

# Meet on Border Safety

# Amnesty says U.S. not leading on human rights

Punctuated by the tragic deaths of 14 border crossers earlier this week in the Arizona desert, officials from the United States and Mexico were scheduled to meet next month to discuss ways to make the sometimes-perilous trek across the U.S. border safer for the thousands of undocumented aliens who seek a better life to the north.

The Mexican Embassy in Washington said Friday that delegations from both nations would meet in San Antonio, Texas, June 6-8 as part of a high-level working group established earlier by President Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox.

"We are committed to ensuring a safe and orderly border, and both governments reaffirm their commitment to spare no effort in combating the trafficking of migrants along the border," the embassy said in a statement. "These deaths highlight the pressing need for our governments to continue their work to reach new agreements on migration and border safety."

The United States increased its efforts to choke off illegal immigration in the mid-1990s; however, the stepped-up security around urban areas such as San Diego resulted in a higher number of migrants attempting the more dangerous crossing through remote desert and

mountain areas with the help of sometimes unscrupulous guides known as "coyotes."

A coyote who was leading a party of Mexicans into Arizona this week allegedly ditched the group and left them to their own devices with only a small amount of water and food; he had reportedly told the group that they were only one mile from the highway while they were actually some 30 miles away.

Mexico has repeatedly called upon the United States to liberalize its entry policies and do more to keep immigrants out of harm's way, despite their illegal status. The Border Patrol has in recent years improved its agents' emergency medical training and has focused more resources on monitoring the movement of people in treacherous areas.

The White House said Bush called Fox on Friday to officially express the "deep sadness and condolences" of the United States over the incident that occurred this week in a sun-baked area of the remote Arizona desert near the San Cristobal Valley nicknamed "El Camino del Diablo," or "The Devil's Path," by the immigrants who pass through after crossing the border.

Border Patrol officials said that a smuggler apparently abandoned a group of 28 Mexicans as they struggled through



the rugged terrain in temperatures that topped 110 degrees.

The group was unable to make it to a distant highway and 14 died before they were found Wednesday by the Border Patrol.

"The presidents reaffirmed the importance of our ongoing efforts on border safety and migration, to ensure that tragic events such as this do not happen again," the White House said in a statement.

The Arizona Republic reported Friday that Mexican authorities had identified the alleged smuggler and were searching for a man who lived in a border village and was nicknamed "El

Negro." It was not clear if "El Negro" was the guide who abandoned the unfortunate immigrants.

Roberto Rodriguez, director general of consular affairs and protection for the Mexican Foreign Affairs Office, told the Republic that the smugglers were part of a major ring of human traffickers, and could face extradition to the United States, if arrested.

"The full weight of the law will be applied," Rodriguez promised.

(Reported by Hil Anderson in Los Angeles)

WASHINGTON, May 30, 2001 (United Press International via COMTEX) - The United States has abandoned its leadership role in promoting human rights and pursues policies that put political concerns ahead of justice, the rights-advocacy group Amnesty International charges in a report issued Wednesday.

The report, released as Amnesty this week commemorates its founding 40 years ago, also says globalization and other modern phenomena make today's human rights problems more complex than those that plagued the world in 1961.

The report notes that freer trade and economic globalization have not bridged the divide between rich and poor nations and says such disparities often set the stage for violent unrest.

"The indivisibility of human rights is not an abstraction: The context which gives rise to human rights violations is invariably complex and cannot be divorced from issues of wealth and status, injustice and impunity," it states.

It praises advances such as broader recognition of certain inalienable rights, a "democratization of information" that has pushed violations into public view and the formation of local groups that monitor abuses and pressure governments to address them.

But Amnesty also cites "five greatest disappointments" of the past 40 years: a decline in U.S. leadership on human rights; the failure of global and multinational institutions to support and promote rights; the failure of the rise of democracy in Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa to end abuses.

The new report includes an overview of human rights in 149 countries, showing that, while reports of executions and "prisoners of conscience" had decreased from 1990 to 2000, other abuses (torture, political killings and "disappearances") went up. Torture was by far the most common, with 84 percent of the countries (125) the subject of such reports.

The head of Amnesty's U.S. branch said Washington's policies are often "double standards" that undermine its credibility with other governments on human rights. The United States on May 4 was voted off the United Nations' top human rights monitoring panel for the first time in its 54-year history, a move that has outraged the Bush administration and many members of Congress.

"It's no wonder that the United States was ousted from the United Nations Human Rights Commission," William Schulz, executive director of Amnesty International USA, said at a Washington news conference to announce the report. "That defeat was precipitated in part by waning U.S. influence and by double standards, by the practice of exceptionalism - the notion that we can make a set of rules but don't have to abide by them, a practice that has occurred in several administrations and Congresses in the last few years."

Schulz cited as examples the United States' resumption of capital punishment since 1977, while some 80 other nations have abolished it; its withholding dues to the United Nations; the decision to have normal trade relations with China, whose human rights record Amnesty condemns; its refusal to sign a 1997 treaty to ban land mines (50 other countries also have not signed); and the Senate's refusal to ratify a treaty establishing a permanent war crimes court.

The House has passed, and the Senate is considering, a bill to block any U.S. cooperation with the court, if it comes into force without Senate ratification. Lawmakers say such a tribunal could enable hostile nations to target American armed forces for prosecution without justification.

"Sadly, in 2001 we have no prominent leaders in the (Bush) administration sounding the clarion call for human rights," Schulz said. "Instead, we have a U.S. government that has abdicated its duty to lead - that has actively opposed the Convention on Landmines and the International Criminal Court, that has failed to sign or ratify other important treaties and conventions, and that all too often sacrifices human rights concerns for political or economic expediency."

Schulz said the report was not singling out the Bush White House for criticism, noting that it is still "very new," but rather to a decline in leadership by past presidents and Congresses "over a good many years." However, he said Bush had not done enough to try to bring an end to the recent months of violence in the Middle East.

He also stressed Amnesty's opposition to capital punishment under any circumstances and, in response to a question, said an exception should not be made for convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, who is responsible for the deaths of 168 people.

"We realize of course that some of those who have been convicted of capital crimes and sentenced to death are guilty of their crimes," Schulz said, "and we still oppose the death penalty for many reasons, including the fact that we believe that it is a violation of international human rights standards. By the use of the death penalty the government sends the message that under some circumstances violence is an acceptable response to grief, to frustration, to tragedy and to mourning."

The State Department objected to Amnesty's findings. Department spokesman Philip Reeker said he had seen news accounts of the report but had not yet read it himself.

"We fundamentally disagree, however, with the assertion in the report that the United States has become a 'quote, impediment' to the advancement of international human rights," Reeker told reporters. "I think anybody who has followed the cause of human rights around the world over the years and the decades will realize that the United States has been and will remain the leading advocate for human rights throughout the world."

"And I would just say that our record speaks very much for itself and refer you to a long shelf of annual human rights reports that we put out painstakingly documenting the human rights situation in countries around the world."

Reeker said the department respects and often praises nongovernmental groups that work to advance human rights. "But obviously, in this case we do not agree with every conclusion that they draw," he said.

The report takes aim at several repressive regimes, with emphasis on China. Highlighting the report's theme that in many countries economic globalization has not led to democratization and freedom, Schulz said Amnesty had noted a decline in respect for human rights by Beijing since it was granted "permanent, normal" trading status with the United States. (President Bush this week said he would ask Congress on Friday to extend that status for another year.)

Joining him at Wednesday's news conference was Xue Donghua, whose wife, Gao Zhan, a researcher at American University in Washington, has been detained by Chinese authorities since Feb. 11. The couple and their 5-year-old son were apprehended as they tried to return to the United States after visiting relatives. Beijing says Gao is accused of spying but has yet to charge her. She has been denied access to a lawyer and medical care, her husband said.

Xue, who, like his son, is a U.S. citizen, though Gao is not, urged the United States to make his wife's case a higher priority than that of an American reconnaissance plane that collided with a Chinese fighter jet in April. (Washington demanded the plane's release, and this week China agreed.)

He called the case of his wife and four other academics held in China "just the tip of the iceberg," and said the State Department and the National Security Council told him that recovery of the Navy EP-3 plane took priority over efforts to gain his wife's freedom.

