

el Espectador

"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez

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Lubbock, TX USA

Commissioner Gutiérrez Bashes Texas House Bills

In a "legislative alert" sent out to Lubbock citizens, County Commissioner Ysidro Gutiérrez urged voters to call Representative Delwin Jones to encourage them to cast a "no" vote for three House bills that he claims will cost jobs and severely affect Lubbock citizens.

HB 1006 is a revenue cap that requires mandatory elections to approve any tax increase of more than 3%. HB 1006 seeks to establish a 3% revenue cap on all property tax revenue by local governments. The bill requires a mandatory election to adopt any tax rate that is more than 3% above the effective tax rate.

HB 1006 is bad policy. It fundamentally changes our system of Government from elected representatives to a government by consensus. There is a good reason we have representative government. It works. Government by consensus simply does not work. It is bad policy.

HB 1006 which requires only a simple majority (76 votes). "As a county official I am asking you to contact Delwin Jones and ask him to vote NO on these bills. If either revenue caps or appraisal caps becomes law, it will affect our entire community," said Gutiérrez.

Gutiérrez said that no more tax abatements and economic development would result in Lost jobs.

He said that reduced pay for county

employees would result in exodus of employees. He also claimed that cuts to EMS would result in reduced fire protection, reduced sheriff's patrols, reduced road maintenance, reduced libraries, reduced senior and youth services and a possible end to other discretionary services.

"The appraisal caps and revenue caps have a very adverse effect on local government which can be described as: slow death by appraisal caps; quick death by revenue caps," said Gutiérrez.

Gutiérrez asked for Lubbock voters to "please phone, fax, or e-mail Delwin Jones and ask him to vote No! on appraisal caps HJR 35, its enabling bill HB 784 and revenue caps HB 1006.

Cinnussuiber Gutierrez can be contacted at ygutierrez.co.lubbock.tx.us

With Liberty and Justice for a Few!

Guest Commentary by Abel Cruz

Based on the premise that an injustice done to one person is an injustice done to all, people who are voiceless and powerless, who are in a vulnerable position, and who have no recourse to fight an injustice, have once again gotten SCREWED!

I would use another variation of that word, but you get my meaning! Or I could try and be politically correct, but that would not make the situation any less disturbing. Some would even say disgraceful.

What's the problem? It is the way that the criminal case between former Lubbock police officer Blake Littlejohn and a resident of this city has been handled by the very institution charged with making sure that a victim's rights are protected.

In case you're not familiar with this case, here's a timeline of events leading up to this column.

Here's what happened:

* 6/06/04 - Police officer Blake Littlejohn makes a routine traffic stop in the Depot District area at about 1:00 AM.

* 6/08/04 - Littlejohn resigns after a friend of the victim reports to police that Littlejohn had committed a sex act with the victim in return for not issuing citations and ignoring the victim's outstanding warrants.

* 6/14/04 - Prosecutors file felony civil rights violations charges (for engaging in a sex act with a prisoner) against Littlejohn. He is arrested, posts a \$5000 bond and is released.

* At this point in the timeline the victim has not been interviewed by the police. She submits a sworn statement to police through her attorney Charlie Dunn. Littlejohn has admitted to the sex act after being presented with evidence.

* 7/13/04 - Littlejohn is indicted by a Lubbock County grand jury on the civil rights violations charges.

* 1/18/05 - The victim files a civil suit against the city, the police department, and Blake Littlejohn seeking compensation for bodily injury and mental anguish. Case is still pending.

* 3/16/05 - Plea bargain is reached between Littlejohn and District Attorney Bill Sowder. Civil rights indictment is dropped. Littlejohn pleads guilty to a Class B misdemeanor harassment charge. Although sentence calls for 180 days in jail, jail time is probated for 1 year. Littlejohn also agrees to surrender his peace officer's license.

And just like that, justice in Lubbock, "the giant side of Texas", has been served! Quietly, and mostly hidden from public view. Because when it comes to meting out justice in cases involving people who are culturally different in this city, the majority of the time fairness and equality do not exist. If you don't believe it, then you are blinding yourself to one of the realities of living in this city.

Do you think that this situation would have been handled the same if the victim was a person from a different social, cultural or economic background? Do you think that it would have been handled the same if the victim's name was not Hernandez? All you have to do is look at the history of this city to answer that question.

Usually in a case like this where a plea bargain is involved, the victim is informed and given an opportunity to make a victim's impact statement. Neither one of those things happened in this case; with District Attorney Bill Sowder claiming that the victim had not been told due to a mistake on the part of the DA's office. Institutions do not make mistakes, people who work in them do. So, whomever made the mistake will remain a mystery and we will never know whether that person was reprimanded or whether any administrative action was taken to make sure the mistake is not repeated. Somehow I doubt that happened.

As in all cases, I doubt that we will ever know the full story. Perhaps there were circumstances that prevented the DA from following through with the civil rights charges? In the April 5 issue of the local University Daily, Bill Sowder is quoted as saying that he feels strongly that justice was served in this case. Justice, according to whose definition? Do you think the victim feels that justice was served for her? What about the LPD, what was their role in the matter? Will they institute safeguards to make sure that this situation will not be repeated? Was this an isolated incident or was this a case of selective police enforcement?

The questions are endless, but the answers are few? Why, because as long as we depend on the local mainstream media for information, we will always be left with more questions than answers; especially when it comes to reporting on Lubbock's diverse community. Unfortunately, we are forced to settle for their narrow-minded and shallow reporting of the news.

In an area that prides itself on family values and conservative views, where are those voices? Do these supposed values and moralistic views apply only when an injustice is committed against a member of this city's moralistic majority?

Another problem is that sadly we have reached a point in our cultural history where if a person is treated unjustly, as I believe is the case in this situation, they are forced to go it alone. There is no longer a sense of cultural solidarity or a sense of social outrage. There is no movement of social activism that demands that institutions be held accountable for their actions. We no longer have those public voices of dissent, those inspirational voices that move people to take action.

What we have is a silent acceptance of that subtle belittlement and disrespect of our cultural identity. What we are left with is a silent drama played out every day in which the less fortunate are forced to go before the system with hat in hand and head bowed in shame just for being different.

A few days ago, a monument stone tablet was erected on the west side of city hall in honor of people who have been the victims of senseless violent crimes. It is a simple gray tablet inscribed with words once spoken by Thomas Jefferson. It makes the point that justice will not be served until those of us that are unaffected by an unjust situation are as outraged as those who have been affected.

Until that happens, until we require accountability from those that we elect, we will remain vulnerable to injustices. We will remain voiceless, without direction, and we will continue to lose what little we have left of our own identity.

Editor's Note: El Editor would like to hear from you regarding this case. Please send us a letter to the editor or email us at eleditor@sbcglobal.net or email Abel Cruz at acruzsc@aol.com.

A Visit into Minuteman Territory

By Jake Rollow

(First of two articles)

Wearing a crisp camouflage jacket (a \$4.99 thrift store bargain) and a borrowed outdoorsman's cap, I arrived in Minuteman territory in style. My partner, photojournalist Diana Molina, shaded her fair complexion with a leopard-spotted cowgirl hat.

We blended pretty well with some 450 civilian border guardians this past week as they went on patrol along the Arizona-Mexico border. Our outfits helped gain us an invitation to the Minuteman Project base camp and an interview with James Gilchrist, their co-leader.

Their goal, Gilchrist told us, is to call national attention to a broken border and force recalcitrant politicians to take action. Despite their distrust of the press, the Minutemen (about 10 percent are female) are making quite an effort to gain media attention.

They recruited more than 1,000 volunteers to patrol border stretches in Arizona throughout April. They plan to have some recruits fly over the area in days to come.

Mark Adams of Presbyterian Border Ministries works just across from Douglas (population 14,000) in Agua Prieta, (population 120,000), where many migrants plan their U.S. entry. It's a region where the Border Patrol's daily average of apprehensions is 580.

He agrees that current U.S. immigration policy is "screwed up" and offered this assessment of the Minuteman Project: "We don't think it's helpful, but we don't think they're the problem."

The Minutemen sit in lawn chairs and vehicles

along a gravel and sand road, looking over a seven-strand barbed-wire fence into Mexico's desert. They see cacti and brush, footpaths, and holes in the fence, with brown mountains as a backdrop, just like the ones behind them. It's hot under the daytime sun, and chilly-dipping into the 50s - at night, when they put down binoculars for flashlights.

(Continued on Page 5)



Una Vista al Territorio Minuteman

Jake Rollow

(Primero de dos artículos)

Llegué al territorio de los Minuteman (el Proyecto Miliciano: Minuteman en referencia a la guerra de la independencia de los EEUU) vestido apropiadamente con mi chaqueta nueva de camuflaje (una ganga de \$4.99, adquirida en una tienda de artículos de segunda mano) y una gorra deportiva prestada. Mi compañera, la periodista gráfica Diana Molina, resguardaba su tez clara con un sombrero vaquero adornado con manchas de leopardo. La semana pasada nos confundimos bastante bien con alrededor de 450 guardianes civiles de la frontera, mientras estos patrullaban la región fronteriza entre Arizona y México. Nuestra vestimenta nos permitió conseguir una invitación al campamento de operaciones del proyecto Minuteman y una entrevista con James Gilchrist, su co-líder.

Su meta, nos indicó Gilchrist, es llamar la atención de la nación a una frontera malograda y obligar a los políticos recaitrantes a tomar acción. A pesar de su desconfianza en la prensa, los minutemen (con un 10 por ciento de mujeres) realizan un esfuerzo considerable por captar la atención de los medios de comunicación.

Ellos reclutaron más de 1,000 voluntarios para patrullar la región fronteriza de Arizona durante el mes de abril. Planifican enviar a algunos reclutas a sobrevolar la región en los próximos días.

Mark Adams, del Ministerio Interfronterizo Presbiteriano (PBM por sus siglas en inglés), trabaja justo enfrente de Douglas (con una población de 14,000 personas), en Agua Prieta (con una población de 120,000 personas), en donde muchos emigrantes planifican su entrada a los Estados Unidos. Es una región en donde la patrulla fronteriza realiza un promedio de 580 detenciones diarias.

Adams concuerda con el planteamiento de que la política migratoria actual de los Estados Unidos se encuentra "en completo desorden". En torno al proyecto Minuteman, expresó que "No lo consideramos provechoso, pero no creemos que los minutemen sean el problema".

Los minutemen se sientan en sillas para el césped y en vehículos a lo largo de una carretera de grava y arena, y escuchan

el desierto de México a través de una verja coronada con siete vueltas de alambre de púas. Ven cactus y maleza, veredas y agujeros en la verja, con montañas color castaño pardo como telón de fondo, iguales a las que tienen a sus espaldas. Es un lugar muy caliente durante el día, y frío - con temperaturas en los 50 grados - durante la noche, cuando intercambian sus binoculares por linternas eléctricas.

Patrullan dos tramos fronterizos de media milla: uno cerca de Douglas y otro cerca de Naco, a unas 30 millas hacia el oeste. Cada área está custodiada hasta por 30 minutemen, divididos en grupos de dos o tres individuos. Hacen turnos de ocho horas. Escuchan música durante el día y prenden y apagan sus focos durante la noche para disuadir, en lugar de capturar. A las 10 de la noche, Chris Simcox, el otro líder del proyecto Minuteman, se encuentra de pie en la plataforma de su camioneta, a unas cuantas millas al este de Naco. Escudriña el frío y oscuro desierto de México a través de un dispositivo infrarrojo de barrido frontal (FLIR por sus siglas en inglés) que percibe el calor, en lugar de la luz. El proyecto, explica, proporciona el modelo para la reforma migratoria que le gustaría ver.

