

# El Editor

VOL. XXIX No. 16

Week of January 12-18., 2006

Lubbock, TX USA

**“El Respeto al Derecho  
Ajeno es la Paz”  
Lic Benito Juarez**

**SOUTHWEST COLLECTION  
Texas Tech University  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79408**

## Mexican Braceros Collect a Past-Due Debt

By Hiram Soto

**They boarded buses and headed north by the millions with strong arms ready to pick our fruits and vegetables during the U.S. labor shortage of World War II.**

They lived away from their families for years, working under grueling, sometimes humiliating, conditions. Most were unaware that Mexico and the United States had agreed to keep part of their salaries for a pension fund - a fund that never materialized.

They are known as braceros: the forgotten product of a guest-worker program between the United States and Mexico.

More than 60 years later, some of these same workers were again boarding a bus, this time in the California border town of San Ysidro, just a few days before Christmas.

But they weren't heading north. The bus was to travel southeast to the Mexico border town of Mexicali to pick up a document that would entitle them to almost \$4,000 apiece in compensation from the Mexican government.

Like old times, they gathered before dawn. From afar, they could be mistaken as a group of day laborers with tejanas and sturdy boots. Their skin, however, was wrinkled and darkened from years of working under the sun. Their bodies, fragile.

More than 8,000 former braceros living in Mexico and the southern United States began collecting the payments last month. This was the product of years of angry, sometimes violent, protests on both sides of the border demanding that the former workers get the compensation promised them.

The braceros boarding the bus in San Ysidro were among the oldest ones - all born before 1930. And although they were not registered with the Mexican government, authorities made an exception and included them on the compensation list.

Few words were exchanged among the passengers during their three-hour trip. Virtually no one talked about their years in the fields, about the country they left behind or even about their children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

The bus took them to Calexico. "This is where we got dusted," said Baldomero Vázquez, 79, who remembered the time when Calexico was the point of entry northbound.

"They threw dust at us to get rid of the fleas, but I didn't have any fleas," he said, recalling that he was "dusted" 11 times in his 15-year career as a bracero.

From there, they walked across the border to Mexicali, some aided by canes, others by walkers. Some carried their lunches in bags while others carried heavy metal chairs. An organizer had warned them there would not be enough chairs to go around at the Secretaría de Gobernación offices.

Vázquez traveled to Mexicali not only for the money, but for his dignity. He made the trip for his wife, who



is blind and gravely ill in a San Diego hospital, and for his daughter, who died of cancer in June.

He liked the idea that he would now be compensated by the country that was unable to offer him a future. A country that had stolen 10 percent of his miserable salary.

Most braceros were born poor and continue to live in poverty today. Many felt they had become a burden to family members, who have taken them in.

Raymundo Ulloa was there representing his father, who had passed

away. "I'm here because I want justice to be done," he said. "My father sent all the money to us. I was four years old when he left. He didn't know the government was keeping some of this money."

The Mexican government approved approximately \$30 million in 2005 to be distributed equally among registered braceros. It recently approved a similar amount for 2006, and it left open the possibility that more would be available in coming years.

(continued on page 6)

## Braceros Mexicanos Cobran Una Deuda

Hiram Soto

Se subieron a autobuses y partieron para el norte millones de hombres de brazos fuertes, dispuestos a cosechar nuestra fruta y verduras cuando hubo escasez de mano de obra en los Estados Unidos durante la segunda guerra mundial.

Vivieron apartados de sus familias durante años, obrando bajo condiciones extenuantes, a veces humillantes. La mayoría no sabía que México y los Estados Unidos habían concordado en reservar parte de sus salarios para financiar un fondo de pensiones - un fondo que nunca apareció.

Se les conoce como braceros: el producto olvidado de un programa de trabajadores temporales entre los Estados Unidos y México.

A más de 60 años de entonces, algunos de los mismos trabajadores volvían a subirse a un autobús, esta vez desde el pueblo fronterizo de California, San Ysidro, a sólo unos días de la Navidad.

Pero no se iban al norte.

El autobús seguiría un trayecto hacia el suroeste, al pueblo fronterizo en México, Mexicali, para recoger un documento que les otorgaría el derecho a cobrar casi \$4,000 cada uno, como compensación del gobierno mexicano.

Como en antaño, se reunieron antes del alba. De lejos parecían un grupo de jornaleros con tejanas y botas fuertes. Sin embargo tenían la tez

arrugada y curtida de años de trabajo bajo el sol. Sus cuerpos, frágiles.

Más de 8,000 anteriores braceros que viven en México y en el sur de los Estados Unidos comenzaron a cobrar su pago el mes pasado, producto de años de protestas iracundas, a veces violentas, de ambos lados de la frontera, que exigían retribución para los trabajadores de lo que les habían prometido.

Los braceros del autobús de San Ysidro eran algunos de los más ancianos - todos nacidos antes de 1930. Y, aunque no estuvieran registrados con el gobierno mexicano, se les hizo una excepción y fueron incluidos en la lista de compensados.

Se intercambiaron pocas palabras durante el viaje, que duró tres horas. Nadie habló de sus años en el campo, sobre el país que dejaron atrás o ni siquiera de sus hijos, nietos o bisnietos.

El autobús los llevó a Caléxico. "Aquí fue donde nos tiraron polvo", dijo Baldomero Vázquez, de 79 años, quien recordaba cuando Caléxico era punto de entrada hacia el norte. "Nos tiraron polvo para espantar las pulgas, pero yo no tenía pulgas", recordando que se le "empolvó" once veces durante su carrera de bracero, de once años.

Desde allí cruzaron a pie la frontera a Mexicali, algunos con bastones, otros con andadores. Algunos llevaban la merienda en bolsas, mientras que otros cargaban sillas pesadas de metal. Un orga-

nizador les había advertido que faltaban sillas en la Secretaría de Gobernación.

Vázquez viajó a Mexicali no sólo para cobrar el dinero, sino también por su dignidad. Empeñó el viaje en honor a su esposa, ciega y doliente en un hospital en San Diego, y por su hija, muerta de cáncer en junio.

Le gustaba la idea que el país que no pudo ofrecerle un futuro le diera una compensación. Un país que hasta se robó diez por ciento de su mísero salario.

La mayoría de los braceros nacieron pobres y continúan viviendo en la pobreza hasta hoy. Muchos sentían que se habían vuelto cargas para sus familias, quienes los han acogido.

"Ninguno de mis hijos se merece un centavo de lo que voy a recibir", dijo Luis Morales Ybarra, de 83 años, quien crió a sus hijos en México con remesas mensuales del norte.

Raymundo Ulloa iba en representación de su padre, quien había fallecido. "Estoy aquí porque quiero ver que se haga la justicia", dijo. "Mi padre nos envió todo el dinero a nosotros. Yo tenía cuatro años cuando se fue. El no sabía que el gobierno se estaba quedando con su plata".

El gobierno mexicano aprobó aproximadamente \$30 millones en el 2005, a distribuirse por igual entre los braceros registrados. Aprobó recientemente un monto similar para el 2006, y dejó abierta

la posibilidad de aprobar más en años venideros.

Más de 100,000 braceros han registrado algún tipo de documentación con el gobierno o con organizaciones de braceros de ambos lados de la frontera. Se anticipa que México ofrecerá un segundo período de registración este año.

El padre de María Guadalupe Morán murió de derrame cerebral el año pasado, a poco tiempo antes que México anunciara que ofrecería alguna compensación. "El dinero es lo que menos me preocupa", indicó. "Esta fue su revolución".

No obstante, ese día reciente en Mexicali, la revolución demoró. El gobierno asignó a sólo una persona para procesar a los 56 braceros del condado de San Diego. La espera de cinco horas se alargó hasta más cuando llegaron otros 20 de Los Angeles.

Los que no llevaron sillas se sentaron en el suelo en un pasadizo angosto. Algunos hombres que habían llevado sillas se las ofrecieron a las mujeres, en lo que la espera se extendió hasta altas horas de la tarde.

Cansadísimo al final de su largo trayecto, Vázquez dio voz al momento compartido. "Debieron habernos devuelto el dinero hace mucho tiempo".

(c) 2006, Hispanic Link News Service. Re-impreso con permiso del autor.

## Community Voices

There are fewer political issues that raise reader's passion more than the illegal immigration issue. The fact that this country is a country built on the backs of immigrants sets the stage for some strong opinions, pro and con.

Recently in the local daily newspaper, a letter to the editor written by Lubbock resident Cowboy Fred Ortiz was published in response to a column by national syndicated columnist Miguel Perez; who wrote about an anti-immigration measure that had been passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2005.

In his response, the letter writer clearly states his opposition to illegal immigration and goes so far as to refer to those person's who cross into this country without the proper documentation as criminals; and implies that these "illegal immigrants" do not have civil rights as citizens of this country do.

We asked our readers for their opinion on the letter writer's assertion that illegal aliens are "criminals" and they do not deserve to enjoy the same civil rights as American citizens.

We also made them aware that the letter writer is someone who works with mostly Hispanic youths and directs two local organizations, including the Up and Coming Scholars program.

Here are our some of our reader's views:

### Patricia Romo

I pose a question to this individual. † Illegal immigrants are no more criminals than the person who wrote this letter! † Anyone who violates a person's civil rights is a criminal himself. † In recent years, the federal government has begun to create what is, in effect, a two-tier justice system: one for citizens, and one for immigrants. This defies the constitutional imperative to protect "persons" and not just "citizens."

Americans protect, Americans, as well as, disenfranchised people from all over the world to help make their lives better and to protect their civil rights!

### Name Withheld Upon Request

It is true that we, as immigrants, did not have the right to enter the U.S but once here the Constitution does protect us from discrimination based on race, national origin, and biased treatment by the government. Immigrants work and pay taxes and many have lived in the U.S. for decades. † Immigrants have a reputation to work harder because they are trying to achieve that American Dream they set out to live. † Many people take advantage of immigrants by paying them less than the typical wage and they have the audacity to call immigrants criminals. † I feel we need to reanalyze this.

What is a criminal? I guess it is not against the law to take advantage of people. † Laws that punish immigrants violate their fundamental right to fair and equal treatment and immigrants need to know that they too have rights.

### Jake Montoya

People that come to the USA have different standards of living and ideals. Some that come are criminals that are released to the USA because they are not wanted in their country. Criminals for one, and any one else who is not a citizen of (this country), that comes as an illegal has no rights and must be released to the country they came from.

The director must be careful not to include all Mexican(s) as criminals. He must choose the right words of certain people he is addressing.

### Henry F. Martinez

In my personal opinion, this particular individual with a judgment that illegal immigrants are criminals and that they don't have civil rights has no business working with our Hispanic youth. It upsets me very much that not only is this happening on a National level but now we even have it on a local level how we as the general public can allow this to happen I'll never know. What ever kind of director he is for our Hispanic youth he is setting a bad example he should be removed! What gives him the right to say this? I would like to know.

### Jerry Perez (Excerpt from Letter to the Editor)

This person is obviously mistaken in his assertions that illegal immigrants are criminals and have no civil rights. The U.S. Supreme Court and Texas State law is clear about how federal and state governments recognize aliens who are both "legal" and "illegal".

As for the part of the question "whether this person should or should not be working with young Hispanics". † Let him read this (letter) so that he can be educated and corrected of his error. † If he is still believes that illegal aliens are criminals and have no civil rights, then by all means he is fair game for public admonishment. He is obviously ignorant of the law and out of touch with reality like a large number of the rest of Sparta, err, I mean American society. † He was probably regurgitating something he heard on the radio, T.V. or read from a newspaper. † To say that illegal aliens are criminal and have no civil rights is the same as saying the Jews were criminal and had no right to live in WWII Germany.

Also, if anyone out there reading this article really wants to help Hispanic children, please get involved today with your kids and grand kid's Sunday school and public school instead of complaining that your kids are not getting what they need from the schools.

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." — Edmund Burke 1797

Editors Note: Jerry Perez submitted a letter, part of which is excerpted here. To read in it's entirety, see Letters to the Editor

### Modesto Rodriguez (Excerpt from Letter to the Editor)

Anyone who does not like immigrants to enter the United States and calls them criminals should go back to History class. This country of ours was established and built by immigrants....Europeans, Spaniards, Irish, Africans, and from other countries. The only ones that were here before Columbus discovered America was the Native Americans whom Columbus called Indians. The reason all these people came to America was to look for new land and better opportunities to settle down with their families. So, why is it so wrong for a Mexican to come and search for better opportunities? Immigrants shall not be labeled a criminal if he has not committed any true crimes such as: murder, theft, assault, rape, etc...

Editor's Note: To see this letter in its entirety, see Letters to the Editor

### Noe Brito

Bidal, Perhaps we should pick up a collection and send this gentleman to New Orleans where he can accomplish the work needed, since only "criminal" illegal immigrants are willing to do it (with the blessing of our president) during the 45 day suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act. Surely Mayor Ray Nagin could use this level headed individual's wisdom.

"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. Your comments may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive or distasteful content. Mail your comments to Community Voices, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comment acruztc@aol.com

All comments in the Community Voices section are strictly the opinion of the writer and do not represent the opinions or views of this newspaper or its advertisers. "Community Voices" is offered as a public service by El Editor to provide an alternative forum, to mainstream media, for readers to express their opinions and comments.

