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Not hard to spell, pronounce or remember, and it should flow trippingly from the tongue when someone asks you for ways to improve the economy.

Before I do the numbers, as they say, let's go over the basics of why the U.S. economy should benefit from the legalization of undocumented immigrants.

The immigrants themselves would find better jobs, have access to credit, lending and saving, and finally obtain professional licenses now denied to them in many locales.

They will take off economically. The general public shares in the

prosperity, getting more taxpayers, more business creation, and a leveled playing field with no one working for artificially low wages.

Along with that, the nagging fact of life - social disparities between rich and poor - should ease somewhat when we all play on the same field.

If only we could demonstrate these things with numbers it would be so helpful.

As it turns out, we can.

Using data representing immigrants who went through the legalization program of the late 1980s and early 1990s, my col-

leagues and I asked the question of whether the legalized immigrants improved their own economic situation and whether they began to catch up with the rest of society.

Our research - published recently by the American Immigration Council - suggests strongly that legalized immigrants lowered their poverty rate, raised their wages and purchased homes in a remarkable way.

For example: groups with poverty rates near 30 percent saw their hourly wage fall by half. Their hourly wages were raised by 70 percent. Their home ownership rate almost quintupled.

Much of the legalized immigrants' progress seems to have come with the added benefit of narrowing at least some of the gap between them and the rest of society.

The immigrants' poverty rate edged much closer to that of the general population. Their property ownership level made them almost indistinguishable from the rest of us.

So while our nation's economic mandarins seek ways to turn the U.S. economy around, let's begin talking about immigration reform as a way to contribute toward that goal. As economist Sherris Kosouji of the University of Michigan says, noting the price that undocumented families pay for their lack of legal status, "legalization would be the cheapest federal workforce development and anti-

Obama decidirá "en unos días" política en Afganistán

El presidente Barack Obama dijo el martes que piensa "concluir la tarea" y destruir las redes terroristas que operan en Afganistán. El mandatario indicó que anunciará su decisión de cuántos refuerzos enviará a Afganistán tras el feriado del Día de Acción de Gracias, que este año es el 26 de noviembre.

"Estoy seguro que cuando el pueblo estadounidense escuche un argumento claro de lo que hacemos allí y cómo pensamos alcanzar nuestros objetivos, lo respaldarán", afirmó el mandatario. Obama presidió el lunes por la noche su 10ma reunión para revisar la estrategia de Afganistán desde mediados de septiembre. El martes formuló estos comentarios durante una breve conferencia de prensa en la que estuvo acompañado por el primer ministro indio Manmohan Singh, que realiza una visita de estado a la Casa Blanca.

"Redunda en nuestros intereses estratégicos, en interés de nuestra seguridad nacional, asegurarnos al Qaída y sus aliados extremistas no puedan operar con efectividad en esas áreas", insistió Obama. "Vamos a desmantelar y degradar su capacidad y a la postre desmantelar y destruir sus redes."

"Pienso concluir la tarea", insistió el mandatario en referencia a la guerra de Afganistán iniciada hace 8 años, poco después de los ataques terroristas del 11 de septiembre del 2001.

Los mandos militares y otros creen que Obama enviará de 32 mil a 35 mil combatientes de los 40 mil mínimos solicitados por el comandante de las fuerzas estadounidenses en el país asiático, el general Stanley McChrystal. La cifra es la más probable desde que el mandatario se reuniera a principios de mes con su consejo de guerra,

cuando ordenó a las estrategias militares que reorganizaran el



calendario y la composición de los refuerzos que serán 2deapachados. "Tras completar un riguroso encueno final, el presidente Obama cuenta con la información solicitada para adoptar una decisión y en unos pocos días anunciará la decisión", comentó el ministro por la mañana el secretario de prensa de la Casa Blanca Robert Gibbs.

El presidente ha indicado con creciente frecuencia en los últimos días que uno de los componentes más importantes de su plan es la estrategia de retinada que formulará con el anuncio; en resumen, fijar un calendario para transferir la responsabilidad de la seguridad en esa nación al ejército y la policía afganos. Gibbs indicó el lunes a los periodistas que "no se trata solamente de cómo enviamos refuerzos, sino cuál es la estrategia para marcharnos de allí".

IT HAVEN ONLY BEGUN TO TELL OUR STORIES

By Soledad O'Brien (Editor's note: The four-hour Oct. 21-22 CNN series "Latino in America," produced by Soledad O'Brien, stirred considerable controversy for its perceived portrayal of 31 million U.S. Hispanics as "problem people." At the invitation of the National Journal for Latino Policy (NJLP), O'Brien, of Cuban descent, responds to that criticism and talks of plans for future coverage. Her full 1200-word answer, condensed here for Hispanics, Latin News Service readers, may be accessed at www.hispanicink.org.]

Let me start by saying I think it's an enormous victory that a major network has enhanced its coverage of our community this year, culminating in a two-part, four-hour documentary called "Latino in America." I am also very proud to have co-authored with Rose Arce, a book about our community, "Latino in America," published in October by Celebra (Penguin USA).

Some of the chief goals of both projects were to initiate conversation about our community, enhance our visibility and start a conversation about relevant issues. All the comments that The NJLP Network drew make me feel as if we have been successful on all those fronts, just by having engaged you.

When I began to plan our project, I saw it as a news documentary about a vast population, people with roots in some 21 countries who had distinct histories and very different experiences. My team decided we would focus on what happens after we've arrived, about an identity born of this country, people who have some shared values but do not necessarily have similar racial or ethnic roots, or even language.

We also decided, in the spirit of CNN, we were doing a NEWS documentary that treats what we follow real people through their human experiences wherever they may take them, how they confront the greatest issues our community is facing, whether that be by achieving their dreams or confronting obstacles. If they falter,

we watch them falter. When they succeed, we are there to record the moment.

Some of you have spoken about negative images in the documentary. A lot of it reflects the socioeconomic status of the person defining the terms, their own life experience. Many educators have hailed us for telling the story of that enormous sector of our young population is facing in overcrowded and underfunded schools that do not address their unique needs as children of families struggling with a host of economic, cultural and immigration issues. Others would rather we had highlighted only success stories.

The same was true of immigration stories. So many in our community told us we could not do a story about Latinos without showing how our controversial immigration debate is tearing apart families and encouraging some folks to target the most vulnerable among us. Others wanted no immigration experiences in the documentary because they considered them depressing.

At the end of the day, I am a journalist. I made every effort to report the unfolding drama of human beings in our community. I could have re-worked and re-shot this forever trying to hit the right



LATINO IN AMERICA with Rose Marie Arce SOLEDAD O'BRIEN The companion to the CNN series

balance. I am unapologetic about our need to cast a light on some of the stories of the most vulnerable among us. I have fought too long over my career to get the media to talk about the terrible hate crimes committed against our people. We cannot close our eyes and say we'd rather see a profile of a thriving Latino business.

I feel the same about teen dropout rates, suicide and teen pregnancy. Our community suffers disproportionately from these ills, going to make them go away, nor is doing PR for those who have escaped them going to change the reality too many face.

I am continuing to tour this country, to educate myself about our community and its issues. I pledge to you that I continue my mission to illuminate the many good things about our culture and our life here. There are many stories yet to be told, about our incredible successes. I have just begun to tell them.

Comentarios Opiniones

Education Reform: Looking Past The Pom-Poms

By José de la Isla
I have had acquaintance who is so sarcastic – should I say cynical – that when I told him I was writing about education reform, he asked how would it affect high school football.

