

It's Over! Who Really Won? ¿Quién Gano?

By RICARDO VAZQUEZ

Hours before Vice President Al Gore conceded in a speech to the nation Wednesday evening, Latino leaders and pundits reacted to the remarkable 5-4 Supreme Court ruling Tuesday night that effectively handed the presidency of the United States to George W. Bush. The Justices, split along ideological lines, reversed the Florida Supreme Court and put a stop to any further hand counts. "We have a system, and it has played itself out. [Gore] has exhausted all the things one could do to challenge an election," commented Arturo Vargas, director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). "Still, it has left me unsettled that there are voters in Florida whose votes were not taken into account -- and I don't think that bodes well for our democracy...I think that is unfortunate."

Within the Supreme Court itself, four of the justices vigorously dissented with the majority's opinion, which said the December 12 deadline for

continued on page 3



Supporters greeted Vice President Al Gore, with his wife, Tipper, and Joe Lieberman on Wednesday.

Agence France-Press

Gore Wins Popular Vote by 3,000,000 Votes

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News Briefs

Richie Valens Inducted to Rock Hall of Fame

He was the first Latino rock star who scored his trademark hit with a converted Mexican wedding song. He was a teenager when his biggest hit entered the Top 10. His untimely death on Feb. 3, 1959 made him a legend. On Tuesday, Richard Steven Valenzuela, a.k.a. Richie Valens, was inducted to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



Valens, born and raised in Pacoima, California, had his biggest hit with song dedicated to his girlfriend, "Donna," in 1958. Valens was just 17 when he recorded his most influential song, "La Bamba" -- one of only a handful of songs ever to find American success despite not being sung in English. "La Bamba" was recently voted one of the 100 most influential songs in Rock history by a survey of producers, executives, artists, musicians and journalists.

Valens also toured with pop stars Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper when "La Bamba" when all three were enjoying their peak of success. But on a stormy February night in 1959, a small plane holding the three stars crashed, killing all passengers. The tragic flight and the musical lives of these three men were immortalized by Don Maclean's number one hit "American Pie" over a decade later.

"Here's a guy with one hit record, who's been dead 40-some years, but he's had his likeness on a postage stamp, they've made a motion picture on his life and he's on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood. Tell me another artist with one hit who can equal that or come near it," Del-Fi Records founder Bob Keane, who originally signed Valens, told the L.A. Times.

Valens will be inducted Tuesday along with such Rock luminaries as Michael Jackson, Paul Simon, Queen and Aerosmith. The official ceremony takes place March 19 in New York City. LATNN

NAHJ Objects to Court Decision Against Journalists

Washington -The National Association of Hispanic Journalists on Friday joined the Asociacion de Periodistas de Puerto Rico in condemning a Nov. 30 decision by the U.S. District Court of Puerto Rico to allow journalist to be charged for trespassing on the island of Vieques.

Last week, the court denied a request by 10 journalists to dismiss trespassing charges against them for entering a naval base on the island last June while covering a protest against the U.S. Navy.

"We believe that the court could have exercised more discretion in this case," said NAHJ President Cecilia Alvear. "An open society demands that journalists be given access to the scene of important events and this decision will have a chilling effect on the coverage of a vital issue."

The journalists argued they were covering a protest when they entered Camp Garcia Naval Installation on Vieques. The U.S. Navy has used the Puerto Rican principality to stage war games and conduct other military exercises for the past 40 years.

Washington-based NAHJ, which was founded in 1982, has urged the federal government to reconsider its decision to criminally prosecute the journalists. Last August, the NAHJ sent a letter to the governor of Puerto Rico protesting the arrests.

U.S.-Born Priest Honored for Work in Mexico Central

The Rev. William Bryce Wasson was honored with a \$100,000 global child advocacy award for his lifelong dedication to getting orphans and abandoned children off the streets in Mexico, Haiti and Latin America.

The 77-year-old Wasson founded Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) in 1954 as a home for orphaned and abandoned children. Since then NPH has grown to provide safe haven to more than 25,000 children in six countries, including Mexico, Honduras, Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Wasson received the third annual Kellogg's Hannah Neil World of Children Award, an international Award established in 1998 "to raise up" the voices of children by recognizing the ordinary individuals who dedicate their lives to serving them.

"In our high-tech, new-economy world, with the promise of a longer and better quality of life before us, we are sobered by the fact that vast numbers of children around the globe are still disadvantaged, still suffering and still dying much too young," said Carlos Gutierrez, chairman and CEO of the Kellogg Company. "Fortunately, there are some extraordinary people who are changing the world in ways that create opportunity and fulfill the potential of children."

With one-sixth of the world's population unable to read and write, Wasson's organization provides all NPH residents with an education to help break the cycle of poverty. Residents learn a skill, life trade or are provided the means to attend college.

NPH also attempts to improve the social environment in impoverished communities. In Miacatlan, Mexico, NPH representatives, most of whom were prior orphans, arrive on school days and take more than 80 children to the orphanage who might otherwise spend their day as "combers" rummaging in the garbage dumps for food. In Honduras, NPH representatives bring mothers dying of AIDS and their children into the NPH home, operating one of several medical clinics for the residents, children and families in surrounding communities.

"Father Wasson demonstrates a lasting commitment to the world's most needy children," said Dale Hollandsworth, president of World of Children, Inc. "He is most deserving of this Award -- our 'Nobel' for child advocates."

"It's surprising what you can do in a lifetime if you do it just a little at a time," said Wasson, who plans to use the \$100,000 Award money to start a vocational school in Nicaragua for blind children. Wasson was chosen by a 20-member Selection Committee comprised of internationally recognized leaders in fields such as education, science, medicine, philosophy and the arts, including former heavyweight champion and child advocate Muhammad Ali.

"Congratulations Father Wasson," said Ali, who is also the Award Honorary Chair. "You're doing a great job with kids."

In addition to his role as Award honorary chair, a special Award limited edition Kellogg's(TM) Corn Flakes cereal box signed by Ali will be part of an auction hosted by Guernsey's of New York early next year. LATNN

la decisión del candidato demócrata. "Por respeto al vicepresidente aguiremos a escuchar sus comentarios antes de adoptar nuevas medidas", dijo el presidente del Senado John McKay.

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."
"Respect for the Rights of Others Is Peace"
Lic. Benito Juarez

