

# El Editor

"El Respeto al Derecho  
Ajeno es la Paz"

Lic Benito Juarez

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## Democrats Vote 95% Pro-Hispanic

# Republican Congressional Representatives Vote Pro-Hispanic Only 27% of Time

By Daniel Anthony Dávila  
Democrats significantly outperformed Republicans in the 108th Congress when voting on issues of particular importance to the 45.3 million Latinos in the United States. According to a scorecard released July 26 by the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, Democrats in the House of Representatives voted pro-Hispanic 95% of the time, Republicans only 19%. In the Senate, 95% of Democratic votes supported NHLA positions; only 34% of Republican votes supported its positions. The scorecard examined how 18 "key" votes in the House and six in the Senate, as determined by the 40-member board of NHLA, affected the Hispanic community.

For example, one vote that NHLA opposed in the House was the Jobs and Growth Reconciliation Act of 2003. It opposed the tax cuts the bill called for, maintaining they only benefited the most affluent. Other areas graded by NHLA included civil rights, health, education and immigration.

The scorecard credited both parties with significant improvement. In its last assessment in 2002, it gave 53 House Republicans a score of zero and nine Democrats a 100% grade. This time, just five Republicans received a zero and 163 Democrats obtained a perfect score.

Ronald Blackburn-Moreno, chair of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, said the improvement was "not enough," adding, "There's an awful lot to do."

Democrats reacted positively to the report. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) said, "This Republican Congress is out of touch with the real problems of the Hispanic community." He added that he is "proud of the high scores that our Senate Democrats received."

Republicans, on the other hand, attacked the report. Rep. Mario Díaz-Balart (R-Fla.) called the scorecard "a disingenuous piece of fiction masquerading as a legit representation of Hispanics' views." He added that the votes chosen were "obviously cherry-

picked for Democrats."

Antonio Flores, president of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and member of NHLA, stated in an e-mail to Blackburn-Moreno, copied to Weekly Report, that he was "concerned that some members of Congress with extremely low ratings in the scorecard are actually outstanding in their support of Hispanic higher education and Hispanic-Serving Institutions."

Blackburn-Moreno emphasized that the document is an effective tool for "monitoring the performance of Congress" but that it is also important to assess individual members of Congress additionally by "actions that are not reflected by their voting record."

All but one member of the all-Democrat Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Xavier Becerra, scored 100%. The five Hispanic members of the Congressional Hispanic Conference averaged only 33% support for NHLA positions.

Mario López, executive director of the all Republican Congressional Hispanic Conference, said in response to the scorecard that it is "obvious that the NHLA is fairly partisan," adding that it "left out a lot (of votes)."

Senators Ken Salazar (D-Colo.) and Mel Martínez (R-Fla.) were not members of Congress during the session the NHLA examined.

## Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act Evokes Cesar Chavez

By Arturo Vargas

This week's 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 represents a time to reflect on our history and plan for our future. In 1952, César Chávez joined a California civil rights group, the Community Service Organization, for which he conducted a voter registration drive in the San Jose area.

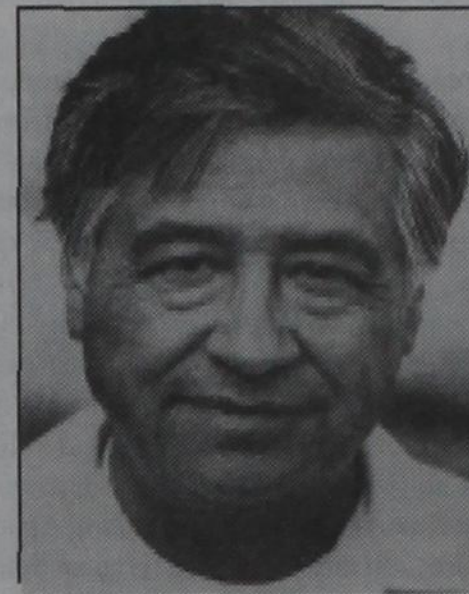
Chávez learned quickly about the challenges facing Latinos who wanted to vote. At that time, voters could not register by mail; instead, they relied on deputy registrars, who placed restrictions on CSO organizers' efforts to contact Latinos. The organizers were forbidden to go door-to-door, they could not register voters on Sunday or after daylight hours, and they could not speak Spanish to the voters. Chávez also found that poll workers arbitrarily subjected Latinos to literacy tests before allowing them to cast their ballots.

Chávez fought the discrimination he encountered and convinced officials to appoint six Spanish-speaking deputy registrars. He succeeded in registering 6,000 Latinos. Chávez also contacted then-Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, protesting the treatment of Latinos on Election Day.

Chávez's experiences in San Jose foreshadowed the fight against voter discrimination that would result in the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 1975, Congress extended its protections to "language minorities" - essentially, Latino, Asian American and Native American voters.

August 6 marks the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. And, along with invoking the memory of César Chávez, we must also honor the work of African-American civil rights leaders. The 1964 murder of voting rights activists and the unprovoked attack in 1965 by state troopers on peaceful marchers in Selma, Ala., persuaded President Lyndon Johnson and Congress to issue a call for a strong voting rights act. Congressional hearings began on the bill that ultimately would become the Voting Rights Act.

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## Representantes Republicanos del Congreso Votan Pro-Hispano Solamente 27% del Tiempo

Daniel Anthony Dávila

Los demócratas sacaron mejores calificaciones - por mucho - que los republicanos durante el Congreso 108 al votar sobre temas de particular importancia a los 45.3 millones de latinos en los Estados Unidos. Según una libreta de calificaciones que emitió el 26 de julio la National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), los demócratas de la Cámara de Representantes votaron a favor de los hispanos el 95% de las veces, mientras que los republicanos sólo lo hicieron el 19%. En el Senado, el 95% de los demócratas apoyó las posiciones de la NHLA; sólo el

34% de los votos de los republicanos hicieron igual.

La libreta examinó cómo 18 votos "claves" en la Cámara y seis en el Senado, según determinó la junta de 40 miembros de la NHLA, afectaron a la comunidad hispana.

Por ejemplo, uno de los votos al que se opuso NHLA en la Cámara fue el de la Ley de Reconciliación de Empleo y Crecimiento del 2003. Se opuso a los recortes de impuestos que estipulaba la ley, argumentando que beneficiaban sólo a los más pudientes. Otras áreas en las que la NHLA calificó al Congreso incluyen los

derechos civiles, la salud, la educación y la inmigración.

La libreta de calificaciones dio crédito a ambos partidos por haber realizado mejoras importantes. En la última evaluación, en el 2002, calificó a 53 republicanos de la Cámara con cero y a nueve demócratas con 100. Esta vez, sólo cinco republicanos recibieron una nota de cero, y 163 demócratas tuvieron una calificación perfecta.

Ronald Blackburn-Moreno, director de la National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, dijo que la mejora "no era suficiente", y agregó, "Queda muchísimo por hacer".

La reacción al informe fue positiva de parte de los demócratas. Dirigente minoritario del Senado, Harry Reid (demócrata por Nevada) dijo, "Este Congreso republicano está fuera de foco con los verdaderos problemas de la comunidad hispana". Añadió que tiene "orgullo de las altas calificaciones que recibieron nuestros demócratas del Senado".

Los republicanos, por otra parte, atacaron el informe. El representante Mario Díaz-Balart (republicano por Florida), dijo que la libreta era "un pedazo de ficción fingiendo ser una representación legítima de la perspectiva de los hispanos". Agregó que los votos seleccionados "eran a pedir de boca para los demócratas".

Antonio Flores, presidente de la Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, y miembro de la NHLA, indicó por correo electrónico a Blackburn-Moreno, con copia a Weekly Report, que le "preocupaba que algunos miembros del Congreso con calificaciones en extremo bajas en realidad sobresalen en su apoyo por la educación superior para los hispanos y por las instituciones que sirven a los hispanos".

Blackburn-Moreno enfatizó que el documento es una herramienta eficaz para "monitorear el rendimiento del Congreso", pero que también es importante evaluar a los miembros del Congreso por "acciones que no se ven reflejadas en su expediente de votos".

Todos menos un miembro, Xavier Becerra, del Caucus Congresional Hispano, que consiste de sólo demócratas, tuvieron calificaciones de 100. Los cinco miembros de la Conferencia Hispana del Congreso tuvieron sólo un promedio de 33% de apoyo a las posiciones de la NHLA.

Mario López, director ejecutivo de la Conferencia, que consiste de sólo republicanos, dijo en reacción a la libreta de calificaciones que es "obvio que la NHLA es bastante partidaria", diciendo además que "no había contado muchos de los votos".

Los senadores Ken Salazar (demócrata por Colorado) y Mel Martínez (republicano por Florida) no eran miembros del Congreso durante la sesión que examinó la NHLA.

(Daniel Anthony Dávila es reportero con Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C. Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: editor@hispaniclink.org)

## Hate groups turn sights on Hispanics

Fear over immigration statuses has some too scared to report crimes  
By BILL POOVEY

CHATTANOOGA — Organized hate groups like the Ku Klux Klan have historically terrorized blacks and Jews in the Southeast. But the recent influx of Hispanic immigrants to the region has given hate groups a new target, and officials say Hispanics are increasingly targets of hate crimes.

Former Klansman Daniel Schertz, 27, from the southeast Tennessee town of South Pittsburg, was indicted in June on charges of building pipe bombs to kill Hispanic immigrants.

Imperial Wizard Billy Jeffery of the North Georgia White Knights denied any connection to the bomb plot and said he banished Schertz from the group, but he readily admits he isn't happy with the flow of immigrants to the region.

"The blacks fought for their civil rights. These illegal immigrants are coming in here and having everything just handed to them," Jeffery said.

Advocates say there are no precise statistics on hate crimes against Hispanics. Victims don't always call the police because of their precarious immigration status.

"People feel they will not be protected, and they are risking deportation," said John Bernstein, director of federal policy at the National Immigration Law Center in Washington. "That is more and more a problem with hate crimes."

Hate crimes against Hispanic immigrants have been common in other parts of the country, but Southern states saw their Hispanic populations boom in the 1990s. Arkansas' Hispanic population rose by 337% during the decade, Georgia's by 300%, Tennessee's by 278% and South Carolina's by 211%.

One of the first signs of organized anti-Hispanic activity in the South occurred in Gainesville, Ga., in 1998, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, an Alabama group that tracks hate crimes.

The American Knights of the KKK held a rally on Hall County Courthouse steps, followed by a cross-burning in nearby Winder. A few years later, in 2001, the nation's largest neo-Nazi organization, the National Alliance, staged a rally in Hall County.

Santos Aguilar of the Alianza Del Pueblo, an advocacy center for immigrants in Knoxville, said he believes the number of hate groups taking aim at immigrants continues to grow.



