas, debido a la discriminación que predominaba allí.

Pero el hecho de que el programa de los braceros fuera un fracaso no significa que un nuevo programa no podría funcionar bien. Desgraciadamente, mientras los republicanos organizan estos programas gubernamentales, los demócratas continúan insistiendo en que no son necesarios.

De modo que millones de trabajadores indocumentados laboran en las industrias agrícolas, las plantas empaquetadoras de carne y los hoteles a merced de los empleadores que pueden tratarlos casi por completo del modo que ellos quieran.

El partido demócrata parece creer que no hay problema. En su intento para ganar elecciones, se enfoca sobre cortejar a la clase media. Los trabajadores extranjeros que no son ciudadanos, legales o ilegales, no votan.

Además, la presencia de los trabajadores indocumentados perjudica los salarios de trabajadores estadounidenses carentes de habilidades, a quienes se supone que el partido demócrata represente.

Los republicanos parecen desempeñar el papel de rescatista en sus tentativas para traer a personas que trabajen legalmente; los demócratas dan la impresión de que no les importa del todo, esperando que cualesquiera escaseces que pueda haber ocasionarán que los salarios aumenten y obligarán a los cultivadores a valorar y tratar mejor a sus actuales trabajadores, indocumentados o no.

Ninguno de los dos, sin embargo, brinda una respuesta adecuada. Canadá puede señalar el camino. Durante los últimos años, los trabajadores mexicanos han estado yendo a Canadá para hacer trabajos de temporada. Las cifras son pequeñas, pero la cooperación entre los gobiernos de México y Canadá asegura la equidad para todos.

Los demócratas, quienes se supone defiendan al trabajador humilde contra las grandes empresas, necesitan cooperar con los republicanos para garantizar que los programas que traigan a trabajadores a los Estados Unidos protejan los derechos de los inmigrantes. El bipartidarismo produjo el Tratado de Libre Comercio (NAFTA, en inglés), que ayuda a las empresas a vender sus productos a través de las fronteras.

¿Qué tal un programa semejante para ayudar a los trabajadores a vender sus servicios legalmente y escaparse de los contrabandistas y los empleadores sin escrúpulos?

(Domenico Maceri enseña idiomas en Allan Hancock College en Santa María, California. Es posible comunicarse con él por el indicativo dmaceri(AT)SIGN@aol.com)

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## Bracero Program Makes Sense But Not To Politicians

By Domenico Maceri

With an estimated 2 million undocumented workers in the United States, do we need more foreign workers? Yes, say some growers, backed heavily by Republican lawmakers. The Democrats say no, that there are no labor shortages in agriculture.

Years ago, both parties agreed there were shortages, and Congress passed H-2A, a bill that allowed growers to bring in seasonal workers legally during harvest time. However, the growers complained that it was too cumbersome and bureaucratic.

In response, the U.S. Senate last session approved a modification of the H-2A program that would have satisfied growers, according to some members on both sides of the aisle, including Oregon's Ron Wyden, a Democrat, and Gordon Smith, a Republican, also from Oregon.

Critics said the proposed law would have enabled growers to bring as many workers as they want and would put the onus on the federal government to prove that U.S. workers were not available or willing to do the job.

Growers would not have to provide housing or even pay minimum wages to each worker, so long as a group of workers was paid on average the minimum wage.

Thanks to lobbying from Hispanic groups and the efforts of Deputy White House Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste, who grew up in a migrant family, the legislation failed to get through Congress. The administration did not support it, claiming there is no shortage of workers. It insisted that if there really were a shortage, wages in agriculture would be rising.

A victory for undocumented workers? Maybe.

Hundreds of thousands of undocumented workers toil on U.S. farms under miserable conditions, without benefits, always fearful that immigration officers will catch and deport them. Clearly, they would all be better off if they were allowed to work legally in the United States.

However, every time an attempt is made to bring agricultural workers legally into the United States, people who care about immigrant workers remember the bracero program. By several accounts, including Wyden's and Smith's, the program was a failure.

The nearly 5 million Mexican workers who took part in the program between 1942 and 1964 were little more than indentured servants. Workers' rights were not protected, in spite of agree-

ments prepared by Mexican and U.S. officials. Workers could not leave an employer without risking deportation.

Mexican authorities refused to allow their workers to be recruited into Texas because of rampant discrimination there.

But the fact that the bracero program was a failure does not mean that a new program could not work well. Unfortunately, while Republicans organize these government programs, Democrats keep insisting they are unnecessary. Thus, millions of undocumented workers toil in farm, garment, meatpacking and hotel industries at the mercy of employers who can treat them pretty much as they want.

The Democratic Party seems to think there is no problem. In its attempt to win elections, it focuses on courting the middle class. Non-citizen foreign workers, legal or illegal, do not vote.

And on top of that, the presence of undocumented workers depresses wages for unskilled U.S. workers whom the Democratic Party is supposed to represent.

Republicans seem to play the role of white knight in their attempts to bring in people to work legally; Democrats give the impression of not caring at all, hoping that whatever shortages

there may be will cause wages to rise and force growers to value and better treat their current workers, undocumented or not.

Neither, however, offers an appropriate response. Canada can point the way. For the past several years Mexican workers have been going to Canada to do seasonal jobs. The numbers are small, but the cooperation between the Mexican and Canada governments ensures fairness to all.

Democrats, who supposedly stand for the little man against the big corporations, need to cooperate with Republicans to guarantee that programs to bring workers into the United States protect immigrants' rights. Bipartisanship brought about the North American Free Trade Agreement, which helps companies sell their products across borders.

How about a similar program to help workers sell their services legally and escape the vise of smugglers and unscrupulous employers?

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## George W. Bush Y2000? Plan to Go to Church to Get an Attendant

By Marta Russell

In his "new" fight against poverty, Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush says he will issue a call to America's "armies of compassion" to end poverty, hunger, welfare and crime by donating to charity. The political goal of compassionate conservatism is to separate George W. from the now unpopular politics of Newt Gingrich. But W.'s compassionate conservatism is just a cold contract on America warmed over.

Gingrich, for instance, preached "we must replace the welfare state" with a "strategy of dramatically increasing private charities." It was Gingrich who idolized author Gertrude Himmelfarb (The Demoralization of Society) who advocated that the deserving poor should receive goods like socks in place of welfare aid. And it was the Contract (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996), which ended poor people's entitlement to public assistance and severed approximately 300,000 children with disabilities from Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid.

George W. has already been using the armies of compassion in his home state of Texas - a state known for having the largest per-capita of uninsured and the largest incarceration rate in the country. Gov. Bush has the dubious distinction of having signed the most death warrants for public execution of prisoners than any other governor. Since Texas is a state with no income tax, social services are paid for with charity golf tournaments, telthons, and fund drives. When charities don't raise enough to cover the need, one gets to join the more than 20,000 people who are already on the waiting lists for services there.

What is less known is that Texas has more children living in nursing homes than in any other state. In an era where independent living has been a goal of the disability rights movement, this mat-ter of institutional bias in Texas has people with disabilities (PWDs) rightly alarmed at the prospect of W. making it to the White House. The disability rights movement considers institutionalization a type of wrongful incarceration, and instead advocates that community-based, in-home, self-directed personal support services, which are now optional through Medicaid, be made mandatory in every state.

The most severely disabled individuals are found on these front lines. Their motto "we'd rather die than go into a nursing home." Ironically, this movement is about being safe from the care-giving industry. Consumer Reports, for instance, conducted an investigation of nursing homes which concluded that nursing "homes" range from inadequate to scandalous. It reported that about 40 percent of all facilities certified by the Health Care Financing Administration (part of U.S. Health and Human Services) have repeatedly violated federal standards, including critical aspects of patient care standards. The Los Angeles Times reported on a California study which showed that nearly 22,000 nursing home in-mates died from preventable conditions such as malnutrition, dehydration and urinary tract infections between 1986 and 1993. The California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform reported in 1995 that 29,652 residents were physically restrained, another 32,103 were administered psychotropic medications, and chemical restraint use jumped 12 percent over 1994. These documented violations directly resulted in 19 deaths and indirectly in another 45 deaths.