EL EDITOR

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El presidente

Electo Bush LLama a la Unidad

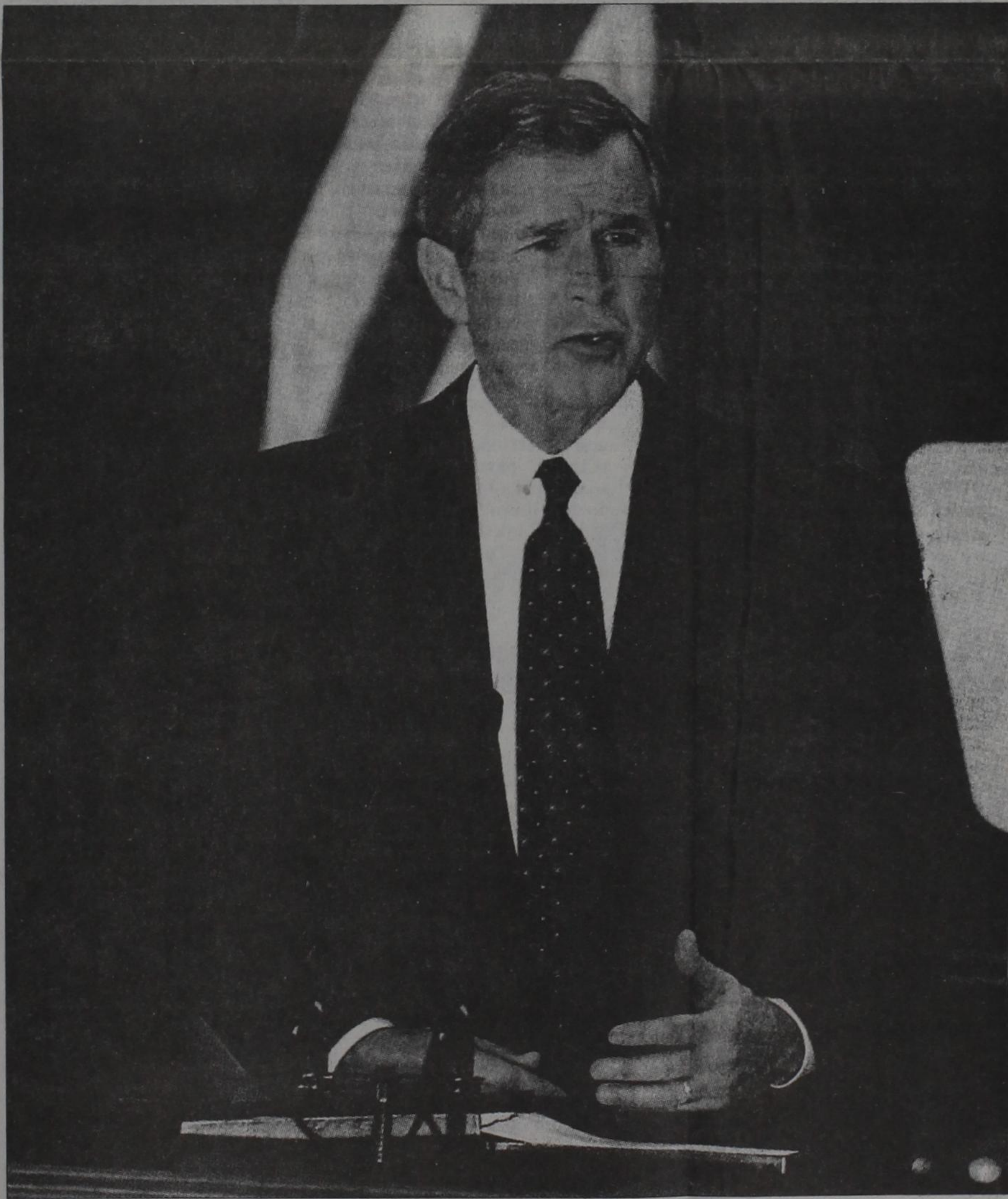
Servicios de El Nuevo Herald

WASHINGTON - El nuevo presidente de Estados Unidos, George W. Bush, prometió anoche que trabajará por unir al país y "cicatrizará" las heridas que abrió la reñida pelea electoral con el demócrata Al Gore.

"Acordamos reunirnos la próxima semana en Washington y acordamos hacer lo máximo para cicatrizar a nuestro país después de esta contienda duramente peleada", dijo Bush en un discurso televisado a toda la nación. Una hora antes, su rival demócrata Al Gore finalmente admitió su derrota en otro discurso al país, exhortando a los estadounidenses a dejar a un lado el rencor partidista y a respaldar a su nuevo jefe ejecutivo.

Bush, el gobernador republicano de Texas, de 54 años, será el 43 presidente de Estados Unidos cuando asume su mandato el 20 de enero, sucediendo al saliente presidente Bill Clinton. "Tengo mucho que agradecer esta noche. Agradezco a Estados Unidos y agradezco que pudimos resolver nuestras diferencias electorales de una manera pacífica", afirmó Bush. "No fui elegido para servir a un partido, sino a una nación". "Espero que la larga espera de las últimas cinco semanas aumente el deseo de superar la amargura y el partidismo del pasado reciente", subrayó. En su alocución desde la oficina que deja en la mansión ejecutiva, Gore no ocultó cierta renuencia a admitir la derrota tras una batalla legal de 36 días en los que buscó en vano que se realizaran recuentos de boletas en el estado de la Florida. "La Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos ha hablado. Que no queden dudas", dijo Gore, "de que pese a que estoy en profundo desacuerdo con la decisión del tribunal, la acepto". El vicepresidente llamó sin embargo a sus partidarios a unirse en respaldo a su rival republicano, Bush. "Cerramos filas una vez ha concluido la contienda", dijo el candidato demócrata.

"Aunque aún mantenemos --y no renunciamos a ellas-- nuestras consideraciones al contrario, hay un trabajo más importante que llevar a cabo que la lealtad que le debemos a nuestro partido político. Esto es Estados Unidos y nosotros ponemos a la nación antes que al partido", dijo Gore. Gore, hijo de senador y veterano de 16 años en el Congreso, dijo que desconocer qué le esperaba luego de 24 años como funcionario público. Bush y Gore planean reunirse el próximo martes en Washington en un



esfuerzo para unir a una nación profundamente dividida por la batalla legal sin precedentes por la Casa Blanca. La bolsa de Nueva York se alegró con la resolución de la pugna electoral. Las acciones industriales subieron en Wall Street, e igual subieron los bonos y se fortaleció el dólar. La decisión de Gore de conceder la victoria a su rival fue tomada luego de que su último esfuerzo por lograr un recuento manual de votos en condados clave de la Florida fue rechazado por la Corte Suprema en la noche del martes. En su fallo, la Corte falló 7-2 por anular la decisión emitida el fin de semana por la Corte Suprema de la Florida, que ordenó un recuento en todo el estado de miles de votos en disputa. La

Corte Suprema federal consideró que dicho escrutinio no brindaría una protección por partes iguales a ambos candidatos, ya que las normas consideradas para establecer la intención de los votantes variaban de condado en condado, e incluso de mesa en mesa electoral. En una segunda opinión por 5-4, la mayoría opinó que no había un procedimiento constitucionalmente aceptable para efectuar un nuevo escrutinio antes de que expirara el plazo para la selección de los delegados que votarán en el Colegio Electoral. Los 25 delegados de Florida al Colegio Electoral, que debe reunirse el lunes 18, eran decisivos para que cualquiera de los candidatos alcanzara los 270 votos electo-

rales necesarios para llegar a la Casa Blanca. Al abandonar Gore la pelea en la Florida, Bush se asegura 271 votos electorales y con ello la presidencia. El abogado de Gore, David Boies, declaró entonces que no había nada más que hacer porque el máximo tribunal es "árbitro final". "Nosotros dijimos desde el principio que cuando la Corte Suprema falle, nosotros aceptaríamos su decisión, estemos o no de acuerdo. No hay donde apelar", dijo a la prensa. Horas antes del anuncio de Gore, el Senado estatal floridano, controlado por los republicanos, había postergado sus deliberaciones para designar a los delegados que voten en el Colegio Electoral por George W. Bush, precisamente en espera de

Look for Our Christmas Edition Next Week!