After decades of studies about how the nation's children should be educated for the challenges of the 21st century, pom-poms should not rate very high.

Distractions and irrelevancies creep in, as we have witnessed during the health-care debate. As with education, it has a long patchwork history, with no agreement on how to make it accessible to everyone. Inaction affects the well-being of every citizen. Reforming it has been discussed for decades, and the wacko portion of the public gets activated at the slightest instigation to divert the discussion to nonsense or paranoia – concerns about immigrants and health care. Three decades ago similar forces tried to stop Medicare by calling it "socialism." The last education reform, in the '50s, was blistered as "federal control."

The last time major reform occurred with a scope like that needed now, Dwight D. Eisen-

hower was president. He was responsible for the National Education and Defense Act in 1958, when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik and we were concerned that our math and science capacity needed to be beefed up. Not enough of our young people were going to college, it was believed, to catch up in the "space race."

Today we are justifiably spooked by our position relative to emerging nations that are building their economies through knowledge and getting market share in industries we had believed were our private domain – engineering, medicine, information technology, biotech, etc. In other words, to remain competitive we must grow and collaborate across borders and cultures.

In 1940, about one-half-million of us, or 15 percent of that age group, attended college. By 1960, college enrollments had expanded to 3.6 million, launching a higher-education growth decade. By 1970, 7.5 million students, or 40 percent of college-age youths, were enrolled, comprising roughly 30 percent of the world's college students.

In 2008, the graduation rate

from high school was 77%, below most developed countries, and we were educating about 14 percent of the world's college students. Today, barely a quarter of the U.S. population over 25 years have a post-secondary diploma.

The challenge is to improve the quality of instruction, graduate on time and become productive to self and society. This month President Obama spotlighted his approach to education as the "Race to the Top," a \$4-billion grant program intending to reward school districts that set high standards and advance. The administration said states would compete for the money by demonstrating significant buy-in from local school districts and developing plans to evaluate teachers and principals based on improved student performance. According to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, those are the most important goals.

But the administration's approach seems to overlook lack and direct reform blueprints like those of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, which advocates for advancing U.S. education into the 21st century through a complete

restructuring of public schooling rather than through incremental change.

It is about more than spending dollars for more studies. It calls for a national vision and leadership in addressing the topmost issues dealing directly with our college-graduation rate, which has sunk below the average of all advanced economies.

Reasons for change are abundant: lack of college preparation for the productive years ahead and lack of adequate finances to make attending college a probability, not just a possibility, for all students.

The administration may have missed the chance of a lifetime by failing to spotlight two or three reform approaches for state systems to choose from to re-empower the nation's 16,210 school systems.

The Obama administration's reform approach waves pom-poms but leaves formulating the game plan on the field to others. Somehow, it seems more concerned with making reform not look like change.

José de la Isla is a former assistant professor of education at the University of Oregon.

La Reforma Educativa: Más Allá De Las Borlas

Tengo un conocido tan sarcástico – más bien diría cínico – que cuando le conté que escribía sobre la reforma educativa, me preguntó cómo afectaría el programa de fútbol americano en las escuelas secundarias.

Después de décadas de estudios sobre cómo hacer que educar a los niños de esta nación, para que enfrenten los desafíos del siglo XXI, las borlas de las guapileras no han de figurar muy alto.

Se enfrenten las distracciones y las irrelevancias, como hemos visto con el debate sobre los cuidados médicos. Así como con la educación, la salud tiene una larga historia variable, sin concordancia en cuanto a hacer un sistema adecuado de todos. La falta de acción afecta el bienestar de cada ciudadano. Su reforma se ha discutido durante décadas, y la parte desquiciada del público se moviliza con la más mínima instigación para desviar la conversación hacia lo inasentado o la paranoia – preocupaciones referentes a los inmigrantes y los abortos. Hace tres décadas fuerzas similares intentaron para la aprobación legislativa de Medicare con llamarlo "socialismo." La última reforma educativa, en la década de los años cuarenta, fue desollada como "control federal."

La última vez que hubo una reforma importante con la amplitud que ahora se requiere, Dwight D. Eisenhower era presidente. Se hizo responsable de la ley de Educación y Defensa Nacional de 1958, cuando la Unión Soviética lanzó Sputnik y nos preocupaba tener que fortalecer nuestras capacidades en las matemáticas y las ciencias. Falta que asistieran más niños jóvenes a la universidad, se creía, para poder nivelarnos en la "carrera espacial."

Ho, con razón nos inquietaba nuestra posición en relación a las naciones emergentes que fomentan sus economías mediante el comercio de las industrias que pensábamos eran nuestro dominio exclusivo – la ingeniería, la medicina, la informática, la biotecnología, etc. O sea, para mantener nuestra competitividad debemos crecer y trabajar más allá de nuestras fronteras y culturas.

En 1940, aproximadamente un millón de estudiantes, o el 15 por ciento de la población en edad de asistir a la universidad, lo hacía. Para 1960, la matrícula universitaria se había ampliado a 3.6 millones, lo cual lanzó una década de crecimiento para la educación superior. Para 1970, 7.5 millones de estudiantes, o el 40 por ciento de los jóvenes en edad universitaria, se matricularon, comprendiendo aproximadamente un 30 por ciento de todos los estudiantes universitarios a nivel mundial.

En el 2008, el índice de graduación de la secundaria era del 77%,

menos que el de la mayoría de los países desarrollados, y educábamos un 14 por ciento de los estudiantes universitarios a nivel mundial. Hoy apenas un cuarto de la población mayor de 25 años de edad cuenta con un título post-secundario.

El reto es de mejorar la calidad de la instrucción, lograr que el estudiante se reciba a tiempo, y que se convierta en un miembro productivo para sí mismo y para la sociedad. Este mes el presidente Obama anunció que promueve la educación con el lema "Race to the Top" (Hacer carrera a la cima) un programa de subsidios de \$4 mil millones para premiar a los distritos escolares que establecen normas, exigen y las cumplen. La administración dijo que los estados competirán por el dinero con demostrar importante apoyo de los distritos escolares locales y con desarrollar planes para evaluar a los maestros y los directores de escuelas fundamentándose en mejoras en el rendimiento académico estudiantil. Según el secretario de educación, Arne Duncan, estos son los factores más importantes.

Pero pareciera que el enfoque de la administración no toma en cuenta planes claros y directos de reformas que establezcan normas. La New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce (Nueva comisión sobre las habilidades de la fuerza laboral estadounidense), la cual aboga por avanzar la educación estadounidense al siglo XXI mediante una completa reestructuración de la educación pública y no mediante la transformación incremental. Se trata de más que regar dólares para hacer más estudios. Hace un llamado para visión y liderazgo nacional para dirigirse a los más importantes asuntos que tengan que hacer directamente con la educación estudiantil de graduación universitaria, el cual ha decayido por debajo del nivel de todas las economías avanzadas.

Los recursos por realizar el cambio son abundantes: la falta de preparación universitaria para los años productivos venideros y la falta de financiación apropiada para hacer el asistir a la universidad una posibilidad, no sólo una posibilidad, para todos los estudiantes.

La administración podría haber perdido la oportunidad de una vida escolar de más que regar dólares en enfoques de reforma de los que los sistemas estatales pudieran escoger para renovar los 16,210 sistemas escolares de esta nación. El actual aboga por avanzar la educación de las administraciones de Obama agita las borlas pero deja la formulación del plan de guerra a otros. De alguna manera parece estar más preocupado con hacer que la reforma no pareciera cambiarse.

