

**By Camilo Smith-Montalegre**  
Condemnation of vigilante-style harassment of Mexican migrants by Arizona ranchers continues to spread on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. In Washington, D.C., Mexican Ambassador Jesús Reyes-Heroles has met with U.S. Attorney for Arizona José Rivera and other government officials to discuss the roundups of Mexican migrants by ranchers in the Douglas, Ariz., area.

In Mexico City, Foreign Minister Rosario Green has issued a statement saying the Mexican government will conduct a probe into the violation of migrants' international rights by ranchers along the southern Arizona border. The Mexican government has retained U.S. lawyers.

In Tucson, Ariz., the border rights group Coalición de Derechos Humanos (Human Rights Coalition, in English) has petitioned Attorney General Janet Reno, citing 24 alleged incidents of abuse and calling for a full investigation and prosecution of those who act outside federal law.

"It is unconscionable that these individuals be allowed to proceed on a course that is sure to result in tragedy," the letter said. Isabel García, a founder of the group and one of the letter's signatories, told Hispanic Link

that a point has been reached where "they are hunting Mexicans for sport."

A group calling itself the America Way Team has raised additional concern by its efforts to recruit members for a Neighborhood Ranch Watch. The group's circular, which ended up on the desks of many city and county officials -- including Cochise County Sheriff Larry Dever -- promises "Fun in the Sun."

It proclaims: "This vacation is for the winter visitor that wants to help an American Rancher keep his land protected while enjoying the great southwestern desert at the same time. Just the great outdoors and good 'ole western individualism spirit of private property."

The flier goes on to suggest the proper equipment for the trip: RVs, infrared scopes and trip-wire flare launchers to "locate and expose the invaders."

It suggests ways to obey the law: Post and maintain "properly spaced 'no trespassing' signs to make sure trespass arrests are legal, without question!"

Sheriff Dever criticized the recruitment effort, calling it a "satirical trivialization of the events. I would caution everyone to not get caught in the trap of making light of or taking advantage of such serious things for personal or political

gain," he said.

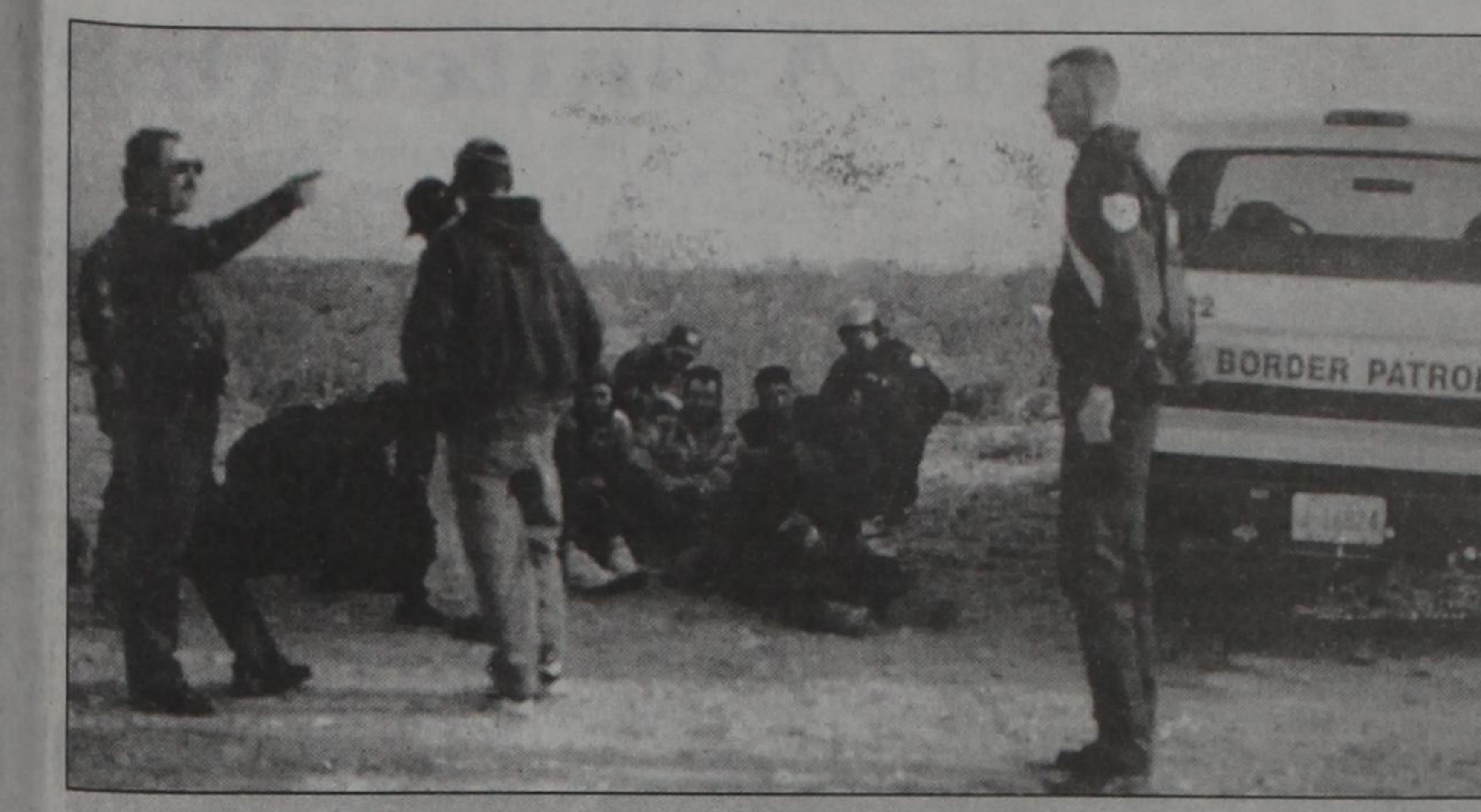
A rancher who has gained national attention in recent days for detaining, by his count, as many as 3,000 undocumented migrants, is 57-year-old Roger Barnett. He and his brother Don led an ABC television crew on a mission where they caught and detained nine migrants.

"Barnett and others (are responsible) for assaulting immigrants at gunpoint, and shooting at immigrants," stated one of several written statements forwarded to Janet Reno by Derechos Humanos.

Barnett seems to have made border protection a compulsive force in his daily life. He appeared before a congressional subcommittee on immigration last June to call for a National Guard presence along the border. "We need a real commitment from the federal government to fulfill its commitment to protect our borders. We need a visible, serious deterrent," he said in his statement.

The success of Operation Gatekeeper in California and similar border protection programs in Texas have dramatically shifted the flow of undocumented border crossers to Arizona. The Border Patrol has just been authorized to bring an additional 180 officers to Arizona to deal with the surge.

In an "information alert"



En lo que va del año ya se ha detenido a más de 11.000 indocumentados solamente en la zona de Douglas.

distributed to area leaders last month, Dever wrote that there is a grave need for added protection along the border. "In some places, we cannot even go out for a morning or evening walk without fear and trepidation," he said.

According to Douglas, Ariz., resident Father Carney of St. Luke's Catholic Church, protection from undocumented workers crossing into the United States may not be the region's only safety concern. He said that ranchers have taken to

shooting wildly at figures in the dark. "I overheard two ranchers talking in a restaurant, and one of them said he just fires into the night when he hears his dogs bark. It didn't matter to him what he hit."

"I fear for my family," said Arizona lawyer Jesús Romo, a co-founder of Derechos. "For all of us Latinos on the border, one cannot always distinguish between who is undocumented and who is not."

Isabel García urged

involvement of the Mexican government and demilitarization of the border to reduce tension. "We need the Constitution and basic human rights respected on the Arizona border. This is not a police problem, but a complex socioeconomic problem," she said.

(Camilo Smith-Montalegre is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)

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## News Briefs

### White House Proposes Changes to Benefit Immigrants

The White House sent to Congress Thursday a series of proposed immigration measures which will make it easier for undocumented immigrants, particularly those from Central America, to obtain legal residence in the United States.

The first proposal is to widen the scope of the 1997 Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA), which benefited Cuban and Nicaraguan immigrants, to include immigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Haiti, giving them the right to work in the United States.

This measure is incorporated in the Central American and Haitian Parity Act of 1999, the name of bills presented in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, which the White House "strongly supports."

The second proposal would make it possible for undocumented immigrants who can demonstrate that they arrived in the United States prior to Jan. 1, 1986, to qualify for legal resident status. The previous "registry date" was Jan. 1, 1972.

The administration expects that these measures will benefit hundreds of thousands of people, according to Deputy White House Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste.

These initiatives are outlined in a letter from Gene Sperling, Director of the National Economic Council and Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, to Congressmen Henry Hyde (Rep.-IL) and John Conyers (Dem.-MI), the chairman and ranking minority member, respectively, of the House Judiciary Committee.

The administration's proposals would be included in the bill calling for the creation of additional H1-B visas for high-tech workers from abroad, especially computer specialists.

Echaveste affirmed that the administration is working with Congress to achieve the inclusion of the NACARA and Registry Date provisions in the bill regarding the H1-B visas and that she was confident of success.

In regard to the attitude of the Congress towards the proposals, she maintained that there is now more support than there was a few weeks ago, and stated that the administration will try to secure approval of the bills this year.

The White House proposal entails a substantial growth in the number of H1-B visas in the fiscal years 2001-2003 over what is currently authorized.

