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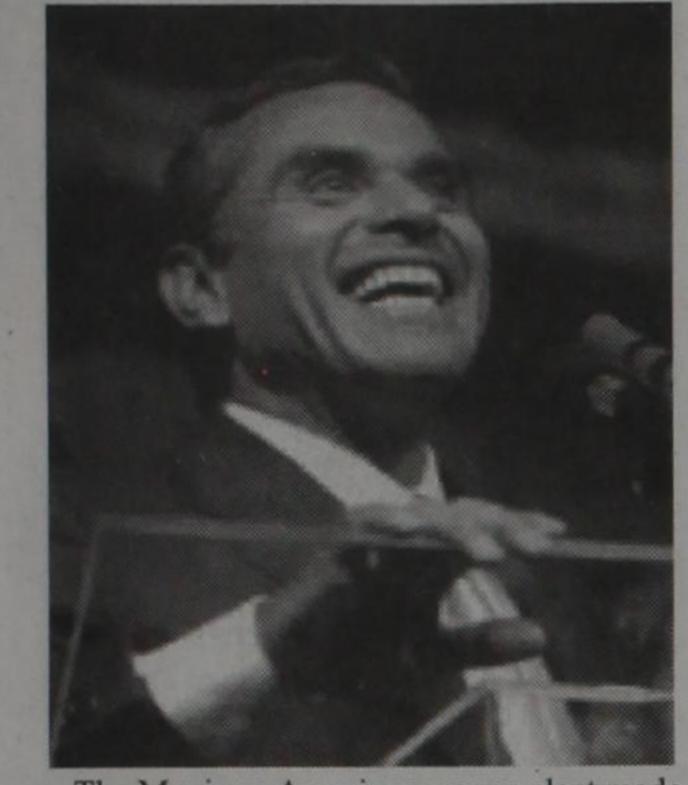
Lubbock, TX USA

Lic Benito Juarez

Villaraigosa Lights Beacon for New Generation of Leaders

By Sonia Meléndez

The victory of Antonio Villaraigosa as the first Latino mayor of Los Angeles, the nation's second-largest city, since 1872 is hailed as testimony of growing Latino political muscle nationwide.



The Mexican-American mayor-elect made history May 17 by beating incumbent James Hahn by sweeping 59 percent of the vote. Four years earlier, Hahn beat Villaraigosa 54 percent to 46 percent.

In defeat, the 54-year-old Hahn also made history. He became the first incumbent in that city since the Great Depression to lose a second-term re-election bid.

Villaraigosa, at 52, joins 21 other Latino mayors of U.S. cities with populations of 100,000 or more, according to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. Four years ago, some negative ads attempted to tie him to East Los Angeles gangs and drug problems.

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

A former California Assembly Speaker, Villaraigosa takes office July 1 to govern the diverse city of angels, with its 3.7 million people. Nearly half of that population is now Latino.

Local political pundits attribute his success this time to presenting himself more convincingly as not just a Latino candidate but as the candidate for all Angelenos.

Tom Hogen-Esch, director of policy and community outreach for the Center for Southern California Studies at California State University, Northridge, calls it an achievement - a celebration - of the multiracial democracy of the city. "Los Angeles was able to set aside all the fears and stereotypes and come together to elect the best candidate,"

While exit polls showed Villaraigosa's most solid base continued to be Latino voters, additionally he gained the majority support of blacks, whites and conservatives from the San Fernando Valley, all of whom supported Hahn in 2001

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Homenaje by: Ysidro Gutiérrez

A Tribute to Petrita Montelongo

Everyone who knew Petrita Montelongo loved her. She was the lady from the barrio people speak of with affection and admiration. Petrita was the lady that everyone could go to, as a child goes to his mother, for

a smile, a gentle embrace and a warm welcome. Her motherly qualities of caring and compassion came natural to her and were freely given to everyone. Petrita's welcoming embrace would be enough to endear those whose good fortune it was to know her, but it was her humble manners that drew la raza del barrio to her.



The former Petrita Rodriquez was born on September 23, 1907 in San Luis Potosi, Mejico. She married Heliodoro Montelongo in 1920, the year that she first came to the United States. She became the mother of six children. But in 1945, tragedy struck with the death of her husband leaving her a widow at the young age of 38. After the death of her husband, she was left to raise her six children. From the beginning she was driven, by her love for her children, to work and provide a home, clothing and food. Her children still remember her gently calling them at meal time, "Vengan a comer todos mis hijos!"

Petrita's story as a young widowed mother with six children to care for is inspiring enough, but what really makes the story of Petrita Montelongo unique is her connection to la raza del barrio. She spoke frequently to her children of the need to preserve our culture and heritage.

Petrita's public life began in 1969 when at the age of 62 she opened the very popular Montelongo's Restaurant at 3021 Clovis Road. From its first days as a one room diner with just two tables for customers, it was destined to grow in size and popularity to become the tortilla factory and Mexican restaurant occupying two buildings that it is today. It is no mystery to understand why her business was successful. Petrita worked hard. Except for the initial \$400 borrowed from friends to open Montelongo's, she never borrowed any money to expand the business. Instead, she would save every dollar possible which would be used to renovation and expand the business. "She used duct-tape on her worn out shoes in order to save money to reinvest in the business," said Rudy Rosales one of Petrita's grandsons. She lived over 3 miles from the restaurant and would walk to and from work everyday. Some nights she slept in the restaurant in order to get up early to "extender la masa." Only fresh home made tortillas to go with platos de barbacoa y carne guisada, would do for Petrita. Mainly, she did this on her own except for the occasions the children came to help in the restaurant as time permitted. Because of her special family recipes which are still used today, the people from el barrio responded with regular visits that made her little business a big success.

La raza often wonders and asks why it is that Montelongo's is closed every Wednesday. If one would care to guess why, they would have to first ask why Petrita, the business woman who saved every dollar possible, would pick Wednesday as the day to rest. This is an important clue to the answer. Those old enough to remember S&H Green Stamps will surely remember that every Wednesday was "Double Stamp Day" for shoppers. For a business woman, like Petrita, it made perfect sense to close on Wednesday to take advantage of the savings offered.

Petrita never learned to speak English. All her business dealings were by pointing with her finger at the delivery boy when receiving the ingredients for her tortillas, tamales and barbacoa. However, she was no novice when it came to business. She had been a "Troquera" earlier in life, driving migrant workers to the fields and making a weekly payroll.

Petrita was a devout catholic. She lived her cursillo under the spiritual direction of Padre Jesus Quintero. Even then Petrita was one of the many indispensable cooks for the cursillo movement. She was a member of La Sociedad del Altar and was a Guadalupana at St. Joseph and later at Our Lady of Grace Church. It was at Our Lady of Grace Church where she met Juaquina Sanchez 29 years ago and hired her to help cook. Juaquina is still cooking up the same special recipes that la raza del barrio enjoy so much.

The first time I met Petrita was at one of her annual birthday parties. Each year in September, the people del barrio began to anxiously talk of the celebration of Petritas birthday which always included a meal at Montelongo's Restaurant. The other times I saw her, aside from the times I went to eat at the restaurant, were at Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church. One of the sisters gave Petrita the nickname, "Pila de Agua Bendita." It was a fitting term of endearment for her, as the faithful who entered the church would bless themselves with the holy water and then walk over to Petrita go greet her.

(Continued on Page 5)

An East Los Angeles barrio product, llaraigosa, at 52, joins 21 other Latino Villaraigosa, at 52, joins 21 other Latino Villaraigosa Alumbra el Camino Para Una Nueva Generación de Lideres

Sonia Meléndez

victoria de Antonio Villaraigosa como primer alcalde latino de Los Angeles, la segunda ciudad más grande de los Estados Unidos, desde 1872, se declara como testimonio a la creciente fuerza política latina a nivel nacional.

El alcalde elegido, mexicano americano, pasó a la historia el 17 de mayo al ganar al titular James Hahn, arrasando con el 59 por ciento del voto. Hace cuatro años, Hahn le ganó a Villaraigosa, a 54 por ciento contra 46 por ciento.

Al perder, también Hahn entró en la historia. Se convirtió en el primer titular en una posición política en perder una campaña por un segundo mandato en aquella ciudad desde la Gran Depresión.

Producto del barrio del este de Los Angeles, Villaraigosa, a los 52 años, se une a otros alcaldes latinos de ciudades estadounidenses con poblaciones de 100,000 o más, según la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Elegidos y Nombrados (NALEO por sus siglas en inglés). Hace cuatro años hubo propagandas negativas que intentaron vincularlo a las pandillas y los problemas con drogas del este de Los Ange-

Anterior presidente de la Asamblea de California, Villaraigosa el primero de julio toma el mando para gobernar la diversa Ciudad de los Angeles, con sus 3.7 millones de habitantes. Casi la mitad de aquella población es latina.

Los expertos locales de temas de política atribuyen su éxito esta vez a haberse presentado más convincentemente, no sólo como candidato latino, sino también como el candidato para todos los angelinos.

Tom Hogen-Esch, director de políticas y enlace comunitario para el Centro para Estudios del Sur de California, de la California State University, en Northridge, dice que es un logro - una celebración - de la democracia multiracial de la ciudad. "Los Angeles supo poner de lado todo el temor y los estereotipos para unirse y elegir al mejor candidato", dice.

Si bien las encuestas de salida mostraban que la base más sólida de Villaraigosa seguían siendo los electores latinos, ganó además el

apoyo mayoritario de los negros, los blancos y los conservadores del Valle de San Fernando, todos de los cuales votaron por Hahn en el 2001.

Esta vez se ganó el voto latino en por 46 puntos porcentuales, y el voto negro por 20, según NALEO.

Como alcalde, a Villaraigosa le esperan retos importantes en casi todos los ámbitos, incluyendo la educación, seguridad comunitaria, crimen, desarrollo económico, cuidados médicos y tráfico. La posición de alcalde es institucionalmente débil, con mucho del poder dividido entre el Consejo de la ciudad y la Junta de Supervisores del Condado. El distrito escolar opera independientemente.

"El nuevo alcalde espera gobernar de la misma forma que hizo campaña: juntando una coalición diversa capaz de unir a la gente", dice Marcelo Gaete, director de programas de NALEO.

Dolores Huerta, co-fundadora del Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos, agrega que como anterior dirigente sindical él mismo, Villaraigosa tiene la capacidad de unir a empresarios, sindicatos y gente pobre. "Me da alegría ver que ocurra esto durante mi vida natural", le comenta la dirigente de 75 años a Hispanic

Andy Hernández, profesor de políticas en la Universidad de Saint Mary en San Antonio, encuentra que el triunfo de Villaraigosa es la continuación de una tendencia que surgió hace 24 años. Los primeros dos avances políticos, latinos y urbanos, ocurrieron con las elecciones de Henry Cisneros en San Antonio (1981) Federico Peña en Denver (1983).

Hernández dice que a esta generación de dirigentes la ve menos orientada hacia lo étnico, con mayor enfoque en fomentar coaliciones.