Even so public policy remains aligned with institutions. 1970s government adjustments to the Social Security Act mandates states to provide nursing home care as an entitlement but allows in-home support services to remain optional under Medicaid. This bias in favor of institutionalization results in a patchy system where some states provide in-home service programs while others do not, some grossly underfund theirs and some limit the number of people served. With no national entitlement, disabled people's free-dome is at risk because in-home support programs are subject to the yearly budget ax. The calculating nursing home industrial complex has steered public policies towards institutionalization and away from citizen-controlled home-based care because institutionalization is profitable for them. Gov. Bush is a benefactor of nursing home support and (surprise!) he has supported institutionalization of PWDs in for-profit nursing homes and state institutions over providing quality in-home care. Ideologically, it is in sync that George W. sides with

profiteering nursing homes over in-home care that would be directed by disabled persons or that he endorses charity over public entitlement to services. In both matters W. has sided with the interests of capital. Bush tops all opponents in money raised (\$50 million) from commercial banks, securities & investment, insurance, real estate, and health professionals for good reason.

Disability is big business and it is a part of the political economy. Under what I call the Money Model of Disability, the disabled human being is a commodity around which social policies are created or rejected based on their market value. The corporate solution to disablement - institutionalization in a nursing home - evolved from the cold realization that PWDs could be commodified; we could be made to serve profit because federal financing (Medicaid funds 60 percent, Medicare 15 percent, private insurance 25 percent) guarantees an endless source of entrepreneurial revenue.

In the macro economy "unproductive" people with disabilities have been made of use to the capitalist order. When one individual generates \$30,000 - \$82,000 in annual revenues for nursing home corporations the electronic brokers on Wall Street count that person as an asset. PWDs contribute to companies' net worth. Corporate dominion over disability policy measures a person's "worth" by their dollar value to the economy and PWDs are worth more to the Gross Domestic Product when occupying a bed in one of these institutions instead of a home.

W. told the press that if elected, he will dedicate \$8 billion during his first year in the White House for tax credits and grants as part of what he calls "a bold new approach" to governing...enlisting charities and religious organizations to deliver social services. Specifically he would expand the federal charitable deduction to taxpayers who do not itemize, permit a credit against state taxes for contributions to charities addressing poverty, raise the cap on corporate charitable deductions from 10% to 15% of a company's taxable income. But what he is proposing is to further serve the financial interests of the same old bastions of elite power and privilege.

Nonprofits and charities create an illusion that they are mending the holes in our social fabric. By donating tax deductible dollars, the rich appear to be generously concerned about the plight of the poor. However behind the benevolent front there is an enormous hoarding of wealth. Left Business Observer editor Doug Henwood says "in economic terms, the larger nonprofits could be thought of as giant stock portfolios, often with marketing operations grafted on." For instance, in 1995, the nonprofits held assets \$1.2 trillion, of which \$414 billion (or 35%) is in bonds, and \$295 billion (25%) is in stocks. Henwood concludes "the nonprofits have a significant impact on Wall Street."

Jerry Lewis understands the Wall street connection. When Evan Kemp, then head of the E.E.O.C., criticized the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Lewis told George W.'s father, then President Bush to "act to protect and preserve the invaluable American private-sector institution...with a categorical disavowal of Mr. Kemp's assault on MDA", the sacro-sant MDA private charity business complete with its financial portfolios and real estate holdings.

Nonprofits are managed independently, primarily by the wealthy elite, and they do not pay income taxes. In 1997 the total revenues of Operating Public Charities in the United States was \$649 billion, about 12% of the GDP, none of which was taxed. Roughly one third of every dollar donated is subsidized by the federal government. That means public revenue which could be going to the public's welfare is lost to nonprofits. For example, Gregory Colvin, an attorney specializing in tax law calculated that the \$1.5 million raised and spent through the Kennesaw State College Foundation... could translate into a Treasury loss of about \$500,000 in tax savings by Gingrich's donors." By giving other tax breaks and government dollars to charity, W. will be steering money from democratic entitlements into the hands of charity portfolio managers.

In addition nonprofits often serve as suppliers of services to the middle and upper-class in echo of the old conservative mantra of tax credits for charitable donations - such a credit benefiting wealthy donors rather than nonprofits themselves. The Kennesaw State College Foundation, for example, had nothing

to do with serving underprivileged populations, rather it was a forum for Gingrich to spread his politics. Country clubs are often formed as nonprofits, but they cater mainly to the upper class's luxurious lifestyles.

In this light George W.'s proposal is questionable, because giving is a negligible revenue source in social service (20%), education (15%) and health care (5%) as compared to, say arts (50%). More-over, most individual giving in the US concentrates in religion (approximately 60% of all charitable giving in the US). Yet W. plans to establish an "Office of Faith-Based Action" in the Executive Office of the President and to expand "Charitable Choice" to all federal social service programs, allowing religious organizations to be eligible for funding on the same basis as any other pro-vider, without impairing their religious character. Further, he intends to provide federal matching funds for the establishment of state offices of faith-based action.

W's idea of substituting grants for entitlements is not "new". Reagan had ambitions of turning the welfare system into grants to local groups dedicated to self-help for the poor. Gingrich tried to undo federal entitlements by turning Medicaid into state block grants with no strings attached as to how the money could be spent. One can guess, the amount spent in this "new" system would not be likely to equal the previous amount under a Federal entitlement.

The main disadvantage to service recipients of the nonprofit approach, sometimes referred to as "mellow weakness" (Seibel, W., 1989). The function of mellow weakness: nonprofit organizations as problem nonsolvers in Germany, in James, (ed), The Nonprofit Sector in International Perspective, Oxford) is that nonprofits are often used as a smokescreen for government agencies to discharge its public responsibilities while creating an appearance that something is being done. That is, instead of a well-funded and comprehensive program to solve a social problem, governments often dole out money to nonprofits to merely tackle it.

Of significance to the future of in-home support services, W. says he will promote alternative licensing regimes that recognize religious training as an alternative form of qualification for delivery of non-medical social services. Attendant services, which assist PWDs with cooking, dressing, transferring from bed into a wheel-chair, are non medical services. The upshot of George W. getting elected in Y2000? Prepare yourselves to GO TO CHURCH TO GET AN ATTENDANT! No matter that no one is entitled to receive any service from a charity, much less service that is timely or competent. Under W.'s leadership, it is likely that more PWDs will end up in nursing homes.

Serving up charity as the answer to social ills is not singularly a GOP tact. Liberals, seemingly ignorant on economic justice, have historically embraced the charity paradigm. Neoliberal President Clinton advocated a greater role for charitable organizations during welfare reform. He urged each of the 135,000 churches, synagogues and mosques that have more than 200 members to hire one person coming off welfare. Three years later studies show that welfare reform has done nothing to reduce poverty for women and children; to the contrary, indicators are that it has increased it. Presidential candidate Al Gore joined with traditionally Republican territory in May when he said America must "dare to embrace" religious programs and called for a "new partnership" between church and state.

The reality is that neither the "armies of compassion" nor neoliberal "volunteerism" will be a real solution. At best, charities postpone societal questions about economic equality. At worst, charities serve as self-serving tax shields and allow right-wing ideologists to assault the "socialist" safety net while disingenuously claiming that private charities will pick up the pieces. In the process the U.S. Treasury is robbed of dollars that could be put to entitlement programs. Charity is nothing less than an at-tempt to justify capitalism's inherent injustices which makes it a euphemism for economic oppression. Until economic justice can be fully realized, the public wealth must be distributed more responsibly and a democratic government must be held to the task.



## U.S. Based Hispanic Magazine Stands Ground Against Powerful Mexican Family

BY MARY JO MCCONAHAY, PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE

A binational David and Goliath battle is shaping up involving a powerful Mexican family linked by a U.S. agency to drugs and crime and a small, U.S. based Hispanic magazine who suggested they enjoy access to the Clinton White House.

El Andar, a magazine about Latino politics and culture based in Santa Cruz, C.A. reports it has been notified of legal action if it does not retract a story profiling the well-known Hank family of Mexico. A letter from a law firm for the Hank-owned Laredo National Bank in Texas also demanded \$10 million and approval of future articles.