It looks like the airplane on Hainan Island was a bigger priority for them," he said. "I wrote a letter to President Bush and told him that human beings are more important than a very expensive airplane."

Amnesty says it has lobbied governments on behalf of more than 45,000 people who were either imprisoned, tortured or killed for their political views, or facing the death penalty for any reason. The organization, which now has almost 1.1 million members in more than 140 countries and territories, is using its anniversary to reflect on gains and setbacks in the quest for universal respect for human rights.

Amnesty began as a letter-writing campaign to press for the release of two Portuguese students who were jailed for drinking a toast to freedom. Their plight had been the subject of a May 28, 1961, article in the British newspaper The Observer by London lawyer Peter Benenson. The organization now has a staff of 350 and a yearly budget of \$28 million.

By JOSEPH BORIS

## Summer Food Program For Children

The City of Lubbock is pleased to announce the Summer Food Program for Children, sponsored by the Texas Department of Human Services.

This program is provided through the City of Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department, under the direction of Community Services.

The program will provide a nourishing noon meal free of charge to youngsters age one through 18.

Meals will be served Monday through Friday, which began Tuesday and will be ending August 10th at 12 noon in the following locations: Maggie Trejo Supercenter-3200 Amherst;

Mae Simmons Community Center-23rd & Oak; Parkway Center-405 N. MLK; Rawlins Community Center/Harwell Gym.

In cooperation with LISD, beginning June 4 and ending June 29th during summer school, meals will be served Monday through Friday, at 11:30 am at the following locations and are also available to anyone age 18 and under: Wolfarth Elementary-3202 Erskine; McWhorter Elementary-2711 1st; Jackson Elementary-201 Vernon; Ramirez Elementary-702 Ave T; Durren Elementary-2008 Ave T; Bean Elementary-3001 Ave N.

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"Respect for the Rights of Others is Peace."  
Lic. Benito Juarez

# EL EDITOR

Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers  
Vol. XXVIII No. 35 Week of May 31 thru June 6, 2001 Lubbock, Tx

## Court Rejects Race-Based Admissions Case

WASHINGTON, May 29, 2001 -- The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to review a high-profile case involving the University of Washington Law School and whether a school can admit minorities under lower standards than it admits whites.

A lower court had approved the school's policy.

Three white Washington state applicants say they were denied equal consideration for law school admission in violation of federal civil rights laws and the equal protection guarantee of the 14th Amendment.

In their petition to the Supreme Court, the white applicants said a written admissions policy adopted by the law school in late 1989 "considers race as a

factor in admissions, but not as a means of remedying the present effects of its own past discrimination. It does not limit its consideration of race to applicants who are members of groups that have been victims of state-sanctioned discrimination."

For two years before the adoption of the policy, the petition said, minorities made up 16 percent to 20 percent of those offered admission to the school. In the next six years, minorities made up 30 percent to 38 percent of all those offered admission.

School administrators were using "diversity" as a criterion for choosing which applicants to admit, even if the applicants fell below a cutoff point in grade

point average and comprehensive tests, the petition said.

"The 1990 census indicates that the minority population of the state of Washington was 13.5 percent," and under official estimates increased to 15.2 percent by 1994, the petition said. "Thus, throughout the 1990s the proportion of minorities among those offered admission to the law school has been far greater than their proportion of the population of the state of Washington."

The three white applicants challenging the policy all claimed "special circumstances" under which they should have been given greater consideration: One was working to support herself through school; another was a swimming coach

in the inner city, and the third was gay.

After the rejected white applicants filed their complaint, the law school and several officials named as defendants argued that they had complied with the key elements in the landmark 1977 Supreme Court ruling, Regents of the University of California vs. Bakke -- that "academic freedom" and "diversity" were "compelling governmental interests" that could justify using race as an admissions standard.

When an appeals court agreed, the white challengers asked the Supreme Court to review, which was denied Tuesday in a one-line order without comment.

## Coalition Up In Arms Against Lack of Ethnic Diversity on TV

Failure to reflect U.S. racial diversity on U.S. television screens led the Multiethnic Coalition to threaten to use force to achieve what words have failed to do.

"We are taken for granted. They have always had the Hispanic audience at their disposal. Why would this change?" asked Alex Nogales, representative of the National Assembly for Hispanics in the Media, which is part of the coalition.

Nogales's anger appears to be justified by the latest results of a study of diversity on the main U.S. commercial television networks.

The four commercial television networks ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox have neglected to include minorities in their prime time programming.

Representation of Hispanics will slip from 3 to 2 percent in the new television season, although the group accounts for 13 percent of the total population.

"Are we well represented? Of course not. The proportion is unrelated to our presence on (television)," Nogales said. "The same thing happens in the case of other minorities, Asians and Native Americans, who also took the networks to task for failing to fairly reflect the pluralistic U.S. society."

"We are not even near reality. And we have been generous with the grades we have given them. People go away under the impression that minorities don't count or even exist and such an approach leads to segregation, racism and violence," said a spokeswoman for the nationwide association of Asian Americans on television. Even minorities such as the

African Americans, whose screen presence has increased, express displeasure at being cast as stereotypes.

The image of minorities on TV is one of people under arrest, thieves, those who curse and lightly clothed women, said actor-producer Bill Cosby, one of the most popular African American actors.

In the case of Hispanics on television screens, the situation is altogether shameful. In spite of being the fastest growing minority in the United States with 35 million people, there is not a single program which focuses on the community.

There are exceptions this season, such as Esai Morales in "New York Policemen," a series on Hispanics such as "The Brothers Garcia," "Resurrection Blvd.," or a future program starring Jennifer Lopez to be shown on pay-per-view.

"Of course (shows like that) exist and are many. We are like cockroaches. But if you count how many Hispanics appear on screen, there are only ten. Ten out of 35 million," Nogales complained.

In his opinion and that of the coalition he represents, the time has come to act in view of the fact that the memoranda signed with the television networks a year ago have not changed anything.

"The time to talk is over. We have talked enough and promises are not kept," said attorney Johnny Cochran, known for his victory in the murder trial of former football star O.J. Simpson, which he won based on racial premises.

Future measures are still to be determined but Nogales believes that they could range from economic boycott through racial arguments.

"Television networks are starting to worry because Univision is stealing their audiences," Nogales said in reference to the growth of the main Spanish television network in

the United States, where major networks still retain 75 percent of the Hispanic audience for their English programs.

"We spend \$444 billion a year," Nogales said, "We should talk to the advertisers. Perhaps they will listen to us."

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## Mexicans Rescued In Arizona Desert

Mexico City-- Twenty-six illegal Mexican immigrants were rescued by U.S. and Mexican authorities in the La Rumorosa desert, in the state of Baja California, after being abandoned by an alien smuggler, the National Migration Institute said Sunday.

The Beta immigrant assistance unit in Tecate, working with the Red Cross, U.S. Border Patrol and the Borstar aid organization, rescued the immigrants.

Security forces began a search last Thursday after two people requested assistance from the La Rumorosa Red Cross office and reported several others lost in the desert.

After four hours of search-

ing, seven people were found with symptoms of heat stroke and dehydration. Fifteen others were later discovered, including five women.

Two other Mexicans were found in a canyon. One of them, a man with cuts on his legs, was taken to a Tijuana hospital.

Authorities arrested Jorge Lopez, the alleged guide who had told the immigrants he would get them into the United States and was identified by some of those rescued in the desert.

Last Friday, 14 Mexicans, part of a group of 27, were found dead from dehydration in the Arizona desert after being abandoned by an alien smuggler. EFE

Lo Mejor En Informacion  
El Editor - Llame  
763-3841



# Buena noticia: católicos de EE.UU. contra pena de muerte

By **Elbio Rodríguez Barilari**  
China lleva 500 ejecutados este año. Normalmente lo hacen con un tiro en la nuca.

Arabia Saudita lleva 73 ejecutados este año. El método preferido es la decapitación por el sable.

En Irán, una mujer acusada de haber actuado en películas pornográficas, acaba de ser ejecutada a pedradas en el patio de la prisión. Y eso fue una sentencia legal.