José de la Isla fue profesor asistente de educación en la Universidad de Oregon.

MAKE SURE LATINO FAMILIES COUNT! MAKE SURE LATINO FAMILIES COUNT!

By Wade Henderson
Latinos are an increasingly important part of this nation's larger family. But growing Latino communities have not always received the respect, the resources or the representation they deserve. The 2010 census is a good way to help change that.

Once every ten years, the census counts everyone living in the United States. Next year, the count will take place in March and April. It's such a big job, and so important, that communities all across the country are getting ready now to make sure it's done right. That's why national and local Latino organizations are working with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights to make sure every Latino is counted.

Census numbers can translate into real power for Latino communities – but only if every person is counted. Here are some ways the census is important to Latinos:

CHILDREN: Billions of dollars in education funding, and support for school breakfast and lunch programs, are distributed every year based on census figures. The same is true for children's health insurance. If your community is undercounted, your schools and the children they serve will lose funding they need.

JOBS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES: Census numbers also influence decisions of national and local importance, such as health care, economic development, job training and road construction. They also help drive and private investments in businesses and shopping centers.

POLITICAL POWER AND EQUAL RIGHTS: Census numbers are used to shape federal, state and local voting districts, which can determine whether or not Latino communities are fairly represented in Congress, state legislatures and local councils and boards. That's why we consider the census one of the most important civil rights issues. – It affects our ability to ensure equal representation and to enforce civil rights laws.

With so much at stake – jobs, the health and education of children, access to political representation, civil rights protections – why wouldn't everyone want to be counted?

So why think that participating in the census will be difficult or take a long time. But it's really pretty simple. The census form that will arrive in the mail next March asks a few basic questions about each person living in a household, including their age, their gender, and their race and ethnicity. The census form does not ask about citizenship or residency status. Forms will be available in English and Spanish,

and people with questions will be able to get free help by phone or from local community groups.

Some people may not trust the government to protect their personal information. But the Census Bureau has a long record of protecting personal information backed by strong privacy laws. By law, individual census information is confidential for 72 years. Make in 2082, your grand grandchildren will see out your census information to write a family history, but until then no government agency can get access to it – not law enforcement, the courts or even the President. Everyone working for the census, including its director, swears an oath to protect personal information. And anyone who violates that pledge could be sentenced to five years in jail and a \$250,000 fine.

Some people who are upset by the lack of progress on immigration reform are calling for a boycott of the census. They think that a boycott will help to build pressure to pass reform. But they're wrong. Boycotting the census would take power away from Latino communities and deprive families of educational and health resources for the next 10 years. We're much more likely to pass immigration reform by demonstrating to Congress the growing size and strength of Latino communities.

Latinos are already more likely to be counted. The 2000 census missed an estimated 16 million people. People of color and people from low-income communities were more likely to go uncounted.

Everyone who goes uncounted loses. In fact, every single person who does not get counted could cost his or her community more than \$12,000. That adds up fast. So help spread the word that the census is coming. It's important to Latino families and communities. It's time to make sure all families count.

Wade Henderson is president of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the nation's largest and most diverse civil and human rights coalition.

El Editor
Informing-Educating
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Cada vez más, los latinos forman una parte importante de la familia nacional. No obstante, las comunidades latinas crecientes no siempre han recibido el respeto, ni los recursos, ni la representación que se merecen. El censo del 2010 es una buena manera de ayudar a cambiar esta situación.

Una vez cada diez años, el censo hace un conteo de toda persona que vive en los Estados Unidos. El año entrante, el censo se realizará en marzo y en abril. Es una labor tan tremenda y tan importante que desde ya y por todo el país las comunidades se preparan para asegurarse que el censo se realice correctamente. Por eso es que las organizaciones latinas nacionales y locales están colaborando con la Leadership Conference on Civil Rights para asegurar que se cuente a cada uno de los latinos.

Las cifras derivadas del censo se convierten en mucho poder para las comunidades latinas – pero esto ocurre sólo si a toda persona se le cuenta. Así que se encuentran algunas maneras por las que el censo es de importancia para las latinos:

LOS NIÑOS: Miles de millones de dólares para la educación, y para programas de desayuno y almuerzo en las escuelas, se distribuyen cada año con base en las cifras derivadas del censo. Lo mismo va para el seguro médico para los niños. Si no se cuentan adecuadamente a su comunidad, las escuelas locales y los niños a los que sirven, perderán el dinero que requieren.

EMPLEOS, INFRAESTRUCTURA Y SERVICIOS: Las cifras derivadas del censo también influyen en las decisiones de importancia a nivel nacional y local, como el cuidado médico, el desarrollo de la capacitación laboral y la construcción de caminos. También ayudan a encasillar la inversión privada hacia las empresas y los sectores comerciales. **EL PODER POLÍTICO Y LA IGUALDAD DE DERECHOS:** Las cifras derivadas del censo se usan para trazar los distritos electorales federales, estatales y locales, los cuales determinan los representantes latinos reciben o no justa representación ante el Congreso, las legislaturas estatales y los consejos y las juntas locales. Por eso es que consideramos que el censo es uno de los temas de derechos civiles más importantes – porque afecta nuestra posibilidad de asegurarnos la representación por igual de hacer cumplir las leyes de derechos civiles.

Con todo lo que entra en juego con el censo – los empleos, la salud y la educación de los hijos, el acceso a la representación política, la protección de los derechos civiles – ¿cómo no ha de querer ser contado cada uno de nosotros?

Algunos piensan pensar que el participar en el censo será difícil o que llevará mucho tiempo, pero en realidad, es bastante sencillo. El formulario del censo que le llegará por correo en marzo hace unas cuantas preguntas fundamentales sobre cada persona que vive en el hogar, incluyendo su edad, su género, su raza y su etnicidad. El formulario del censo no hace ninguna pregunta sobre la ciudadanía ni el estado migratorio. Estarán a su disposición formularios en inglés y en español, y las personas que tengan preguntas recibirán ayuda gratuita por teléfono o de grupos locales de la comunidad.

Es probable que algunas personas desconfíen del gobierno en cuanto a la protección de su información personal. Pero el censo tiene una larga historia de proteger la información personal. Y está avalado por leyes firmes de protección a la privacidad individual. Por ley la información personal que recoge el censo se mantiene bajo estricta confidencialidad durante 72 años. Quizá en el año 2082, sus nietos, ya adultos, investiguen su información del censo para escribir la historia de su familia. Pero hasta ese año, ninguna agencia gubernamental podrá acceder a la información – ni la policía, ni los tribunales, ni siquiera el presidente. Todos los que trabajan para el censo, incluyendo a su director, juramentan proteger la información personal. Y persona que infrinja algún juramento puede ser sentenciado a cinco años de cárcel y recibir una multa de \$250,000.

Hay algunas personas que, descontentas con la falta de progreso en materia de la reforma migratoria, hacen un llamado para boicotear el censo. Les parece que el boicot ayudará a fomentar la presión por aprobar una reforma migratoria. Sin embargo, el censo es el resar para poder a las comunidades latinas y privará a las familias de recursos para la educación y la salud por los próximos 10 años. Es mucho más probable que aprobemos la reforma migratoria con mostrarle al Congreso el crecimiento de las comunidades latinas y el aumento de su fuerza. De cualquier forma, es más probable que no se cuente correctamente a los latinos. El censo del 2000 no contó a unos 16 millones de personas. Es más probable que no se cuente a las personas de color ni a las que provienen de comunidades de pocos recursos.

