

# el Saltillo

"El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz"  
Lic. Benito Juarez

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## Bush to Seek Deep Cuts in Domestic Programs

President Bush this week will seek sharp cuts in highway projects, congressional environmental initiatives, job training and scores of other domestic programs, reflecting the trade-offs required by a fiscal 2003 budget that calls for record increases for the military and domestic security.

For weeks, Bush and members of his Cabinet have touted the president's spending initiatives on terrorism and the economic recovery, including a near doubling of spending on homeland security and a 13 percent boost in defense that would mirror the expansive Reagan-era military buildup.

Yet the administration has been less forthcoming about how it plans to do that. With war expenditures, the economic downturn and a major tax cut consuming the budget surplus, Bush has little choice but to cut or freeze spending in many parts of the government and to dip into Social Security and Medicare funds that previously were off limits, according to administration officials, congressional aides and special interest groups.

These reallocations of taxpayer dollars amount to a gradual but significant reshaping of the federal government's priorities

by the Bush administration, details of which will be laid out on Monday when the president formally unveils his spending plan for the coming year.

Bush makes the case for his approach in a statement that will accompany his budget plan: "By curbing unsuccessful programs and moderating the growth of spending in the rest of the government, we can well afford to fight terrorism, take action to restore economic growth and offer substan-

tial increases in spending for improved performance at low-income schools, key environmental programs, health care and science and technology research, and many other areas."

Bush's budget will include an unusually sharp \$9 billion cut in highway programs, due to the unexpected consequences of a budget formula that was designed to guarantee that the highway trust fund would be fully spent on highways and transit, officials said. This budget mechanism, called the Revenue Aligned Budget Authority formula, works well in an expanding economy but results in an unusually large cut when the economy turns down. The biggest loser is California, which is likely to lose nearly a quarter of the \$2.5 billion in federal aid it is receiving this year, according to the Transportation Department.

For the second consecutive year, the Army Corps of Engineers will take a serious hit in Bush's budget, according to sources, as the administration will propose a 10 percent to 15 percent reduction, a freeze on new projects and renewed efforts to get the corps to focus on its mission of undertaking flood control, navigation and environmental projects. Last year, Congress thwarted efforts by the White House to cut the agency's spending by 14 percent.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors wrote the White House and Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao last week protesting a proposal to eviscerate spending for a youth job training program, from \$225 million this year to \$45 million next year. The program

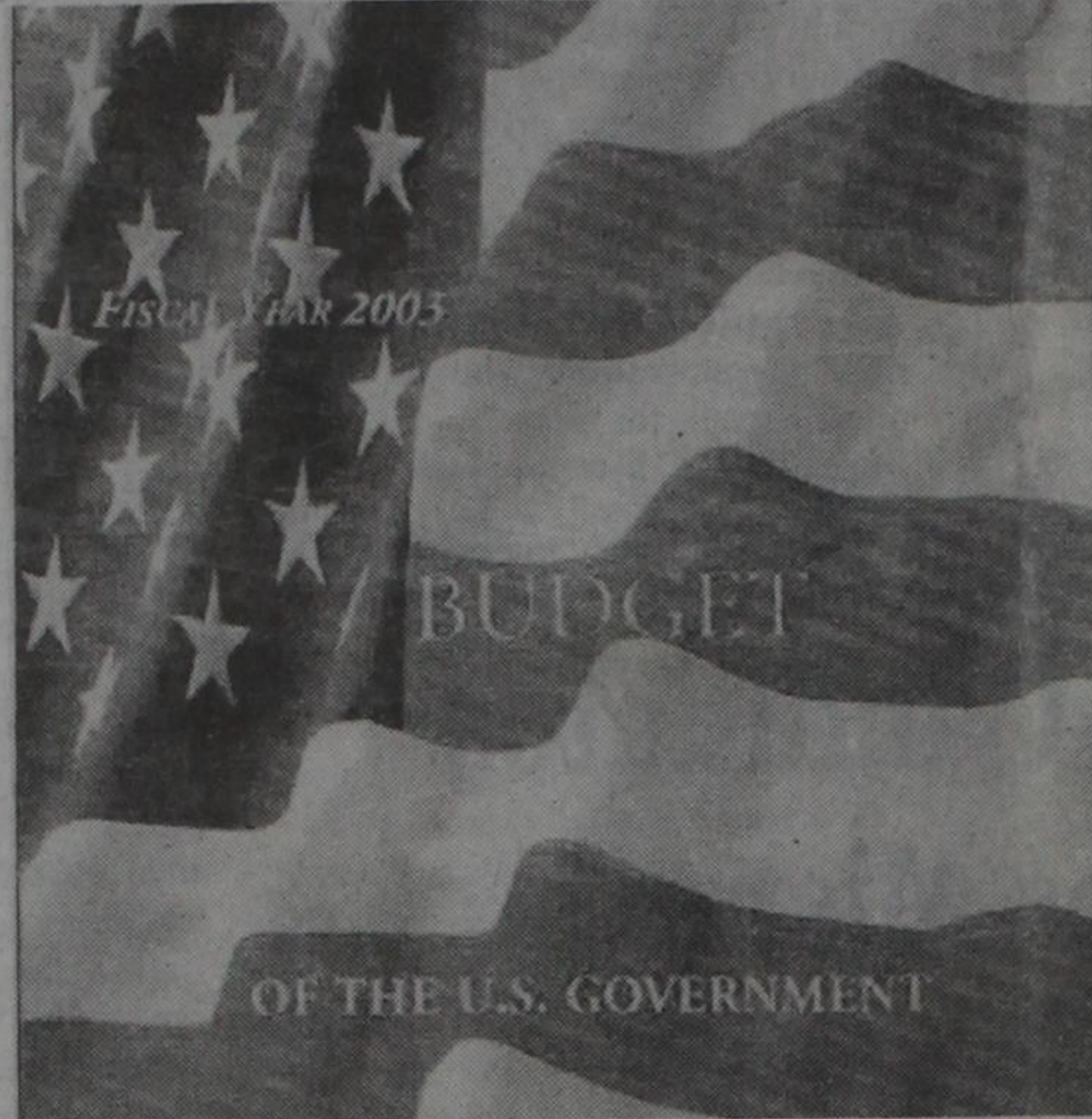
passed Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support under the Clinton administration in 1998.

The grants go to 36 cities, including the District. Gregg Irish, director of the D.C. Department of Employment Services, said half of the District's five-year, \$32 million program could be cut, even though teen unemployment in 2000 was 33.1 percent. "We need this. We need to build this system to deal with out-of-school youth," he said.

White House budget office spokesman Trent Duffy said yesterday that the training program proved far less effective in helping young people get jobs than the Job Corps.