The law now provides for 107,500 H1-B visas in 2001, with a reduction to 65,000 for each of the succeeding years, while the administration wants an authorization for 200,000 visas in each of the three years.

The requested increase is prompted by the growing shortage of computer specialists in the United States resulting from the boom in the Internet-based "new economy."

These proposals could increase the size of the U.S. workforce, which is a benefit for the economy, as there is a tight labor market with unemployment at a 30-year low.

The White House would also like to see an increase in the fees paid by companies for an H1-B visa, from the current 500 dollars to 2,000 or 3,000 dollars, depending on the nature of the company.

The administration would dedicate the extra revenues to providing technology training for U.S. workers, to improving science education and to modernizing the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Meanwhile, some 200 people demonstrated in front of the U.S. Capitol in support of the amendment to the NACARA law.

The gathering was called by the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), in cooperation with groups representing Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans and Haitians, in support of the bills aimed at giving those communities parity with the Nicaraguans and Cubans.

### Struggle to Oust Navy from Vieques Goes to Court

By RAFAEL FRANCO STEEVES

The struggle by Puerto Rican political activists to get the Navy to leave Vieques entered the legal arena Wednesday after federal marshals arrested gubernatorial candidate Ruben Berrios and environmentalist Jorge Fernandez Porto inside restricted federal grounds on the island municipality. Both face misdemeanor trespassing charges.

Through their attorneys, Roberto Buzo and Puerto Rican Independence Party Sen. Manuel Rodriguez Orellana, Berrios and Fernandez told a U.S. magistrate they do not recognize the federal court's authority or jurisdiction to pass judgment on their actions in Vieques.

The magistrate, Jesus Castellanos, nonetheless released the two under their own recognizance and, at the request of federal prosecutors, ordered the two not to return to the Navy training grounds in Vieques. Although Berrios and Fernandez did not accept the conditions of their release and did not rule out returning to the firing range soon, they said the next step in the struggle would be their trial.

"The trial will unmask the lack of democracy in Vieques at the hands of the Navy," Berrios told reporters.

News of the arrests began circulating early Thursday morning and by noon hundreds of supporters had gathered in front of the federal building in Hato Rey to await the arrival of Berrios and Fernandez.

Rodriguez Orellana said the arrest reflects poorly on Navy officials.

"Despite all their state-of-the-art technology, they couldn't stop Berrios from returning to the range," the attorney said.

Continued Page 2

# EL EDITOR

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## Rancheros de Arizona Acusados de 'Cazar a Mexicanos Como Deporte'

Por Camilo Smith-Montalegre

La censura por el hostigamiento contra inmigrantes mexicanos al estilo "vigilante" que lleva a cabo un grupo de rancheros de Arizona, continúa propagándose en ambos

### Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agtiero

Yes it has been a long time since I wrote this column. I've been reminded just about every day by friends and many who say that my column is one of the reasons they read El Editor. I'm honored by these comments and it really makes me feel bad that I don't write as much as I should. What can I say except that I'll try harder.

I was encouraged this week to write because of Mother's Day and because I really don't have a lot of money to buy my wife a present. Maybe this column will be sufficient--Yes right!

I really don't really celebrate mother's day since my mom died. I kind of think that mother's day should be reserved for sons and daughters as a way of expressing their love for the one person who should be the major woman in their lives. Some would probably argue that the main woman in their lives after one's mother dies should be their wife. I guess they're kind of right but I don't think anyone can take my mom's place.

I can remember my Mom. She was incomparable. Probably the best mom in the world! I can't remember one time when she really got mad at me. Sometimes she would act like she was mad but she wasn't.

I really hate that some people, especially kids now days don't hesitate to use the "M" word. And I'm not talking about the "M" for Meskin. I'm sure you know what I mean. I really don't understand why they use it so casually. In my younger day, using it could mean your life. Some people use it as it's just like any other ordinary word. It's really hard for me to understand.

When my Mom died I really didn't write this column. All I could really says to her was "Thanks for being so good."

As we celebrate this coming Sunday, lets hope that all of us who still have mothers can join in saying to their moms: "Thank you for being so good."

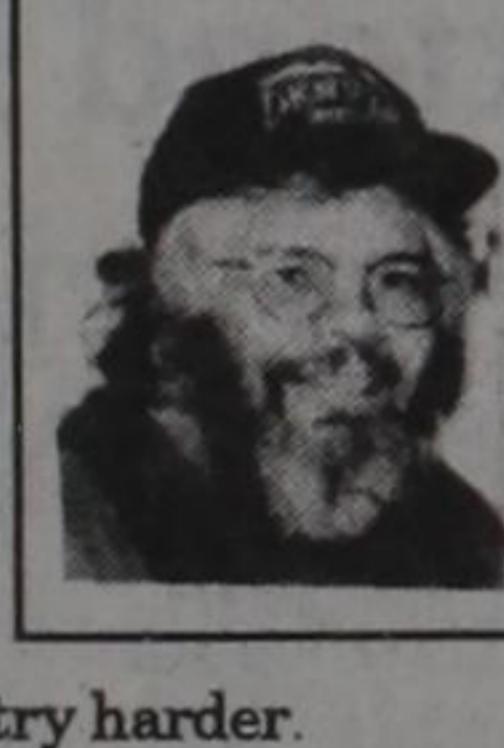
**Happy Mother's Day**

\*\*\*Pico de Gallo\*\*\*

If you have HBO make sure and check out the show "Americanos-Latinos in the U.S.. Get your kids to see it too."

\*\*\*\*Max Chile\*\*\*\*

For some people it's really hard to understand that they're still Mexican regardless of how much money they give them.



lados de la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México.

En Washington, D.C., el Embajador de México, Jesús Reyes Heroles, se reunió con el procurador federal de Arizona, José Rivera, y con otros funcionarios gubernamentales para discutir de las "redadas" de inmigrantes mexicanos por los rancheros de la zona de Douglas, en Arizona.

En la Ciudad de México, Rosario Green, secretaria de relaciones exteriores, emitió una declaración en la que dice que el gobierno mexicano efectuará una investigación sobre la violación de los derechos internacionales de los inmigrantes por los rancheros de la frontera sur de Arizona. Para esto, la secretaría ha contratado ya abogados estadounidenses.

En Tucson, Arizona, la Coalición de Derechos Humanos ha presentado una petición a la procuradora general Janet Reno, mencionando 24 presuntos incidentes de agresiones y pidiendo una investigación completa y el enjuiciamiento de los que actúen fuera de las leyes federales.

Es inconcebible que se permita a estas personas seguir un curso de acción que tiene la seguridad de resultar en tragedia," se quejaba la carta.

Isabel García, fundadora del grupo y una de las personas firmantes de la carta, dijo a Hispanic Link que se ha llegado a un punto en el cual "están cazando a los mexicanos como deporte."

Un grupo autodenominado 'America Way Team' ha provocado preocupación adicional por sus intentos de reclutar miembros para una "Vigilancia Vecinal Ranchera."

La circular del grupo, que llegó a los escritorios de muchos funcionarios municipales y de los condados, incluyendo al alguacil del Condado de Cochise, Larry Dever, promete "Diversión al Sol."

La misma proclama: "Estas vacaciones son para el visitante invernal que quiera ayudar a un ranchero estadounidense a mantener sus tierras protegidas, mientras disfruta del gran deserto del suroeste al mismo tiempo. Son los grandes escenarios naturales y el buen viejo espíritu de individualismo del oeste sobre la propiedad privada."

El volante continúa sugiriendo el equipo adecuado para el viaje: Vehículos de recreo, miras telescopicas infrarrojas y lanzadores de bengalas con alambre de zancadilla para "localizar y descubrir a los invasores."

También sugiere modos de obedecer la ley: Colocar y mantener "letreros de prohibida la entrada sin permiso"

adecuadamente espaciados, para asegurarse de que los arrestos por infringirlos sean legales e incuestionables."

El alguacil Dever criticó los intentos de reclutamiento, calificándolos de "trivialización satírica de los acontecimientos. Yo les advertiría a todos que no se dejaran caer en la trampa de restar importancia a aprovecharse de cosas tan graves por ganancia personal o política," dijo.

Un ranchero que ha obtenido atención nacional recientemente por detener por su cuenta a unos 3,000 migrantes indocumentados, es Roger Barnett, de 57 años de edad. El y su hermano Don llevaron a un equipo de camarógrafos de la televisora ABC en una misión, en la que capturaron y detuvieron a nueve migrantes.

"Barnett y otros (son responsables) de atacar a los inmigrantes a punta de pistola, y de tirotearlos," decía una de varias declaraciones escritas enviadas a Janet Reno por la Coalición Derechos Humanos. Barnett parece haber hecho de la protección de la frontera una fuerza compulsiva de su vida diaria.

Comparció ante un subcomité del Congreso sobre inmigración en junio del año pasado para pedir la presencia de la Guardia Nacional a lo largo de la frontera. "Necesitamos un compromiso verdadero de parte del gobierno federal para cumplir su obligación de proteger nuestras fronteras. Necesitamos una prevención visible y seria," dijo en su declaración.

Comparció ante un subcomité del Congreso sobre inmigración en junio del año pasado para pedir la presencia de la Guardia Nacional a lo largo de la frontera. "Necesitamos que se respete la constitución y los derechos humanos básicos en la frontera de Arizona. Este no es un problema policial, sino un complejo problema socioeconómico," dijo.