Peace Hopes Rise as Fox Pulls Troops Out of Chiapas

Zapatista National Liberation Army (ELZN) leader, Subcomandante Marco, said Saturday that he would help restart peace talks, one day after newly inaugurate president Vicente Fox ordered national troops pulled back from Zapatista strongholds, to dismantle road-blocks sensitive spots in Chiapas and sent a previously rejected rebel-backed indigenous-rights bill to Congress.

"The new dialogue begins with deeds, not words. The new dialogue speaks with the sincerity of actions," said a communiqué signed by Fox's interior secretary, Santiago Creel, and Chiapas peace negotiator Luis H. Alvarez.

Encouraged by Fox's actions, Marcos said that he and his top commanders would accompany him to Mexico City next February to engage in the next round of talks and ensure that the Indigenous rights bill is approved in Congress.

"We will go and we will see what happens," the rebel said of his reportedly first trip out of the jungle in 15 years. "We are leaving to do the work our companions are counting on us to do: to bring this war to an end."

Marcos also endorsed Alvarez as a negotiator. It was as a federal senator in 1996 that Alvarez had helped negotiate the Indigenous rights bill.

Although Fox's actions showed good will, the rebel leader did complain that the troops were not pull back all the way out of Chiapas.

While troops were still sta-

NAHJ Rechaza Decisión Contra Periodistas

Washington, 8 de diciembre (PRNewswire y LATNN) -- La Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos (NAHJ, por sus siglas en inglés) se sumó a la Asociación de Periodistas de Puerto Rico para expresar su desacuerdo con una reciente decisión adoptada por el U.S. District Court of Puerto Rico.

El 30 de noviembre, el tribunal denegó una petición en la que 10 periodistas solicitaban que se declarara sin lugar las acusaciones de asalto a la propiedad que pesaban contra



Antonia López, de catorce años de edad, es atendida por familiares después de resultar herida durante un enfrentamiento entre paramilitares y la policía federal en el estado de Chiapas.

tioned in roadside camps near closed checkpoints as of Saturday, Creel, traveling with Fox in the neighboring state of Oaxaca on Saturday, told The Associated Press that the soldiers would withdraw in due time.

"There's no deadline," he said. "But there is an order for this to happen progressively."

According to the statement, the withdrawal was intended to signal

"the full readiness of the federal government to meet with ELZN representatives as soon as possible.

They hoped that the pullback would "generate a climate favorable to renewing negotiations" to end the almost 7-year-old rebellion the leftist, predominantly indigenous guerrilla organization.

The Zapatistas walked out of talks with President Ernesto

Zedillo's government in 1996 ago over when disagreements arose over the language of the indigenous rights bill that proposed by a Congressional committee.

The two sides have maintained a fragile cease-fire since January 1994.

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Read El Editor

Sweatshop Hearing Set for Tuesday in San Antonio

While Texas Gov. George W. Bush was waiting word on his presidential chances, the working conditions of in U.S.-owned assembly plants in Mexico will in the spotlight Tuesday in San Antonio, Texas as 20 current and former workers are scheduled to testify about health and safety abuses in their workplaces.

In a public hearing convened by the U.S. Department of Labor, the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras (CJM), a coalition of labor unions, church groups and environmental and human rights groups from throughout North America, will testify about the terrible working and living conditions of Mexico's sweatshop assembly plant workers.

In particular, current and former workers from Custom Trim in Valle Hermoso and Auto Trim in Matamoros -- two auto supply factories owned by Lakeland, Florida-based Breed

Technologies -- will testify at the hearing. They will provide evidence about severe health hazards in their workplaces, including repeated exposure to open containers of chemicals containing benzene, toluene, methyl chloroform, and other known carcinogens.

Workers at Custom Trim and Auto Trim have reported coughing up blood, fainting spells, respiratory distress, and uncommonly high rates of birth defects and miscarriages. They also report various unsafe work practices leading to severe repetitive strain injuries and cuts, gouges and other hand, face and body injuries.

The U.S. Department of Labor hearing is pursuant to a complaint filed under the terms of the North American Agreement on Labor Co-operation, aside accord to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

From Page One

the selection of electors made it impossible for Florida to come up with both a uniform standard for counting the votes and do it before the deadline. "In the interest of finality," wrote Justice John Paul Stevens in his dissenting opinion, "...the majority effectively orders the disenfranchisement of an unknown number of voters whose ballots reveal their intent -- and are therefore legal votes under state law -- but were for some reason rejected by ballot-counting machines."

But according to San Francisco political science professor Francisco Wong-Díaz, it is not unusual for the court to split this way. For example, he cites other controversial cases like The Regents of the University of California vs. Bakke, in which the Supreme Court by a 5 to 4 majority found affirmative action quota systems to be unlawful.

"What's new here is the reversal of the Florida Supreme Court," Wong-Díaz said. "Traditionally, the conservative judges in this court have been very protective of state rights. But here, the more liberal judges were the ones who wanted to show deference to the Florida high court." For Vargas,

however, the most important issue to have come out of the battle over the presidency is the need for reforms. "This ultimately means that there is need for some real reform on how we carry out our elections," he argued. "I think it's an embarrassing situation that the world's leading democracy has such antiquated methods for exercising that democracy." For his part, Wong-Díaz asserted his belief that the contentious and bitter court battle over the Florida vote has diminished the standing of both candidates. He added that he expected Gore to fully accept the court's decision and to unite the nation behind

Bush. At the same time, Wong-Díaz said "Bush needs to be humble and appear confident but conciliatory." In the end, both Wong-Díaz and Vargas agree that it will be a challenge for Bush to govern such a divided country. "Everything is going to be negotiable," said Wong-Díaz, referring to many of the hot issues in the campaign like tax cuts, social security reform, school vouchers and others. Vargas added his prediction that Bush's nominations to the Supreme Court when he becomes President will be "very much scrutinized by not just the Senate, but the public."

REY RUIZ música

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HEALTH NEWS

Ear Infections Common in Infants

LUBBOCK - Acute otitis media, more commonly known as a middle ear infection, is one of the more common childhood illnesses. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), most children have had at least one ear infection by the time they are 3 years old. If ear infections are not treated properly, they can lead to hearing loss and other damages.

According to the AAP, parents should be aware of warning signs of ear infections in their children, including:

- * Pain. Older children are able to tell parents when they are in pain. Younger children may appear irritable, cry, rub their ears and have a loss of appetite;
- * Fever ranging from 100 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit;
- * Ear drainage, such as a yellow or white fluid, coming from the child's ear; and
- * Difficulty hearing. Fluid behind the eardrum may get in the way of sound transmission. A child may have difficulty hearing for several weeks during and after an ear infection.

"Although some children develop an ear infection after every time they catch a cold, little babies have more ear infections than older children because the Eustachian tubes, which drain fluids from the middle ear to the throat, do not function as well in smaller children as in older children," said Steven Stripling, M.D., a pediatrician on staff at Covenant Children's Hospital.

When the Eustachian tube is blocked, fluids in the ear may become infected and result in an ear infection.

According to the AAP, children who are male, have a family history of ear infections, are bottle-fed, have allergies or breathe in second-hand smoke have a higher incidence of middle ear infections than other children.

"If a parent notices any signs of an ear infection, or if a child is in pain, is not eating as well as usual, or is lethargic and not responding well to the mother, a physician should be consulted immediately," Dr. Stripling said.

Look for Warning Signs to Catch Lymphedema Early

LUBBOCK - Lymphedema is a condition that affects 250 million people worldwide. Yet it is often misunderstood, misdiagnosed and mistreated.