Budget documents and analysts who have studied them say the administration is considering cutting an additional \$620 million in grants to the states for training and education, including \$350 million to youth programs other than the Job Corps, for which Bush announced he would ask for a \$73 million increase.

The president will seek an overall reduction in EPA spending from this year's (continued page 4)



## Los Activistas Por Los Derechos Humanos Evidencian Una Conciencia Selectiva

Por Miguel Pérez

Cuando ex-prisioneros políticos cubanos escuchan a las organizaciones de derechos humanos defender a viva voz a los prisioneros del régimen talibán que se encuentran en la Base Naval de EE.UU. en Guantánamo, Cuba, dicen que se siente como una patada en el estómago -- literalmente.

A cientos se les hace muy difícil aceptar la ironía de que hayan sido estos mismos grupos los que no le hicieron al resto de Cuba durante las últimas cuatro décadas.

La repentina preocupación por los prisioneros talibanes detenidos en el pedacito de Cuba que controla Estados Unidos, les recuerda las muchas palizas y humillaciones que soportaron en los calabozos de Fidel Castro.

Piensen que por lo menos algunas de estas organizaciones de derechos humanos deberían alzar su voz en defensa de los miles de prisioneros políticos -- algunos de los cuales llevan décadas encarcelados bajo el régimen dictatorial de Castro.

Para Antonio Pons, que vive en Teaneck, Nueva Jersey, los recuerdos hasta incluyen efectos acústicos. El oye los gritos de sus compañeros prisioneros momentos antes de que les dispara el batallón de fusilamiento de la infame La Cabana, un fuerte español convertido en presidio. "Gritaban ¡Qué viva Cristo Rey! o ¡Qué viva Cuba libre! o ¡Abajo el comunismo!" y luego se escuchaban

los disparos", dice Pons. "Los presos les gritaban a los guardias desde las galerías de celdas, criminales, asesinos, y juntos cantábamos el himno nacional de Cuba."

Pons paso dieciséis de sus 57 años en los peores calabozos de Castro para prisioneros políticos. Como tantos otros que hoy viven en Estados Unidos, tiene la autoridad moral para cuestionar el parámetro doble de los activistas de derechos humanos, especialmente cuando reaccionan de maneras tan distintas a cómo el gobierno de Estados Unidos trata a sus prisioneros y cómo el gobierno de Cuba trata a los suyos.

"Ahora todos quieren ayudar a los prisioneros de Guantánamo y realmente duele", dice. "Me hace recordar a mis compañeros reclusos que terminaban frente al batallón de fusilamiento, noche tras noche, mientras nadie en el mundo decía nada para defenderlos. Podría enumerar los muchos cubanos jóvenes que fueron ejecutados."

Pregúntele a Pons cuántas visitas de extranjeros activistas de derechos humanos recibió y contesta enfáticamente con dos palabras: "Nunca, jamás. ... Nunca. No recibí una sola visita de la Cruz Roja o de nadie interesado en mis derechos humanos", dice. "Los grupos pedían permiso para visitar prisiones cubanas, Castro se lo denegaba, y hasta ahí llegaba el asunto. Nunca ejercieron presión sobre Castro como lo hacen ahora

con el gobierno estadounidense respecto a los talibanes de Guantánamo". Irónicamente, Pons dice que muchos de los prisioneros políticos que todavía quedan en la Cuba de Castro intercambiarían felices de lugar con los prisioneros en Guantánamo.

"Todos los prisioneros merecen un trato humanitario", dice "Pero no podemos olvidar que la gente que murió en las Torres Gemelas también merecía un trato humanitario. Fueron vilmente asesinados por terroristas del mismo tipo que los detenidos en Guantánamo."

Pons nunca fue terrorista. Fue acusado de realizar "actividades contrarrevolucionarias", desde organizar una marcha de protesta hasta conspirar para matar a Castro. "Todo era falso", dice. "Cuando querían sacar de circulación a los que se oponían al gobierno, se inventaban cargos falsos y te encerraban".

Pons se la pasó entrando y

saliendo de las cárceles de Castro desde los 16 años en 1962. En 1980, llegó a Estados Unidos, con su esposa y su hermano, quienes también habían sido prisioneros políticos. Fueron montados en un barco y enviados a Estados Unidos como parte de la flotilla de refugiados del puerto de Mariel.

Ahora Pons es jefe de ventas para la compañía de comidas La Cena y miembro productivo y exitoso de una sociedad libre. En este país, nadie lo ha metido en la cárcel por expresar sus ideas políticas -- algo que hace con frecuencia en estos días.

"Hay muchos prisioneros que viven ahora mismo en condiciones infrahumanas en muchas otras cárceles de Cuba", dice. "Todavía necesitan una voz. Por lo menos una de esas organizaciones de derechos humanos debería dar la cara y hablar por ellos".

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## La Clave Al Misterio Del Indice De Partos Entre Las Latinas

Por Raymond Rodriguez

El índice de nacimientos entre las madres latinas comprende casi 50 por ciento de medio millón de bebés nacidos en California cada año, y para el año 2055, se proyecta será más. Este hecho tan simple lo ven diferentes grupos tanto alarmados como sorprendidos, por razones muy diferentes:

Un grupo percibe que el índice de nacimientos es una reconquista silenciosa de los territorios que perdió México en 1848. El otro grupo se sorprende con el hecho de que los bebés sean tan fuertes a pesar de que sus madres no reciben cuidados pre-natales adecuados.

Antetodo, quiero asegurarle al primer grupo que no se anticipa ni se contempla ninguna reconquista territorial. Jamás ocurriría una reconquista por una razón fundamental. La seguridad se encuentra entre la comunidad latina en general y el segmento de la población latina cuyas raíces remontan a México en particular. No tiene importancia que hayan estado aquí generaciones o si son relativamente recién llegados.

La razón la explica el antiguo dicho: "¿Dónde es mi tierra? ¿Dónde me vaya bien!" Los latinoamericanos se han beneficiado viviendo en los Estados Unidos, a pesar de los defectos y prácticas muchas veces discriminatorias que encuentran aquí. En muchos casos, especialmente para los que vienen

de Centroamérica, el beneficio ha sido vivir y no morir. ¡Los latinos no son tontos! Saben dónde y cuándo les va bien. A la mayoría, incluyendo a los recién llegados, les va mejor aquí que en su país de origen.

Los latinos están aquí, y aquí se quedarán. Son de gran lealtad y patriotismo nacidos de la devoción y el aprecio. Es por eso que se ven latinos, ciudadanos o no, alistándose para defender a la nación que les ha tratado bien a ellos y a sus familias. Pobre de aquél que quiera herir esta nación o interferir con nuestra libertad.