"La elección de Villaraigosa es una señal del camino que va a tomar la política, dando a conocer programas que volverán a crear la América urbana", presagia.

Mientras que los amigos y también los opositores hablan de la "agenda latina" que la ciudad adoptará bajo la guía de su nuevo alcalde, Villaraigosa mismo lo dijo muy claro en el discurso de victoria: "No tiene importancia si se crió en el este o el oeste, o si es del sur de Los Angeles o de Sylmar. No tiene importancia que vaya a trabajar en un auto de lujo o en un autobús, o si ora en una catedral o sinagoga o mesquita. Somos todos angelinos, y todos tenemos una diferencia que hacer".

Vicente Fox Still Offers No Apology

MORGAN LEE,

President Vicente Fox again refused to issue a formal apology Monday for remarks about blacks that some people construed as racist, but he accepted an invitation from a U.S. civil rights activist to meet with blacks in New York.

After meeting with Fox, the Rev. Al Sharpton said the president still needed to apologize for saying Mexican migrants take jobs that "not even blacks" want in the United States. But he also said he would join Fox in pushing for U.S. migration reforms that would favor Mexican workers.

"I think we had a very frank and very blunt discussion," Sharpton

told reporters. "We didn't throw chairs at each other, but we didn't bar any holds either." The two discussed ways in which blacks

and Hispanics could work together to help strengthen both communities, Sharpton said. "I think that Mexicans and African-Americans and Latino-Americans need to be on the

same side on everything," he said, adding in a later telephone interview with The Associated Press that the two will discuss business and educational relationships when Fox visits the Harlem neighborhood of New York.

He said the exact date of the visit had not been determined.

"I think that the president could have apologized and made a strong moral statement, moving forward," Sharpton told reporters. "His not doing that, though, I do not think robs us of our communities working

together." "But," he added, "I absolutely will always, every time I see him, say: 'You should apologize. You owe us an apology.' And anyone that tells him that anything less than

an apology is acceptable,

I think is misleading him." In a statement issued after the meeting, Fox's office said the president "expressed his respect and that of his government for the African-American community, and especially for movements that this community has led in favor of civil rights and against discrimination in the United States."

But the release said Fox repeated that his criticized comments about mi-

grants and jobs "only reflect the conviction that exists in our country of the importance of the multiple contributions that Mexicans make to the economy and the U.S. society and did not have the intention of creating any offense."

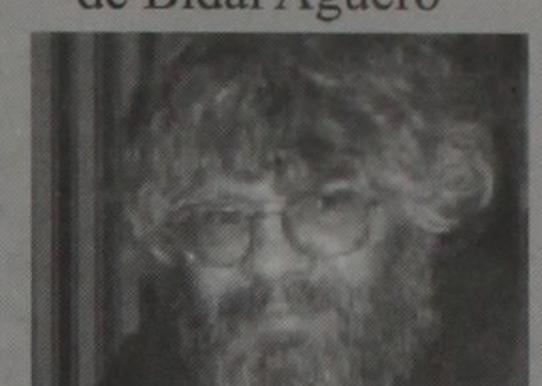
Sharpton said that was unacceptable.

"If I step on your toe, I should apologize," he said. "I should not say that I regret that you think your foot hurts. I should apologize that I caused your foot to hurt."

Sharpton said Fox told him the remarks were misinterpreted, which Sharpton said was like a "double insult of acting like I'm stupid on top of being one of the peons that 'won't even' do certain work."

(Continued on Page 5)

de Bidal Agüero



ispanics in Lubbock have really only had one representative on the School Board. Linda DeLeon's leadership and courage to stand up to what were sometimes insurmountable odds was well noted and appreciated by all within our community. After serving more than 20 years she decided to advance her political career and is now our representative on the City Council.

In the last election Eric Medina was given the task of taking her place. Since the election of Mr. Medina and in the short time since of his service, Lubbock Hispanics unfortunately did not have the opportunity to gauge his effective-

Now, a replacement must be named again. This time it will not fall on the voters to decide but the Lubbock School Board. To date only Victor Hernandez, former City Councilman, has submitted an application to the Board.

Currently, our State Legislators have been working to revamp financing of our schools and we can foresee that the mission of serving on the Board will be one of immense dedication. We can only hope that the person selected can step to the front and diligently work for the good of our community and our children.

On this Memorial Saturday, the governor of Texas, Rick Perry, has ordered to wave flags at half mast in all the public buildings in honor of Jose Mendoza Lopez, the Mexican who became a World War II hero.

Mendoza, who died last Monday at 94, will be buried this Saturday with the highest military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, in San Antonio, Texas.

The soldier of Mexican origin, which fought in the ranks of the United States Army, received the Congress' Medal of Honor, the highest decoration of this country granted to courage in combat, when repelling enemy troops who threatened his unit in World War II. On December 17, 1944, in the second day of the German offensive of Ardennes in Belgium, known as the "Battle of the Bulge", Mendoza watched the battle front where he discerned the advance of enemy soldiers.

Armed with a machine gun and sheltered in a hole that left half of his body uncovered, the soldier stated shooting without stopping, to the time he prayed to the Virgin of Guadalupe. Mendoza continued shooting although he was demolished by a projectile in the middle of an intense shooting, to kill more than a hundred German soldiers, repel the advance of the enemy and save dozens of American soldiers. His act of heroism earned him being honored as a Knight by the government of Belgium and the Congress' Medal of Honor, in addition to the Bronze star and

Mendoza was born in Santiago Huitlan, Veracruz, although his birth certificate lists Mission, Texas because he immigrated to the United States in his teens and bought a false certificate in 1935 to join the merchant marine and later move to the armed forces. In his youth, Mendoza held a variety of jobs, from picking cotton to work in boats and practice boxing for a time, using the name Kid Mendoza. He was married for 64 years with Emilia Herrera, who died in February 2004.

Purple Heart.

Teachers throughout the State protested last week against a bill filed by Lubbock Senator Duncan that sought to raise State legislators pensions and decrease teacher's pensions. Our other representative Carl Isett voiced his disapproval of changing a regulation in the CHIP program that would enable more kids to beome quaified. I guess that was two more great accomplishments from our representatives from the "Giant Side of Texas."

Write to Bidal at eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Living on the Wrong

Side of the Tracks

By Abel Cruz

In a clear indication that people no longer make the decisions that

directly affect their neighborhoods, rather city institutions and people

that run them do, a long standing symbol of the Guadalupe barrio will

The fact that the center is scheduled to be demolished early next

simple answer is this: there are parts of this city that have always been

neglected and under funded, and the Guadalupe barrio has been one of

those areas that have never been treated with the historical significance

Neighborhood Association. Apparently the building was also part of the

and the association has had the responsibility of financially maintaining

the building. Up until now, they have been doing so with funding from

the local United Way. I wonder how many other city park neighborhood

the future. But in this case, the future is as shaky as the building. Why?

becomes, who will pay for the rebuilding of a new center? Or better yet,

of the community meeting hosted by Councilwoman Linda DeLeon,

some of the funding responsibility will fall on the shoulders of the

residents of Guadalupe. Residents are being asked to show that they

want and need a new center before funding agencies and foundations

Based on what I saw on the city news network when it ran a taping

When did this become the prerequisite for neighborhoods to obtain

But as is so often the case out here on the "giant side of Texas" it all

what rightfully should be provided for them? Are these citizens not tax

payers who deserve what is readily available to other communities in

Because progress comes with a price tag. The big question now

The easy way out is to not talk about the whys and instead focus on

centers are managed under this scenario.

will the residents ever get a new center?

will participate in the project. Why?

this city? Of course they are and they do.

depends on which side of the tracks you live on.

deal. Consequently the city was freed of any financial responsibility,

leased the land that the building sits on to the Guadalupe Parkway

Based on what I have heard, several years ago the city conveniently

week is a foregone conclusion; having been condemned by city

fall victim to what some people refer to as progress.

inspectors.

What we'll never

know though is why

the center was never

treated as the cultural

icon that it is and why

it was allowed to fall

into disrepair and a

state where it had to

be condemned. Those

questions will fall into

the proverbial deep

black hole from

where no answers

ever surface. The

that it deserves.

Finally, Some Respect for Latinos

By Ray Gonzáles ntonio Villaraigosa's election as mayor of Los Angeles, the nation's second largest city, was inevitable. Not so much, Villaraigosa's own election, but the election of a Latino in a city that has a higher Latino population than any city in Mexico except Mexico City itself. Some 1.7 million Latinos make up 47 percent of the total Los Angeles population.

More significantly, on Nov. 17 they comprised 25 percent of those who went to the polls, with 84 percent casting their ballots for Villaraigosa. Just 12 years ago, they made up only 10 percent of the voters in the mayoral election.

This is not to say that as a person, Villaraigosa was the inevitable winner. The difference was that as a politician, he finally brought together the qualities and strategies that an articulate and savvy Latino politico needed.

Significantly, he did not run as a Latino.

Some years ago I outlined in an article for the California Journal three major reasons why Latinos had until then been unsuccessful as statewide or high visibility political candidates

One: Latinos had no real economic power. Thus, a candidate could expect little financial support from the community. In contrast, Villaraigosa not only counted on wide funding support from an ever more professional and affluent group of Latinos, his

experience as Assembly Speaker in the late '90s allowed him to raise more money than the incumbent mayor.

Two: In the past, Latinos had not been able to count on important endorsements. Both white and black political leaders favored their own, and there were few Latinos in prominent political positions to offer such public backing. In 1972 there were just two Latino state assemblymen from Los Angeles and one U.S. congressman. Not a single Latino served on Los Angeles City Council or L.A. County Board of Supervi-SOIS.

By the time Villaraigosa ran for mayor, he had locked in endorsements of Congress members Hilda Solis and Lucille Roybal-Allard of Los Angeles, County Supervisor Gloria Molina and nearly all of the Latino City Council members, who make up nearly a third of that body. Additionally, he picked up key endorsements in the black and Jewish communities.

Three: Voter turnout for Latinos had been abysmal in the past. While California's Latino population has been growing at astronomical rates since the 1980s, political participation had not kept pace. In most statewide elections, Latinos could be counted on producing only 5 percent of the vote. Political parties, especially the Democrats, were loath to spend *heavily on politicizing Latinos at election time.

Things began to change in the '90s. Latinos became motivated by the passage of the perceived

anti-immigrant Proposition 187, supported by Republican Gov. Pete Wilson in 1994. Antonio Gonzáles, president of the William C. Velasquez Institute, noted at the time, "People are becoming citizens. They feel they have been treated with disrespect. They want to participate."

And they did. Villaraigosa has been the beneficiary of this anger and newfound pride. Since the '90s, Latinos have been making significant political gains that have led to this sense of inclusion in the state's political process. Nineteen Latinos, males and females, serve in the State Assembly. They are the largest caucus in that chamber and generally have the votes to elect the Assembly Speaker. Three of the five speakers since 1998, Cruz Bustamante, Villaraigosa and the present Speaker Fabián Núñez, have come out of the Latino caucus. Los Angelinos can also look to the positive political image of

from the area. These gains have not come easily. Despite their phenomenal growth in the last decade of the 20th century, nothing has been given to Latinos in the political arena. At redistricting time, California's Democratic Party leaders made a practice of carving up Latino barrios to benefit white or black politicians. Lawsuits by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in 1988 and 1990 changed council bound-

Gloria Molina on the County

four congressional members

Board of Supervisors as well as

aries in the city and redrew county districts to create winnable offices for Latinos.