## Una mujer reza en la frontera por los migrantes muertos intentando alcanzar el sueño americano.

Karen Trejo

En los últimos 15 meses la Patrulla Fronteriza provocó la muerte de al menos siete mexicanos, según informes de la corporación policíaca y de diversas ONG de protección a los migrantes.

Después de que un agente fronterizo mató de un disparo al joven Guillermo Martínez, el 30 de diciembre en Tijuana, han surgido nuevas denuncias de abusos de las autoridades estadounidenses contra migrantes mexicanos.

En octubre de 2004 murieron las guana-juatenses María Guadalupe Gómez Patiño, su hija Adriana Martínez Gómez y su amiga Carmen Bustamante Aguirre. Estaban a unos metros de internarse en Eagle Pass, Texas. Elementos de la Patrulla Fronteriza las descubrieron y las obligaron a regresar nadando a Piedras Negras, Coahuila. Las tres fueron

arrastradas por la corriente del río Bravo.

En la frontera entre California y Baja California, los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza adscritos al sector San Diego y El Centro provocaron durante 2005 dos muertes en ambos lados de la frontera, según reportes internos de la propia corporación estadounidense.

Entre ellos se cuenta el caso de Guillermo Martínez que desde principios de este mes mantiene tensa la relación entre México y Estados Unidos. El joven de 20 años fue herido por la espalda a manos del agente fronterizo Faustino Campos, el 30 de diciembre en el cañón Zapata. El Comité de Amigos Americanos de Estados Unidos apunta que la otra muerte ocurrió el 4 de octubre de 2005.

En tanto, el organismo Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos

Humanos Emilia-no Zapata, con sede en Matamoros, Tamaulipas, añade otro episodio mortal ocurrido en los límites de esa entidad con Texas. El 14 de diciembre pasado una de esas persecuciones provocó la muerte de Carlos Martínez Chávez, de 17 años, en el límite de los dos Laredos. La agrupación documenta que el joven fue perseguido por elementos de la Patrulla Fronteriza, quienes "lo gasearon hasta que lo vieron meterse otra vez al río Bravo; por los nervios y cegado por el gas que le aventaron en la cara, Carlos no pudo nadar y murió ahogado".

El caso más reciente sucedió el 5 de enero pasado. Un indocumentado murió ahogado en el río Bravo, en el municipio de Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, cuando intentó burlar a la Patrulla Fronteriza. Los agentes de la policía ministerial mexicanos que rescata-

ron el cuerpo informaron que el migrante fue localizado en la ribera del Bravo, cerca de la confluencia de la avenida Colón con el bulevard Luis Donaldo Colosio. El cadáver, aún no identificado, corresponde a un varón de tez morena, cabello negro y de 1.70 metros de estatura, aproximadamente. La causa de la muerte fue asfixia por inmersión, reportó el forense.

### Muere uno cada 16 horas

Desde hace 11 años, después de iniciada la Operación Guardián, tres mil personas han muerto en su intento por cruzar la frontera sur de Estados Unidos. Desde hace un lustro en promedio mueren cada año en el límite de México y la Unión Americana 500 personas heridas por arma de fuego,

(Sigue a la página 4)

# CARTAS

## Dear Editor



### Editor's Note:

Recently in the local daily newspaper, a letter to the editor written by Lubbock resident Cowboy Fred Ortiz was published in response to a column by national syndicated columnist Miguel Perez, who wrote about an anti-immigration measure that had been passed by the U.S. Congress.

In his response, the letter writer clearly states his opposition to illegal immigration and goes so far as to refer to those persons who violate this country without proper documentation as criminals; and implies that these "illegal immigrants" do not have civil rights as do citizens of this country.

We asked our readers for their opinion on the letter writer's assertion that illegal aliens are "criminals" and they do not deserve to enjoy the same civil rights as American citizens. Some other responses appear in our "Community Voices" column. Here are reader's letters in their entirety.

### Open Vs Closed Borders

From the ruling described in U.S. SUPREME COURT "PLYLER v. DOE", 457 U.S. 202 (1982) (1), The Supreme Court recognized that in allocating governmental benefits to a given class of aliens, one "may take into account the character of the relationship between the alien and this country" (1). Governmental benefits vary from state to state; however only in the case of federal naturalization do federal benefits supersede state benefits.

This means that if legal aliens have made their best efforts to abide by the laws of the United States, pay their taxes, and contribute to the communities they reside in, then they may enjoy the same protection of law enjoyed by natural citizens with a few exceptions, Mathews v. Diaz, 426 U.S. 67, 80 (1976) (1).

When that "relationship" is a federally prohibited one, there can, of course, be no presumption that a state has a constitutional duty to include illegal aliens among the recipients of its governmental benefits. 7 [457 U.S. 202, 247] (1).

This means if the alien is an illegal, the state is not obligated to provide benefits. If a state does provide benefits for illegal aliens, it is provided out of respect for humanity (human rights) and not the law (civil rights). The law clearly states that states are not obligated to serve illegal immigrants.

This is where people begin to confuse the difference between human rights and civil rights. On one side, you have the "Open Border Crowd" who says that the rights of illegal aliens are being violated. This can be a politically charged statement as it may be true in cases of human rights abuses; however it may not always be true in cases of perceived civil rights abuses. The Supreme Court clarifies this further by describing how much the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects illegal aliens. The Supreme Court states that illegal alien's civil rights are indeed protected by the 14th Amendment; however states have a right to determine how these rights are enforced and protected based upon the "character of the relationship between the alien and this country". (1)

The Equal Protection Clause does not mandate identical treatment of different categories of persons. Jefferson v. Hackney, 406 U.S. 535, 549 (1972); Reed v. Reed, 404 U.S. 71, 75 (1971); Tigner v. Texas, 310 U.S. 141, 147-148 (1940).

The reason why courts allow states to dispense illegal alien's 14th Amendment rights is for purposes of allocating and distributing finite state resources, a state has a legitimate reason to differentiate between persons [457 U.S. 202, 244] who are lawfully within the state and those who are unlawfully there. The distinction the State of Texas has drawn - based not only upon its own legitimate interests but on classifications established by the Federal Government in its immigration laws and policies - is not unconstitutional. (1) This policy exists because a vast number of illegal aliens (not all of them Hispanic) do not pay state or federal income taxes, do not pay their medical bills, do not contribute proportionately back to their communities, are in the United States for illicit personal gain and do not intend to immigrate. The law is clear about these types of illegal aliens. They are not welcomed in the United States and may have their civil rights, not their human rights, revoked due to the "character of the relationship between the alien and this country" sub-clause. It is this group that is creating the problems and the political backlash observed in the press today.

This is where the "Close the Borders Crowd" comes in. They are pointing fingers towards the uncontrolled southern border as a source of increased crimes committed by illegal aliens and widespread state deficits in the health and education sectors. The Supreme Court recognizes this perceived reality and have noted Congress' and past President's (Democrats and Republicans) collective failure to address the issue of illegal aliens: "We trespass on the assigned function of the political branches under our structure of limited and separated powers when we assume a policymaking role as the Court does today. The Court makes no attempt to disguise that it is acting to make up for Congress' lack of 'effective leadership' in dealing with the serious national problems caused by the influx of uncountable millions of illegal aliens across our borders. 2 [457 U.S. 202, 243] See ante, at 237-238 (POWELL, J., concurring). The failure of enforcement of the immigration laws over more than a decade and the inherent difficulty and expense of sealing our vast borders have combined to create a grave socioeconomic dilemma. It is a dilemma that has not yet even been fully assessed, let alone addressed. However, it is not the function of the Judiciary to provide 'effective leadership' simply because the political branches of government fail to do so" (1).

The whole illegal alien situation has been a "slippery slope" best avoided by politicians due to the ubiquitous nature of their Hispanic constituencies. They are afraid of offending legal voting Hispanics, so they avoid appearing to enforce immigration law (just like W). The federal government's perception is that if they enforced the law then they would be labeled as bigots for hating Hispanics. This is not good for politicians especially if they are up for re-election and have large Hispanic constituencies.

This is a politically motivated; yet immoral tactic, on the part of the politicians, that leaves the federal government hands clean of the illegal alien issues and forces states to shoulder the burden of funding and dealing with the illegal immigration situation. To make matters worse, due to the lack of federal government leadership, American citizens feel betrayed on both sides of the issue: Closed Border

Advocates ask "Why is the government not controlling the flow of illegal aliens" and Open Border Advocates ask "Why is the government not trying to help those illegal aliens who want to stay in the United States as contributing citizens?"

The answers to these questions are still being debated within all levels of government; however the solution may be more close to home. We voters must hold business owners accountable for hiring new illegal aliens. We have enough Hispanic voters to make this an enforceable law in Texas. These jobs belong to American Citizens first. We must tell our congressmen that we are displeased with their inability to enforce labor laws. If they continue to avoid the illegal alien issue then we should collectively vote them out and put in place officials who will hold big business responsible. When the jobs become unavailable for illegal aliens, they will go back home.

As for the illegal aliens who wish to become US Citizens, a criterion must be created to allow a mechanism to be set in place to quickly naturalize illegal aliens. For example: illegal aliens should have American children, established work history, no felonies, and can pass a basic English exam. This can be made a reality if every Hispanic American in Texas were motivated to vote. Then afterward, the future Mexican immigrants we will allow

into the country will follow the same immigration rules that pertain to British, Canadian, French, Indian, German, et al. immigration quotas.

Violators of our immigration laws will be severely punished not in American jails but in jails of their country of origin. This would require some real diplomacy and friendship between our government and foreign governments. If there is a disproportionate amount of European and Canadian immigrants, then we should vote to ensure that the numbers of European immigrants are proportionate to the numbers of Mexican immigrants. Currently this rule of law does not exist in Texas because of uncontrolled borders, government inability to enforce current laws, unjust Human Rights violations in the form of human trafficking for big business, unjust state civil rights rules in the case of determining who in the illegal alien community gets help based on subjective rules, and Hispanic Americans not voting as a collective people. Hispanic Americans need to become aware and vote on issues that rise above partisan politics such as Human Rights and Civil Rights for all people. We can do this now at a state level in Texas, Arizona, and California. If we choose not to vote, then the radical fringes on both sides of the illegal alien issue will rule the day and the Hispanic American people will suffer as a result regardless of which side wins the argument. The current political establishment wishes to protect itself and will not hesitate to sacrifice the Hispanic American people for its own selfish purposes. Today, Hispanic Americans are now in the situation very similar to the Spartans from ancient times who were regarded as second class citizens and were sacrificed for the safety of their imperial masters in Greece (read Washington)(2). Now is our opportunity to keep our democracy alive by becoming active participants and heirs to a new political kingdom that awaits us as the voting majority of Texas.

As for the part of the question "whether this person should or should not be working with young Hispanics". Let him read this article so that he can be educated and corrected of his error. If he is still believes that illegal aliens are criminals and have no civil rights, then by all means he is fair game for public admonishment. He is obviously ignorant of the law and out of touch with reality like a large number of the rest of Spartan, err, I mean American society. He was probably regurgitating something he heard on the radio, T.V. or read from a newspaper. To say that illegal aliens are criminal and have no civil rights is the same as saying the Jews were criminal and had no right to live in WWII Germany.

Also, if anyone out there reading this article really wants to help Hispanic children, please get involved today with your kids and grand kid's Sunday school and public school instead of complaining that your kids are not getting what they need from the schools.

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." — Edmund Burke 1797

Jerry Perez, Lubbock, Via-Email

### Civil Rights: No Distinction between Citizens and Illegal Aliens

The portions of the Constitution of the USA and of the Bill of Rights that deal with rights use the word "persons" in dealing with those rights. That means that there is no distinction between citizens, legal aliens, tourists, foreign students, and YES, illegal aliens, when it comes to rights.

Obviously there are certain things like voting and holding office that are reserved to citizens. And an illegal alien has no constitutional right to be present in the USA. But his or her illegal presence in the USA does not take away basic human rights.

The Declaration of Independence established the legal principle in the USA that rights are human rights that people possess simply by being human. Our constitution recognized the principle that no government can take away any human rights: though the Bill of Rights just mentions some of them, it also says (in the tenth amendment) that all people retain all human rights not specifically mentioned in the founding documents.

The Republican Party is currently dominated by mean-spirited racists, world empire proponents and supporters of "second class worker status" [Bush calls it a "guest worker program"]. These anti-Americans believe that the only rights anyone possesses are conferred upon him by his wealth and by his church-derived "moral" status. Those un-American [and unchristian] concepts should be fought by all patriotic Americans with all their heart, mind and soul.

The anti-foreign and anti-Mexican campaign by Republican extremists drags our country's honor through the mud and is sowing the seeds of a terrible harvest of hatred for our country outside our borders. In the final analysis the best security for the USA is the good will foreigners feel towards us. Bush and company are creating millions of terrorists world-wide by their lunatic policies and illegal wars.

Clyde James Jr., Lubbock Via-Email

### Immigrants Should not be called Criminals

Anyone who does not like immigrants to enter the United States and calls them criminals should go back to History class. This country of ours was established and built by immigrants....Europeans, Spaniards, Irish, Africans, and from other countries. The only ones that were here before Columbus discovered America was the Native Americans whom Columbus called Indians. The reason all these people came to America was to look for new land and better opportunities to settle down with their families. So, why is it so wrong for a Mexican to come and search for better opportunities? Immigrants shall not be labeled a criminal if he has not committed any true crimes such as: murder, theft, assault, rape, etc...