En cuanto a lo segundo, bien comprenden los latinos la sorpresa de algunos supuestos expertos con referencia a lo saludable que son sus bebés, sin disfrutar de cuidados pre-natales adecuados. Al sumar el nivel de pobreza, nutrición inadecuada, carencia de educación, condiciones malas de vivienda, carencia de atención médica, y a veces madres solteras, la condición tan robusta de los bebés latinos recién nacidos es verdaderamente increíble. Los expertos hasta le han dado un nombre: la paradoja epidemiológica latina. A primera vista pareciera paradoja, en particular a los que no tienen conocimiento de la cultura latina.

Es necesario considerar el hecho muy importante de que un bebé fuerte es el producto del estilo de (continued on page 2)

Ya Viene El Vestival Viva  
Aztlan Lean Mas en las  
Proximas Semanas

## Texans Ask If All Latino Candidates Think Alike?

By Marisa Treviño

Finally, there has arrived a sign that Texas is in the 21st century. The two leading candidates in this year's Democratic primary race for governor, Tony Sánchez and Dan Morales, are both Hispanic.

It's a milestone, but one coated with irony. They're not from the same political cookie-cutter.

One of their biggest disagreements happens to be on a concern that's a remnant of the last century. It deals with an issue that usually serves as a solidarity point for Latinos: college diversity, otherwise known as affirmative action.

Morales, who served in the elective post of state attorney general from 1991 to 1998, feels that college admissions should be race-neutral. He drove that point home in 1996, when he not only sided with the four white law students who had filed a discrimination lawsuit against the University of Texas at Austin, but broadened the ruling in a formal opinion to include scholarships, financial aid and recruiting.

Sánchez, a Laredo businessman worth millions, takes the opposite stance. But the real debate revolves around this question: Do students of color finally have the same chance of getting into higher education as other students?

This issue would be a no-brainer if educators and legislators examined the facts for what they are today, if they didn't try to envision the perfect world of tomorrow where biases, income differentiation, low expectations and unequal educational opportunities are (hopefully) eradicated.

The argument that college admissions should be color-blind is a noble one with merit. It should be enforced. Just not yet.

necessary skills that these tests measure. The proof is there. For example, why is

College Board, the maker of the SAT, implores the public to take notice. "The score gaps for different racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups that we see on the SAT also appear on virtually every measure of achievement, including other standardized tests," he says. "These differences are a powerful illustration of a persistent social problem in our country -- inequitable access to high-quality education."

If all things were equal, this would not be the case.

There's no denying the standardized test is here to stay. And thanks to the recently passed state education bill, students will start at younger ages subsidizing their learning by filling in the bubbles. That's why it's more important than ever that all children receive the same opportunities when it comes to mastering the necessary skills to take standardized tests.

It takes work, but it can be done. Dr. Robert Webking, political science professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, knows firsthand how much work is entailed to equip students with the skills to achieve high test scores.

Webking was frustrated when a group of Latino college students who had the "intelligence, study habits, work ethics, personal qualities and even the grades" to get a law degree couldn't score high enough on the LSAT to warrant a yawn from prospective law schools. So he, along with a colleague, created UTEP's Law School Preparation Institute in 1998.

In the program, Webking helps students develop analytical skills and sophisticated

reasoning skills, abilities measured by the LSAT. The payoff has been that the number of UTEP students attending Top 50 law schools, such as Harvard and Cornell, has tripled.

"All students need is the opportunity and direction to do the work in the most effective way, and they'll do the work to succeed," says Webking. "It happens, and what has happened is that our students have erased the score gap. It doesn't exist for our students."

Techniques that Dr. Webking and his colleague use could easily be transferred into a set curriculum at any grade level. According to College Board President Gaston Caperton, evidence of score gaps between different racial and ethnic groups can be seen as early as the fourth grade.

Is it any wonder that by the time these students reach high school they consider themselves failures at taking standardized tests?

Whether we like it or not, more emphasis and importance will be placed on standardized tests. It's only fair then to acknowledge that the score gap exists and to begin working on a 21st century solution to close it.

Otherwise, debates like that of between Morales and Sánchez, pitting those who understand today's realities against those who refuse to see the evidence for what it is, will always serve to divide a nation that, more than ever, needs to be unified as well as educated.

El Editor  
First in News



Too much evidence has emerged over the last several years showing that no matter how much students of color study, they still lag behind their white and Asian peers in standardized tests.

Such tests play a heavy role in determining the difference between a future of dead-end jobs or charging up the corporate ladder.

Why? Because students of color lack the

it that Hispanic and African-American students still have lower passing rates on the TAAS (Texas Assessment of Academic Skills) test than their white and Asian peers? According to last year's scores, 89 percent of white students passed all the tests, while only 70 percent of Hispanics and 68 percent of African Americans passed.

Even Gaston Caperton, president of The

# Human Rights Activists Show Selective Awareness

By Miguel Pérez

When former Cuban political prisoners see human rights organizations crying out in defense of the Taliban prisoners at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo, Cuba, they say it feels like a kick in the stomach - literally.

By the hundreds, they are finding it difficult to accept the irony that these same groups have virtually ignored the rest of Cuba for the last four decades.

The sudden concern for Taliban prisoners held in a very small U.S.-controlled portion of Cuba reminds them of the many beatings and humiliations they endured in Fidel Castro's gulags.

They feel at the very least some of these human rights organizations should speak up on behalf of the hundreds of political prisoners - some jailed for decades under Castro's dictatorial regime.

For Antonio Pons, who lives in Teaneck, N.J., the memories even include sound effects. He hears the cries of his fellow prisoners moments before they were shot by a firing squad at Havana's infamous La Cabana, a Spanish fortress-

prison. "They shouted 'Long live the King' or 'Long live free Cuba' or 'Down with communism,' and then you heard the shots," Pons says in Spanish. "The prisoners in the galleys would shout at the guards, 'murderers, assassins,' and together we would sing the Cuban national anthem."

Pons spent 16 of his 57 years in Castro's worst dungeons for political prisoners. Like so many others now living in the United States, he has the moral authority to challenge the double standards of human rights activists, especially when they respond quite differently to how the U.S. and Cuban governments treat their prisoners.

"Now everyone wants to help the prisoners in Guantanamo, and it really hurts," he says. "It reminds me of my prison companions who were taken before the firing squad night after night, while no one in the world would stand up to defend them. I could list the names of many young Cubans who were executed then."

Ask him how many visits he received from foreign human rights

activists, and Pons emphatically repeats two words in Spanish. "Nunca, jamas. ... Never. I never got a visit from the Red Cross or from anyone concerned about my human rights," he says. "These groups would ask for permission to visit Cuban prisons, Castro would deny it, and that's as far as it went. They never pressured Castro the way they are now pressuring the U.S. government over the Talibans in Guantanamo."