In its Fall 1999 issue, El Andar reported that the Laredo bank's president, Gary Jacobs, attended a White House coffee August 23, 1996 with President Clinton and contributed money to the Democratic National Committee. It cited a 60-page notice from the Federal Reserve Board that cited violations and called for a public hearing that could bar financier Carlos Hank Rhon from "participating in any manner in the affairs of a United States depository institution." It described the Hank family as kingmakers in Mexican politics, and quoted a report from the U.S. National Drug Intelligence Center which accused the Hank family of engaging in a vicious drug trade. Family patriarch Carlos Hank Gonzalez, a billionaire, his son Carlos and another son, Jorge Hank Rohn, were businessmen spreading their empire to the United States, El Andar said.

The letter from San Antonio attorney Ricardo Cedillo accused the magazine of lying.

"This is an untouchable family in Mexico doing business in the United States now for a number of years," said El Andar editor Jorge Chino. "But there is no way we can retract what we said. The information we have is true and the story was researched for a long time. They have no right to affect our freedom of speech."

El Andar staff said they felt the tone of the letter was intimidating, implying physical threat. It ends with an admonition that "should you elect to do nothing you act at your own peril." A request for response by Pacific News Service from Cedillo's office was unanswered.

Cedillo told the Washington-based Hispanic Link Weekly Report the magazine's staff were motivated by racism, using a rude Mexican Spanish epithet. "These pendejos are being played to spread a campaign of misinformation" because the bank is owned by Mexicans, Cedillo said.

Publisher and owner Jorge Chino and a majority of staff are Mexican-American or from other Hispanic groups.

In recent months other U.S. publications including the Washington Post and the Dallas Morning News have run stories on the Hank family, including news of the U.S. intelligence report which said they pose a "significant criminal threat to the United States."

Chino said he believes El Andar, a 72-page quarterly with a circulation of 14,000 has been targeted because it is small and independent. "They're trying to make a lesson out of us -- not to mess around with the Hanks, that people have to be careful."

In Mexico, El Andar has been a major story this week, including in the Mexico City daily La Reforma, and reported by the news agency Notimex which counts some 800 subscriber newspapers and other global outlets. An interview with Chino was broadcast live by a nation-wide syndicate of radio stations.

Mexican media appears to be using the El Andar case as both sword and shield. By reporting its details and citing the original account, Mexican radio and newspapers can report indirectly on the Hank family, including allegations of political corruption, drug trafficking, animal smuggling, money laundering and murder, all without putting themselves directly on the spot.

"We are saying things they'd like to be saying but can't," said El Andar's Julie Reynolds, who reported the original story.

As news of the altercation spreads in Mexico, the magazine's editorial offices are receiving information about the Hanks from Mexican journalists. "We're willing to assume the role" of reporting on the Hanks, said Chino.

Begun by Latino students in the 1980's as a tabloid-style newspaper, a polished quarterly less than a year ago. Financially it is still "struggling," as one staffer said, "playing musical chairs with computers." Funding comes from foundation and other donor money and an incipient advertising base. The demand is costing legal fees "and time."

El Andar's next issue, which appears Nov. 20, will look further at the Hank family businesses in the United States, and the law firms which represent them, Chino said.

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## Mexico-U.S. Trade to Amount to 200 Billion Dollion Dollars in 1999

Mexico City, Oct 29 (EFE).- Trade between Mexico and the United States will amount to about 200 billion dollars in 1999, Mexican Foreign Minister Rosario Green reported Friday.

After meeting with members of the Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce, which held its fourth annual conference in Mexico City, Green hailed the unprecedented level of trade between the countries this year.

She also said progress has been made in immigration, the fight against drug trafficking and border issues.

"We are convinced that the border must be a meeting place, not a place of separation," Green said.

Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce president Albert Zapata announced the signing of an agreement to develop the first data base on the environment and trade laws of both countries.

Zapata also said that the Chamber would donate 100,000 dollars in relief for victims of floods that have hit Mexico this past month.

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TAMOLINO F.G.T4570

ES VERDAD: Que se pueden hacer hasta 100 doz. de tamales en 2 1/2 horas. usando solamente, una persona al molino y 2 persona poniendo carne y envolviendo. Lo que hace este Tamolino es poner la masa en la hoja. O sea embarrar; que es el más trabajo en la labor de los tamales. Y lo hace rápidamente, tan rápidamente, como la persona pueda mover sus manos al usarlo. La masa ya sale plana. Y es eléctrico. Y controla la masa por un pedal de pie.



HACIENDO TAMALES

Es pequeño de tamaño, pero grande en poder. Es del tamaño de una máquina de coser portatil. Mide 12" de ancho por 24" de largo y 36" de alto. Con este tamolino, no tiene que preparar la masa y esperar que esté un poco dura, o fría, como en otras máquinas tamaleras. O que la carne esté dura. Sino que calentita la mazada, la pone en el tubo del Tamolino e inmediatamente a hacer tamales. Y entre más blandita esté la masa trabaja mejor. Ya por algún tiempo es usado por algunas personas, como también por algunas iglesias. Y han dicho la misma cosa, que están satisfechos, porque este Tamolino es una verdadera ventaja en la labor de los tamales. Este Tamolino está siendo usado por personas que tenían ya más de 20 año de hacer tamales a mano; Y también ellos lo recomiendan. Para esta fecha, más de 70 tamaleros lo están usando, y 70 tamaleros no pueden estar equivocados. Y también Usted puede decir lo mismo. Al saber que con este Tamolino, ahora es un placer el hacer tamales y no un trabajo fastidioso. (LA MASA) La masa debe tener tanta manteca como sea necesario para que no se pegue por los lados del tubo. Preparando todo como es carne, masa y hojas bastantes, se pone la hoja en su mano y la allega al Tamolino, y al mismo tiempo que pisa el pedal, (solo una tocadita) usted mueve la mano y hoja, rápido; la masa ya sale plana y al anchor suficiente, que para cuando pone la carne y envuelve el tamal, queda masa con masa, sin quedar masa entre la hoja. y al ser ya cocinados, solo toma el tamal por un lado y cae el tamal entero sin que se quiebre o quede en la hoja. Se puede regular para hacer el tamal largo, corto, grueso o delgado. se desarma de las partes más importantes para lavarlo. Anímese; mande pedir su hoja de más información llamando a Frank García (806)763-4044 Llame a las 7:am

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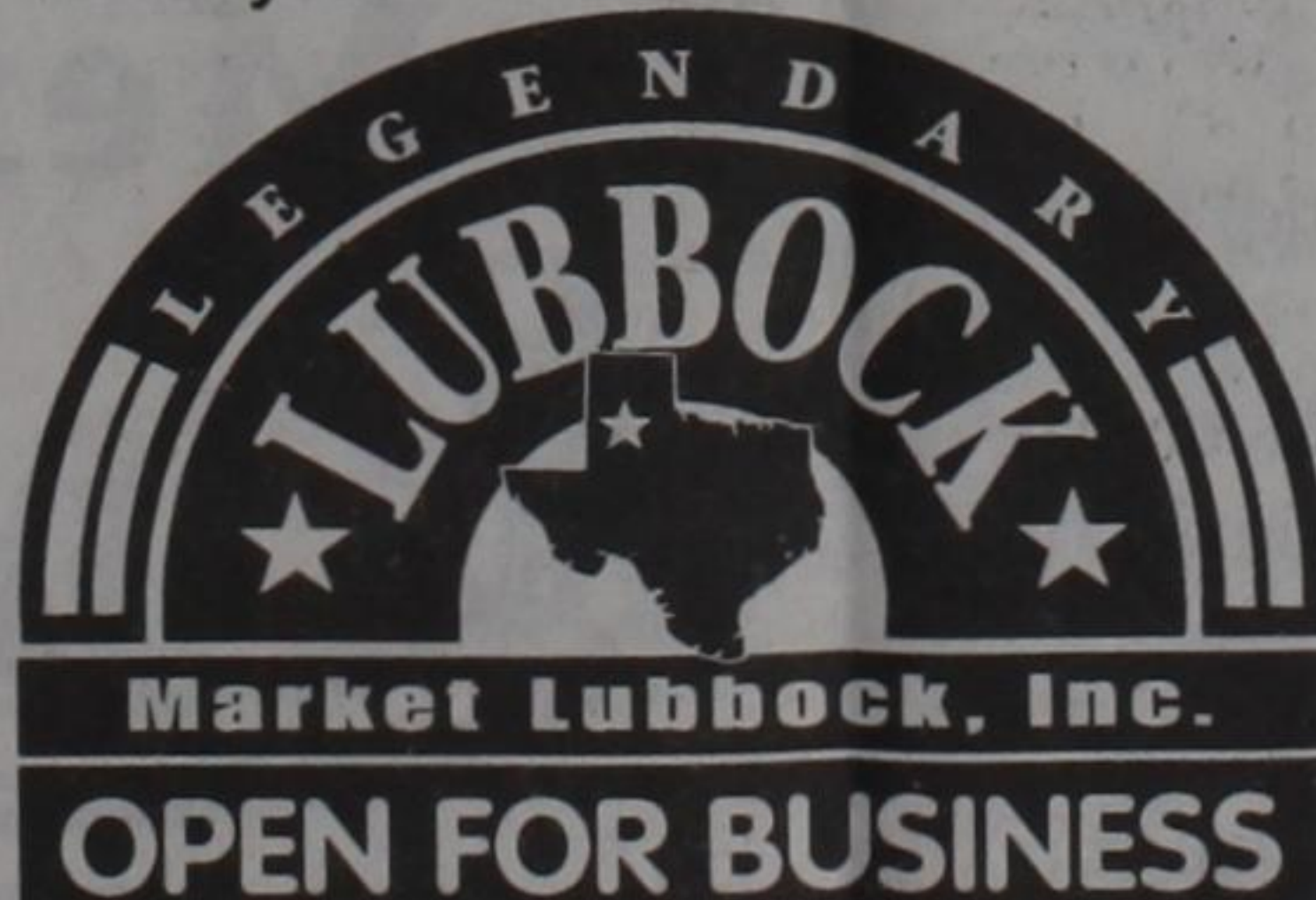
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# Noticias Breves