## El Aniversario de la Ley de Derecho al Voto Convoca Cesar Chavez

Arturo Vargas

El aniversario de los cuarenta años de la promulgación de la Ley de Derecho al Voto de 1965 representa un momento para reflexionar sobre nuestra historia y nuestros planes para el futuro. En 1952, César Chávez se unió a un grupo en pro de los derechos civiles en California, la Community Service Organization (CSO por sus siglas en inglés), para la que realizó una campaña de registro de votantes en el área de San José.

Chávez aprendió rápidamente sobre los retos que enfrentaban los latinos que querían votar. En ese entonces, los votantes no podían registrarse por correo, sino que se fiaban de los subdirectores del registro, quienes pusieron restricciones sobre los esfuerzos de la CSO por comunicarse con latinos. Los organizadores quedaron prohibidos de ir puerta en puerta, de registrar a votantes en domingo o después de ponerse el sol, y de hablar español con los votantes. Chávez también encontró que, al azar, los que trabajaban en las urnas obligaban a los latinos a tomar pruebas de lectura y escritura antes de permitir que votaran.

Chávez luchó contra la discriminación que encontró y convenció a los funcionarios de gobierno a nombrar a seis subdirectores del registro que hablaran español. Logró registrar a 6,000 latinos. Chávez también se puso en contacto con el entonces gobernador de California, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, para protestar el trato de los latinos el día de la elección.

Las experiencias de Chávez en San José eran preludio a la lucha contra la discriminación de votantes que resultaría al promulgarse la Ley de Derecho al Voto de 1965. En 1975, el Congreso extendió las protecciones de la ley a las "minorías lingüísticas" - en esencia - votantes latinos, asiático-americanos e indígenas norteamericanos.

El 6 de agosto señala los 40 años desde la promulgación de la Ley de Derecho al Voto. Así, además de invocar la memoria de César Chávez, debemos también honrar la obra de los dirigentes de derechos civiles afro-americanos. El asesinato, en 1964, de activistas de derecho al voto y el ataque sin provocación de la policía montada sobre los que marchaban pacíficamente en Selma, Alabama, convenció al presidente Lyndon Johnson y al Congreso a emitir un llamado a favor de una ley sólida de derecho al voto. Las audiencias en el Congreso empezaron entonces sobre el proyecto que se volvería la Ley de Derecho al Voto.

Desde su promulgación, esta ley se ha convertido en una de las leyes de derechos civiles más exitosas de la historia de los Estados Unidos. Puso fin a las pruebas de lectura y escritura, impuestos cobrados en la urna y otros mecanismos prejuiciosos que prevenían a los latinos de votar. Ayudó a establecer el derecho de los latinos, y de otros grupos, a tener asistencia con el idioma durante el proceso de votar en comunidades por todo el país. Al dar fin a tantas prácticas y procedimientos de elección discriminatorios, creó igualdad de oportunidades para que grupos raciales y étnicos eligieran a los candidatos que quisieran a miles de puestos políticos estatales y federales.

En el 2007 secciones cruciales de esta ley caducarán al menos que el Congreso vote a favor de renovarla. Estas provisiones incluyen la Sección 5, que por lo general requiere que los estados y las jurisdicciones locales cuyas prácticas electorales han sido documentadas como discriminatorias, obtengan aprobación federal antes de efectuar cambios planificados en sus leyes o procedimientos electorales. El Congreso también tendrá que renovar secciones de la ley que requieren que las comunidades con concentraciones de ciudadanos estadounidenses quienes no tienen todavía proficiencia del inglés reciban asistencia con el idioma cuando se registren y voten.

Las provisiones de la Ley de Derecho al Voto que están por renovarse han ayudado a los latinos y a otros grupos en su lucha por acceso justo y por igual en el proceso electoral. En el condado Bexar, en San Antonio, grupos de derechos civiles pudieron combatir esfuerzos por socavar la fuerza del voto latino cuando adrede los funcionarios no pusieron urnas donde pudieran llegar a votar los latinos. En diversas comunidades por toda la nación, el Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos ha utilizado la Ley de Derecho al Voto para obligar a las jurisdicciones con poblaciones latinas en auge a mejorar la asistencia lingüística para votantes latinos, desde los condados de San Benito, San Diego y Ventura en California, a los de Orange y Osceola en la Florida, a los de Suffolk y Westchester en Nueva York, al condado de Yakima, en el estado de Washington.

El legado de César Chávez nos da la oportunidad de honrar su dedicación sin tregua a la lucha por la justicia al asegurar que nuestros legisladores guarden y fortalezcan las herramientas necesarias que realzarán la vitalidad de la democracia de nuestra nación. El siguiente paso crítico es la reautorización de la Ley de Derecho al Voto de 1965.

(Arturo Vargas es director ejecutivo del Fondo Educativo de la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Elegidos y Nombrados (NALEO). Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: info@naleo.org)

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# Latino Reporter Talks About His Beat on Baghdad

**Carlos Al-Fulani**

When I landed in Baghdad, a team of armed guards picked me up at the Saddam Hussein International Airport (I'm sorry, Baghdad International Airport), a huge airport, but almost completely deserted. An Egyptian engineer who flew in with me from Jordan said that it had been one of the busiest airports in the region.

Here danger lurks everywhere: kidnappings, bombs, and particularly gringo soldiers (very nervous), Iraqi soldiers (even more nervous) and the rotten private security guards, who are aggressive and abusive. If you get too close to a convoy on the road, you're apt to be shot full of lead.

I had let my beard grow out before I left, and bought second hand clothes, so now I look like any old Arab. People stopped me twice on the street in Amman to ask for directions, so I know I look like a local. My security team - six scary guys in two cars who carry submachine guns - congratulated me on my new look and said it would be easy to protect me.

When you first see Baghdad, it looks like any crowded third world city, with tacky houses, potholes, uneven sidewalks, and trash all over

the place. One difference is that its full of skeletons of buildings blown out during the war, and everything is covered with a centimeter of dust from the constant and brutal sand storms.

A lot of the businesses are closed because the power's out, but even so, I didn't see many street vendors. I did see quite a few men dressed in dishdasha (the pyjama-like full suit) and women dressed in abayas (the long, black dress that shows only their eyes). Other than that, the people could be the same you would find in any Latin American main square.

Traffic is wretched, made worse because the gringos have closed off several central streets for security reasons, and because the military (gringos and Irakís) close off the streets often when they round people up.

On top of this, since the end of the war there's been a deluge of used cars entering the country. Saddam left, and now anyone with a little money stashed under his mattress can buy a car - and have the privilege of sitting in traffic and standing in line for hours - worst case - for days, to buy gas. There's a shortage of gas because most of it's exported, but

there are also issues with the pumps in the gas stations that don't always work, on account of the many power outages.

I'm staying at one of the best hotels in the city, built in the eighties. It's got three perfectly round pools; the largest is 50 meters in diameter. The hotel used to belong to Uday Hussein, Saddam's sadistic son. Except for inside, the hotel looks like a backwater hotel built by the Ministry of Tourism during Velasco's dictatorship. And everything has to be locked up, because the housekeeping crew are as rapacious as crows.

Our office has an excellent view of the north shore of the Tigris River. Through binoculars I can see Al-Mustansria, the medieval university where the creator of algebra was housed - the same guy on the front of the textbook - Algebra de Baldor - who I knew so well, because I failed algebra my junior year.

The great advantage to this place is that it's very safe - the owner is a Sunni Arab, and the hotel is full of South African and South Korean mercenaries who walk around the lobby and the restaurant armed to their teeth. We're next to a telecommunications tower that belongs to the government, guarded by Iraqi sol-

diers. And the gringos' "Green Zone" is only a few blocks away.

Even so, all foreign reporters are strictly prohibited from leaving the hotel without their security escorts. We have a very professional team of Arab reporters who are able to go out and who do all the reporting, while we write up their information. We also call the U.S. army and go on "embedded" missions. But in all honesty, the Iraqi reporters here are our eyes and ears.

This is the first time I've been to a country where I can't read or speak a word of the language. It's really frustrating, particularly because the locals want to talk to me and I can't respond. Of course, when they ask me where I'm from, I always say I'm Peruvian, for security reasons.

Plus, any kidnapper with a bit of smarts would know that Alejandro Toledo's government wouldn't be able to pay much ransom for me, don't you think?

(Carlos Al-Fulani is a pseudonym for a reporter currently in Baghdad who wishes to remain anonymous, for security reasons. This column comes from a personal communication with a staff member of Hispanic Link News Service. Any response can be sent to editor@hispaniclink.org)

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# Lubbock's Own Moral Majority

**By Abel Cruz**

We all have our own set of values and morals that we try to live by. But while some of us feel that the moral values that we strive to uphold should remain a personal matter, apparently Lubbock has its own moral majority that feel that they have to protect us from sinful behavior and save us from damnation by ruling on city council matters based on their own personal morals and beliefs.

A local gentleman's nightclub had filed a request with the city to purchase an alley right of way at their present location. The process of the city giving up the right of way to an existing alley and being compensated for it happens all the time. For example, just last week, the council voted to approve two alley right of way requests located in the North Overton development project. It is a common practice and most of these actions are requested by businesses that want to expand their establishments in order to grow their business. So the request made on behalf of Player's Gentleman's Club should have been a fairly simple matter and should have been approved right?

Wrong! Not in "Lubbock, on the giant side of Texas"! No, what you get here are 4 council members, (Martin, Boren, DeLeon, and Jones) voting against the request because they happen to be opposed to sexually oriented businesses or find them offensive. Despite the fact that the club had followed all rules and regulations, and had offered the same price per square foot that is accepted all the time, their request was still denied.

To councilman's Floyd Price's credit, he certainly got it right this time. He reminded the council that even though he did not like the nature of the business, they should be treated fairly and "like any other business in Lubbock". And that is exactly what should have happened. But it didn't because the council members who voted against the request put their own personal moral beliefs ahead of their duty to apply the laws of this city in a fair, equitable, and impartial manner!

There's reasons this business has thrived in this city since the 80's, and it's not because of a lack of patrons. It has succeeded here because there is a market for it. There are people who live here who see nothing wrong with patronizing these types of establishments. Does that mean that these people are immoral; of course not.

So when Councilman Gary Boren says that this type of business is "offensive to me and the moral climate of our community", and mayor "wanna be" Tom Martin says that "I'm not going to let them expand" because he is opposed to these type of businesses, what are they really saying? What I hear them saying is: my voting decisions will be made based on my personal morals and values or on my personal and political agenda and not on whether a business has followed and met the rules and regulations that govern this city.

For years and years, government has tried to legislate morality from a city council chamber, a courtroom or congressional floor and even the oval office. Although some may think that it is the role of publicly elected officials to impose their personal views on the people who elect them, that is not what they swear to do when they are sworn in to office. Most oaths of office call for an elected official to uphold and apply laws in a fair and equitable manner; and without prejudice. In this case, legal precedent shows that selling alley right of ways is a common practice and the case should have been approved. My guess would be that the oath of office that council members take when being sworn in does not include a phrase that says that one can ignore the law and treat businesses unfairly because they happen to dislike the kind of business they operate.