Ironically, Pons says, many prisoners still remaining in the rest of Cuba would gladly trade places with those in Guantanamo. "All prisoners in the world deserve humane treatment," he says. "But we can't forget that the people in the Twin Towers deserved humane treatment, too. They were assassinated in a cowardly way by terrorists just like the ones being held at Guantanamo."

Pons was never a terrorist. He was charged with various "counterrevolutionary activities" -- from organizing a protest march to plotting to kill Castro. "It was all false," he says. "Whenever they

wanted to take those who opposed the government out of circulation, they came up with phony charges and locked you up."

Pons was in and out of Castro's prisons from the time he was 16 years old in 1962. In 1980, he came to the United States with his wife and brother, who also had been political prisoners. They were placed on a boat and sent to the United States as part of the Mariel Harbor refugee flotilla.

He is now a sales supervisor for La Cena food company and a productive and successful member of a free society. In this country, no one has put him in prison for expressing his political views -- which is something he is doing quite often nowadays.

"There are many prisoners living under inhumane conditions in many other Cuban prisons right now," he says. "They still need a voice. At least one of those human rights organizations should stand up and speak for them."

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# There's An Answer To The "Mystery" of Latina Births

By Raymond Rodriguez

The birth rate among Latino mothers accounts for nearly half of some 500,000 babies born in California each year, and by the year 2005, it's projected to be more than half.

That simple fact is viewed with both alarm and amazement by different groups, and for very different reasons: One group sees the birth rate as a silent reconquest of territories taken from Mexico in 1848. The other group is amazed by the fact that although many Latinas do not receive adequate prenatal care, their babies tend to be surprisingly healthy.

First, I want to assure the first group that no territorial reconquest is anticipated or contemplated. There is one fundamental reason why such a development will never take place. The assurance can be found in the Latino community at large, and the segment of the Latino population that traces its roots to Mexico, in particular. It does not matter if they have been here for generations or if they are relatively recent arrivals.

The reason is contained in an old adage: "¿Dónde es mi tierra? Donde me vaya bien." The United States, despite its shortcomings and often discriminatory practices, has been good to the people from Latin America. In many instances, especially for those from Central America, it has actually meant the difference between life and death.

The Latino people are not fools! They know where and when they are well off. Most of them, including recent arrivals, are better off here than they were in their own homeland.

Latinos are here, and here they will stay. Theirs is a loyalty and patriotism born of devotion and appreciation. That is why you see Latinos, whether citizens or not, volunteering to defend the nation that has been good to them and their families. Woe be it to anyone who attempts to harm this nation or interfere with our freedoms.

Concerning the second aspect, Latinos can readily understand the puzzlement of some so-called experts regarding the healthy status of Latino babies, despite the lack of adequate prenatal care. And if one adds the poverty level, substandard diet, lack of parental education, poor housing conditions, lack of medical attention and, in some

instances, single motherhood to the mix, the healthy condition of newborn Latino babies is truly amazing.

The experts have even coined a name for it: Latino epidemiological paradox. At first, it may seem to be a paradox, especially to those who are not familiar with the Latino culture.

Individuals need to consider the very important fact that a healthy baby is the product of a mother's lifestyle. Medical attention, prenatal care and proper medication are important, but they only enhance; they neither create nor produce the circumstances that result in having a healthy baby.

Due to the restrictions and standards of conduct Latino society imposes on its young women, especially among the newly arrived immigrant groups, Latinas are less likely to smoke, drink, take drugs, consume junk food or engage in strenuous activities that may have a harmful impact upon the unborn fetus. Latinas also tend bear children at a younger age than other women, which also influences the baby's health.

The close ties of Latino families is also a significant factor. Having a baby is a family affair. Once a Latina becomes pregnant, she becomes the center of attention. Grandmothers and mothers, as well as older sisters who have had children, unite in providing the mother-to-be the care and information that she needs to bear a strong, healthy baby.

Consequently, a baby is nurtured not only in its mother's womb, it is also nourished by familial love. Unborn babies naturally sense if they are loved and wanted.

In Latino families, children are considered gifts from God because only He can create the miracle of a beautiful, healthy baby. Therefore, a newborn baby is not "hers" or "yours" or "theirs." It is "our" baby. It belongs to the entire family. And as far as Latinos are concerned, it does not take a village to raise a child; it takes a loving and extended family. In the Latino culture, a baby or a young child is showered with attention and affection. And a happy baby is a healthy baby! Ask any abuelita. Any grandmother.

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## A WORD

Last week I introduced in my writing the first fallen marriage, "Adam" (male and female) their significant three sons. A second family with also three sons with similaries; blessing, curse and moved away from a beginning of time to another beginning. The curse in both families afflicted the generations to come; while in turn a blessed sons were chosen to bring a latter chosen people. A long history of the people that continued following on a patter of being brought-out of bondage to just fall back again. It was not until about "2000" years ago that this pattern came to an end.

But before all these "firsts" let me tell about another first; the one that set the "sage" for those "first" and others that followed, "In the beginning God created..."

With a background in "pottery" and art I would like to share an illustrated of that accounts, how the cosmos with all it's array came to being and their effects to the coming generations to today's date.

Now the origin of the elements that composed the physical universe - "Out of nothing." I ref... "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1) "This is what the ancients were commended for (Heb. 11:2) By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible" (heb. 11:3)

Before, man, time and "promise" God had plans. In God's creation, he formed his things in a very rational and logic way. These things came with a reason and purpose. Amazingly his first man (Adam) comes equipped with His creator attributes too. (Genesis 18-2) "When god created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female; at the time they were created; he blessed them and called them "man." also (Gen. 1:26, 27)

(Psalm 8; 3-9) "Cuando me fijo - when I consider - tu cielo, - your heavens, - El trabajo de tus dedos, - the works of your fingers - La Luna y las estrellas, - The moon and the stars, Quel usted sento en lugar - which you have set in place, - que usted ested Pendiente de el, - that you are mindful of him, - El hijo de hombre - The son of man - Que te importa de el? - That you care for him? - Lo has hecho un poquito bajo de Dios - you made him a little lower than God - Y lo coronates con gloria y honor, - and crowned him with glory and honor. - Lo has hecho rey - you made him ruler - Hariba de trabajo de tus manos; - over the works of your hand; - Pusites todo bajo de sus pies; - you put everything under his feeti - toda oveja y vacas - all flocks and herds - y el alimal del campo - and the beast of the field, - el pajaro de viento - the bird of the air - y el pesado del mar, - and the fish of the sea, - todo que nada al paso de los mares. - All that swim the paths of the seas. - Oh Dios, - Oh God, - Nuestro Señor - Our Lord - Que nobel es - how majestic is - tu nombre en toda la tierra! - Your name in all the earth!" Also...(Genesis 1:26-30) ... be fruitful ... rule over ... blessed them ... I give you everything... A FRIEND.