## Aspirante Demócrata Dice Que No Normalizará Relaciones Con Cuba

Miami - El aspirante demócrata a la candidatura presidencial de Estados Unidos, Bill Bradley, dijo hoy en Miami, la llamada capital del exilio cubano, que en caso de resultar electo no normalizará las relaciones con el gobierno de Cuba.

Bradley, que hizo una gira por el sur de Florida, manifestó que el embargo económico impuesto a Cuba en 1962 es "una parte importante de la manera de ejercer presión sobre (Fidel) Castro".

El ex senador de Nueva Jersey afirmó que no levantaría las sanciones económicas debido a las violaciones de los derechos humanos del gobierno del presidente cubano, Fidel Castro.

Con relación a los convenios migratorios suscritos por Estados Unidos y Cuba, que establece la devolución a la isla caribeña de los cubanos interceptados en alta mar, declinó tomar posición antes de analizar con profundidad el tema.

Bradley está intentando ganar terreno frente al vicepresidente de Estados Unidos, Al Gore, su rival en el Partido Demócrata por la candidatura presidencial para los comicios del año 2000.

Bradley ha logrado reducir, en las últimas semanas, la ventaja de Gore en las encuestas.

Por otra parte, se refirió a su plan para dotar de seguro médico a 49 millones de estadounidenses que carecen del mismo, por un monto de unos 69.000 millones de dólares y que podría beneficiar a los hispanos y ancianos.

Precisó que un alto porcentaje de familias jóvenes hispanas no cuentan con seguros médicos y que con su plan, los niños de aquellas familias que ganen menos de 32.000 dólares anuales podría recibir cobertura médica gratuita.

Asimismo, los niños de familias que perciban unos 49.200 dólares anuales podrían recibir seguros médicos subsidiados por el gobierno, mientras que los adultos con bajos ingresos también serían elegibles para seguros gratuitos o subsidiados.

Bradley visitó, además de Miami, Boca Ratón y el condado de Broward.

## Entre los Primeros Pobladores de America Pudo Haber Ibericos

Washington - Algunos cazadores originarios de la Península ibérica del período paleolítico superior que de alguna manera llegaron a América hace unos 18.000 ó 20.000 años, podrían contarse entre los primeros pobladores de América del Norte, según la hipótesis del antropólogo Dennis Stanford.

Más de medio centenar de arqueólogos, paleontólogos y antropólogos participaron en Santa Fé, Nuevo México, en una conferencia que durante cuatro días revisó las evidencias obtenidas mediante nuevas tecnologías, sobre la población temprana de los continentes americanos.

"Las implicaciones de los nuevos datos son tremendamente complejas, y los investigadores deberían mantener la mente abierta en lugar de limitarse al pensamiento estrecho y falto de imaginación del pasado", dijo Stanford, un investigador que trabaja para la Institución Smithsonian, en Washington.

La conferencia, organizada por el Laboratorio y Museo de Antropología de Nuevo México, contó con el patrocinio del Centro para el Estudio de los Primeros Americanos, la Institución Smithsonian y la revista "Scientific American Discovering Archaeology".

La anterior conferencia de este tipo, llamada Simposio sobre el Hombre primitivo, se celebró en Santa Fé en 1941 y congregó a profesionales, aficionados y coleccionistas. Los resultados de aquella reunión moldearon la arqueología del período paleoamericano durante más de medio siglo.

El centro de atención de esta conferencia fue la llamada "cultura de Clovis" en referencia a la región de Nuevo México donde se han localizado herramientas paleolíticas con rasgos comunes.

Sobre la técnica empleada en la fabricación de esas herramientas como cuchillos y puntas de lanza o flechas- los investigadores trazan las posibles corrientes migratorias.

Las herramientas cortantes del período paleolítico muestran dos técnicas básicas: la percusión para el desprendimiento de astillas

nasta crear un filo aserrado, o elafilamiento que produjo hojas cortantes con una longitud dos veces superior al ancho.

Durante la conferencia "Clovis y más allá", por primera vez se exhibieron juntos en una misma sala los artefactos más importantes de esta cultura, incluidas piedras afiladas por percusión, y artefactos de hueso y marfil, provenientes de los principales lugares de caza de mamuts como Blackwater Draw, Naco, Colby, Dent y Lange-Ferguson.

"Los hallazgos arqueológicos más recientes, tanto en América del Norte como en América del Sur, han puesto en duda nuestra comprensión del poblamiento de las Américas", dijo Stanford.

"Yo he enfocado hipótesis diferentes a la idea de que los primeros americanos cruzaron sobre la franja de tierra que alguna vez conectó a Siberia con Alaska, y que luego migraron hacia el sur", añadió.

"Mi hipótesis es que puede haber habido múltiples migraciones de múltiples áreas geográficas del Viejo Mundo, y que el proceso no fue en una sola dirección", dijo el antropólogo.

En su presentación, Stanford analizó las líneas de datos convergentes que surgen del estudio de esqueletos humanos tempranos, la investigación del ácido desoxirribonucleico y la excavación de los lugares anteriores a la cultura Clovis, y consideró hipótesis de modelos del poblamiento de las Américas.

"Una primera idea sugiere que es probable que algunos de los primeros americanos vinieron del sudeste de Asia, aprovechando los ricos recursos de los lechos continentales ahora sumergidos, y luego se propagaron en torno a la cuenca del pacífico hasta la costa oeste de América del Norte", añadió.

"Un segundo modelo sugiere la posibilidad de que cazadores del período paleolítico superior (de 40.000 a 20.000 años atrás) de la Península Ibérica de Europa pueden haber figurado entre los primeros pobladores de las Américas también", dijo Stanford.

"La imagen arqueológica que emerge en América del Norte al oeste del río Mississippi es más compleja que lo aceptado hace pocos años", indicó Margaret Jodry, otra asistente a la conferencia en Santa Fé.

"La percepción de que los cazadores Clovis de Siberia fueron los primeros que colonizaron las Américas quizá ya no sea correcta", agregó.

"Las variaciones en los estilos de puntas afiladas y las pautas de producción pueden sugerir que, en lugar de un solo grupo cultural, Clovis representa una serie de adaptaciones regionales de parte de diferentes grupos humanos que estaban en las Américas antes del desarrollo y difusión de la pauta Clovis".

## Estados Continúan Afrontando Problema de la Violencia Domestica

Nueva Orleans - La agencia de Caridades Católicas en Nueva Orleans ha calificado como un éxito el nuevo programa de ayuda dirigido a las hispanas que son víctimas de violencia doméstica.