We are all human who have been made in the likeness of God. Therefore, we should all be protected under the civil rights law. If someone commits a crime against an illegal immigrant or refuses to give them assistance the law of the U.S. does not protect that illegal immigrant but that person shall have to deal with God when their time comes.

If illegal immigrants truly come to find better opportunities, we should allow them to stay to earn themselves and their families a better quality of life. In finding employment and supporting their families I don't see how they are criminals. What should be a big crime punishable by law is racism and discrimination against people of other races.

A racist and a person who believes in discrimination should not be working with young Hispanics. It is people like him that discourage our young Hispanics to continue their educations and work towards a better life. It is people like him who put negativity into the minds of the youths, and make the youths turn to a life of crime, drugs, gangs, alcohol and depression.

We are all equal in God's eyes and He loves us all unconditionally.

Modesto R. Rodriguez, Lubbock Via-Email

### Using the same false accusations

This statement that this individual made is just part of the same common rhetoric that these individuals who oppose "Illegal Immigrants" are saying all over the nation. What's scary about this situation is that most of them are using the same language, the same false accusations, and putting it out by the same communications mode all over the nation. Even in places where there are very few if any, "illegal immigrants." This should have everyone concerned, because this denotes a systematic means of communicating their message on a broad national scale. This didn't happen overnight! These individuals have been working on this for years, and we should all be very concerned about this! Their mechanism for spreading these lies about the undocumented, or so called "Illegal Immigrants," has a proven track record, that goes all the way up to the US Congress and the White House!

How many people called the Minutemen just a bunch of "Goofy old Rednecks," a year ago? Now look where they're at! Their agendas and issues have even reached the President of the United States and pressured him into dropping his own "Immigration Plan" idea! Some of their leaders are running for Congress! And lots of our Congressman are listening to them, and acting on their issues!

Yes, we should all be very concerned, because if I'm looking at this particular situation that Bidal has described correctly, their continued strategy is for our youth to be next! They've already shown this to us at the University level with all the Young Republicans' groups that have been started, and the strong statements and demonstrations they've made on campus' against the undocumented citizens.

Some of these groups even preach these lies about undocumented citizens while holding a bible in their hand and calling themselves Christians! We should all be very concerned! We should all be thinking about how to stop this immoral, cruel, insensitive, and illegal movement. I say illegal because the movement is all based on lies, biased racially motivated ideas, slanted/disproportionate stats made to fit their cause! Untrue statements that if you gave to any government or civilian authorities (Congressmen, Peace Officers) as they do, they would file criminal charges against you for "Giving or Making False Statements to Governmental agencies!"

We should be extremely concerned about individuals with this mindset, teaching or caring for our children, that's precisely why I am concerned enough to be writing this letter!

Gracias, Miguel Torres via email

# "Cruzing"

By Abel Cruz

Twelve days into the New Year, and we already have stuff going on; let's go "Cruzing" to see who or what we can run into:

### First Stop City Hall

Where we find Council member Gary Boren lacing up the gloves and getting ready to rumble with those gasbags from ATMOS. According to an email received from Mr. Boren, ATMOS is a "monopoly" and it's time to go to the mat for the consumer. Boren will introduce two resolutions at this week's council meeting to try and change the law and he seems ready to rumble all the way to the state legislature.

Boren says: "Look at your gas bill, explain to me how working families, retirees, sr.citizens, folks on fixed incomes, single parents, singles, small businesses, contractors, ag producers, farmers, are going to survive if no one challenges this Lubbock Monopoly that literally rips the economic guts out of everyone in Lubbock and West Texas. We can challenge, there is risk, but to turn one's head while the monopoly Atmos runs rampant in its charges would be a worse character flaw at this time!" "We need to understand our times and have the wisdom and courage to know what to do."

I don't want to get carried away here, especially since I have taken the councilman to task on other issues; but I have to give this round to Councilman Boren for at least taking the fight to ATMOS.

### Second Stop, the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber

Where is everybody? Hello, anybody in? Just "Cruzing" by to see if anybody's home; haven't heard much from you lately. Guess they're all out roasting somebody or the other!

### Right Turn to my old Neighborhood: Washington, DC

Anyone who believes that Supreme Court nominee, Judge Samuel Alito, will not shift the court to the right even more if the Senate confirms him, has probably been dipping into that bottle of hooch left over from their New Year's celebration.

### Back to LULAC Central

According to local LULAC treasurer Modesto Rodriguez, this week's LULAC meeting finds David Miller speaking to the organization's membership. Does Tom Martin know about this?

### Quick Detour to Federal Prison

Just stopped by to make sure Tom DeLay's new digs are ready; he's used to such lavish surroundings, just wanted to make sure his cot was made up nicely. Ran into three term lifer Big Jake; said he'd wait up for him!

### On the Road Again

As we "cruz" on down the road in North and East Lubbock, we see that the landscape has not changed much over the years, and in fact some areas seem to be in desperate need of new economic development. We still see the evidence of low wages and economic instability. My friend the accountant tells me he's hoping that we can make some progress in this area in 2006; and he's right.

This is an area that has not received as much emphasis as it should.

Whatever side of the political aisle you are on, we have to realize that this is an issue in which we must be more aggressive. It is time to realize that economic handouts from the powers that be are not enough to impact our neighborhoods. We must look for ways to advance our economic situation by investing in our own culture and our own neighborhoods. For those that think it's impossible, think again. There are many business people in this community who still care about this area of the city. Any investors out there ready to take a leap of faith?

### Quick Bathroom Break at the Hispanic Cultural Center Anyone?

Wait, do they have one yet? The buildings here, but seems like nobody's in. For what seems like an eternity, we have been like an expectant father, waiting to see what this effort by the Fiestas del Llano organization has produced. Guess the stork is running late!

### We Come to a Screaming Halt!

Is that the Governor we see on the Tech campus? It seems that our self described conservative Governor Rick Perry, decided to announce his candidacy in person, here in conservative West Texas. Saying he's a true conservative is the one thing he says that I believe. He conserves the status quo, he conserves his brain energy by not acting creatively and boldly on school financing; he conserves his support by telling his supporters only what they want to hear, and he conserves his status as "Bush's yes man". Better get out of here before he sees us!

### Final Stop District One

Whoa! Stop! Did I hear that right? Is former Councilman Victor Hernandez planning to try and unseat Councilwoman Linda DeLeon? Could this be true? Time will tell, but I would offer this gentle word of advice to the former council member: people will want to know where he has been over the past two years while others have been at the forefront of the battle, ahem, getting beat up. You get my meaning?

Better get home, unlike the ATMOS folks, I'm out of gas; and at today's gas prices, who's idea was it to go "Cruzing" anyway?

Email: acruzsc@aol.com

# LULAC Urges Senate Rejection of Supreme Court Nominee

In an action alert email sent out by LULAC's National department of Policy and Legislation, the civil rights organization strongly opposes the confirmation of Supreme Court Nominee Judge Samuel A. Alito.

As the Senate begins confirmation hearings on the Supreme Court nominee of Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr. LULAC expresses extreme concern over this nominee and his positions on civil liberties and immigrant rights.

LULAC believes that nominees to a bench should reflect the society that appears before them seeking justice. † LULAC only opposes a Supreme Court nominee when his or her record clearly indicates that the nominee is fundamentally hostile to our community and to the greater vision of the country. † Judge Samuel A. Alito is such a judge.

As the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, it is critical that LULAC stand at the forefront of the defense of civil rights, civil liberties and immigrant rights - Judge Alito's positions have demonstrated a clear track-record of allowing the government to intrude on Americans' civil liberties and privacy, and a lack of belief in immigrant rights.

The nomination of Samuel Alito comes at a critical moment in history. † At a time when immigrants - both documented and undocumented - are under extreme duress and when Americans are concerned about federal eavesdropping and laws such as the "Patriot Act" which constantly raise the bar on the government's ability to intervene in people's individual rights and privacy, it is critical to ensure that the Supreme Court retain its independence and fairness. † The Latino community would be adversely affected by a shift in the court's balance.

Too much is at stake. † Should he be confirmed, Judge Alito would replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, considered a moderate voice and a critical swing vote on civil liberties and civil rights issues. † At this juncture in history, a nominee with Judge Alito's history of deference to authority and uncompromising support for government power would strike a blow to the future of fundamental freedoms and to immigrant rights.

As Alito's hearings move forward, it is imperative that we ask our Senators to carefully examine his past performance - and demand answers to questions about his disturbing track record of consistently siding with the powerful over individual freedoms; and on his stance regarding the constitutional rights of immigrants. Alito's history of consistently siding with corporations over working Americans is equally troublesome to the Latino community. † In 75 percent of the cases he has covered, Alito ruled against individuals' claims of discrimination in favor of the company.

Tell your Senators to protect the Constitution and our community. † Let them know that "we the people" believe that the role of the Supreme Court is to continue to protect our civil rights, civil liberties, and immigrant rights by opposing the Alito nomination. Contact <http://www.lulac.org/action.html> and ask your Senators to protect our nation's and our community's civil rights, civil liberties and immigrant rights by rejecting the Alito nomination.

## 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 be sent to the same email address. All opinions must contain the name, address and phone number of writer but name upon publication can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

**Publisher Bidal Agüero**  
Business Manager/Advertising - Olga Riojas-Agüero  
Circulation/Distribution - Gilbert Acuña

# Califican a Fox de 'mal charro'

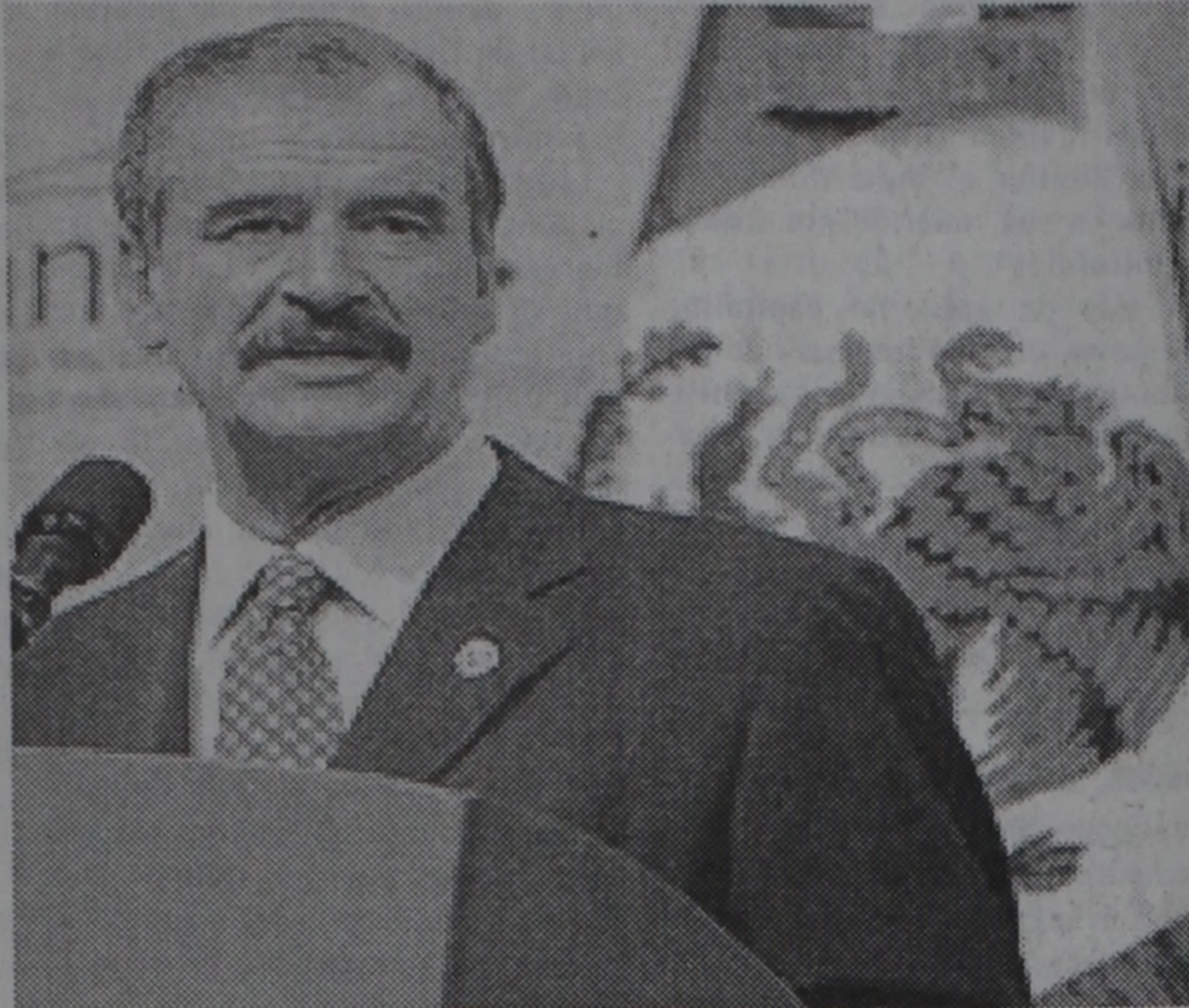
El dirigente del Movimiento Al Socialismo (MAS) Antonio Peredo calificó ayer de "grosería" un comentario del presidente mexicano, Vicente Fox, sobre la supuesta intención del próximo Gobierno de Bolivia de no exportar gas natural.