For the record, I don't patronize the club in question, but I don't judge them for the kind of business that they have chosen to operate.

I'll leave that up to the One Power to stand in moral judgment of others.

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# Reportero Latino Narra Su Jornada En Bagdad

**Carlos Al-Fulani**

Cuando llegué a Bagdad, me recogió un equipo armado del aeropuerto internacional Saddam Hussein (perdón, Baghdad International), un aeropuerto enorme, casi totalmente abandonado. Durante el vuelo desde Jordania, un ingeniero egipcio me dijo que había sido uno de los aeropuertos más utilizados de la región.

Aquí hay peligro de todo: secuestros, bombazos y en especial de los soldados gringos (muy nerviosos), los soldados irakíes (más nerviosos) y los desgraciados de seguridad privada, que son agresivos y abusivos. Si te acercas demasiado a un convoy por la carretera, corres riesgo a que te llenen de plomo.

Antes de viajar me dejé crecer la barba, me puse ropa de segunda mano y ahora pareczo cualquier otro fulano árabe. En Amman me pararon dos veces en la calle para pedir direcciones, así que sé que pareczo un tipo local. Los del equipo de seguridad — seis matones en dos carros armados con metralletas — me felicitaron por la pinta y dijeron que sería fácil protegerme.

Bagdad, a primera vista, parece cualquier ciudad congestionada del tercer mundo, con casas huachafas, baches en las calles, las veredas desiguales, y basura tirada por

doquier. Una diferencia es que está llena de cascarones de edificios destruidos en la guerra, y todo cubierto con un centímetro de tierra por las constantes y brutales tormentas de arena.

Hay muchos negocios cerrados por falta de energía, pero vi pocos ambulantes y pocos mendigos. Vi también bastantes hombres vestidos con dishdasha (el traje de pijama entero) y mujeres con abayas (el traje negro largo que cubre todo menos los ojos). Aparte de eso, parece la misma gente que uno encontraría en cualquier plaza latinoamericana.

El tráfico es desgraciado, agravado porque los gringos han cerrado varias calles céntricas por motivos de seguridad y porque los milicos (gringos e irakíes) cierran calles frecuentemente cuando arman retenes.

También, desde el final de la guerra hubo un diluvio de autos usados entrando al país. Se fue Saddam y ahora cualquiera con algún dinero bajo el colchón puede comprar un carrito — y con eso se gana el privilegio de quedarse atrapado en el tráfico y de pararse en colas de varias horas — en el peor de los casos, varios días — para conseguir gasolina. Hay poca gasolina porque la mayoría del producto petrolífero va para la

exportación, aunque también hay problemas porque la bomba de los surtidores no siempre funciona, con tantos apagones.

Me estoy quedando en uno de los mejores hoteles de la ciudad, construido en los años 80. El hotel tiene tres piscinas perfectamente redondas, la más grande de unos 50 metros de diámetro. Pertenecía a Uday Hussein, el hijo sádico de Saddam. Aparte de lo grande que es, parece un hotel provincial de tercera construido por el Ministerio de Turismo durante la época de Velasco. Y hay que tener todo bajo llave, ya que los encargados de limpieza son una bola de pericotes.

Nuestra oficina tiene una vista excelente del lado norte del río Tigris. Con binoculares puedo ver la universidad medieval de Al-Mustansria, donde estuvo basado el creador de álgebra — el mismo que está en la carátula del texto de Algebra de Baldor — al que conozco bien, ya que me jalaron en álgebra en cuarto de media.

La gran ventaja es que este lugar es muy seguro — el dueño es un árabe sunní, y el hotel está lleno de mercenarios sudafricanos y surcoreanos que caminan armados hasta los dientes en el lobby y el restaurante. Queda junto a una torre de telecomunicaciones del gobierno,

que está resguardado por soldados irakíes. Y la "Zona Verde" de los gringos queda a unas cuantas cuadras.

Con todo, queda estrictamente prohibido que los reporteros extranjeros salgamos a la calle sin seguridad. Tenemos un equipo muy profesional de reporteros árabes que salen y hacen todo el reportaje, y nosotros redactamos la información. También llamamos al ejército gringo y vamos en misiones "encamadas" con ellos. Pero en realidad, los reporteros irakíes aquí son nuestros ojos y oídos.

Es la primera vez que visito un país en el que no puedo leer ni hablar una sola palabra. Es muy frustrante, especialmente porque los locales me quieren conversar y no puedo responder. Claro, cuando preguntan de dónde soy, siempre digo que soy peruano, por motivos de seguridad.

Total, cualquier secuestrador con algo de inteligencia sabría que al gobierno de Alejandro Toledo no le va sacar mucha plata si me secuestran, ¿verdad?

(Carlos Al-Fulani es el seudónimo de un periodista actualmente destinado a Bagdad, quien, por motivos de seguridad, prefiere mantenerse en el anonimato. Esta columna deriva de una comunicación personal con un miembro de Hispanic Link News Service. Dirija cualquier comentario a editor@hispaniclink.org)

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# A Tolerance of Violence on the Border

**Dr. Rudy Acuña**

In trying to make sense as to why most Americans and even a large number of Latinos are so complacent about so-called minutemen running amok on the border, searching for undocumented people, I recently re-read Herbert Marcuse's 1965 essay on "Repressive Tolerance."

Marcuse wrote that "[t]olerance is an end in itself" and necessary for the preservation of the status quo and the strengthening of "the tyranny of the majority..." When tolerance is turned into a passive state it promotes laissez-faire, entrenching the established attitudes and ideas of the right wing. The result is that we passively tolerate ideas and actions that are damaging to man and nature.

The University of California professor argued that there was a difference between true and false tolerance and it was an abuse of tolerance to ignore unjust attitudes and ideas because the truth may antagonize sympathizers.

According to Marcuse, a liberating tolerance was intolerance toward unjust ideas and movements. Marcuse was later to posit that it was the intolerance of students on campuses that removed Dow Chemical and the recruiters off the university campuses.

Marcuse distinguishes the Right from the Left and movements that help people versus those that keep them in their place. These movements are difficult to distinguish because of the historical amnesia of Americans. They believe that the Right and the Left have contributed equally to social legislation that protects the average citizen.

The truth be told, as a historian, I cannot remember a single piece of progressive social legislation sponsored by right wing senators or representatives. Indeed, they opposed the end of slavery, the protection of children's rights, social security, and civil and human rights, for starters.

Society's lack of historical awareness of these facts and the reluctance of liberals to call the Trent Lotts of this world liars perpetuates this false consciousness.

In respect to undocumented workers and immigrants this repressive tolerance has allowed racist nativist to blur reason and sanction border violence. It has allowed the historically illiterate like California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to praise Arizona vigilantes. "They've done a terrific job. And they have cut down the crossing of illegal immigrants by a huge percentage." We are conditioned to tolerate this undemocratic behavior and forget that in another time these vigilantes would be wearing white hoods.

Border violence is not an aberration and is as American as apple pie. At least, 597 Mexicans were lynched near or on the border. The majority were not bandits; they were lynched because they were Mexicans. Witness that there has been no similar history on the Canadian border. Why?

What will be the cost of tolerating these vigilantes?

In the summer of 1976, George Hannigan, a Douglas, Arizona, rancher and Dairy Queen owner, and his two sons, Patrick, 22, and Thomas, 17, kidnapped three undocumented workers looking for work. They "stripped, stabbed, burned [them] with hot poker and dragged [them] across the desert." The Hannigans held a mock hanging for one of the Mexicans and shot another with buckshot. Judge Anthony Deddens, a friend of the Hannigans, refused to issue arrest warrants. Finally, an all-white jury acquitted the Hannigans.

Activists on both sides of the border protested the verdict and pressured U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell to indict them. A federal grand jury, in 1979 indicted the Hannigans for violating the Hobbs Act. Interference in interstate commerce. After

deadlocks and a retrial a jury found the Hannigans guilty.

Since the Hannigan case, the hate groups have expanded. Historically, extremist groups have preyed on the fears and xenophobia of the American majority. Klansman David Duke organized "border patrols in the late 1970's." In the early 1980s Louis Beam and his Texas Knights harassed an immigrant Vietnamese fishermen in Texas.

During the 1980s, these hate groups grew as a product of the Internet where pornography and hate became profitable enterprises.

The idea of sending organized paramilitary groups to the border remained a right wing affair. The cry of "Close our Borders!" was the creation of white supremacist groups that are integrated in the ranks of the so-called "Minutemen" and spearhead their activities.

The agenda of many of these self described patriots goes well beyond "the protection of the border, however. The ADL reports that Glenn Spencer of Voices of Citizens Together and the American Patrol has "departed sharply from that of legitimate immigration reform groups." Much Spencer's rhetoric and writing "did not target immigration so much as he targeted Hispanics, particularly those of Mexican origin, regardless of whether they were immigrants or not." The Anti-Defamation League ADL cites a 1996 letter to the Los Angeles Times in which he wrote "the Mexican culture is based on deceit."

Spencer's pal Roger Barnett, a rancher from Cochise County, Arizona, attracted national attention by running around with pistols and assault rifles capturing undocumented brown people and holding them against their will.

Meanwhile, other kooks like Jack Foote, based in Arlington, Texas, have been inspired by Roger Barnett. He formed Ranch Rescue, like the other hate groups, has a Web Site, spreading fear and

collecting money.

In March 2003 two of Ranch Rescue's "Minutemen" were arrested for allegedly detaining two Salvadorans and pistol whipping one of them.

On July 23, 2003, Claudine LoMonaco of the Tucson Citizen reported that "from the start of the fiscal year in October 2002 through Sunday, as many as 171 people have died in Arizona -- 43 percent more than the official Border Patrol figure of 119."

Where is this history of tolerance going end? The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reports that in October 2002, New Jersey white supremacist radio talk show host Hal Turner told listeners to "kill every single one of these invaders."

The violence is not an aberration. It is not going to go away. It is directed at Mexicans and by extension anyone who looks like them.

Historian Rudy Acuña became a leading Chicano historian and activist with the publication of Occupied America: The Chicano's Struggle Toward Liberation in 1972.

## EL EDITOR

El Editor is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. Our physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. El Editor is available on the web at [eleditor.com](http://eleditor.com) and is distributed throughout West Texas in retail outlets. Opinions expressed in El Editor are those of the individual writer and not necessarily those of the publisher or the advertisers. Advertising information available by emailing us at [eleditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eleditor@sbcglobal.net) or by calling us at 806-763-3841 Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can also be sent to the same email address.

**Publisher Bidal Aguero**

## Jim Hightower

# "The Reality of Ideological Theory"

The problem with America's economic policy today is that it's written by economists. And the problem with too many economists is that they live in a world of theory...or, worse yet, a world of ideological delusion.