El programa, que inició hace poco más de un mes, ofrece información y recursos a la comunidad hispana sobre los servicios existentes para ayudar a las víctimas de violencia doméstica.

Entre otros servicios sociales, el programa ofrece servicios de traducción, apoyo emocional, referencia a terapeutas y albergues temporales, así como consejería legal.

La coordinadora del proyecto, Emily Armirez, dijo a EFE que, aunque hasta el momento han asistido 15 casos, "lo más importante es la labor de concienciación que estamos realizando por las comunidades y suburbios hispanos".

Explicó que el objetivo principal de su agencia es que las mujeres reciban información sobre cómo diseñar un plan para su seguridad personal, qué hacer si necesitan abandonar su hogar, y cómo conseguir una orden de protección de la policía.

"Las mujeres que sufren agresiones no saben que están siendo víctimas de un crimen penado por la ley", dijo Armirez.

Los responsables del programa trabajan "mano a mano" con los abogados de Departamento de Leyes de Inmigración de la agencia de Caridades Católicas.

Armirez añadió que, por falta de información sobre las leyes actuales de inmigración, muchas mujeres no denuncian los casos de abuso físico o mental por temor a ser deportadas.

"La mayoría desconoce que en 1995 la ley federal reconoció que las mujeres que sufren abusos por parte del cónyuge, ya sea residente permanente o ciudadano de Estados Unidos, puede solicitar su residencia permanente ante el Servicio de Inmigración sin la ayuda de su marido", dijo.

Armirez cree que la soledad, la barrera del idioma y la falta de recursos contribuyen también a que las mujeres continúen en relaciones tortuosas con sus maridos.

"Las mujeres maltratadas hacen un promedio de seis intentos antes de abandonar la situación de malos tratos", explicó la coordinadora.

La Comisión para los Asuntos de la Mujer estima que 3 de cada 5 mujeres casadas han vivido alguna forma de violencia doméstica, y que dos de cada 10 mujeres son víctimas de violencia diariamente.

Las diversas manifestaciones de violencia doméstica incluyen el abuso emocional, físico, verbal o sexual por parte de un cónyuge, y la práctica de intimidación o manipulación psicológica.

"Creo que necesitamos informar a la comunidad hispana de esta realidad. Mi trabajo es hacerles ver que tienen derechos y de que existen leyes que les protegen", concluyó Emily Armirez.

Según cálculos del gobierno federal, cerca de 17 millones de mujeres en EEUU han sufrido una violación o un asalto sexual y más de la población femenina del país ha sido blanco de la violencia.

El presupuesto del gobierno federal para el período fiscal 1999, que terminó el 30 de septiembre, incluyó 150 millones de dólares en donaciones a los gobiernos estatales para que brinden ayuda a las mujeres maltratadas y refugio para las víctimas.

Además, cada estado cuenta con organizaciones públicas o privadas que atienden líneas telefónicas de emergencia a las cuales las víctimas pueden llamar para pedir consejo, orientación y ayuda inmediata.

Octubre fue declarado mes contra la violencia doméstica en todo el país.

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## El poder de un abuelo.

Los niños tienen una relación muy especial con sus abuelitos. Por eso es que los abuelos pueden ser unos aliados muy poderosos para ayudar a mantener a un niño alejado de las drogas.

Los abuelos son estupendos. Tranquilos. No están todos los días en la línea de fuego. Hay días en los que un niño detesta a sus padres, pero nunca a sus abuelos. Los abuelos hacen el tipo de preguntas directas, sin rodeos y embarazosas que los padres no se atreven a formular:

- "¿Quién es la chica?"
- "¿Cómo es eso de que te va mal en historia?"
- "¿Por qué siempre tienes los ojos rojos?"
- "¿Fuiste al médico? ¿Qué te dijo?"

El mismo niño que engaña a sus padres, se avergüenza de mentir a su abuelo. Sin traicionar su confianza, un abuelo comprensivo y cariñoso puede conversar francamente acerca del peligro de las drogas, con el niño que adora. Y debería hacerlo.

• Trece años es la edad promedio en la que los adolescentes experimentan con las drogas por primera vez. Algunos empiezan a los nueve.

• Aproximadamente a un 15% de niños norteamericanos de nueve a doce años, se le ofrecen drogas ilegales. Y al 30% de estos niños se la ofrece algún amigo.

• Las drogas ilegales están ligadas al crecimiento de la violencia en muchas comunidades, así como también al SIDA, los defectos de nacimiento, los crímenes relacionados con drogas, y la falta de un hogar.

Como abuelo o abuela, usted tiene un lugar especial en el corazón y la mente de sus nietos. Comparta su conocimiento, su amor, su fe en ellos. Ejercer su poder como alguien que influye para alejar a sus nietos de las drogas.

Si no tiene palabras para hacerlo, nosotros sí. Nosotros le enviaremos información acerca de cómo hablarle a sus nietos de las drogas. Nada más pida su copia gratuita, llamando al 1-800-729-6686.

Abuela, abuelo: hable con sus nietos. Usted ni se imagina el poder que tiene para salvarlos.

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## Ataques cardíacos: mujeres en riesgo

Boston - Las mujeres de menos de 50 años tienen el doble de probabilidades que los hombres de morir a consecuencia de un ataque al corazón, de acuerdo con estudios científicos.

Según recoge la revista científica New England Journal of Medicine, que el riesgo de muerte se duplique en el caso de mujeres jóvenes, no tiene aún una explicación. Las diferencias entre mujeres y hombres, según la investigación, llevada a cabo por expertos de la Universidad de New Haven, en Connecticut, no desaparecen hasta los 74 años, edad a partir de la cual el riesgo se equipara.

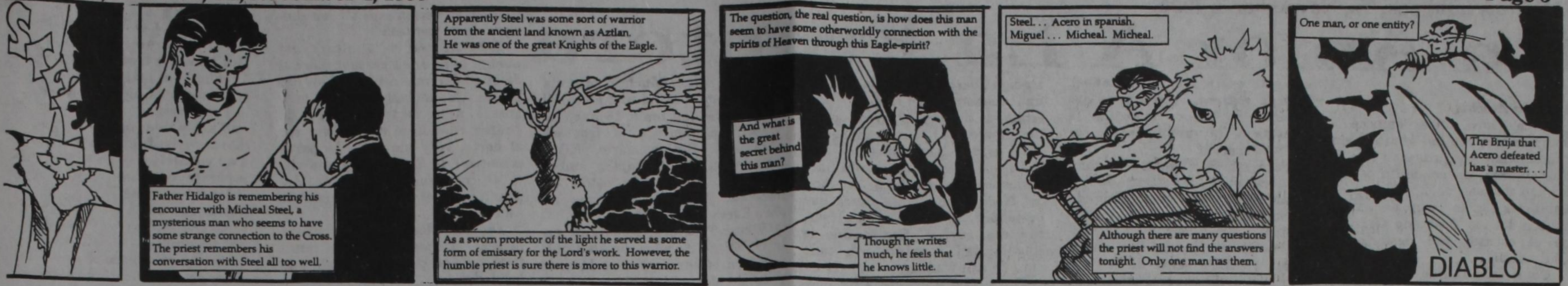
La doctora Viola Vaccarino, quien ha dirigido el estudio, ha sugerido la posibilidad de que el tipo de ataque cardíaco que sufren las mujeres sea distinto al que afecta a los hombres y que esto podría explicar una mayor predisposición a morir.

La investigación se ha realizado con un total de 384.000 personas que habían sufrido ataques cardíacos, lo que los investigadores consideran la mayor base de datos investigada hasta ahora para estudiar el riesgo de muerte en los centros de tratamiento. Durante la hospitalización, un 6.1% de las mujeres de menos de 50 años murieron, mientras que entre los hombres, la cifra de muertes es del 2.9%. Cuando la edad de los casos estudiados se sitúa en los 65 años, el porcentaje de muertes es del 13.4% para las mujeres y del 10.7 por ciento para los hombres. Cuando la edad de los pacientes es de 74 años, el riesgo de morir tras un infarto de miocardio en los hospitales se equilibra.