Villaraigosa's 18-point victory this month came at a time when immigrant-bashing was again taking center stage. Yet he won in every income group, among nearly all religious groups (44 percent among non-Catholic Christians), among whites, Latinos and Jews (blacks 48% Asians 44%), and among all age groups except seniors over 65. He won because of his experience, his political connections, and his ability to fashion a coalition,

While having a compelling life story of being raised by a single mother, dropping out of high school and eventually gaining a law degree, he was the right person at the right time for Los Angeles, for California, and perhaps for the nation.

Villaraigosa's election as the first Latino mayor in the City of Angels since 1872 was both historical and prophetic. Its historical significance is obvious. But prophetic - how can we gage that?

Hopefully, as mayor of the nation's second largest city and in a state with the world's fifth largest economy, he can command a little respect. And Latinos, lacking political recognition for so long, can shed the Rodney Dangerfield reputation that has dogged them politically.

(Ray Gonzáles, Ph.D., a former California assemblyman and U.S. State Department official, recently retired as a professor at California State University-Monterey Bay. He may be reached by e-mail at raymond_gonzales@csumb.edu.)(c) 2005, Hispanic Link News Service.

"OUR HUMBLE SERVANT, TOM DELAY"

By Jim Hightower When I first read it in my morning paper, I nearly choked on my Cheerios. It was a comment by Tom DeLay.

Maybe you're one who thinks that, surely, the bottom of the barrel has been scraped when it comes to the sheer obtuseness and selfbloated arrogance of some of our congressional leaders. If so, you obviously have failed to look under the barrel, which is where you'll find DeLay, the ethically-challenged Republican majority leader of the U.S. house.

Tom, known unfondly in Washington as "The Hammer" for his thuggish legislative tactics and blatant selling of legislative favors to corporate interests, is so corrupt that he already has been slapped with five official reprimands by congress's bipartisan ethics committee, is under investigation by a host of Republican-controlled committees and agencies, and faces the live possibility of indictment by a Texas grand jury investigating his role in an illegal scheme to launder corporate money into state

legislative races. Yet, this guy asserts with a straight face that he is God-sent to reign over congress and impose his personal sense of Biblical morality on all government policies. When criticized for his obvious ethical failures, he not only poses as a martyr who is beset by vengeful political "enemies," but he even goes messianic on us, comparing his plight to that of "Jesus on the cross."

All of this is why I gagged and damn near upchucked when I read that DeLay had attended a recent prayer gathering on Capitol Hill, where he issued a clarion call for public officials to practice—get this—greater humility! In God, he piously intoned, all things are possible, "even greatness from sinners like you and meespecially me."

"Greatness?" Great sleaziness, maybe! Then Tom added: "Humility is something I work on every day." Not enough, Tom, not nearly enough. That's why your public approval rating is only 27 percent—about the level of Mad Cow disease.

(c)acruz2005 Email: acruztsc@aol.com CARTAS AL EDITOR

Editor:

On May 6th, Jose Quiñones a member of Blue Latinos appeared on Lou Dobbs on CNN discusing the immigration problem. You all need to click on to the hate mail website at bluelatinos.org and read the hate mail Mr.Quinonez got after he appeared on the show. The hate mail was sent just for speaking his and millions of Latinos mind about the way Dobbs and others talk about illegals. I know that several of us who lived during the fifties and sixties were predicting this would happen by the way these conservative neo-nazi's have been bad mouthing illegal immigrants. These type of hate groups starts just like they always do, first against one group, and then anybody else who looks like that group is also targeted! Yes, it has already spilled over to the rest of us, just like we though it would! Dobbs is one of those fanning the flames of xenophobia, just as several others are such as Rush, Paul Harvey, the Eagle Forum Group! They are very predictable, just like in the old days! If this type of racial hate doesn't come to a screeching halt soon in this country, we will see major racial conflicts in our own city streets within 4-6 years! This is all too familiar to those of us who were teenagers back in the fifties and sixties. Thanks to those in governmental power at this time, this thing is growing like a prairie grass fire in a west Texas dust storm, and they are enjoying the Hell out of it! Most of us knew it would. They're always predictable! This is all sickening, we're in the 21st century and race relations are no better in this country than they were 50 years ago! Keep your ears perked!

The May 6 interview with CNN's Lou Dobbs was an important event because he delivered a message that no one else is saying: Lou Dobbs is not acting like a reporter, he's becoming an advocate himself and he's inciting violence by using dangerous speech. Quiñones did his best to convey these important messages to Lou Dobbs on his show and to his audience. To see the video or read the transcipt of the interview, go to this link. www.bluelatinos.org/dobbsinterview.htm After the interview, Quiñonsz received over a thousand emails, most of which were ugly and hateful. To read a sample of the hate that is brewing in our society, go to this link. www.bluelatinos.org/hatemail.htm

As a civic leader, we have to hold Lou Dobbs responsible for inciting hate and fear in America. That is why the interview was not the end of the petition; rather it was the beginning of our effort to change the tone and tenor of the discussion on immigration reform. The discussion is going to be hard and difficult, but as long as we keep our moral compass firm and allow our faith to guide us, I'm sure we'll move America forward.

Today, Senators John McCain, Republican from Arizona, and Ted Kennedy, Democrat from Massachusetts, are introducing "Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act" a comprehensive immigration reform bill that takes the next step towards fixing our broken immigration system. Gracias -- Miguel Torrez



Por Fin, Algo de Respeto Para los Latinos

Ray Gonzáles

ra inevitable la elección de Antonio Villaraigosa como alcalde de Los Angeles, la segunda ciudad más grande de la nación. No tanto por ser la elección de Villaraigosa de por sí, sino por ser una elección en una ciudad cuya población latina es mayor que todas las ciudades en México menos el Distrito Federal mismo. Unos 1.7 millones de latinos son el 47 por ciento del total de la población de Los Angeles.

Lo que es más significante, el 17 de noviembre, eran el 25 por ciento de los que fueron a las urnas, con el 84 por ciento votando por Villaraigosa. Hace sólo 12 años, eran solamente el 10 por ciento de los votantes en la elección por alcalde.

No es decir que como persona Villaraigosa fuera inevitablemente el victorioso. La diferencia radica en que, como político, finalmente juntó todas las calidades y estrategias que un latino elocuente

y listo necesitaba. Es importante notar que no hizo campaña como latino.

Hace unos años hice un esque-ma de un artículo para el California Journal de tres razones principales por las que hasta entonces los latinos no habían tenido éxito como candidatos políticos a nivel estatal ni de alta visibilidad.

Una: que los latinos carecían de poder económico viable. Por ende, un candidato podía esperar poco en términos de apoyo económico de la comunidad. Como contraste, Villaraigosa no sólo pudo contar con amplio apoyo financiero de un grupo de latinos cada vez más profesional y pudiente, sino que también su experiencia como presidente de la Asamblea de California a fines de los noventa le permitió recaudar más fondos que el alcalde titular.

Dos: que en el pasado los latinos no podían contar con el respaldo público de personas importantes. Los dirigentes tanto blancos como negros favorecían a su propio grupo, y había pocos latinos en posiciones políticas prominentes que pudieran ofrecer el respaldo público. En 1972 había sólo dos miembros de la Asamblea Estatal latinos de Los Angeles, y un congresista federal. Ni un solo latino servia en el Consejo Municipal de Los Angeles ni en la Junta de Supervisores del Condado de Los Angeles.

Para cuando se lanzó Villaraigosa a alcalde, tenía en mano el respaldo público de congresistas Hilda Solís y Lucille Roybal-Allard de Los Angeles, supervisora del condado Gloria Molina y casi todos los miembros latinos del Consejo Municipal, quienes comprenden

casi un tercio del organismo. Además, se hizo con respaldo clave de miembros de las comunidades negra y judía.

Tres: que había sido abismal la participación latina en las urnas en el pasado. Si bien la población latina de California había aumentado a un ritmo astronómico desde la década de los ochenta, no le seguía el paso la participación política. En las elecciones estatales, se podía contar con sólo el cinco por ciento del voto proveniente de los latinos. Los partidos políticos, en particular los demócratas, estaban poco dispuestos a gastar mucho en la politización de los latinos a la hora de las elecciones.

Las cosas empezaron a cambiar durante los noventa. Los latinos se motivaron con la aprobación de la Propuesta 187, percibida como anti-inmigrante, que apoyó el gobernador republicano Pete Wilson en 1994. Antonio Gonzáles, presidente del Instituto William C. Velasquez, notó en aquel entonces, "La gente se está haciendo ciudadana. Sienten que los han maltratado. Quieren participar".

Y participaron. Villaraigosa ha sido el beneficiario de la ira y el nuevo orgullo. Desde los noventa, los latinos ha hecho avances políticos importantes que han culminado en este sentido de ser parte del proceso político a nivel estatal. Diecinueve latinos, hombres y mujeres, sirven en la Asamblea del Estado. Son el caucus más grande de aquella cámara y por lo general cuentan con los votos necesarios para elegir al presidente de la Asamblea. Tres de los cinco presidentes desde 1998, Cruz Bustamante, Villaraigosa, y el presente Fabián Nuñez, han salido del caucus latino. Los angelinos pueden percibir también la imagen positiva de Gloria Molina de la Junta de Supervisores del Condado, así como a cuatro congresistas del

Estos avances no se han logrado fácilmente. A pesar del crecimiento fenomenal de la población latina durante la última década del siglo XX, a los latinos no se les ha regalado nada en el ámbito político. A la hora de trazar los distritos electorales, los

dirigentes del partido demócrata de California como costumbre recortaban barrios latinos para el beneficio de políticos blancos o negros. En los años 1988 y 1990, el Fondo Mexicano-Americano de Defensa Legal y Educación (MALDEF) entabló juicios que cambiaron las delimitaciones del consejo en la ciudad y reformularon distritos del condado para crear posiciones con posibilidad de ganar para los latinos.

La victoria por 18 puntos de Villaraigosa este mes llegó en un momento en el que el sentimiento anti-inmigrante se volvía central otra vez. Sin embargo, ganó en cada uno de los grupos divididos por ingresos, en casi todos los grupos religiosos (44 por ciento entre cristianos no-católicos), entre blancos, latinos y judíos (negros el 48% y asiáticos el 44%), y en todos los grupos por edad, menos entre los mayores de sesenta y cinco años. Ganó gracias a su experiencia, sus conexiones políticas, y su poder de formar una coalición.

Si bien su historia personal, hijo de madra soltera, desertor de la secundaria quien se hizo abogado, es conmovedora, sencillamente era la persona adecuada en el momento adecuado para Los Angeles, para California, y tal vez, para la nación.