Aparte de su interés en sellar la frontera, Gilchrist afirma que no está muy familiarizado con los asuntos económicos y de política exterior para hacer otras recomendaciones de reformas. Su problema es la frontera y está considerando aspirar a un cargo público.

La cantidad de guardianes de la frontera menguó durante la semana a un poco más de cien, pero se espera que lleguen más durante los fines de semana.

Los minutemen no son una cuadrilla monolítica, pero prevalecen algunas semejanzas. Casi todos son blancos. La mayor parte de ellos aparentan ser mayores de 40 años, y muchos, como "Popeye", de Nueva York, lucen mucho mayores. Cerca de una cuarta parte de ellos están armados. Expresan desaliento y disgusto con los "invasores extranjeros" que han venido a alejar y con los políticos estadounidenses que no detienen la corriente.

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Militar detenía inmigrantes

Un reservista del ejército fue arrestado por presuntamente amenazar a siete mexicanos a punta de pistola en un descanso carretero en el sur de Arizona, donde los esfuerzos civiles para evitar la entrada de inmigrantes han provocado temores de que se produzcan hechos violentos.

El sargento Patrick Haab, de 24 años, aparentemente actuó solo y no participa en el Proyecto Minuteman, que ha organizado a voluntarios con el fin de evitar la entrada de inmigrantes y narcotraficantes a través de la frontera con México.

Las autoridades dijeron que Haab empleó su vehículo el domingo para evitar que los siete hombres se alejaran y luego les ordenó que se acostaran en el piso o de lo contrario les dispararía.

Se encuentra detenido por siete cargos de asalto con agravantes empleando un arma letal.

"Hasta las agencias policiales tienen que tener una causa legítima para sacar a la gente de su automóvil y ordenarle que se acueste en el piso... Los amenazó con matarlos", dijo el alguacil Joe Arpaio. "No tenía derecho de hacer lo que hizo. ¿Cómo sabía que eran extranjeros ilegales?"

Los agentes dijeron que Haab le ordenó a un segundo conductor que apuntara con un arma a los hombres mientras él llamaba a la policía. El acompañante se fue antes de que llegaran al lugar los policías y la Patrulla Fronteriza, y las autoridades intentan localizarlo.

Haab regresó del servicio militar activo en Irak en octubre y se mudó a Arizona hace cuatro meses. Se encuentra detenido en la cárcel del condado de Maricopa, mientras que los inmigrantes indocumentados están arrestados en Yuma.

U.S. Border with Mexico Blurring

By C.W. Nevius
San Francisco Chronicle

So there we were on the beach of a tropical island in the Pacific Ocean, two-thirds of the way down the west coast of Mexico. A local guy was strolling along the sand, selling painted pottery, and when he stopped by our little collection of towels and sun lotions, we couldn't help but notice his baseball cap.

It was from KFOG, the San Francisco classic rock radio station.

OK. We get it. The cultures of Mexico and the United States are becoming inexorably blended. But here's the question: is this the Americanization of Mexican culture or the Latino-ization of the U.S.A.?

Luckily, we have a laboratory right here in the Bay Area, with the kind of representative sample that social scientists dream of finding. Roughly 700,000 Mexican citizens live in Northern California, and a huge concentration of them are in the East Bay. In fact, some surveys predict that one third of eastern Contra Costa County will be Latino by 2009.

But that's an old story, right? We've heard the story of the Mexican immigrants who dodge the Border Patrol, take an all-night bus ride to Concord and end up on Monument Boulevard the next morning, hoping to hire out as a day laborer. They are poor, uneducated and desperate. That

angle has been pretty well covered.

But someone like Enrique Ruiz, a real estate agent in Concord and past president of the Contra Costa Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, suggests that you drive down Monument Boulevard and check out the businesses.

"What I see are supermarkets, restaurants, jewelry stores, Western wear, and bridal shops that cater to the Latino American customers," Ruiz says. "What I am seeing is the Latino-ization of the American culture."

If so, this is big, because it would mean that we aren't seeing an across-the-border culture taking root in the United States because of tolerance, goodwill and fine intentions. It is so much simpler and more powerful than that.

This is about the money. In the East Bay, the perfect model is the New Mecca restaurant in Pittsburg, a city that happens to have the largest Latino concentration in eastern Contra Costa County. An institution in East County -- Rep. George Miller eats lunch there every election day -- the New Mecca is owned by Guillermo "Bill" Muniz.

Muniz is the quintessential bootstrap success story. He started as the dishwasher some 30 years ago and ended up owning the place. Now, it may well be the

most successful eatery for miles around, drawing diners like former Oakland A's manager Tony La Russa.

"I see more people coming with the same mind I have for myself," says Muniz. "To come here and work hard and have a place for my family."

But the point is the New Mecca began, as Ruiz suggests, as a local hangout for Spanish-speaking Latino customers. Then, drawn by the food and the service, the clientele slowly broadened to include the general population. Today, it is considered as American as tamale pie.

Not that the transfer isn't going the other direction too. Preparing for a visit to Mexico City, where she plans to move her public relations consulting firm, Lafayette's Frances Palacios says she first made an important stop. Was it to get traveler's checks? No.

"I updated my Costco card and bought a Six Flags pass," she says. "I checked, and they are both good in Mexico. You are seeing lots of people traveling back and forth. I've gone to Mexico City for lunch. It's easy."

Well, that's a long way to go for a good burrito, but something is up. In the years since the law was changed to allow Americans to acquire land (technically it is not purchased, but held in a trust) in Mexico, there has been a flood of American investment south of the border.

Ruiz says his international real

estate company, RE/MAX, has become much more active in Mexico. He knows that because the other day someone used a Spanish word -- plica -- he'd never heard before.

It turned out to be the term for "escrow."

Ruiz and Palacios have also noticed the ad pitches in the media. Ruiz says even Spanish-language television networks in the United States are running some ads in English, hoping to reach out to second- and third-generation sons and daughters of immigrants who speak both Spanish and English.

There is a lot of reaching going on. Palacios says she is moving her consulting business to Mexico because "a lot of American companies want to do outreach. You can feel it. They want to do business there."

Meanwhile, down the border, you may have heard about the American vigilantes standing guard in the dust and cacti of the Southwest, attempting to stop Mexicans from crossing illegally.

From here, it looks like they are wasting their time. The real immigration is flying over their heads, and it isn't people. It's money.

C.W. Nevius' column appears Tuesday and Saturday in the Bay Area section and on Friday's in East Bay Life. E-mail him at cwnevius@sfcchronicle.com.

Minutemen See Their Border Role as Patriotic

By Jake Rollow

(Hispanic Link News Service columnist Jake Rollow is covering the month-long Minuteman Project, which extends through the month of April, at the Arizona-Mexico border. This is his second dispatch.)

MINUTEMAN BASE CAMP, Arizona -- There's only one road into Minuteman base camp. The guards at its entrance just waved as we drove in. My partner, photojournalist Diana Molina, was behind the wheel of our Jeep. I sat in the passenger seat.

The project's co-leader, James Gilchrist, was a few cars ahead. He had invited us to join his caravan after Molina's persistent interview requests.

The base is actually a bible college just a few miles from the Mexico border. A one-story dormitory has rooms hardly bigger than the two single beds within, or there's space for camping, which we opted for the night we stayed. The men's bathroom is communal and, while towel drying, can be optimal for overhearing how the press misquotes right-wingers. Meetings were held in the dorm's common room, furnished with a few chairs and an old bench press, but they were off-limits to us.

We weren't allowed in the communications center either. It's where messages are relayed in from the field. It's also why there's a 50-foot tall homemade antennae in the courtyard. The receiver is so thin the Minuteman Project tech-team has wrapped bright yellow caution tape around nearby trees, cutting off access to where a walker might knock it over.

Based on my encounters, they're nice people. Almost all were quite friendly, even when refusing to comment.

I conducted an informal survey of 13 of them, asking what had brought them to the project. Most of my questioning sessions occurred when we accompanied them on border duty.

About half cited lethargic politicians. The common refrain was that they're sick of contacting their representatives to no avail, and often no response at all. Many expressed their anger with President Bush, some saying they regretted having voted for him. He's shirking responsibility and pandering to corporations, they contended.

The threat of terrorism brought them to the border, they said. "Ridiculous, not knowing who in the world's coming in," one expressed his worry.

Border Patrol spokesperson for the region Andy Adame supports the Minutemen, but wishes they were rallying further from the border, where there would be less chance of an accident at night or armed encounter.

"The border is a lot more secure than a year ago," he says, but "absolutely" needs more agents and resources.

Many Minutemen are also bothered by what they call the "invasion" of unauthorized immigrants. They express fear that the large number of migrants entering the United States -- especially Hispanics -- will lead to economic crisis or the deterioration of U.S. "culture."

Latinos should "leave their s--- behind," said one woman referring to the Spanish language. "Be like us."

But the most universal trait among the Minutemen is probably their deep sense of patriotism. Most are quick to proclaim they are serving their country. U.S. flags are omnipresent, displayed on hats, t-shirts, bumper stickers and flapping above car windows. The sense of righteousness bolsters their unity and pride.

And they are proud. Many already call the mission a success, as it has garnered national headlines and blocked the immigration avenues where they patrol.

A participant who traveled from Texas volunteered that there are those of his state who are considering duplicating the project on that state's border with Mexico.

The project proves the border can be secured, one of the few women on duty made the comment. "It shows elected officials it can be done."

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Los MinuteMen Consideran Patriótica su Función en la Frontera

Jake Rollow

(El columnista Jake Rollow, de Hispanic Link News Service, se encuentra cubriendo el proyecto Minuteman, (el Proyecto Miliciano: Minutemen en referencia a la guerra de la independencia de los EEUU) que se extenderá durante todo el mes de abril en la región fronteriza entre Arizona y México. Este es su segundo comunicado.)

CAMPAMENTO DE OPERACIONES MINUTEMAN, Arizona - Sólo hay una carretera para llegar hasta el campamento de operaciones Minuteman. Los guardias apostados en la entrada del campamento sólo nos hicieron señas para que siguiéramos adelante. Mi compañera, la periodista gráfica Diana Molina, se encontraba al volante de nuestro Jeep. Yo ocupaba el asiento de pasajeros.

El co-lider del proyecto, James Gilchrist, viajaba en uno de los autos que iban delante de nosotros. Nos había invitado a unimos a su caravana después que Molina había solicitado insistentemente que nos concediera una entrevista.

El campamento es, en realidad, una escuela de enseñanza bíblica, a pocas millas de la frontera con México. Las habitaciones del dormitorio de una planta son poco más grandes que las dos camas de una plaza que se encuentran en ellas. También hay un área para acampar, donde decidimos pasar la noche. El baño de los hombres es un área común, un lugar óptimo para que, mientras se secan, oigan casualmente cómo la prensa cita incorrectamente a los derechistas. Las reuniones se celebraban en la sala de estar del dormitorio, una pieza amueblada con algunas sillas y un viejo banco plano para ejercicios, pero estaban vedadas para nosotros.

Tampoco nos permitían entrar al centro de comunicaciones, el lugar donde se transmiten los mensajes que vienen del campo de actividad. Por esa razón, en el patio de este lugar se levanta una antena casera de 50 pies. El receptor es tan delgado que el equipo técnico del proyecto Minuteman ha colocado cinta adhesiva amarilla brillante alrededor de algunos árboles cercanos para restringir el acceso a personas que pudieran echar abajo la antena accidentalmente.

Según mi experiencia, puedo decir que son personas amables. Casi todos son bastante amigables, aún cuando se niegan a hacer comentarios.