### Pronto Acercamiento Improbable Pese a Casi Elian

WASHINGTON, Una pronta mejora de las relaciones entre Cuba y Estados Unidos es improbable pese al fuerte apoyo del público y el gobierno estadounidense a la devolución a su padre de Elián González, el niño cubano que sobrevivió a un naufragio en viaje a este país, prevén analistas.

Si bien la comunidad cubano-estadounidense, que pretenda retener a Elián en Miami junto a la familia de su tío abuelo, Lázaro González, parece más aislada que nunca desde la abortada invasión de la Bahía de los Cochinos, hace casi 40 años, su capacidad para impedir una aproximación entre Washington y La Habana sigue siendo formidable.

"Aunque están desacreditados ante el público en general y las fuerzas centristas, el hecho es que retienen influencia sobre elementos clave del Congreso", señaló Geoffrey Thale, un analista de asuntos cubanos de la Oficina de Washington para América Latina, un grupo de derechos humanos.

De esos congresistas, los más influyentes son republicanos, en particular el presidente de la Cámara de Representantes, Dennis Hastert, y el jefe de la mayoría parlamentaria, Tom DeLay.

Elián, de seis años, sobrevivió en noviembre al naufragio de una embarcación con emigrantes cubanos indocumentados, en el cual pereció su madre, Elizabeth Brotons. El niño fue rescatado por pescadores cerca de las costas estadounidenses y se convirtió en el centro de una disputa que involucró a Washington y La Habana.

The struggle by Puerto Rican political activists to get the Navy to leave Vieques entered the legal arena Wednesday after federal marshals arrested gubernatorial candidate Ruben Berrios and environmentalist Jorge Fernandez Porto inside restricted federal grounds on the island municipality. Both face misdemeanor trespassing charges.

Through their attorneys, Roberto Buzo and Puerto Rican Independence Party Sen. Manuel Rodriguez Orellana, Berrios and Fernandez told a U.S. magistrate they do not recognize the

# Hispanic Vision of the 21st Century Is A United One

By Guarioné Diaz

The Cuban American National Council convened its biennial conference this month in Washington, D.C., the same city where it was founded 28 years ago. Although based in Miami, the council has committed itself from inception to an active participation in the Hispanic movement nationwide. Its leaders have helped shape and support most national Pan-Hispanic coalitions and umbrella groups created since the early 1970s.

I point this out immediately to correct a public misperception about Cuban Americans and their relationships with other Hispanic groups. In South Florida, the nonprofit council has helped thousands of Cuban immigrants seeking refuge in the United States. It has been at the forefront of socioeconomic research on Cuban-Americans.

At the same time, however, it has provided direct educational, housing and employment services to Hispanics with origins in more than 11 Latin American countries -- and to non-Hispanics, too.

Over almost three decades, the council has helped some 100,000 individuals directly, and thousands of others indirectly through research and policy development activities.

In doing so, we have witnessed the growth and evolution of a national Hispanic community. We have participated in the struggle to be recognized, in union with Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Central and South Americans, and others of Hispanic origin, as part of the U.S. social fabric. We have explored the common cultural identity among our varied national groups and searched for a shared vision of the future unscathed by different political and ideological preferences.

Much has happened since the council's founding, and continues happening at an accelerated pace.

At the risk of sounding too optimistic, I truly believe the national Hispanic community has come a long way, and we are now closer to each other than we have been since 1960.

After all, in those days, Cuban-Americans were just beginning to realize the meaning of the hyphen, and were suspect for speaking too much Spanish. Then, there was Communism and Vietnam, and the youth and civil-rights movements, which reminded many Cuban-Americans of the violence and social upheaval they had lived through just a

short time before.

By the close of the last century, the vision of leaders like Raúl Yzaguirre, who founded and nurtured the National Council of La Raza, and the evolution of Hispanic communities throughout the United States, have brought about significant advances.

Hispanics from a variety of national backgrounds are found among the key staff, board members and local chapters of affiliates of large Hispanic organizations, no matter whether they are headquartered in Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston or Miami.

Cuban-Americans -- both first and second generations -- established permanent roots in the United States and became leaders and active participants in our main political parties, organized labor, literature and the arts, business, sports, journalism and practically every aspect of national life.

Yet Cuban-Americans and other Hispanics are still too frequently portrayed with negative images by the media. They are also painted as being distant -- culturally, as well as geographically -- from one another.

In reality, we face the single

challenge in this new century to be accepted as true "Americans" while maintaining a common cultural heritage in which we all take pride -- one that is an integral part of our identity. We Cuban-Americans ourselves search for an identity that incorporates the cultural imperatives of two systems and the life experience of different generations.

The twilight of the Castro era necessitates that we avoid social isolation. It calls upon us to define clear community goals.

I am convinced that the challenges of post-Castro Cuba will involve Cuban-Americans, and that those challenges can be met as full members of the Hispanic community in the United States and as U.S. citizens who share and practice the values upon which this great country was founded.

(Guarioné Diaz, a Columbia University-trained sociologist, is president of the Cuban American National Council, based in Miami, Fla. He emigrated from Cuba in 1961 with his wife and two daughters, joined the council in 1975 and, three years later, became its leader. Through that time, Diaz, now 60, has served in other leadership roles with various national Hispanic coalition organizations.)

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## La Vision Hispana Del Siglo XXI Es De Unidad

Por Guarioné Diaz

El Consejo Nacional Cubano-American efectuó su conferencia bienal este mes en Washington, D.C., la misma ciudad donde fue fundado hace 28 años. Aunque radicado en Miami, el consejo se ha dedicado desde sus principios a una participación activa en el

movimiento hispano de toda la nación. Sus dirigentes han ayudado a dar forma y a apoyar a la mayoría de las coaliciones generales hispanas creadas desde principios de la década de 1970. Señalo esto inmediatamente a fin de rectificar una percepción errónea del público sobre los

cubano-americanos y sus relaciones con otros grupos hispanos.

En el sur de Florida, el consejo, que es una organización no lucrativa, ha ayudado a miles de inmigrantes cubanos que buscaban refugio en Estados Unidos. También ha estado a la vanguardia de la investigación socioeconómica sobre los cubano-americanos.

Al mismo tiempo, sin embargo, ha proporcionado servicios directos de enseñanza, vivienda y empleo a hispanos originarios de más de 11 naciones de Latinoamérica -- e igualmente a personas no hispanas. Durante casi tres décadas, el consejo ha ayudado a cerca de 100,000 personas directamente, y a otros miles indirectamente, mediante las actividades de investigación y desarrollo de cursos de acción.

Al hacer esto, hemos presenciado el crecimiento y la evolución de una comunidad hispana nacional. Hemos participado en la lucha para ser reconocidos, en unión con los mexicanoamericanos, puerriquenos, centroamericanos, sudamericanos y otras personas de origen hispano, como parte del tejido social de Estados Unidos. Hemos explorado juntos la identidad cultural común entre nuestros diversos grupos nacionales y hemos buscado una visión compartida del futuro, indemne de las distintas preferencias políticas e ideológicas.

Mucho ha ocurrido desde la fundación del consejo, y continúa sucediendo a paso acelerado.

A riesgo de sonar demasiado optimista, creo verdaderamente que la comunidad nacional hispana ha recorrido un largo camino, y que estamos ahora más próximos recíprocamente de lo que hayamos estado alguna vez desde 1960.

Después de todo, en aquellos días los cubano-americanos sólo estaban comenzando a darse cuenta del significado del guion que separa su nombre y se convertían en sospechosos por hablar demasiado español.

Entonces estaban el comunismo y Vietnam, y los movimientos juveniles y de los derechos civiles, que recordaban a muchos cubano-americanos la violencia y el tumulto social que habían vivido poco tiempo.

Para fines de este siglo, la visión de dirigentes como Raúl Yzaguirre, que fundó y nutrió al Consejo Nacional de La Raza, y la evolución de las comunidades hispanas en todos Estados Unidos, han producido adelantos considerables.

Se encuentran hispanos de

una diversidad de antecedentes nacionales entre el personal principal, los miembros de las juntas de directores y los capítulos locales de las afiliadas de grandes organizaciones hispanas, sin que importe que estén radicadas en Washington, D.C., Nueva York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston o Miami.

Los cubano-americanos, tanto de primera como segunda generación, sentaron raíces permanentes en Estados Unidos y llegaron a ser dirigentes y participantes activos en nuestros partidos políticos principales, el sindicalismo organizado, la literatura y las artes, los negocios, los deportes, el periodismo y prácticamente todos los aspectos de la vida nacional.

No obstante, los medios informativos presentan aún con demasiada frecuencia a los cubano-americanos y otros hispanos con imágenes negativas. También se les pinta como demasiado distantes unos de otros, tanto cultural como geográficamente.

En realidad, nos enfrentamos al reto singular para el nuevo siglo, de ser aceptados como verdaderos "estadounidenses," mientras que mantenemos una herencia cultural común de la cual nos enorgullecemos todos, que es parte integral de nuestra identidad.

Nosotros mismos, los cubano-americanos, buscamos una identidad que incorpore los imperativos culturales de dos sistemas y la experiencia de la vida de generaciones distintas. El crepúsculo de la época de Castro necesita que evitemos el aislamiento social, y nos llama a definir objetivos comunitarios claros.

Estoy convencido de que los retos de la Cuba posterior a Castro involucrarán a los cubano-americanos, y que podemos enfrentarnos a esos retos como miembros plenos de la comunidad hispana de Estados Unidos y como ciudadanos de este país que compartimos y en el que practicamos los valores sobre los cuales fue fundado.