For example, George W's plan to privatize social security is written by a bunch of laissez-faire economic ideologues who theorized that Americans really don't want a guaranteed security program, but would prefer a chance to "own" their retirement. How? By investing their monthly social security payments in the stock market. Let the people manage their own retirement accounts, cry these free-market theorists, and they'll make wise decisions that'll put the gold in their golden years!

But in real life, most people (including—Big Surprise—top economists) have neither the time nor inclination to be savvy investors. Even with the private retirement funds that people already "own," they fail to do the homework it would take to maximize their investments, mostly tucking their money in low-return, safe havens, like money market accounts.

Even the brainiest economists do poorly. The LA Times surveyed the eleven economists who are the most recent winners of the Nobel Prize and found that nearly half of them are poor managers of their savings, failing to get even the most elementary investment decisions right. One Nobel economist confessed that he even messed up the investment of the money he got for winning the prize. Another conceded that his retirement nest egg is drawing only about two percent a year in the market—way below the six-percent return you'd have to get just to break even under Bush's social security privatization scheme.

This is Jim Hightower saying...Being good at making investments takes lots of time and a money-focused mind-set. Most of us have real lives and work to do, and no interest in shuffling through a jangle of investment accounts—and we damned sure don't want our basic retirement security based on doing it—no matter what the economic and political ideologues theorize.

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# Voting Abroad Becomes a Mexican Possibility

By Raymond Rodriguez  
Mexicans living abroad are finally going to be allowed to vote in Mexico's presidential elections. The way some critics are reacting, you would think that Mexico is the only nation that allows immigrants the right to vote. Actually, Mexico is simply joining nearly 70 nations that allow citizens residing outside of their mother country to vote.

In an age of mass media and instant coverage, it seems only fitting to encourage citizens to keep abreast of events "back home" and vote if they so desire. That is especially appropriate in Mexico, because monetary remittances exceeding \$16 billion are sent home each year. That amount of money represents the nation's second largest source of income and cannot be ignored. As they say in Mexico: Con dinero baila el perro.

However, I doubt that granting Mexicans in the U.S. the right to vote will result in any major impact on presidential elections. First of all, the franchise does not apply to the majority of the 10 million or more Mexican nationals residing in the United States. Only individuals who are already registered in their home district will be allowed to vote.

That means only 4 million people or fewer will be eligible to vote. Many of them won't bother!

The old adage "Ojos que no ven, no lloran" applies in this instance. As time passes, there is a tendency for immigrants to disconnect from the motherland. They get caught up in the daily routine of earning a living, caring for their families and meeting their obligations. Simply keeping their heads above water and surviving requires most of their time and effort. Political issues

lose their relevance.

The disinterest will be exacerbated by the fact that presidential candidates will not be permitted to campaign outside of Mexico, either in person or via the media. In essence, that constitutes a step backward. When Vicente Fox was seeking the presidency, he campaigned in Los Angeles and other cities with large Mexican populations. In doing so, he was following in the footsteps of Minister of Education José Vasconcelos who campaigned for the presidency in the United States more than 70 years ago.

In fact, the debate about dual citizenship and the right to vote has been going on since the late 1920s. One can only wonder why it took so long to act on the reality of the situation. A large number of Mexicans have always resided in the United States. The number was significantly reduced during the deportation and repatriation hysteria of the 1930s. Today, however, it is estimated that 1 of every 10 Mexicans lives abroad!

There are rural villages where the entire adult, working-age male population has departed for the United States. Therefore, it is only common sense to enable them to vote. Ballots must be requested and eligibility to vote verified. This poses a big problem, especially for illiterate campesinos. In addition, the ballots must be returned using the inefficient Mexican postal system. It will take a hardy and dedicated individual to go to all that trouble. Heck, we can't even induce Mexican Americans to get out and vote here. In the 2004 presidential election, they had the lowest voter turnout of any racial or ethnic group.

Even if Mexican immigrants want to vote, there is a major hurdle they must overcome. It is estimated that it will cost about \$125 million to implement the absentee voter program (more than one billion pesos). Consequently, those wishing to vote will have to pay for the right to exercise the privilege. It is estimated that the fee will be between \$15 and \$20. For individuals having a difficult time eking out a living, that is an exorbitant amount to pay for the right to vote, especially if you aren't sure that your vote will be counted.

However, anyone who is still determined to vote, may download a ballot request form by logging on to [www.ife.org.mx](http://www.ife.org.mx) or obtain a form from the local consulate or the Mexican embassy. That must be done between October 1, 2005, and January 15, 2006. Remember, no voter registration will take place. Individuals must already be a registered voter to be eligible to vote in the presidential election in July 2006. To avoid the legal hassles, many residents of Mexico de afuera will do what they have always done: simply advise family members how to vote.

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# Bush Insta al Senado a Confirmar a Roberts

La campaña por la confirmación del juez John G. Roberts, Jr. como magistrado de la Suprema Corte arrancó ayer a todo vapor con el presidente George W. Bush instando al Senado a actuar con prontitud, justicia y civilidad, y el nominado reuniéndose con figuras clave de la Cámara Alta para asegurarse la confirmación.

Y aunque no faltaron las críticas de algunos grupos y sectores, en términos generales la nominación de Roberts parece bien encaminada, aunque en palabras de la senadora demócrata de California, Bárbara Boxer, no se sabe mucho de él como para ofrecer un punto de vista definitivo y el proceso apenas comienza.

Los demócratas parecen estar guardando sus cartuchos para cuando se inicien las audiencias ante el Comité Judicial del Senado a fines de agosto o principios de septiembre. Los grupos de presión de derecha y de izquierda también preparan sus campañas.

Pero a juzgar por los comentarios de analistas a lo largo del día, parece poco probable que los demócratas recurran al filibusterismo para bloquear la nominación del juez conservador que de entrada no parece ser un extremista, salvo que en el proceso de investigación de historial surja algo extraordinario en su contra.

"Le pido al Congreso que provea un proceso justo y civil y que confirme al juez Roberts antes de que la próxima sesión de la Corte se inicie el 3 de octubre", dijo Bush, quien desayunó con Roberts en la Casa Blanca.

El nominado se trasladó luego al Congreso y dedicó el día a reunirse con senadores del panel de Justicia que conducirá las audiencias de confirmación.

El presidente de ese panel, el senador republicano de Pennsylvania, Arlen Specter, aseguró que las audiencias serán "justas y completas".

El líder de la mayoría republicana del Senado, Bill Frist, describió a Roberts como "el mejor entre los mejores" de la comunidad legal de la nación.

El líder de la minoría demócrata del Senado, Harry Reid, declaró que Roberts "es un hombre muy agradable en todos los aspectos... Pero si bien estas cualidades son importantes, no califican automáticamente a John Roberts para servir en el más alto tribunal del país".

La senadora demócrata de California, Dianne Feinstein, quien integra el panel judicial, declaró que se reserva el juicio sobre el nominado hasta que el panel conduzca la revisión de rigor.

Y el veterano senador demócrata de Massachusetts, Edward Kennedy, guerrero de previas nominaciones controversiales, y uno de los tres demócratas que votó en contra de Roberts como juez del Tribunal de Apelaciones del Distrito de Columbia, dijo que no decidirá si apoya o no a Roberts basándose en un solo tema: el aborto.

En 1990 Roberts escribió que el fallo que legalizó el aborto en

1973 no se sustenta en la Constitución, aunque en 2003 dijo que sus puntos de vista personales en torno al tema "no me impedirán aplicar ese precedente".

Algunos legisladores latinos criticaron la decisión de Bush y otros la elogiaron y lo mismo ocurrió con grupos que representan a la comunidad hispana.

Muchas de las críticas parecen desprenderse del hecho de que Bush pasó por alto la oportunidad de nominar a un hispano. Otras críticas derivan del historial conservador de Roberts y la preocupación sobre lo que eso pueda implicar para la comunidad latina a largo plazo en los avances en los rubros de derechos civiles, por ejemplo.

El congresista republicano de Florida, Mario Díaz Balart, quien integra la Conferencia Hispana del Congreso, calificó de excelente la selección que formuló Bush.

Su colega republicana de Florida, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, alabó el récord de Roberts por lo que ha leído hasta el momento y lo calificó como un juez "equilibrado" que no ha evidenciado discriminación hacia los latinos, las minorías y las mujeres. Pero agregó que los demócratas "van a tratar de inventarse una controversia".

"Los demócratas tratarán de presentarlo... dijo Ros-Lehtinen—, como un juez super extremista, super derechista y activista, pero Roberts no es ninguna de esas tres cosas", aseguró la congresista.

Pero la congresista demócrata de California, Linda Sánchez, quien copreside el grupo especial sobre derechos civiles del Grupo Latino del Congreso (CHC), dijo a La Opinión que hay "un inmenso sentido de decepción" por el hecho de que Bush no haya nominado a un hispano pese a la gran cantidad de potenciales candidatos capacitados.

Sobre si se sabe lo suficiente sobre Roberts como para emitir un juicio, particularmente sobre el impacto que tendría su confirmación en el balance ideológico de la corte y por ende en los avances obtenidos por los hispanos a través de los años en diversos rubros, la congresista reconoció que "no se sabe mucho sobre su récord total... sabemos que es un conservador".

Pero agregó que hay un aspecto de Roberts que le preocupa "y es el hecho de que defendió a Bush en el recuento de votos de

la elección presidencial 2000".

Sánchez se refiere a que la firma legal para la cual laboraba Roberts asesoró a la campaña de Bush en el proceso de recuento de votos de la elección 2000 que culminó y se decidió a favor de Bush en la Suprema Corte.

"Me preocupa desde el punto de vista del derecho al voto o si eso tiene el potencial de generar futuros cambios... Pero ahora le toca al Comité Judicial del Senado sumergirse en los récords de Roberts y formular preguntas específicas... Para mí es muy pronto para saber si es un nominado aceptable", dijo Sánchez.

Agregó que el CHC tiene como política invitar a todo tipo de nominados a reunirse con ellos y que no le cabe duda de que le extenderán una invitación a Roberts, "pero si aceptará o no, es algo que no sabemos en este momento".

Por su parte, el grupo His-

panos por un Poder Judicial Justo (HFJ), expresó su decepción porque no se nominara a un latino.

Pero María Cardona, integrante del HFJ, declaró que "no podemos, en estos momentos, expresar claramente nuestro apoyo u oposición a la nominación del juez Roberts, pero a prima facie tenemos serias preocupaciones sobre si será justo, independiente o sobre si protegerá los derechos y las libertades de todos los estadounidenses".

Por otro lado, Jimmie Reyna, vicepresidente de asuntos regionales de la Barra Nacional de Abogados Hispanos (HNBA) dijo a La Opinión el martes que al grupo le tomará aproximadamente un mes revisar minuciosamente el historial académico de Roberts, analizar su trabajo como abogado y como juez y al cabo de esa revisión, "estaremos listos para asumir algún tipo de postura o no asumir ninguna".