Llevé a cabo una encuesta informal entre 13 de ellos, y les pregunté qué los había motivado a unirse al proyecto. Hice la mayor parte de las sesiones de preguntas mientras los acompañábamos a sus puestos de trabajo en la región fronteriza.

Cerca de la mitad de ellos mencionaron a los políticos apáticos. El estribillo común era que estaban cansados de comunicarse en vano con sus representantes, quienes con frecuencia, no respondían a sus reclamos. Muchos de ellos expresaron su enojo con el presidente Bush, y algunos indicaron que estaban arrepentidos de haber votado por él. Alegaron que Bush está eludiendo sus obligaciones y complaciendo a las corporaciones.

La amenaza del terrorismo los motivó a irse a la frontera, dijeron. "Es ridículo, no saber quién rayos entra al país", manifestó preocupado uno de ellos.

El portavoz de la patrulla fronteriza para la región, Andy Adame, apoya a los minutemen pero quisiera que se reunieran más lejos de la frontera, donde no estuvieran tan expuestos a un accidente de noche o a una confrontación armada.

"La frontera es mucho más segura que un año atrás", afirma, pero "definitivamente" necesita más agentes y recursos.

Muchos minutemen también están molestos por lo que llaman la "invasión" de inmigrantes no autorizados. Expresan su temor a que la gran cantidad de inmigrantes que entra a los Estados Unidos, en particular los hispanos, lleve al país a una crisis económica o al deterioro de la "cultura" estadounidense.

Los latinos "deben dejar su m--- atrás", dijo una mujer, refiriéndose al idioma español. "Deben ser como nosotros".

Pero la característica más generalizada entre los minutemen es, probablemente, su profundo sentido de patriotismo. Muchos están prestos a proclamar que sirven a su país. Las banderas estadounidenses son omnipresentes: las exhiben en sombreros, camisetas, pegatinas para para choques, y las ondean por encima de las ventanas de los automóviles. El sentido de rectitud refuerza su unidad y orgullo. Y son orgullosos. Muchos de ellos califican la misión como un éxito porque ha logrado acaparar las primeras planas de los periódicos nacionales y ha bloqueado las vías de inmigración que ellos patrullan.

Un participante que viajó desde Texas adelantó que algunas personas de su estado están considerando copiar el proyecto para la frontera de su estado con México. Una de las pocas mujeres participantes comentó que el proyecto demuestra que se puede asegurar la frontera. "Les demuestra a los funcionarios electos que esta meta sí se puede lograr".

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Racism in Mexico

By Erika Robles

Although we constantly complain about the increasing racism, discrimination and poverty that Hispanics face in the USA, Indigenous Mexicans suffer the same problems in Mexico.

In a nation devoted to celebrating its Indian heritage, the terrible irony is that Indians are despised. "Don't behave like an Indian," are common sentences heard among the white mestizo (person of mixed race or blood, specifically a person of mixed European and Indian) and the criollo (direct Spanish descendants) families. The Indians are despised for their physical appearance, their poverty, and their language. Racism enters every criollo and mestizo family, defining the value and the place of the children according to their color. The darkest one may become the outsider, while the fair-skinned one is a prize.

In Mexico, two different worlds exist, the world of the white and rich population and the world of the indigenous. The Indians have been excluded from the privileges that the white population in Mexico have. They have been abused, attacked, neglected and forgotten during the last 100 years.

Today, the indigenous population continues to face systematic discrimination in the public and private sectors, and remains largely outside

the country's political and economic mainstream. Extreme poverty disproportionately affects indigenous segments of the population, particularly in the province of Chiapas, where conflict between a national liberation movement and authorities has raged since 1994.

Language barriers preclude meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in the public education system. Most Indians do not speak Spanish; nevertheless, Spanish is the language that has been assigned in the Education System. As a result, for the non-Spanish-speaking people, education is often essentially unavailable. The illiteracy rate among indigenous peoples in Mexico is six times the national average. Spanish illiteracy particularly disadvantages indigenous peoples in the political process, as ballots and voter information are only available in Spanish. If citizens of Mexico cannot read or understand Spanish, they are not able to cast their votes.

In addition, Indians' inability to speak Spanish means that they face widespread employment discrimi-

nation in Spanish-speaking areas. Indians are also over represented in low-income jobs; 40 per cent of migrant farm workers in the country are Indian. Even among menial jobs, employment discrimination persists. For example, one report indicates that Indians are often not allowed to do the easier plant packing work; ostensibly because they are "too short" to reach the vegetables to sort and pick them. Migrant farm workers in the south have been subjected to discriminatory police brutality. These people claim that police specifically target them for abuse. Reports indicate that the police target those with "markers" of being Indian, such as skin color and height.

The vast concentrations of wealth among the white (9% of the population, according to the CIA Factbook) ruling class contrasted with extreme poverty among the darkest citizens are the proof that racial and class discrimination exists in Mexico. The official and his peers in the business and intellectual elites of the nation tend to be white (there are exceptions, but they are becoming scarcer), well educated, and well traveled abroad.

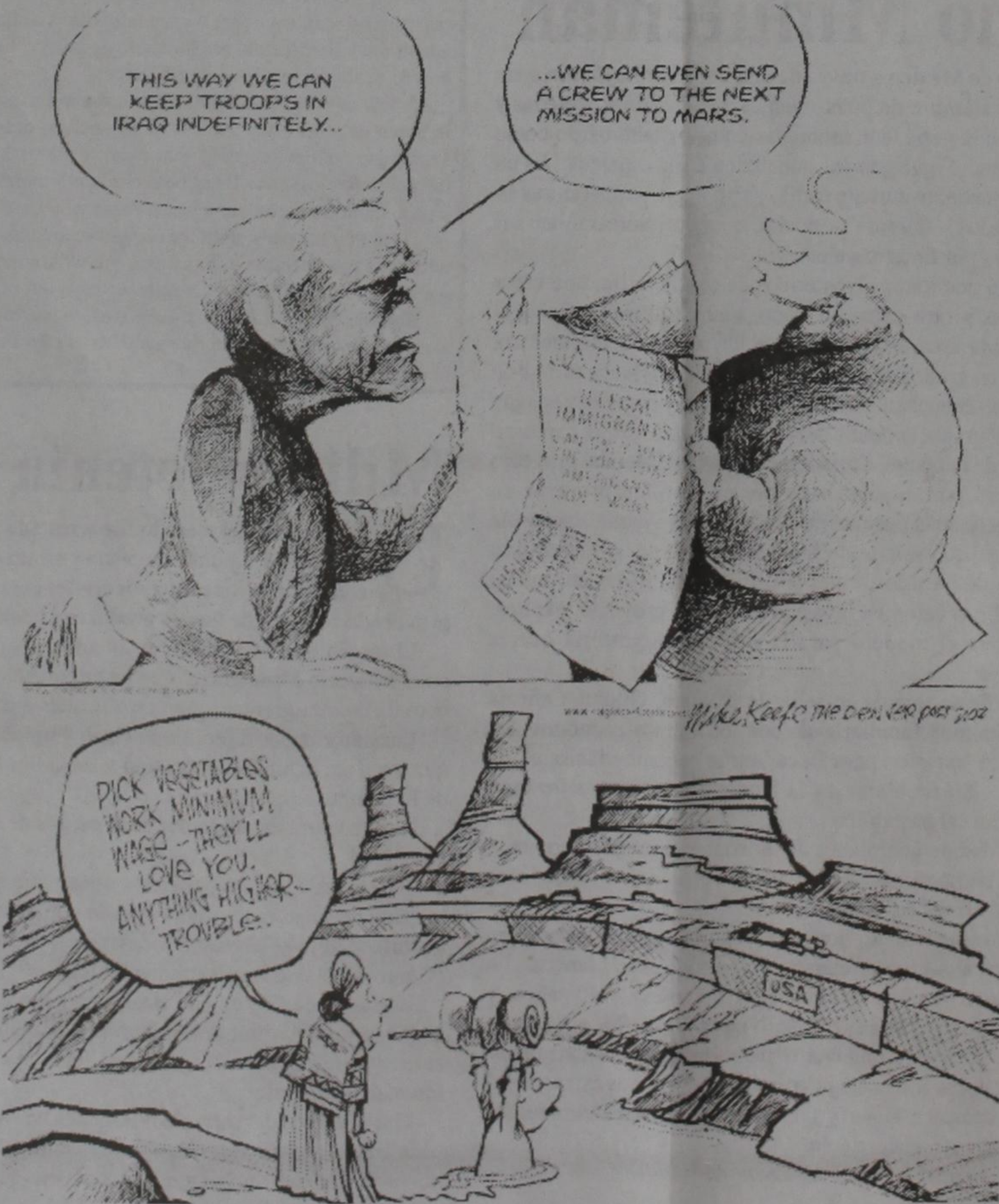
Although this is happening right before their eyes, the white

population in Mexico (the most powerful one) refuses to acknowledge it or even address it openly. They refuse to notice the skin color and height differences between the rulers and the ruled in Mexico.

The current government has made an effort to bring the issue of indigenous rights closer to the forefront of the country's agenda, but it still maintains that racial discrimination does not exist in Mexico. While they acknowledge that indigenous people suffer debilitating and disproportionate social, cultural, and economic hardships, it contends that racial discrimination is not the cause of such poverty, but rather that the poverty itself is the cause of discrimination.

We aren't going to be able to take all the appropriate measures to ensure equal and impartial treatment before the law for all people, until we recognize that racism perpetuates the economic, social, and political marginalization of indigenous peoples.

Unfortunately, racism is a fact of life in Mexico, one that costs lives. But the struggle goes on, for the dead are only dead if they are forgotten. Let's not forget about them.



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Senadores en Huelga de Hambre Contra el Desafuero de AMLO

Los senadores federales del Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) iniciaron un ayuno en la puerta de la residencia oficial de Los Pinos, donde despacha el presidente Vicente Fox, en protesta por el desafuero de Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

Jesús Ortega, coordinador de la fracción perredista en el Senado de la República, puntualizó que la huelga de hambre emprendida por su grupo parlamentario tiene como propósito denunciar el "golpe de estado que se ha dado a la democracia".

El vicepresidente de la Mesa Directiva de la misma Cámara Alta del Congreso, el también perredista Raymundo Cárdenas, responsabilizó a "Vicente Fox por lo que pueda ocurrir si continúa la ofensiva en contra de López Obrador y del proyecto del PRD".

La veintena de legisladores que emprendieron la medida de inconformidad advirtieron que "llevaremos nuestra lucha hasta donde la quiera llevar el Presidente", a quien acusan de ser uno de los promotores, en la cúpula política y económica, de la presunta confabulación para someter a juicio penal al jefe de gobierno local, en retiro temporal.

Los senadores perredistas se estarán turnando en el acto de protesta, que planean extender hasta el próximo 22 del presente mes, con el objeto de no faltar a las sesiones legislativas.

A eso del mediodía, el descontento contingente arribó a uno de los accesos de la casa presidencial, donde fueron colocados una pequeña carpa y una pancarta con la leyenda de 'Resistencia civil, ayuno de los senadores del PRD. Sí a la libertad, a la legalidad y a la democracia'.

Minutos antes cientos de agentes del Estado Mayor Presidencial, la Secretaría de Seguridad Pública y la Policía Federal Preventiva cercaron herméticamente la sede del Poder Ejecutivo Federal, con vallas metálicas y vehículos policíacos.

Pais libre

Una vez instalada la tienda de campaña perredista, la Presidencia de la República declaró que México es "un país de libertades, y nuestra Constitución Política garantiza la libre manifestación de las ideas y el derecho de las y los mexicanos a reunirse para que, de manera pacífica, se expresen sobre los asuntos políticos del país".