La elección de Villaraigosa como primer alcalde de la Ciudad de los Angeles desde 1872 fue tanto histórica como profética. Tiene una importancia histórica evidente. Pero, ¿profética? ¿Cómo medimos

Esperemos que como alcalde de la segunda ciudad más grande del país, y en un estado con la quinta economía más grande del mundo, infundirá algo de respeto. Y los latinos, carentes de reconocimiento político durante tanto tiempo, podrán deshacerse de la reputación de desvalidos que tanto tiempo han arrastrado políticamente.

(El doctor Ray Gonzáles es un ex-miembro miembro de la Asamblea de California y funcionario del Departamento federal de Estado. Se jubiló recientemente como profesor en la California State University en Monterey Bay. Comuniquese con él por correo electrónico a: raymond_gonzales@csumb.edu) (c) 2005, Hispanic Link News

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Video Capta a mexicanos tratar de cruzar a Texas lo largo de un dique resbaloso de

poca altura sobre el que pasaba el

Los agentes se inclinaron sobre

un muro de concreto que controla

el flujo del río, intentando alcan-

zar a los inmigrantes con postes

otro los hombres resbalaron del

dique y fueron arrastrados por las

"Trataron de ayudarlos", dijo

Jones. "Si (los agentes) hubieran

podido agarrarlos, probablemente

Jones rechazó proporcionar los

"Para ellos fue un hecho

La Patrulla Fronteriza y el go-

recuperar los

también habrían muerto".

en

agua con gran fuerza.

aguas.

semanas

cadáveres.



DEL RIO, Texas, EU - Un vídeo de la Patrulla Fronteriza difundido el miércoles captó a cuatro inmigrantes mexicanos ahogándose en el río Bravo y los fallidos intentos de los agentes por rescatarlos.

La cámara de vigilancia, una de varias colocadas a lo largo del río, grabó en marzo a cuatro hombres cruzando a Texas desde México entre la ciudad de Del Río y la represa Amistad, a unos 200 kilómetros al oeste de San Antonio, dijo Carlton Jones, portavoz de la patrulla.

Después del incidente, una televisora de esa ciudad, KSAT, presentó una solicitud para obtener el vídeo con base en la ley de lib-

ertad de prensa, señaló Jones. El canal recibió la cinta la semana pasada y fue difundida el miércoles en un programa de la cadena ABC.

Los agentes que supervisaban las tomas de la cámara solicitaron refuerzos para que acudieran al

Los inmigrantes cruzaban el río caminando tomados de los brazos, un intento peligroso a pesar de que el agua sólo les llegaba a la cintura, porque viene con gran fuerza de una represa río arriba, indicó Jones.

El video muestra a dos hombres resbalándose, aunque lograron ponerse de pie. Luego se reorganizaron en fila india y caminaron a

Lack of Spanish Language Communications Cited as Key Factor

NOP World today announced results of its new Hispanic OmniTel(TM) Financial Services Study, which found only 35% of Hispanics "very satisfied" with "where they have their money today", well below the 50% level of satisfaction found among Americans in general.

Language Barrier A Primary Challenge -- A lack of Spanish language communication from financial services companies is a key factor in lower satisfaction levels among Hispanics. Nearly two-thirds of Hispanics say financial services companies communicate in Spanish less often than they would like. At the same time, more than half say it's very important that financial companies communicate in Spanish through their representatives and

agents (62%), financial statements (58%), toll-free numbers (58%), and brochures (55%). Obstacles Beyond The Lan-

guage Barrier Also Cited -- In the investments arena, Hispanics report many other obstacles beyond the language barrier. The leading problem reported as a "major obstacle" by just over half (51%) of Hispanics was not having enough money to invest, a slightly higher percent than for Americans in general (45%).

In addition, 42% of Hispanics point to a lack of knowledge as a major obstacle (vs. 23% of Americans in general), 41% cite not knowing whom to trust with one's money (vs. 31% of the general population), 39% report concern over where to get trustworthy advice (vs. 29%), and 33% cite confusion about whom to contact (vs. 18%).

"The study's findings suggest that Hispanics just aren't getting the information they need in a form that they can use it, and the result is confusion, uncertainty, and low levels of trust," said Nick Iadicicco, Senior Vice President of NOP World Financial, who designed the poll. "Financial services companies need to do a better job of reaching out to and communicating with this market, which is projected to grow rapidly over the next several years much faster than the rest of the U.S. population."

While the study found that Hispanics are less likely to own a wide range of financial services products than other Americans, half reported having savings and checking accounts, 24% said they have universal life insurance, and

13% own mutual funds outside of employer-sponsored plans. Another obstacle uncovered is that only 39% have retirement savings plans available at work, well below the 64% of other Americans. When these plans are available, participation rates for Hispanics are lower, at 53% compared to 71% of the general population.

"While Hispanics have fewer assets than average, we believe that's only partly to blame for low ownership levels for financial products and services," adds Iadicicco. "Lower levels of knowledge, confidence and trust are all important factors, as well, and these need to be addressed more proactively by banks, insurers and investment compa-

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Mexican President Declines to Apologize

By MORGAN LEE,

President Vicente Fox again refused to issue a formal apology Monday for remarks about blacks that some people construed as racist, but he accepted an invitation from a U.S. civil rights activist to meet with blacks in New York.

After meeting with Fox, the Rev. Al Sharpton said the president still needed to apologize for saying Mexican migrants take jobs that "not even blacks" want in the United States. But he also said he would join Fox in pushing for U.S. migration reforms that would favor Mexican workers.

"I think we had a very frank and very blunt discussion," Sharpton told reporters. "We didn't throw chairs at each other, but we didn't bar any holds either."

The two discussed ways in which blacks and Hispanics could work together to help strengthen both communities, Sharpton said.

"I think that Mexicans and African-Americans and Latino-Americans need to be on the same side on everything," he said, adding in a later telephone interview with The Associated Press that the two will discuss business and educational relationships when Fox visits the Harlem neighborhood of New York.

He said the exact date of the visit had not been determined.

"I think that the president could have apologized and made a strong moral statement, moving forward," Sharpton told reporters. "His not doing that, though, I do not think robs us of our communities working together."

"But," he added, "I absolutely will always, every time I see him, say: 'You should apologize. You owe us an apology.' And anyone that tells him that anything less than an apology is acceptable, I think is misleading him."

In a statement issued after the meeting, Fox's office said the president "expressed his respect and that of his government for the African-American community, and especially for movements that this community has led in favor of civil rights and against discrimination in the United States."

But the release said Fox repeated that his criticized comments about migrants and jobs "only reflect the conviction that exists in our country of the importance of the multiple contributions that Mexicans make to the economy and the U.S. society and did not have the intention of creating any offense."

Sharpton said that was unacceptable.

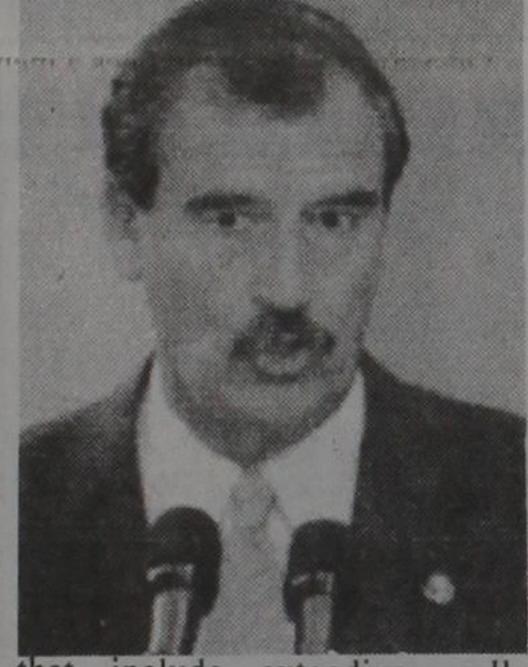
"If I step on your toe, I should apologize," he said. "I should not say that I regret that you think your foot hurts. I should apologize that I caused your foot to hurt."

Sharpton said Fox told him the remarks were misinterpreted, which Sharpton said was like a "double insult of acting like I'm stupid on top of being one of the peons that 'won't even' do certain

work." But Fox did acknowledge that there is "some racial discrimination (in Mexico) and that his administration has tried to deal with it," Sharpton said.

During a visit by civil rights activist Jesse Jackson last Wednesday, Fox and Jackson agreed they could use the incident to work together to unite. Hispanics and blacks in the United States and improve conditions for workers.

Many Mexicans were at first puzzled by the outcry over Fox's comment, saying the president was justified in his reaction to new U.S. immigration policies



that include extending walls along the border and cracking down on illegal migrants.

Frustration has grown in Mexico with the failure of the U.S. government to approve a migration accord widely promoted by President Bush.

Fox's administration has expressed interest in an immigration bill being put together by U.S. Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., that would let illegal immigrants get three-year visas that could be renewed once. Sharpton said he would meet with Kennedy on Tuesday in Washington to discuss the bill.



Photo by John P Cervantez

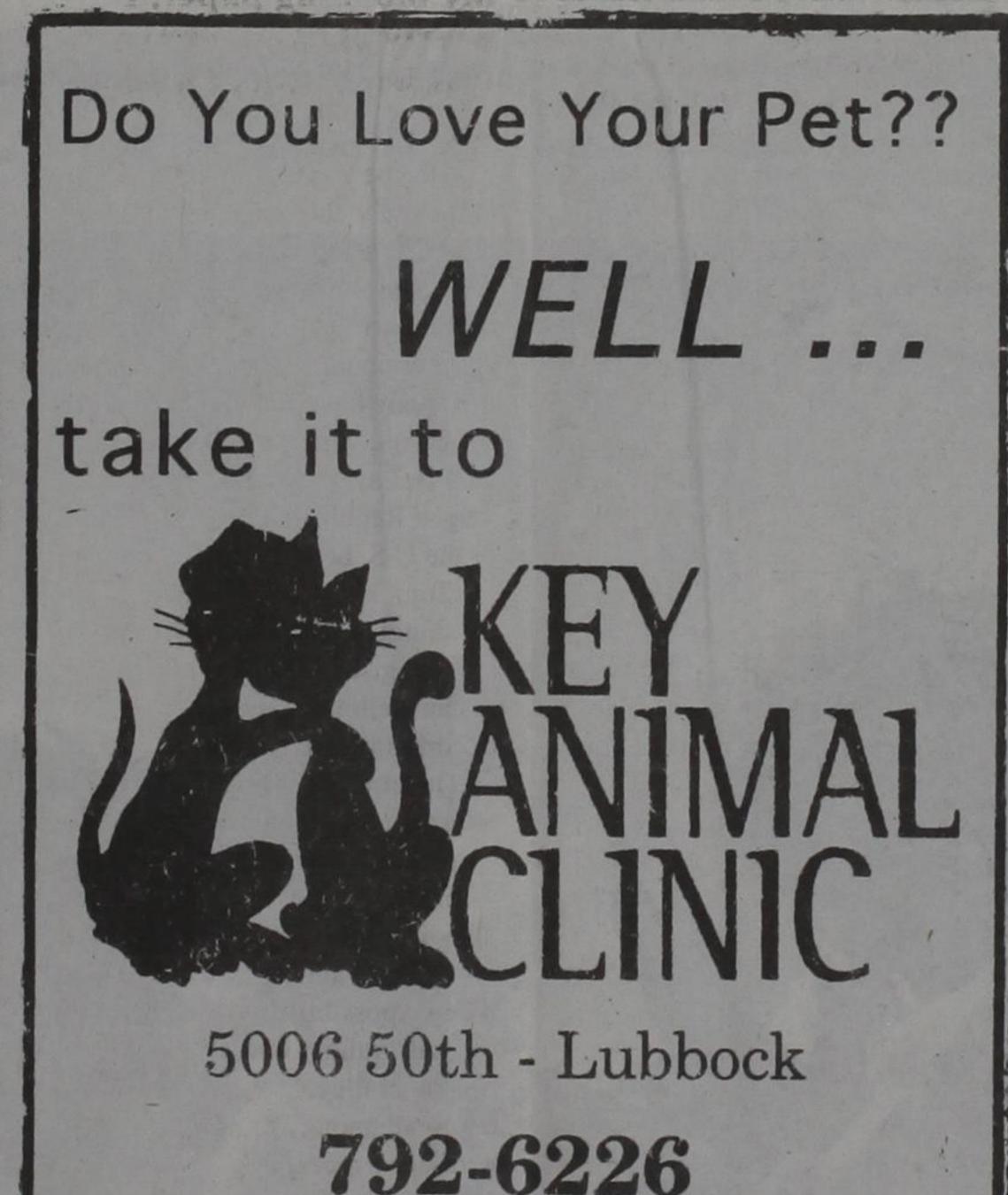
David Burns, an eleven year old boy who has a cancerous brain