(Guarioné Diaz, sociólogo capacitado en la Universidad de Colombia, es presidente del Consejo Nacional Cubano-American, radicado en Miami, Florida. Emigró de Cuba en 1961 con su esposa y dos hijas, se unió al consejo en 1975 y se convirtió en su dirigente tres años después. Durante todo ese tiempo, Diaz, quien ahora tiene 60 años de edad, ha prestado servicios en otros papeles de dirección con varias organizaciones de la coalición hispana-nacional.)

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## ELIAN - THE FIRST CAUSE THAT COULD UNIFY HISPANICS

By Richard Rodriguez, Pacific News Service

Before Elian Gonzalez floated into our lives, many U.S. Hispanics couldn't stand Cuban Americans. Many non-Hispanic Americans, on the other hand, admired Cuban Americans.

Cuban Americans constitute only a tiny percentage of the total U.S. Hispanic population. But Cuban Americans have, for decades, worn the least complicated face of "the Hispanic." And for good reason: they are the richest, the best-educated, and (bottled or not) the blondest among us.

It was Richard Nixon's administration in 1973 that gathered the various nationalities of Latin America in this country and labeled us all "Hispanic." Thus did the Guatemalan Indian and the Italian-surnamed Argentine and the black Dominican and mulatto Puerto Rican and the mestizo Chicano find themselves grouped with Cuban Americans.

The population I know best, Mexican Americans (who number nearly 70% of the total U.S. Hispanic population) are different from Cuban Americans in an obvious way. We had an ambivalent relationship to America; they never did. "We" never liked "them." Or so I've heard. They are pushy, racist, arrogant, vocal. And we hated their accent.

There was jealousy at play, in some of this. For example, Mexican Los Angeles, by virtue of numbers, should be the true Hispanic capitol of the United States. But the exodus from Castro's Cuba was largely upper-middle class and professional. Thus, by virtue of Cuban-American dollars and know-how and connection, Miami became the gaudy and glamorous Latin American hub of los estados unidos.

But there was more than jealousy involved in this story. Cuban Americans, alone among Hispanics, have never portrayed themselves as "minorities" or "victims" in the United States. Just the reverse: Cubans have described America as rescuing them from victimization.

It's not enough to observe that Cuban Americans, in the majority, tend to be Republican. It's more important to observe that, unlike Puerto Rican or Chicano grievance, the Cuban-American hymn to America celebrated the freedom this country gave them, not any restriction.

For this reason, Cuban Americans have probably done more than any other group to reconcile non-Hispanics to U.S. proximity to Latin America. Ironically, Cuban Americans have thus made us all less afraid of Castro's Cuba.

Elian is changing everything. For weeks, the national media has portrayed the story of Elian as the story of a Cuban neighborhood's stubborn resistance to the national will, as described by the law and polls.

On the other hand, in recent days, Puerto Rican and Dominican flags have joined the parades through Little Havana. And in the cyclone fence in front of the house of Elian's great-uncle, Lazaro Gonzalez, someone has planted the flags of Brazil and Mexico.

Democratic congressmen and editorial writers and psychiatrists advise the federalists to get on with it. And Janet Reno tries to play a reverse Statue of Liberty (Shoo, little boy). And officials from the World Council of Churches babysit Elian's father.

All this is exactly what many U.S. Hispanics -- from Colombians in Hartford to Salvadorans in Seattle -- have been seeing. We have been watching a tiny population of Cuban Americans go up against a vast opposition. For the first time, we have been seeing Cuban Americans as minorities.

From the 19th century gringo romance, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, a kid on the raft, who runs away from home, turns into a national hero. (Americans never wanted to see Huck returned to his Pap!) In today's Hispanic romance, a neighborhood of Cuban-American immigrants, standing up to poll numbers and politicians, assumes heroic cast.

My suspicion is that, whether Elian stays or goes, Cuban Americans are coming to see themselves in a more adversarial way toward America. The assurance or arrogance that had always separated them from other Hispanics is diminishing.

Hispanics could end up being unified by the Elian story, even at a time it is clear that most Americans are no longer afraid of Latin America, indeed, some Republicans probably think the kid would be raised better in communist Latin America than in Cuban-American Miami.

## Hispanics Extend Reach to Latin America

By Oswaldo Zavala

As globalization and more democratic government practices reach Latin America, many U.S. Hispanic organizations are extending their operating arms south of the border.

From long-established activist groups, such as the League of United Latin American Citizens, to think tanks like the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, the organizations are working with a variety of programs dealing with social, political and economic issues. Some of the programs are more than 15 years old, others are just developing.

Among their goals are a greater Hispanic role in and better understanding of foreign policy. They are forming stronger business connections. But most important, Latino leaders in Latin America and the United States are working together to create positive hemispheric change.

Two of the pioneers in developing such programs are the Washington, D.C.-based LULAC and the Los Angeles-based William C. Velásquez Institute.

In 1984, LULAC's then president, Mario Obledo, created the Hispanic Foreign Affairs Council to develop relationships with Latin leaders and propose policy recommendations to the U.S. government. The institute linked with Latin American countries two years later, after it was chartered in 1985.

"There was a reality out there in Latin America, and we got ahead of the curve," says president Antonio González. "Everything couldn't be just about bilingual education or immigration. And the best place to start expanding was Latin America."

On the economic side, the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce is creating avenues for partnerships and other opportunities for entrepreneurs of both countries.

For foreign policy, the Hispanic Council on International Relations strives to improve the U.S.

government's approach in Latin America, and promotes the appointment of more U.S. Latinos to high-level foreign policy positions.

El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Mexico and Cuba are countries where the Velásquez Institute has implemented training programs for community advocacy. Other missions involve observing national elections and evaluating the impact of U.S. foreign policy.

Besides constant activities with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, LULAC's closest contact has been with Mexico.

"Our relationship is based more on keeping lines of communication open," says Gabriela Lemus, LULAC's director of policy and legislation. "The Mexican government has tried over the years to reach the Mexican-American population by targeting organizations like LULAC."

LULAC also promotes civil and human rights in Latin America, and works in tandem with Mexican consulates helping Mexican citizens in the United States.

One of the most important aspects of the relationships has to do with international trade and globalization. The 2,000-member U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce is expert on this topic. Since its creation 26 years ago, the chamber has conducted international conferences. Now it trains Mexican and U.S. officials in the new e-commerce.

"Foreign policy has been Eurocentric," says chamber director of international trade Al Pérez. "We need to keep promoting commerce with Latin America. We can do a lot more than NAFTA."

During the Hispanic Council on International Relations' April 26 conference on U.S. foreign policy, White House special envoy for the Americas Kenneth MacKay framed the Hispanic charge: "We must seek to change public perception. Your groups must help meet the challenge of integrating this hemisphere."

### El Editor Newspapers

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# Noticias Breves

## EEUU: Asistencia al Desarrollo Rumbo al Nivel Más Bajo en 50 Años

por Jim Lobe

WASHINGTON, La asistencia al desarrollo por parte de Estados Unidos prevista para el año fiscal 2001 será la menor en 50 años, pese a que ese país está en su período de crecimiento económico más prolongado desde la segunda guerra mundial.

La información fue proporcionada en un informe del Centro de Presupuesto y Prioridades Políticas (CBPP), divulgado el martes y titulado "Las tendencias en la asistencia al desarrollo por parte de Estados Unidos y el actual debate presupuestario".

El monto de la asistencia propuesta por el presidente Bill Clinton para el próximo año fiscal es 10.700 millones de dólares, mayor que el de cualquier otra nación salvo Japón, pero expresado como porcentaje del producto interno bruto (PIB), o del presupuesto total, es el menor entre los países industrializados.

La propuesta del Poder Ejecutivo equivale a 0,11 por ciento del PIB estadounidense, menos de la mitad del porcentaje asignado por Estados Unidos a la asistencia al desarrollo en los años 80, y menos de un tercio del porcentaje del PIB que destinan a ese fin la mayoría de los países industrializados en la actualidad.

El presupuesto para el año fiscal 2001 es 1,8 billones de dólares, y el monto previsto para asistencia al desarrollo es 0,6 por ciento de esa suma, un porcentaje similar al de varios años anteriores, pero la quinta parte del destinado a ese fin en 1962, cuando el país creó su Agencia para el Desarrollo Internacional.

Además, el opositor Partido Republicano, mayoría en el Congreso, ha divulgado su propia iniciativa presupuestaria, que implica un recorte de seis por ciento de la asistencia al desarrollo propuesta por Clinton para el próximo año fiscal, y recortes mayores en los años siguientes.

"La tendencia decreciente de la asistencia al desarrollo es clara. El compromiso estadounidense con esa asistencia ha declinado en forma significativa con el paso de los años, hasta llegar a un nivel muy bajo en comparación con los de otros países industrializados", afirmó Isaac Shapiro, autor del informe.

Esa tendencia tiene un significado especialmente negativo porque se manifiesta mientras surge un nuevo consenso mundial acerca del modo de aumentar la eficacia de la asistencia, en especial para reducir la pobreza, señaló el Consejo para el Desarrollo de Ultramar modo de aumentar la eficacia de la asistencia, en especial para reducir la pobreza, señaló el Consejo para el Desarrollo de Ultramar (ODC), un grupo de expertos con sede en Washington.