According to the Lymphedema/Edema Center of the Joe Arrington Cancer Research and Treatment Center (JACC), lymphedema is an abnormal accumulation of fluid in the arms, legs, face, neck or trunk. Primary lymphedema can occur at birth or later in life without any obvious cause. Secondary lymphedema can develop at any time after cancer therapy, immediately after surgery or many years later.

"Lymphedema is a chronic condition that has no known cure. If it is not treated, it may lead to cellulitis, infection, skin breakdown and can result in further hospitalization," said Dan Johnson, lymphedema therapist at JACC. "Typical cases of lymphedema are seen in an individual who has had some type of cancer surgery or lymph node removal. Most of these are due to breast cancer therapy."

Some early signs of lymphedema are:

- * Warmth and redness of skin;
- * Decreased limb strength;
- * Reduced or restricted limb movement; and
- * Rings, watches or socks leaving an impression on the skin or fitting tighter than usual.

"If an individual notices any of the warning signs, he or she should contact their physician immediately. Lymphedema will not go away without treatment," Johnson said.

The Lymphedema/Edema Center at JACC has begun a new quarterly support group for individuals who have lymphedema and their families and friends. Participants meet to ask questions about the condition, see what is and is not helping others cope with the condition and learn how to handle life with lymphedema.

"People with lymphedema often experience discomfort, achyness, frustration, anxiety and body image disturbances due to a swollen extremity," Johnson said. "The support group allows them to talk about their feelings and realize they are not alone."

For information about lymphedema call (806) 725-8019.

Millones de niñas se convierten en madres

ARTURO GUDIÑO

San José, Costa Rica - Alrededor de dos millones de adolescentes, muchas de ellas abusadas sexualmente en su propia familia, se convierten en madres cada año en América Latina, una cifra impresionante que ha causado alarma en los organismos que velan por los derechos de la infancia.

Un estudio del Fondo de Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF) aseguró que "de los 13 millones de partos registrados anualmente en la región, dos millones corresponden a adolescentes de entre 15 y 19 años".

El tema de las madres adolescentes fue uno de los puntos que se abordó en la X Cumbre Iberoamericana realizada en Panamá el

17 y 18 de noviembre, bajo el lema de "Unidos por la niñez y la adolescencia, base de la justicia y la equidad en el nuevo milenio".

Las niñas y adolescentes también son utilizadas por proxenetas en países que se han convertido en centros de turismo sexual, como Río de Janeiro, República Dominicana, Lima, San José, entre otros, de acuerdo con denuncias de organismos no gubernamentales.

Según UNICEF, "la iniciación sexual puede darse con algún grado de abuso que, en muchos casos, trae como consecuencia inmediata el embarazo. El ataque incestuoso, la violación o la seducción coercitiva del hombre mayor proviene, por lo general, de su entorno social o laboral".

No pocas de esas adolescentes

quedan embarazadas, y muchas forman parte de las 65,000 personas que entre los 15 y los 24 años son infectadas de SIDA anualmente en Latinoamérica, según las Naciones Unidas.

Un buen porcentaje de esas madres adolescentes comenzaron a ser abusadas cuando sólo tenían cinco años en el seno de su propia familia, de acuerdo con un estudio realizado en Costa Rica sobre víctimas femeninas del maltrato doméstico.

En Ecuador un estudio similar reveló que en un 50% de los casos de abusos sexual los agresores viven con los niños y en Argentina un 75% de los abusadores son familiares directos.

En República Dominicana un análisis reveló que al menos

900,000 niños y niñas que viven en extrema pobreza se encuentran en situación de riesgo de ser explotados sexualmente, y las niñas en peligro de convertirse en madres adolescentes.

Entretanto, en Brasil, "niñas de 9 a 14 años han sido víctimas explotación sexual".

La mayoría de las madres adolescentes proviene de hogares pobres o desintegrados.

"En los sectores de menores ingresos, en las zonas urbanas la maternidad temprana es de un 32% y de un 40% entre las adolescentes que viven en zonas rurales", apuntó el estudio de UNICEF.

Un estudio de la Comisión Económica para la América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) señaló que "los hogares pobres encabezados por mujeres presentan los niveles más críticos y persistentes de la pobreza".

"Se habla de la 'feminización de la pobreza' como un fenómeno que ha venido teniendo expresión en la región en las últimas décadas. Los menores ingresos de las mujeres pobres se explican, en parte, por su menor nivel educativo o porque las remuneraciones que reciben son sistemáticamente inferiores" a las de los hombres, precisó CEPAL.

Pobreza, abuso sexual de niñas y adolescentes y embarazos tempranos, van de la mano en América Latina y el Caribe, de acuerdo con los estudios efectuados por los organismos especializados.

■ AFP

Martinez Elected to Chair Lubbock Hispanic Chamber



photo by John P. Cervantez

Local Lubbock attorney David Martinez was elected as chairman of the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce last Friday evening during its annual membership board of directors meeting.

A good attendance of members were at the election. Other officers elected include: left to right in photo: Albert Brazo-membership director; Robert Narvaiz-international trade and government affairs director; David Martinez-Chairman; Richard Calvillo-vice chairman; Dela Esqueda-secretary and Judy Ortiz-education director.



JOHN P. CERVANTEZ

JOHN P. CERVANTEZ PHOTOGRAPHER

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El Editor



No se puede determinar quién está encinta con sólo mirar en el espejo.

Para eso son las pruebas.

El grupo Childbirth Network (Red de Partos) le ofrece pruebas del embarazo, gratuitas y confidenciales de 8 AM a 5 PM de lunes a viernes. Sencillo, rápido, y recibirá los resultados de inmediato.

Llame al 780-4084 para más información. Y sépalo con certeza.



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La Childbirth Network es un programa de apoyo a las madres y los bebés, patrocinado por el Centro Médico Highland, el Centro de Manejo de Pacientes Externos de Diabetes de West Texas (The Diabetes Outpatient Management Center of West Texas) y el March of Dimes. Nosotros ofrecemos información de todo, desde cuidados durante el embarazo hasta medidas de seguridad para su bebé, y cualquier persona puede participar.



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La Pasión de Tony Plana Por Resurrection Blvd.

Escrito por Gladys M. Rosa

Cuando miramos la televisión hoy día vemos a los Latinos representados como ladrones, drogadictos, vendedores de drogas, prostitutas, pandilleros o matones. Así es como la televisión en Estados Unidos nos ha pintado. Los Latinos no somos percibidos con valor o importancia por los medios de habla Inglés.

Por eso es que Tony Plana, una de las estrellas de la serie de Showtime 'Resurrection Blvd.', cuyos nuevos episodios se transmiten todos los lunes a las 10 p.m. hora del este, se siente tan convencido de la

conmovedora y entretenida serie. Plana hace el papel de Roberto Santiago, el patriarca de la familia Santiago. Es el padre viudo de tres hijos y dos hijas que ha tenido que tomar el lugar de padre y madre después de la muerte de su esposa Teresa. Un ex-boxeador, Roberto una vez tuvo el sueño de ser campeón, pero nunca pudo ver su sueño convertirse en realidad.