Estados Unidos lleva 29 ejecutados este año, la mayoría por inyección letal. En algunos Estados se sigue utilizando la silla eléctrica, que a menudo falla, creando macabros espectáculos y motivando horribles sufrimientos al condenado.

Holanda no lleva ningún ejecutado en el 2001. Alemania no lleva ningún ejecutado en el 2001. Italia no lleva ningún ejecutado en el 2001. Francia no lleva ningún ejecutado en el 2001. España no lleva ningún ejecutado en el 2001.

Costa Rica no lleva ningún ejecutado en el 2001. Uruguay no lleva ningún ejecutado en el 2001. Brasil no lleva ningún ejecutado en el 2001. México no lleva ningún ejecutado en el 2001.

Ninguno de esos países, como la mayoría de los países del mundo, mantiene la pena de muerte en su código judicial.

La mayoría de esos países

tiene un mejor récord que EE.UU. en el control de la criminalidad.

Donde hay problemas con la violencia, común o política, como en España, como en Irlanda, como en Brasil, como en México, el matar a un ser humano sigue siendo visto como el crimen mayor. Y el Estado no cree que tenga el derecho de tomar una vida, ni se ve a la pena de muerte como otra cosa que un homicidio a sangre fría y premeditado, que a nada conduce y no es más que una venganza.

Illinois, gracias al gobernador George Ryan, no lleva ningún ejecutado en el 2001. Pero Estados Unidos lleva 29 ejecutados en lo que va del año.

La futura ejecución más promocionada es la de Timothy McVeigh, por supuesto. Está prevista para el 11 de junio.

Gracias a la torpeza del FBI y a la preferencia que el Fiscal General John Ashcroft tiene por la pena de muerte (alimentando el morbo en circuito cerrado de TV), la muerte de McVeigh batirá todos los récords de atención desde la de Caryl Chessman.

Gracias al FBI, y a Ashcroft, el horrible McVeigh ha tenido la portada de revistas como Time y Newsweek.

Todo por la muerte. La puesta de la escena de la muerte, el espectáculo de la muerte, paso a paso, es lo que hará indeleble la memoria de McVeigh, mucho más

que su horrendo crimen.

Los latinos venimos de una cultura donde la pena de muerte es vista como bárbara y atrasada. En América Latina, solamente Guatemala, Cuba y Chile la tienen en sus códigos penales. En Chile no se aplica. En Guatemala y Cuba sí, desgraciadamente, aunque de manera cada vez menos frecuente.

La mayoría de los latinoamericanos son católicos. Y entre los católicos de EE.UU., incluyendo a los líderes de la Iglesia, crece la resistencia hacia la pena de muerte.

Los arzobispos de Oklahoma, Boston, el Cardenal de Baltimore y el arzobispo de Los Angeles se han pronunciado contra la pena de muerte.

En 1996, el 62% de los católicos en EE.UU. apoyaba la pena de muerte, contra el 73% de la población general.

Pero, según cifras publicadas de un estudio hecho por la Universidad de Michigan, ya en 1998 la cifra de católicos pro pena capital había caído al 52%.

Estimaciones indican que actualmente, mientras que para la población general el apoyo a la pena de muerte ha bajado al 67% de la población, entre los católicos ha disminuido prácticamente al 40%.

O sea, la mayoría de los católicos en este país, incluyendo

la mayoría de los latinos, está EN CONTRA de la pena de muerte.

Es algo histórico, y muestra de qué manera positiva los latinos podemos cambiar la historia de este país.

Otro ejemplo. De todos los asesinatos masivos en las escuelas, desde que comenzaron en los años '70 hasta ahora... ¿saben cuántos fueron provocados por niños o jóvenes latinos?

Ninguno. La mayoría fueron niños o jóvenes blancos y de clase acomodada. Unos pocos fueron negros. NINGUNO era latino.

Los latinos tenemos millones de problemas. Lo sabemos. Problemas nuevos, que se crean al tratar de adaptarse a esta sociedad. Y problemas viejos, que traemos de nuestros países de origen.

Pero tenemos millones de cosas positivas. Entre ellas, una tradición de respeto profundo por la vida humana y por la familia.

No quiere decir que entre nosotros no haya asesinos y delincuentes, o malos padres. Quiere decir que en la MAYORÍA de los latinos, el respeto por la vida humana, la familia y la solidaridad, tienen una especial importancia.

Algo que podemos enseñar a este país, y con lo que podemos ayudar a mejorarlo.

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# The Day I Found My Father

By Victor Landa

That summer he paid me five dollars a week to help him on his route. I couldn't have been more than 11 years old. It wasn't my idea, nor do I think it was his. It was more like we were both tricked into spending that summer together, lumbering along the dusty streets of Laredo in an old Borden's milk truck.

He left for work when it was still dark outside, and I reluctantly went along. He had a habit of pumping the gas pedal before he turned on the ignition -- four pumps to bring the gas into the carburetor. He drove deliberately, as if it were the street that was moving under the wheel of the truck and he merely guided and directed our progress. He still drives that way.

There was a certain permanence about him. He had massive biceps like the trunk of an old oak -- at least they seemed massive to an 11-year-old. The muscles bulged under his shirt sleeves, which he rolled in narrow folds halfway to his shoulders.

That morning we ate breakfast at Ram-Rods, a little taco shack where the morning regulars all knew each other by name. They were hearty men just like he was, honest and rugged. They shared a few minutes in the peace of the dark morning and they left, each to his own route -- one to a bread truck, another to his mail truck, some to deliver Cokes, others beer. Our task was to deliver milk to people's doorsteps.

You could hardly hear him in the morning silence as he stepped away from the truck, up to the front door of his morning houses. He'd leave the milk by the front door, ring the doorbell and step back to the truck. As we drove off, a hand would appear from behind the screen and the milk would disappear. Over and over the scene repeated itself, two or three customers per block.

Soon the sun coaxed people out of their houses and the streets became a bustle of activity. It seemed everyone knew him. At every turn, every stop, there was someone to greet, someone to wave and whistle to -- a signature hello.

I sat behind him in the truck, just out of sight and over to his right. All day I watched his steel-toed shoes working the pedals and his dark weathered hands constantly shifting the gears.

As the day wore on, the sun pounded the unpaved streets and the heat became unbearable. Inside the truck it felt like

an oven. The coolest place was in the refrigerated box with eggs and butter and juice. But by late afternoon the ice would begin to melt and would drip all over the crates of milk and fruit punch. The heat made the street seem as if it were liquid. It made me wish I were somewhere else. He always looked unaffected, except for that one day.

Maybe it was because my 11-year-old eyes had opened enough to notice, or maybe it was because for an instant he let his guard down. That day he stopped. Under the most unforgetting sun he pulled the truck into the shade of a large tree, took a bottle of water from the freezer and drank deeply. He wiped his forehead with his sleeve and without a word handed me the bottle.

As I leaned my head back to drink, from the corner of my eye I saw my father hold his head, close his eyes and sigh a very profound and exhausted sigh.

There's a moment in a boy's life when time stands still and he sees his father with a crystalline clarity, when the invincible man becomes very human and very real. It's a sacred moment that finds a place in boy's soul and never dies. For an instant that brutally hot summer I knew.

In that timeless moment he turned to look at me. I held the weight of his tired gaze and handed him the water. He drank again and put the bottle away. He pumped the gas pedal, started the motor of his old milk truck and slowly we drove out of the shade.

Victor Landa is news director of Telemundo affiliate KVDA-TV60 in San Antonio. He may be contacted by e-mail at [vlanda\(AT\)SIGN/telemundo.com](mailto:vlanda(AT)SIGN/telemundo.com).

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# Se Esperan Mayores Vinculos Entre La Isla de Puerto Rico y Sus Comunidades En Los Estados Unidos

Por **Aníbal Acevedo-Vilá**, comisionado residente y miembro del Congreso de los Estados Unidos

En noviembre fui elegido comisionado residente para Puerto Rico. Desde esta posición, represento al pueblo de Puerto Rico y su gobierno en Washington. En mi opinión, esta posición no sólo es una voz que representa a los puertorriqueños que viven en la isla, sino que es también una voz para todos los puertorriqueños.