tumor and is in need of financial help to pay for some of the

medical expenses, would like to say Thank You for all the persons

that participated at the Enchilada Dinner that waas held on Sunday

at Lala's Restaurant which is located at 1110 Broadway.



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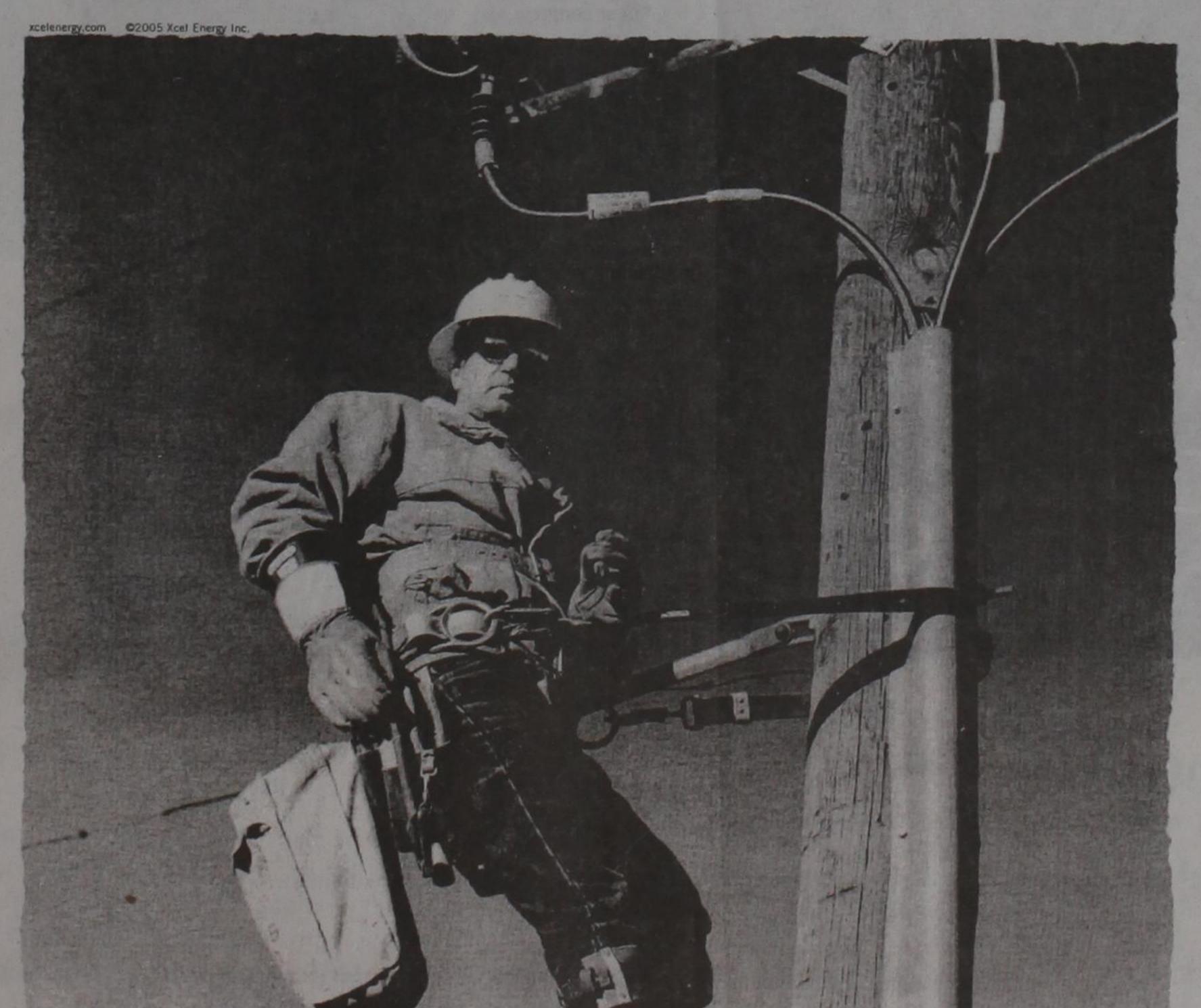
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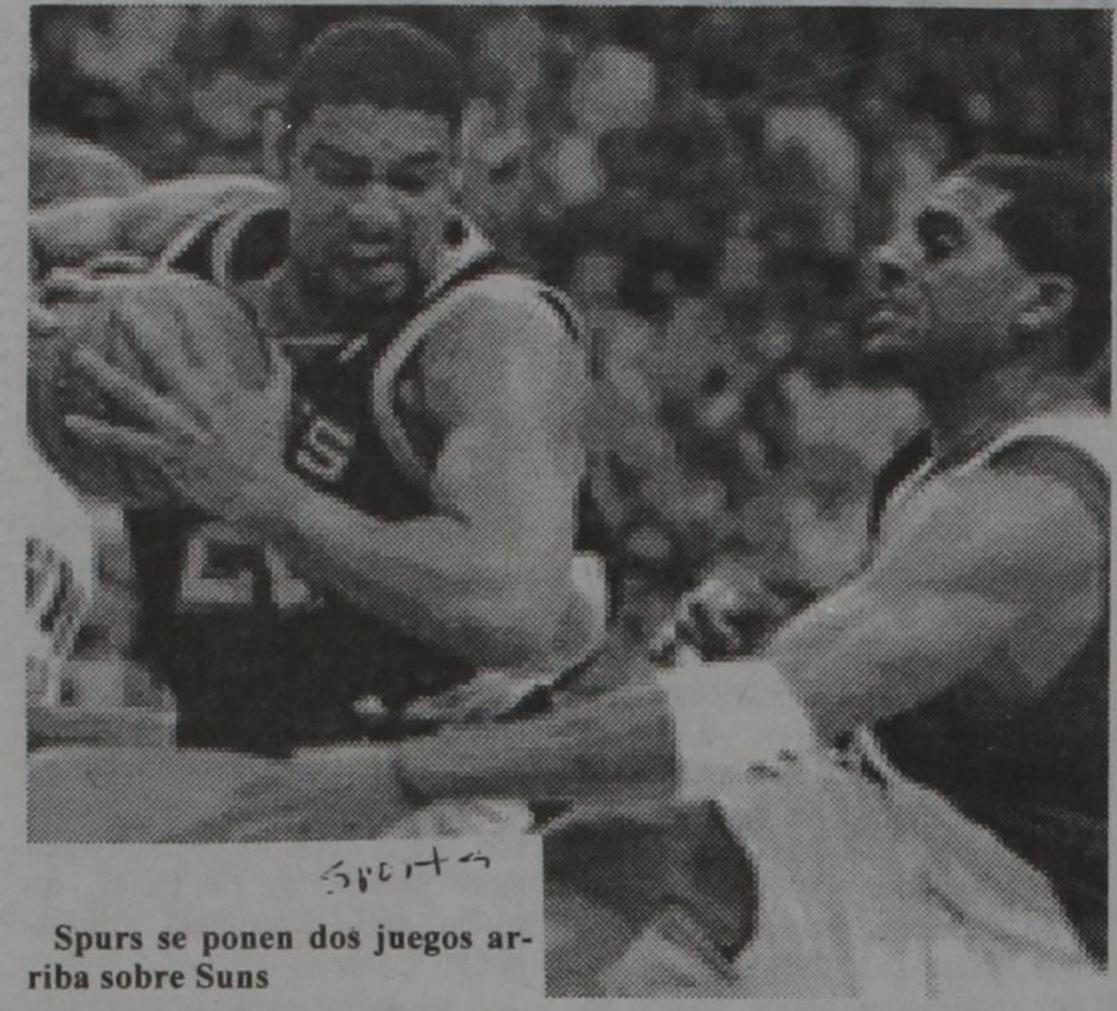
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Spursse ponen dos juegos arriba sobre Spurs



PHOENIX — La única forma en que pueden aliviarse los tobillos doloridos de Tim Duncan es con descanso, y la única manera en que puede obtenerlo es si los Spurs de San Antonio barren en la final de la Conferencia del Oeste.

Gracias a Duncan, los Spurs han recorrido la mitad del camino.

Duncan anotó 25 de sus 30 puntos en la segunda mitad, mientras que el argentino Manu Ginóbili y Robert Horry lograron encestes cruciales en los últimos 2:33 minutos, dando a los Spurs una victoria de 111-108 sobre los Suns de Phoenix, la noche del martes.

San Antonio tomó una ventaja de 2-0 en la serie, al mejor en siete duelos.

"Todavía no podemos celebrar",

dijo el francés Tony Parker. "Tenemos confianza, pero sabemos que Phoenix es un buen equipo, que va a jugar como si no tuviera nada que perder. Debemos

ser cuidadosos".

El canadiense Steve Nash y los Suns pelearon hasta el final, y tuvieron una oportunidad de obligar a la prórroga cuando Ginóbili falló uno de sus dos tiros libres, a 4,2 segundos del final. Nash tomó el balón y avanzó en la cancha, eludió a Parker pero fue alcanzado por Bruce Bowen justo antes de disparar un triple.

"Sólo traté de permanecer frente a él", dijo Parker.

El tiro se quedó corto, y pegó en el aro, para que Phoenix ligara derrotas consecutivas por primera vez desde el 8 y 9 de abril.