Cada persona que resulta no ser contada causa un perjuicio a la comunidad. De hecho, cada persona que no se cuenta a su comunidad más de \$12,000, un monto que rápidamente se suma.

Entonces, ayúdenos todos a pasar la voz que está por llegar el censo. Es importante para las familias y las comunidades latinas. Es hora de asegurar que cuenten todos las familias.

Wade Henderson es presidente de la Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, la mayor y más diversa coalición a nivel nacional de derechos civiles y humanos).

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Museo Alameda in financial straits

By Elda Silva
As the Museo Alameda prepared to mount the highest-profile exhibit in its brief history this summer, behind

don't have the financial backing to do it in a responsible way, I'm not going to sit here and tell you we're going to stay open and

a little more than a month after the grand opening. Ruth Medelín resigned soon after. Eliseo Ríos, who became interim director of the museum after Esparza's departure, left in July after a year on the job.

Nicolas, former director of the Florida-based Home Shopping Español, took over an organization in financial distress — one paying out \$1.2 million for staff salaries and contract personnel, leaving only \$770,000 to cover programs, marketing and building overhead expenses, according to the 2008 audit.

Expensive proposition How did it get there? While Muñoz blames the economy and a lack of consistent fundraising, Flores and Nicolas said the museum sometimes lived beyond its means. "The museum is an expensive proposition," Flores said. "Could we have (had) better oversight ... or could it have been done in a tighter business model to not have run up these expenses? Sure."

Rather than pointing fingers, they prefer to look forward.

"It's an institution that has provided good shows, good economic development for Market Square," Nicolas said. "It has brought in tourists; it has educated a lot of our own people in the community. All the good things are there. It's just a matter of righting the ship."

Flores and Nicolas have taken aggressive steps to shore up the museum, including reducing the staff and paring down the budget from \$3.4 million to what Nicolas calls a "do-able" \$1.9 million.

They also have implemented practical measures: requiring board members to donate \$1,500 annually and re-routing visitors so they exit through the gift shop.

"If we didn't have that debt, we wouldn't be running a deficit," Nicolas said. "Because if we live within our means and we only spend what we take in, we'd be fine."

The problem is finding corporate funders and individuals willing to help bail out the organization. "It has been very hard to find people that want to give money to pay off debt," Nicolas said. "That's a tough thing to do. That's my great challenge right now — trying to figure out how to pay that because I want to rebuild our credit and our credibility."

Can't let it fall

George Cortez, part owner of Mi Tierra Corp., said he's only recently learned about the museum's financial problems. He voiced his support for Flores and Nicolas.

"This museum is the legacy to our parents," said Cortez, who was part of the early effort to create a Latino museum in San Antonio. "This is an affirmation to the younger generations that are coming forward. This is an American story of who we are. So, can we let this bandera (flag) fall? Absolutely not."

The museum receives arts funding from the Office of Cultural Affairs. In addition, the

member of the board — though her involvement has been limited — and Castro said he would reuse himself if the issue came up for a council vote.

"It's a significant institution that merits serious consideration in its request, but I'd rather avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest," Castro said.

Deputy City Manager Pat DiGiovanni said the city isn't in position to help the museum pay its debts but is exploring other ways to help.

"We have an interest in seeing them stay there and remain viable because they are in our building," DiGiovanni said. "We

money goes to what the voters approved, which was for capital improvements to the theater," County Judge Nelson Wolff said. "So we're trying to see how they're going to come along and how they're going to work their issues out. So we're monitoring it right now."

Last month, "Jesse Treviño: Mi Vida," the first major retrospective devoted to the San Antonio artist responsible for the landmark "Spirit of Healing" mural at Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital downtown, opened at the museum. The Alameda went forward with the show only after the initial \$200,000 budget was whittled down to \$75,000 and funding had been secured, Flores said.

"We're not in it to go into the former model where 'Let's make the expense and see who takes care of it,'" she said. "Exhibit attendance has been 'brisk,' Nicolas said. "The people are really excited about the show, and I think it has breathed some new life into the museum, which is very important."

Just before the retrospective opened, the museum reinstated admission fees. When the show closes at the end of February, only one floor of the museum will be programmed at a time to leave a floor available for rental.

"I think that we saw from the Jesse Treviño two-day opening the interest our community has in continuing to see these kinds of exhibits," Flores said. "So we hope that along with the effort that we're doing, that the economy eases up and we'll be able to get through this very difficult economic time."

the scenes museum officials were struggling to keep the doors open. Utility bills were unpaid. Attendance was far short of initial projections. More than \$200,000 in donations pledged to the museum hadn't been received. Officials weren't sure if they could meet payroll.

The \$12 million hot pink museum in Market Square opened two years ago amid a flurry of confetti and high hopes that it would anchor a new Latino cultural corridor.

It had multimillion-dollar support from corporate heavy-hitters such as the SBC (now AT&T) Foundation, Ford Motor Co. and the Ford Motor Co. Fund. The Pedro V. Cortez family, which owns Mi Tierra restaurant at Market Square, stepped up with a \$1 million donation.

Since then, however, hopes for the museum have given way to concern for the fledgling institution's future.

A 2008 audit submitted to the city's Office of Cultural Affairs in May showed the Alameda National Center for Latino Arts and Culture — which operates the museum, the Alameda Theater, a design school and an office building — suffered a \$1.47 million loss on revenues of \$1.97 million last year.

The organization's cash reserves were down to \$7,302.

The center also has had trouble paying its debt of about \$1 million.

The Alameda has gone through three executive directors in its short history. To rein in costs, the staff was trimmed from 30 to a skeleton crew of eight shortly before Guillermo Nicolas was named president in September.

The museum, which was free to visit last year, reinstated admission fees last month to increase revenue. It also depends on city funds and donation pledges, which are "slowly trickling in," Alameda board Chairwoman Margarita Flores said.

"The message that we have is critical to get out there, but if we

continue to get in debt," said Flores, senior director of community relations at Anheuser-Busch Inc.

Economic downturn After repeated delays because of fundraising difficulties, the Museo Alameda opened in April 2007 as the first affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

That affiliation gave the museum access to Smithsonian exhibitions such as "Aztec! The Life and Music of Celia Cruz," which opened in 2007, and objects from Smithsonian collections.

Thousands of visitors poured through the Museo Alameda's doors the first weekend. In the following months, annual attendance fell short of the projected 400,000.

In its first year, the museum drew 140,000 visitors. Numbers have fallen steadily. In 2008, the museum counted 45,000 visitors, and the total so far this year is 26,000.

In addition, money problems continued to dog the museum as the economy headed into a downturn.

"My fondest wish and desire is that the Alameda, which is a very important national institution and has done incredible work, is able to be sustained and prosper," said founding chairman Henry Muñoz III, who stepped down in May. "I think it's unfortunate that it opened right before the economy cratered, and I think it's unfortunate that it hasn't had — apart from Henry Muñoz — a consistent, sustainable development effort."

Until he left this year, Muñoz was, in fact, the most visible and consistent leader of the museum he brought into being.

Director Laura Esparza left



city, which owns the three buildings the Alameda manages, gave the museum \$315,000 in 2007 to underwrite fixed admission.

If the Alameda is seeking additional city funding for the museum, it will be able to count on Mayor Julián Castro as an ally. His wife, Erica, is a

don't want to see that building go dark."