Se puede decir que Puerto Rico es una nación latinoamericana con 7.5 millones de ciudadanos, de los cuales cuatro millones viven en la isla, y el resto viven la mayoría en Nueva York, pero también en otras partes de los Estados Unidos.

Digo que Puerto Rico es una nación porque es una comunidad estable, con una evolución histórica, que se formó en base a una lengua, un territorio y vida económica en común, con una psicología que se manifiesta en una cultura compartida.

Como ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos desde 1917, los puertorriqueños no hemos tenido restricciones legales ni políticas en cuanto a la migración. Por ende, a fines de la segunda guerra mundial, se presentaron todos los elementos de una migración masiva: presiones económicas que llevaron a buscar alivio fuera, la disponibilidad de empleos en el continente, un número creciente de parientes y amigos viviendo en el continente, la libertad de

movimiento y la posibilidad de viajes aéreos a bajo costo. La gran migración se dirigió principalmente a la ciudad de Nueva York. En 1948 el gobernador Luis Muñoz Marín estableció un despacho en la ciudad para proveer asistencia al número cada vez mayor de puertorriqueños que migraban.

Así comenzó la unión y la ayuda mutua entre los puertorriqueños de la isla y los del continente.

Se desarrollaron también comunidades puertorriqueñas en Chicago y otras áreas metropolitanas -- en la parte norte de Nueva Jersey, en particular en Newark, la ciudad de Jersey y en Hoboken; en Filadelfia, congregándose muchos a la otra orilla del río en Camden, Nuevo Jersey, en las áreas de Cleveland y Lorain en Ohio; en Milwaukee, en Connecticut, que cuenta con comunidades grandes en Bridgeport, New Haven y Hartford -- y más recientemente se han establecido comunidades en el sureste, en Miami y en Orlando, y en el oeste en Los Angeles y San Diego.

Todas estas comunidades comparten muchas características. Consisten principalmente de puertorriqueños pobres que sufren de la falta de vivienda adecuada; sus hijos se enfrentan con problemas educacionales que se complican con las diferencias culturales. Las familias deben lidiar con el bie-

nestar público y el abuso de narcóticos además del desempleo y subempleo; niveles de educación bajos y el alcoholismo, entre otros problemas.

Muchos puertorriqueños en la isla se enfrentan con los mismos obstáculos, salvo que no tienen las complicaciones de la discriminación y el adaptarse a una cultura y lengua diferentes. A fin de cuentas, somos todos puertorriqueños, vivamos donde vivamos, hablemos el idioma que hablemos.

Sigue existiendo una gran necesidad de implementar una estrategia en conjunto para fomentar el desarrollo económico y político de Puerto Rico. Es imperativo establecer vínculos fuertes y directos entre Puerto Rico y sus comunidades en los Estados Unidos y entablar una relación que sea beneficiosa para ambas partes.

Los que no viven en la isla deben entender que necesita desarrollarse económicamente. Deben hacerse promotores del pueblo y el gobierno de Puerto Rico -- y vice versa. Para dar un ejemplo, en 1993 las comunidades puertorriqueñas en los Estados Unidos contribuyeron grandemente a presionar al Congreso y la Casa Blanca para que se mantuviera (temporalmente) la sección 936 del Código de Impuestos para atraer inversiones de corporaciones a la isla.

Para mí, la primera prioridad

en mi posición ante el Congreso es fomentar el desarrollo económico de Puerto Rico, mediante la creación de empleo, principalmente. El pueblo puertorriqueño es orgulloso, y quiere tener la oportunidad de trabajar duro para mejorar sus condiciones. Además, he estado trabajando para que se dé el cese permanente de todos los ejercicios de bombardeo por parte de la fuerza naval estadounidense en la isla de Vieques.

No obstante, quiero contribuir también a la creación de una serie de asociaciones benéficas a ambas partes, entre el gobierno de Puerto Rico, los oficiales elegidos puertorriqueños y las organizaciones y los dirigentes de movimientos de base en todo Estados Unidos.

Después de todo, queremos conservar nuestra cultura; desarrollar nuestra economía; tener acceso a vivienda adecuada de bajo costo y a los cuidados de salud; educar a nuestros hijos; incrementar nuestra fuerza política; y continuar con el orgullo de llamarnos puertorriqueños.

Espero servir de puente en la unión de nuestras comunidades y nuestro pueblo. Trabajaré hacia la unión de voluntades y la unión de propósitos para llegar al progreso, el desarrollo y la esperanza. Tengo una fe absoluta en las habilidades y la capacidad de todos los puertorriqueños de lograr nuestro propio destino.

# Stronger Links Promised for Puerto Rican Island, U.S. Communities

By **Aníbal Acevedo-Vilá**, Puerto Rico resident commissioner and member of U.S. Congress

Last November, I was elected as the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico. In this position, I represent the people of Puerto Rico and their government in Washington, D.C. However, I see this position as not only a voice for Puerto Ricans living in Puerto Rico but also a voice for all Puerto Ricans.

It can be argued that Puerto Rico is a Latin American nation with 7.5 million citizens, of whom 4 million live on the island, while the rest are concentrated in New York and other places in the United States.

I say Puerto Rico is a nation because it is a historically evolved, stable community, formed on the basis of a common language, territory, economic life and psychological makeup manifested in a common culture.

As U.S. citizens since 1917, Puerto Ricans have not had legal or political restrictions on migration. Therefore, by the end of World War II, all the elements of a large mass migration were present: economic pressure to seek relief elsewhere, availability of employment on the mainland, an increasing number of relatives and friends on the

mainland, freedom to move and the availability of cheap air travel. The great migration began primarily to New York City. In 1948, Gov. Luis Muñoz Marín established an office there to assist the increasing number of Puerto Ricans migrating to the city.

The coming together and helping each other between the Puerto Ricans on the island and those in the mainland thus began.

Puerto Rican communities also developed in Chicago and other metropolitan areas -- in northern New Jersey, particularly Newark, Jersey City and Hoboken; in Philadelphia, with a large concentration across the river in the Camden, N.J., area; in Ohio, in the Cleveland and Lorain areas; in Milwaukee, Wis.; in Connecticut, which has large communities in Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford; and more recently in Miami and Orlando in the Southeast, and in Los Angeles and San Diego in the West.

The characteristics of all these communities are similar in many ways. They consist mainly of Puerto Ricans who are poor and suffering from inadequate housing; their children face educational problems complicated by cultural differences. Families

ment to the island.

My top priority in Congress is the economic development of must cope with public welfare and drug abuse, unemployment and underemployment; low educational levels, alcoholism and other problems.

Many Puerto Ricans on the island face some of those same hurdles, but without the complicating factors of discrimination and adaptation to a different culture and language. The bottom line is that we are all Puerto Ricans, regardless of where we live or what language we speak.

There remains a great need to have a joint strategy for the economic and political development of all Puerto Ricans. Strong, direct links between Puerto Rico and Puerto Rican communities in the United States must be developed, and a mutually beneficial relationship established.

Those who don't live on the island must understand its needs to develop economically. They must become advocates for the people and the government of Puerto Rico -- and vice versa. As one example, in 1993 the Puerto Rican communities in the United States were instrumental in lobbying Congress and the White House to

(temporarily) maintain Section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code to attract corporate investment to Puerto Rico, primarily through the creation of jobs. Puerto Ricans are proud people who want the opportunity to work hard to improve their condition. Additionally, I have been working for permanent cessation of all U.S. Navy bombing exercises in Vieques.

But I also want to be instrumental in creating a series of mutually beneficial partnerships between the government of Puerto Rico and Puerto Rican elected officials with organizations and grassroots leaders throughout the United States.

After all, we all want to preserve our culture, develop our local economy, have access to adequate and affordable housing and medical care, educate our children, increase our political strength, and continue to be proud to identify ourselves as Puerto Ricans.

I aspire to become a bridge to help unify our communities and our people. I will work for unity of will and unity of purpose to bring about progress, development and hope. I have unending faith in the abilities and capacity of Puerto Ricans to forge our own destiny.