"Supongo que el presidente Fox está actuando así una vez que siente que ya está saliendo", indicó al canal de televisión Bolivisión el diputado del MAS y uno de los políticos más allegados a Evo Morales al referirse al último año de mandato del gobernante mexicano.

"De manera que no hay tomarlo en cuenta para definir las relaciones de Bolivia con México", agregó Peredo.

El dirigente del MAS, senador electo por La Paz para la próxima legislatura, respondió a unas declaraciones radiofónicas realizadas el pasado domingo por Fox a una emisora de radio del Grupo Imagen de México.

"El nuevo Gobierno aparentemente había dicho que el gas de Bolivia no se exporta, bueno, pues



ni hablar. Pues lo van a consumir ahí o se lo van a comer ahí, allá ellos. Tienen mucho gas como para exportarlo", dijo el presidente de México.

El futuro senador boliviano consideró que "con una frase de esas

(Fox) da una imagen de mal charro mexicano".

El vicepresidente electo, Alvaro García Linares, señaló ayer que el comentario le había llamado la atención y aseguró que el MAS nunca se pronunciará sobre la venta

de gas a México y si Evo Morales lo hizo alguna vez fue para mostrar su voluntad de tratar el tema.

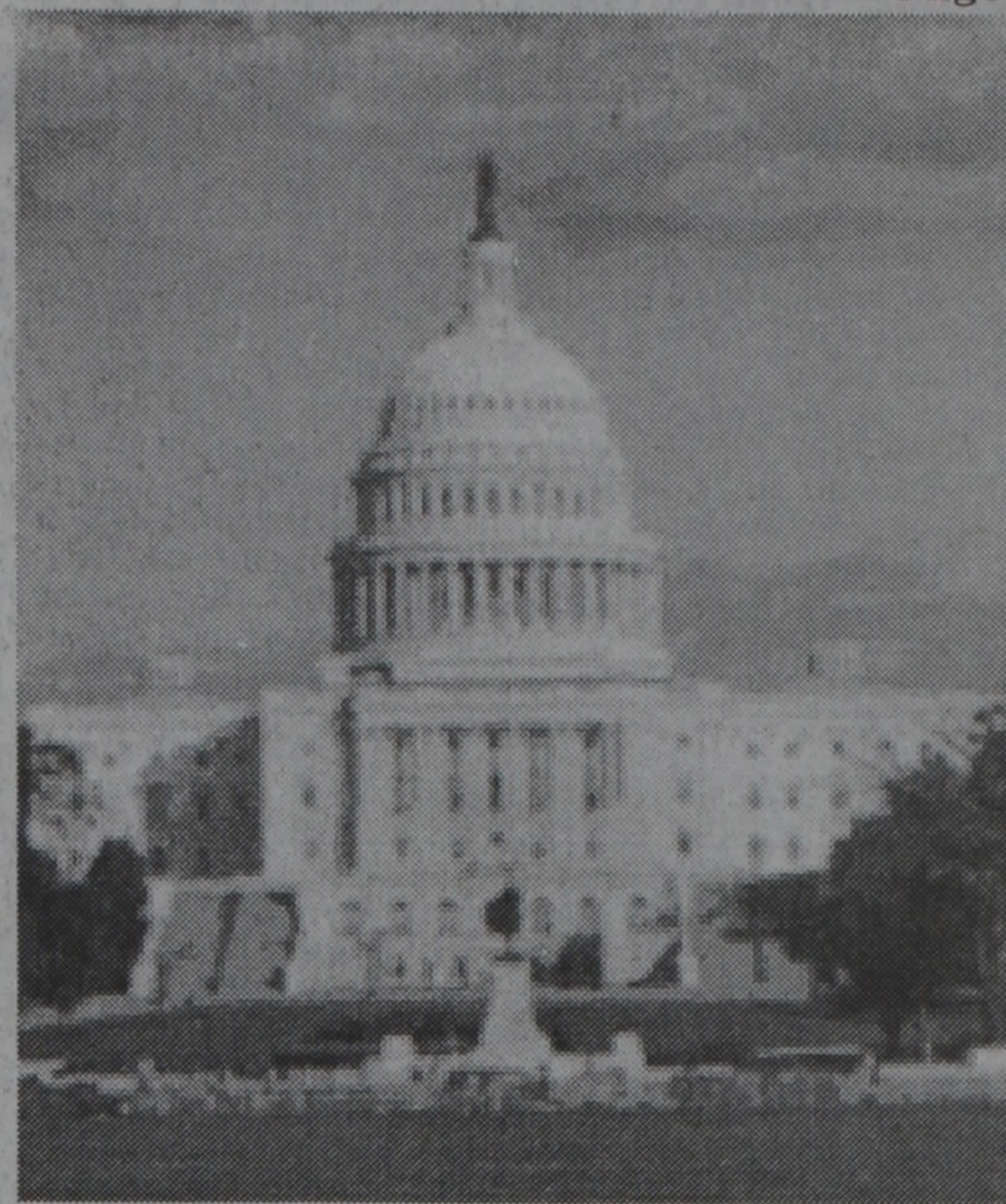
"No voy a comentar más las declaraciones del presidente Fox. No voy a comentar un tema que Cancellaria tendrá que ver", dijo.

Ambos países han discutido en el pasado sobre la posibilidad de que Bolivia sea uno de los proveedores de gas del mercado mexicano, aunque el proyecto no logró desarrollarse y está pendiente de las decisiones que tome el país andino en materia de energía.

Durante la gira internacional que realiza actualmente, Morales señaló el viernes pasado en París que en un encuentro que sostuvo con Fox no pudo "entenderse" con él.

Sin embargo, manifestó que admiraba al líder zapatista "subcomandante Marcos" y que es amigo del político izquierdista Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas.

En respuesta, el Gobierno mexicano señaló ese mismo día que aspira a "tener las mejores relaciones" con el presidente electo de Bolivia.



## Most Americans think Corruption has Invaded the Congress

Most Americans consider that corruption in the Congress is a widespread phenomenon and think that the subject will determine their vote in the mid-term congressional elections next November, according to a couple of released surveys.

According to a survey of released surveys, conducted by The Washington Post and ABC Network, this perception is motivated by the recent corruption scandal which cost a California's Republican congressman his seat.

For this, the general public opinion is that a deep reform is needed in the guidelines that rule the relationship between lobbyists and Congress members.

The above was strengthened due to the case of Jack Abramoff, a Republican ex-lobbyist connected to influential Republican figures from the House of Representatives, who last week pleaded guilty over the charges of fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy to bribe elected officials.

The Abramoff case was followed by 58% of the polled people by The Washington Post and ABC Network, as evidence of the "widespread corruption" in Washington, versus a 34% that considers it "limited".

as any other person, and a 44% estimates that dishonesty is bigger among those.

Nine out of ten Americans think that should be banned for lobbyists to give gifts or any valuable thing, as well as offer trips to the members of the Congress.

On the other hand, two out of three polled people consider there is the need to ban lobbyists from making contributions to congressmen of candidates, 54% stated that lobbyists should also be banned from organizing fundraising events for their campaigns.

The Washington Post's survey, among 1,001 adults, was conducted from January 3 to 5 with a 3% error margin.

In other survey by USA Today and the firm Gallup, 43% of Americans stated that corruption will be an "extremely important" subject to consider in the mid-term elections and a 38% put economy in this spot.

In general, the poll showed that most of Americans declared to be opposed to the possibility of reelection for the members of the Congress.

This research was conducted among 1,003 adults nationwide between January 6 and 8, with a 3% margin error.

## El FBI desmiente amenazas contra la Patrulla Fronteriza

Un memorándum interno del Departamento de Seguridad Interna (DHS), según revela ayer un publicación de prensa, emitido un es-

tado alerta entre agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza y oficiales de Aduanas y Protección Fronteras (CBP), para tomar precauciones de-

bido a una amenaza que señala que los traficantes de personas o "polleros" habían contratado pandilleros para asesinar a agentes fronterizos.

Sin embargo, ayer mismo la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI) dio a conocer un comunicado en el que señala que no ha podido confirmar esas amenazas. "Hasta la fecha, no hemos encontrado información para corroborar acciones específicas que indiquen una alianza entre traficantes de indocumentados y la MS-13 en contra de los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza en la frontera de México y EU", dice el documento.

El FBI agrega que, pese a ello, las amenazas continúan bajo investigación y que tomará las acciones apropiadas para combatir cualquier acción en contra de Estados Unidos.

Un "pollero" de Tijuana consultado por La Opinión, rechazó asimismo que existan tales amenazas. "Pues porque no nos conviene, se calienta el terreno y entonces se pone más duro el jale", dijo.

Por otra parte, el CBP dijo tam-

bién en un comunicado al respecto que todas las amenazas son tomadas con seriedad.

De acuerdo con la publicación Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, el estado de alerta fue fechado el 21 de diciembre y precisa que los "polleros" supuestamente contrataron a miembros de la peligrosa pandilla Mara Salvatrucha o MS-13 para ejecutar a agentes en la frontera.

"Eso es puro cuento, se me hace que nada más lo están haciendo para que no se los 'chinguen', para que no se los frieguen por haber matado al morrillo", comentó el "pollero", quien es conocido como "El Gavilán" y vive en la colonia Libertad, a unos cuantos metros de donde el pasado 30 de diciembre murió por herida de bala Guillermo Martínez, el joven de 20 años a quien la Patrulla Fronteriza acusó de ser traficante de indocumentados.

La Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza, dependiente del DHS, señaló que los agentes han recibido varios tipos de amenazas

continúa en la página 4



## US-born Mexicans proposed to be acknowledged as Native Americans

Dallas, U.S., January 11, 2006 (Notimex).- A California Hispanic man founded an organization dedicated to convince American authorities that those Mexican-rooted babies born in the US be recognized as native Americans (Indians).

Harry Guzman Villalobos, a Hayward, CA, resident founded "North America's Aztecs" three years ago with the purpose of educating Hispanic people about their roots and help those Mexican-rooted people to be historically acknowledged as native Americans.

Guzman Villalobos promotes the confirmation of a Congress law initiative for this recognition to be legal and often takes part in conferences and seminars talking about this idea.

The 61-year-old activist assured this acknowledgment will not be used to demand land or money compensations but respect and history.

"What we want is to raise awareness about the fact that Aztecs are still here", he said during an interview. "We still speak our language

and we wish to strengthen our nation", he stated.


According to Guzman Villalobos, this official acknowledgment by the Congress of the United States would change the contents of text books on the Aztecs and would raise the self-esteem of those Mexican-rooted Americans.

"I wish to show people who they really are", he explained. "That would ditch the term illegal immigrant out of the picture", he added.

Guzman Villalobos explained that the acceptance of lineage makes more complete people "It makes them stronger", he stated.

The activist is committed to be granted such recognition for those Aztec-descent Mexican-rooted Americans since they are largest majority of US-Hispanics, although some others could also be recognized as native Americans.

Guzman Villalobos, who assures to carry three quarters of Aztec blood and one quarter of European blood in his veins, has worked for 27 years to unveil his roots and has lived along with some native Americans tribes including the Pimas and the Shoshone.