"Este es un mal momento para la reducción del gasto estadounidense en asistencia al desarrollo", comentaron los analistas Kevin Morrison y David Weiner en un informe del ODC.

El avance de los conocimientos que permiten brindar ayuda más eficaz y dirigirla a los objetivos adecuados" se aplica en la actualidad para "rediseñar los programas en la materia de Estados Unidos y de instituciones multilaterales que reciben apoyo estadounidense", explicaron.

Los programas analizados en el informe del CBPP incluyen asistencia al desarrollo y ayuda humanitaria brindadas por Estados Unidos en forma directa y mediante instituciones multilaterales como el Banco Mundial.

También abarcán recursos canalizados por el Fondo de Apoyo Económico (ESF), un programa empleado durante la Guerra Fría para apoyar con grandes sumas de dinero a gobiernos de países en desarrollo que mantenían estrechas alianzas con Washington.

Clinton propuso que en el año fiscal 2001 se destinen 2.300 millones de dólares al ESF, menos de la mitad de los recursos asignados a ese programa hace 15 años.

En la actualidad casi todos los recursos del ESF se emplean para respaldar a gobiernos de Medio Oriente que participan en el proceso de paz árabe-israelí.

Medio Oriente es la región del mundo que recibe más asistencia estadounidense, pese a la relativa riqueza de los países que la integran.

La suma de la asistencia no militar a Israel, Egipto, la Autoridad Palestina y Jordania es mayor que la destinada a Asia y África subsahariana, donde están los países más pobres del mundo.

El gobierno de Clinton, como el de su predecesor George Bush, dice que lamenta la disminución de la asistencia al desarrollo, y señala que el principal responsable del recorte es el Congreso, pero ha hecho poco para revertir la tendencia, pese a compromisos asumidos por la secretaria de Estado, Madeleine Albright.

Albright prometió en 1997 que defendería el aumento de la asistencia ante la opinión pública en forma más eficaz que cualquiera de sus predecesores, y rara vez pierde una ocasión para quejarse de la escasez de los fondos destinados a ese objetivo.

"La mayor parte de los estadounidenses se asombran cuando les digo que el porcentaje de nuestra riqueza que dedicamos a asistencia al desarrollo en otros países es menor que el de cuquier otra nación industrializada", declaró Albright el martes en Washington.

"Durante la última década nuestra inversión en asistencia disminuyó a la mitad, y llegó a ser 90 por ciento menos que en los tiempos del presidente Harry Truman () y el general George Marshall", indicó.

"Esto hace más difícil que estimulemos a otros a aumentar su ayuda, y a menudo nos obliga a reducir los fondos destinados a una necesidad urgente cuando nos enfrentamos a otra", comentó.

Muchas firmas estadounidenses con intereses fuera del país presionan para que aumente la asistencia al desarrollo.

La Alianza de Negocios para el Desarrollo Económico Internacional (BAIED) pidió en un informe publicado a comienzos de este mes un "renacimiento de la asistencia" para construir economías más saludables en el mundo, y alegó que eso aumentaría las compras de productos estadounidenses.

La BAIED, una coalición formada por universidades y asociaciones de empresarios que incluye a grandes productores de alimentos, destacó que 80 por ciento de los fondos para asistencia al desarrollo se gastan en bienes y servicios que Washington compra a firmas e individuos estadounidenses.

En el informe de la coalición, titulado "Protegiendo el futuro de Estados Unidos: el papel de la asistencia al exterior", se señaló que el valor de las exportaciones estadounidenses se duplicó en los últimos 10 años y llegó a representar 10 por ciento del PIB.

"Nuestros gastos en asistencia al desarrollo en los años 60 y 70, en especial en el Asia oriental y América Latina, están estrechamente vinculados con el gran incremento de nuestras inversiones y exportaciones con destino al mundo en desarrollo durante los años 80 y 90", aseguró la BAIED.

"La mayor parte de la asistencia a países en desarrollo que realizamos hoy servirá para que esas naciones sean buenas consumidoras de nuestros productos mañana", arguyó.

El ODC expuso el mismo argumento en su informe, y concluyó que la disminución del presupuesto para asistencia perjudica los intereses de Estados Unidos.

Además, "contradice a la mayoría de los estadounidenses, quienes piensan que el país y otras naciones ricas tienen la obligación moral de ayudar a las personas más pobres del mundo, entre las cuales 1.200 millones viven con menos de un dólar por día", subrayó.

Los donantes aprendieron mucho en la última década acerca del modo de brindar asistencia sea más eficaz, señaló.

En especial, comprendieron que la ayuda debe dirigirse a países comprometidos con la aplicación de fuertes programas de reforma económica, mejora del gobierno y respeto de la legalidad, que además tengan un sentimiento de propiedad en relación con la asistencia que reciben.

"La tendencia decreciente registrada en el informe del CBPP, disminuye el impacto de los programas de asistencia estadounidenses, cuando deberían fortalecerse mediante los nuevos conocimientos que hemos adquirido", sostuvo el ODC.

### Continued From Page 1

"And now, out of pure anger and spite, they are charging him with walking on a piece of Puerto Rican land. It is the Navy, [not Berrios and protesters] who shouldn't be in Vieques."

Fernandez Porto, who was not among those detained in the previous federal raid, led Berrios through a maze of vegetation en route to the range for more than four hours before a military sentry I spotted them near the Observation Post, where a private security guard was killed during an accidental bombing in April of last year.

Both he and Berrios vowed to show up for the trial, even though they would not recognize the jurisdiction of the federal court. They said they will neither enter a plea nor defend themselves. However, the U.S. magistrate entered a plea of not guilty for both of them and referred the case to trial. Federal prosecutor Rosa Emilia Rodriguez said that a date for the trial had not been set.

## Who Sees My Census Answers?

Census operations are conducted in the strictest of confidence. They must be, or the census could never be done. As the Census Bureau Director, Dr. Kenneth Prewitt, has often stated, "A serious census cannot be conducted without the trust of the American people."

Even though confidentiality is Priority No. 1 for the Census Bureau, the general public still harbors many fears and misunderstandings about the information they provide to census takers.

Some people think their answers are shared with all sorts of government agencies and law enforcement offices. But the truth is, the Census Bureau does not share any information about individuals or households with anyone, and it protects this information for a minimum of 72 years.

Federal law (specifically Title 13, section 214, of the U.S. Code) makes it a federal offense for a Census employee to reveal information to anyone outside the Census Bureau.

The penalty for such disclosure is imprisonment of up to 5 years, or a fine up to \$5,000, or both.

All Census employees are carefully informed of this policy before they're hired; they must take an oath to uphold this policy, and they are frequently reminded of their responsibility in this regard. A recent memorandum from Census

Bureau HQ, for example, demands of all employees nationwide:

"Non-disclosure of information contained in the schedules, lists, or statements obtained for or prepared by the Census Bureau to any person either during or after employment?"

The memo goes on to clearly emphasize that to ensure confidentiality.

"Friends and family members are forbidden to accompany employees conducting field activities. Only Census sworn employees can accompany a field employee while on Census duty."

Census employees are also reminded in this memo that they are expected to read and become familiar with the administrative guidances contained in the Census Employee Handbook and other documents. And if that still isn't enough, there is an HQ office that employees can call if they have any questions.

Considering how seriously the Census Bureau treats the nondisclosure matter, it should come as little surprise that in 1990 the Census Bureau processed over 100 million census forms and there was not one single case of breach of its public trust to protect census data.

The public should understand that the Census Bureau is absolutely committed to preserving this perfect record through Census 2000 and beyond.

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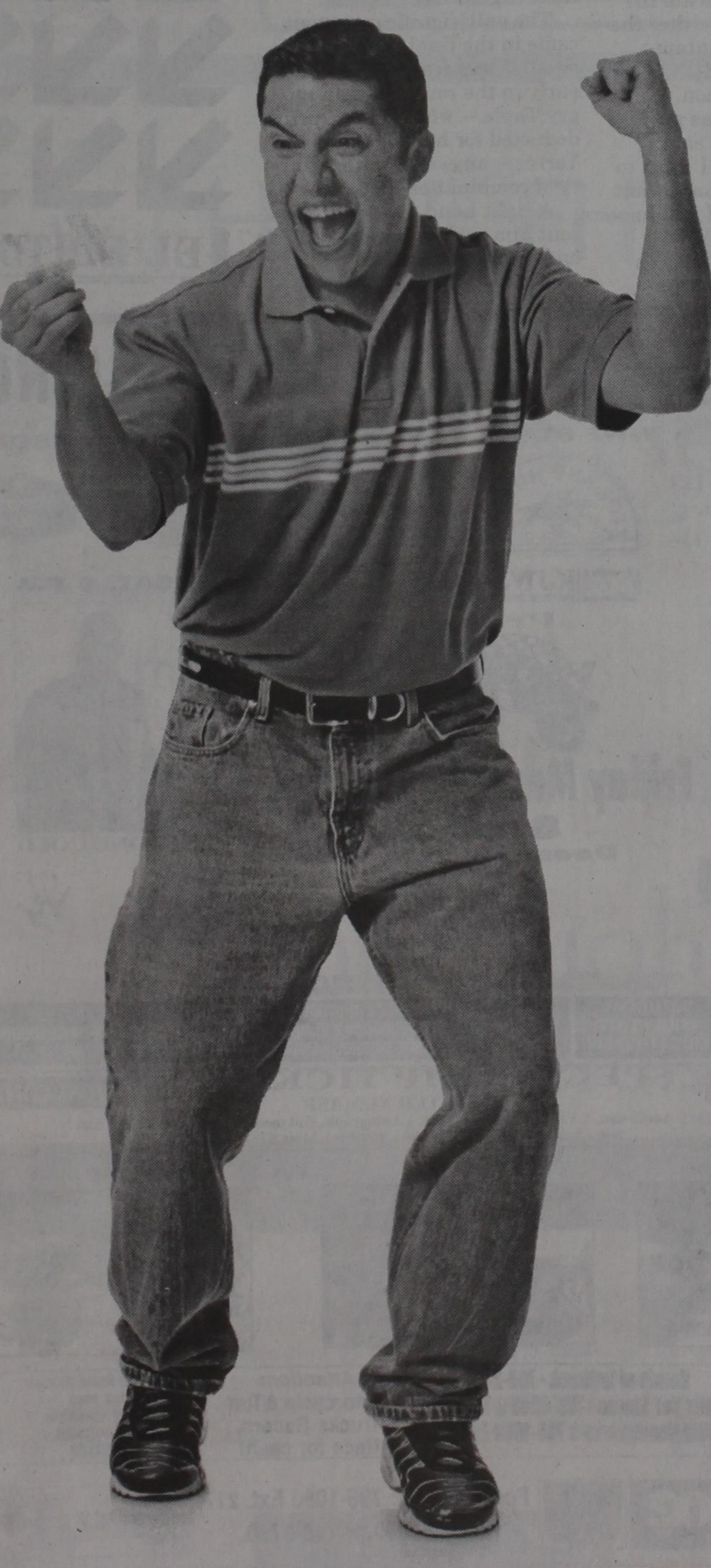
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**Rancher Talks of "Alien" Troubles****But Not to Hispanic Press****EDITOR'S NOTE:**