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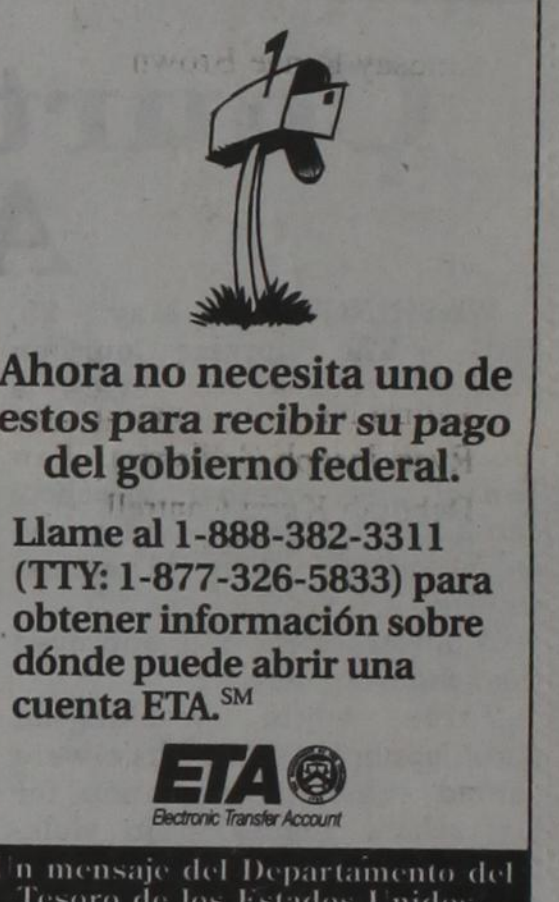
# LIBERTAD ¿PARA QUÉ?

Por **Manuel Aguilar**

Todo hombre está dotado de LIBERTAD, 'signo claro de la imagen divina'. Dios creó al hombre a su imagen y semejanza, y así lo estableció en su amistad.

Desde un principio Dios nos amó, nos creó de una manera especial y nos hizo sus amigos, los más queridos. Pero un día el hombre tentado por el diablo, dejó morir en su corazón la confianza hacia su creador y, abusando de la LIBERTAD que Dios le dió, desobedeció su mandamiento: De cualquier árbol del jardín puedes comer, mas del árbol de la ciencia del bien y del mal no comerás, porque el día que comieres de él morirás sin remedio. Así, el hombre perdió el derecho a la gracia, siendo arrojado del Paraíso y maldicho por el creador.

Aunque para muchos parezca imposible creer que Dios nos dió LIBERTAD, cuando nos puso mandamientos y reglas en la vida. La LIBERTAD la tenemos para conducir nuestras vidas de una forma autónoma y voluntaria hacia lo que creemos, que nos dará la felicidad plena. Sin embargo, si nos equivocamos tendremos que pagar el precio de nuestros errores, o pecados. Los mandamientos de Dios nos fueron dados por amor, y para orientarnos hacia la mejor forma de vivir, pero si en nuestra LIBERTAD no los tomamos en cuenta, pasarán dos cosas. La primera, despreciamos el amor de Dios y la fuerza de su gracia. La segunda, encontramos una forma equivocada de vivir que nos conduce hacia la muerte y la



# LIBERTAD

degeneración de la persona humana por el pecado. El pecado es el alejamiento temporal de la gracia de Dios. El pecado es también, la falta de LIBERTAD que Dios nos dió, porque el hombre no es libre, si se hace esclavo del pecado o del mal.

Sin embargo, Dios que es inmensamente amoroso, mandó a su hijo unigénito, que es Dios mismo, para darnos esa

LIBERTAD que nuestras almas necesitaban. Así, Jesús vino al mundo para librarnos del pecado y darnos la redención. A través de su cuerpo y su sangre se purifican nuestras culpas. Jesús padeció por nuestros pecados, haciendo uso de su divina LIBERTAD, para darnos vida eterna.

Por eso recordemos que Dios nos ama y que nos quiere libres como Él nos hizo libres desde nuestro bautismo, desde ese día en que fuimos limpiados del pecado original, para llegar a formar parte de los hijos de Dios por la gracia de su Espíritu Santo. No dejemos que el pecado nos esclavice y nos aleje del amor de Dios. Recordemos que Cristo murió y resucitó para darnos vida en Él, por eso, instituyó el Sacramento de la Confesión para darnos el perdón y el Sacramento de la Comunión para fortalecernos con su poder.

La verdadera LIBERTAD, entonces, está en descubrir que Jesús es nuestro Dios y el Señor de nuestra vida, en Él poner nuestra confianza y nuestra vida, pues Él es, en todo, nuestra mejor opción. Recuerda que nuestro Santo Padre, Juan Pablo II nos orienta y anima diciendo: La LIBERTAD la tenemos para hacer el bien...

# El Editor Newspapers

is a weekly bilingual publication that is published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806: 763-3841. Buscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers.

Editor/Publisher: Bidal Agüero  
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Subscriptions: Bob Craig  
Distribution: Gilbert Acuña



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## El Dia Que Conocio a Mi Verdadero Padre

Por Victor Landa

Ese verano me pagó cinco dólares por semana para ayudarme con su ruta. Yo no tendría más de once años. No fue mi idea, ni tampoco creo que fuera de él. Fue, más bien, como si se nos hubiera engañado a los dos y pasaríamos el verano juntos, recorriendo pesadamente las calles polvorientas de Laredo en un viejo camión de leche Borden. Salía a trabajar cuando afuera estaba todavía a oscuras y yo, sin ganas, lo acompañaba. Tenía la costumbre de presionar varias veces el acelerador antes de arrancar el camión -- cuatro pisadas para llevar la gasolina al carburador. Conducía deliberadamente como si fuera la calle la que se movía bajo las ruedas, y él simplemente guiara y dirigiera nuestro progreso. Así conduce hasta el día de hoy.

Había un aire de permanencia alrededor de mi padre. Tenía los bíceps inmensos como el tronco de un roble viejo -- al menos resultaban inmensos para un niño de once años. Los músculos se le abultaban bajo las mangas que doblaba en pliegues angostos casi hasta llegar a los hombros.

Esa mañana tomamos el desayuno en Ram-Rods, una pequeña taquería en la que los clientes de todos los días se conocían por nombre. Eran hombres fuertes, como él, honrados y robustos. Compartían unos minutos tranquilos en la mañana oscura y después salían, cada uno a su ruta -- uno al camión de pan, otro al camión del correo, algunos a entregar Coca-Colas, otros cervezas. Nuestra tarea era de entregar la leche a la puerta de los clientes.

Apenas se le podía oír en el silencio matutino cuando se apartaba del camión, camino a la puerta de sus casas de la mañana. Dejaría la leche al lado de la puerta, tocaría el timbre y volvería al camión. Al arrancar veríamos una mano aparecer y la leche desaparecer. La escena se repetía una y otra vez, dos o tres clientes por cuadra.

Al rato el sol invitaba a la

gente de sus casas y las calles bullían con actividad. Parecía que todos lo conocían. En cada esquina, cada parada, había a quien saludar, a quien agitar la mano y a quien silbar -- un saludo particular.

Yo me sentaba tras él en el camión, oculto apenas, y hacia su lado derecho. Todo el día miraba cómo presionaban los pedales sus botas con puntas de acero y las manos oscuras, curtidas, ocupadas en un constante cambio de velocidades.

En la medida en que transcurría el día, el sol golpeaba las calles de polvo y el calor se volvía insostenible. Dentro del camión parecía un horno. El lugar más fresco era dentro de la caja refrigerada con los huevos, la manteca y el jugo. Llegada la tarde el hielo comenzaría a derretirse y gotear encima de las cajas de leche y ponche de frutas. Con el calor la calle parecía líquida. Yo quería estar en cualquier otra parte. Mi padre nunca se veía afectado, salvo ese día.

Tal vez fuera porque mis ojos de once años se hubieran abierto lo suficiente para notar lo que tal

vez fuera que por un instante él bajara la guardia. Ese día paró. Bajo el sol más cruel dirigió el camión a la sombra de un gran árbol, sacó del congelador una botella de agua y bebió profundamente. Se secó la frente con la manga y sin decir una palabra me pasó la botella. Al echar atrás la cabeza para beber, del raballo del ojo vi que mi padre se agarró la cabeza, cerró los ojos y suspiró hondo y exhausto.