The county also has an interest in the organization. Last year, Bexar County commissioners earmarked \$6 million from venue tax funds for restoration of the Alameda Theater.

"We have to be careful that our

Christmas Of Hope

Organizations and area media unite to assist families in need

LUBBOCK, TEXAS. For a number of years many family organizations from the community have worked collectively to assure that families in West Texas rural communities will not lose hope at Christmas. In this same spirit various organizations and media will be holding a collaborative effort — the "Christmas of Hope Drive," a food and money drive on December 4, 2009, from 7a.m. to 7p.m. on the North parking lot across the Civic Center, off Mac Davis Lane.

The food collected during this time will be used to prepare holiday food boxes. The proceeds collected will purchase perishable food items like milk, bread and turkeys. All of the proceeds will benefit the families who will receive Toys for Tots assistance at Guadalupe Economic Services

Corporation (GESFC). For over 30 years GESFC has assisted area families and agricultural workers with food, clothing, blankets, gas, rental and utility assistance, and other services.

Diana Lopez, Executive Director of GESFC said that they anticipate providing 5,000 food boxes this winter for area families — some are senior citizens, disabled people, single parents and agricultural workers who in the past have turned to GESFC for assistance.

"They're (volunteers) working together to assist families from falling through the cracks a Christmas," she said adding that GESFC was humbled to receive interest from so many volunteers wanting to share their time, services, and in different ways.

The committee is putting together a team to work tonight and make sure those who need

the most help, and are most disconnected, can feel assured that they will have the simple pleasures of food and fellowship at Christmas.

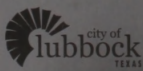
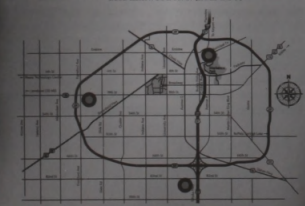
Organizations helping are LULAC, the American GI Forum, Hispanic Association of Women, the Hispanic Division of the Lubbock Chamber, and other individuals, are participating in the collaborative effort.

Live remotes will be conducted by Magic 93.7, Power 106, radio Tri-Color, La Ley, as TV announcements by Univision and Telemundo. Other supporting media will include Latino Lubbock magazine, West Texas Hispanic News, El Editor, the Hispano weekly, and El Sol Latino.

Business and individuals wanting to make additional contributions can contact GESFC at (806)744-4416.

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THIRD (Short) ROW: Desi Pesina, Paulina Jacobo, Sharlene Eaton Garza
BOTTOM ROW: Eliseo Solís, Christine Cantú González, Fiedra Pérez Delira, María Salas Rivas, Alma Piña, Anita Carmona Harrison, Eva Madrid Johnson
In attendance but not in the picture—Vilsen Salinas and David Garza.

Premiarán a Eva Longoria por defensa de latinos en Estados Unidos



La actriz, quien se ha dedicado a mejorar su español, recibirá el premio Community Service Award en Los Angeles. Gracias a su vinculación con varias causas en defensa de la comunidad latina que vive en Estados Unidos, Eva Longoria será premiada en Los Angeles por la Fundación México Americana de Defensa Legal y Educación la próxima semana. "Este es uno de los premios que más orgullosa estoy de recibir, porque se trata de la defensa de esta comunidad, algo que he hecho toda mi vida", declaró la actriz de 34 años a Agencia Notimex. "Es más importante

que los premios interpretativos".

La actriz de la serie estadounidense Desperate Housewives, quien fundó la organización de ayuda a discapacitados Eva's Heroes, recibió el galardón Community Service Award por su ayuda en la defensa de los derechos civiles de los hispanos.

Longoria aseguró que en los últimos años ha tratado de recuperar su conexión con sus raíces latinas, por lo que incluso se dio a la tarea de mejorar su español.

"No crecí hablando español, eso era un tabú y me sentía muy desconectada en México y conversando con la comunidad latina en Estados Unidos, así que terminé tomando clases", explicó.

Los logros alcanzados en esa materia se podrán ver el próximo año en la cinta Días de gracia, donde la actriz hace su debut en un filme hablado en español, el cual estuvo bajo la dirección de Evarado Valerio Gout y en el que comparte créditos con Carlos Bardem y Paulina Gaitán.

Oh, to be in Ozomatli's shoes. With seven members, that's a lot of shoes.

The multi-culti, Latin-based rock-hip hop fusionists and consummate party band has traveled to some pretty exotic places the last couple of years, including Tunisia, Egypt and Nepal.

On Sept. 16, they performed at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' 32nd annual awards gala in Washington, D.C. Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez were the guests of honor. President Barack Obama and newly appointed Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor were in attendance.

Not bad for a group that formed more than 10 years ago to play a protest rally.

"I don't think anybody could have ever predicted where we would end up," percussionist Jim Yamaguchi said by phone recently. "I don't think you can predict such a thing, but what was there was the spirit and energy of wanting to play music and playing in front of people."

The band tours constantly, though it is working on a new album for release next year. But after being recruited by the U.S. State Department as cultural ambassadors in 2007, the Los Angeles septet has performed, visited orphanages and interacted with local musicians all over the world.

"It's been a great experience for us to be able to go to places that we don't normally go and most other bands don't go either," Yamaguchi said.



"They're pretty far off the beaten path. We play for kids in orphanages, meet a lot of local musicians and have been able to jam with them. It totally enriches our experience as musicians to have that kind of interaction and also to see how people live around the world knowing that everybody's in this. The struggles are really similar no matter where you are."

The irony here is that the group, which makes no secret of its liberal views, was recruited by President George W. Bush's State Department, not President Barack Obama's, though the relationship is ongoing, the percussionist said.

He said they were "totally surprised" when the State Department came calling in 2007.

"We are a band that was very vocal about the wars from when they first started and we certainly didn't hold back from saying we didn't appreciate George Bush," Yamaguchi said, laughing.

Performing for the Hispanic Caucus in September was another unexpected treat for the group — singer-trumpeter Asdrú Sierra, singer-guitarist Raúl Pacheco, rapper-percussionist Justin Ponce, bassist Wil-Dog Abers, saxophonist Ulises Bella, drummer Mario Calre.

"It was cool. There were a lot of heavy hitters there," Yamaguchi said, though he's not certain if the president and his wife were actually there when they performed.

"He got shuffled in and out," he said, though they did pose for a picture with Sotomayor, the first Hispanic on the Supreme Court.

The group is incorporating those experiences into the music it's been writing and recording for an album due next year. But for now it's focused on its live show, including its "Off the Grid" tour stop in El Paso, a town that's enjoyed a few Oz shows in the past.

"We try to involve people as much as we can. It's really interactive. It's high-energy. It's fun. People can dance and a lot of the time we end up in the crowd, which is a lot of fun to do," Yamaguchi said. "It's a really interactive, inclusive experience."

Homeless Persons' Memorial & Candlelight Vigil

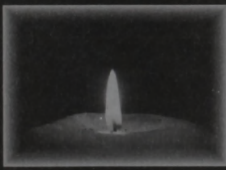
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Shakira, 'She Wolf'



Shakira goes nightclubbing on her latest CD.

For much of her third English-language album, the Colombian hottie teamed with the prime producers of modern dance-pop, the Neptunes. The result changed Shakira's sound fundamentally, from slinky, cumbia-tinged rock to snappy, Angloified electro-pop.

"Cries of 'sellout' might have greeted such a move were there more in Shakira to sell out.