El estudio sostiene en sus conclusiones que cuanto más joven es la mujer que sufre el ataque cardíaco, mayor es el riesgo de que fallezca a consecuencia de él en una institución hospitalaria. Otros estudios han señalado que las diferencias anatómicas entre el hombre y la mujer pueden explicar también la formación de diferentes tipos de coágulos sanguíneos, que dan lugar al ataque cardíaco. Las afecciones cardíacas, en todos los países desarrollados son la causa principal de mortalidad en todos los países desarrollados, por encima de cualquier tipo de cáncer o de enfermedades infecciosas.

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## Texas Tech In The Zone

Texas Tech is still very much in the race in the Big 12 South. The problem is, on any given week, it's hard to determine if the Red Raiders are more intent on running toward the top or bottom.

Tech's bumpy 1999 ride continued last Saturday in Columbia, Mo., when the favored Red Raiders were blasted 34-7 by struggling Missouri.

Of course, the game was probably much uglier, from Tech's perspective, than even the final score indicated. Tech had just 9 yards rushing, allowed six sacks, tossed two interceptions and failed to convert a single third-down situation. And, oh yeah, Tech went three-and-out on nine of its first 10 possessions... and the defense was on the field for nearly 42 minutes.

All this after the Raiders believed they had finally turned the corner a weekend earlier by beating Baylor and producing their first two-game winning streak of 1999. Now, with upstart Iowa State coming to Lubbock this weekend, Tech is back at square one.

"I've had a hard read on getting those guys to play with the same level, with the same kind of intensity week after week," said coach Spike Dykes. "Really, the buck stops here because that's where it all starts."

Perhaps the only bright spot is that at least the Red Raiders know they can bounce back from disappointing defeats. After all, they've had plenty of practice.

"We have to keep our chins up off the ground," Dykes said, "because the team that bounces back the best is going to win."

Strange things happen in this game. Strange things. The last thing you ever want to think is, 'Oh, this is it.' "

Governor George W. Bush announced the appointment of Daniel E. Martinez of Lubbock to the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying. The board examines surveyors in training, registers professional land surveyors, and licenses state land surveyors. He is a registered professional land surveyor, is vice president and field coordinator for Hugo Reed & Associates, Inc. He is a director of the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors and a member of both the American congress on Surveying and Mapping and the National Society of Professional Surveyors. Martinez is actively involved in numerous civic and community organizations including the boy Scouts of America, the Knights of Columbus and the Lubbock Executive Association. He attended undergraduate school at Texas Tech University and Wayland Baptist University. Martinez will replace Paul P. Kwan of Houston, whose term expired.



### Congratulation from Hugo Reed and Associates

#### Aikman Cleared to Play After Tests

IRVING, Texas -- Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman was cleared to play Wednesday after an MRI showed he suffered no damage from a blow to the head.

Cowboys officials said the results of Tuesday's precautionary MRI show Aikman did not have a concussion and that he will be able to play in Dallas' Monday night game at Minnesota.

Indianapolis cornerback Jeff Burris rammed his helmet into Aikman's on a sack early in the fourth quarter of the Colts' 32-24 victory on Sunday. Aikman sat out one series, sniffed some smelling salts, then returned.

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Check out previous week's forecasts.

Arizona 14, \*\*N.Y. Jets 12  
The Cardinals and Jets have each won two of their four meetings--N.Y. most recently, in 1996, 31-21. The Jets have the only functioning offense, but Arizona's defense should take control.

Baltimore 19, \*\*Cleveland 13  
Speaking of defense, the Ravens have more than enough for the Browns--as do some Top 20 college teams. Baltimore QB Stoney Case ran for two TD's in a 17-10 win over Cleveland six weeks ago.

\*\*Carolina 17, Philadelphia 10  
Look for the Panthers to run at the weak Eagles defensive line--and for Philly to do the same, because Carolina can't stop the run, either. They met in '96 and the Eagles were 20-9 winners.

\*\*Green Bay 27, Chicago 16  
Last year, with a 26-20 win in

Green Bay and a 16-13 squeaker in Chicago, the Packers lengthened their streak over the Bears to 10 straight games. Chicago can stay close with its air game.

\*\*Indianapolis 30, Kansas City 24

This could be an offensive battle, with the Colts throwing for TD's against the suspect K.C. secondary and the Chiefs running for them. Indy has won all three times they've met in the '90s.

Jacksonville 26, \*\*Atlanta 9

What little offense the Falcons have mustered has been through the air, but they're up against one of the NFL's top pass defenses. The Jaguars won their only matchup, three years ago, 19-17.

\*\*Miami 28, Tennessee 21

The Dolphins have taken three in a row from the Titans, needing OT in '97 to prevail 16-13. Both offenses rank in the top half of the AFC, but Miami can exploit Tennessee's mediocre defense.

St. Louis 29, \*\*Detroit 17

These teams haven't faced off since '93, but history doesn't mean much this season, when both the Rams and Lions seem rejuvenated. St. Louis, however, is stronger on both sides of the ball.

\*\*San Diego 21, Denver 14

This series has gone the Broncos' way the past two years, with Bobby Brister and then John Elway leading Denver to 27-10 and 31-16 wins over the Chargers in '98. S.D. will win with defense.

\*\*San Francisco 20, Pittsburgh 18

Because they run better than they pass, the 49ers get the nod here; the Steelers defend better against the pass than they do against the run. S.F. has won three straight against Pittsburgh.

\*\*Seattle 18, Cincinnati 12

They may not be as good as their record, but the Seahawks can handle the Bengals at home--if their hole-filled defensive line finds a way to corral Cincy's backfield. They last met in '95.

Tampa Bay 24, \*\*New Orleans 10

The Saints have won five of their last six against the Buccaneers--9-3 last year. But they'll go nowhere against T.B.'s superb defense, and in the meantime the Bucs will run all over them.

\*\*Washington 28, Buffalo 23

This looks like a potential game of the week, but the way we see it, this pick is an upset: the Redskins must solve all sorts of defensive problems. The Bills beat Washington last, in '96.

(Monday) Dallas 23, \*\*Minnesota 19

A different Vikings team won an offensive tug-of-war against the Cowboys in '98, 46-36. We haven't lost hope for Minnesota's return to normalcy, but its secondary sure needs an overhaul.

Open date: New England, N.Y. Giants, Oakland

\*\*Denotes Home Team

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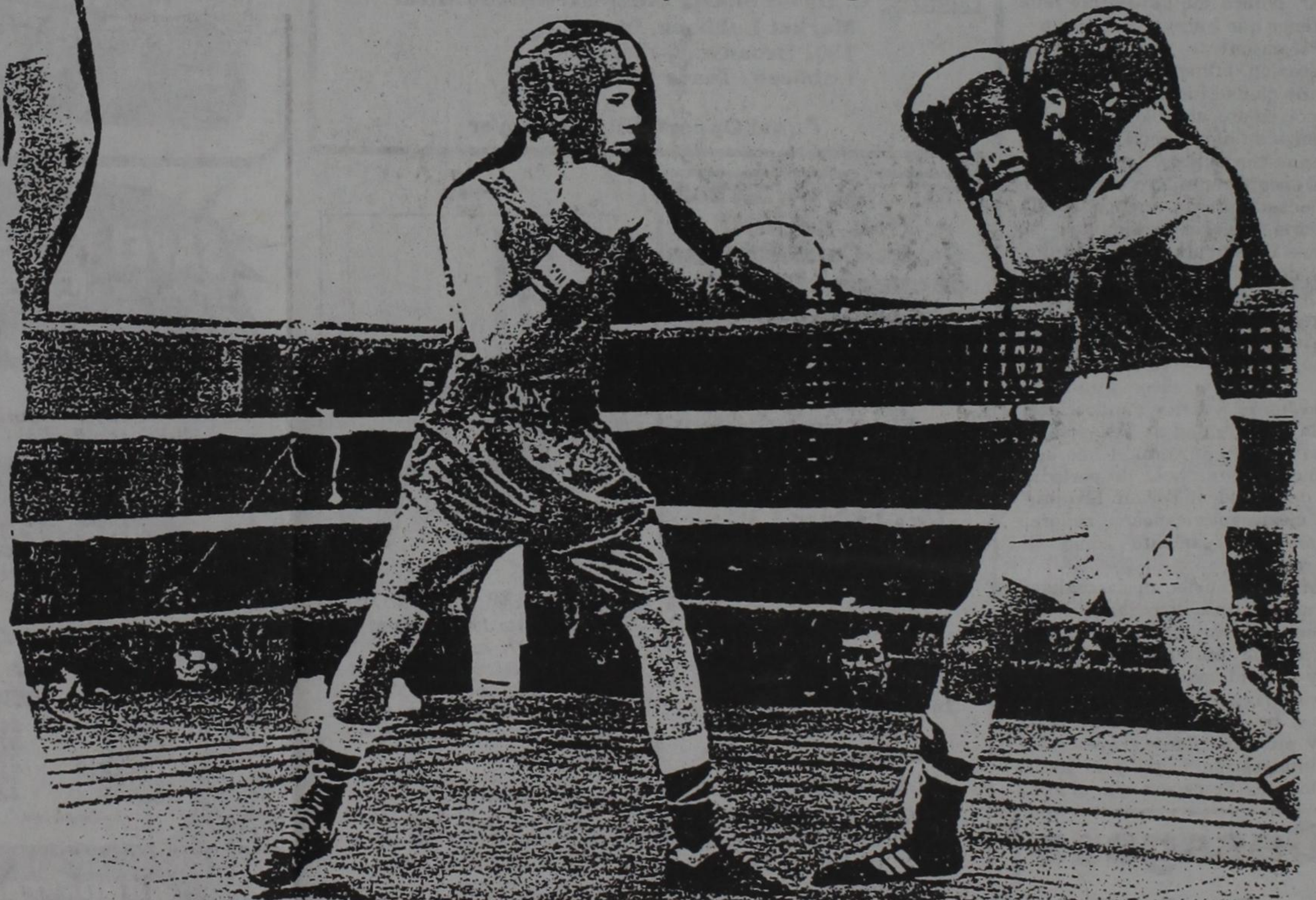
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# Un Amor A La Frontera