Hay un momento en la vida de un muchacho en el que el tiempo se paraliza y ve a su padre con una claridad cristalina, cuando el hombre invencible se vuelve muy humano y muy verdadero. Es un momento sagrado que se instala en el alma del niño y nunca muere. Por un instante esa tarde de verano brutalmente caluroso, supe.

En ese momento sin tiempo se volvió para mirarme. Mantuve el peso de sus ojos cansados y le devolví el agua. Bebió de nuevo y guardó la botella. Presionó el acelerador, encendió el motor de su viejo camión de leche, y lentamente salimos de la sombra.

(Victor Landa es director de noticias del afiliado de Telemundo KVDA-TV60 en San Antonio, Texas.)

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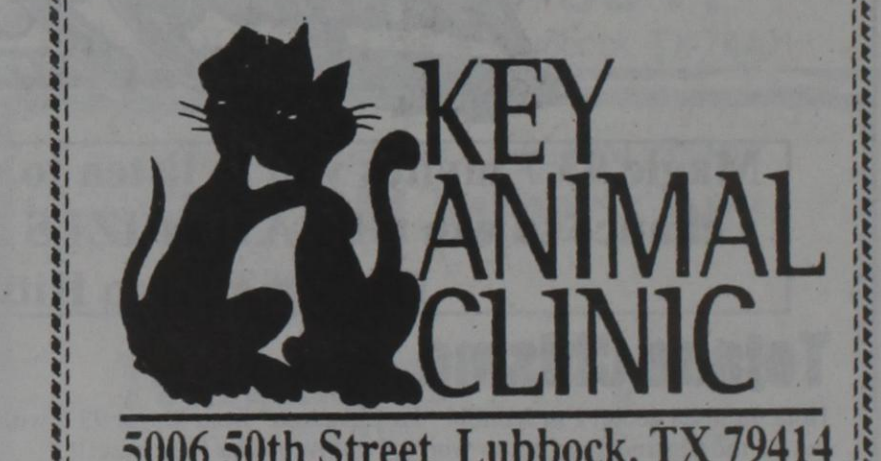
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## "Way of the Peaceful Warrior"

A Book That Changes Lives  
"The world that surrounds us is nothing more than the reflection of our states of mind," writes Dan Millman in his book "The Way of the Peaceful Warrior." In it, the author narrates his own voyage, external and internal, to find a truthful personal satisfaction "deep and long lasting."  
Using a keen sense of humor and a vernacular language, "The Way of the Peaceful Warrior" is a self-awareness book that will easily make the reader identify himself with the main character: Dan. Even though he is both a successful athlete and university student, he realizes his existence is empty.  
One night, tortured by strange and dark nightmares, Dan decides to take a walk at 3:00 a.m. around the campus of the University of

California. This simple quest for nocturnal tranquillity will turn into a series of anecdotes and lessons that will transform his life.  
Outside a gas station, Dan will meet a peculiar character whom he will name Socrates and who will become his personal guide in this spiritual odyssey.  
The sole purpose of this journey is to find the inner warrior we all have and thereby attain true personal happiness.  
Throughout the book, Millman unmarks, with surprising simplicity and depth, some of the old-fashioned concepts that our artificial

and modern society has passed from generation to generation: "Before that time, I'd always believed that a life of quality, enjoyment, and wisdom were my human birthright," states Millman in his preface, "and would be automatically bestowed upon me as time passed."  
Before long, he becomes conscious of our modern life, its fast and non-rewarding rhythm and of an economical system that asks us to possess more and more each day. Ultimately, he succeeds in drawing a spiritual and parallel path that will take us to a fulfilled and enlightened life.

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# Latino Groups Close Ranks to Take on Hollywood

By Antonio Mejías-Rentas

Latino advocacy groups around the country are united in a virtual war against the limited and stereotypical representation of Hispanics in entertainment media. While they are often engaged on separate fronts and take varying approaches, they continue to fight for a common goal.

Many of these groups have focused in recent years on the decreasing number of Latino actors and characters that appear during prime-time hours on the major television networks.

In reaction to the networks' new fall television season announcements, Lisa Navarrete, communications director for the National Council of La Raza, says, "It seems that every time we take a step forward, we take two steps back."

Out of 22 network prime-time entertainment programs, not one has a Latino actor in a lead role and only a handful feature Latino characters prominently.

Navarrete concedes, "We're cognizant that (due to) years of neglect and damage, it's going to take more than a year or two of

a coalition working together."

NCLR is one of nearly a dozen groups nationwide that have joined to form the National Latino Media Council to monitor Latino participation in network television.

Other civil rights groups, such as the Cuban American National Council and the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, have been joined media advocacy groups, including the Los Angeles-based National Hispanic Media Coalition and the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts in Washington, D.C. The media council is chaired by former Congressman Esteban Torres.

With like groupings of organizations representing African-American, Native-American and Asian-American communities, the council signed memoranda of understanding 16 months ago with ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox. The four networks promised to make people of color more visible in their programming.

Two weeks ago, the racial groups issued their individual report cards on the networks'

performances in hiring, casting and employment of artists and executives of color. The grades:

.....ABC.....CBS.
.....NBC.....Fox
<b>L a t i n o</b>
group.....D+.....D+.....C.....C-
.....C-
Overall (the four groups).....D.....D+.....C.....C-

"They have had a full year, in some cases a year and half, to show progress," says NHMC president Alex Nogales. "The change that we're looking for is not just in front of the camera. It's just as important to have Latinos behind the camera, as writers, producers, directors and everything else."

The NHMC has chapters in 13 U.S. cities. They tackle regional issues, such as negative stereotypes and offensive remarks on local radio stations. Nogales explains that because NHMC is based in Los Angeles, he can cultivate close relationships within the entertainment industry and focus on NHMC's broad single mission. The national prominence of the participating civil rights groups helps open doors at the highest corporate spheres, he adds.

In the past, some of the organizations have worked at odds with each other. Now, Nogales says, "Because of the understanding that we all have come to -- that the role of media is so important to all our agendas -- it has consolidated relationships."

Nogales' group once attempted a boycott of Disney-owned ABC and criticized the NCLR for agreeing to broadcast its ALMA awards on the network.

"At a certain point, you got

ta grow out of it and make friends with those who can help you get to the next step. Fortunately for me, (the NCLR) felt the same way. The enemy is somewhere else," says Nogales.

NCLR's Navarrete agrees, saying, "We believe that the Latino community should speak with one voice. That's why we're so committed to the National Latino Media Council under Esteban Torres. His presence gives a lot of credibility to what we're saying."

NCLR has in recent years become a leading advocate on the media representation issue.

"Polls clearly show that people have a very distorted picture of our community. They believe we are lazy, even though we have the highest labor-force participation of any group. They believe we're unpatriotic, even though we have won more medals of honor than any other ethnic group."

"We look at that and ask why is there such a disconnect between perception and reality among our fellow Americans, and a lot of it we have to lay at the feet of the media and their distorted picture of our community."

As one of its efforts to increase the visibility of Latinos in entertainment media, NCLR instituted an annual awards ceremony to recognize outstanding work in film, television and the recording industry. Its sixth annual ALMA Awards (EDITORS: aired) airs June 1 at 8 p.m. (ET) on ABC.

The National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, started by actors Jimmy Smits, Esai Morales and Sonia Braga, takes a different approach. Executive director Félix Sánchez explains that the trio of highly visible actors felt it was time to cash in their chips with Latino politicians.

"(The politicians) were asking the actors for their goodwill, to appear with them, to speak for them, to campaign for them. We in turn are asking

them to assist us in elevating the issue of Latino underrepresentation in the entertainment industry."

The foundation was launched in 1997 with a high-profile congressional hearing at which Smits, Morales and Braga spoke of the limited opportunities given to Latino performers. The virtual invisibility of Latinos in entertainment media, they warned, has a dire effect on Latino youth.