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Sports.com En Español

Sportsbook.com, the world's El técnico de los Suns, Mike largest online sportsbook and ca-D'Antoni, hizo una mueca de sino, made history today by offidesagrado. Nash abandonó la cancially launching Sportsbook.com cha impávido y agotado por jugar En Espanol. The Spanish-lan-46 minutos. guage site, dedicated specifically Su compañero Jake Voskuhl lo to America's 40 million strong abrazó. Hispanic population, is the first

Los Suns están en una situación muy adversa. Ningún equipo de la NBA que ha perdido los primeros dos encuentros de esta etapa de la postemporada como local ha ganado la serie. Dos equipos se han recuperado de esa desventaja en la

final de conferencia o de la NBA, pero todos jugaron en casa el tercer y cuarto duelo. Los Spurs están motivados por

volver a casa, donde tienen una

foja de 43-4.

El único consuelo para los Suns es que han ganado la mayor cantidad de partidos como visitantes en la NBA durante esta campaña, y tendrían de regreso a su tercer mejor anotador, Joe Johnson, para el siguiente compromiso, previsto para la noche del sábado.

El argentino Ginóbili terminó con 26 puntos, tras acertar 10 de 18 tiros al aro y tres de cinco desde la raya.

panic population, are becoming more established financially is Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., Ready to Fight

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., of Culiacan, Mexico, speaks at a prefight news conference in Los Angeles Wednesday, May 25, 2005. His father Cesar Chavez will fight Ivan Robinson in a 10round super lightweight bout, the main event in Top Rank's 'Adios" championship boxing card Saturday, May 28 at Staples Center in Los Angeles. Chavez Jr., just 19 with an 18-0 (13 KO) pro record, will also appear in a six-round lightweight bout against Adam Wynant of Indian-

apolis.



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and fastest growing ethnic mi-

"Latin Americans are very pas-

sionate about sports and have a

tradition of sports wagering,"

said Tony Delgado, Brand Man-

ager, Sportsbook.com En Espa-

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the United States, with approxi-

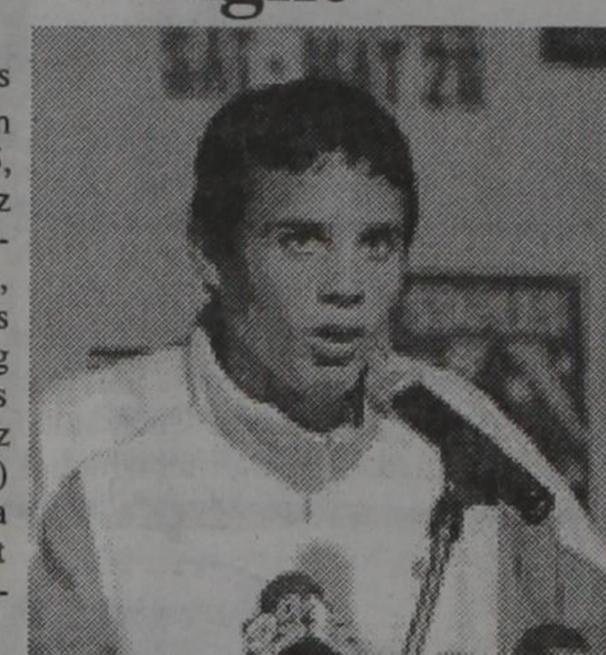
mately \$10 billion in revenue ex-

pected in 2005. The fact that mi-

nority groups, such as the His-

Apuesta en tu idioma!"

nority group.





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"As a group, Hispanics make up nearly 15 per cent of the population of the United States and have more disposable income than at any other time in their history. Online gambling is going to keep growing in this country and the Latin population is going to be a very important part of that continued growth," added Delgado.

Coinciding with the launch of the new site, Sportsbook.com En Espanol will be present as a sponsor with Sportsbook.com at the upcoming Julio Cesar Chavez pay-per-view boxing event in Los Angeles on May 28.

Sportsbook.com is the largest sportsbook and casino on the planet, offering numerous products including sports betting, horse racing, poker, casino and virtual games. It is the flagship brand for Sportingbet PLC, (LSE: SBT - News). Headquartered in London, England, Sportingbet PLC is the world's largest publicly traded online betting, gambling and gaming company.

About Sportsbook.com En Espanol

Sportsbook.com En Espanol is the first online sportsbook and casino dedicated to America's Hispanic audience. The Spanishlanguage site offers a full range of products designed to cater to the specific interests of the Hispanic population,

Salma Hayek shows concern for Mexican Immigration

Mexican actress Salma Hayek, jury of the 58th annual Cannes Film Festival that wrapped up Saturday, confessed feeling a deep "sadness" by the situation of Mexican immigrants in the United States.

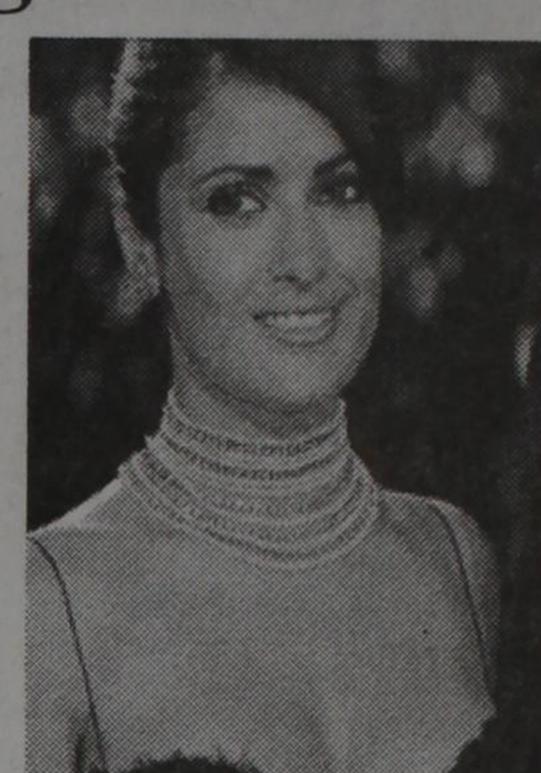
In press conference held after the film directed by Mexican Guillermo Arriaga "Los tres entierros de Melquiades Estrada", won the award for best screenplay, Hayek said "I feel sad to see what happens with Mexicans in the border. They live a nightmare."

The actress established in Hollywood said the matter concerns her and she feels identified with the main character, a Mexican immigrant that works as a cowboy in United States.

The film, written by Arriaga, narrates the drama of a Mexican immigrant in the Unites States that after being murdered accidentally by a border agent, his body is buried in three occasions by situations derived from his migratory condition.

Hayek emphasized "the extremely though political and social situation that surrounds Mexican immigrants" that venture themselves to work in the US and applauded the film.

The actress praised the "extraordinary and human" screenplay of "los tres entierros de Melquiades Estrada" written by Arriaga, author of other outstanding screenplays as Amores Perros and 21 Grams. "I was very



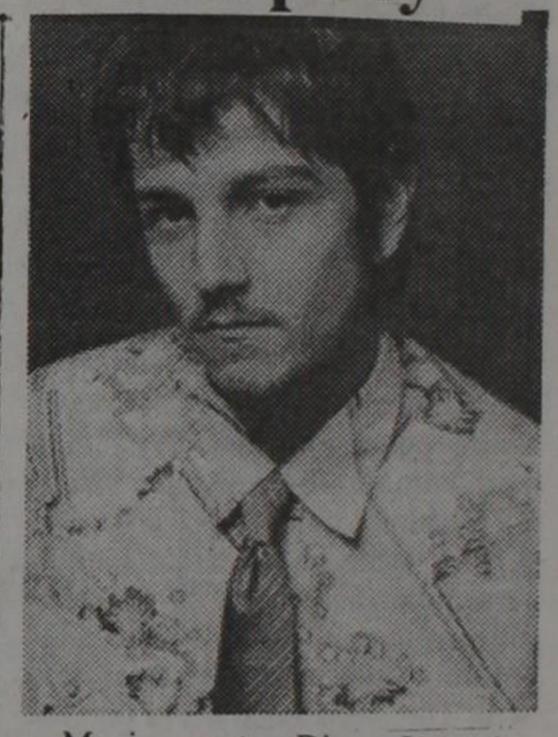
impressed", said Salma.

According to the Veracruz-native celebrity, the Tommy Lee Jones film, the first in which the veteran actor plays a character and directs, features an anti-macho performance, "although the movie takes place in a world of machos."

The film "tells the story of a man that tries to defend his right to be treated as a man", explained Hayek.

Hayek spent 11 days as jury of the most prestigious festival in the world.

Diego Luna to create film production company



Mexican actor Diego Luna informed that although he continues unemployed by his own will, he studies the possibility of participating in two films and continue planning the creation of a film production company alongside fellow countryman Gael Gar-

"I'm taking my time, I'm one of the few people unemployed but happy. I give myself time to visit friends, to be at home, I think I was very accelerated and I wanted to stop a little", said to the press the internationally known actor by films as "Y tu Mama Tambien" (2002), "Criminal" (2004) and "The Terminal" (2004).

The histrion said having several invitations to participate in a Mexican and foreign film; nevertheless, he preferred not giving details until accepting one of the projects and start, at least, preproduction.

The same goes for his production company named "Canada", to start with Gael Garcia and other colleagues interested in independent film making.

"Everything is going really good, although it's a long term project. We want to start working on it and then inform about it, I hope we have it ready by this year"

Diego Luna, who last Saturday attended the season finale of the play "Estás ahí?", said he misses doing theatre, a facet he hasn't continued since a year and a half, after his participation in "Las obras completas de Shakespeare abreviadas".

"Theater is great because you focus on a long term project; it is a way to exercise as an actor, in addition that you work along friends and make a family with them as opposed to films, where you do bits and pieces. I would love to return to theater, but a good screenplay is necessary."

Finally, the actor indicated he will start promoting "Solo Dios sabe", a film directed by Carlos Bolado, in which he also acted and co-produced, alongside Alicia Braga.



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Oleada de ejecuciones en México

Mientras el Estado mexicano no se pone de acuerdo en las tácticas necesarias para frenar la ola de ejecuciones que se ha desatado en el país, atribuible principalmente al crimen organizado, ayer fue asesinado el director del penal de Mexicali, Baja California.

Responsable operativo de la cárcel local, Eduardo Villalobos fue acribillado por dos sujetos cuando salía de su domicilio por la mañana, localizado en una exclusiva zona de esa ciudad fronteriza.

Los dos sicarios abandonaron un vehículo en el lugar de los hechos y tomaron otro para huir. El alto funcionario llegó con vida al hospital, pero falleció a causa de las heridas.

Las autoridades policiacas informaron que los dos asesinos huyeron a bordo de una camioneta Aeroestar azul, modelo 1992, y hasta la redacción de esta nota no habían sido capturados.