Por Zita Arocha

Hace cinco años, empecé a enamorarme con la frontera sur cuando viajé por primera vez a El Paso/Juárez, un creciente centro urbano de más de 2 millones de habitantes, a lo largo de ambas cauces del río Bravo/Río Grande, en el corazón del desierto de Chihuahuá.

Como cubana que se crió y estudió en Tampa, Florida, una ciudad del golfo con pinzones de las nieves y acentos sureños, tenía sólo vagas impresiones sobre la frontera entre E.E.U.U. y México, obtenidas principalmente de las frecuentes imágenes en los medios informativos sobre la delincuencia, las drogas y los cruces de indocumentados.

Pero como periodista con inclinación activista y gusto por las historias sobre personas comunes y corrientes, estaba determinada a descubrir mi propia realidad sobre el trecho de 2,000 millas que conecta y divide a México de los Estados Unidos.

Puede sonar extraño, pero mis viajes a la frontera han llegado a significar un regreso a mis raíces hispanas y un conocimiento nuevo de quién soy como latina. En mi primer viaje a El Paso, recuerdo el cielo azul turquesa del amanecer, la neblina de púrpura suave de las montañas Franklin y el haber sido asombrada por el español impecable de mi taxista de ojos azules y algo mayor de 20 años de edad, un anglosajón del medio oeste que se crió en El Paso.

Con mis ojos azules, mi piel blanca y mi inglés sin acento -- un escritor amigo mío me describió una vez como "una cubana que parece ser de Ohio" -- la identidad ha sido siempre un asunto delicado. En un ejemplo interesante de discriminación, recuerdo la sensación que tuve de ser invisible al ir de tiendas en la parte comercial de Miami cuando tenía poco más de 20 años de edad y las vendedoras de habla hispana atendían primero a las mujeres de piel más oscura y de apariencia hispana. Durante un par de entrevistas para empleo en periódicos importantes, de que los editores decían desatinadamente al verme por primera vez: "¡Usted no parece hispana!" Quise contestarles: "¿Cómo creen ustedes que se supone que luzca una 'hispana'?" Pero pensaba era mejor no decir nada.

Ahora que paso de los 40 años de edad, me doy cuenta de que, aunque haya vivido en los Estados Unidos desde que tenía cinco años de edad, he carecido siempre de un sentido de pertenecer, de encajar, de estar cómoda con las identidades dobles de hispana y norteamericana. El triunfar en los Estados Unidos parece significar el abrazar los valores de la cultura predominante a cuenta de nuestra identidad étnica singular. Nunca me he sentido feliz de tener que hacer esa decisión.

El encontrar a aquel joven anglosajón bilingüe y bicultural en una ciudad hispana de más del 70 por ciento, me llenó de la esperanza de haber encontrado, por fin, una tierra acogedora. "Yo podría encajar aquí," recuerdo haber pensado. Es un lugar donde la mayoría de los residentes se mueve libremente entre dos idiomas, dos culturas, dos países. Desde esa primera visita, he regresado una y otra vez a la frontera, que me atrae como un imán, para visitar a buenos amigos. Ahora vivo en El Paso/Juárez y estoy dando clases en la Universidad de Texas en El Paso (UTEP) durante el año académico con una beca de periodismo del Freedom Forum. Mis amigos méxicoamericanos se refieren a mí cariñosamente como "la güera."

Mi comprensión de la realidad fronteriza está empezando a llenarse y profundizarse como un retrato de pintar por números. Hay decididamente aspectos negativos. Hay violencia ocasionada por el tráfico ilegal de narcóticos. Hay preocupaciones graves sobre la inmigración ilegal y el medio ambiente. (Se espera que el agua

se agote en la zona en 25 años). Hay la extrema pobreza de las colonias en ambos lados de la frontera, y hay problemas de salud y educación.

Para mí, El Paso/Juárez también es un lugar fértil de realidades paralelas que a menudo se entrecruzan de modos interesantes y creativos. Hay residentes de la frontera que nunca la atraviesan y gente de la frontera cuyas vidas personales y de

trabajo abarcan ambos lados. Hay una economía del dólar y una economía del peso. Hay modos de ser y hacer del mundo industrial y del mundo post-industrial.

En un poema que escribí hace varios años, describí a "El Paso del Norte" como "una tierra que pertenece, no al norte ni al sur, sino a sí misma." Ese sentido de singularidad aumenta con cada día que estoy aquí.

Hace poco pregunté a mi sue-

na amiga Kika Sánchez, oriunda de Durango que ha vivido en El Paso desde que tenía 18 años de edad, qué significa la frontera para ella. Sin pensarlo, Kika, contratista que trabaja a ambos lados del río, me contestó: "La libertad, y una puerta que se abre hacia ambos lados."

Victor Talavera, estudiante en la UTEP de 29 años de edad que nació en el sur de Nuevo México y es de descendencia mexicana,

compartió recientemente su imagen de la frontera.

Está de pie a la altura del puente libre de la parte comercial de la ciudad que conecta a los dos países. Cuando mira al sur, ve y abraza a la parte comercial de Juárez; cuando se voltea para ver el norte, ve y abraza a la parte comercial de El Paso. Es una vista de conexión y separación, dependiendo del punto de vista de uno.

Durante los próximos nueve meses, propongo pasar tanto tiempo como pueda cruzando ambos lados.

## A Border Love Affair

By Zita Arocha

Five years ago, I began an unusual love affair with la frontera when I first traveled to El Paso/Juárez, a sprawling urban center of more than 2 million inhabitants along both banks of the Río Bravo/Río Grande in the heart of the Chihuahuan desert.

As a cubana raised and educated in Tampa, Fla., a Gulf Coast city of snowbirds and Southern accents, I had some vague notions about the U.S.-Mexico border, gleaned mainly from the too-frequent media images of crime, drugs and illegal crossings.

But as a newspaper journalist with an activist bent, and a fondness for stories about ordinary people, I was determined to uncover my own reality about the 2,000-mile stretch that connects and divides Mexico from the United States.

It may sound strange, but my travels to the border have come to signify a return to my Hispanic roots and a reacquaintance with who I am as a Latina.

On my first trip to El Paso, I remember the early morning turquoise sky, the soft purple haze of the Franklin Mountains and being blown away by the impeccable Spanish of my 20-something blond, blue-eyed cab driver, an Anglo from the Midwest who was raised in El Paso.