Pero también aclaró, mediante un comunicado, que es "obligación constitucional de todo manifestante respetar los derechos de terceros, no atentar contra la moral ni el orden público y no hacer uso de violencia,



amenaza o injuria con el propósito de intimidar a las autoridades".

Subrayó que congruente con su convicción de que en el país debe prevalecer "el Estado Democrático de Derecho, la Presidencia de la República garantizará que la reunión y las expresiones de los legisladores del Partido de la Revolución Democrática, y de sus seguidores, se lleven a cabo en pleno goce de sus libertades".

Ayer mismo, la prensa daba cuenta de que la Presidencia de la República ha decidido no exponer más en público al mandatario mexicano, que en semanas recientes ha sido blanco de gritos de personas que exigen "¡No al desafuero, no al desafuero, no al desafuero...!".

Algunos periódicos destacaban que, en sus giras recientes, Fox y su esposa Marta han acudido a una serie de eventos culturales, económicos, sociales y educativos, a los que no han sido invitados los reporteros que cubren la fuente, como es la costumbre.

Se conjetura que se trata de una táctica para evitar que los medios sigan atestigüando las expresiones de inconformidad por el desafuero, que personas han estado haciendo, cada vez con mayor frecuencia, en los sitios donde se presenta el jefe de la Nación.

A la espera
Mientras tanto, López Obrador, en espera de su arresto para ser sometido a juicio penal por desatado judicial, sostenía que no estaba dispuesto a negociar con el Gobierno Federal o con poderosos grupos políticos y economí-

cos la desactivación del movimiento de resistencia civil que ha iniciado de manera pacífica, como al parecer le han sugerido.

"No se pueden negociar principios, no se puede negociar los ideales. No se puede transar, para hablar en pocas palabras", declaró el desafiado gobernante local, al señalar que "no se trata de decir: 'yo estoy obsecado con ser Presidente de México y voy a llegar a costa de lo que sea'. Eso no. No vamos a llegar dejando trozos de dignidad en el camino".

Ante más de un millar de sus seguidores, congregados en un parque cercano a su apartamento, dijo que de ceder a las presiones se recurriría al "error histórico que cometió Fox", a quien acusó de haberse comprometido con los grupos de poder y, por tanto, sostuvo que "un Presidente así no sirve, porque llega atado de pies y manos, les va a servir a ellos, pero no le va a servir al pueblo, entonces ¿para qué llegar así? No tiene ningún caso".

Recordó que Fox ganó la Presidencia como resultado de una larga lucha por la democracia, en la que perdieron la vida miles de mexicanos, incluyendo a integrantes del movimiento zapatista y del Frente Democrático Nacional de 1988, por lo que calificó de "una vergüenza que este hombre que llegó con el esfuerzo, por el sacrificio de mucha gente ahora esté haciendo exactamente lo mismo por lo que hemos luchado todo el tiempo".

López Obrador criticó que el Presidente "se haya aliado a (el ex Presidente Carlos) Salinas, a lo

más perverso que hay en la política mexicana y esté ahora queriendo retrogradar, es decir, echar hacia atrás todo lo que se ha logrado con mucho y con mucho sacrificio de la gente".

Por su parte el líder nacional del Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), Roberto Madrazo, negó que haya habido un complot con el Partido Acción Nacional (PAN) para desafiar al político perredista, y rechazó que por ello esté en riesgo la transición democrática de México.

"En lo respecta a la transición, yo no la veo en riesgo. Yo creo que éste es un proceso que tiene que ver con la ley, no sólo desde el punto de vista de la política porque están inmerso, sin duda, en un proceso electoral que se avecina, pero hay que dejarlo estrictamente hoy en la revisión del marco legal", aseveró.

Madrazo insistió en que "no hay un acuerdo entre el PAN y el PRI", y garantizó asimismo que "los diputados del PRI votaron a conciencia, ellos lo hicieron libremente".

Comentó que le gustaría que López Obrador participara como candidato en las elecciones presidenciales del 2006, pero simultáneamente hizo ver que antes "tendrá que resolver también un problema interno en el estatuto del PRD, como ustedes saben, se habla de que no podrá ser candidato una persona que esté sujeto a proceso".

En el orden jurídico, el subprocurador Javier Vega Memije notificó que la Procuraduría General de la República (PGR) no anunciará cuando "consigna el pliego de acusaciones" contra López Obrador, ya que "el Ministerio Público ejerce acción penal y eso es secreto".

Sin embargo reconoció que ello se concretará en pocos días, una vez que se concluya la redacción del caso por abuso de autoridad en contra del acusado, que ya lleva 16 mil páginas, y que se espera que "a finales del mes estaremos en condiciones de conocer la determinación del juez".

Ante corresponsales extranjeros, el funcionario de la PGR recaló que el político perredista "no podría, si se le decreta la formal prisión", ser candidato a la Presidencia de la República.

Se le preguntó su impresión sobre la descalificación que se ha hecho al desafuero en el extranjero, particularmente en Estados Unidos, y Vega Memije respondió: "Dicen 'es el gobierno del cambio y no hay ningún cambio', aquí tienen un cambio. Nada más que internamente los opositores al gobierno no lo quieren ver".



Una sencilla losa de mármol cumbre la tumba del Papa

Una sencilla lápida de mármol blanco jaspeado tras de la cual hay un macetón de calas blancas cubre la tumba del papa Juan Pablo II, enterrado en las Grutas Vaticanas (cripta), que podrá visitarse desde hoy.

"Ioannes Pavlvs PP II. 16.X.1978-2.IV.2005" son las únicas letras y números grabados en la losa de mármol, proveniente de la famosa montaña de mármol de Carrara, en el noroeste italiano.

La losa mide 2.20 metros de largo por 1.20 de ancho y está dispuesta de manera que los fieles puedan verla y leer lo escrito con facilidad.

Las letras, grandes, han sido doradas y el nombre del Papa ha sido escrito en latín siguiendo la tradición. Las letras "PP" significan "Papa Pontifex".

Bajo el nombre aparecen las fechas de cuando fue elegido Pontífice, el 16 de octubre de 1978, y las del día de su muerte, el 2 de abril pasado.

En la parte inferior de la losa ha sido esculpido el símbolo de Cristo.

La tumba, visitada ayer por la prensa acreditada ante el Vaticano, ocupa el mismo lugar en el que por 37 años estuvo sepultado al que tanto apreciaba, el beato papa Juan XXIII, quien convocó el Concilio Vaticano II. Sus restos descansan en la capilla de San Jerónimo, en la basílica vaticana.

El sepulcro de Juan Pablo II ocupa un espacio abovedado de la cripta vaticana, en el subsuelo de la Basílica de San Pedro, presidido por un bajorrelieve en mármol que representa una Virgen con el Niño en brazos y dos ángeles.

Ese mismo bajorrelieve ya estaba cuando estaba enterrado Juan XXIII, el "Papa Bueno", y Juan Pablo II acudía a rezar a su tumba.

Un macetón de calas blancas y un pequeño cirio encendido completan el lugar, del que llama la atención su sencillez, en la línea que le gustaba al Papa, que quiso ser enterrado en el suelo al igual que Juan XXIII y al que tanto admiraba Paulo VI.

La sepultura se encuentra a pocos metros de la tumba del apóstol San Pedro, al lado de la de la reina Cristina de Suecia y frente al sarcófago de Carlota de Chiore, por lo que Juan Pablo II es el único Papa sepultado entre dos mujeres.

A pocos metros se encuentran las sepulturas de Paulo VI y Juan Pablo I, sus más inmediatos predecesores.

Los fieles que a partir de hoy visiten la tumba de Karol Wojtyła podrán ver también los enterramientos de los papas Pío XI, Pío XII, Pío VI, Bonifacio VIII, Nicolás V, Pablo II, Inocencio IX y Benedicto XV, así como el sepulcro del cardenal español Merry del Val, enterrados en la cripta vaticana.

El monumental "Sepulcrum Sancti Petri Apostolo", donde están los restos de San Pedro, preside la cripta, en la que hay numerosas capillas.

Ante la masiva presencia de fieles, como se prevé que la visiten, el Vaticano ha preparado un recorrido por la cripta que pasará por delante de esos sepulcros.

El recorrido ya ha sido vallado. Los fieles entrarán por el lateral externo de la basílica, a través de una puerta que lleva directamente a las grutas, y se prevé que la sepultura de Juan Pablo II se convertirá en centro de peregrinación. A propósito, los encargados de velar por el mantenimiento del lugar han pedido a los fieles que no lleven ni depositen flores.

Acusan a sospechosos de plan terrorista

Las autoridades estadounidenses inculparon a tres sospechosos de terrorismo detenidos en Gran Bretaña a los que atribuye haber participado en los preparativos para atacar centros financieros en Estados Unidos.

Una corte federal de Manhattan emitió ayer cargos que incluyen conspiración para usar armas de destrucción masiva, conspiración para proporcionar apoyo material y recursos a terroristas, proporcionar efectivamente ese apoyo y todo ello con la intención de dañar y destruir edificios financieros.

Según el acta de acusación, los inculcados son Dhiran Barot, también conocido como Isa Al Hindi, supuestamente una figura de alto rango de Al Qaida, Nadeem Tarmohamed y Qaisar Shafi.

El plan para destruir centros financieros estuvo en preparación entre 1998 y 2004 y los acusados supuestamente estuvieron recogiendo información sobre objetivos en 2000 y 2001.

Los acusados visitaron y filmaron las sedes del Banco Mundial y el Fondo Monetario Internacional en Washington, la Bolsa de Nueva York y la sede en Manhattan de Citigroup, el primer grupo financiero del mundo, así como la de la compañía de seguros Prudential, en Newark, New Jersey.

Poco antes de hacerse pública el acta de inculpación, el comisionado de Policía de Nueva York, Ray Kelly, dijo en conferencia de prensa que "en Gran Bretaña hay ocho individuos (detenidos), tres de ellos han sido acusados ayer por el gobierno de Estados Unidos".

Kelly afirmó que entre ellos se encuentra "la persona a la que se refieren como Al Hindi, que es una figura mayor de Al Qaida".

Se trata de Dhiran Barot, de 32 años, conocido también como Abu Eisa Al Hindi, y uno de los ocho detenidos por las autoridades británicas el año pasado.

Al Hindi fue instructor en un campo de entrenamiento para participantes en la guerra santa o yihad en Afganistán en 1998, según la inculpación.

En el año 2000 viajó a Estados

Unidos donde pidió la admisión en una universidad de Nueva York "para ocultar el verdadero propósito de su viaje", que era reunir información.

Las autoridades habían revelado la intención de atacar centros financieros en agosto de 2004 y éstas son las primeras inculpaciones que se producen tras aquel anuncio.

"La información de los servicios de inteligencia que hemos recibido indica que la principal amenaza a las instituciones financieras en la ciudad de Nueva York es (el atentado) mediante bomba", dijo entonces el comisionado Ray Kelly.