To obtain an interview with Arizona rancher Roger Barnett, who has gained national notoriety in recent weeks for arming himself and tracking down hundreds of undocumented Mexican workers, Hispanic Link reporter Camilo Smith-Montealegre telephoned his office 10 times over nearly a week. Smith-Montealegre always himself as a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service, and on each occasion, he was told that Barnett would return the call. Once he was asked if he was "going to report to the Mexicans." The reporter never received a return call.

Hispanic Link editor Charles Erickson then called Barnett's office and identified himself as a writer for Media Report (a section of Hispanic Link Weekly Report). He was promptly connected with Barnett. During the interview that followed, Barnett said that he regularly declined to speak with domestic Hispanic reporters and the Mexican media. This interview was edited for space and relevance by Smith-Montealegre.

**QUESTION:** What is your reaction to some of the media coverage that has been happening relative to the ranchers' position?

**ANSWER:** Sometimes the reporting is less than desirable. They don't go far enough, I think. It's just not only my problem down here, it's the problem in the whole United States. ... They come into the interior of the United States, and they fan out and they're all over the place -- illegal aliens.

I think that sometimes (the media) have failed to report that. We're fighting a battle down here, a non-winnable battle. The government's not putting nothing in, no effort or anything. They have the resources to put it in, but it's not happening.

And a lot of the media that calls here lately has been the media out of foreign governments, foreign countries. A lot of Mexican papers, Mexican TV, cameras and everything, Univision. All those outfits like that. ... I haven't been talking to them because, I mean, they're reporting to their own country. It's not reporting to the American citizen.

Q: So you say you have not talked to very many (Hispanic media outlets)?

A: No, I haven't. I won't. The other day I come back into the

office and there's eight of them wanting to talk to me.

Q: You mean they were actually there -- or just phone calls?

A: Phone calls. I don't have that kind of time. I've got more important things to do. And another thing, too -- I don't speak Spanish, I don't know what they're saying ... whether the report gets back there and they lose the translation or whatever.

These people that are coming across -- they don't have money to buy a newspaper, or maybe even half of them don't even have an education to read one. And again, too, they don't even look at a TV. They don't even have a TV to see. I mean, who am I reporting to?

Q: How wide is the press interest as you see it? Has there been some from Europe?

A: Yeah, the London Times the other day.

Q: And you did talk to them?

A: Yes.

Q: And what was their focus? Do you feel the media is showing a bias?

A: Sometimes I think they might be biased, on my part. The other day ABC News is down here, and then after I did the interview with them, took them around, showed them some aliens and everything, then tell me what the name of the article is going to be. "Vigilante Rancher." I thought, holy sh--, goddamit! You know, the damnedest thing, they didn't see me. They saw me capture these aliens (and) turn them over to the border patrol. They didn't see me sit them on a bank and try them. He didn't see me (mete) out the verdict, and they didn't see me execute them. ... Vigilante? Where the

hell they coming off of?

Q: How do you define your role in protecting ranchers' property? How long have you been at it?

A: I've been at it for about two years now. They're coming across my place, across my property. They're trashing it up. I don't want them coming across my place. ... Don't come across my United States. Don't come in my Arizona. I'm a citizen, I'm a patriot. ... People need to get concerned about this. There is a hell of a problem.

Q: How big is your ranch?

A: It's 22,000 acres.

Q: That's a pretty large ranch. How much frontage do you have on the border?

A: Well, on the border I don't have any frontage at all, none at all.

Q: How far from the border are you?

A: I'm two miles from the border on (the closest) side, on the west side. ... They still come through. The Border Patrol, their deployment tactics, their supervision, it's less desirable. There's 430 agents, they claim. And they're only picking up 1,000 a night. That figures out to about 2 to 2 1/2 apprehensions per agent. There's a problem there. ... About three weekends ago, my brother and I, we turned in 174 to the Border Patrol.

Q: How many have you turned in all together, now?

A: Probably between 2,000 and 3,000.

Q: How do you approach them? Do you have somebody to speak Spanish with you?

A: I can speak a few Spanish words.

Q: What do you tell them?

A: I know a few words as far as "walk," "sit," "stand up" --

stuff like that. ...

Q: Do you explain who you are?

A: No I don't. ... I'm an American citizen, I'm a patriot. I don't need to. ... I'm the patrolman of this gosh-dang place. ... They're criminals ... and they know it. They knew it when they came across, they're gonna have to sneak in like cockroaches in the night. Maybe that's a poor term for it. ... Some come in the daytime, but mostly at night. ... They know they done wrong. I'm always armed -- you've got to protect yourself out there.

Q: Have you had to use your weapon in any way, like a threat?

A: No. I've never had to unholster it. I hope I never have to. But if I have to, I'm prepared to do it.

Q: Have they run sometimes?

A: Oh, yeah. They run. But how far can they run? Sometimes we're on horseback, sometimes on foot, sometimes in cars. They just run until they get tired, and they lay down and give up.

Q: Have you had any threats on your life as a result of the leadership you've taken?

A: Not they I know of. There could be, but I haven't heard about them.

Q: What kind of reaction have you had from the local press, or just the local people?

A: Not only local. From all over the United States, they have called me. Congratulations! Different border patrolmen have told me, "Every American citizen ought to be doing this for their country."

Q: Is the issue still building with the media?

A: I think it is, yes, sir. ...

Q: Has there been any U.S. Hispanic media? Like Univision?

A: They've been down here just recently. But I've just refused to talk to them, too. What good does it do? I can't see where it's going to help.

Q: You're a little nervous about how objective they would be?

A: That's correct -- how objective they would be, what kind of people they reach. They're reaching the Hispanic community probably in the United States. ... It's going to a group that I don't think gives a damn about the situation.

Q: Do you have any Hispanics among your supporters?

A: Numerous of them. They have property, too. There's several who go to group meetings I go to. They stand up, and they're the most vocal. If I got that vocal, they'd call me a racist.

Q: Overall, where do you think the fault lies?

A: In the United States government. In the Mexican government. Both of them. They need to raise the wage in Mexico (to) where they can make a living. Right now their government is the biggest abuser of the Mexican people. ... They're so damn corrupt, it's unbelievable.

Q: I saw a flier encouraging people to come down and join the group that's patrolling the border? Do you have any involvement in that group?

A: I don't have any involvement. I saw it. ... If the government can't get it taken care of, maybe a person might have to resort to that. Whoever put that flier out had a good idea. I can see a lot of problems with it, but it could solve a lot of problems. ... We've got a hell of a problem. In a few more years, this country is not going to be no better off than Mexico. It'll turn into a Third World nation. ... Down the road, maybe a few years, there could be street fighting. I hope it never gets to that. If (the government) doesn't take care of the problem, the population will take care of it for them.

Q: Overall, if you were to grade the media on its coverage -- if you were the teacher -- what would you grade it?

A: Not very good. I think it probably would have to be a D.