"Children's self-esteem suffers when they do not see themselves, their families, reflected on television," Sánchez relates. "We know that young adults have a very hard time figuring out where they belong. ... Young professionals have a very hard time entering the corporate work force and moving to the top because there is not an expectation from American society at large that Latinos assume leadership positions and bring something critical to the American mosaic."

An attorney who runs a public relations firm in Washington, D.C., Sánchez recently became a rotating political commentator on "Take Five," which airs on CNN. He said the combination of political influence and star power helps the foundation deliver its message.

"On the political side, we have a lot of advocates whose voices are bigger and louder. Combined with celebrity figures, they create a stronger focus and (foster) a clear discussion of what amounts to segregation in the digital age."

On yet another front, New York's Hispanic Organization of Latino Artists (H.O.L.A.) has evolved from what started out as an advocacy group to a clearinghouse for Latino actors and other entertainment artists.

"About 25 years ago, we had a group of professionally trained and experienced actors, working mostly in Spanish theater, who wanted to expand their horizons," said H.O.L.A.'s executive and artistic director, Manuel Alfaro. They wanted to work in commercials and film, he said, but were offered mostly demeaning, stereotypical parts.

"They wanted to expand that to include more characters that at least represented them as human beings and as professionals, just as they were."

One of the main issues an actors' advocacy group must deal with, Alfaro says, is that the industry systematically shuns those performers who complain about the stereotypical roles.

"If I was a casting director or a producer, and an actor whose background and work I didn't know came up during the audition process and said, 'Screw you, I'm not going to do this, it's demeaning,' I'm not going to call him back again. If the actor was on the set and all of a sudden turned around and changed what he agreed to do -- what he was cast for -- he's going to lose a future opportunity. They'll shoot around him and change the story, they have a wheel that's turning and chewing mon-

ey like you have no idea. They have to get the show in the can and then on the air within a couple of weeks."

Alfaro, who applauds a strong affirmative action program by the Actors Equity union that encourages nontraditional casting on Broadway shows, says his group has found success by working within the industry. H.O.L.A., whose membership includes about 500 New York-based artists, publishes an actors directory and a newsletter that regularly lists employment opportunities, and holds professional workshops. Its resources are also available online.

In Los Angeles, the Nosotros Actors organization also holds workshops and offers employment referrals, and stages its own theatrical productions to familiarize casting agents and other industry executives with its membership pools. The group has recently acquired a large venue owned by the City of Los Angeles and renamed it the Ricardo Montalban Theatre. The Hollywood venue recently staged a Nosotros co-production of the musical "Selena Forever."

Another Los Angeles group, Hispanic Americans for Fairness in Media, runs a Web site that lists employment opportunities in the Hollywood entertainment industry.

Many of the nation's Latino media advocates say that while the entertainment industry recognizes the visibility issue as a problem, it will remain unable to solve it until it deals with its own ignorance.

"The networks all recognize there is a problem," Navarrete of the NCLR says. "The next hurdle we have to overcome is that they just seem clueless about what to do about it. It seems that they don't have a good sense of the community, that they don't have good ties to the community."

Should Hollywood cast its eye on Latinos in 2001, the industry would find an unprecedented unity. "You've never had this kind of trust and cooperation, everybody knowing that the work's the bottom line," said Nogales.

"This is the right way to go about it," says Navarrete. "I'm sure people are as frustrated as we are with how long this is taking, how difficult this is, but this is the right way to go. To have an united voice within the Latino community and to unite with other groups on this issue is important, and that's why we're involved."

(Antonio Mejías-Rentas, based in Los Angeles, is a columnist with Hispanic Link Weekly Report and writes on the entertainment world for other national publications. He may be contacted at [lataino@ATSIGN@aol.com](mailto:lataino@ATSIGN@aol.com).)

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TW	TITLE	ARTIST
1	BOOM BOOM	Kumbia Kings
2	Infiel	Joe Lopez
3	Soy Yo	Bobby Pulido
4	Los Tres Amigos	Roberto Pulido
5	Derramando Lagrimas	Ruben/Ram
6	No Eres Para Mi	Elida y Avante
7	Cumbia De La Cobra	Fito Olivarez
8	Ritmo Y Sabor	La Tropa F
9	El Guarare	Jimmy Gonzales
10	No Dolvere	Shelly/Jay

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Lubbock is a strong community with a distinguished history, heritage and culture. The "Hub of the Plains" is the 11th largest city in Texas and the largest city on the South Plains with a population over 200,000. Information about the City of Lubbock along with Lubbock links can be found at <http://www.ci.lubbock.tx.us>.

**Applicants must be 21 to 35 years of age.**

The Police Entrance examination will be given on Friday, June 15, 2001 at the South Plains College, Reese Technology Center, Building #1, Room 113 at 528 Gilbert Drive at 8:00 AM. All applicants should plan to arrive at 7:30 AM. For more information please call 775-2311 or 1-800-621-0793.

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For more information about the Lubbock Police Department, visit our web site at [www.lubbockpolice.com](http://www.lubbockpolice.com).



### Area Residents Encouraged to Use Water Wisely to Avoid Waste

With peak spring and summer water use nearing, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 encourages area agricultural producers, businesses, and homeowners to use water as efficiently as possible to reduce waste.

"As outdoor temperatures rise, so does outdoor water use," said Carmon McCain, High Plains Water District Information/Education Director. "people need to use water as efficiently as possible to prolong the life of area surface water and ground water resources. By doing so, they can reduce the demand for ground water pumped from Ogallala Aquifer, postpone the need for cities to purchase new water rights, and delay construction of additional water treatment plants or even a new surface water reservoir," said McCain.

On the farm, agricultural producers can reduce water waste by making sure irrigation tailwater does not escape from their fields. This practice causes unnecessary depletion of ground water in the Ogallala Formation, erodes topsoil, and creates safety hazards.

"Careful management of irrigation water can eliminate tailwater problems," said McCain. "This includes reducing row lengths, terracing, installing borders at the end of the field, using surge irrigation systems, using Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) center pivot systems, and using subsurface drip irrigation systems to reduce water waste," he said.

Use of LEPA center pivot systems is a good tailwater management practice because producers can adjust the pivot movement speed to apply irrigation water in an amount that matches the soil infiltration rate. Installing furrow dikes under the pivot can help improve irrigation application efficiencies by holding the water in place until it can soak into the soil.

Allowing irrigation tailwater to escape from fields is a violation of state law and High Plains Water district rules. "We prefer to work with the producer and address the problem whenever a tailwater complaint is reported to our Lubbock office," said McCain. "Usually, that is successful. In those few cases when there is habitual waste, we have no choice but to seek a court injunction to halt the tailwater."

Businesses and homeowners can also help reduce waste by using water more efficiently in their landscapes this spring and summer.

When irrigating the lawn or garden, remember to use a sprinkler that throws large water droplets rather than a fine mist. This reduces water losses associated with wind drift and evaporation.

Run times and frequency of automatic sprinkler systems to shut them off during rainfall events.

Soaker hoses, rather than sprinklers, can be used to irrigate curbside turf areas and other narrow vegetative strips. Drip irrigation systems may be used to irrigate bedded plants and gardens.

Businesses and homeowners should check their landscape irrigation systems regularly to make sure sprinkler heads have not popped off. This and other damage can cause large streams of water to be applied to nearby sidewalks or roadways.

"There are many other landscape irrigation conservation techniques that can help save water. These include avoiding watering on windy days, watering in early morning or late evening since evaporation losses can be as high as 60 percent during the day, using mulches in flowerbeds and gardens to reduce evaporation, and positioning sprinklers so that the landscape is irrigated and not driveways or sidewalks," said McCain.

Irrigation water that runs off landscapes can affect area roadways and cost taxpayers money.

According to the City of Lubbock Street Department, water running off landscapes, sidewalks, and driveways can make its way under asphalt street surfaces and east away the road base. The material eventually deteriorates and creates potholes. Pothole ranges are real costly.

Taxpayers also incur the cost to treat water and pump it through city distribution systems. Often, this potable water is allowed to run off urban landscapes only to end up in a storm drain or nearby playa basin.

"It is important to remember that there is no substitute for water. Conserving our surface and ground water resources today preserves them for use tomorrow," said McCain.