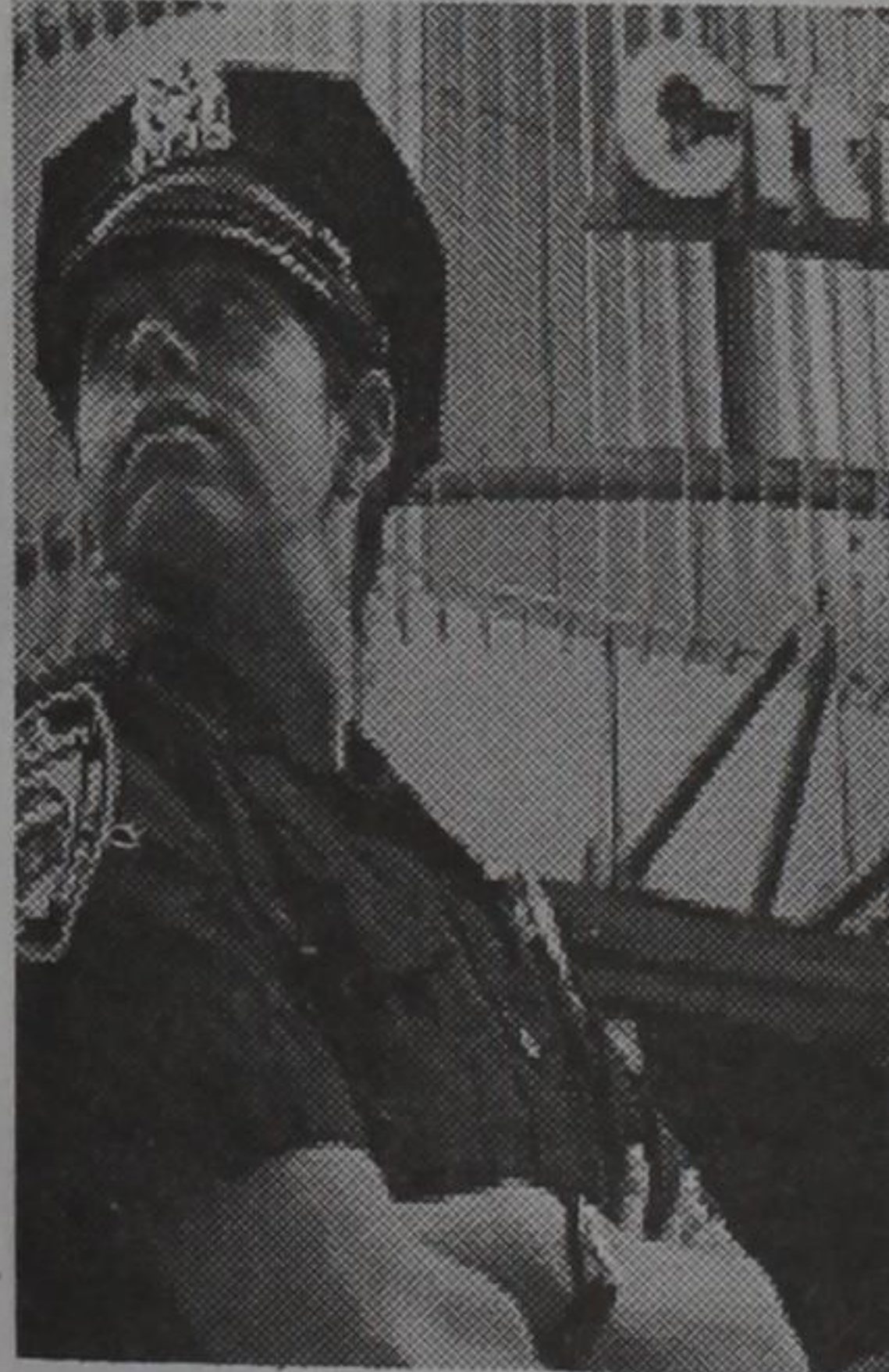
New "Immigrant-hunt" Operation Planned

A new surveillance operation to track down undocumented immigrants, similar to those carried out by the Minuteman Project (MMP) in Cochise, Arizona, is planned by citizens of the Yuma County, border to Sonora, Mexico.

Flash Sharrar, head of this anti-immigrant project, stated he met other 34 Yuma residents to plan an eventual creation of a "surveillance" citizen group, very much like Cochise's MMP.

"This has nothing to do with vigilantes or hate against races or beliefs, it is just about being overwhelmed by undocumented immigrants and it is our civil right as Yuma citizens to help during this crisis", he said.

Sharrar remembered last March



his son Matthew was robbed within the Yuma area, called The Dunes of the Imperial Valley, which adjoins with California, by a reported armed undocumented immigrant.

Since then, he said to have planned an operation in Yuma to track down undocumented immigrants and take them to the authorities just like the MMP launched last April 1 by the also bordering Cochise county.

The main promoter of this anti-immigrant project stressed, however, the fact that unlike the MMP volunteers, the ones in his group are not to carry guns with them.

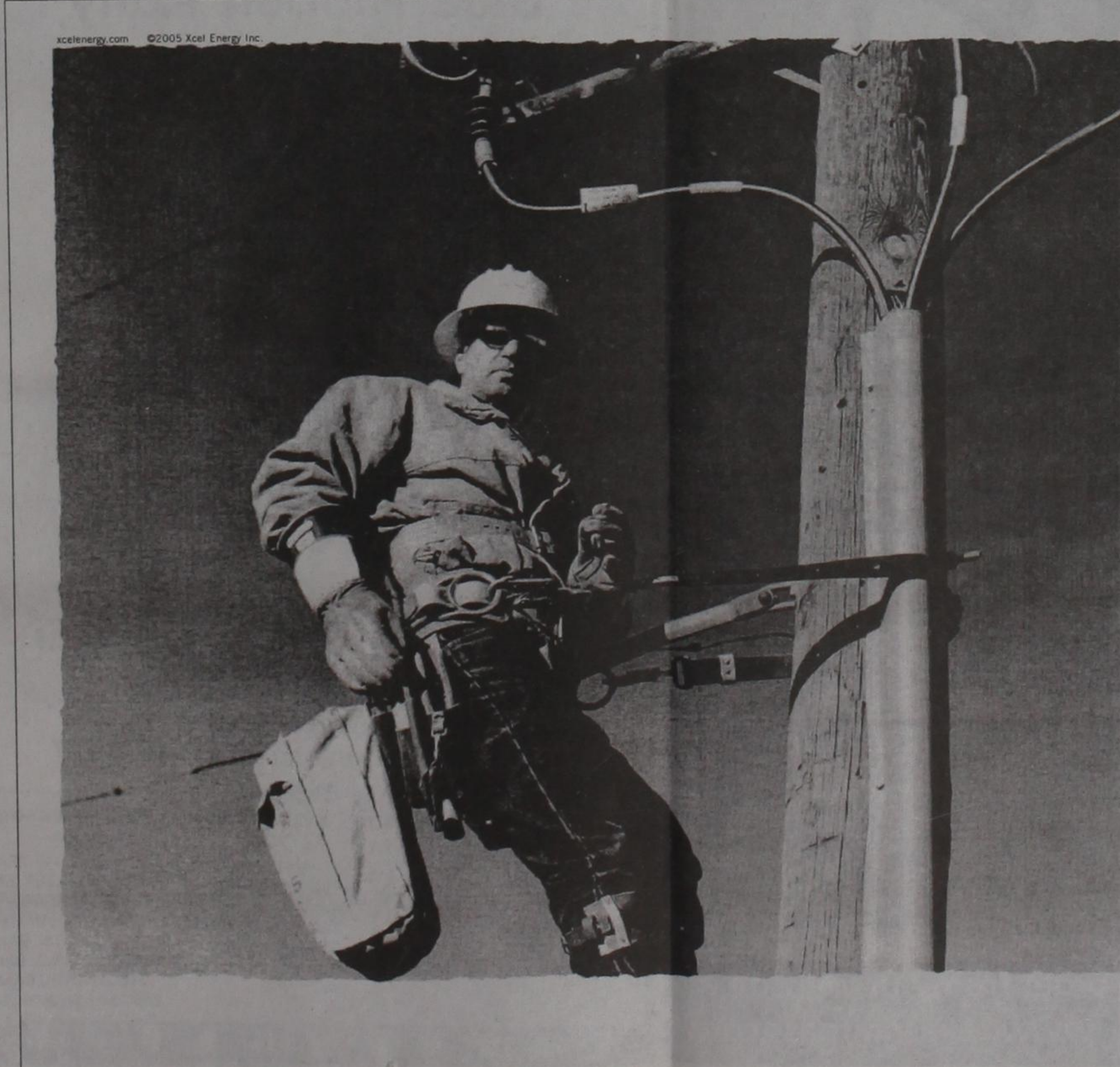
"Our purpose would be to talk immigrants into quitting their attempt to cross the border but we will not hold them up; they

would be reported to the Border Patrol, as done by the MMP members", he expressed.

Sharrar added that during the meeting held recently with other 34 Yuma residents, another point addressed was the sort of equipment used by them to accomplish their mission; such would include 4 by 4 vehicles, global position systems, among others.

They also talked about how the future members of the surveillance group will take a course of the area's reconnaissance and a first aid one to help immigrants.

He also recognized having discussed about the possibility of extending surveillance missions to California areas adjacent to Yuma.

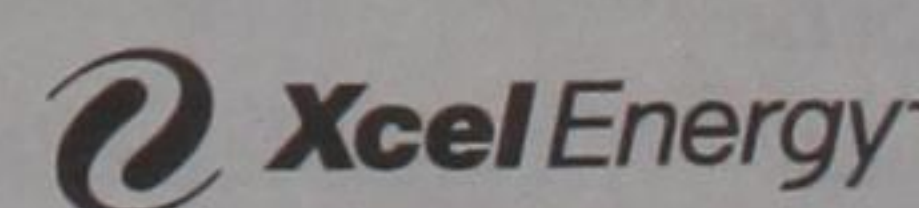


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Dallas likely to host SuperBowl in '11 or '12

The Dallas Cowboys have played in a record eight Super Bowls, winning a record-tying five. About the only thing they haven't done is host the big game -- and NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue is confident that will change once the team moves into its fancy new home.

"Whether it's 2011 or 2012, I'm quite certain you'll see a Super Bowl in that stadium soon after it opens," Tagliabue said Tuesday during an appearance in Dallas.

The Cowboys used the lure of a Super Bowl as part of their campaign to get voters in Arlington to approve raising taxes to pay for \$325 million of the stadium's \$650 million price tag. The 75,000-seat, retractable-roof facility is scheduled to open in time for the 2009 season, making the 2010 game the first it would be eligible to host.

With New York tentatively getting that game, the Cowboys already are eagerly eyeing the next available slot.

"I think it has a hell of a shot of getting it," Tagliabue said. "Nothing in life is a shoe-in.

There will be competition for it." Cowboys owner Jerry Jones likes his chances.