In fact, she has never been anything like a purist. Shakira's music has always presented a gleefully kitschy mishmash of cultures, slinging together the accordions of cumbia with the cadences of dance hall and the punch of rock. When it comes to native genres, Shakira bears roughly the same relation to the real Colombia as Cher does to the true Eastern Europe when she warbles "Gypsies, Tramps & Thieves."

Not that there's anything wrong with that. The result can make for zippy pop. And fans will find more of it than ever on "She Wolf."

It's a brisk, campy blast, with sharp, pulsing beats and an even more crazed connection to world culture than ever.

In the title track — an enjoyably ludicrous ode to lycanthropy — Shakira features arty disco beats recalling prime Tom Tom Club. In "Why Wait" she brings in a bit of Middle Eastern quaver, courtesy of the same guy who arranged the strings for Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir," while in "Long Time" Shakira goes Jewish, via a bit of klezmer clarinet.

The Neptunes have a tendency to overwhelm any singer they work with, which makes sense when you're dealing with a vocalist as airy and addled as, say, Britney Spears. But Shakira gives as good as she gets. Her voice retains its odd character despite the gimmicky ways they've tracked it up. In fact, their witty sound provides the perfect context, and excise, for the strange vocal burps and clucks she favors.

Shakira didn't only rely on the Neptunes for her new sound. She reunited with her

"Hips Don't Lie" collaborator, Wyclef Jean, on the track "Spy," whose pumping synth bass recalls Madonna's "Open Your Heart." And she worked with John Hill on the heavy-breathing title track.

Shakira edited the lyrics to fit the new club milieu. You'll find no songs about the politics of East Timor (as she indulged on her last CD). Instead we get improbable complaints like "Men in This Town," in which our heroine trills the chic hotel bars of Los Angeles in fruitless search of a good man.

If she can't find one, who can?

What "She Wolf" lacks in depth or credibility, however, it makes up for in focus, cool and pith. It's a brisk run, clocking in at just 40 minutes (including three Spanish-language relos of other songs on the CD). That comes as a relief given all the bloated, 18-track albums out there. By contrast, Shakira's work not only features about as much fat as she has on her body, it has just as many silly thrills as anyone could want.

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TCU happy to be in title talk with 1 game left

With one more victory, fourth-ranked TCU will be waiting to find out where - not if - the Horned Frogs will be playing in the Bowl Championship Series.

All that stands between the Frogs (11-0, 7-0 Mountain West), their first undefeated regular season in 71 years and finally being a BCS buster is Saturday's home finale against New Mexico (1-10, 1-6).

Coach Gary Patterson characteristically reminded everybody Tuesday that there is still one more game left, even telling a story during his introductory remarks about when he was an assistant coach for a 0-10 Tennessee Tech team that beat a 10-0 team in a season finale.

Patterson even pointed to the tiny, yet very obvious clear spot on the lower two-thirds of the team's pyramid of goals: the New Mexico game waiting to be colored in purple if they win. The Frogs are listed as more than six TD favorites.

Florida, Alabama or Texas will have to slip up to create a chance for TCU to be the first outsider to play in the BCS national championship game and an opportunity to fill in the to box and the loftiest goal: No. 1, national champions.

So there is the distinct possibility that the Frogs will be undefeated for the first time since 1938, when Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Davey O'Brien led TCU to its only national championship, and not get a title shot.

If that happens, Patterson said he isn't planning to whine about it.

"As soon as I win this ball game, I'm not going to turn this into a negative session," Patterson said. "We're going to let other people decide all the rest of that stuff. ... I'm not going to

turn this into 'We is us and you guys didn't do what we needed to achieve.' It's still going to be a box we've ever gotten to on that pyramid."

The Frogs have never been closer to a BCS game. The closest previously was 2003, when they won their first 10 games before losing at Southern Miss. The only other time they won 12 games, which they have a chance to do Saturday, was 1935.

Even if TCU doesn't get a title chance this season, Patterson believes the Frogs have been successful in the fact that they are being mentioned with Florida, Alabama and Texas on those conversations.

"Whether we play for a national championship at all, we've already won that battle because our name has been mentioned," Patterson said. "I would think 12 years ago, maybe five years ago, to ever think that we'd be in this situation where TCU would be mentioned in the same breath as a Florida, an Alabama and a Texas, we've already put ourselves in a position that I feel we've already won."

TCU will be playing for the 12th consecutive Saturday. The Frogs were one of only two FBS teams who waited until the second Saturday of September to play their first game.

It's been a long grind, and maybe even tougher than usual despite the success.

"When you have these kind of seasons, actually you probably work harder," Patterson said.

"I've stayed later doing things, trying to find more answers.

Because when you have a group that's playing like they're playing, you want to make sure it's not your fault. You cover every base that you could possibly cover with everything you can."

Cards' Pujols takes NL MVP honor in unanimous fashion

Albert Pujols' third National League MVP award put him in select company. Only Barry Bonds has more.

"I'm just humbled," Pujols said. Pujols won unanimously Tuesday, becoming the first player to repeat since Bonds won four in a row from 2001-04. Pujols, who first won in 2005, received all 32 first-place votes and 448 points in balloting announced by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He became the first unanimous MVP since Bonds in 2002.

A big part of the Cardinals' success this year was the acquisition of Matt Holliday in July. Holliday, who hit cleanup behind Pujols, helped St. Louis win the NL Central and then became a free agent.

"The whole city of St. Louis wants Matt back and myself, obviously," Pujols said. "He came at the right time, right when we needed it, right when we were struggling a little bit."

While the Cardinals have five division titles and six playoff appearances in nine seasons since Pujols joined the team, they have won the World Series only once, in 2006.

This was one of the easiest MVP votes ever. And also one of the toughest. The easiest because Albert Pujols was such an obvious winner. The toughest because there were so many great candidates to finish second through 10th. Read more

"I always make a joke. I got 10 fingers. I want to get nine more rings," he said. "I want to get as many as Derek Jeter has so far [five]. Obviously that's hard to do."

Pujols does have one individual goal - the Hall of Fame. "Obviously, there is still a long way to go," he said.

Pujols led the majors in homers (47), runs (124), slugging percentage (.658) and intentional walks

(44), and topped the NL in on-base percentage (.443). He was second in the league in doubles (45) and third in batting average (.327) and RBI (135).

He was especially dangerous with the bases loaded, going 10 for 17 with five grand slams, three doubles and 35 RBI.

"I think it was the most consistent year," he said. "I was pretty much hot April until almost September."

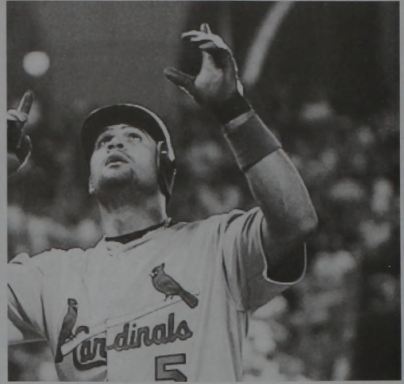
Florida's Hanley Ramirez, the NL batting champion, was second with 223 points.

Followed by Philadelphia's Ryan Howard (217) and Milwaukee's Prince Fielder (203), who tied Howard for the big league lead in RBI at 141.

Pujols didn't homer in his final 89 regular and postseason at-bats after Sept. 9, then had surgery Oct. 21 to remove a bone spur from his right elbow. He had feared he might need ligament replacement, which probably would have forced him to miss the first half of next season.

"My elbow was fine," Pujols said. "I don't put that as an excuse. I was still playing every day out there."