**PRIORITY TAX**  
2352 34th St.  
Lubbock, TX 79411  
(806) 795-0355  
Your Year Round Tax Advisor

**Now Get Up to \$8,000  
in Hours instead of Days**

Or  
**\$1250 with Money  
NOW INSTANT LOAN**

**Refunds in  
Hours**



**Reembolsos  
EN HORAS**

- FAST ELECTRONIC FILING
- PRIORITY CHECKS CASHED FOR A FLAT \$5 FEE
- NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY
- LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
- COMPETITIVE FEES
- SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

\$10.00 OFF  
FOR PREPARATION  
& E-FILE

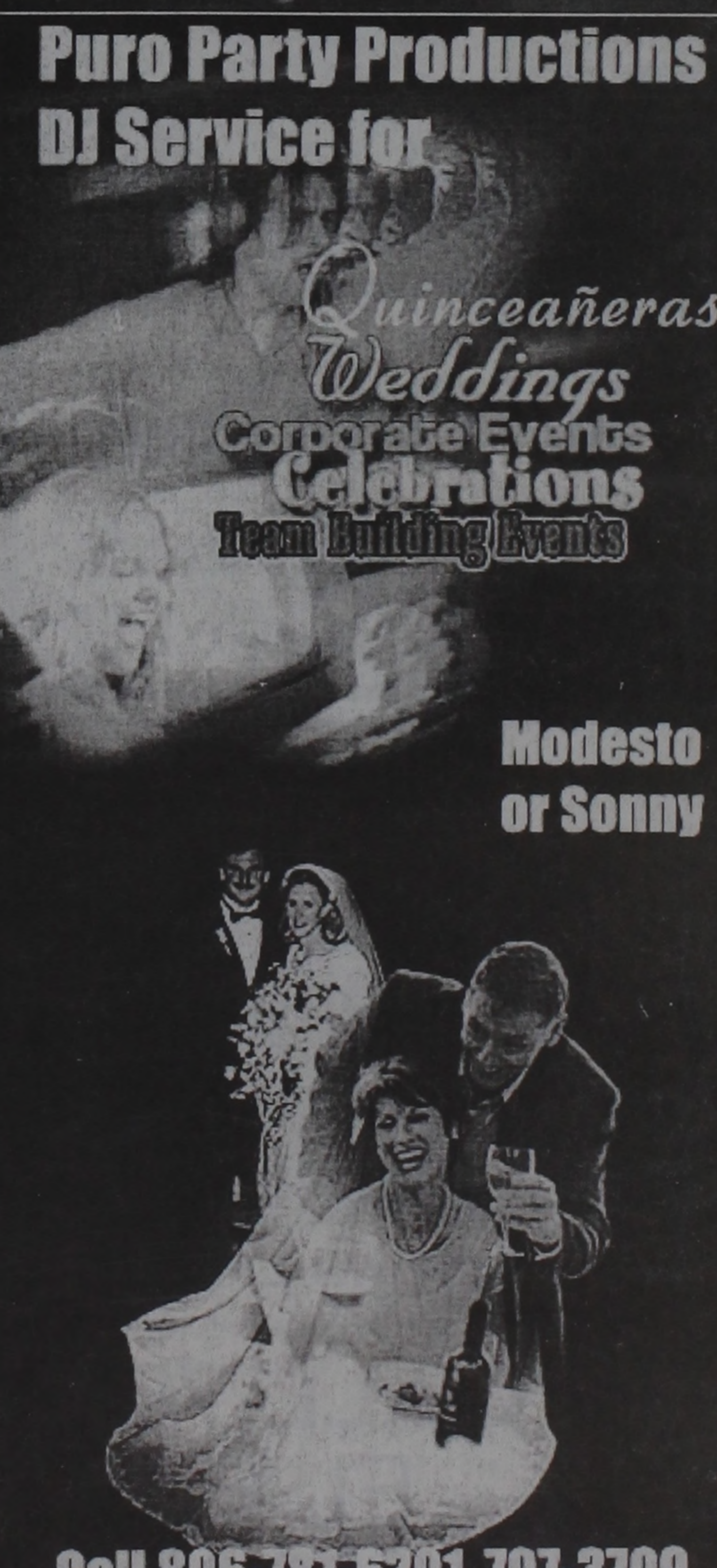
Mon - Fri 9 am-8 pm  
Sat 9 am - 5 pm  
Sun 12 pm - 5 pm

**Your Advertising Message  
Belongs Here!**  
Call 763-3841 today!

**Puro Party Productions  
DJ Service for**

*Quinceañeras  
Weddings*  
**Corporate Events  
Celebrations  
Team Building Events**

**Modesto  
or Sonny**



**Call 806-781-6201, 797-3709**

Thank You for Reading

# El Editor Newspapers

Celebrating 29 Years of Publishing

Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspaper

## ¡Gracias!

# Polémica en México por Migración

Luego que la Presidencia de la República afirmara que el desempleo no es la principal causa de la migración a Estados Unidos, declaración que generó polémica en los medios, los empresarios del país y el jefe de gobierno de esta capital replicaron, por separado, que el origen del éxodo masivo es la falta de trabajos y lo mal remunerados.

"La emigración es parte de un exilio económico en donde ante la falta de oportunidades la gente está buscando opciones fuera del país", puntualizó Alejandro Encinas, jefe de Gobierno de la Ciudad de México, al señalar que este fenómeno es todavía mayor en "las zonas rurales del país".

Sugirió preguntar a los propios inmigrantes el motivo de su desplazamiento al país del norte ya que, subrayó, "ellos mismos reconocen que ha sido por necesidad y hay un reclamo al Estado mexicano, porque no se han generado las oportunidades para poder desarrollar sus actividades en el lugar donde nacieron".

La controversia se extendió ayer en estaciones de radio, especiali-

zadas en noticias y análisis informados, a raíz de que el lunes el portavoz presidencial, Rubén Aguilar, dictaminara que la emigración a Estados Unidos no solo se ha reducido sino que esta tiene en parte una condición cultural, más no por falta de empleo.

"Un número muy, muy alto, de las personas que emigran a los Estados Unidos tenían trabajo en México, no emigran por no tener trabajo, sino emigran por otra serie de condiciones también de carácter cultural", declaró el vocero del gobierno.

Al ser cuestionado sobre si coincide con el gobierno federal en el rasgo cultural de la migración, Encinas respondió que "nadie dejas sus tierras, el lugar donde enterraron a sus muertos por aspectos culturales".

El jefe de gobierno capitalino hizo notar, en conferencia, que por el contrario, "el rasgo más significativo de nuestra cultura es el arraigo con la tierra, con la familia, con la historia".

Aguilar había dicho que las estadísticas indican que "en los últimos años ha disminuido la migra-

ción", debido a que "la política social de Estado está dando resultados, a través de la reducción de la pobreza extrema".

Los reporteros pidieron entonces al funcionario federal que citara las estadísticas y la fuente a las que se refería, y el contestó que "no las tengo en directo en este momento", pero reiteró que "si se ha reducido y es enorme la estadística, por arriba del 80, 85 por ciento que la gente que emigra tiene trabajo en México".

El vocero presidencial había apuntado que el sector más grande de mexicanos que emigran no lo constituyen los campesinos, ya que "los recursos que han llegado al campo en esta administración han evitado que el tránsito sea mayor", por lo que anotó el número más importante procede de las zonas urbanas.

"Incluso de la Ciudad de México, ha habido cambios sustantivos en el patrón de migración que los estudios arrojan", complementó, sin especificar tales investigaciones.

En este sentido, y luego de insistir en que "nadie deja a su familia ni su tierra por gusto", el alcalde Encinas lamentó que el gobierno del presidente Vicente Fox tenga un diagnóstico erróneo acerca del fenómeno migratorio.

Por consiguiente, alertó que "a partir de un diagnóstico equivo-

cado, (el gobierno) lleva políticas equivocadas".

Al sumarse a la controversia, la Cámara Nacional de la Industria de la Transformación (Canacinda) calificó de "aventuradas" las declaraciones y porcentajes difundidos por el vocero presidencial en torno a las causas de la migración.

"Se tendría que preguntar a cada uno de los migrantes: ¿tenían empleo en México?, ¿cuánto ganaban?, ¿te vas allá porque te gusta más Nueva York que Xochimilco, o te gusta más Los Angeles que Zapopan?", comentó, con ironía, Cuauhtémoc Martínez, presidente de esa asociación.

Recalcó que los empresarios de México coinciden en que "obviamente no se están produciendo los empleos en la cantidad necesaria", y enfatizó que "hay cosas que no podemos ocultar".

El dirigente del sector empresarial hizo notar que en el país anualmente buscan incorporarse al mercado laboral de un millón a un millón 100 mil personas, y que sólo se están generando 500 mil plazas formales por año, aunadas a las 150 mil de la economía informal.

"En México no hay fuentes de trabajo ni en cantidad ni en calidad", resumió Martínez, al sostener que para evitar la migración se requieren soluciones en la economía interna.

## Untentando alcanzar el sueño

(viene de la primera) deshidratadas, ahogadas, insoladas, violadas o asaltadas. Una tercera parte no ha sido identificada, por lo que en la década reciente se ha acumulado un rezago de al menos 1,000 cadáveres que han ido a parar a fosas comunes, de acuerdo con cifras de la California Rural Assistance Foundation, que desde 2000 se encarga de recorrer los cementerios fronterizos en busca de los "John y Jane Doe" (nombres para referirse a los muertos anónimos) mexicanos.

En respuesta, este año la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE) pretende consolidar en México un programa piloto que se inició a finales de 2004, para realizar de forma computarizada la búsqueda de emigrantes muertos a partir de 2003 y perdidos en territorio estadounidense, mediante un rastreo que puede tardar de 10 segundos a ocho semanas.

El Sistema de Identificación de Restos y Localización de Individuos (SIRLI) es una herramienta que hoy carece de recursos financieros y de difusión. En los 18 meses de funcionamiento ha logrado, mediante pruebas de ADN, la identificación de cuatro cadáveres de hombres jóvenes que murieron en el desierto de Arizona en 2004 y 2005; así como la localización de otras 40 personas que llevaban años de no comunicarse con sus allegados en México.

Casi 11 mil familias han llenado un formulario de cinco páginas con la mayor cantidad de datos para iniciar el trámite de la búsqueda. Después, han revisado los archivos del SIRLI lentamente, deteniéndose en las 299 fotografías que corresponden a 213 cadáveres de hombres, a 42 de mujeres, y a 44 de rostros y cuerpos deformes que por el avanzado estado de

descomposición carecen de registro de sexo. Miran las pertenencias con las que fueron encontrados esos cuerpos en desiertos, ríos y barrancos a lo largo de los 3,200 kilómetros de la frontera de Estados Unidos.

El triste botín de una migración desenfadada que data del siglo pasado y que legisladores estadounidenses antiinmigrantes plantean detener, no con la firma de un tratado migratorio, sino con la construcción de un muro fronterizo semejante al de Berlín, pero quizá más mortal.

Sólo entre enero y septiembre de 2000, murieron 388 migrantes mexicanos en la frontera: uno cada 16 horas. Para decirlo de otra manera: en ocho meses dejaron de existir más seres humanos que los que perdieron la vida al intentar cruzar el Muro de Berlín durante las tres décadas de Guerra Fria entre Estados Unidos y la Unión Soviética.

Desaparecido número .... Es fácil imaginar a los familiares de emigrantes muertos o perdidos en la frontera de Estados Unidos que miran y buscan, encorvando el cuerpo, clavando la mirada en una pantalla de computadora. Los mismos gestos con que se observa el catálogo de ofertas en internet, por ejemplo.

Sólo que cada vistazo, cada imagen, es un dolor para quienes revisan los casi 300 archivos forenses del SIRLI, que sólo contemplan muertes de 2003 a la fecha. Cada página habla de varios seres humanos perdidos: quizá sea ese el pantalón de mezclilla negro que vestía el esposo aquél día que decidió "brincar"; quizá los tenis pertenezcan al hermano; esa dentadura podría ser del padre; ese suéter de la madre; ese carrito de plástico del nieto.

Quizá fueran propiedad de Antonia Morán (nacida en Puebla, 34 años, muerte por hipotermia), de Roberto Vigerillas (49 años, muerte por asfixia/ahorcamiento), de Moisés Rojas (nacido en Chiapas, 20 años, muerte en accidente automovilístico), de Ana

Rosa Solorio (nacida en ciudad de México, 33 años, muerte por insolución), de Carmen Agustine (nacida en ciudad de México, 33 años, muerte por ahogamiento), de Luis Arturo Martínez (12 años, muerte por hipotermia)... De alguno de esos 282 emigrantes mexicanos muertos sólo en el área de Arizona entre enero y octubre de 2005, cuyos nombres o números de identificación aparecen en el reporte anual Migrant Deaths elaborado por la Coalición de Derechos Humanos Alianza Indígena Sin Fronteras, con sede en Tucson, Arizona.

Médicos forenses, de los condados fronterizos, recogen los cuerpos en el desierto o canal y se encargan de asignarles un número de referencia, de hacerles una autopsia cuando es posible, de mantenerlos en refrigeración a la espera de identidad o de la sepultura anónima.

Desde finales de 2004 esos datos recabados de cada uno de los cadáveres alimentan la base de datos del SIRLI. A partir de cada hallazgo los funcionarios de las delegaciones estatales de la SRE cuentan con unos días para localizar a todos los posibles familiares que hayan tramitado la búsqueda de una persona con las características del cuerpo en cuestión. Ellos comunican al final, la noticia última.

Debido a lo costoso, la SRE ha practicado muy pocos exámenes de ADN tanto a familiares en México como a los restos de un emigrante en Estados Unidos para hacer un comparativo genético que permita la identificación exacta. Mediante este método se concretó la identificación de cuatro cadáveres en la etapa de prueba del SIRLI.

Comparativamente ese sistema, creado en un principio con el único fin de identificar cadáveres, ha tenido más éxito en la localización de individuos. Al menos 40 casos se han resuelto entre 2004 y 2005. La mayoría, hombres jóvenes buscados por sus padres y esposas. Ellos fueron localizados en Las Vegas, Chicago, Miami, Dallas,

Kansas, Los Ángeles, Nueva York, San Diego, San José, Seattle y San Bernardino, de acuerdo con los datos de la Dirección de Protección Consular de la SRE.

Marco Antonio Fraire Bustillos, encargado de esa área, explica en entrevista que en los casos de identificación de restos y de localización de personas la SRE apoya su búsqueda en un archivo que contiene los datos y las fotografías de 2.5 millones de mexicanos que a la fecha han realizado trámites en los consulados mexicanos en Estados Unidos.

"Cuando tengo la fotografía del rostro del emigrante que se debe localizar el sistema hace mediciones entre las cejas, los ojos, la nariz, el mentón, los labios y me da posibles comparaciones positivas y el operador empieza a descartar entre las opciones. Por eso es bien importante que los consulados fotografíen el rostro de los cuerpos que no estén en estado de descomposición", dice.