## El Editor Newspapers

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# Que Se Lo Digan En Texas - Los Candidatos Latinos No Piensan Todos Los Mismo

Por Marisa Treviño

Finalmente llegó una señal de que Texas está firmemente en el siglo 21. Este año, ambos candidatos principales de la contienda por el cargo de gobernador de las primarias demócratas, Tony Sánchez y Dan Morales, son hispanos.

Se trata de un hito en la historia, aunque esté bañado en ironía. Los candidatos no son astillas del mismo palo.

Una de sus diferencias principales gira en torno a una preocupación heredada del siglo pasado. Se trata de un asunto que suele ser una coyuntura de solidaridad entre latinos: la diversidad en las universidades, también conocida como la política de acción afirmativa.

Morales, que ocupó el cargo electo de fiscal general estatal desde 1991 hasta 1998, piensa que la admisión a la universidad debe ser imparcial en materia de etnicidad. No cupo duda sobre su parecer después de que en 1996 no sólo se alió con los cuatro estudiantes de derecho que habían demandado por discrimen a la Universidad de Texas en Austin, sino que expandió la decisión a una opinión formal que incluiría asuntos de beca, de asistencia económica y de reclutamiento. Sánchez, un empresario de Laredo con un perfil financiero de millones, asume la posición contraria.

Sin embargo el debate más interesante reside en esta pregunta: ¿A la larga, tienen los estudiantes de color la misma posibilidad de cursar estudios superiores que otros estudiantes?

Este asunto sería obvio si los educadores y los legisladores examinaran lo que demuestran los hechos por lo que implican hoy en día, si no trataran de visualizar el mundo perfecto del futuro, donde los favoritismos, la diferenciación por ingreso, las bajas expectativas y la desigualdad de oportunidades educativas estarán (ojalá) erradicadas.

El argumento de que la admisión universitaria debiera ser ciega al prejuicio racial es uno noble y con mérito. Debería ser puesto en práctica. Sólo que todavía no.

Demasiada evidencia ha surgido en los últimos años que demuestra que no importa cuánto estudian los estudiantes de color, todavía se quedan detrás de sus pares blancos y asiáticos en los exámenes estandarizados.

Estos exámenes desempeñan un papel importante a la hora de determinar la diferencia entre un futuro de trabajos sin salida o subir con ligereza la jerarquía corporativa. ¿Por qué?

Porque muchos estudiantes de color carecen de las destrezas que estos exámenes miden. La prueba ya está frente a nosotros.

Por ejemplo, ¿por qué los estudiantes hispanos y afroamericano-americanos tienen todavía índices de aprobación más bajos en las pruebas TAAS (las siglas en inglés para la evaluación de destrezas académicas de Texas) que sus pares blancos y asiáticos? De acuerdo a los resultados del año pasado, el 89 por ciento de los estudiantes blancos aprobó todos los exámenes mientras sólo el 70 por ciento de los hispanos y el 68 por ciento de los afroamericano-americanos lo aprobó. Incluso Gaston Caperton, presidente del College Board, el

creador del SAT (siglas en inglés del examen de acceso a la universidad en EE. UU.) le ruega al público en general que atienda el asunto.

"Las brechas en puntuación para diferentes grupos raciales, étnicos y socioeconómicos que encontramos en el SAT también aparecen en prácticamente todos los instrumentos de medir logro, incluso en otras pruebas estandarizadas", dice. "Estas diferencias constituyen prueba innegable de un problema social persistente en nuestro país -- el acceso desigual a educación de alta calidad."

Si todo estuviera parejo, éste no sería el caso.

No se puede negar que las pruebas estandarizadas están aquí para quedarse. Además, gracias a la ley estatal de educación que se aprobó recientemente, los estudiantes comenzarán a subsidiar su educación llenando las bolitas a edades más tempranas. Por ello resulta más importante que nunca que todos los niños reciban las mismas oportunidades en lo que atañe a dominar las destrezas necesarias para tomar las pruebas. Requiere esfuerzo pero se puede hacer.

El Dr. Robert Webking, profesor de ciencias políticas en la Universidad de Texas en El Paso

### De la pagina una

vida de la madre. La atención médica, cuidados pre-natales y medicamentos apropiados son importantes, pero sólo mejoran, ni crean ni producen las circunstancias cuyo resultado es un niño saludable. Con las restricciones y expectativas de conducta que les impone la sociedad latina a las jóvenes, en particular entre los grupos recién inmigrados, es menos probable que una latina fume, beba, use drogas, consuma comida al paso o participe en actividades que requieran fuerza que podrían dañar al feto. Las latinas también tienden a dar a luz más jóvenes que otras mujeres, lo cual tiene influencia en la salud del bebé.

Lo unidas que son las familias latinas también es un factor determinante. El tener un bebé es cuestión de toda la familia. Una vez encinta, la joven se vuelve el centro

(UTEP), sabe por experiencia cuánto trabajo implica armar a los estudiantes con las destrezas que necesitan para obtener puntuaciones altas. Webking se frustra cuando un grupo de estudiantes universitarios latinos que tenía "la inteligencia, los hábitos de estudio, la ética del trabajo, las cualidades personales, y aun las notas" para conseguir un grado en derecho no podían obtener una puntuación lo suficientemente alta para ameritar ni siquiera un bostezo de posibles escuelas de derecho. Así que, junto con un colega, creó en 1998 el Law School Preparation Institute (el instituto de preparación para la escuela de derecho).

En el programa, Webking ayuda a los estudiantes a desarrollar destrezas analíticas y sofisticadas destrezas de razonamiento, las mismas que evalúa el LSAT (el examen de ingreso a la escuela de derecho). El resultado ha sido que el número de estudiantes de UTEP matriculados en las 50 mejores escuelas de derecho, que incluyen a Harvard y a Cornell, se ha triplicado. Los estudiantes sólo necesitan la oportunidad y la orientación para hacer el trabajo de la manera más efectiva, y harán el trabajo para tener éxito", dice Webking. "Sucede, y lo que ha ocurrido es que nuestros estudiantes a cerrado la brecha de puntuación,

de atención. Las abuelas y las madres, al igual que las hermanas mayores que hayan tenido ya hijos, se unen para ofrecerle a la nueva madre los cuidados y la información que necesita para tener un bebé fuerte y saludable. Como consecuencia, el bebé recibe alimento no sólo del vientre de su madre, sino también del amor de la familia. Los bebés antes de nacer sienten por naturaleza si los quieren o no. Entre las familias latinas, los bebés son considerados regalos de Dios porque sólo El puede crear el milagro de un bebé bello y fuerte.