# Mexican Judge Throws Out Genocide Charges Against Echeverria

A judge threw out genocide charges against former Mexican president Luis Echeverria and his interior minister Mario Moya, stemming from the 1971 killings of student demonstrators.

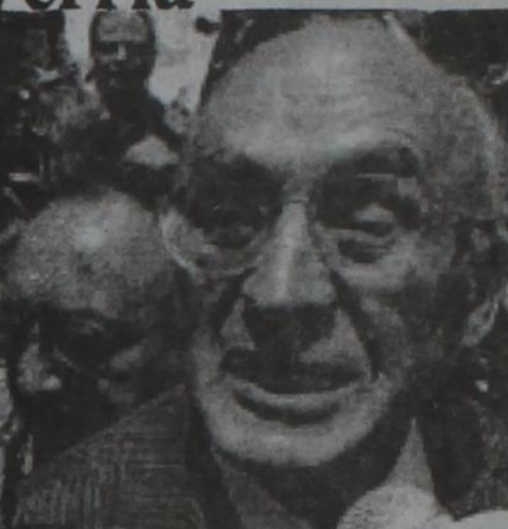
The ruling Tuesday dealt a disappointing blow to the victims' families and human rights activists who for years had labored to bring Echeverria, 83, to trial for the killings.

In her ruling, the judge said that the charge of genocide was "inadmissible" because it was well known Echeverria, 83, and Moya were not trying to get rid of a political or ethnic group at the time.

Mexico's Supreme Court earlier this month decided that genocide charges could be leveled against Echeverria and Moya, despite a 30-year statute of limitations, because the men did not leave their posts until November 30, 1976.

A lawyers for the former officials welcomed the judge's ruling, while prosecutor Ignacio Carrillo called it "a very serious mistake."

Echeverria was president from 1970 to 1976, during a so-called dirty war Mexico launched against leftist opponents to the



Revolutionary Institutional Party (PRI).

A Mexican president has never faced criminal charges and the decision to prosecute Echeverria stirred controversy in a country that only four years ago ended seven decades of authoritarian, single-party rule under the PRI.

In question was Luis Echeverria's role in connection with the bloody incidents of June 10, 1971, when a paramilitary group close to the government opened fire on protesters in Mexico City.

Investigations into the events were launched after Vicente Fox, of the National Action Party (PAN), won the 2000 presidential election, ending the PRI's dominance.

# Minuteman Civil Defense Corps of Texas

The Minuteman Civil Defense Corps of Texas, based in the Goliad area, will participate in mass border observations in October that will monitor the Mexico border from Texas to California, as well as several portions of the Canadian border, said group president Bill Parmley. The group has about six organizers and 100 prospective members undergoing background checks, he said.

With other groups, the organization plans to set up three lines of defense. The first will stretch along the Rio Grande River from Brownsville to El Paso.

"The second place will be around the border patrol checkpoints that ranchers have asked us to observe," Parmley said.

The third tier will stretch from Port Lavaca, through Victoria and Goliad, and then follow U.S. Highway 59 to a point outside of Laredo.

Parmley said the group won't patrol public roadways, but instead will watch largely private lands.

When a group of 20 to 30 people are seen crossing private land on foot, "The chances are those aren't cowboys," he said.

Parmley denied charges of racism from some of those opposed to the patrols and said that nationality or ethnicity are of no concern to his group. "If you come into the country illegally, we could care less who you are or what color your skin is."

Texas Minutemen LLC  
Based in Arlington, Texas  
continued on page 5

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
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PARENTS SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parents Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime phone (parent): \_\_\_\_\_  
On a separate sheet of paper  
1) briefly tell us about your nominee and  
2) list the accomplishments of your nominee.

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1) No purchase necessary. Nomination forms will appear periodically throughout the year in the Avalanche-Journal and at Make Kids Count sponsor businesses around town. Forms also are available at The A-J Information Counter, 710 Ave. J.  
2) Nomination forms can be mailed to: Spotlight On Kids, P.O. Box 491, Lubbock, TX 79408, or can be dropped off at The A-J Information Counter, 710 Avenue J.  
3) All information, including a reproducible photograph of the child, must be included. INFORMATION AND PICTURE WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE A-J WITHOUT VERIFICATION AND SIGNATURE FROM A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN. Photos will be returned ONLY if a self-addressed stamped envelope is included.  
4) Only one Spotlight On Kids nominee will appear in the A-J each day.  
5) Selection will be made by A-J personnel based on the completeness of information, parental approval and the merits of the nominee, including family considerations, citizenship, volunteerism, classroom activities and accomplishment, good behavior, church involvement, caring for others, etc.  
6) All nominees agree to allow their names, and photographs to be published in The Avalanche-Journal without further compensation.  
7) The Avalanche-Journal is not responsible for submitted entries that are forwarded, late, lost, misdirected, damaged, illegible, incomplete or postage due.  
8) By entering, each contestant or their representative acknowledges acceptance of the rules and agrees to be bound to them.

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Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you want your nomination to be anonymous?: \_\_\_\_\_  
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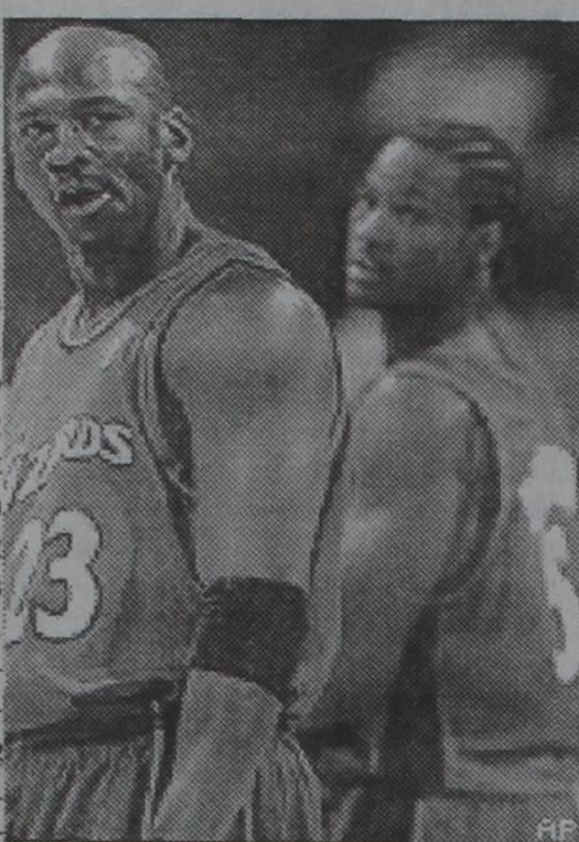
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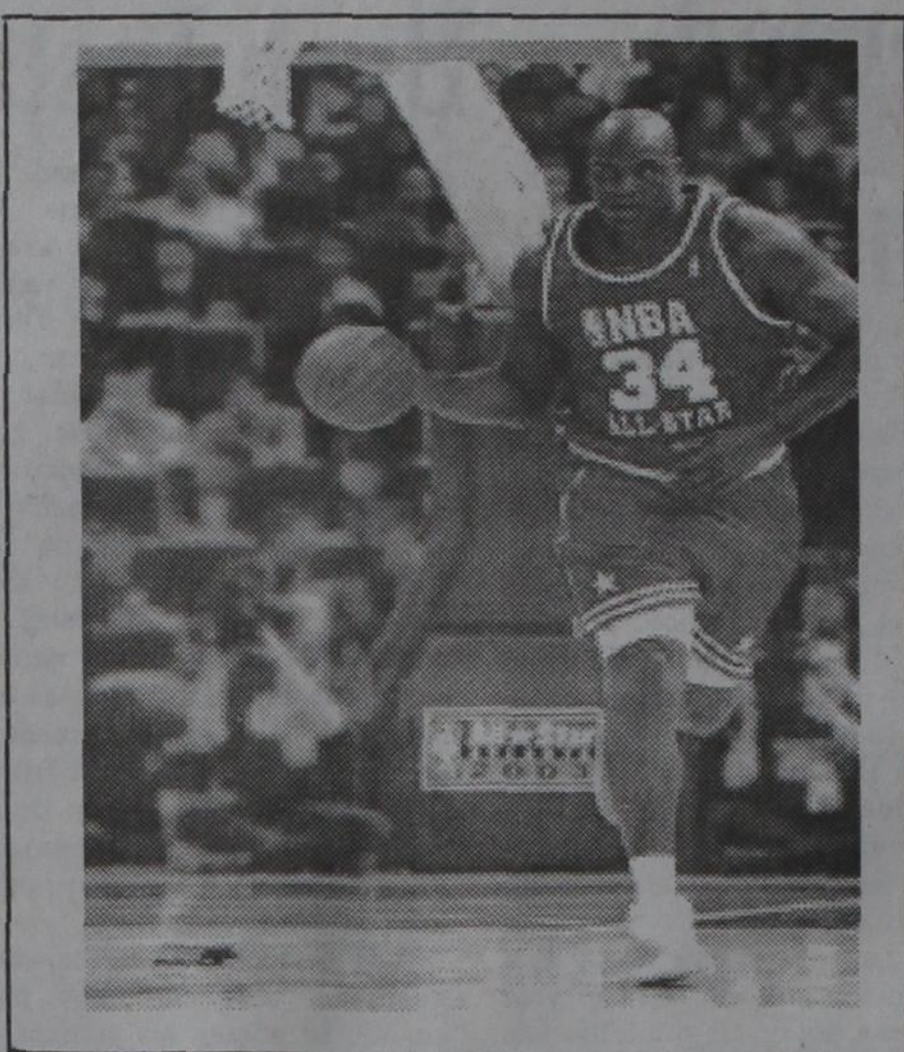
*"I have been coming to the Back to School Fiesta since I was two. It is so much fun and you learn all about college, too."*  
-Savannah

# Kwame Brown, Lakers

Brown's upside is considerable — he can run, board, exhibit several rudimentary yet effective post-up moves, and he has extraordinarily quick feet for his size. Unfortunately, his downside likewise looms large: His immaturity is somewhat understandable given that he was the NBA's top draft pick back in 2001. Too young to hang with his teammates at clubs and bars. Too far away from his family and friends. Choosing to spend too many lonely hours playing video games by himself. Michael Jordan's public castigations of Brown's effort and abilities certainly did nothing to bring the youngster out of his seclusion. The NBA culture is prone to re-



warding all of its inhabitants' psychological and emotional maturation anyway, and Brown is living proof. Kwame Brown will try to re-build his image in Los Angeles. It won't be easy. (Greg Fiume / Getty Images) No surprise, then, that Brown plays with indecision and makes bad decisions both on and off the court. His biggest physical failings? His iron hands and limited handle. Will a change of scenery, plus the nurturing presence of Phil Jackson, help Brown evolve into an NBA-ready man? Next to Kobe's overall attitude, this is the Lakers' most pivotal question. The estimate hereabouts is that Brown will indeed grow up and be productive — but not until next season.