"'Resurrection Blvd.' es una 'novela de alta clase'," explica Plana quien ha actuado en más de 30 películas. Plana comenzó su carrera en el teatro después

de graduarse de la universidad como becario Fulbright. "Esta serie contiene todo el drama con que los Latinos nos podemos entretener y relacionar," dice Plana. Se trata de una familia como cualquier otra que trata de hacer del 'Sueño Americano' una realidad en sus vidas. El sueño de poder disfrutar de una buena y exitosa vida — de tener seguridad, dinero y felicidad — algo que desea todo el mundo. Los Santiagos son una familia Latina.

Roberto Santiago es el entrenador y manager de su hijo menor, Alex (Nicholas González),

el más aventurero y sexy de los Santiagos. Su dedicación a la carrera de su hijo es evidente: se despierta todas las mañanas antes del amanecer para asegurarse de que Alex se levante y salga a correr 5 millas en la oscuridad aun nocturna del este de Los Angeles. Impulsado por los deseos de papi, Alex entrena con la esperanza de convertirse en campeón de boxeo.

Antes de dedicarse a la carrera boxística de Alex, Roberto entrenaba a su hijo mayor, Carlos (Michael DeLorenzo). Carlos era un boxeador con mucho talento y porvenir. Desafortunadamente, su carrera fue truncada prematuramente por un miembro de pandilla, quien le disparó y lo dejó por muerto por defender el honor de su hermana menor. Carlos vive y vuela a caminar, pero no puede volver a boxear.

Miguel (Mauricio Mendoza), el atractivo, serio, y a veces juguetón hermano mayor, ha puesto a un lado sus propios sueños y deseos para ayudar en la formación de sus hermanos. Miguel está siempre al lado de su padre, ayudándole a manejar las finanzas familiares, atendiendo las heridas de sus hermanos, y ocasionalmente haciendo de árbitro en las disputas familiares.

Yolanda (Ruth Livier), es la inteligente, dedicada y correcta hija mayor. Además de trabajar tiempo completo para un bufete de abogados, Yolanda toma el lugar de su madre, cocinando, limpiando, y preocupándose por su familia y el cuidado de su hermana menor, Victoria.

Victoria (Marisol Nichols), es la más joven de los Santiagos. Una bella y sensible pero fuerte joven, Victoria se enfrenta con los típicos conflictos de la adolescencia en el barrio: siempre intenta ser una leal y respetuosa hija, mientras lucha por ser aceptada por sus contemporáneos en la escuela.

the American Dream," Plana says. "We work hard, love deeply, and we are passionate and respectful. We are multi-dimensional. This series can be the signal and the catalyst to a cultural revolution on television."

When asked how Latinos are responding to 'Resurrection Blvd.,' Plana's voice saddens when he says, "We need to wake up Latinos. Many Latinos have not heard of the show. We need more outreach. If more Latinos subscribed to Showtime, then 'Resurrection Blvd.' would be the biggest hit on television. That could open the doors to many Hispanic oriented shows and lead to a more positive depiction of Latinos overall."

Plana is concerned that the Spanish language media has not really turned on the heat for 'Resurrection Blvd.'. "Maybe they (the Spanish language media) have not heard enough about 'Resurrection Blvd.," Plana says. He hopes this is the case, because it would be too disheartening to think that Latinos do not support their own. "This is the first time in the history of television that we have a series about boxing, and the first time that we have a Latino family series that's entertaining to watch. Our children can turn on the television and see themselves as the dominant culture."

"Do you realize that in the year 2050, Hispanics will represent 25 percent of the population in the United States? That is awesome! If we could bring this audience together, just imagine the power we would have", says Plana.

The question now remains - will a substantial percentage of the almost 35 million Latinos in the U.S. today tune in to Showtime on Monday nights at 10 pm? Tony Plana only hopes that they will. If Latinos can help make other series on television popular, then why not make a success out of a show about their own?

profunda emoción, es un tío amoroso que quedó mentalmente incapacitado por haber sufrido demasiados golpes a la cabeza mientras boxeaba, al igual que las cicatrices de guerra.

"Cinco de los siete escritores son Latinos. Estamos representando a los Latinos como somos realmente, y no con los comunes estereotipos que vemos en la televisión," dice Plana. "Como en la vida real, la serie muestra aspectos negativos y positivos de nuestra gente. Sin embargo, una de las mayores diferencias es que los personajes son trabajadores y son presentados con respeto, decencia, pasión e inteligencia. Tome por ejemplo a Roberto Santiago. Es un viudo que vive para sus hijos. En la mayoría de los programas de televisión, un padre Latino ha abandonado a sus hijos, está en la cárcel, abusa de su esposa o está tomando drogas. Esta es una de las razones por la cual los Latinos debemos apoyar a 'Resurrection Blvd.'"

Tony Plana siente apasionadamente que 'Resurrection Blvd.' puede ayudar a cambiar la futura percepción de los Latinos. "En 'Resurrection Blvd.', se puede ver que somos dedicados a nuestras familias y que también creemos en el Sueño Americano," dice Plana. "Trabajamos fuertemente, amamos profundamente, y somos apasionados y respetuosos. Somos multi-dimensionales. Esta serie sería la señal y el catalizador de una revolución cultural en la televisión."

Al preguntarle como están respondiendo los Latinos hacia 'Resurrection Blvd.', la voz de Plana se entristece al decir, "Necesitamos despertar a los Latinos. Muchos Latinos no conocen la serie. Necesitamos alcanzar a más personas. Si más Latinos se suscribieran a Showtime, 'Resurrection Blvd.' sería el éxito más grande de la televisión. Esto podría abrirle las puertas a muchos más programas de orientación Hispana y lograr una mejor presentación de los Latinos en general."

Plana está preocupado por el hecho de que los medios de prensa Hispanos no han encendido el interés por 'Resurrection Blvd.'. "Quizás ellos (los medios de prensa Hispana) no han oído lo suficiente sobre 'Resurrection Blvd.'", dice Plana. El veterano

actor dice que espera que éste sea el caso, porque sería muy decepcionante pensar que los Latinos no les damos apoyo a los nuestros. "Esta es la primera vez en la historia de la televisión que tenemos una serie sobre una familia Latina y sobre el boxeo. Nuestros niños pueden prender la televisión y verse a sí mismos como la cultura dominante."

"En el año 2050 los Hispanos representaremos el 25% de la población de los Estados Unidos. Eso es asombroso! Si podríamos unir esta audiencia, imagináte el poder que tendríamos", dice Plana.

Plana dice que "tenemos una oportunidad única, una ocasión para hacer una gran diferencia, no solamente en televisión pero también en la vida de muchos Latinos. Showtime es la primera cadena que se ha comprometido a hacer una serie que presenta a Hispanos en frente y detrás de las cámaras," dice Plana. "Deberíamos aplaudir a Showtime por reconocer el potencial y la importancia de los Latinos".

La pregunta es: sintonizarán Showtime los casi 35 millones de Latinos en los Estados Unidos, los lunes a las 10 p.m., hora del este? Tony Plana espera que así sea. Si los Latinos pueden ayudar a hacer un éxito de otras series en la televisión, entonces porqué no hacer un triunfo de una serie que trata de nuestra gente?

Entre Los Tamales, Un Regalo Exótico de Navidad Para Olivia

Por Olivia Muñoz

Los regalos de Navidad que recibo todos los años son literalmente valiosísimos.

Los recibo en la Víspera de Navidad, cuando sucede todo lo demás.