Sin embargo, aclara que en los casos de éxito de localización de personas la SRE no revela la información a los solicitantes en México sin la autorización previa de quien es buscado en Estados Unidos.

Fraire Bustillos, quien trabajó entre 1998 y 2003 en los consulados generales de México en El Paso y en San Antonio, Texas, explica que el siguiente paso para consolidar el SIRLI es la conformación de un banco de datos genético.

Adelanta que la SRE está próxima a firmar un acuerdo con la Universidad de Baylor, en Waco, Texas, para que en su laboratorio forense, uno de los más avanzados en el ramo, se apliquen exámenes de ADN a los primeros cien cuerpos de emigrantes muertos a partir de febrero próximo.

Para revisar la lista de migrantes muertos en Arizona en 2005 visite el sitio: <http://www.derechoshumanosaz.net/deaths.php4>

## El FBI viene de la pagina 3

en el pasado y han trabajado en forma conjunta con otros cuerpos policíacos para lidiar de manera correcta con esas advertencias. Sin embargo, su portavoz, Salvador Zamora, no quiso confirmar ni proporcionar datos específicos sobre el memorándum interno.

"Traficantes de indocumentados mexicanos no identificados están enojados por el incremento de vigilancia a lo largo de la frontera y han acordado que el mejor camino para tratar con los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza es contrató a grupos de asesinos", publicó ayer el Daily Bulletin según dice el alerta de seguridad del DHS.

"Mira, aquí en el medio de nosotros no se ha oído nada de eso y no creo que eso pueda ser, porque no nos conviene. Para nosotros entre más calmado esté es mejor", mencionó "El Gavilán".

"Si nos ponemos a echarle bronca a 'la migra', más duro se va a poner el jale, por eso cuando alguien la está regando, le decimos que se la lleve calmada, para que no se caliente el terreno", aseguró con esa experiencia que le dan sus casi 20 años en el negocio.

El semanario Tucson Weekly publicó la semana pasada que de septiembre de 2004 a septiembre de 2005, de Tucson a San Diego, se registraron 43 incidentes de agresiones contra agentes fronterizos, en comparación con 18 que hubo el año fiscal anterior. Como resultado de esas agresiones, 20 agentes tuvieron que ser hospitalizados, mientras que cinco sospechosos de "polleros" resulta-

ron muertos a balazos.

Esa publicación indicó también que un memorándum vinculado al FBI advertía a finales de 2005 que dos agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza estaban en la mira de un cartel de las drogas mexicano.

No era "pollero". Raul Martínez, portavoz de la Patrulla Fronteriza en San Diego, dijo que el caso de Guillermo Martínez continúa bajo investigación y que no hay nada nuevo que ellos pudieran dar a conocer al respecto.

La semana pasada este portavoz indicó que Guillermo Martínez contaba con antecedentes delictivos como traficante de personas y que en 11 ocasiones había sido arrestado.

Respecto a ese dato, Raul Martínez ya no quiso opinar, por lo que no se pudo explicar cómo es que en un año y medio en que Guillermo tenía en Tijuana pudo ser detenido en tantas ocasiones por ser "pollero" y gozar de libertad.

"Según dijo 'El Gavilán', Guillermo no era 'pollero'". "Ese morrillo tenía muy poco acá, él no era 'pollero', su hermano es el que sí. A su hermano sí lo conozco", comentó.

Guillermo Martínez fue asesinado de un balazo por la espalda disparado a una distancia menor de cinco metros, según una investigación pericial. Vivía en unos cuartuchos de renta de una zona marginada de la colonia Libertad, en Tijuana, con su esposa Mayra y sus hijos Kimberly, de 3 meses, e Ismael, de 2 años.

## Hispanics Fill One Third of Jobs Created in 2005

By Andrea Lehman  
The unemployment rate for Hispanics dropped slightly to 6.0 percent in December from 6.1 in November, according to data released by the U.S. Department of Labor. The overall U.S. unemployment rate also dropped by 0.1 percentage point, falling to 4.9 percent in December from 5.0 percent in November.

The Hispanic population that affects the labor market (those over age 16 that are non-institutionalized civilians) increased by 93,000 in December bringing 78,000 new entrants to the labor force. The vast majority (75,000) found jobs with the remaining 3,000 being unemployed, but still searching. Such a high job finding rate accounts for the decrease in the unemployment rate.

The remaining population increase of 15,000 did not join the labor market, though it is not possible to determine whether that was by choice (due to age, health, or lifestyle) or a belief that they would be unable to find work and so terminated their job search.

On an annual basis, employment of Hispanics has increased by 847,000 jobs, bringing the Hispanic unemployment rate down from 6.5 percent in December 2004 to the current 6.0 percent. Hispanic employment represented one third of the total 2.6 millions jobs created in 2005.

Looking at seasonally unadjusted data, the unemployment rate for Hispanic men (20 years and over) increased to 5.1 percent in December from 4.8 percent in November. This was caused by a loss of 1,000 jobs, along with an increase in the labor force of 38,000 Hispanic men. Together this increased the rolls of the unemployed by 39,000. For the year, Hispanic men gained 530,000 jobs, decreasing the unemployment rate from 5.7 percent in December 2004 to the current 5.1 percent.

At 6.0 percent, the unemployment rate in December for Hispanic women 20 years and over decreased from 6.4 percent in November. Hispanic women gained 39,000 jobs with higher holiday labor demand. This decreased the number of unemployed by 34,000, as well as absorbing 5,000 new entrants to the labor force. In 2005, Hispanic women added 308,000 jobs to the U.S. economy, decreasing their unemployment rate from 6.6 percent a year ago to the current 6.0 percent.

The unemployment rate for Hispanic youths (age 16 to 19) increased in December to 17.3 percent from 16.9 percent in November. This resulted from a loss of 5,000 jobs, increasing the number of unemployed Hispanic teenagers by 4,000 with the rest leaving the labor force at least temporarily perhaps for school or family reasons.

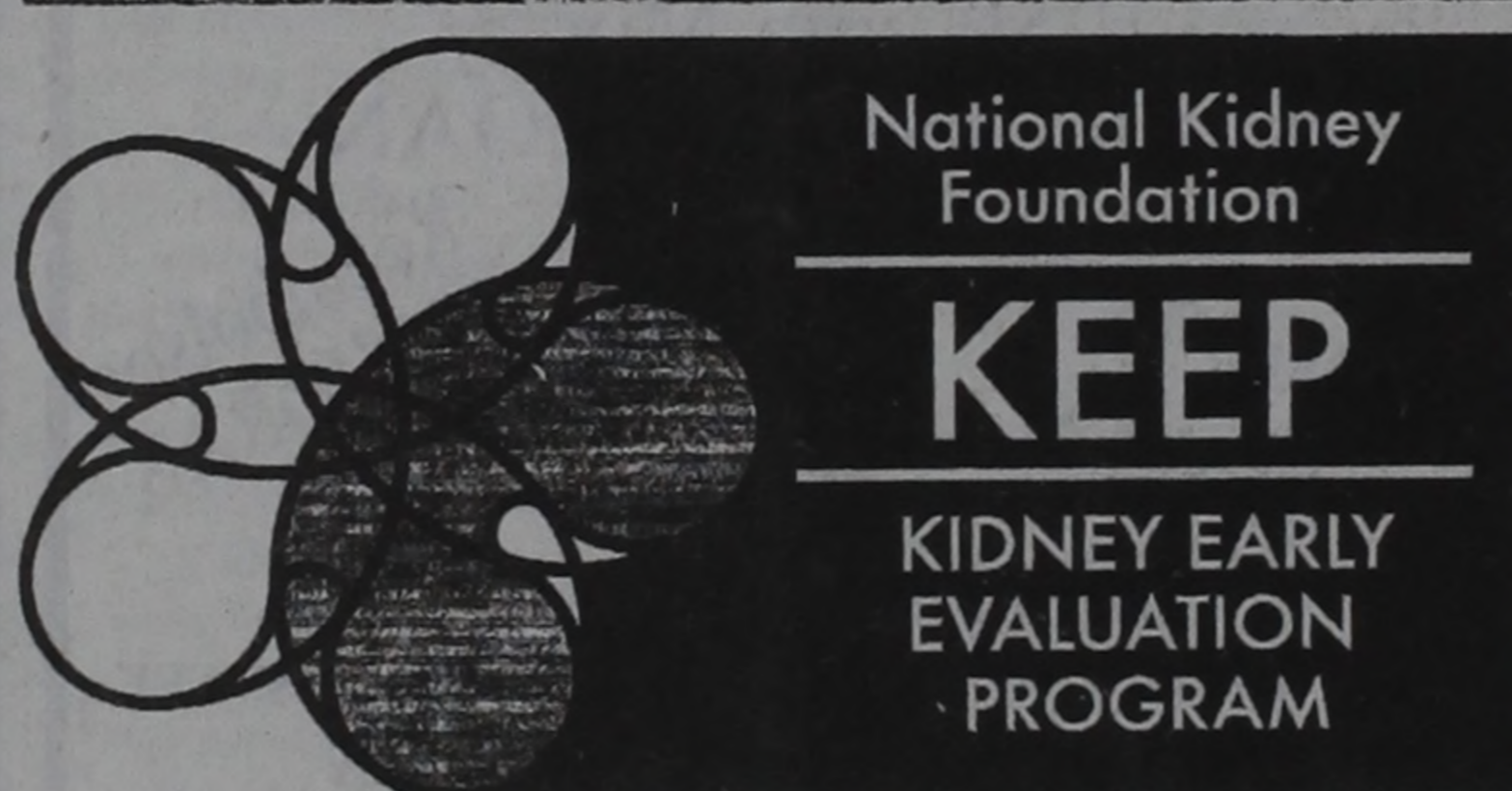
Hispanic youths gained 10,000 jobs since December 2004. However, with the rate of population growth among young Hispanics, this gain was not enough to keep pace with the supply of workers and their unemployment rate has risen

## Montelongo's Restaurant



3021 Clovis Road

Lo Mejor en Comida Mexicana  
Llame 762-3068 Lubbock, TX



You should attend KEEP if you are 18 years or older and have one or more of the following: Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, a Parent, Grandparent, Brother or Sister with Diabetes, High Blood Pressure or Kidney Disease

Please call 806-799-7753 for more information!!



FOR AS LITTLE AS \$5.00!  
For the Very Best in Quality, Design & Price!

CALL 763-3841

EL EDITOR

1502 Avenue M - Lubbock, Tx

## Do You Love Your Pet???

WELL ...  
take it to



KEY  
ANIMAL  
CLINIC

5006 50th - Lubbock

792-6226

# Beyond 'La Bamba'

Ritchie Valens is often hailed as the first Latino pop star, whose easy charm and catchy music would help bring Hispanic culture into the American mainstream and pave the way for future generations of musicians. His tragic death at the age of 17 would serve to solidify his place in rock n' roll history.

But for one Central Coast family, Valens' legacy, immortalized in the movie "La Bamba," is intensely personal in nature. He was more than just a musical legend, he was family, and every winter the Valenzuelas honor their brother the best way they know how - with song.

"Music was always at the heart of our family," said Hollister resident Connie Lemos, the middle of the five Valenzuela children. "Whether it was Mexican music or rock 'n' roll, the record player was always on in our house."

Keeping in the spirit of their family's musical traditions, the Valenzuelas have organized a tribute concert for their brother, which will be performed in their adopted home of Watsonville in early February.

"People scream and jump up and down," Lemos said. "Just like they did in the 50's."

In the late 1950s, at the height of Valens' fame, older brother Bob Morales was already living on his own and Lemos and her little sister Irma were only in primary school. While hearing their big brother's songs on the radio were a thrill, they say the family had known he was special all along.

"It was amazing to us," said Irma Norton. "We couldn't understand why all these teenage girls were screaming over him."

"We knew he was famous when

he started bringing piles of photographs home to autograph," Lemos said. "We would take some to school and sell them for a nickel a piece."

The Valenzuela family was only able to enjoy Valens' fame for a short year. On Feb. 3, 1959, Valens boarded a small airplane with rock icons Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper, who were touring with him. The three musicians perished in a crash over rural Iowa, and the event was later memorialized in the Don McLean song "American Pie."

Lemos and her sister learned of the crash from another student on their way home from school.

"When we got home there were tons of people outside, and Ritchie's friends were standing around Mama," Norton said. "And when we looked at her we knew it was true."

The family went into a period of deep and painful mourning. Nobody spoke of Valens, but their mother Concepcion Valenzuela, constantly played his music.

"People would ask her, 'Concha, why are you listening to that music?'" Lemos said. "And she told them 'No, I'm not listening to music. I'm listening to my son, because I'm nothing without him.'"

In 1962, Valenzuela decided to move her family from their southern California home to Watsonville, looking for a fresh start and an escape from the often painful memories of her son. As the children grew up, they stayed on the Central Coast, but no one spoke of Valens or listened to his music for more than 20 years. It was not until Mario Ramirez, the youngest of the Valenzuela clan, was introduced through a mutual friend to Daniel Valdez - brother of Luis

Valdez, founder of the San Juan-based Latino theater company El Teatro Campesino. Daniel Valdez was a longtime Valens fan, and before long he and his brother approached the Valenzuela family about telling the story of his life.