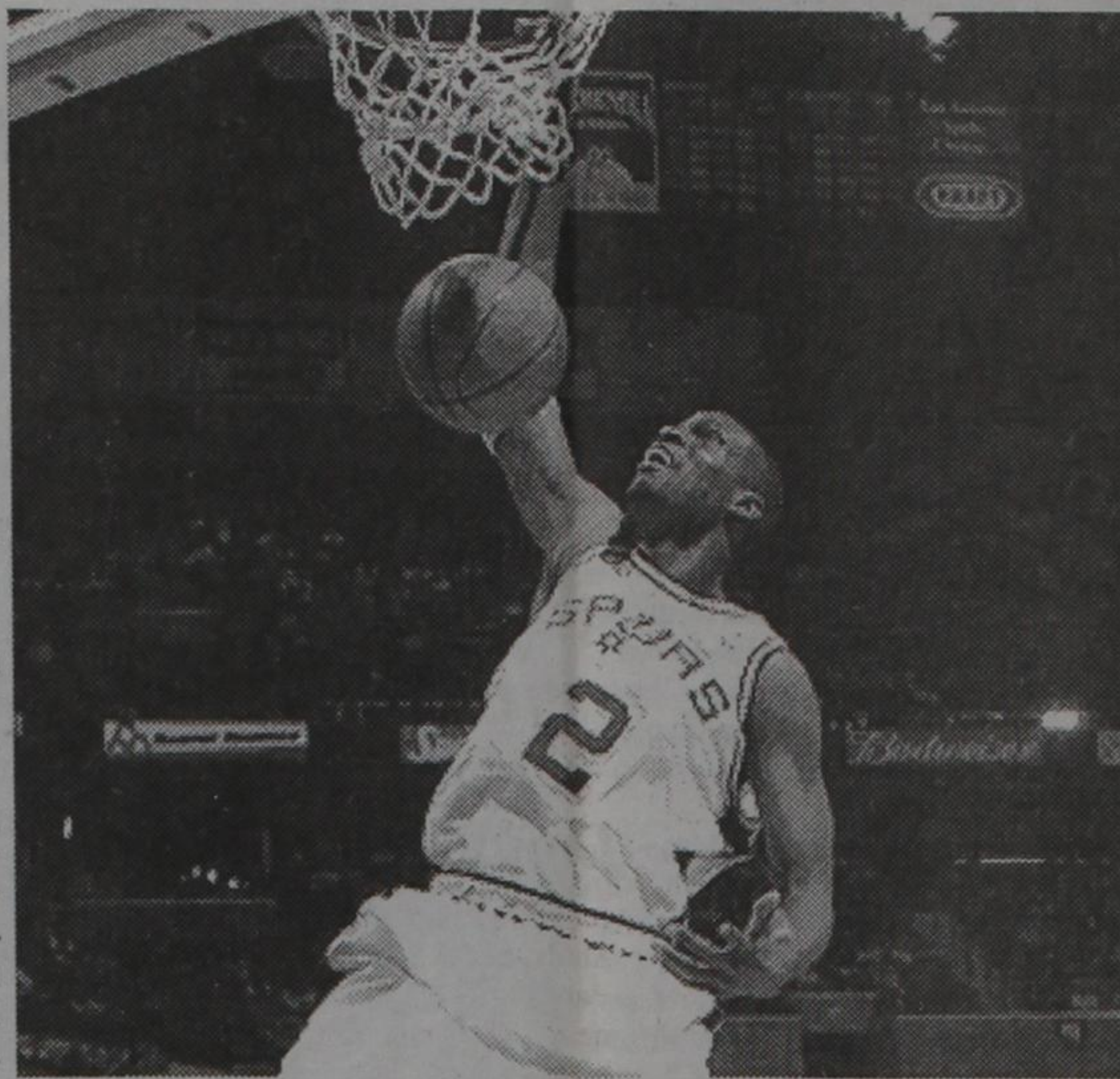
"We know the type of facility we're going to have is going to be attractive for the Super Bowl -- not only initially, but Super Bowls," he said.

Tagliabue spoke at an SMU Lecture Series event, with Jones and Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt also sitting at the head table.

Answering questions from longtime Cowboys broadcaster Brad Sham, the commissioner spoke about many topics, including why the league voted to pull the plug on team-owned regional TV networks. The Cowboys and Atlanta Falcons were the only ones that had them.

Tagliabue said the league wasn't sure how to handle it at first, then decided such outlets were competition for the league-owned NFL Network. So they're working on a way to have team programming offered on-demand by cable providers.

"If it turns out there are better ways, we'll do it," Tagliabue said.



Spurs secure SW Crown with Win Over Blazers

The San Antonio Spurs are Southwest Division champions for the first time.

After winning the Midwest Division three times in the last four years, the Spurs won the Southwest in the NBA's first season of realignment, clinching it with a 95-89 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday night.

Manu Ginobili scored 30 points in 34 minutes and Nazr Mohammed added 14 rebounds -- 12 in the first half -- for the Spurs, who had won their last two games in double overtime, a first in NBA history.

"Great first step," Ginobili said. "The last three games were huge for us. Three tough games, and we got some wins and at least spot No. 2 (in the Western Conference standings), which is a big advantage."

The Spurs have won five of six games. They are 8-4 without Tim Duncan, who sprained his right ankle and hasn't played since March 20.

According to Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, Duncan has a chance to return to the lineup Saturday when the Spurs play at home against Memphis.

But the Spurs will still be without starting center Rashaun Nesterovitch, who missed Sunday's game with a sprained ankle. He's on the injured list and won't be eligible to return until the playoffs.

Ginobili might miss Wednesday night's game at Utah. Popovich has hinted he might again rest Ginobili for the second game on back-to-back days.

Portland has lost 15 of its last 16 games and 21 of its past 23. The Trail Blazers are 3-19 under coach Kevin Pritchard, who replaced the fired Maurice Cheeks on March 2.

San Antonio never trailed Portland and went on a 15-2 run over a 5:54 stretch late in the second quarter to lead 48-30 at halftime.

Portland cut San Antonio's lead to seven points with 34 seconds left in the third quarter but could not get any closer until Joel

Przybilla made an uncontested layup with 0.9 seconds left.

The Spurs broke open a one-point game late in the first quarter and turned it into an eight-point lead at the end of the quarter after Portland forward Darius Miles left the game with a sore neck. Before he left the game, Miles was 4-of-6 from the field and scored eight points in the previous 3:26.

Miles, who was grabbing at the back of his neck, didn't return to the game until 6:38 into the third quarter with the Spurs ahead by 15 points. Miles' free throw with 6:56 left cut San Antonio's lead to seven.

"Darius did some really good things out there tonight," Pritchard said. "I would have liked to play him more the second half, but I'm not sure his injury would allow him to. There were times when you would see it in his eyes that he was in pain."

Miles led the Trail Blazers with 18 points in 19 minutes.

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En detalle

El restaurante Gyu-Kaku está ubicado en el 14457 Ventura Blvd., en Sherman Oaks, CA. También hay otras sucursales en Torrance, West Los Angeles y Beverly Hills. Para más información, llamar al (818) 501-5400.

El horario es de lunes a viernes de 5:00 a 11:00 p.m.; viernes y sábado, de 5:00 p.m. a la medianoche y los domingos de 5:00 a 10:00 p.m.

En Estados Unidos los Gyu-Kaku llegaron en 2001 y ya hay cuatro restaurantes establecidos y otros cinco que esperan su inauguración en los próximos meses.

En el Gyu-Kaku se sirve un tipo de gastronomía que mezcla los estilos coreanos de cocinar a la barbacoa con las técnicas japonesas de asar carne a la parrilla. El resultado es una comida fresca, saludable, pero muy rica en sabor.

En el menú del restaurante se encuentra desde aperitivos hasta exquisitos postres, pasando por frescas ensaladas y suculentas porciones de carne, pollo,



Es indispensable hacer reservación, porque por lo general los restaurantes son muy concurridos.

Ahora bien, no le extrañe si en este lugar del que le vamos a hablar lo que le dan es un par de tenazas para que usted cocine.

Lo que sucede es que el nuevo restaurante Gyu-Kaku están fomentando una nueva técnica culinaria de gran éxito en Japón, donde la comida es muy fresca porque cada comensal cocina lo que come.

Así como lo oye... Es una experiencia muy innovadora y grata para quienes no pierden detalle de cada bocado que se llevan a la boca.

En este lugar, cada mesa tiene una pequeña parrilla que los meseros encienden en cuanto un cliente se sienta. Mientras la orden llega, el calor de los aceros se va propagando y al llegar la comida, que está completamente cruda pero sí muy bien condimentada, cada persona va colocando las piezas de carne o verdura y las cocina a su gusto.

Este sistema de cocción al momento se comenzó a promover en Japón hace aproximadamente ocho años y ya hay una cadena de más de 800 restaurantes.

pescado, mariscos, puerco y verduras.

Las porciones son muy pequeñas, así como baratas, porque la idea es que usted ordene varias cosas y después comparta.

Una de las opciones favoritas de la clientela es el harami, delgadas tiritas de carne de res marinada. Es una carne muy jugosa que combina muy bien con el bibimba, un arroz picante con verduras, que sirven en una olla de piedra caliente que le da un sabor ahumado.

El arroz del bibimba tiene mucho mejor sabor cuando se le deja tostar en la olla. Usted puede hablar con el mesero sobre cuán picoso lo quiere.

Entre los platillos más cotizados están también los camarones marinados con ajo y las verduras condimentadas con salsas orientales como de soya y ajonjolí que cocinan al vapor dentro de pequeñas bolsas de papel aluminio.

En la cadena de restaurantes Gyu-Kaku usted encuentra muchos platillos con nombres raros, a veces hasta con palabras difíciles de pronunciar, pero el personal es tan amable y servicial que no tendrá problemas en comunicarse y, si se lo propone, muy pronto dominará no sólo el concepto del menú, sino también el uso de los palillos chinos.

El ambiente del restaurante es muy moderno, un poco sobrio quizás, pero usted se siente como en casa.

Entre las bebidas usted puede degustar cervezas y licores orientales, así como té de hierbas. Uno de mis preferidos es el té verde frío.

Los postres son simples, pero deliciosos; ricos helados con galletas o panqueques orientales. Sirven el postre s'amores, una versión de las galletas con chocolate y malvavisco que muchos estadounidenses hacen cuando se van de campamento.

En el Gyu-Kaku los comensales tiene la oportunidad de asar los malvaviscos en la parrilla y verlos derretirse al oprimirlos con las galletas dulces.

Los precios son muy accesibles. Las porciones de carne varían entre 4.95 y 17.97 dólares; los mariscos entre 5.95 y 7.95 y las verduras entre 2.95 y 4.95 dólares.

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2 onzas de dashi* o agua
2 libras de ejotes
Preparación

En una sartén plana ase las semillas de ajonjolí hasta que estén doradas. Luego, muélaslas en un procesador de alimentos o en la licuadora.

Mezcle la pasta de semillas con la salsa de soya y el azúcar. Agregue el dashi o el agua para hacerla menos espesa. Deje de lado.

Aparte, lave los ejotes y córtelos las puntas. Pártalos en trozos de una pulgada y cocine en agua hirviendo con sal hasta que estén suaves.

Escurra, enjuague en agua fría, vuelva a escurrir y deje que se enfríen.

Por último, añada el aderezo de ajonjolí y sirva.
Da para 16 porciones de dos onzas cada una.

* El dashi es un caldo muy usado en la cocina japonesa; algo así como el caldo de pollo o carne. Está hecho de algas marinas y se puede comprar preparado en tiendas especializadas o hacer en casa.

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Univision's 'Selena ¡Vive!' Breaks Audience Records

Nationwide audience dazzled by all-star celebration of Tejano Queen's life

Sister network TeleFutura also achieves record audience with presentation of the motion picture "Selena"

Hispanic America joined a sold-out Reliant Stadium of over 50,000 devoted fans as the Univision Television Network broadcast "Selena ¡Vive!," its star-studded tribute to the Queen of Tejano music, LIVE last Thursday night. The telecast also went on to achieve a record-breaking 35.9 household rating to become the highest rated and most viewed Spanish-language TV special ever and was the #1 program regardless of language among Adults 18-34 in Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco while tying for first place in New York.

Emotions clearly ran high as the 3-hour spectacular began with a heartfelt introduction by Selena's motion picture portrayer, Jennifer López, followed by Selena's original greeting to the fans of her last concert at the Houston Astrodome 10 years ago. The musical tribute then kicked into high gear with superstar Thalia's opening interpretation of the Selena hit, "Amor Prohibido." Thalia was followed by a cavalcade of many of Latin music's biggest stars, all performing an amazing collection of Selena's biggest hits.

The immensely popular group Banda el Recodo gave a rhythmic rendition of "Techno Cumbia." Then Puerto Rican salsa star India performed "No Debes Jugar." After a short video recounting Selena's discovery, a cacophony of car horns was heard at the start of the next number as Mexican recording artist Ana Barbara performed "La Carcacha" along with a full complement of dancers. The poignant duet "Buenos Amigos" was then performed by newcomer Mariana Seoane and popular heartthrob Pablo Montero, and Gruper music star Alicia Villarreal wrapped up the segment with "Si Una Vez."