Asistimos a la Misa de las primeras horas de la noche - mis padres, cuatro hermanas y hermanos. Después nos reunimos todos - cerca de 30 tíos, primos, abuelos, padrinos, novios, novias y sólo amigos - para comer y abrir nuestros regalos en una casa seleccionada, que se rota entre la familia en cada año.

Primero hacemos la fiesta. Las formalidades como preparar la mesa nunca se observan. Nos sentamos cuando hay un espacio disponible, comiendo nuestra *continued on page 6*

Tony Plana's Passion for Resurrection Blvd

By Gladys M. Rosa

When we tune in to television today, we see Latinos usually depicted as thieves, drug addicts, dealers, prostitutes, gang members or killers. That is how the English language television depicts us today. Latinos are not made to look valuable or important.

That is why Tony Plana, one of the stars of Showtime's series 'Resurrection Blvd.', with all-new episodes airing on Mondays at 10 pm Eastern time, feels so strongly about the intriguing and entertaining series. Plana stars as Roberto Santiago, the patriarch of the Santiago family. The widowed father of three sons and two daughters is forced to become both father and mother to his children following the death of his wife Teresa. A former boxer, Roberto once had the dream of becoming champion, but was never able to realize his dream.

"'Resurrection Blvd.' is a man who has made more than 30 movies. He started his career in the theater after graduating as a Fulbright scholar from college. "This series has all the drama that Latinos enjoy and can relate to. It is about a typical family trying to make the American Dream a reality in their lives. The dream of being able to live a good and successful life — of having security, money and happiness — something everyone desires. The Santiagos just happen to be Latino."

Roberto Santiago is the trainer and manager of his younger son, Alex (Nicholas Gonzalez), the most adventurous and sexy of the Santiagos. His dedication to his son's career is evident: he wakes up every morning before dawn to make sure that Alex gets up and out into the pre-dawn darkness of East L. A. to run five miles. Fueled by papi's desires, Alex trains with the hope of becoming a boxing champion. Before dedicating himself to Alex's boxing career, Roberto trained his older son, Carlos (Michael DeLorenzo). Carlos was a talented boxer with a promising career. Unfortunately, his boxing career was ended prematurely by a gang member who shot Carlos and left him for dead for having defended his sister's honor. Carlos lives and escapes paralysis, but is not able to box anymore.

Miguel (Mauricio Mendoza) the attractive and playful yet serious older son, puts aside his own dreams and hopes to help

make something of his younger brothers. Miguel stands by his father's side, helping him with family business matters, tending to his brothers' wounds, and often acting as family referee.

Yolanda (Ruth Livier), is the intelligent, dedicated and correct older daughter who works full time for a law firm, while simultaneously trying to fill her mother's shoes — she does the cooking, cleaning, worrying about her family and caring for her younger sister, Victoria.

Victoria (Marisol Nichols) is the youngest of the Santiagos. A beautiful, sensitive, yet strong young woman, Victoria faces the typical teenage conflict of the barrio: she tries to remain a loyal and respectful daughter, while struggling to be accepted by her peers at school.

The wise, sexy and lighthearted aunt Bibi (Elizabeth Peña), still mourning the death of her sister, and Roberto's wife, Teresa, plays an important role in the lives of the Santiagos. With the infinite wisdom of a mother and a woman's intuition, aunt Bibi intervenes in family matters to maintain the peace and harmony. And the serious Ruben (Daniel Zacapa), a man with deep emotions, is a loving, but mentally impaired uncle who has suffered too many blows while boxing, as well as the

"Five out of seven writers are Latinos. When we deal with any subject, it actually is a true depiction, rather than the regular stereotypes we see on television," says Plana. "We have negative and positive portrayals in this series, just as we have in real life. However, one of the major differences is that the characters are hard working people and are portrayed with respect, decency, passion and intelligence. Take, for instance, Roberto Santiago. He is a widower who lives for his children. In most television programming, a Latino father either has abandoned his children, is in jail, abuses his wife, or does drugs. This is one of the many reasons, in addition to the great entertainment the series provides, why it is so important for Latinos to support 'Resurrection Blvd.'"

Tony Plana feels passionately that 'Resurrection Blvd.' can help change the future perception of Latinos. "When you watch 'Resurrection Blvd.', you see that Latinos are portrayed as being dedicated to our families and also believe in

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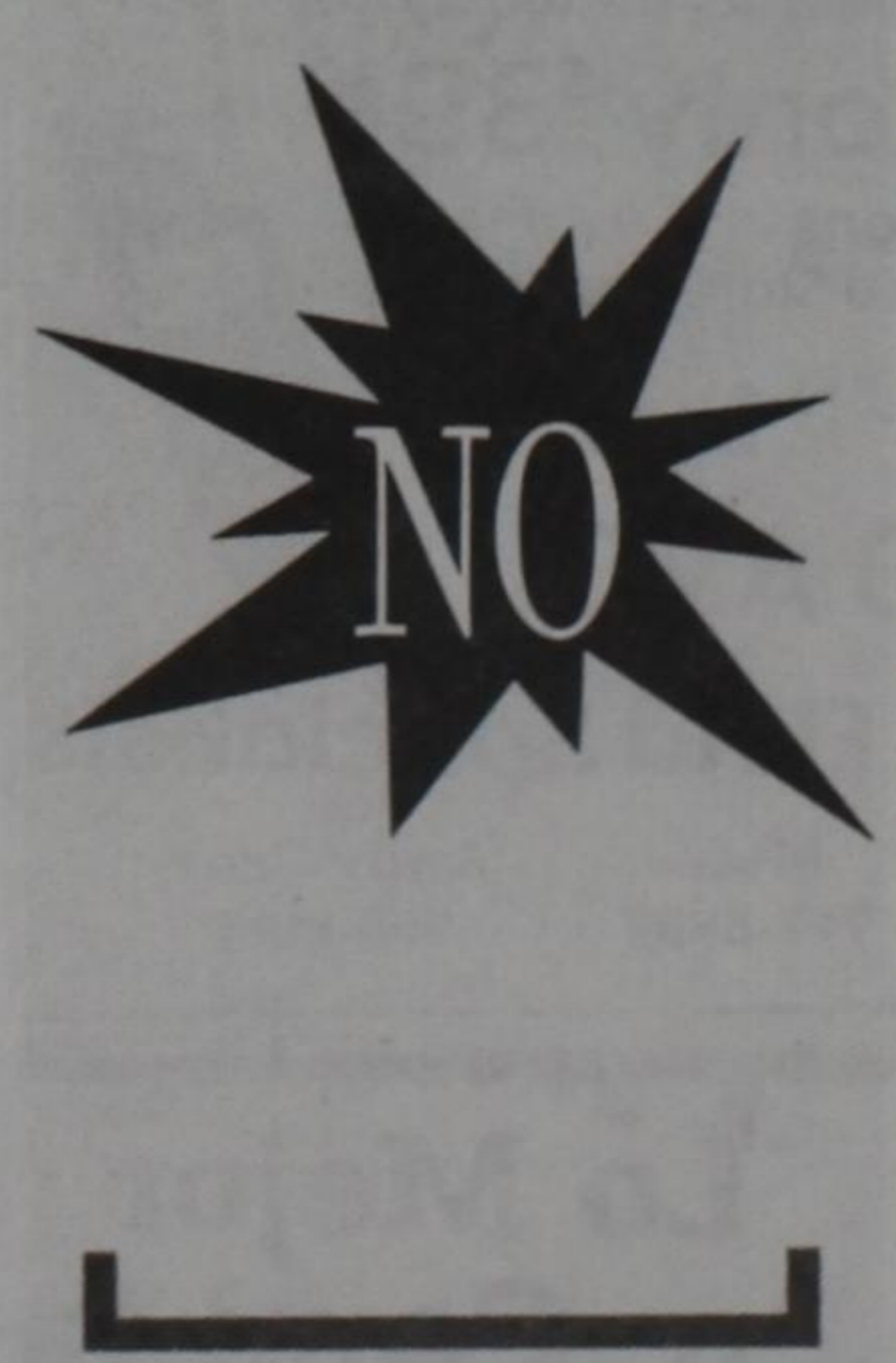
Nuestro esfuerzo incluye el apoyo de programas escolares, uno de los cuales ha sido reconocido por su excelente labor preventiva por los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention) y otras organizaciones nacionales. También lanzamos campañas publicitarias nacionales: una para aconsejar a los jóvenes a que no fumen y otra que exhorta a los padres a hablarle a sus hijos de no fumar.