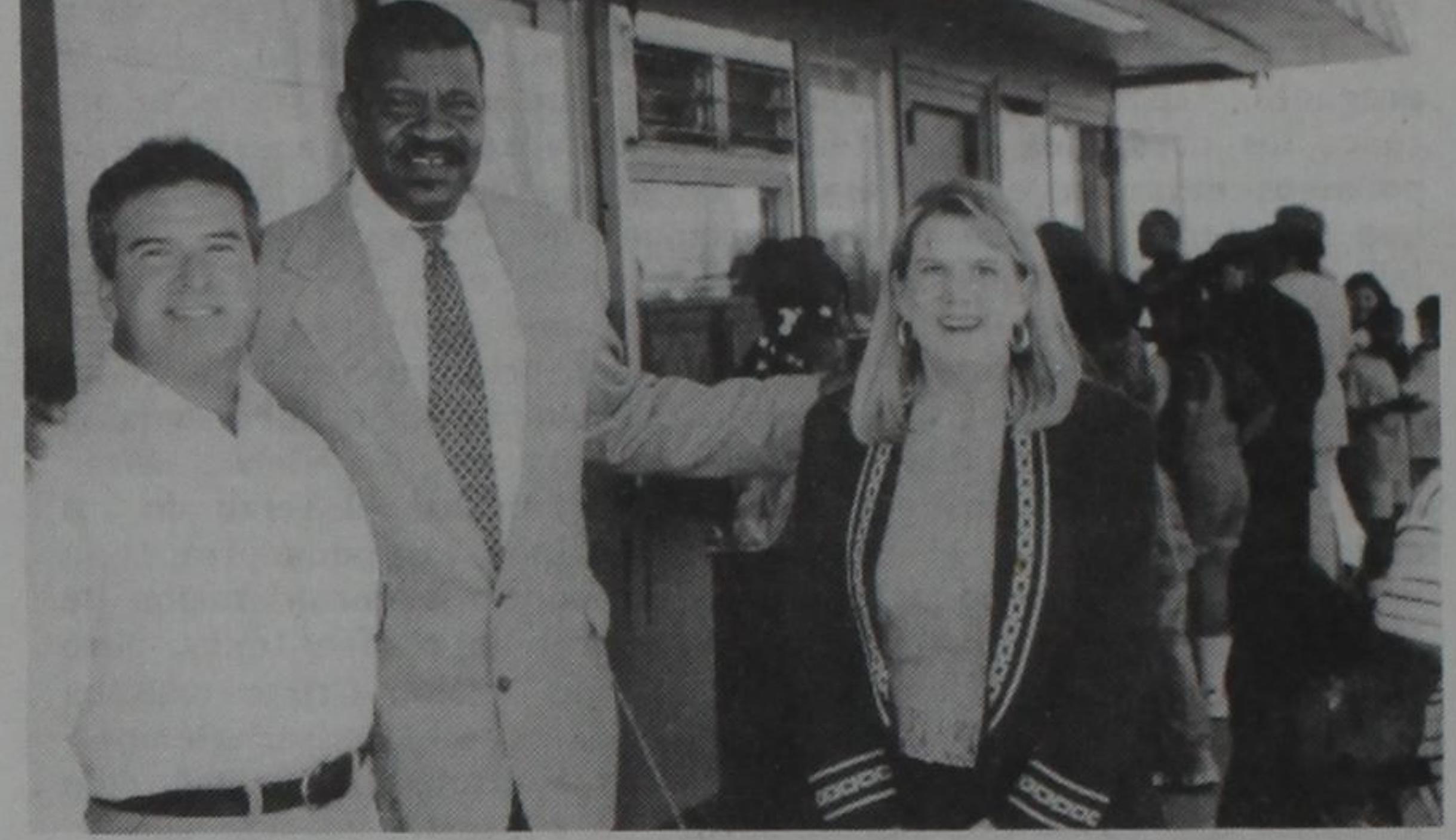
Q: Do you think that the exposure you've received from the press has had a positive or negative effect on the resolution?

A: I think it's going to have a positive effect. It's probably years down the road. Hopefully, it's in my lifetime. It's been going on for two years now, and our government's no closer to getting things solved.

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*Alderson High students honored at celebration -- students from Alderson Jr. High School in Lubbock were among those honored during a recent local Celebration of Educational Excellence hosted by South Plains College in Levelland. They were among more than 10,000 young Texans across the state recognized for outstanding academic achievement in a statewide program sponsored by the State Board of Education. From left on the front row are Steven manahan, Erika Martinez and Candis Haskins, and from left on the back row are: Phylicia Isaac, Idris Lateef, Matthew Gonzales, Shetarie Owens, and Amber Monroe.*

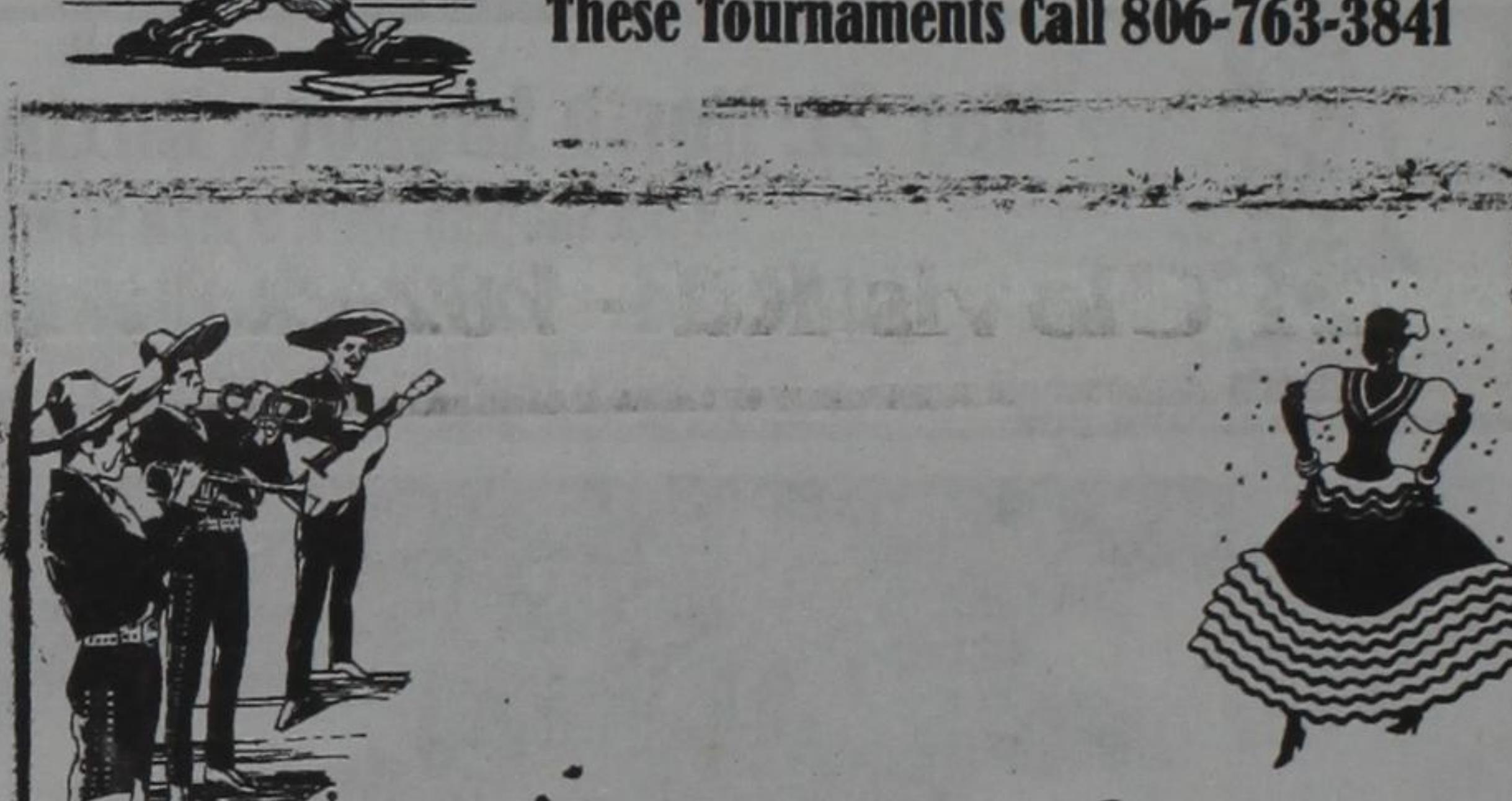


*Photo by John Cervantez*

*T.J. Patterson, joins Ysabel Luna and Mrs. Cox during the celebration of the art work done by the elementary schools in east Lubbock, Arnett, Posey, Bozeman, Hunt, Prkway, Wheatley, Ilse and Harwell. The concept of this positive message by the children, was to let the public know that exactly children feel from their own hearts. Ysabel Luna feels, that if we as grown ups would recapture the child mentality, we would never have the thoughts of indifference between us as humans and could work together a lot more to accomplish a better way of life for everyone. These paints are on display at Burrito Sabroso, 1212 MLK Blvd.*

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(Según lo explicó Cristo)

"Porque he venido para hacer disensión del hombre contra su padre, y de la hija contra su madre, y de la nuera contra su suegra." Mateo 10:35