Pujols, who turns 30 in January, joined Hall of Famer Al Simmons (11) as the only players with 100 or more RBI in each of their first nine seasons. Pujols also set a big league record for assists by a first baseman with 185.



Pujols became the fourth player to win the NL MVP three times. Bonds won seven in the 1990s, and 2005. Stan Musial (1940s), Roy Campanella (1950s) and Mike Schmidt (1980s) each won three.

Five players have won three AL MVPs: Jimmie Fox, Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle and Alex Rodriguez.

In addition to Pujols and Bonds, the only unanimous NL winners were Orlando Cepeda (1967), Schmidt (1980), Jeff Bagwell (1994) and Ken Caminiti (1996).

Unanimous AL winners have been Hank Greenberg (1935), Al Rosen (1953), Mantle (1956), Frank Robinson (1966), Denny McLain (1968), Reggie Jackson (1973), Jose Canseco (1988), Frank Thomas (1993) and Ken Griffey Jr. (1997).

St. Louis players have won 17 MVPs, second in the majors behind 20 for the Yankees. Pujols has been voted among the top 10 in nine consecutive years, finishing second in 2002, 2003 and 2006; third in 2004; fourth in 2001; and ninth in 2007.

Pujols receives a \$200,000 bonus for winning the award. He is signed for next season at \$16 million, and the Cardinals hold a \$16 million option for 2011, so the sides might soon turn their attention to a contract extension.

"We don't want this to drag into the 11th hour, but nothing's imminent," Cardinals general manager John Mozilak said in St. Louis. "I don't think anybody could envision what he's accomplished, on and off the field."

Joe Mauer of the Minnesota Twins was voted the AL MVP on Monday, receiving 27 of 28 first-place votes.

Cowboys upset about repeated officiating errors

Cowboys coach Wade Phillips is tired of hearing the league apologize for officiating mistakes.

Dallas was on the wrong end of incidents involving replay in its last two games. In a loss to Green Bay, the

Packers were not penalized for throwing a challenge flag when they were out of challenges, and in a win over Washington on Sunday the crew made a series of errors on the same play. It ended up not hurting the Cowboys

because the Redskins missed a field goal, but it still left Phillips steamed on Tuesday.

"Well, I mean, it shouldn't happen," he said. "That's what they're paid to do. They're paid to go by

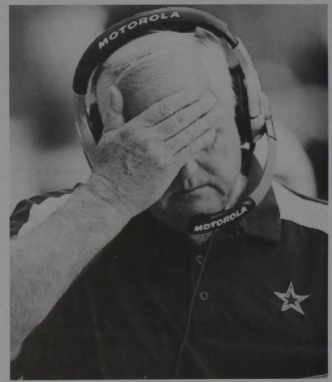
the rules and make sure you know whether a team can challenge or whether a team can review something or not. That's what the officials are paid to do."

Phillips said he spoke with NFL officiating director Mike Pereira about it, and that Pereira is upset, too, because these errors go beyond judgment calls about things like holding or pass interference.

"There shouldn't be any rules that they missed," he said. "I think that's what Mike was upset about."

The Cowboys actually caught a break from the officials against the Redskins. Replays show that on their winning play, two offensive linemen were down the field. An official nearby missed it because he was watching to see if quarterback Tony Romo passed the line. He didn't, so no flag was thrown.

Asked if that came up with the league office, Phillips said: "No, because they weren't (illegally) downfield). It wasn't called."



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Texas higher education board seeks to close gap in Latinos attending college

The Faces Behind The FBI Hate Crime Statistics

Washington, DC—NCLR (National Council of La Raza), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, urged law enforcement officials to guard against the "pattern and practice of hate" in local jurisdictions in light of today's release of the FBI-completed report, Hate Crime Statistics, 2008. While the statistics show that the number of hate crimes committed against Latinos remains virtually unchanged from 2007, 64% of the hate crimes based on perceived ethnicity or national origin targeted Latinos, compared to 61% in 2007. The rise in race-based hate crimes mirrors an increase in the number of hate groups targeting Latinos, as tracked by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"The most frightening thing about these numbers is what goes unrecorded," said Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO, noting that incidents targeting undocumented immigrants are rarely

reported to authorities. "We look at these numbers as the tip of the iceberg, and even then, the trend over the past five years is unmistakable." Murguía blamed the violence in part on the growing climate of hate surrounding the immigration debate. "Words have consequences," she said. "For too long, hate groups and hate speech have dominated the national debate on immigration and marginalized Latinos as a threat to our communities. Hate crimes are the consequence of this extremist rhetoric." Murguía pointed specifically to the case of Marcelo Lucero, an Ecuadorian immigrant who was waiting for a train in Patchogue, New York when he was assaulted and killed by seven teenagers out to "beat up Mexicans." The case sparked an outcry from local and national Hispanic groups that pointed to similar cases in and around the Suffolk County area, which led



to a Department of Justice investigation of the practice and pattern of hate in the community.

"The death of Marcelo Lucero should be a wake-up call for America," said Murguía, who was particularly concerned over the age of the alleged attackers. "It should be very disturbing to us that hate has trickled down to a new generation I urge all local law enforcement jurisdictions

to treat such attacks aggressively and guard against the climate of fear they create." Murguía also pointed to the murders of Jose Sucaszhanay and Luis Ramirez, two men who were beaten to death in separate incidents last year by attackers shouting ethnic slurs. Sucaszhanay, a Brooklyn real estate agent, was walking home with his brother late one night and attacked by bat-wielding men shouting anti-gay and anti-Hispanic slurs. Ramirez, an immigrant from Mexico, was killed by a group of White football players in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. "These crimes are happening everywhere, in small towns, suburbs, and rural communities all across America. Wherever you find hate, you will find hate crime. Unfortunately, we're finding it all too often," concluded Murguía.



State higher education officials are developing a plan to address the lagging college attendance of Latinos and to close the gap within that group — where men are behind.

"Latino males are vanishing from our higher education ranks," said Victor Saenz, an assistant professor of education administration at the University of Texas. "Our culture has a certain motivation to work right away to contribute to the family."

According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's most recent "Closing the Gaps by 2015" report, Hispanics are the least likely group to attend college and are "well below" meeting improvement goals.

Four percent of the state's Hispanic population participates in higher education, compared with 5.6 percent of blacks and 5.5 percent of whites. Improving that figure is vital to the state's economic health, state officials say, because Latinos are rapidly becoming the majority in Texas public schools.

State figures point to a second gap. In 2008, about 39 percent of Latino graduates earning bachelor's or associate's degrees were men: 15,879, compared with 24,757 women. Across all races, male graduates have been lagging behind women for years.

Later this month, the higher education board will consider approving the plan to improve Latino performance. Board members are considering ideas like starting a pilot program to increase the number of counselors at certain high schools, reaching out to more Spanish-speaking parents and expanding "bridge programs" to prepare students the summer before they begin college.

Personal sacrifice According to a report by Saenz, "sacrificing the individual over the needs of the family is commonplace" among Hispanic males. Other challenges, he notes, are a greater likelihood of being labeled at-risk or placed in special education and higher high school dropout rates.

Hispanic children in Texas public schools have higher poverty rates than white or black students. That adds pressure to work to support family at home or even children of their own.

"When you're in a low-income situation, there's a real trade-off if they can make money right away," said Deborah Santiago, vice president for policy at Excellence in Education, a Wash-

ington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization focused on improving college attendance. In addition, many Hispanics are keen of taking out loans, she said.