Para ayudar a prevenir el acceso de los menores de edad a productos de tabaco, contribuímos económicamente al programa nacional "Identifícate" ("We Card"). Este programa de educación y capacitación para comerciantes fue iniciado por la Coalición para la Venta Responsable de Productos Derivados del Tabaco en Negocios Detallistas (Coalition for Responsible Tobacco Retailing). El programa ha entrenado a más de 500,000 empleados de tiendas para de tabaco por menores de edad.

Ayudar a prevenir el uso del tabaco entre los menores de edad es una labor importante, y es lo correcto tanto para nuestra compañía como para nuestros empleados. También es lo correcto para nuestros accionistas y clientes adultos. A todos nos corresponde resolver el problema del uso del tabaco entre los jóvenes. En Philip Morris USA, nos empeñamos en hacer nuestra parte.

Para más información acerca de nuestros esfuerzos para evitar que los menores fumen, visite nuestro sitio en el Internet en www.philipmorrisusa.com. Si no tiene acceso al Internet, por favor llame al 1-877-PMUSAWEB.



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Among the Tamales, An Exotic Gift for Olivia

By Olivia Muñoz
The gifts I get for Christmas every year are literally priceless. I receive them on Christmas Eve, when everything else happens. We attend early evening mass -- my mom and dad and four sisters and brothers. Then we all come together -- about 30 aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, godparents, boyfriends, girlfriends and just friends -- to eat and open our presents at a chosen house, rotating among families throughout the years.

First, we feast. Formalities like setting the table are never observed. We belly up to it when a spot becomes available, eating our yule meal in shifts. Or we sit on the couch or the floor in front of the television, or in the basement, using an unsteady Ping-Pong table or a well-worn, well-stained pool table to spread food and drink.

Just like us, the meal is a cultural blend. Tamales are the *pieGce de résistance*, often supported by a Southern ham. There's Mexican cheese and Kraft spreads, fruit *ponche* and Midwestern pop, *Chocolate Abuelita* and Taster's Choice coffee. And culturally schizoid pastas and salads.

Sometimes my mom or some of us older kids, tamales in hand, have to interrupt our eating rituals to chase after the younger kids, who prefer to play.

Oh, tamales! Let other people open their expensive gifts. I'm usually content -- last year was the one big exception -- as long as I get to unwrap as many tamales as I want. My godmother makes them every year, and no one will ever convince me that they are not the best, stuffed with hot, spicy pork, chicken with chile, Mexican cheese with chile and my favorite, beans with cheese.

For dessert there are sweet tamales, dyed pink and green,

with strawberries, lemon or raisins. Plus my *tías buñuelos*, flat crispy pastries sweetened with different sugars and spices or dipped in a homemade syrup of cinnamon, sugars, cloves and fruit.

My family may not be royalty, but our holiday cuisine rivals that of the highest nobility.

When everyone finishes eating -- a rite that takes about three hours -- we pray the rosary in Spanish. Afterward, the younger children get on their knees and alternate rocking *el niño Jesús* from the nativity as everyone sings.

Finally we open presents. The kids get excited, but by then the richest gifts have been shared -- our love and our traditions. Our meal of tamales dates back centuries. Our prayers and songs *en español* remind me how fortunate we are to be a real family.

There is no need for extravagant presents. On other days in the year, we go in so many different directions, sometimes we are invisible to each other.

Because we've never had to deal with a lot of material wealth, I never cared much about gifts at all.

Except for last year. On Christmas morning, my brother Francisco, who at 17 was two years younger than I, and I drove around town, with 10-year-old Margarita in tow, looking for a store that was open. We hadn't bought each other a present. We spotted a Walgreen's pharmacy that I guess would take a major natural disaster to close down, and we ventured in.

"So, what do you want?" Francisco asked. "I only got, like, four bucks."

"How about these bobby pins?" I held up two packs of iridescent pins with \$1.99 price tags.

"Yeah, if that's what you want," he said, moving down the aisle.

"I want this," he told me,

holding up a bottle of Herbal Essence Dandruff Shampoo, on sale for \$2.29 that day. Mom never spends more than a dollar for shampoo.

I cocked my head to the side and gave him a quit-being-stupid look.

"What?"
"This is really what I want," he insisted. Then I remembered that I had just requested bobby pins as a gift.

I'd been wanting those trendy hair pins for months, but I felt guilty buying something that I didn't really need. A pack of 15 iridescent bobby pins cost almost two dollars because they were a different color.

I could buy 200 bobby pins at the dollar store with those same two bucks. But they were a gift. I didn't feel guilty at all.

It was the same with my brother and his shampoo. My sister Margarita decided she wanted a bottle for herself.

"Man, *Amá's* gonna be mad that we're buying expensive hair stuff," I thought as we walked over to the cash register. But I got over it. I got everything I wanted last Christmas.

Doesn't a person with a fortune as grand as mine have the right to own the very finest bobby pins?

Olivia Muñoz is a journalism fellow with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. She may be reached by e-mail at zapotecos@aol.com. As usual, she'll join her family in Saginaw, Mich., for Christmas this year.

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From Page 5

cena de Navidad por turnos. O nos sentamos en el sofá, o en el piso, delante del televisor, o en el sótano, usando una mesa de Ping-Pong tambaleante o una mesa de billar bien gastada y manchada, para extender los alimentos y las bebidas.

Igual que nosotros, la cena es una mezcla cultural. Los tamales son la *pieGce de résistance*, a menudo apoyados por un jamón al estilo del Sur.

Hay queso de cabra mexicano y unturas de Kraft, *ponche* de frutas y refrescos del Medio Oeste, *Chocolate Abuelita* y *caféTaster's Choice*. Y pastas y ensaladas culturalmente esquizoides.

Algunas veces mi madre, o nosotros los hijos mayores, con un tamal en la mano, tenemos que interrumpir nuestros rituales de comida para perseguir a los chicos menores, que prefieren jugar.

¡Oh, los tamales! Dejen que otros abran sus regalos costosos. Yo acostumbro contentarme -- el año pasado fué la gran excepción -- siempre que pueda desenvolver tantos tamales como yo quiera. Mi madrina los hace todos los años y nadie me convencerá nunca de que no son los mejores, rellenos de carne de puerco picona, pollo con chile, queso mexicano con chile y mi plato favorito, frijoles con queso.