With my blue eyes, fair skin and unaccented English -- a writer friend described me once as a "cubana who looks like she's from Ohio" -- identity has always been a touchy issue. In an interesting example of discrimination, I remember the sense I had of being invisible when I shopped

in downtown Miami in my 20s and the Spanish-speaking saleswomen would wait on the dark-skinned, "Hispanic-looking" women first. During a couple of job interviews at major newspapers, I have had editors blurt out upon seeing me for the first time, "You don't look Hispanic!" I have wanted to reply, "What do you think a 'Hispanic' is supposed to look like?" Instead, I have wisely held my tongue.

Now that I'm in my 40s, I realize that although I have lived in the United States since I was 5, I have always lacked a sense of belonging, of fitting in, of being comfortable with the dual identities of hispana and americana. Making it in the U.S.A. seems to mean an embracing of the values of the dominant culture at the expense of our unique ethnic identity. I have never been happy with having to make that choice.

Encountering that bilingual, bicultural Anglo young man in a city that is more than 70 percent Hispanic filled me with hope of finally having found a welcoming homeland. "I could fit in here," I remember thinking. It's a place where most residents move freely between two languages, two cultures, two countries.

Since that first visit, I have returned time and again to la frontera, which attracts me like a magnet, to visit good friends. I am now living in El Paso/Juárez and teaching at the University of Texas at El Paso for the academic year under a Freedom Forum Journalism Fellowship. My Mexican-American friends affectionately refer to me as la güera, or "blondie."

My understanding of border reality is starting to fill out and deepen like a paint-by-the-numbers portrait. There definitely are negatives. There is violence spawned by drug trafficking. There are serious concerns about illegal immigration and the environment. (The area is expected to run out of water in about 25 years.) There's the dire poverty of the colonias on both sides of the border, and health and education problems.

To me El Paso/Juárez is also a fertile place of parallel realities that often intersect in interesting and creative ways. There are border residents who never cross the border and "border people" whose personal and work lives encompass both sides. There is a dollar economy and a peso economy. There are developing world and post-industrial world ways of being and doing.

In a poem I wrote several years ago, I described El Paso del Norte as "a land belonging, not to the north or to the south, but to itself." That sense of uniqueness grows with every day I am here.

Recently, I asked my good friend, 47-year-old Kika Sánchez, a native of Durango who has lived in El Paso since she was 18, what the border means to her. Without skipping a beat, Kika, a building contractor who works on both sides of the river, replied, "Freedom, and a door that swings both ways."

Victor Talavera, a 29-year-old UTEP student who was born in

Southern New Mexico and is of Mexican ancestry, recently shared his image of la frontera. He is standing at the height of the downtown free bridge that connects the two countries. When he looks south, he sees and embraces downtown Juárez; when he turns to look north, he sees and embraces downtown El Paso. It's a vista of connection and separation, depending on one's point of view.

During the next nine months, I plan to spend as much time as I can crossing both ways.



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## "EL PASO,"

a poem by Zita Arocha (1995)  
 Not knowing I was searching,  
 I found you, little place,  
 with a star of lights on your  
 mountain  
 and a dry river bed  
 dividing you from yourself.  
 Two countries,  
 separate and one.  
 A land belonging,  
 not to the north  
 or to the south,  
 but to itself.  
 I came to this place of  
 clashing and blending cultures  
 and white wings opened in my  
 breast  
 and my feet grew into your  
 clay.

Because in you I found myself.  
 The blue of your sky in my  
 eyes,  
 the language of my birth,  
 mi gente.

And in your modest beauty  
 I found a place where I do not  
 have to choose,  
 a place where finally I belong.  
 (Zita Arocha formerly worked as a  
 staff writer for The Washington Post  
 and Miami Herald, and served as executive  
 director of the National Association  
 of Hispanic Journalists.)

## EL PASO

un poema escrito por Zita Arocha en 1995

Te encontré, lugarcito, con  
 una  
 estrella de luces sobre tu  
 montaña  
 y un cauce de río seco que te  
 divide de tí mismo.  
 Dos países, separados pero  
 uno.  
 Una tierra que no pertenece  
 al  
 norte ni al sur, sino a sí  
 misma.  
 Vine a este lugar de culturas  
 que  
 chocan y se mezclan,  
 y de alas blancas que se  
 abrieron en mi  
 pecho, y mis pies crecieron  
 dentro de tu arcilla.  
 Porque en tí me  
 encontré a mí misma, al azul  
 de tu cielo en mis ojos,  
 al idioma de mi nacimiento,  
 a mi gente.  
 Y en tu belleza modesta  
 hallé un lugar donde no tengo  
 que escoger  
 al que pertenezco por fin.

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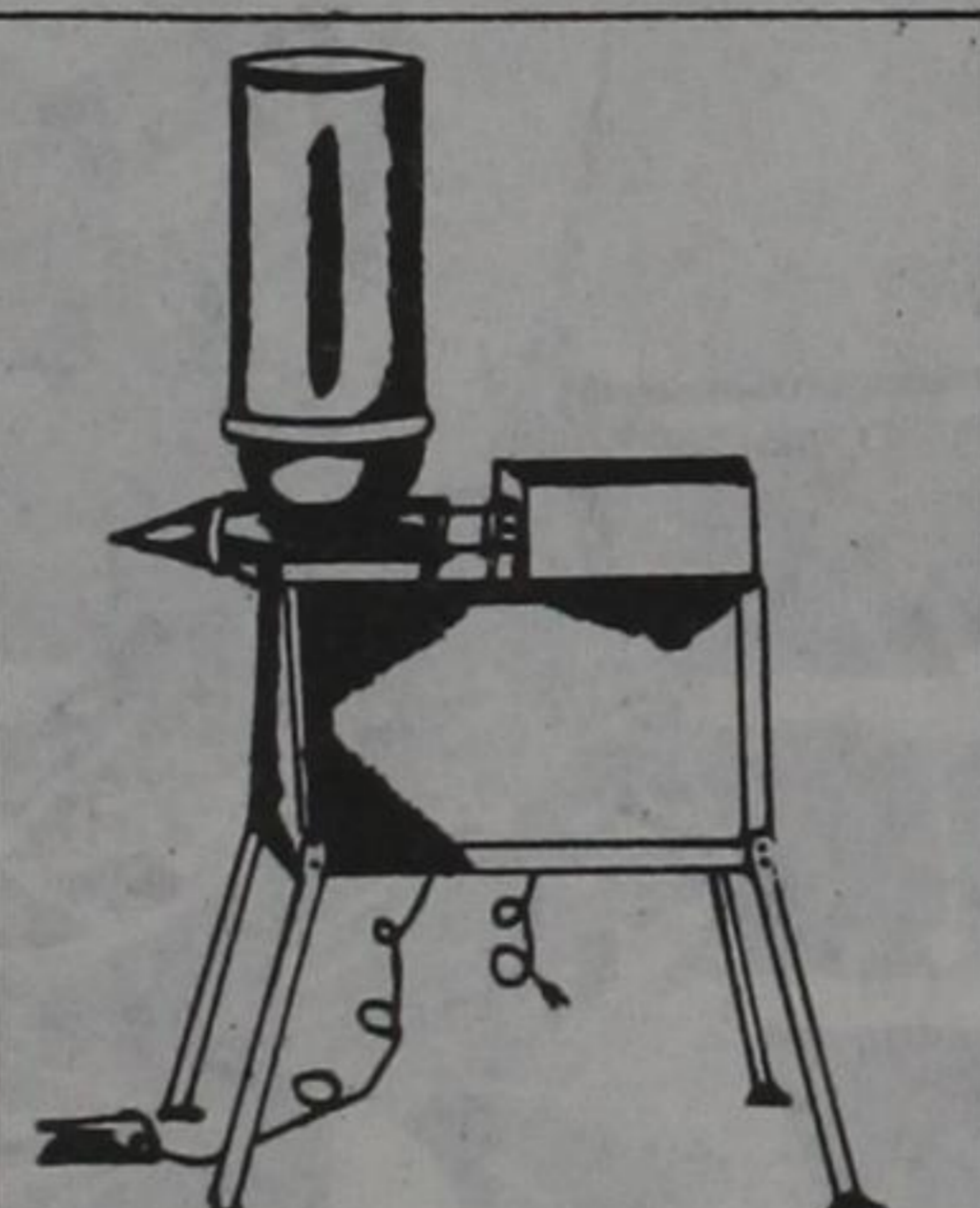
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