Detallaron que los individuos se atrincheraron al interior del vehículo, desde el cual esperaron que saliera de su casa el funcionario para balearlo. La víctima reci-

This time he won the Latino vote by

46 percentage points and the black

As mayor, Villaraigosa faces ma-

jor challenges in almost every area,

including education, community

safety, crime, economic develop-

ment, health care and traffic. The

position of mayor is institutionally

weak, with many powers divided

between the City Council and County

Board of Supervisors. The school

same way he ran, putting together a

diverse coalition able to bring people

together," says Marcelo Gaete,

Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the

United Farm Workers, adds that as a

former labor union leader himself,

Villaraigosa is a unifier who will be

able to bring business people, unions

and poor people together. "I am

happy to see this happen in my life-

time, the 75-year-old Huerta tells

Andy Hernández, political scientist

at Saint Mary's University in San

Antonio, sees Villaraigosa's triumph

as the continuation of a trend that

Fox Apology

But Fox did acknowledge that

During a visit by civil rights ac-

there is "some racial discrimination

(in Mexico) and that his administra-

tion has tried to deal with it,"

tivist Jesse Jackson last Wednesday,

Fox and Jackson agreed they could

use the incident to work together to

unite Hispanics and blacks in the

United States and improve conditions

puzzled by the outery over Fox's

comment, saying the president was

justified in his reaction to new U.S.

immigration policies that include ex-

tending walls along the border and

Frustration has grown in Mexico

Fox's administration has ex-

cracking down on illegal migrants.

with the failure of the U.S. govern-

ment to approve a migration accord

widely promoted by President Bush.

pressed interest in an immigration

bill being put together by U.S. Sens.

John McCain, R-Ariz., and Edward

M. Kennedy, D-Mass., that would let

illegal immigrants get three-year vi-

sas that could be renewed once.

Sharpton said he would meet with

Kennedy on Tuesday in Washington

HAVE

ANICE

DAY!

Be Safe

and have

Day!

to discuss the bill.

Many Mexicans were at first

(from page 1)

Sharpton said.

for workers.

Hispanic Link.

"The new mayor hopes to lead the

district operates independently.

NALEO director of programs.

vote by 20, according to NALEO.

bió dos tiros en el pecho, uno en una clavícula, y otro en una oreja. En el sitio quedaron percutidos ocho tiros, además de un silencia-

Antes de ser director del penal estatal, Villalobos había fungido como subprocurador y director de la Unidad Especial contra la Delincuencia Organizada. De esta dirección fue destituido en el 2003, a raíz de que unos agentes bajo su mando no reportaron el decomiso

El reciente asesinato se suma a la creciente espiral de violencia que asola al país, y que hasta el día de ayer había dejado un saldo de 19 personas ejecutadas durante los últimos dos días.

En este corto período, instituciones de seguridad, estatales y federales, dieron cuenta de tres asesinatos en Sonora, dos en Sinaloa, uno en Tamaulipas, cinco en Michoacán, tres en Baja California, tres en Chihuahua y uno en Veracruz.

Con estos casos, el número de homicidios violentos y relacionados con el crimen organizado ascendió en el interior de la

de una tonelada de marihuana.

Año sangriento

emerged 24 years ago. The first two major Latino urban political breakthroughs happened with the elections of Henry Cisneros in San Antonio (1981) and Federico Peña in Denver (1983).

Hernández says he looks at this new generation of leaders as less ethnically oriented and more coalition focused.

"Villaraigosa's election is a sign of where politics is going to go, putting forward agendas to recreate urban America," he predicts.

While friends and opponents alike talk of the city adopting a "Latino agenda" under its new leader, the mayor-elect made the point clear in his victory speech: "It doesn't matter whether you grew up on the Eastside or the Westside, whether you're from South Los Angeles or Sylmar. It doesn't matter whether you go to work in a fancy car or on a bus, or whether you worship in a cathedral or a synagogue or a mosque. We are all Angelenos, and we all have a difference to make."

(Sonia Meléndez is editor of Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C. She may be contacted e-mail

soniam a hispaniclink.org.) (c) 2005, Hispanic Link New

Newspaper

república a 522 en lo que va del presente año, mientras que en el Distrito Federal hubo 13.

De las ejecuciones registradas en la Ciudad de México, la mayoría se llevaron a cabo en las zonas bajas de Tepito e Iztapalapa.

Expertos en políticas del crimen organizado coinciden en que la elevada tasa de criminalidad deriva no sólo de la proliferación de bandas que se disputan el mercado de las drogas, sino también de la incapacidad de las autoridades para combatirlas y de la confabulación entre ambas partes.

El portavoz de la Presidencia de la República, Rubén Aguilar, reiteró ayer que la aprobación de la Ley de Seguridad y Justicia, que el Presidente remitió al Senado de la República hace 14 meses, sería clave para enfrentar a la delincuencia.

Al recalcar la trascendencia de tal recurso legislativo, el funcionario reiteró que "de ninguna manera se trata de un asunto político-electoral. La ley se envió hace un año y a este gobierno le queda un año y medio".

Hizo notar que se trata de una ley que, al menos en la visión del gobierno federal, resuelve una serie de problemas "presentes en el ámbito de la acción policial, como un frente unificado que permita un combate más eficaz y eficiente al crimen organizado".

Aguilar reconoció que "no se ha podido avanzar en el logro de esta ley" y dijo que se requiere intensificar el diálogo para concretar la ley que "beneficia a todos y que beneficiará no sólo a la ciudadanía de hoy, sino a la ciudadanía de mañana".

Se refirió a las declaraciones que hizo el lunes el presidente Vicente Fox, cuando culpó a las

Each December, during La

Procesion in honor of Our Lady of

Guadalupe, Petrita was there in her

wheel chair or riding in a car. The

Guadalupe as they marched to the

place where the celebration would

Petrita's love of the Mother of our

Lord (Luke 1:43) was as true as her

the age of 92, but she left the barrio

Petrita died January 10, 2000 at

people in the procession would

sing hymns to La Virgen de

take place. It was clear that

love of family and community.

a powerful testimony of what a

widowed mother of six children

can accomplish when motivated by

a mother's love. What a beautiful

"Heritage" she has left us. All of

A Tribute

(from page 1)

fracciones parlamentarias de oposición en el Congreso de la ola de violencia que padece el país, y sostuvo que las afirmaciones del mandatario no son contradictorias ni de confrontación con el Poder Legislativo.

En esta controversia, el PRI y PRD replicaron ayer mismo en el Senado que Fox se equivoca en su apreciación, ya que la inseguridad no se resuelve con una propuesta de ley, y que las numerosas ejecuciones son resultado de la incompetencia del Poder Ejecutivo en el combate al crimen organizado, a la delincuencia y en la procuración de justicia.

El senador priísta Humberto Roque Villanueva señaló que, con tales comentarios, el Jefe de la Nación "se ha colocado en la línea de la deshonestidad intelectual", y no dudó en calificar de "disparate" las acusaciones de

Villanueva garantizó que habrá seguridad en todo el país cuando todas las autoridades cumplan las leyes existentes, que "son muchas y muy eficaces".

En el mismo tono, los legisladores de oposición deploraron que Fox haya abierto otro frente de confrontación entre los dos poderes, cuando lo que se necesita es trabajo conjunto.

Demetrio Sodi, senador perredista, afirmó que México se ha convertido en el paraíso de los delincuentes e hizo hincapié en que "la violencia no es resultado, pues, de que no se haya aprobado una ley".

Apuntó que el problema de fondo consiste en que "las policías no son efectivas, en que la gente no denuncia delitos y en que nadie persigue a los delincuentes".

Doña Petrita in COMA

by Bidal Aguero t was in 1974, when I returned to Lubbock from attending the University of Wisconsin that I first got to meet Doña Petrita.

I had at that time started to take on the task of forming an organiztion of Hispanic businesspeople that would eventually develop into the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. After I explained the concept of the organization, I can remember her complete dedication to the organization. It was a dedication that later helped to encourage other members to join and become members. She continued her dedication throughout her lifetime and was honored several times by the Hispanic Chamber.



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#1 In News Ad

Como Ricardo, que lo que más desea con todo su corazón es tener un papá y una mamá verdaderos. En los Estados Unidos hay más de 118,000 niños que esperan ser adoptados y tener una familia para siempre. Tú puedes cambiarlo todo, adopta un niño del Foster Care. Calificar es más fácil de lo que piensas, puedes recibir apoyo y hasta ayuda financiera antes, durante y después del proceso y en español. Todo niño merece una familia verdadera. Llama al 1-877-ADOPTE1, te asistiremos en español, o visita www.adopte1.org.

¿Que Pasa?

Free Day at Montelongo Pool

To kick off this year's swim season, the Montelongo Mexican Restaurant is hosting a pool party on Saturday, May 28, at the city of Lubbock's Montelongo Pool! The community is invited to come out and relax at the pool for a free day of swimming and fun from 1:00-5:00 pm. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided by Montelongo Mexican Restaurant. Live music will be provided by a DJ along with live broadcasts from a local radio station.

Montelongo Pool is located in Rodgers Park at 3200 Bates, 767-2734. This pool was renovated several years ago and is completely ADA accessible. Amenities include a 90' water slide, concession stand, lifeguards, showers, diving boards, deck chairs, shake umbrellas, a separate wading pool, and zero depth entry into the main pool.

The pool capacity for this event will not be exceeded.

K-9 Splashfest!

The City of Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department and the Lubbock Fun Club are very excited to be coordinating a new event for dog owners in Lubbock this summer - K-9 Splashfest! This dog and family-friendly event will take place at Clapp Pool located at 46th & Avenue U on Sunday, August 14, from 1:00 to 6:00 pm

K-9 Splashfest is an afternoon of swimming, contests and fun! We are planning the following competitions: 1) Swimsuit Contest, 2) dog Paddle Timed Event, 3) Retrieving Event, and 4) Diving Competition. In addition, families will have the opportunity to swim with their dogs, go down our water slide, watch demonstrations and enjoy a great afternoon on the Sunday before Lubbock students return to school!

3rd Annual CAC 600 Bike Race & Tour

Entries are now being accepted for the third annual CAC 600 Bike Race and Tour, benefiting the Children's Advocacy Center of the South Plains. This year's event is slated for Saturday, June 4, beginning at 8 am at Lubbock's Mae Simmons Park, and includes road tours of 24 and 51 miles, and a 10-hour off-road race. For more information, go to www.cacrace.com. Don't miss this event and mark your calendar.

Texas Tech Rider Places 3rd at National Championship

Texas Tech student Robin Morris has won third place in the Individual Open Horsemanship division of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National Championships.

At the national competition, Morris competed against the nation's top 18 riders for the title of open horsemanship champion. Riders competed on randomly selected horses and were not permitted time to practice with their mounts. Competitors were judged ont heir riding ability, position and accuracy as they completed a pattern on their horses.

The open horsemanship divisiion is the highest level of competition for collegiate riders. The championships were held May 5-8 at the Eden Park Equestrian Center in Sunbury, Ohio.

Class and Summer Camp Registrations

Hodges Community Center and Maxey Community Center are offereing their summer lineup of weekly summer youth camps and leisure classes that will challenge your creativity, your physical abilities, and your mind!