Para el postre hay tamales dulces, teñidos de rosado y verde, con fresas, limón o pasas. Además de los buñuelos de mi tía, pasteles llanos encrespados endulzados con distintos azúcares y especias y sumergidos en un almibar casero de canela, azúcares, clavos de condimentar y frutas.

Mi familia puede no ser de la realeza, pero nuestra cocina de los días feriados rivaliza con la

de la nobleza más elevada.

Cuando todos terminamos de comer -- un ritual que se lleva tres horas -- rezamos el rosario en español. Después, los niños menores se arrojan y se turnan para arrullar al Niño Jesús en el pesebre, mientras todos cantamos.

Entonces abrimos los regalos. Los chicos se emocionan, pero para entonces los regalos más preciosos de todos han sido compartidos ya -- nuestro amor y nuestras tradiciones. Nuestra cena de tamales se retrotrae a siglos de existencia. Nuestras oraciones y canciones en español me recuerdan cuán afortunados somos de ser una familia verdadera. No hay necesidad de regalos extravagantes. En los demás días del año, andamos en muchas direcciones diferentes; algunas veces somos invisibles los unos para los otros.

Puesto que nunca tuvimos que tratar con mucha riqueza material, nunca nos preocupamos mucho por los regalos de un todo.

Exceptuando al año pasado. En la mañana del Día de Navidad, mi hermano Francisco, quien con sus 17 años era dos años menor que yo, y yo, anduvimos alrededor de la ciudad con Margarita, de 10 años, a remolque, buscando una tienda que estuviera abierta. No nos habíamos comprado regalos unos a los otros. Advertimos una farmacia de Walgreen que me imagino que necesitaría de un desastre natural importante para cerrar, y nos aventuramos a entrar.

"De modo que, ¿qué quieres tú?" preguntó Francisco. "Sólo tengo cuatro dólares."

"¿Qué tal estos pasadores?" levanté dos paquetes de pasadores iridescentes con etiquetas de precio de \$1.99.

"Bueno, si eso es lo que

quieres," dijo él, adelantando por el pasillo. "Yo quiero esto," me dijo él, sujetando una botella de champú Herbal Essence para la caspa, que estaba en venta especial por \$2.29 en ese día. Mamá nunca gasta más de un dólar en champú.

Moví la cabeza hacia un lado y le dirigí una mirada como diciéndole:

"Deja de ser estúpido."

"¿Qué?"
"Esto es realmente lo que quiero," insistió él. Entonces recordé que yo sólo había pedido los pasadores como regalo.

Yo había estado deseando esos pasadores de moda durante meses, pero me sentí culpable comprando algo que no necesitaba en realidad. Un paquete de 15 pasadores iridescentes costaba casi dos dólares, sólo porque eran de distinto color. Podría comprar 200 pasadores en la Tienda del Dólar con esos mismos dos dólares. Pero eran un regalo. No me sentí culpable del todo. Fué igual con mi hermano y su champú. Mi hermana Margarita decidió que quería una botella para ella.

"Mamá se va a enojar porque hayamos comprado ese champú caro para el cabello," pensé yo, mientras íbamos hacia la caja registradora. Pero me sobrepuse a ello. Yo tuve todo lo que deseaba en la Navidad anterior.

¿No tiene una persona con una fortuna tan grande como la mía el derecho a poseer los mejores pasadores?

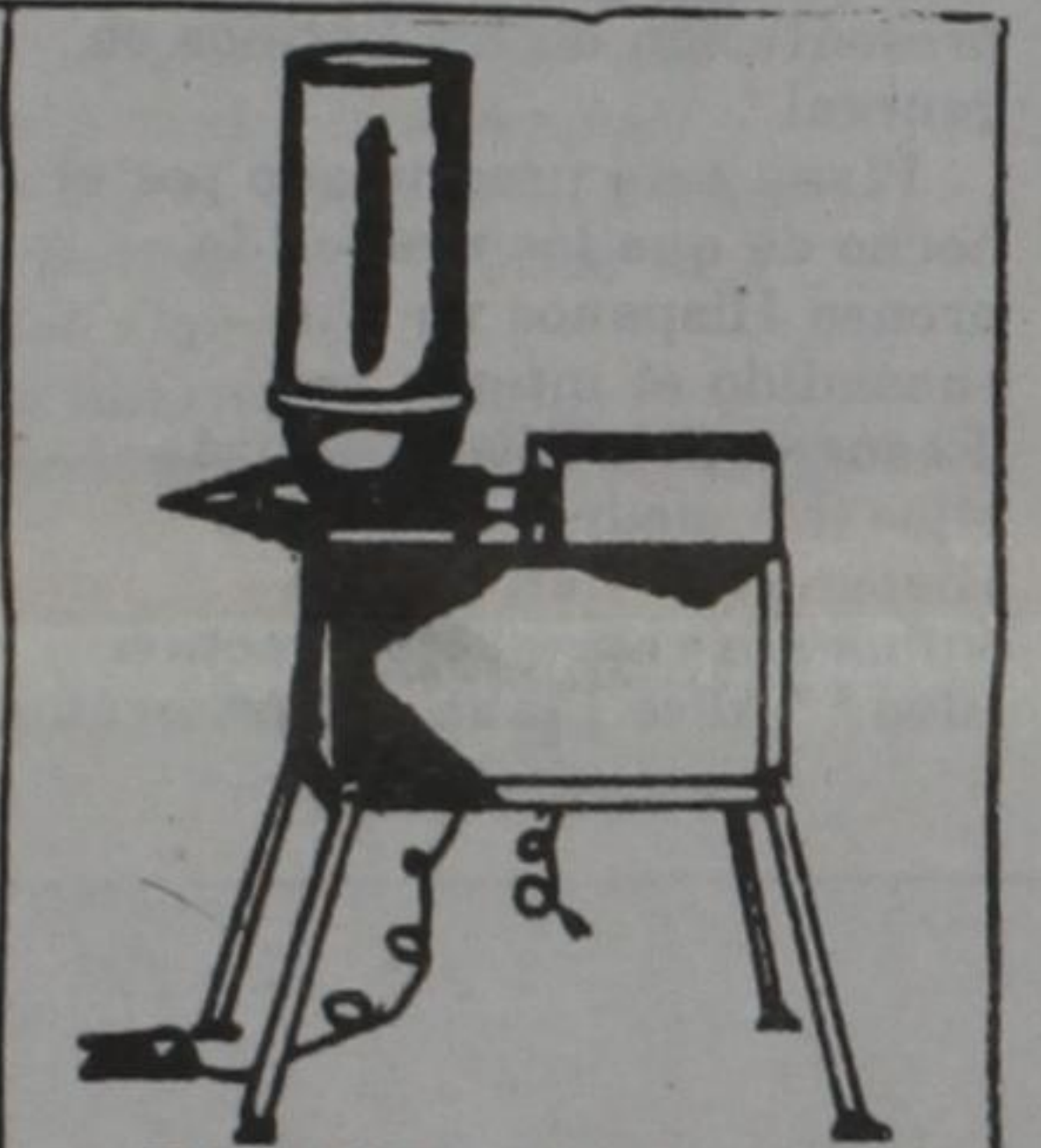
(Olivia Muñoz es becada de periodismo en Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C. Como acostumbra hacerlo, ella se unirá a su familia en Saginaw, Mich., para celebrar la Navidad en este año.)

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