Por lo tanto, el recién nacido no es de "ella", "tuyo" o de "ellos" sino "nuestro". Es de la familia entera. Y para los latinos, no se necesita todo un pueblo para criar a un niño; se necesita una familia amorosa y extendida. La cultura latina llena de atenciones y cariño a un bebé. ¡Y un bebé feliz es un bebé fuerte! Que se lo cuente cualquier abuelita.

Ya no existe para nuestros estudiantes".

Las técnicas que usan el Dr. Webking y su colega podrían transferirse fácilmente a un currículo a cualquier nivel académico. Según el presidente del College Board, Gaston Caperton, la evidencia de las brechas en puntuación entre diferentes grupos raciales y étnicos se puede observar tan temprano como en el cuarto grado.

¿Sorprende entonces que para cuando estos mismos estudiantes llegan a la escuela superior se consideren fracasados en pruebas estandarizadas?

Nos guste o no, las pruebas estandarizadas recibirán mayor énfasis e importancia. Simplemente, es justo que se reconozca que la brecha en puntuación existe y comenzar a encontrar una solución digna del siglo 21 para cerrarla.

De otra manera, los debates como el de Morales y Sánchez, que enfrentan a los que entienden las realidades de hoy día y a los que se niegan a ver lo que significa la evidencia, servirán siempre para dividir a una nación que, más que nunca, necesita estar unida e instruida.

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# Panel To Plan Black History Museum

U.S. Rep. John Lewis envisions a slave ship exhibit, depicting the passage from West Africa to America.

The chairman of Howard University's Afro-American studies department, Russell Adams, wants to be sure there's a place for the stories of today's black middle class and the problems of the black underclass.

The challenges of capturing all the triumphs and tragedies of American blacks in the first National Museum of African American History and Culture are just starting to emerge as the project crawls forward from concept to reality.

It should "tell the story of African-Americans from the days of slavery to the present," said Lewis, a civil rights leader and longtime proponent of a national black museum.

"Part of that story has not been told, and in America so many people grew up ... without knowing the contributions of their fellow Americans."

A 23-member museum commission was created under legislation sponsored by Lewis, a Democrat from Georgia, and signed into law by President Bush in December.

Its members are expected to be named in the next few weeks. They will have \$2 million and nine months to come up with a plan for establishing the national museum in Washington.

Specifically, they will have to report on the availability and cost of collections that would be housed in the museum, where it would be located and who should operate it.

Most supporters agree the museum should be broadly focused. But figuring out how to tell the story of the black experience in America can be a delicate issue, Adams said.

"If the museum picks the big themes of the evolution of the society, they can tell a story that has sunshine and shadows without aggravating race relations. That's always a problem," Adams said.

People "don't want to come to Washington and come out of the museum in tears, or come out of the museum wanting to hit somebody."

Frederick Douglass IV, president of Friends of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, envisions a place that would be interactive and appeal to young people.

"I wouldn't want it to just be a dusty display of books and some old clothes and some photographs on the wall," said Douglass, who regularly performs reenactments of his abolitionist great-great grandfather's life. "I want it to come off the walls."

Many involved in the project also agree the museum should be placed on the well-traveled National Mall.

But according to the Smithsonian Institution, the only space left on the Mall is in the red-brick Arts and Industries building, which is more than 120 years old and would need to be renovated extensively to house fragile collections.

The commission will also have to address how a national museum would affect other black history museums. There are more than 200

such local and regional museums, historic sites and galleries, said Rita Organ, former president of the Association of African American Museums.

While the association fully supports a national museum, she said, it also is concerned about whether a national museum would divert federal and private money away from the other institutions.

This isn't the first time a commission has studied the creation of a national black museum. A plan in 1929 never got off the ground, said Robert Wilkins, president of the National African American Museum & Cultural Complex, a group he created to advocate for a national museum.

"I shouldn't have to be doing this, and others shouldn't have to be doing this in 2002, but we're going to see it through," said Wilkins, who left his job as a public defender to devote all his attention to the museum project.

"There's a long history with this, and unfortunately it's a long history of neglect."

Other minorities say they, too, have been overlooked. For years, the Hispanic community has advocated for its own museum. The black museum's step forward "magnifies the neglect of the Latino community," said Raul Yzaguirre, president of the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic advocacy group. "Not having a presence in the nation's capital is a travesty."

Supporters say they're encouraged that this time there is bipartisan support for the black history museum; the bill setting up the commission also was sponsored by Republican Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma.

This fall, the commission will submit its recommendations. After that, Congress would have to pass legislation to create and fund a museum.

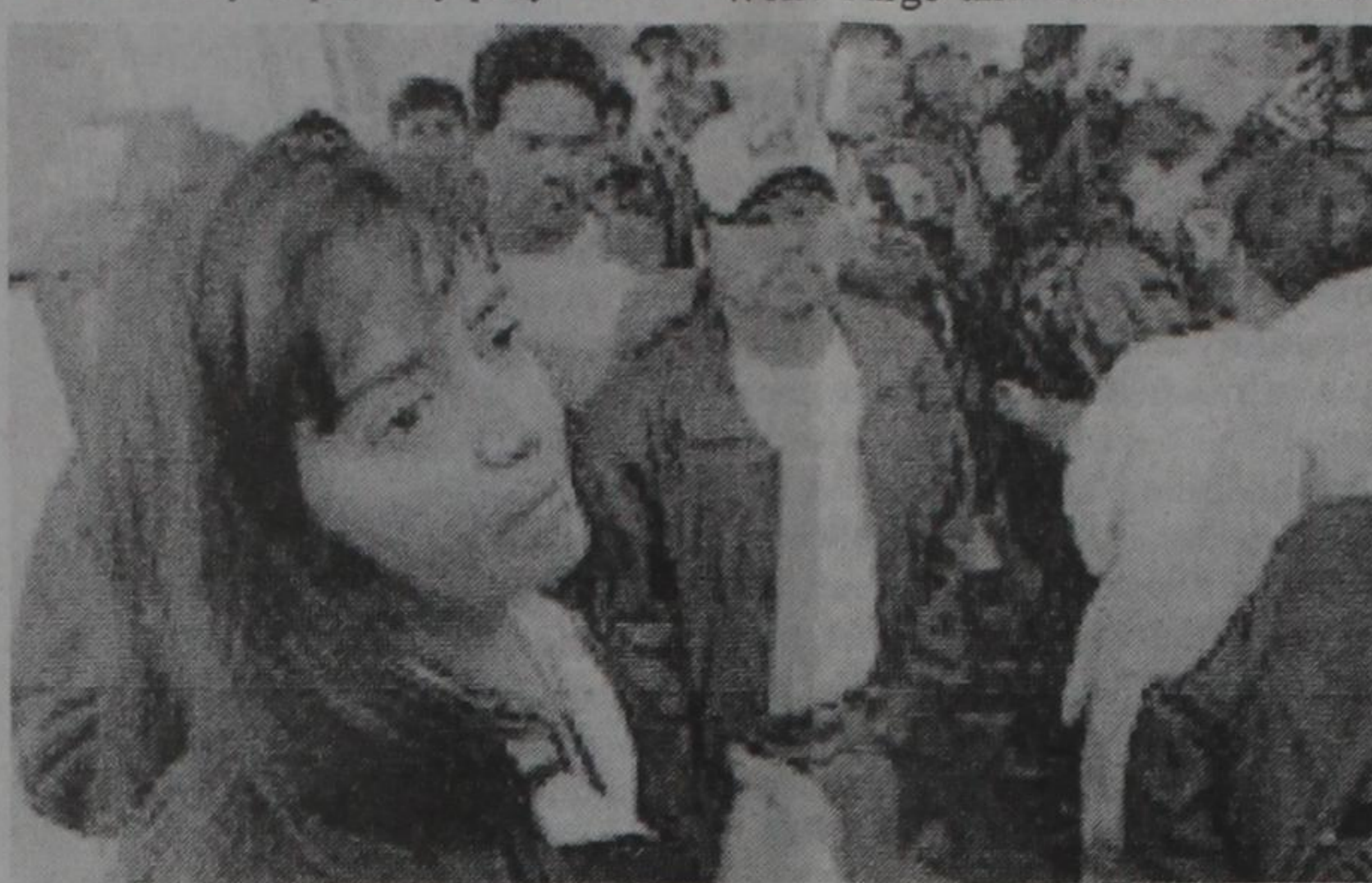
"This business of creating a national museum is a long-term undertaking," said Claudine Brown, a former Smithsonian staffer who researched the feasibility of a national museum in the 1990s. "The longer we wait to make this happen, the more people will die who have very unique stories to tell."