## Heat Make Shaq a \$100 million Man

MIAMI (AP) - Shaquille O'Neal probably left millions on the bargaining table. His biggest obsession now isn't dollars but championships. O'Neal signed a \$100 million, 5-year contract with the Miami

Heat on Tuesday, a deal that ensures the 12-time All-Star center plenty of added financial security while allowing the team salary flexibility to pursue other players. He'll make \$20 million in each

of the next five seasons in an agreement believed to include incentives. He was to have earned \$30.6 million this coming season, opting out of that deal for a longer-term pact with less money annually. "Shaquille can name his price," said his agent, Perry Rogers. "And the price he named was winning." Rogers said O'Neal remains the player with the highest annual salary in the league. The deal was signed shortly after the league's moratorium on player signings expired Tuesday. Signings were supposed to begin nearly two weeks ago, but minor complications in putting the new six-year collective bargaining agreement into writing forced two delays. O'Neal, however, never looked to go elsewhere. He didn't even speak with other clubs. "I'm very excited about my new agreement with the Heat," O'Neal said in a statement released by the team. "This contract allows me to address all of my family's long-term financial goals while allowing the Heat the ability to acquire those players that we need to win a championship." O'Neal was vacationing Tuesday in Rome. Team doctors will fly there and administer a physical Wednesday. Heat president Pat Riley said signing O'Neal *continued on page 5*

## Want to feel America? Travel Abroad

By Edward Barrios Acevedo

"Are all Americans as dark as you?"

It was the first question asked of me as I sat down at an outdoor café over looking Sydney Harbor.

I briefly glanced down at my caramel-colored forearms and then looked up.

"Yup. All of us," I replied with a grin. "I suppose we all can't look like the Marlboro Man."

Andrew, who studied at the University of Sydney, looked puzzled for a brief moment and then shot back a smile.

"Cheers then, mate!" he replied, and asked if he could buy me my first Australian beer.

It was my second night in Australia and never having traveled so far away from home, it was the first encounter with someone who had not been exposed to many Americans, let alone a Hispanic American.

It was then so many time zones away from Los Angeles when I realized that I had met an educated man who had absolutely no preconceived notion of who I was (other than I was American), no prejudices about my ethnicity, and no understanding of any ugly stereotypes that I will spend much of my life battling in the United States.

It was, essentially, my first taste of freedom.

Sure, even with Andrew and other Aussies, I had to chip away at the silly stereotypes held of us Americans in general. For example, I explained to Andrew that not all Americans enjoy vast amounts of wealth; some of us

actually are concerned about global warming and international human rights; most of us don't eat hamburgers for breakfast; and many of us, including myself, don't own several semi-automatic handguns and use them to settle neighborly disputes.

But that, of course, was all too easy.

After years of resisting subtle, sustained, and calculated developments of stereotypes and caricatures of Hispanics throughout the United States, I was finally free, for the most part, to construct my own identity something many in the United States take for granted.

It's hard to imagine that was eleven years ago this summer. I saved over a year for that trip, scrubbing showers, writing articles, and fundraising for my university. The effort and education of my experience was worth every penny.

Today, like back then, prejudice surrounds me. This was recently affirmed by anti-immigrant activities that several groups have chosen to participate in along America's southern border, as well as in the op-ed pieces I have read throughout the country written by people who can only justify their American "pride" with hateful words.

Though my grandfather arrived to America around 1915, I am regularly assumed to be a foreigner (even among foreigners) in my own native country, and therefore, presumed unworthy of any of those quickly receding rights and liberties that come with U.S. citizenship.

But not in Australia.

I had to travel several thousand miles outside my own country for a taste of what the majority of Americans enjoy all year round: the power to determine your own identity.

Since that cool night in Sydney, I have had the opportunity to travel to nearly twenty other countries - and even live in one of them - where I have met countless strangers and made several friends, quite often being the first Latino American many have befriended.

In moments of reflection, I believe I have added a richer, more complete cultural layer upon the definition of who Americans are. For many people all over the world, I became the new face of America, one that reaffirms its diversity in opinion, culture, and political thought. Which is really what America is all about anyway, isn't it.

During my travels I came to understand that prejudice - sometimes subtly or explicitly - exists everywhere. Many countries, including Australia, have incredible problems due to prejudice, racism, and ethnocentrism, things all based on fear and ignorance. I am not naive to understand that America is not alone in this.

Yet, if we are to live up to our American ideals, then we still have a long way to go. It is hopeful to know, however, that the freedom of stereotypes and hateful caricatures exist well beyond our borders. It is my hope that one day I won't have to book a flight to experience it again.

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## Despues De Treinta Años, Graduado de la Escuela Secundaria en Bronx Mira en su Espejo Retrovisor

Por Julio Barreto

Este verano marca los treinta años desde que me gradué de la escuela secundaria en una ceremonia en la Catedral de San Patricio, en la ciudad de Nueva York. Como con cualquier joven de 18 años, no me daba cuenta de lo que significaba ese momento. Después de tres décadas de reflexión, considero al diploma que recibí entonces con más orgullo que los otros diplomas que recibí después. ¿Por qué? Porque para un joven puertorriqueño del Bronx, es un reflejo de quién soy, de dónde vengo y lo lejos que he venido desde que dejé Nueva York hace treinta años.

Me gradué de la escuela secundaria Cardinal Hayes en 1975. La escuela se recoge en el sur del Bronx, en lo que sigue siendo el distrito congresional más pobre per cápita de todo el país. Cuando me gradué, la escuela era un reflejo de lo que era la ciudad de Nueva York. Eramos hispanos, negros, blancos (más que nada irlandeses e italianos) y asiáticos. La mayoría de nosotros proveníamos de familias entre pobres y clase obrera. En gran parte se nos definía por nuestros barrios y las parroquias en las que nos criamos.

Yo me crié en los proyectos Edenwald en la parte norte del Bronx. El barrio consistía de familias blancas, primordialmente,

pero con el pasar de los años se volvió más una comunidad integrada con familias negras e hispanas que llegaban.

Los deportes y los juegos nos dominaban el tiempo libre. Nos mantenían ocupados el béisbol, básquetbol, fútbol americano, pelota y contra la pared. Como muchos atletas universitarios y de escuela secundaria, nuestra proeza atlética la mediamos según el orden en que nos seleccionaban para los equipos.

Aprendí cómo pensaba la gente de uno en base al color de tu piel o donde vivías. Las familias circundantes, en su mayoría blancas, no querían que sus hijos estudiaran con nosotros, los chicos de los "proyectos", como si fuéramos una especie enfermiza.

Yo soy el cuarto de cinco hijos, el único hijo varón de padres puertorriqueños que nacieron y se criaron en la isla. Mis padres se conocieron, se enamoraron y se casaron en Nueva York. Nosotros éramos puertorriqueños de primera generación. Mi hermana menor y yo nos educamos en el sistema escolar católico, al cual entré en el cuarto grado. Pasé de desaprobar en la escuela pública a ponerme bien inteligente al enterarme que las monjas te cacheteaban por no poner atención.

En septiembre de 1971 entré a Hayes, un chico flaco de seis pies de alto, 130 libras, con nuevos

lentes y granos para decorar mi rostro. No era el chico más seguro de sí, pero como muchos de mis compañeros de clase, me habían instruido las lecciones de la calle en parecer "cool". Durante esos cuatro años de escuela secundaria, crecí como persona. Jugué cuatro años de fútbol americano, es verdad, pero no jugaba muy bien; corría larga distancia y actué en una obra de teatro. Participaba en la orquesta de la escuela, desfilé por la Quinta Avenida el Día de San Patricio unas cuantas veces, me presenté en conciertos de la escuela y de a pocos gané suficiente confianza en mí mismo como para dejar Nueva York.

Viaje al norte del estado, recibí un título universitario de una escuela estatal, salí del estado, a Filadelfia, a sacar una maestría y eventualmente llegué hasta Washington, D.C., donde hice 24 años me he dedicado al oficio de periodista primero, y después de defensor, y ahora como ejecutivo con una asociación nacional de vivienda. Durante ese periodo me casé, crié a un hijo quien ahora asiste a la universidad en Nueva York. Logré toda una vida de experiencias que nunca soñé alcanzaria viviendo en los "proyectos".

Mis compañeros de secundaria y yo nos unimos en nuestro desdén por la disciplina y las exigencias de los curas y profesores, pero después de cuatro años nos volvimos más que chicos de diversos barrios, nos volvimos hombres de Hayes. Vimos más allá de nuestras diferencias y nos unimos en una hermandad. Maduramos, tuvimos éxitos.

Hoy Hayes continúa formando a muchachos en hombres. Mientras que el gasto promedio por año para un niño de las escuelas públicas de Nueva York es de \$11,474, el gasto promedio por estudiante en Hayes es de \$7,330. Tiene la matrícula anual menos costosa entre las escuelas de secundaria católicas: \$4,900. Un tercio del cuerpo estudiantil recibe asistencia financiera. El 99 por ciento de los estudiantes de Hayes se gradúa, y de ellos el 96 por ciento continúa sus estudios en una universidad. El 65% aproximadamente es hispano, el 34% afro-americano.

Muchas personalidades prominentes, como John Sweeney, presidente de la AFL-CIO y celebridad de la televisión, Regis Philbin estudiaron en Hayes. Entre los hispanos, el congresista José Serrano es de Hayes. Otras personas notables son Eddie Sánchez, con mucho éxito en Wall Street, y Manuel Villafane quien ha iniciado exitosamente una serie de empresas médicas.

Entre mi promoción están David González, periodista premiado del New York Times, artista de latin jazz, nominado al Grammy, Bobby Sanabria, en el campo de la medicina David Torres, Carlos Rivera, Christian Guzmán y Arthur Badillo, y en el campo legal, Peter Fuster, George Gabriel y Eddie Hernández.

No sé qué camino habría seguido si hubiera asistido a otra escuela. Lo que sé es que asistí a Hayes, y por eso soy mejor persona. Hasta el día de hoy cargo el diploma tamaño billetera, plastificado, que nos presentaron el día de la graduación. Me recuerda que soy un chico del Bronx quien ha recibido muchas bendiciones. He llegado a comprender que es quien soy y todo lo que quiero ser.

(Julio Barreto llegó a Washington como becario en periodismo con Hispanic Link News Service). (c) 2005, Hispanic Link News Service

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### Cesar Chavez

(Continued from Page 1)  
 Since its passage, the VRA has become one of the most successful civil rights laws in U.S. history. It ended literacy tests, poll taxes and other purposefully prejudiced mechanisms that prevented Latinos from voting. It helped establish the right for Latinos and other language minorities to obtain language assistance during the voting process in communities across the country. By ending scores of discriminatory election practices and procedures, it created equal opportunities for racial and ethnic population groups to elect candidates of their choice to thousands of federal, state and local offices.