Following another video recalling Selena's international success, popular Mexican singer Ana Gabriel dedicated her performance of one of Selena's favorite classics "Tú, Sólo Tú" to her memory. She then introduced Pepe Aguilar, who likewise dedicated his rendition of "No Me Queda Más." Then, after a video depicting Selena's origins in Texas, the audience was treated to



an electrifying production of "Fotos Y Recuerdos" by the always-exciting pop sensation Paulina Rubio.

The next video segment retold the story of Selena's "second family" and back-up band, Los Dinos, and was narrated by one of its former members, Pete Astudillo. Astudillo then performed the song he wrote after her passing, "Cómo Te Extraño."

After a video covering Selena's life as a role model for women, Puerto Rico's Olga Tañón treated viewers to her dance-filled interpretation of the hit "La Llamada." The next video segment was dedicated to "Love" and was followed by a dramatic entrance of international superstar Gloria Estefan in a special, heartfelt performance of Selena's English-language hit "I Could Fall In Love."

In one of the most touching performances of the evening, Selena's brother A. B. Quintanilla and his group, Kumbia Kings, performed a duet with his sister in a specially remixed version of her hit "Baila Esta Cumbia." Later, Mexico's eclectic pop-rocker Alejandra Guzmán brought the audience to their feet with her performance of perhaps Selena's most infectious hit, "Bidi Bidi, Bom Bom." This was followed by a Tex-Mex medley by two of the popular genre's biggest stars, Bobby Pulido and Jay Pérez.



"The Pope was a Light In Times of Darkness", Shakira

Colombian singer-songwriter Shakira described the late John Paul II as a light in times of darkness" and said that having met him is "an unforgettable memory".

Through her spokesmen, Shakira stood out this Tuesday that the 84-year-old pontiff deceased last April 2 at the Vatican - "is a true example of love, a light in times of darkness, a tireless worker to the service of humanity".

"He has been a spiritual leader of the poorest and most needed nations. Having met him is an unforgettable memory", added the singer.

On May 13, 1997, the performer of "Estoy aquí" and "Vuelve" accompanied by her parents William and Nidia Mebarak, met John Paul II at the Vatican.

Shakira will release her new album "Fijacion Oral" next June 7, whose first single will be "Tortura", featuring a duet with Spanish singer Alejandro Sanz, which will start to be heard in Latin stations this month.

In addition, "Oral Fixation 2" will be released next November; her first English record since "Laundry Service" that in 2001 sold more than 13 million copies.

It's a Bad RAP

By Marisa Treviño

The current number one album topping Billboard's charts is titled "The Massacre." It's sung by rap artist 50 Cent.

The album has the usual hard rap elements: references to guns, foul language, ethnic slurs and songs with titles like "I'm Supposed to Die Tonight" and "Guns Come Out."

By virtue of its number one spot on the music charts, it tells us that young people are flocking to music outlets at rates rivaling Harry Potter fans to book stores.

Frankly, I don't know which is more disturbing: the fact that such an album is the number one seller in our nation or the fact that young people listening to these lyrics are imitating the songwriting style and creating their own Massacre tunes.

Instead of becoming famous, these rap wannabes are becoming infamous.

There's no greater proof of this than what has happened to 17-year-old north Texas high school student, Brock Coleman.

Brock was recently indicted on felony stalking charges after he wrote and recorded a rap song that the Dallas County Sheriff's Department said was threatening another student.

The song, "Lullaby," is about Brock going to the home of this other student with guns and using him as a piñata.

The sheriff's department says that Brock belongs to a gang and visited this other student with his gang members to intimidate the student.

Brock says no way does he belong to a gang and that the stu-

continued on page 6

Es Un Mal RAP

Marisa Treviño

En la actualidad, el álbum que ocupa el primer lugar en la lista de éxitos del Billboard se titula "The Massacre". Lo canta el artista de la música rap 50 Cent.

El álbum contiene los elementos normales del rap de línea dura: las referencias a las armas de fuego, el lenguaje soez, las ofensas étnicas y las canciones con títulos como "I'm Supposed to Die Tonight" y "Guns Come Out".

Su posición número uno en las listas de éxitos nos indica que los jóvenes están acudiendo en masa a los distribuidores de música, a un ritmo comparable

con el que acuden los fanáticos de Harry Potter a las librerías.

Francamente, no sé qué es más preocupante, si el hecho de que dicho álbum sea el número uno en ventas en nuestra nación, o el hecho de que los jóvenes que escuchan las letras de estas canciones imiten ese estilo de componer canciones y creen sus propias melodías al estilo de Massacre.

En lugar de hacerse famosos, estos aspirantes a artistas de rap están adquiriendo una reputación y notoriedad infame.

La mejor prueba de esta afirmación es lo que le sucedió a Brock Coleman, estudiante de 17 años

continued on page 6

A Visit Into Minuteman Territory

They patrol two half-mile stretches of border, one near Douglas and one near Naco, some 30 miles to the west. Each area is guarded by up to 30 Minutemen broken into groups of two or three. They take eight-hour shifts. They play music during the day and they flip their headlights on and off at night, to deter rather than capture.

At 10 p.m. Chris Simcox, the Minuteman's other leader, is standing atop the bed of his pickup truck, a few miles east of Naco. He studies the cold, dark

Mexico desert through a FLIR (forward-looking infrared) scope that sees heat rather than light. The project, he explains, provides the model for the immigration reform he'd like to see.

Aside from sealing the border, Gilchrist says he isn't familiar enough with economic and foreign policy issues to make other reform suggestions. His issue is the border and he is considering running for public office.

Numbers of his border guardians dwindled during the week to somewhere over a hundred, but

more, they say, are expected on weekends.

The Minutemen are not a monolithic crew, but some similarities prevail. Almost all are white. Most appear to be over 40; many, like "Popeye" from New York, look much older. About a quarter of them carry a weapon. They express frustration and disgust both with the "alien invaders" they're here to ward off and the U.S. politicians who won't stop the flow.

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It's A Bad RAP

continued from page 5

dent told him that even he liked the song.

Ordinarily, I wouldn't think twice about such a story. Like so many of us, I would feel satisfied that law enforcement caught the right guy.

I would, if it weren't for two things: in all the descriptions of Brock, he's described as being a straight-A student. And what police call Brock's gang, he calls his rap group.

I know something about teenage rap groups. My cousin's son has his own high school rap group. It's a bunch of boys who with their baggy clothes, shaggy hair, brown skin and tough-guy expressions could easily pass as a hardened street gang. But drop in on one of their recording sessions - four of them crammed into my cousin's walk-in closet because they say the acoustics are better - and you quickly realize they are doing nothing more than any of us who had dreams of being the next Springsteen or Santana did at their age.

Unfortunately, most of today's kids, urban or suburban, feel the only songs attractive enough to emulate are rap songs - complete with cuss words and threatening lyrics.

Besides, to rap you don't need to know how to play an instrument, read music or even hit high notes. You just have to rhyme.

According to everyone who knows Brock, he has always wanted to be a rapper. He's been so busy focused on that goal and making good grades that he's never gotten in trouble with the law in his life.

Now, Brock has had to post a \$5,000 bond for his release from jail and enroll in an alternative school. He is scheduled to appear in court April 12.

Some would argue that Brock should have known better than to write a song like that. But when our young people have grown up consistently exposed to these kinds of songs which top the charts, win music awards, are constantly played on the radio and cable music channels and their artists are glorified in every possible way, how can it be fair to expect anything otherwise from this generation?

As it stands now, I would guess Brock has enough material for his own album.

I just hope he doesn't change his name.
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Mexican rockers to pay tribute to comedian Tin Tan

Maldita Vecindad, Jaguares, Cafe Tacuba, Panteon Rococo, Natalia Lafourcade and Inspector are part of the artist roster to participate in the upcoming musical tribute to the famous Mexican actor, comedian and dancer German Valdes "Tin Tan" (1915-1973), in a yet-untitled album, expected to

be released next June.

Interviewed by Notimex, Roco, lead singer of Maldita Vecindad, informed the record could be released in June, month where the artist is remembered by his death anniversary, and within the framework of the nationwide release of the documentary entitled "Ni muy muy, ni tan tan. simplemente Tin Tan" by director Manuel Marquez.

The singer said that the project was born two years ago, when the named documentary was in the midst of being done.

From then on, the idea of recording a cover album became stronger, and with it, the bands' desire to participate and pay homage to the character that has been one of their strongest influences in their artistic careers.

The song that Maldita Vecindad will perform on the album is a cover to "Los agachados", song that means a lot for the group, because they consider the track to represent the origins of hip hop and rap in Mexico.

Maldita had previously recorded a cover of "El barzon", included in their album "Mostros", though the tribute album will be the first to feature a track to pay homage to the star of films as "El nacimiento", "La magia amarilla" and "El hijo desobediente", among many others.

policia considera una pandilla, es para Brock, su grupo de rap.

Conozco un poco sobre grupos de rap de adolescentes. El hijo de mi primo tiene su propio grupo de rap de escuela secundaria. Es un grupo de jóvenes con pantalones holgados, cabello enmarañado, piel oscura y gestos de persona dura que podrían confundirse, con facilidad, con los recios integrantes de una pandilla callejera. Pero vaya a una de sus sesiones de grabación - con cuatro de ellos apiñados en un clóset porque, según ellos, la acústica es mejor - y comprenderá rápidamente que ellos sólo hacen lo mismo que hacemos nosotros cuando teníamos su edad y

soñábamos con convertirnos en el próximo Springsteen o Santana.

Desafortunadamente, a la mayoría de los chicos de hoy, de las zonas urbanas o de los suburbios, las únicas canciones que les interesa imitar son las canciones de rap, con palabrotas y letras de canciones amenazantes.

Además, para cantar rap no se necesita saber tocar un instrumento musical, leer música o cantar notas altas. Sólo es necesario saber rimar las palabras.

Según las personas que conocen a Brock, él siempre ha querido ser un rapero. Ha estado tan concentrado en lograr ese objetivo y en obtener buenas calificaciones, que nunca ha tenido problemas con la justicia.