While traditional stereotypes hold that a culture of "machismo" would favor men going to college, it is women who are advancing more. However, that doesn't mean they don't face challenges of their own. The National Women's Law Center and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund recently released a report noting that Hispanic women are held back by many factors, including the pressure to become caretakers for younger siblings and elderly family members and having the highest teen pregnancy rates of any group. They also face double discrimination based on ethnicity and gender.

Staying near home And Santiago points out that heavy emphasis on family means students will often opt to live at home and attend community college rather than attend a university that is farther away. Latinos are more likely to begin at community college, but those who do have a much lower chance of finishing their degrees than students who begin in universities. Experts say that's often because they don't feel as connected to college life.

According to a recent Pew Hispanic Center survey, 88 percent of Hispanics believe a college education is important. But a separate Pew study shows about 40 percent of Latinos who graduate from high school enroll in college, which doesn't mean they graduate.

Alberto Lara, who graduated from Townview Magnet last year, is taking four courses at El Centro College while working more than 40 hours a week as an assistant manager at Burger King. He helps support his father, who is on disability, and his younger sister.

He would like to transfer to a university and become a bank examiner, but his worldwork is a burden. "It has affected my grades. I'm usually too tired, and I'm always taking naps in classes," Lara said. "I think I do need to cut my hours. But right now this is what I have to do."

Ernesto Cardoso, 20, is taking courses at Mountain View College and is trying to get out of his remedial math course to move into college-level math. He took a year off after high school and works at Walgreens. "I don't think I'll drop out unless there's like a death in the family or I have to be the remaining caregiver," said Cardoso, whose parents are immigrants from Mexico who never finished middle school. "Or just if I don't want to go anymore."

Demócratas aprobarán reforma de salud, asegora senador



Un importante senador demócrata dijo el lunes que su partido está comprometido a aprobar una reforma del sistema de salud de Estados Unidos, con o sin el apoyo de los republicanos porque "el sistema no funciona".

"Preferimos negociar con los republicanos si podemos llegar a un compromiso en algunos temas", dijo el senador Charles Schumer. "Pero no vamos a dejar de aprobar el proyecto de ley", agregó.

Schumer realizó sus declaraciones después que el Senado aprobó el sábado por la noche medidas que avanza la reforma, programada para 10 años y que costará 959,000 millones de dólares. Schumer debatió el tema con la republicana Kay Bailey Hutchison en un programa televisado por la mañana del lunes.

Hutchison dijo a Schumer que éste impondrá más impuestos y nominativas para los pequeños negocios con la aprobación de la reforma y que esas imposiciones perjudicarán a una economía estadounidense frágil, aún en periodo de recuperación de una recesión.

Los demócratas del Congreso están intentando resolver diferencias de opinión en sus propias filas respecto a temas como el aborto, políticas fiscales y permitir que el gobierno venda seguros médicos y que compita así con aseguradoras privadas. Los demócratas de la cámara baja y el Senado han adoptado varias posiciones contradictorias entre sí.

Estados Unidos es el único país desarrollado que no tiene un sistema de salud nacional. Casi 50 millones de los más de 300 millones de estadounidenses no tienen seguro de salud. El gobierno ofrece seguros a los más pobres y a los de más edad, pero la mayoría de estadounidenses tienen seguros privados, usualmente a través de las empresas donde trabajan.

Schumer dijo en un programa del canal NBC: "Todos sabemos que tenemos que dar un poco... Si no hacemos nada, esa es la peor situación, y tenemos un buen proyecto de ley". Insistió en que los legisladores han de unirse en un tema ya que el sistema "no funciona".

Hutchison criticó la reforma y dijo que los republicanos han presentado otras alternativas, como ayudas fiscales que no implicarían recortes en Medicare (el seguro de salud pública para gente sin recursos) y permitir que el gobierno controle el sistema de salud.

ANUNCIO DE REUNIONES DE INFORMACIÓN PÚBLICA PARA LOS PROYECTOS DE LINEAS DE TRANSMISIÓN DE 345 kV (CREZ)

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7 DE DICIEMBRE, 2009
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SNYDER, TEXAS 79549
8 DE DICIEMBRE, 2009
ENTRE LAS 5:30 - 8:00 PM

DORA ROBERTS
COMMUNITY CENTER
100 WHIPKEY DRIVE
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720
9 DE DICIEMBRE, 2009
ENTRE LAS 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Wind Energy Transmission Texas, LLC (WETT) está proponiendo la construcción de tres nuevos proyectos de transmisión de 345 kilovoltios (kV) como parte del Programa de Zonas de Energía Renovable (Competitive Renewable Energy Zones CREZ en inglés) dirigido por la Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) para incrementar la capacidad de transporte necesaria para la entrega de energía renovable. Estos proyectos consisten en:

Línea de Transmisión de 345 kV de Scurry County South a Long Draw; aproximadamente 45 millas de una línea eléctrica de transporte de doble circuito localizada en los condados de Scurry, Mitchell, Howard y Borden. Esta línea conectará la subestación eléctrica de Scurry County South propuesta por Oncor en el Condado de Scurry con la subestación eléctrica de Long Draw, propuesta por WETT en el Condado de Borden.

Línea de Transmisión de 345 kV de Long Draw a Grelton; aproximadamente 40 millas de una línea eléctrica de transporte de simple circuito con capacidad para doble circuito, localizada en los condados de Borden, Howard, Dawson, y Martin. Esta línea conectará la subestación eléctrica de Long Draw propuesta por WETT en el condado de Borden con la subestación eléctrica de Grelton propuesta por WETT en el Condado de Martin.

Línea de Transmisión de 345 kV de Grelton a Odessa, aproximadamente 34 millas de una línea eléctrica de transporte de simple circuito con capacidad para doble circuito, localizada en los condados de Martin, Midland, y Ector. Esta línea conectará la subestación eléctrica de Grelton propuesta por WETT en el Condado de Martin con la subestación eléctrica de Odessa propiedad de Oncor en el condado de Ector.

Las rutas propuestas fueron identificadas por TRC, una compañía consultora contratada por WETT para el proyecto, en cumplimiento con las reglas y mandatos de PUC, el Código de Texas para las compañías de servicios y el consejo de confiabilidad eléctrica de Texas (ERCOT). Las distancias finales de cada línea de transmisión dependerán de la ruta seleccionada por PUC.

Como parte de este proceso de rutas, WETT tendrá tres reuniones públicas de información para enseñar las diferentes rutas propuestas para los diferentes proyectos. Además, las reuniones permitirán a las personas hacer comentarios y preguntas sobre los proyectos propuestos. WETT se compromete a trabajar estrechamente con las comunidades locales y a tener en cuenta los valores y las preocupaciones de los ciudadanos durante el proceso de selección de rutas. Los mapas detallados y la información estarán disponibles para revisión entre las 5:30 pm y las 8:00 pm. Por favor tengan en cuenta que no habrá presentaciones formales en las reuniones públicas. Los materiales mostrados también estarán disponibles para consulta en la biblioteca del condado de Scurry, en la biblioteca publica del condado de Mitchell, en la biblioteca del condado de Howard, en la Corte del Condado de Borden, en la biblioteca del Condado de Dawson, en la biblioteca del Condado de Martin, en la biblioteca del condado de Midland y en la biblioteca publica del condado de Ector.

Cualquier pregunta relacionada con estas reuniones públicas, contactar WETT en internet www.windenergyoftexas.com o gratuitamente al 1-877-899-WETT (9388).

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