Camps run from May 31 through August 12. Classes are offered at reasonable rates for all members of the community, including pre-school, youth, teens, adults and senior citizens. Some of the classes offered are: several forms of Yoga, Tai Chi-Kung Fu, Taekwondo, private Music Instruction, Line Dance, Jazzercise-Lite, Ballet, Gymnastics, and Pottery. For a complete list of classes call Hodges at 767-3706 and Maxey at 767-3796.

Hodges Community Center is located at 41st Street & University Ave. and Maxey Community Center is located at 4020 30th Street.

Municipal Pools Open May 27 It's time again to cool off at Lubbock's municipal pools as

they open on Friday, May 27, at 1:00 pm for the 2005 season! Hours of operation are Tuesday through Sunday from 1:00 - 6:00 pm. Entrance fees are \$1.50 for youth (17 & under) and \$2 for adults, and group rates are available for groups of 35 or more. This year the City of Lubbock will be operating the City's four pools this summer. All City pools have trained lifeguards and pool managers, concession stands, showers, diving boards, deck chairs, grassy areas and spectator seating.

The following are the pools that will be open: Clapp Pool, 46th & Ave. U; Mae Simmons Pool, 24th & MLK; Maxey Pool, 4007 30th St.; Montelongo Pool, 3200 Bates Street.

"Family Swim Night" will be every Tuesday evening from 7-8:30 pm. at all the pools for the low cost of \$2 per family of up to four people and \$1 for each additional person over four.

For those who spend a lot of time at the pool, Summer Splash Passes are available at the Parks & Recreation office at 1010 9th Street, Mon.-Fri. 8 am to 5 pm and at each of the pools.

2nd Annual Motorcycle Poker Ride

The Lubbock Professional Fire Fighter Association Local #972 will be holding their 2nd Annual Motorcycle Poker Ride on Saturday, June 2, 2005. The Ride will begin at hooter's located at 4950 South Loop 289 in Lubbock. The first riders will leave at 12 pm and the last group will be out at 2 pm. The ride will end at 6 pm with all poker hands being drawn at Whiskey river located at 1720 Buddy Holly Avenue in the Lubbock Depot-District. Entry fee is \$10.00 and the Ride will be approximately 136 miles for the short route, or 190 miles for the long route.

Fire Fighters have been supporting MDA for more than 50 years. The funds raised from the Ride will help support the Lubbock area MDA Children's and Adult Clinics, the West Texas Summer Camp for Jerry's Kids, and research to find the causes and cures of 43 neuromuscular diseases.

Don't Forget to bring by or email your 2005 Senior Photo to be in the Senior Edition June 2 1502 Ave. M or email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

US Congress vote for stem-cell research funding

The US House of Representatives voted late Tuesday to approve federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research despite President George W. Bush saying he will veto such a bill.

The measure passed the Republican dominated House by a 238-194 vote, paving the way for a confrontation between Bush and lawmakers in his own party over the controversial measure which divides many Americans.

The measure still requires a Senate vote, before heading to Bush's desk.

Lawmakers passed the measure, hoping it could allow researchers to develop new treatments for incurable diseases, hours after Bush voiced new opposition to federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research.

"We should not use public money to support the further destruction of human life," Bush said in a speech at the White House.

"In the complex debate over embryonic stem-cell research, we must remember that real human lives are involved, both the lives of those with diseases that might find cures from this research and the lives of the embryos that will be destroyed in the process," he said.

Bush in 2001 decided to allow continued central government financing of research on stem-cells taken from embryos before August 2001, but barred federal money for stem cell lines developed since then.

Bush spoke surrounded by children who began life as in-vitro fertilized embryos and were adopted. Bush proposed such births as an alternative to throwing away or destroying embryos for use in stem-cell re-



"This bill would take us across a critical ethical line by creating new incentives for the ongoing destruction of emerging human the president said. "Crossing this line would be a great mistake."

Many Republican lawmakers expressed support for the measure. But Representative Mike Castle said before the vote "this is not an easy vote for many Republicans."

A second bill before Congress is supported by Bush. This would create a national bank of blood products from umbilical cords available for research and treat-

In April, the American Academy of Sciences recommended such a

"Stem cells from umbilical cord blood are used to treat a number of diseases, but the current system for collecting, storing and allocating donated cord blood is fragmented and less efficient than it could be," the academy's report

The second law is deemed insufficient by many researchers who say the cells appear limited to the treatment of blood ailments and certain cardio-vascular diseases. Embryonic stem cells can be used to treat a far wider range of illnesses and disease.

However, the most conservative lawmakers said that umbilical cord stem cells or tissues from adults offer hope enough to avoid the need to destroy embryos, which they say contain a human life.

"The president wants to create a culture of life. Stem cell research offers scientists the opportunity to extend life and the quality of life for current and future generations of Americans. In fact, stem

cell research offers mankind continued insight into life itself," Representative Carolyn Maloney,

a Democrat, said. However, Republican Jim Ryun Rather, who backs umbilical cord stem-cell research only, said,

"There are countless opportunities besides embryonic stem-cell research that have proven successful."

California has led individual states that authorize their public money to be used for stem-cell

research.

New Web Site for Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Baltimore, MD--(HISPANIC PR WIRE - BUSINESS WIRE)--Campaign for Our Children (CFOC), a nonprofit group established in 1987 to promote adolescent preventive-health issues, today unveiled a Spanish language version of its popular Web site, http://www.cfoc.org, which receives more than twenty million hits annually. The new site offers a wealth of abstinence-plus information for Latino teenagers

and their parents. "The launch of this site is a testament to our commitment to lowering the number of births to teens in the United States," said Hal Donofrio, president and chief executive officer of Campaign for Our Children. "Currently, Latinas have the highest teen birth rate among all the major ethnic_

groups in the United States. We need to do whatever it takes to help get those numbers down. This new online resource is one way to begin the dialogue with the Latino community about teen pregnancy prevention."

Campaign for Our Children encourages teens, adults and educators to discuss abstinence as a viable option. In addition to abstinence, the new site covers a variety of preventative health issues. CFOC's highly regarded Teen Guide and Parent Resource Center have been translated into Spanish and are now part of the new site. The Teen Guide is a helpful resource that offers a variety of tips for teens on how to talk to their parents about sex. The new site arms teens with the information they need to make informed deci-

sions about their own sexuality. The site also includes answers to the most frequently asked sex-related questions and offers visitors the opportunity to take interactive quizzes on an array of topics, including: self-esteem, abstinence, sexuality, puberty and reproduction, and contracep-

The Parent Resource Center is designed to educate Latino parents and guardians about teen risk-taking behaviors, including sexual activity. The new site includes a vault of information for teens and adults on the following topics:

The site is accessible via http://www.marriageworksusa.co m. For more information, please visit http://www.cfoc.org.

Hispanics Fail to Seek Cancer Treatment

In Hispanic culture, cancer is something people don't talk about, and that makes a diagnosis of breast cancer even tougher, says the head of a support network for Hispanic women with the cancer.

"For the Hispanic culture, it's about the group, not the individual," said Elba Saavedra, assistant professor for research at the University of New Mexico and director of the support group, Comadre a Comadre. "They think, 'I've got to stay healthy porque ellos me necesitan (because my family needs me).""

Local and national experts and oncologists plan to promote awareness and give Hispanics information about breast cancer and clinical trials at a free seminar Saturday in both English and Spanish. Its backers hope to address fears and concerns.

Clinical trials have helped develop better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer but many women hesitate to participate because they don't understand what the experimental efforts are.

Only 3 percent of U.S. adults with cancer participate in clinical trials, and fewer than 6 percent of all participants are Hispanic, according to figures from the National Cancer Institute and Redes in Accion.

"We want to raise awareness about what clinical trials are," Saavedra said. "It's hard to reach us (Hispanics), not just because of the stereotype that we are unreachable, but because people don't always know how to reach

Nine community organizations are sponsoring the seminar, which will include two panel discussions and guest speaker Maria Fernandez, a professor at the University of Texas at Houston and investigator for numerous National Cancer Institute studies.

"The idea was to bring a collaborative group to look at all sides, so we can bring the best information on a national and local level," Saavedra said.

According to the cancer insti-

tute and Redes in Accion:

-The most common cancer among Hispanic women in New Mexico is breast cancer, but only 38 percent of Hispanic women age 40 and older have regular screening mammograms.

-Uninsured Hispanics are two to three times more likely to have cancer diagnosed at a later stage, making it less treatable.

-More than 21,000 U.S. Hispanics are expected to die of cancer each year.

Montelongo's Restaurant

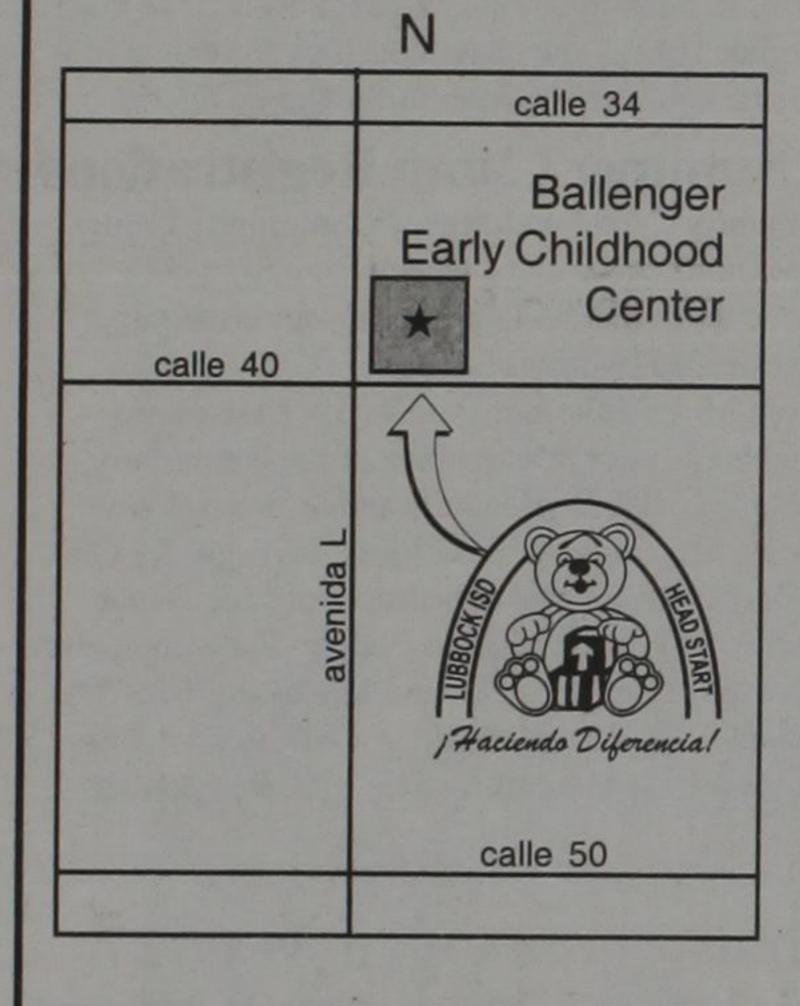


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