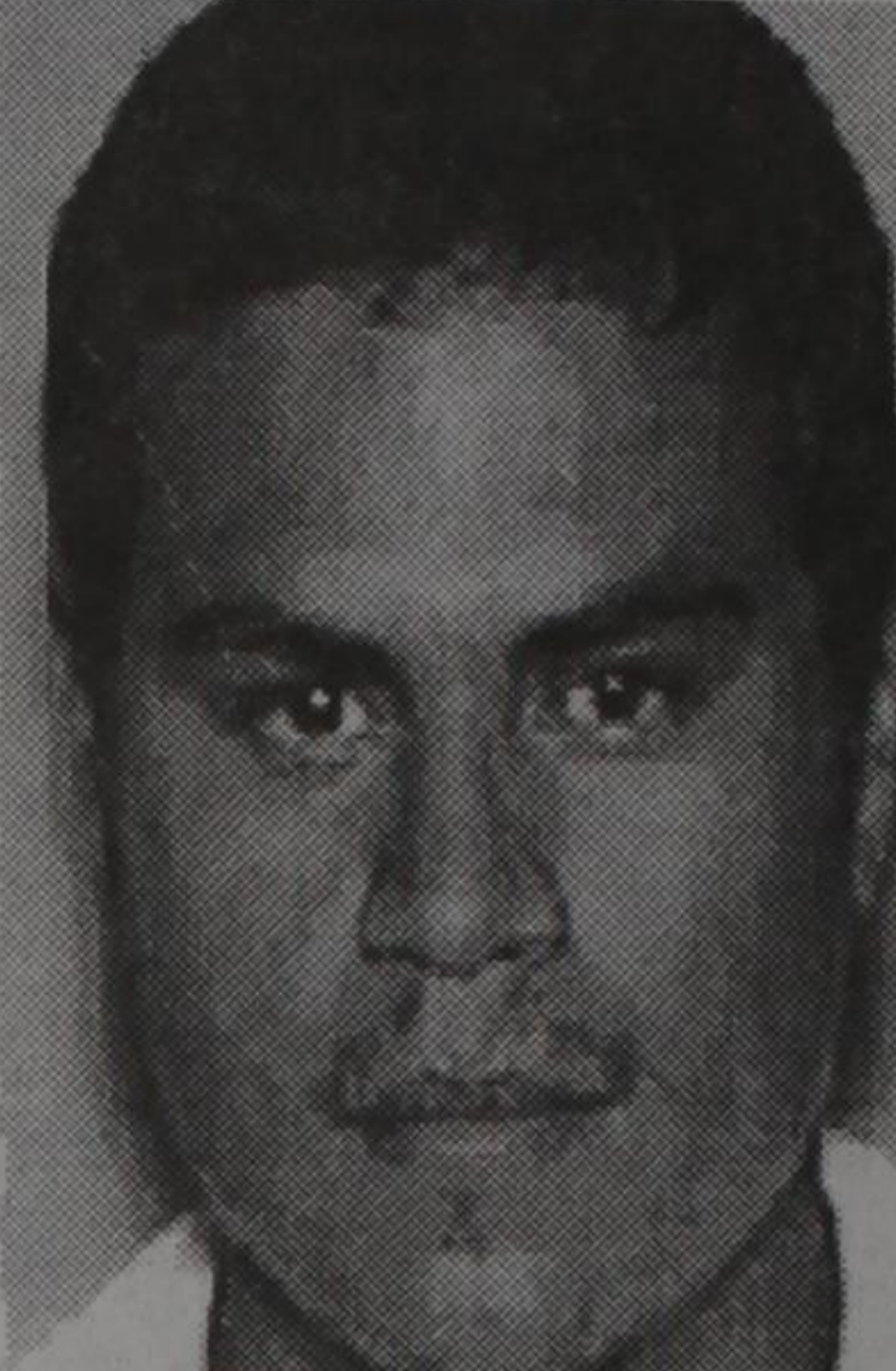
En la actualidad Brock ha tenido que pagar una fianza de \$5,000 para salir de la cárcel y ha tenido que matricularse en una escuela para jóvenes con problemas de conducta. Tiene que comparecer ante el tribunal el 12 de abril.

Algunas personas podrían aducir que Brock no debió haber escrito una canción como esa. Pero cuando nuestros jóvenes han crecido expuestos sistemáticamente a este tipo de canciones que ocupan los primeros lugares de popularidad, que ganan premios musicales y que se escuchan constantemente por radio y por los canales de música de cable, cuando se glorifica a estos artistas de todas las formas posibles, ¿será justo esperar otra cosa de esta generación?

Tal y como están las cosas en este momento, supongo que Brock tiene suficiente material para su propio álbum. Sólo espero que no cambie su nombre.

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Supreme Court Intervention Requested in Padilla's Case



"This is a very unusual procedure. But we're hopeful the court will grant it, because it's a very unusual case," Patel said.

Padilla, a former gang member, was arrested in May 2002 in Chicago as he stepped off a plane from Pakistan.

President George W. Bush designated him an "enemy combatant" -- stripping him of his constitutional rights -- and Padilla was transferred to a naval brig in South Carolina in June, 2002, where he has been held without formal charge ever since.

He is accused of working with Al-Qaeda to make a "dirty bomb" and detonate it on US soil.

In February, a federal judge ordered Padilla's release within 45 days, arguing the government had no right to suspend due process of law.

Earlier this week, the same judge agreed to put his ruling on hold so as to give federal prosecutors time to file an appeal.

It is this appeal that Padilla's lawyers hope to circumvent by having the Supreme Court take the case immediately.

Padilla's attorneys are challenging the combatant status attributed to their client, arguing that neither the president nor the federal government has the right to hold a US citizen, arrested on US soil, in indefinite military detention.

A "dirty bomb" uses a conventional explosive such as dynamite to spread radioactive material over a large area.

Lawyers for a US citizen accused of plotting to explode a "dirty bomb" have appealed to the US Supreme Court to hear a challenge to his indefinite detention as an "enemy combatant."

In a petition filed late Thursday, the lawyers effectively asked the court to intervene immediately in the case of Jose Padilla, without waiting for it to clear the lengthy appeals process in the lower courts.

The petition argued that delaying final resolution of the case could place undue pressure on the accused and coerce him into pleading guilty.

"We have asked the court to do something that is allowed within the rules, but is not the usual process by which the court takes the case," said Padilla attorney Andrew Patel.

HEB Partners with March of Dimes to Support Statewide Fundraising Walks

SAN ANTONIO - Ten percent of all premature births in the United States occur in Texas, according to March of Dimes. To support this non-profit's ongoing research to conquer prematurity and birth defects in Texas, H-E-B announces its multi-market sponsorship of March of Dimes's 2005 WalkAmerica campaign across the state.

"H-E-B is proud to serve as a sponsor for March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2005 campaign," said Brooke Brownlow, H-E-B vice president of human resource strategy and design and chairwoman of the H-E-B March of Dimes 2005 campaign. "We are honored to help support the March of Dimes' commitment of battling prematurity and birth defects, so that each baby has the opportunity to begin life healthy."

H-E-B is encouraging its employees and customers to form walk teams and participate in their communities' WalkAmerica events. Participants can pick up registration forms at the phar-

macy or business center at any H-E-B store or register online at www.walkamerica.org. The City of Lubbock hosts WalkAmerica Saturday, April 30 at Maxey Park. For more information, call Chris Galban at 806.797.6771, ext. 14. H-E-B's campaign for March of Dimes continues through May.

WalkAmerica has raised more than \$1.3 billion for the health of America's babies since 1970. The funds collected support March of Dimes programs, including research, community services, education and advocacy.

H-E-B was founded in Kerrville, Texas in 1905 with a single grocery store. For a century, H-E-B has been an innovative retailer known for fresh food, quality products and convenient services. The company has grown to more than 300 stores in Texas and Northern Mexico with more than 56,000 employees. H-E-B is one of the largest food chains in the United States, with sales nearing \$11 billion, and is the largest privately held company in Texas.

Es Un Mal RAP

viene de la pagina 5

de escuela secundaria del norte de Texas.

A Brock se le encausó recientemente por el delito grave de acecho porque el departamento de alguaciles del condado de Dallas consideró que una canción de rap escrita y grabada por él representaba una amenaza para otro estudiante.

En la canción "Lullaby", Brock va armado a la casa del otro estudiante y lo utiliza como una piñata.

El departamento de alguaciles dice que Brock pertenece a una pandilla y que visitó al estu-

dante con miembros de esa pandilla para intimidarlo.

Brock asegura que no pertenece a ninguna pandilla y que el estudiante había indicado que le había gustado la canción.

Por lo general, no daría mayor consideración a dicha historia. Al igual que tantos, me sentiría satisfecha de que se hubiese cumplido con la ley al aprehender al tipo correcto.

No lo haría, si no fuera por dos consideraciones: en todas las descripciones que se hacen de Brock, se le describe como un estudiante de honor. Y lo que la

The Law Offices of Kevin Glasheen, L.L.P. would like to congratulate Noe Valles on recently passing the New Mexico Bar examination and becoming a member of the State Bar of New Mexico



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Kevin Glasheen, is licensed in Texas, New Mexico and Colorado
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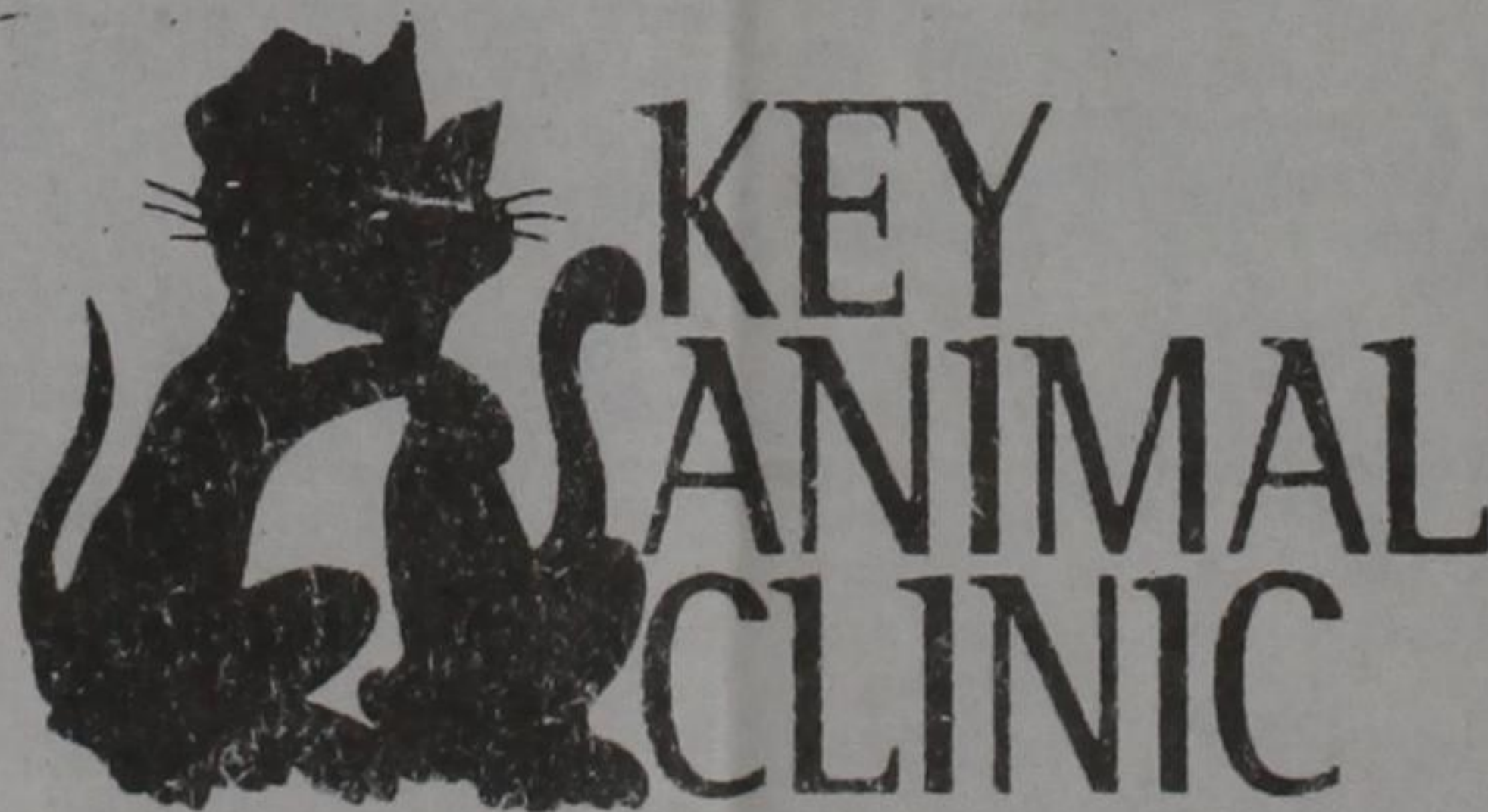
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