"First they wanted to make it a play," Lemos said. "But soon they wanted to rush into a movie. They had to convince my mother that it was the right thing to do, but she loved it. We all did? There were painful parts, but watching that movie being made was like reliving the whole experience. It let us say good-bye to Ritchie."

The Valenzuela family had been told that "La Bamba" would be a "small summer movie" at best, one that would earn critical acclaim but not a lot of money at the box office. No one was prepared for the success of the film, which starred Lou Diamond Phillips as Valens and earned a Best Drama nomination at the 1987 Golden Globes.

"It was successful because people could relate to it," Ramirez said. "It's the story of the American Dream."

"La Bamba" secured Valens a place in the American musical consciousness, after which the family accepted numerous honors on his behalf. To date, Valens has a place in the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame, a star on the Walk of Fame, a United States Postal Service Commemorative stamp series and numerous public buildings in Southern California named in his honor. Many prominent Latino musicians credit Valens as a source of inspiration for their work, including Carlos Santana and Los Lonely Boys.

Still, the Valenzuelas wanted to honor their brother on their own

terms. "Everybody is always putting on tribute concerts for Ritchie," Ramirez said. "So we thought, why don't we?"

Last February, to commemorate "The Day the Music Died," the Valenzuela family sponsored a "Winter Dance Party" just like the tour Valens, Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper had put on. And they spared no expense, booking the top impersonators in the country to play the parts at the Henry J. Mello Center for the Performing Arts in Watsonville.

The same show will be held this year at the same venue, with Ramirez's Backyard Blues Band opening. A portion of the profits will benefit Guitars Not Guns, an organization that provides instruments and music lessons for at-risk youth.

"It's a rockin' show," Ramirez said. "The music makes you feel good, even years later."

The Valenzuela family remains close to this day, and tied to their communities on the Central Coast. "This is a wonderful place," Lemos said. "This is where our mother wanted us to be, and where our family's heart is. Why would we ever want to leave that?"

The family is always looking for ways to further honor their brother through their corporation, the Hi-Tone 5. Currently they hope to stage a similar tribute concert in Valens' native southern California, to commemorate his birthday.

"Ritchie was a role-model for youth, and he still is today. That's his legacy," Lemos said. "And as adults, our role is to preserve that legacy. Forty-six years later, people still look up to him, people still dance and sing along to his music. He's timeless."



## Thalia Became an American Citizen

Mexican singer, actress and businesswoman Thalía became an American citizen, her spokesman, Kim Jackwerth, confirmed it to Notimex.

The artist swore in the citizenship in New York, where she lives with her husband, the music businessman Tommy Mottola, her agent told this agency on a phone call from New York.

Thalía has been living in the US for eight years, and has been married with Mottola for five.

For the moment, the singer has not made it clear if she will also

keep the Mexican citizenship.

The singer always defends her Mexicanity, but her stays in Mexico City are less frequent every time, especially after the kidnapping of her sisters Laura Zapata and Ernestina Sodi.

The performer visited Mexico last Sunday as godmother of the TV show "Cantando por un sueño".

In her businesswoman facet, Thalía has started building an empire in the US, based on her name, it includes a line of glasses, jewelry, clothing and candies.

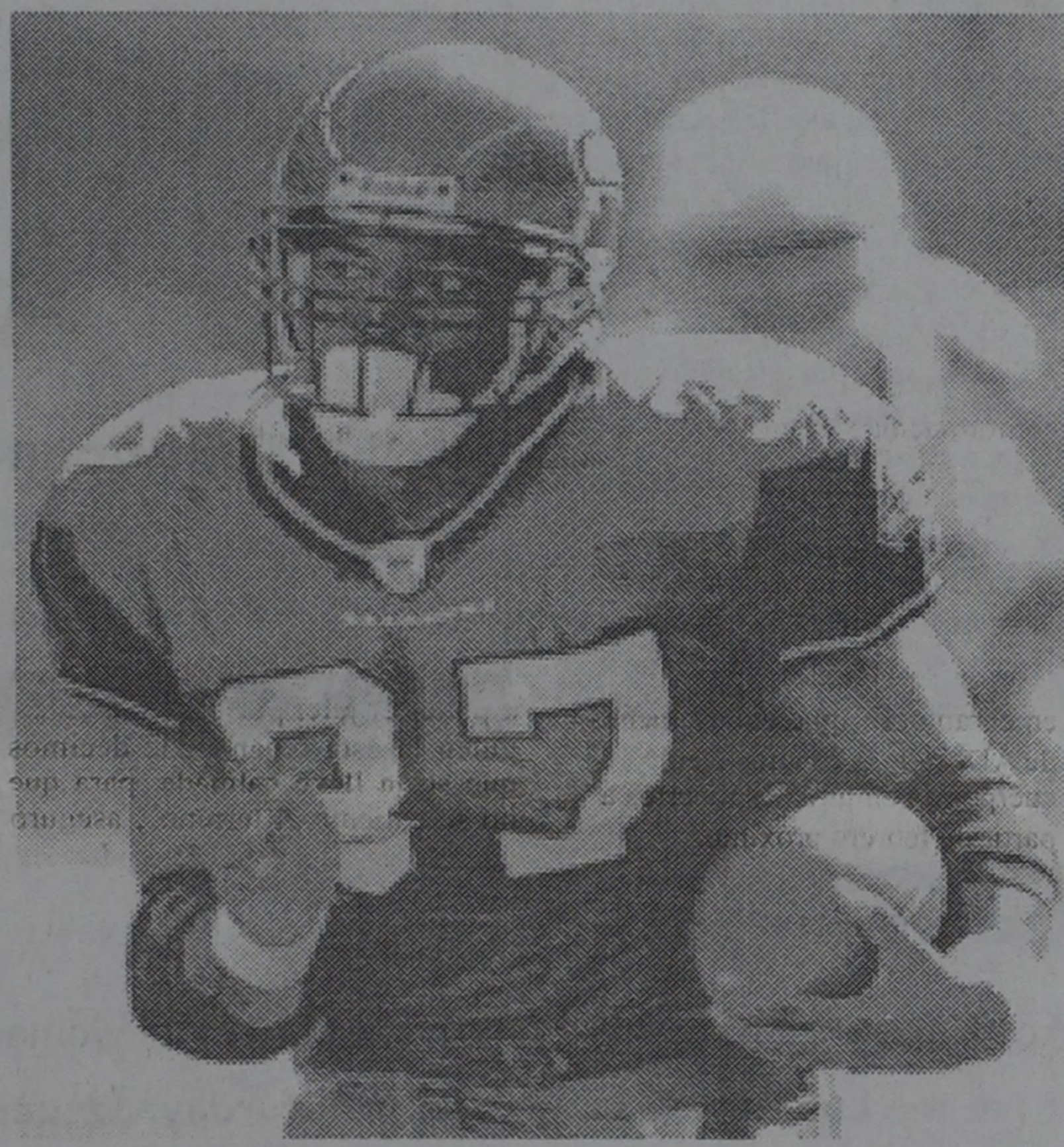
## NFL Season Finishes with retirements, records, dismissals

Pittsburgh qualifying at the last minute to the playoffs, and the Dallas Cowboys' elimination, and also various possible retirements, was the most notorious in the last week of the NFL regular season.

Also, the ground yards title of Shaun Alexander from the Seattle Seahawks, and the receiving duo of the Arizona Cardinals, Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald, each one with 100 receptions, were part of this Sunday's history.

After the night games the Minnesota Vikings directive announced the dismissal of coach Mike Tice, and the one from the Kansas City Chiefs, Dick Vermeil for retirement. It also caught the attention at the last date of the regular season.

The victories of Carolina, Tampa Bay and Washington prompted Dallas to be eliminated, which at the night game and uninspired, lost their final match against the



Saint Louis Rams.

The first week of the playoffs will have enticing games, being the most noticeable the one between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Cincinnati Bengals, as well as the one with Tampa Bay Bucca-

neers facing the Washington Redskins.

Likewise, the New York Giants will play against the Carolina Panthers, and the Jacksonville Jaguars will visit the New England Patriots.

## Aikman, White, Thomas, Moon among Hall of Fame finalists

JTroy Aikman and the late Reggie White were among the 15 finalists Wednesday for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. A

They joined Thurman Thomas and Warren Moon as finalists in their first year of eligibility. Results of the vote will be announced Feb. 4, the day before the Super Bowl in Detroit.

Aikman quarterbacked Dallas to three Super Bowl titles between the 1992-1995 seasons. White, who died on Dec. 26, 2004, was one of the NFL's dominant defensive linemen through the 1980s and '90s.

Thomas was a star running back

on the Buffalo team that won four straight AFC titles from 1990-93. Moon threw for nearly 50,000 yards in the NFL after starting his career in the Canadian Football League.

The two seniors candidates, former Dallas offensive tackle Rayfield Wright and former Oakland coach and current broadcaster John Madden, were chosen by a special committee last August and went straight to the finals. The other 13 were selected from a list of 25 semifinalists.

The other finalists are: linebackers Derrick Thomas and Harry Carson; defensive ends L.C. Green-

wood and Claude Humphrey; offensive linemen Russ Grimm, Bob Kuechenberg and Gary Zimmerman; and wide receivers Michael Irvin and Art Monk.

A 39-member panel will vote on the finalists. A candidate must get 80 percent of the vote to be elected with a minimum of three and a maximum of six getting in. If fewer than three get 80 percent, the candidate with the next highest percentage will be elected.

### Guadalupe Economics Services 1502 Erskine St.

**ATTENTION**  
Migrants &  
Seasonal  
Farmworkers  
**GESC**  
Provides  
Assistance with:

- \* Food • Fuel •
- Minor car repairs
- Partial utilities
- Clothing •
- Referrals

For appointment  
please call:  
**744-4416**

**ADVERTISE IN THIS  
SPACE FOR AS LITTLE  
AS \$20 CALL OLGA  
AT EL EDITOR  
806-763-3841**

**Provider/Attendants - Part-time**  
Caring persons needed to provide housekeeping and personal care services in the homes of elderly and adults/children with disabilities in Lubbock, Slaton, and Lorenzo. For an application call Community Action Home Health Provider Services 763-4994 or 1-800-657-8944. See full details, other job listings, and application instructions at www.spcas.org. South Plains Community Action Association (SPCAA) is an Equal Opportunity Employer and reserves the right to not offer position.

## Spanish-Language Films Impress Critics in 2005

By Antonio Mejias-Rentas

Spanish-language films found unprecedented success in the United States in 2005. Here are the highlights:

A total of four Spanish-language films earned a record six Academy Award nominations and yielded two Oscar statuettes at the Los Angeles ceremony in February. Alejandro Amenábar's "Mar adentro" became the fourth film from Spain to win the best foreign language Oscar.

One of the evening's most poignant moments came when Jorge Drexler picked up his award for best song. The Uruguayan singer-songwriter had complained because he had not been invited to perform the nominated song for the broadcast; instead of an acceptance speech, he sang a few verses from "Al otro lado del río," the winning song from "Diarios de motocicleta."

Drexler's was the first Spanish-language song ever to be nominated and only the second foreign-language tune to win an Oscar.

Also in February, two Latin American actors picked up Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, Calif. Catalina Sandino Moreno won for "Maria Llena eres de gracia" (for which she earned an Oscar nomination) and Rodrigo García for "Diarios de motocicleta."

Several Latin American filmmakers also gained international visibility in 2005.

Writer Guillermo Arriaga won

the best screenplay award at the Cannes Film Festival for "The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada," a film set in Texas that takes a somber look at immigration. The movie, which opens nationwide in February, earned an acting award for its star Tommy Lee Jones, who also directed it.

"Melquiades earned four 2006 Independent Spirit Award nominations, including one for Arriaga, and is likely to be an Oscar contender this year."

Luis Mandoki's "Voces inocentes," about a young boy in war-torn El Salvador, opened commercially in September and qualified again for Oscar consideration. In 2005, the film was Mexico's entry for the foreign language award but failed to get a nomination.

The first English-language film by Brazil's Oscar-nominated Fernando Meirelles, "The Constant Gardener," had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival, was named best independent film in the United Kingdom and ended the year with two Golden Globe nominations, best film and director.

Two Golden Globe nominations went to Argentinean musician and producer Guillermo Santaolalla, who created the soundtrack for one of 2005's most talked-about films, "Brokeback Mountain."