Tales fueron las palabras con que el Señor Jesucristo despidió los discípulos a predicar el Evangelio, después de haber nombrado a los doce, según los primeros versículos del capítulo 10: de Mt. Les dijo: "No penséis que he venido para meter paz en la tierra, no he venido para meter paz, sino espada, porque he venido para hacer disensión del hombre contra su padre, de la hija contra su madre, y de la nuera contra su suegra, (bueno, eso es normal) y los enemigos del hombre serán los de su casa." (¡Cuidado!) En Estas palabras de nuestro Señor, hay cosas que los predicadores debemos entender. PRIMERO: Que no nos debemos sorprender de la reacción de la audiencia que escucha nuestros sermones, porque jamás harán el mismo efecto en todos los corazones y mentes que escuchan el mensaje. Y no olvidemos una cosa, ésto era el Evangelio fresquísimo del principio, acabado de hacer, la primera vez que los discípulos iban a predicar el Evangelio fresquísimo salido de los santos labios del Señor. El Señor sabía que en esos tiempos y no solamente en esos tiempos, sino que aún todavía en nuestros tiempos el Evangelio causa disensiones. Es verdad que el Evangelio ha causado divisiones. Ahora les dice claramente, "No penséis que he venido para meter paz en la tierra, no he venido para meter paz sino espada." Lo que les está diciendo: No vayan ustedes a pensar que ahora que son enviados a predicar el Evangelio, valla el evangelio a traer paz a todas las gentes. Porque eso no va a suceder. Y aquí surge la pregunta ¿porqué? el Evangelio no hace el mismo efecto en todos los corazones y mentes que lo escuchan, la manera que lo podemos entender es estudiando la misma Palabra de Dios. Porque lo cierto es, que ni los sermones que salían de los santos labios del Maestro hacían el mismo efecto en todos los corazones. Pues para nosotros entender ésto necesario es estudiar la misión que Cristo trajo cuando vino por primera vez, que nació de una virgen. Necesario es entender que en su primera misión Cristo no vino a establecer, sino a introducir. No vino a establecer el reino de los cielos, sino a introducir el reino de los cielos. Vino a pagar el precio y morir por los pecadores, y a introducir el evangelio del reino, y a ponerlo a consideración de las mentes; si ellos querían la vida eterna la podían tener, pero si no la querían la podían rechazar. Pues mismo Cristo causaba disensión en la mente y corazones de la gente de sus tiempos. En una ocasión él mismo preguntó a sus discípulos, "¿Qué dice la gente que es el hijo del hombre?" La contestación fue: que unos decían una cosa y otros otra. ¿Porqué sucede ésto, cuando la Escritura dice que Cristo es el Príncipe de paz, y que aquellos mensajeros de Lucas 2:14 decían: "Gloria en las alturas a Dios, y en la tierra paz." Y ahora Cristo dice a sus discípulos "No penséis que he venido a meter paz en la tierra, no he venido a meter paz, sino espada." Y ni la predicación del Evangelio va a meter paz en la tierra sino espada. "Porque he venido para hacer disensión." En otras palabras: El mensaje más santo, el mensaje más limpio, más puro que se predique no hará ésto, de hacer el mismo efecto en todos los hombres. Y no importa cuánto estudio se le ponga a un sermón, cuanto ayuno cuanta consagración y oración; no hay garantía, que ese sermón logrará qué el predicador desea; y Cristo quiere que sus enviados entiendan ésto. Para que no se vayan a descorazonar al ver la reacción de los hombres, por la dureza de su corazón. Y que así como a algunos no les trabaja el matrimonio, así a algunos no les va a trabajar el Evangelio. ¿Porqué? ¿Hay algún defecto en el Evangelio? ¿Hay algún defecto en Dios o en sus sermones? Entonces ¿porqué el sermón más puro y el sermón más limpio que se pueda predicar no hace el mismo efecto en todos? Lo mejor que se puede contestar es "Por la dureza del corazón" (sicuidado!)

## Hispanos Extienden Alcance a Latinoamerica

Por Oswaldo Zavala

A medida que la globalización y las prácticas gubernamentales más democráticas alcanzan a Latinoamérica, varias organizaciones hispanas de Estados Unidos están volteando la mirada hacia el sur de la frontera.

Desde los grupos activistas establecidos desde hace tiempo, como la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC, en inglés) hasta organismos de investigación y análisis como el Instituto de Política Tomás Rivera (TRPI en inglés), las organizaciones trabajan con una diversidad de programas que se ocupan de temas sociales, políticos y económicos. Algunos de los programas tienen más de 15 años de existencia; otros apenas comienzan.

Entre sus metas se hallan un mayor papel hispano en la política de relaciones exteriores y una mejor comprensión de la misma. Están formando relaciones comerciales más sólidas. Pero, por sobre todo, los dirigentes hispanos de la América Latina y de Estados Unidos trabajan juntos para crear un cambio hemisférico positivo.

Dos de los precursores en el desarrollo de estos programas son LULAC, radicada en Washington, D.C., y el Instituto William C. Velásquez (WCVI en inglés), en Los Angeles.

En 1984, el entonces presidente de LULAC, Mario Obledo, creó el Consejo Hispano para Asuntos Extranjeros (HFAC, en inglés) a fin de desarrollar relaciones con dirigentes latinos y emitir recomendaciones al gobierno de Estados Unidos sobre sus políticas. El instituto estableció vínculos con naciones latinoamericanas dos años después, una vez que tuvo su carta de constitución en 1985.

"Había una realidad allí, en la América Latina, y nos adelantamos a verla," dice Antonio González, presidente del WCVI. "No todo podía ser

únicamente acerca de la educación bilingüe o la inmigración. Y el mejor lugar para empezar a expandirse era Latinoamérica."

En el aspecto económico, la Cámara de Comercio México-Estados Unidos es experta en este tema. Desde su creación hace 26 años, la cámara ha realizado numerosas conferencias internacionales. Ahora capacita a funcionarios mexicanos y estadounidenses en el nuevo comercio electrónico.

"La política exterior ha sido eurocentrica," dice Al Pérez, director de comercio internacional de la cámara. "Necesitamos continuar promoviendo el comercio con la América Latina. Podemos hacer

mucho más que (el Tratado de Libre Comercio)."

Durante la conferencia del Consejo Hispano de Relaciones Internacionales el 26 de abril sobre política exterior de Estados Unidos, el enviado especial de la Casa Blanca para las Américas, Kenneth MacKay, enmarcó la encomienda hispana: "Debemos procurar el cambiar la percepción pública. Sus organizaciones deben contribuir a enfrentar el desafío de integrar este hemisferio".

(Oswaldo Zavala es reportero de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.)

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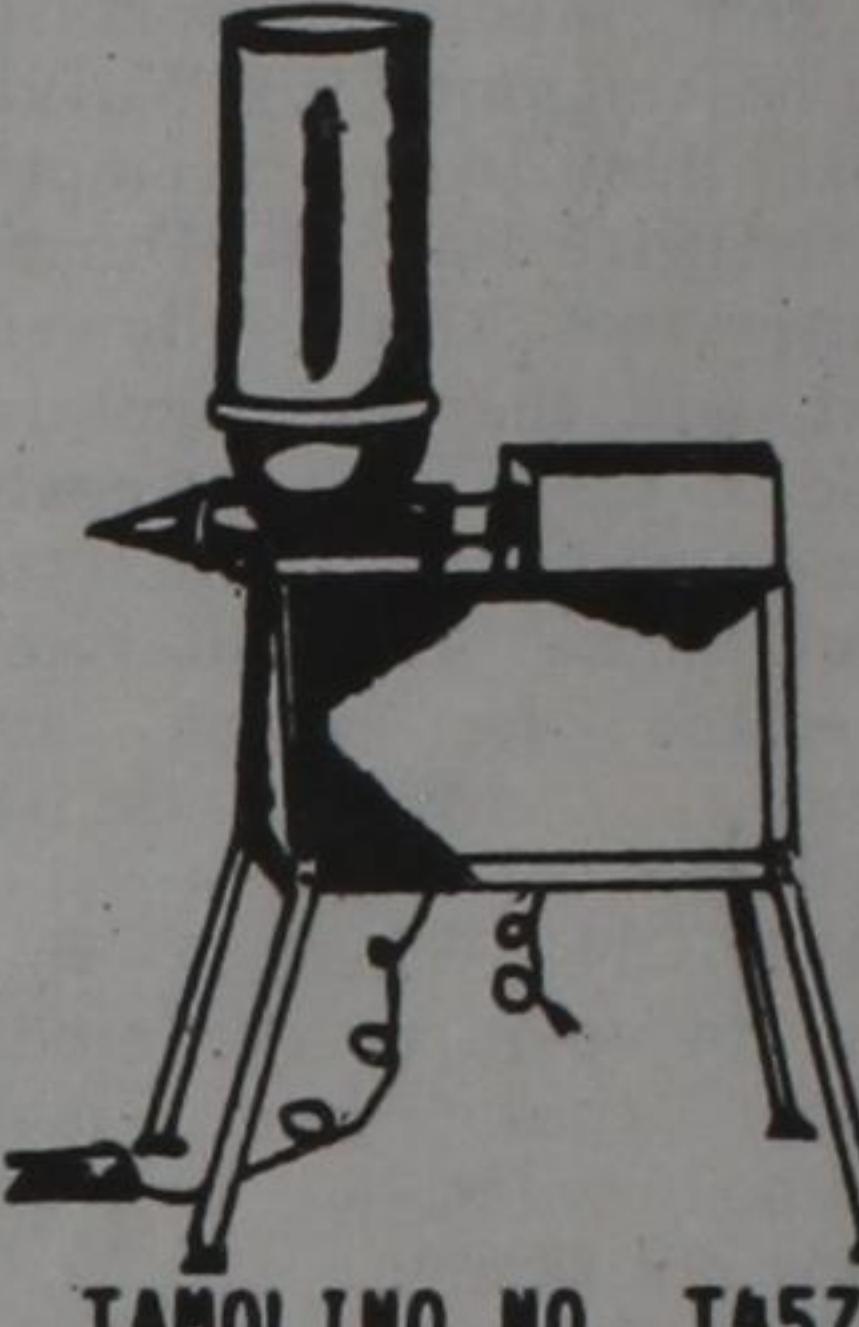
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