# Mexico ID Cards Gain Favor 'Authentic Identity For All Kinds of Needs' In U.S.

They walk in clutching photocopies of personal documents and with \$29 in their pockets.

They walk out with nondescript, laminated identification cards which - they hope, they pray - will

consular card to open bank accounts, a first for many of them. Community banks began the practice informally years ago, and now national institutions such as Wells Fargo and Bank of America



Lulu Garcia (left) an employee of the Mexican Consulate, talks to Mexican citizens at the consulate about the procedure for getting identification cards being issued by the consulate.

be their ultimate ticket to freedom.

Thousands of Mexican immigrants living in the United States, legally and illegally, are lining up for hours every day at their closest consulate to get a consular ID card.

Legal immigrants say the card, which has been available for years, helps avoid hassles on trips back to Mexico. Undocumented migrants hope the plastic credential will allow them to get out of the perpetual societal shadow they dwell in and finally join the mainstream.

"It's a one-stop-shop document," said Rubén Beltrán, Mexico's consul general in Phoenix. "It proves authentic identity for all kinds of needs: - doing taxes, enrolling kids in school, for health coverage, visiting city hall. We'd like it to be accepted across the state and ultimately at the federal level."

Those who call San Francisco home need dream no longer. The combined city-county government unanimously passed a resolution in November to accept the matricula consular, or consular ID card, as a valid form of personal identification. Now they're working on making it law.

A week earlier, the Orange County-(Calif.) Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association decided to recognize the cards.

Mexican immigrants from Chicago to Phoenix can now use a

are saying yes to the matricula.

In Arizona, bank tellers and Phoenix police are the only people officially directed to take the consular ID cards.

Beltrán hopes the move by major banks will prompt other organizations to follow their lead.

He is drafting various proposals and plans to lobby state leaders soon. One decision-maker likes the idea and is researching it.

"We'd be foolish not to recognize we have a huge undocumented worker community, at least 100,000 in Phoenix alone," said Mary Rose Wilcox, a member of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

Arizona's Latino community grew 88 percent over the past decade.

Wilcox plans to ask the board in early spring to consider making the ID valid countywide.

"It's just sound policy to try to make the process easier for them. It's one more way of recognizing a sister government," she said.



Camels have three eyelids to protect them from blowing sand.

The Phoenix Police Department, which deals with undocumented immigrants every day, began accepting the matricula at the consulate's request in November 1998, Assistant Chief Silverio Ontiveros said.

Though immigrants without driver's licenses are still detained, the consular ID lets officers know whom they're dealing with. And it allows officers to do police work instead of taking on immigration-control duties.

"We are not responsible for enforcing immigration laws," said Ontiveros, a 26-year Phoenix police veteran. "If an immigrant needs police assistance, we don't want them to be fearful of deportation."

Other Valley police departments, including Surprise, Mesa, Chandler, Scottsdale and Glendale, don't officially recognize the cards but said any form of identification helps them do their job.

Wider recognition of consular ID cards is new, but they've been around for decades. They are part of the services Mexican consulates have offered citizens abroad and

have been available in Phoenix since 1892. But only in the last few years have the cards been in high demand.

The Phoenix consulate issued 11,001 cards in 1997. The number jumped to 29,028 last year. The pace continues into this year, with 4,124 people receiving cards in January, up 245 percent from the same period last year.

To qualify for a card, which is valid for five years, Mexican citizens need a birth certificate, another valid Mexican-government document, and must prove they've been living in the United States at least six months.

The Mexican government has instructed all 46 of its consulates in the United States to make wider acceptance of the matricula a top priority this year.

The rationale is two-tiered: It's good business, and it's humane.

"The fact that someone is illegal doesn't mean that he's not a person, that he doesn't have an identity," Beltrán said. "We want paisanos (countrymen) to become regular members of this society."

## México:

# Protesta Contra Política Económica

Organizaciones sindicales y campesinas marcharon ayer del Angel de la Independencia al Zócalo capitalino, en protesta por la política económica del gobierno, contra el alza a la luz, la reforma fiscal y la construcción del nuevo aeropuerto, entre otras.

Entre consignas, mantas, cohetes y machetes, manifestantes de San Salvador Atenco, de la Central Unitaria de Trabajadores, del Sindicato de la Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, del Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas y de la empresa huletera Euzkadi, recorrieron la avenida Reforma, sin provocar mayores problemas, más que el cierre de carril a la circulación.

Con los machetes desenfundados y en alto, los habitantes de la población de San Salvador Atenco lanzaron consignas contra el gobierno federal y el del Estado de México, en demanda de que se cancele la construcción del nuevo aeropuerto.

Asimismo, alrededor de 350 trabajadores del sindicato de la UAM demandaron que el gobierno federal modifique su política educativa, al reiterar el rechazo al

incremento de 5.25% propuesto por las autoridades de esa cada de estudios.

Indicaron que las negociaciones con la universidad se reiniciarán apenas ésta acuerde una sede pública, luego del fracaso del encuentro que sostuvieron autoridades y trabajadores antenoche.