In 2007, crucial sections of the VRA will expire unless Congress votes to renew them. These provisions include Section 5, which generally requires states and local jurisdictions with a documented history of discriminatory voting practices to obtain prior federal approval of planned changes in their election laws or procedures. Congress must also renew the sections of the VRA that require communities with concentrations of U.S. citizens who are not yet fully proficient in English providing those voters with language assistance when they register and cast their ballots.

The VRA provisions up for renewal have helped Latinos and other language groups in their fight to gain equal and fair access to the electoral process. In San Antonio's Bexar County, civil rights groups were able to combat efforts to undermine Latino voting strength when officials deliberately failed to put polling places in areas that were accessible to Latino voters. In diverse communities throughout the nation, the U.S. Department of Justice has used the VRA to compel jurisdictions with growing Latino populations to improve the language assistance for Latino voters, from San Benito, San Diego and Ventura counties in California, to Orange and Osceola counties in Florida, to Suffolk and Westchester counties in New York, to Yakima County in Washington.

César Chávez's legacy provides us with an opportunity to honor his unwavering dedication to the struggle for justice by ensuring that our policymakers preserve and strengthen the necessary tools that will enhance the vitality of our nation's democracy. Reauthorization of the 1965 Voting Rights Act is a critical next step.

(Arturo Vargas is executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund. He can be reached via e-mail at info@naleo.org.)

### From Page 3

utemen LLC was formed by four participants in the Minuteman Project in Arizona, said Shannon McGauley. He said he is one of the four and that the other three have elected not to identify themselves publicly at this time.

"We're all original Minuteman Project volunteers," he said, saying that the group worked with Jim Gilchrist, one of the two key organizers of the April event during which volunteers monitored part of the Arizona border.

"Gilchrist gave his blessing to us in an e-mail. To this day, he still sends us volunteers and e-mail," he said.

The group boasts 521 members, and plans to conduct border observations every 180 days using the Minuteman Project standard operating procedures, with a slight modification to account for Texas firearm laws.

While Arizona allows firearms to be carried in the open, Texas requires guns be concealed and that the carrier hold a concealed handgun license, he said.

The group plans to patrol in El Paso, Fabens and Fort Hancock in October at the same time the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps plans a large-scale patrol ranging

from Texas to California.

The group was invited to become a chapter of the organization formed by Arizona organizer Chris Simcox, but the quartet declined the offer because they wanted to keep their organization "a Texas operation," McGauley said.

But the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps gave a different account of the Texas Minutemen LLC.

"They are wannabes," said Gary Cole, operations manager for the Arizona group and a retired businessman. "They actually frighten us."

Conflict resulted with the Arlington group's organizers and the Minuteman Project organizers after the former had been in Arizona only a few days, Cole said.

"They wanted to take a much more high-profile approach to border activities than were called for by the SOP."

Cole declined to elaborate on what "more high-profile approach" the group wanted to take, but said an argument ensued soon after and the Texas Minutemen LLC organizers left.

Jim Gilchrist, one of the original Minuteman Project organizers, said he has given a blanket endorsement to anyone who wants to be active on border issues and work within the law. He said he has given no specific endorsement to any one group.

Cole acknowledged that Simcox contacted the group about becoming a chapter of the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, provided it would abide by the SOP.

"My understanding is they have refused. They have their own way they want to operate and it is not the way we operate," Cole said.

McGauley denied any conflicts occurred.

# Grant Makes USA Women's World University Games Team



Mike Strong Photography

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - After training with 16 finalists in Colorado Springs since July 28, the final 12-member 2005 USA Women's World University Games Team was announced by USA Basketball Monday morning. Featuring five players boasting of prior USA Basketball playing experience, the

USA squad, which will compete in the 2005 World University Games in Izmir, Turkey, includes four-time USA Basketball player Cappie Pondexter (Rutgers/Chicago, Ill.), 2003 USA Basketball Female Athlete of the Year and 2003 World Championship For Young Women gold medalist Seimone Augustus

(LSU/Baton Rouge, La.) and 2001 Junior World Championship Team bronze medalist Monique Currie (Duke/Washington, D.C.).

"I have to believe this was if not the most difficult decision than one of the most difficult decisions the committee (USA Basketball Women's Collegiate Committee) has ever made," said 2005 USA World University Games head coach Kathy Delaney-Smith of Harvard University (Mass.). "The committee struggled and went back and forth and there were endless discussions. You can argue in favor of everyone who was here. Anyone could have been on this team."

Named, in addition to Augustus, Pondexter and Currie, to the 2005 USA Women's World University Games Team were: Jessica Davenport (Ohio State/Columbus, Ohio); Megan Duffy (Notre Dame/Dayton, Ohio); Candice Dupree (Temple/Tampa, Fla.); Sylvia Fowles (LSU/Miami, Fla.); Erin Grant (Texas Tech/Arlington, Texas); Brandie Hoskins (Ohio State/Dayton, Ohio); Liz Shimek (Michigan State/Empire, Mich.); Brooke Smith (Stanford/San Anselmo, Calif.) and Lisa Willis (UCLA/Long Beach, Calif.).

The USA team will remain in Colorado Springs for training through Aug. 4. The team will practice twice daily at 9:00-11:00

a.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m. (all times listed are local times) at the U.S. Olympic Training Center's Sports Center II and Colorado College's J. Juan Reid Gymnasium. The squad will practice at Sports Center II Aug. 1, 3 and 4 and at J. Juan Reid Gymnasium on Aug. 2. Departing for Turkey on Aug. 5, the team will resume training Aug. 6-9 in Izmir prior to the U.S.'s opening game at the World University Games against the Czech Republic on Aug. 10.

"I have fallen in love with this team sooner than I thought I would," said Delaney-Smith. "On and off the court they are surprising me and amazing me. They've come together, they're unselfish, they're enthusiastic and motivated, they're disciplined. Everything a coach looks for in a team this group of young women are showing this early in the process. I think we're blessed with a lot of depth in all positions. Our challenge is to not rest on our level but take a step forward and be ready for whatever comes our way."

### Food Bank's annual Stuff the Bus drive now thru Aug. 6 at all United Supermarkets

## Shaq a \$100 Million Man

continued from page 4

the team's top offseason priority.

"For over a year, the Heat's relationship with Shaquille has been a win-win situation on and off the court," Riley said. "We have been able to secure one of the most dominant men to ever play the game of basketball. ... At the same time, we have gained flexibility to achieve our ultimate goal of winning an NBA championship."

The Heat do not want to be a luxury-tax team, and paying O'Neal \$20 million annually - a figure some could consider a bargain - should not send Miami over the tax threshold. It also seems to ensure that Miami could use its midlevel exception annually to sign players; this year's midlevel is \$5 million.

"You get paid the most, but you do it in a way that's not det-

ritamental to what the team wants to accomplish," Rogers said.

The 7-foot-1, 327-pound O'Neal made an immediate impact during his first season with Miami, which acquired him in July 2004 from the Los Angeles Lakers for three players and a draft choice.

He averaged 22.9 points and 10.4 rebounds in the regular season, leading the league with a 60.1 field goal percentage. O'Neal ranked sixth in the league in blocks (2.34 a game), double-doubles (43) and rebounds.

O'Neal had previously led the Lakers to three consecutive NBA titles from 2000-2002. Even while hampered by a bruised thigh throughout the playoffs, he helped the Heat reach the Eastern Conference finals this season.

"This is one of those deals where

everybody can be really proud," Rogers said. "In a day and age when it's only about the team using a player for the amount of time they'll think he'll be totally at his best, or a day in age when players want to get paid all they can right now, this was every party understanding the other's needs."

Agreeing to terms with O'Neal could spark a flurry of activity by the Heat. Miami is considering a trade that would send swingman Eddie Jones to the Memphis Grizzlies for point guard Jason Williams and small forward James Posey. Another deal could land free agent forward Antoine Walker, a three-time All-Star who averaged 19.1 points and nine rebounds last season for the Atlanta Hawks and Boston Celtics.

Danny Ainge, the Celtics' head of basketball operations, indicated Tuesday that Walker wouldn't be back with Boston. When asked if he'd be surprised to see Walker return, he said, "Yeah, I would."

The Heat already have agreed to a five-year deal worth just more than \$30 million with forward Udonis Haslem, and are awaiting decisions from backup center Alonzo Mourning, who's considering retirement, and free agent point guard Damon Jones - whom Miami wants back.

But the O'Neal deal was the biggest part of Miami's offseason puzzle.

"It's an obscene amount of money, but he's worth it," Rogers said. "This team is going to do some exciting things. And there's no sense in going out and making \$25 million if you're not winning championships."

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# Study: Immigrants No Drain on Healthcare

Contrary to popular opinion, immigrants are not a drain on America's healthcare system -- and in fact use much less medical care than those born here, Harvard researchers concluded in a report released Monday.

One key statistic showed that the Hispanic immigrant averaged only \$962 a year in healthcare costs, half the \$1,870 in care used by a Hispanic born here, when adjusted for age, severity of illness and other factors, according to the report in the August issue of the American Journal of Public Health.

The average black non-Hispanic immigrant used \$1,030 in healthcare annually, compared to the \$2,524 for the non-Hispanic black who was born in the United States.

Even white non-Hispanic immigrants used considerably less -- \$1,747 -- than the \$3,117 spent by their racial-ethnic counterparts born in the U.S.

These figures are crucial for South Florida. Census data show that 50.9 percent of Miami-Dade County residents are foreign-

born, as are 25.3 percent of Broward residents.

### A COMPLETE MYTH

"It's a complete myth that immigrants are a disproportionate burden," said Steffie Woolhandler, a physician and researcher at the Harvard med school who co-authored the study. "The majority have insurance, and even when they have insurance, they use a whole lot less."

Where they do cost more, however, is in the emergency room. The study found that ER expenditures for immigrant children were more than three times higher than for U.S.-born children. The implication is that they are not getting preventive care and so end up in the hospital when untreated illnesses become extreme.

The findings came as no surprise to Art Fornier, associate dean of community health at the University of Miami medical school. "We have a prejudicial, punitive and judgmental nonsystem for healthcare," he said. "And that becomes evident in the way we treat immigrants."

"They're not accessing care be-



cause they're afraid of the costs," Fornier said. "It's a myth they get free care. If they have a job, they'll be billed or they're asked to put down money in advance because they're frequently working for employers who don't provide insurance."

The 2000 census found that 485,472 persons in Miami-Dade were uninsured -- 21.5 percent of the population. More than half of them were Hispanic.

The study analyzed data of more

than 20,000 persons from 1998 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, a federal government collection of national data.

### IN COMPARISON

## Minority Impacts on the Workplace

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Hispanics are the largest minority group in the country, a trend that is having a great impact on American workplaces and the ways companies manage their workforces.

"A diverse workplace helps companies reach new markets and better understand existing markets," said Ashley Kaplan, head of the G.Neil labor law team. "On the other hand, keeping up with a diversifying workforce, and the laws that come with it, can be challenging for many employers."