Fresh from his critically-acclaimed portrayal of Ernesto "Che" Guevara in "Diarios, Gael García Bernal reunited with Amores per-

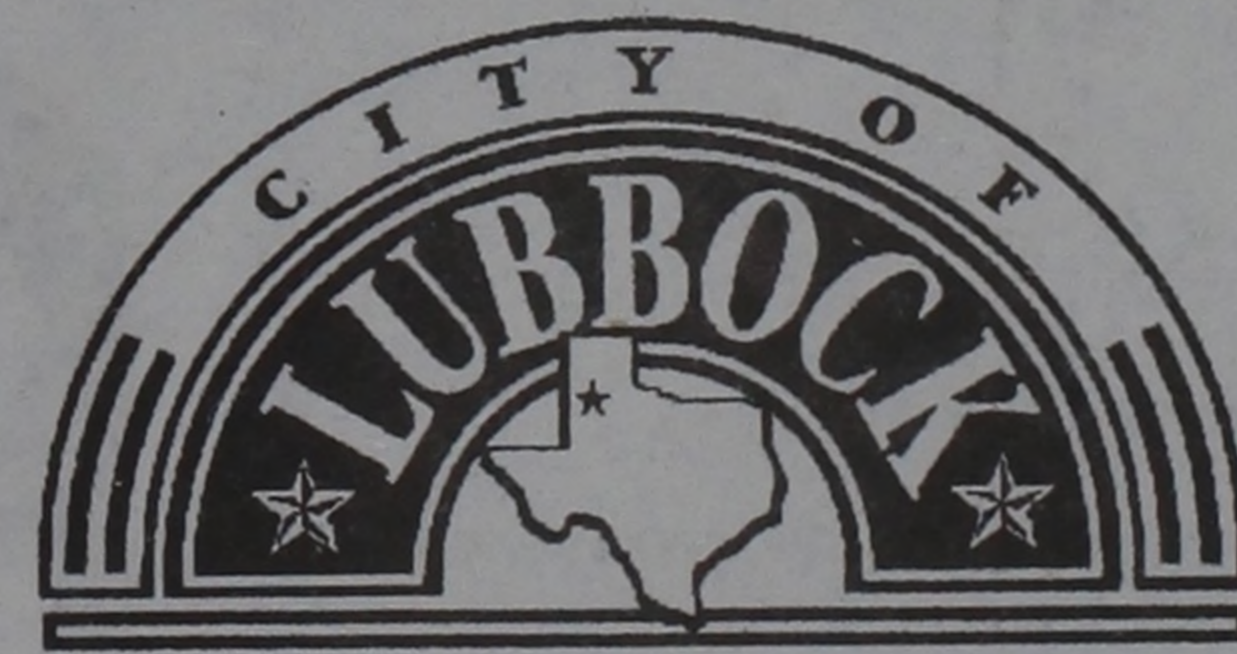
ros director Alejandro González Iñárritu for "Babel." The film, expected in theaters this year, was the director's final work in a trilogy written by Arriaga, who told reporters in 2005 that he has broken off his long working relationship with González Iñárritu.

Benicio del Toro began research for his upcoming portrayal of "Che" in a film which will reunite him with Traffic director Steven Soderbergh, while Jennifer López reunited with Selena director Gregory Nava in "Bordertown," a film shot this year in U.S. and Mexican locations about the murders of young women in Juarez, Chihuahua.

Undeterred by a string of critical and commercial movie flops and by anti-fur activists, J Lo launched her Sweetface clothing line and her Nuyorico Productions company got two projects off the ground: "South Beach," a sitcom premiering this month on UPN and El cantante, a film about salsa singer Hector Lavoe that began production in November. López co-stars in the film with husband Marc Anthony, with whom she began to share the spotlight in 2005 after refusing to acknowledge for several months that they had gotten married the year before.

NEXT: The year 2005 brought extra excitement to Hispanic music aficionados

(c) 2006 Hispanic Link News Service



### Probationary Police Officer

**SALARY RANGE:** CSP - \$18.56 Hourly  
\$38,596.48 Annually  
**CLOSING DATE:** March 3, 2006  
**REPORTS TO:** Police Department

The City of Lubbock, TX (population 201,212) will be accepting applications for Probationary Police Officer. All completed applications for this exam must be turned in to the Human Resources Department by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 3, 2006 or at Frenship High School from 7:00 am - 8:00 am on Saturday, March 4, 2006. Applications may be picked up at two locations: the Human Resources Department at 1625-13<sup>th</sup> Street, in Room 104, Monday - Friday. Or, at the front desk of the Lubbock Police Department, 1015 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Monday - Friday after 5:00 PM, and all day weekends. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO MEMORIZE ANY MATERIAL FOR THIS EXAM. The test consists of Mathematics, Reading Comprehension and Grammar.** Applicants must be 21 years of age; and not have reached his/her 45<sup>th</sup> birthday at the time of entrance into the Police Academy. The Police Entrance Exam will be given on Saturday, March 4, 2006 at Frenship High School located at 82<sup>nd</sup> and FM 179 in Wolfforth, TX 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. **The City of Lubbock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

*Dora the Conqueror*

# Character has maintained popularity through respect, trust

By Don Fernandez

By all the laws of pop convention, this media moppet has no right to rule.

Curious and ambitious. Decidedly ethnic. A thinker. Bilingual. And positively free of bling.

Convention, though, rarely starts a revolution.

"My daughter exclaims 'vamosos' to tell me when we need to go somewhere," said Michelle Hughes, mother of 2-year-old Addison West. "She can count to five in Spanish. She loves Dora."

A common face in households with toddlers, "Dora the Explorer" is an unlikely cultural phenomenon. She's won a Peabody Award. She's the first Latina to earn a balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Her merchandising income was estimated to be \$4 billion at the end of 2005, including that Fisher-Price Only the Xbox360 topped Dora's Talking Kitchen as the most desirable item of the holiday season. Her corporate parents at Nickelodeon say 26 million viewers see her every week and one in every three preschool girls owns something with Dora on it.

What makes Dora resonate so strongly with children?

Apparently she offers them a rare quality: respect.

"She looks directly at them, her eyes are wide open," said Andy Malinoski, vice president of marketing at the MapleCreative agency in West Virginia. "If you watch Dora, she gives them time to interact with her. They trust her and have an emotional response to her."

Now her empire includes a spin-off show — "Go, Diego, Go!"

— starring her animated cousin, Diego. Not that gender has stifled her appeal.

"Dora helps ground both sexes with a positive, moral mindset before they are assaulted by the negative images in many popular games and toys," said Rebecca Sutherland Borah, an associate professor of English at the University of Cincinnati.

As innovative as Dora appears, her creation was somewhat calculated — with the best of intentions. Nickelodeon executives sought a character with a multicultural bent, someone who would resonate with kids who grew up in bilingual households.

"Kids were embarrassed of speaking two languages," said Brown Johnson, executive creative director on "Dora the Explorer." "We wanted to make it be magical, powerful."

In December 1997 co-creators Chris Gifford and Valerie Walsh were working on an interactive, adventure-style series that involved a bunny as the lead. A species transplant took place, along with a Latin infusion.

The creators assembled a "think tank" of professors, authorities on race relations and others who added thoughts on multiculturalism. A



great deal of tweaking and months of research later, 7-year-old Dora Marquez was born. Accompanied by her simian sidekick, Boots, and her backpack, named, well, Backpack, Dora embarks upon adventures that are set up similar to a computer screen. Along her journey, she poses questions to the audience and seemingly waits for their response.

"The spine of the show always had to do with a character overcoming obstacles and the viewer helping them along the way," said Gifford.

Another element that separates Dora from other characters aimed toward tykes: She has a life. One the post-toddler set envies.

"Preschoolers are our least powerful citizens," Gifford said. "They feel as if they are actively helping (Dora) every step of the way. That feeling of empowerment is so exciting to them."

is the last thing on my mind," she said. "This was his revolution."

In Mexicali on that recent day, though, the revolution took time. The government provided only one person to process the 56 braceros from San Diego County. The wait time of five hours grew even longer when 20 more arrived from Los Angeles.

Those who didn't bring chairs sat on the floor in a cramped hallway. Some men who brought chairs gave them up to women, as the wait extended well

into the afternoon.

Exhausted at the end of his long journey, Vázquez shared aloud the common lament, "They should have returned the money a long time ago."

(Hiram Soto is a reporter with Enlace, a Spanish-language weekly newspaper published in San Diego, Calif., which is a member of New California Media.

2006 Hispanic Link News Service. Reprinted with permission.

# Tras el cáncer de mama

La reconstrucción de los senos que se extirpan por cáncer ayuda a superar el trauma psicológico de las pacientes

Josefina Vidal

Despertar de la anestesia con un busto en el que las cicatrices sustituyeron al seno es una experiencia devastadora, han testimoniado mujeres que padecieron cáncer de mama. Por suerte, hoy es posible evitar este trauma psicológico, porque las modernas técnicas de reconstrucción permiten que en la misma mesa de operaciones el cirujano plástico haga una reconstrucción.

"No es nunca como el seno que tenía, pero es mucho mejor que no tener nada", dice la doctora Gail Mattson-Gates, cirujana plástica de Kaiser Permanente.

María Fajardo, paciente de esta doctora, no lo pensó ni un momento: deseaba salir de la anestesia con el busto reconstruido. Esta mexicana, de 34 años, había desarrollado cáncer de mama y con anterioridad a la operación en la que iban a extirparle ambos senos, su oncólogo la envió ya a Mattson-Gates. Esta le habló de sus opciones.

La reconstrucción de los senos se efectuó tras la mastectomía doble en una intervención quirúrgica de seis horas. Los resultados, dicen un año después doctora y paciente, han sido completamente satisfactorios. Nada en María Fajardo delata sus cuatro años de lucha para librarse del cáncer. Si acaso, las cicatrices que muestra sin reparos en la espalda y en el busto reconstruido. La operación se efectuó en un hospital de Kaiser y la cubrió el seguro íntegramente.

"Es más sencillo reconstruir los senos en una sola intervención quirúrgica, aunque la operación sea más larga, porque se aprovecha la misma piel, no hay que cortarla y dejar que las heridas cicatricen para volverlas a abrir después", dice la doctora Mattson-Gates.

Pero también hay mujeres que prefieren esperar y hacer la reconstrucción más tarde, explica esta especialista. "Eso es aconsejable si han de seguir recibiendo radiación" y añade que hay otras que ni siquiera desean que se les reconstruya el seno. "Lo que quieren es que les extirpen el cáncer y todo aquello que pueda

estar afectado por el cáncer".

Hay varios sistemas para la reconstrucción permanente del seno, pero Mattson-Gates advierte que no todo el mundo es candidato para ese procedimiento. "Si se trata de mujeres con otros problemas de salud, como por ejemplo diabetes, problemas cardíacos, obesidad mórbida, la reconstrucción no sería recomendable".

La cirujana dice haber observado cierta reticencia por parte de algunas pacientes latinas a aceptar la reconstrucción del seno justo después de la mastectomía. "Parece preocuparles más y no sé si debe a una preocupación de tipo económico, aunque eso no debería inquietarles, porque hoy los seguros cubren la reconstrucción mamaria cuando se debe a una extirpación por cáncer".

Procedimientos

En la mayoría de los casos se utiliza el método de insertar bajo la piel y el músculo pectoral un globo expansivo que en el curso de varias semanas se irá llenando gradualmente con una solución salina que hará que se estire la piel. Cuando ésta se ha dilatado lo suficiente, el globo será quirúrgicamente sustituido por un implante definitivo. La reconstrucción del pezón y la areola del seno también se llevará a

cabo en intervenciones sucesivas.


Otro sistema es la reconstrucción con colgajo, en la que se utiliza el propio tejido de la mujer, que puede extraerse de la espalda, el abdomen o los glúteos. Este procedimiento da una sensación más natural que el implante mamario, explica la doctora Mattson-Gates. A María Salgado le reconstruyeron los senos desplazando a la zona mamaria músculo y piel de ambos lados de la espalda. Bajo la epidermis lleva colocado un implante que preferiría tuviese mayor volumen que sus senos naturales. Este implante ha sido rellenado paulatinamente con una solución salina. Los implantes que se utilizan en las reconstrucciones son iguales a los que se usan para aumentar el volumen de los senos, explica la cirujana.

Desde hace años se debate la seguridad de los implantes de silicona, uno de los productos que más se habían utilizado en el implante mamario. Eso se debe a una serie de demandas judiciales presentadas por mujeres a quienes se había insertado uno de ellos. En fechas recientes, sin embargo la Oficina de Alimentos y Medicinas (FDA) decidió que no entrañaban riesgos para la salud y podían utilizarse con prudencia.

## American State Bank Anuncia Oportunidades de Empleo

American State Bank ofrece oportunidades de empleo en varias áreas del banco.

Personas bilingües son animadas aplicar en nuestra oficina del Recurso Humano, 1501 Ave Q, Lubbock.



Banking for you.  
Member FDIC

[www.asbonline.com](http://www.asbonline.com) ★ 767-7000

[www.CovenantWomensHeart.org](http://www.CovenantWomensHeart.org)

**Covenant's Family Care Symposium** is fun. Is free. And is easy access to great medical expertise for women and children. So join us for good food and great health tips at the **Lubbock Civic Center** on **Saturday, January 21**, from **8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Call **866.6WOMENS** (866.696.6367) to pre-register. Or, better yet, register online at **www.CovenantWomensHeart.org** and double your chances of winning one of our many prize drawings.

**Focusing on your HEART'S HEALTH—also offering FREE:**

- Women's health screenings\* (\$250 value) • Children's health screenings\* (\$75 value)
- Immunizations (prior records required) • Medical identity registration for children
- Eye examinations • Healthy snacks • Lunch buffet • Expert advice on diet and fitness
- Fun activities for kids • Great prizes

\*Be sure to fast for 12 hours prior to your free health screening. Screenings will end at 11 a.m.



There's no sense **making excuses** about your health.

Register today for our **FREE Family Care Symposium** on **January 21**.