Additional agricultural and urban water conservation information is available by contacting the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, Tx 79405-1499 or by calling (806) 762-0181. The district's website is [www.hpwd.com](http://www.hpwd.com) and McCain may be reached by e-mail at [infor@hpwd.com](mailto:infor@hpwd.com).

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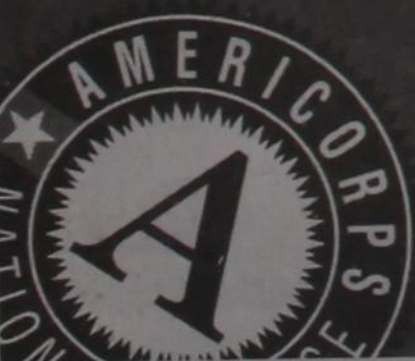
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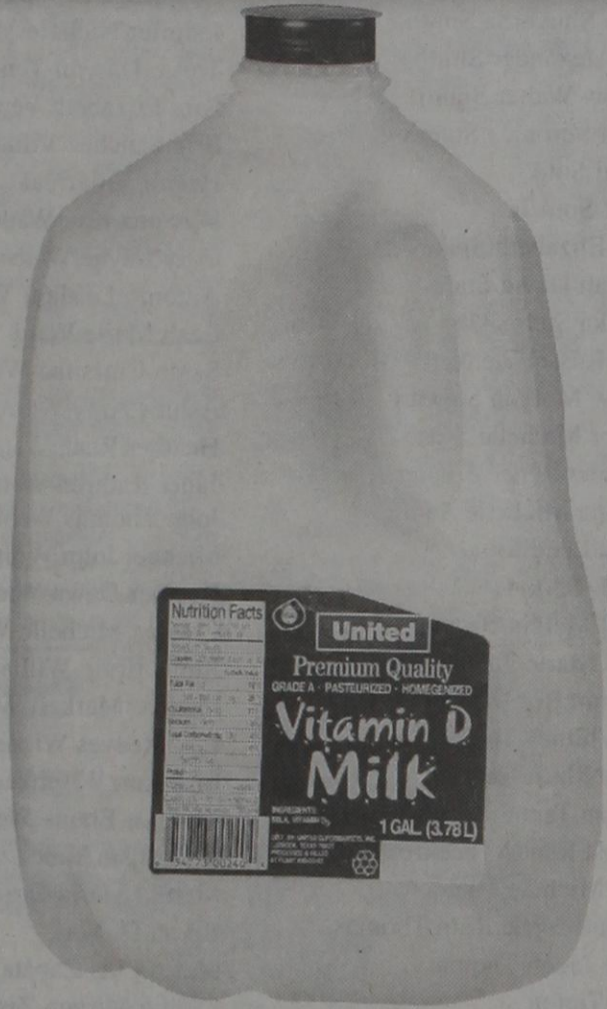
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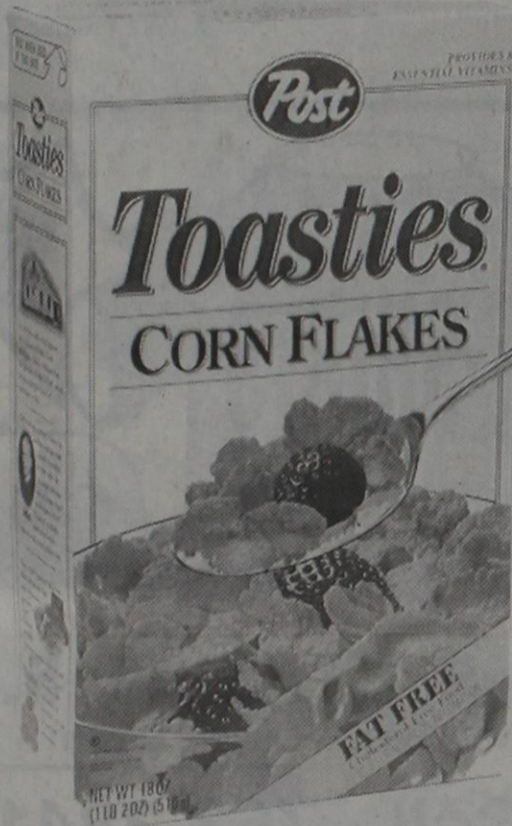
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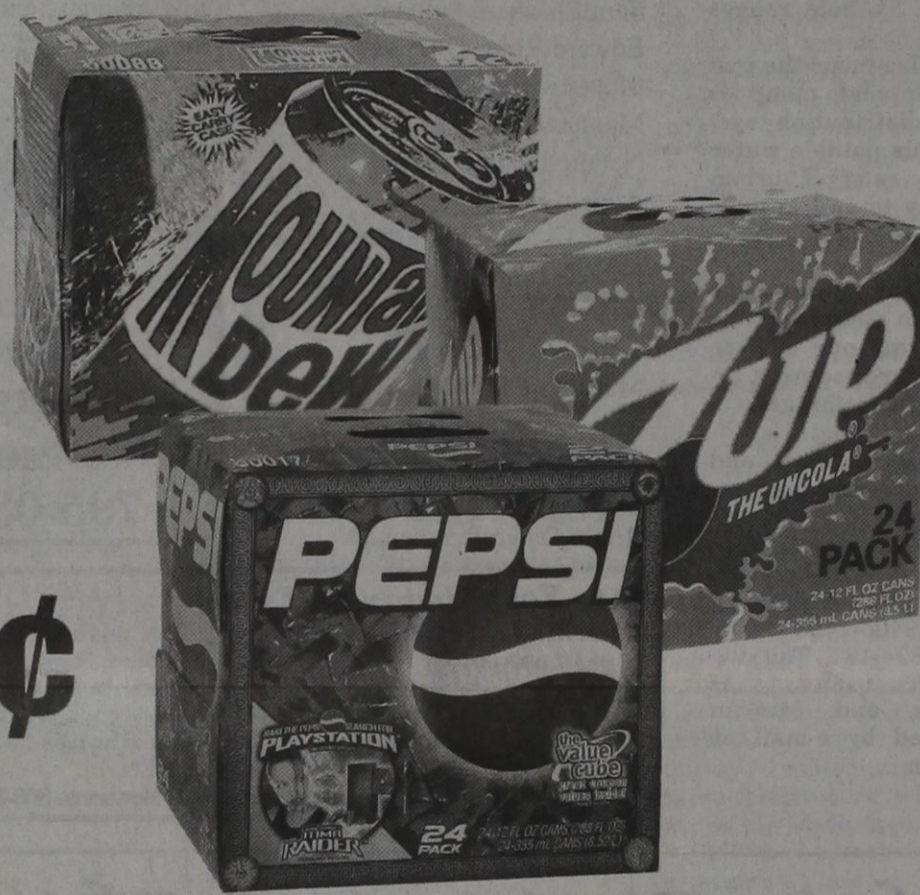
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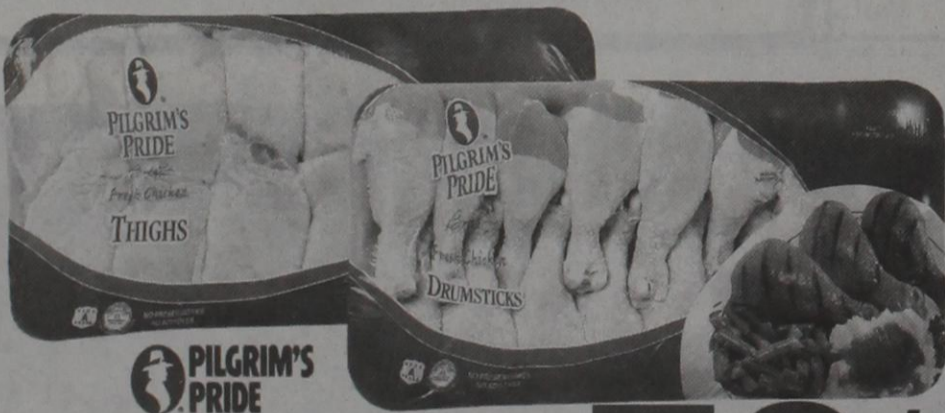
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