Immigration to the U.S. is also expected to increase over the coming decades, bringing more employees for which English is their second language, according to 2004 research by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

"Two big areas of concern for employers are employee communications and preventing workplace discrimination," Kaplan said.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 makes it illegal to discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability. Federal law also says that if a "significant portion" of workers in an organization are not literate in English, then a certain portion of the federal labor law postings in that workplace must be written in a language these employees understand.

What Businesses Are Doing Now

Overall, the researchers found that the average immigrant used \$1,139 in annual healthcare, compared to \$2,546 for the U.S.-born person. Almost one in four immigrants -- 24.6 percent -- had no health insurance, compared to 10 percent of persons born in the United States.

But Woolhandler of Harvard said that because many immigrants do have insurance and don't use much healthcare, they are net contributors to the system.

"So the view they're draining the system is really a bunch of malarkey," she said.

But some politicians have complained about immigrants being a burden on healthcare. Some federal programs, such as Medicaid, the federal-state funding for the poor, have excluded even legal immigrants, and California's

Proposition 181 attempted to ban undocumented immigrants from getting nonemergency health services -- a move that was later overturned by the courts.

The report concluded that immigrant health expenditures were \$39.5 billion in 1998. About \$25 billion was reimbursed by private insurers, \$11.7 billion came from government sources and \$2.8 billion paid by immigrants.

### UNINSURED

For healthcare professionals, the overriding problem is those immigrants who don't have insurance. They tend to postpone cheap primary care and end up costing far more when they end up in hospitals.

"That's where they get the whopping bill," Fornier said. "Many things are preventable if they're taken care of in time. But if we don't find ways to get them primary care, then we have huge problems. We have a totally absurd system."

As part of their research, SHRM analyzed what actions U.S. companies are currently taking in response to demographic trends. They found:

\*36% are conducting studies to determine projected demographic makeup of their organization's workforce

\*28% are offering language courses for their employees and 24% offer courses for managers

\*27% are changing health and safety policies to reflect changing language needs of the workforce

\*27% are changing employment practices to address the issue of discrimination based on ethnicity

"It is important that everyone in a company knows what workplace discrimination is, not just those who are doing the hiring and firing," Kaplan said. "Educating employees about diversity can prevent costly lawsuits and improve employee morale."

G.Neil, which has specialized in labor law and human resource solutions for more than 15 years, offers numerous tools to help employers handle the growing workforce diversity. With tools such as bilingual labor law posters and discrimination training programs, businesses can communicate effectively and reduce legal exposure. For more information, visit <http://www.gneil.com>

Duncan la caga

Contact your state senator right away and ask them to oppose Senate Bill 8, recently filed by Senator Robert Duncan. If passed, the bill would repeal the

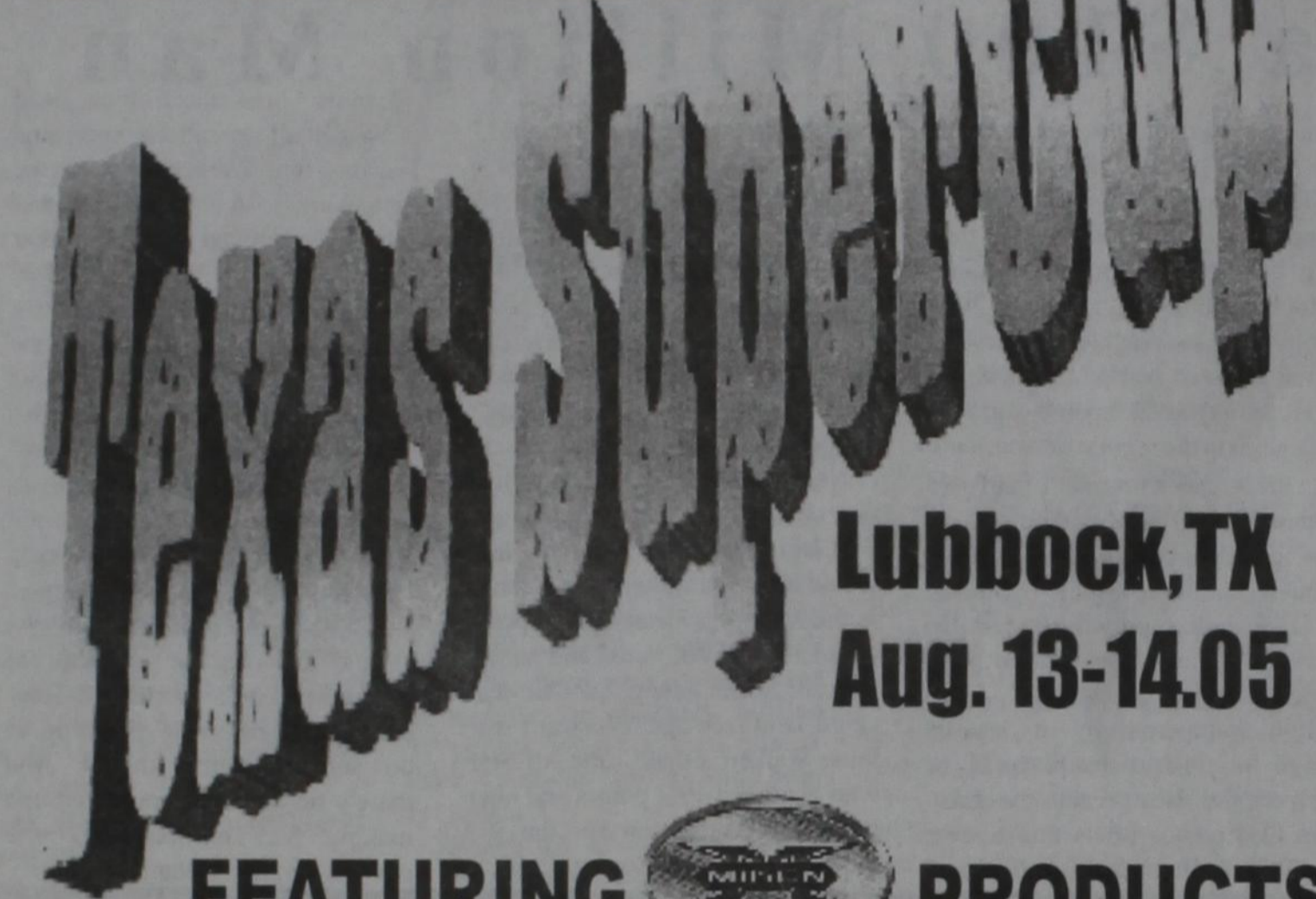
rule of 80 and take away more than \$1 billion in future benefits from more than 450,000 current school and higher education employees, striking especially hard at mid-career employees.

In May of this year, SB 1691 by Duncan chopped more than \$1 billion from the future pensions of current employees, by adversely changing the formula for calculating pensions. (Exempted from this pension cut will be only those who by September are at least 50 years old, or have 25 years of service credit, or whose age and years of service credit add up to 70). SB 1691 also overrides the rule of 80 by imposing a minimum age of 60 for retirement with a full pension, for employees hired after August 2007.

Now Senator Duncan's SB 8 would repeal the rule of 80 altogether and impose that minimum retirement age or CURRENT employees, not just future hires. This new attack on our pensions must be stopped! Despite Senator Duncan's claim that his plan will provide a one-time bonus "13th check" for retirees, this bill actually guarantees no such thing. It merely directs TRS officials to grant a one-time bonus IF they conclude eventually, that the pension fund can afford it.

Call or write your state senator right away and ask them to OPPOSE SB 8 - to look up your state senator, go to our website: [cwa-tseu.org](http://cwa-tseu.org) Click on "Legislative" then on "who represents me"

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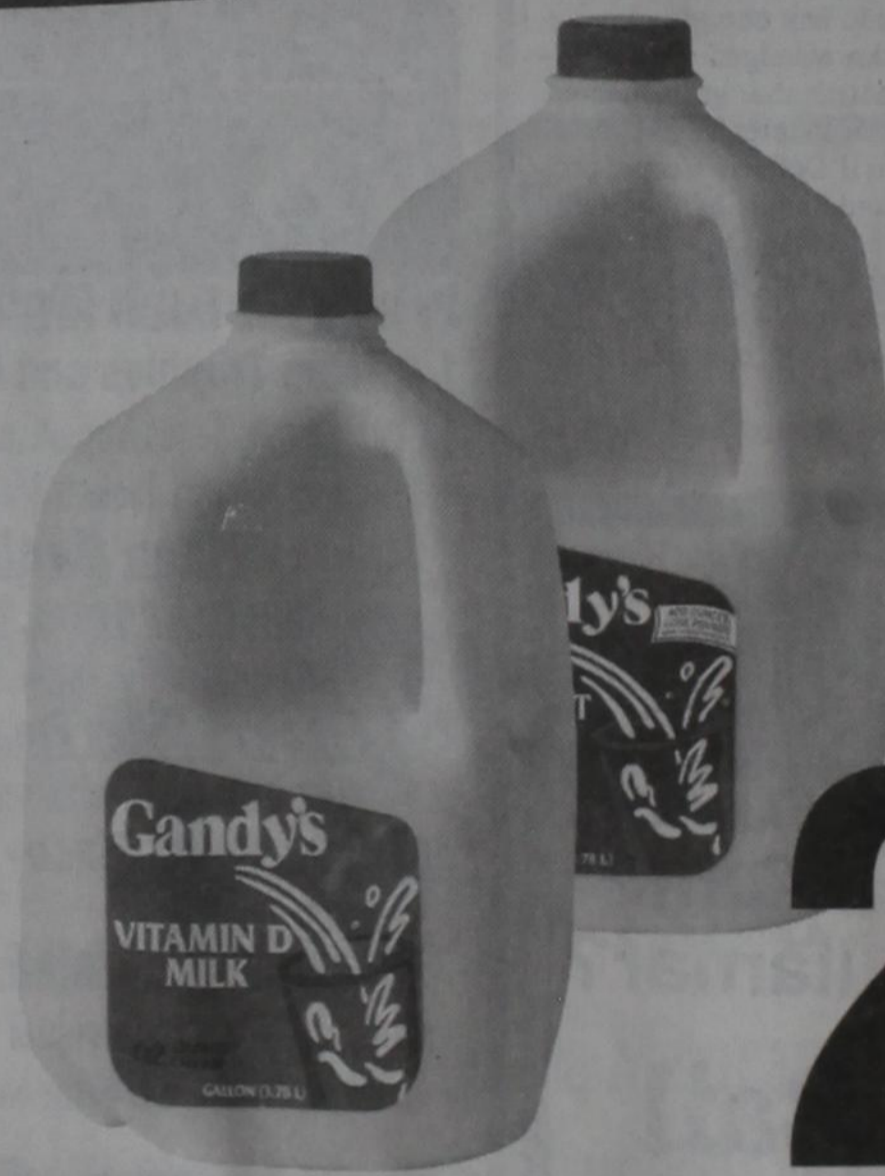
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