Los manifestantes incluyeron consignas en contra del secretario del Trabajo, Carlos Abascal, por la falta de solución en el conflicto con la empresa Euzkadi.

Luego de casi dos horas, los manifestantes arribaron al Zócalo capitalino, donde entre las mantas, algunos comerciantes ambulantes instalaron sus puestos en los que se podría comprar lo mismo refrescos, paletas de hielo y sombreros hasta las obras de Carlos Marx e imágenes del Che Guevara.

Los inconformes colocaron mantas frente a Palacio Nacional con diversas demandas que iban desde el respeto al derecho a huelga por parte del Sindicato de Euzkadi, hasta una demanda dirigida al gobierno federal y al jefe de gobierno capitalino.

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# Democrats See San Antonio As Key Prize

Democratic gubernatorial candidates Tony Sanchez and Dan Morales might not agree on much, but they concur on at least one point: The road to political success goes through San Antonio.

Election watchers say the city is an important prize for any Democrat in a statewide race, and that importance is amplified when a pair of high-profile candidates with Hispanic surnames are battling in the March 12 primary.

## El Editor

### Newspapers

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primary, you need San Antonio in your column," said Henry Flores, a political science professor at St. Mary's University.

Hispanics comprise nearly 60 percent of the city's population of 1.1 million, according to the 2000 census. They tend to vote Democratic, and when there's something or someone on the ballot that interests them, they can turn out in large numbers.

"I can't envision a scenario in which I could win statewide and not carry my hometown," said Morales, a former two-term Texas attorney general who grew up on the city's west side. "It has to begin here."

"San Antonio is like another home to me," said Sanchez, a multimillionaire banker and oilman from Laredo making his first run for elective office. "I feel confident I'm going to win San Antonio -- I feel very good about that."

Sanchez made more than a dozen public appearances during a recent two-day visit, while Morales is basing his campaign here although he now lives in Austin.

"San Antonio is probably the bellwether city that other Latinos look toward to collect information on how they're going to vote," said John Bretting, a professor at the University of Texas at San

Antonio. "If there's a rule book on running a campaign in San Antonio, it might say, 'You have to be visible -- not only in advertising, but in person,'" said Bretting.

Flores calls it "friends-and-neighbors politics," likening San Antonio to a small town in that regard.

"You've got to make the church carnivals and the various community things," he said. "You have to reach down and touch the people."

In addition to Sanchez and Morales, Bill Lyon of Waxahachie and John WorldPeace of Houston also are seeking the Democratic nomination. All four hope to advance to the November general election against Gov. Rick Perry.

U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, a San Antonio Democrat and Sanchez backer, says he believes Morales holds the early lead in the city. Sanchez can make up ground in the final weeks before the March 12 primary, he said, but only if he thinks small.

"Hispanics tend to be very loyal and most of them have had the opportunity to work for Dan Morales," said Rodriguez, whose district includes overwhelmingly Hispanic precincts on the city's south side.

"The key is how much resources Tony is willing to expend for a grass-roots turnout," Rodriguez said. "Unless Tony does that, he won't be able to pull off San Antonio."

One potent grass-roots issue is Morales' 1997 decision as attorney general in the so-called Hopwood case, which essentially threw out race as a factor in college admissions and financial aid. Sanchez, a strong supporter of affirmative action, has put Hopwood at the heart of his campaign message.

"What happened with Hopwood has been very disappointing to many San Antonians," he said. "I think it has set the Hispanic community back many years."

Morales defends his decision. "I fully believe that quotas, racial preferences and race-based admissions criteria are wrong for Texas," he said to a labor group in January. "I believe Mr. Sanchez's position on racial preferences is wrong for Texas."

Sanchez skillfully slips in and out of Spanish during his San Antonio appearances, trying to reinforce his bilingual upbringing. Morales only got serious about Spanish as an adult, but he's not conceding that Sanchez has the language edge.

"That remains to be seen," he said with a grin, referring to an upcoming televised debate in Spanish as the proving ground.

That debate, to be held in San Antonio on a date yet to be determined, may further cement the city's pivotal role in deciding the Democratic nominee.

"Both sides have drawn their line in the same place," Morales said. "You're going to see some fur fly."

# NIT to Experiment With 40-Team Field

For the past 30 years, the NIT has provided a second chance for college basketball teams that didn't make the field for the NCAA tournament.

Now, in a one-year experiment, eight more schools will get the opportunity to extend their seasons. The Metropolitan Intercollegiate Basketball Association, which runs the preseason and postseason NITs, said Wednesday the one-year expansion from 32 teams to 40 is in reaction to repeated requests from around college basketball.

"Conference commissioners, athletic directors and coaches (asked) us to expand our postseason NIT field to accommodate additional teams who have had successful seasons in their conference but have failed to receive an invitation to the NCAA tournament," NIT executive director John J. Powers said.

The extra berths come a year too late for St. Francis, N.Y., which in 2001 agonizingly lived the scenario of the type of teams the NIT appears ready to reward.

"It does give coaches at schools our size something else to be hopeful about in case you win your conference and stub your toe," Terriers coach Ron Ganulin said Wednesday.

The end of St. Francis' 2000-01 season was more like a broken leg.

The top-seeded Terriers led Monmouth 56-36 in the second half of the Northeast Conference championship game and appeared headed for the first NCAA berth in school history. Monmouth, however, closed the game with a 31-8 run for a 67-64 victory. St.

Francis' faint hopes for an NIT bid were dashed a few days later.

Under the new NIT format, St. Francis would have had a better shot at extending its season.

While not guaranteeing that the additional berths would all go to mid-major and lower Division I programs, Powers said the committee now has a chance to reward teams like St. Francis, which finished 18-11 last season but didn't have a computer ranking anywhere near those of teams that finished sixth, seventh or even lower in one of the power conferences.

The NIT will have eight opening-round games at campus sites on March 12, with the winners advancing to the first round, which ends March 15.

The second round is March 18-19, the third round March 20-22, and the semifinals at New York's Madison Square Garden are March 26. The championship game is March 28.

The NIT started with a six-team field in 1938. It increased slowly over the years, last expanding in 1980, to 32.

Tulsa won last year's NIT, beating Alabama 79-60 in the championship game.

The NCAA field increased by one to 65 last season because of the addition of a new conference, forcing a play-in game two days before the first round of the tournament opens.

The NIT expansion means 105 of the 320 schools playing Division I basketball will play in the postseason.

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# Bush Seeks Deep Cuts From Page One

\$7.9 billion to \$7.6 billion, but an agency official said the aim is to eliminate a number of pork barrel projects that were added by Congress over the administration's objections. The administration will also seek a freeze on hiring to fill vacancies in the enforcement division while shifting \$10 million to the states for increased enforcement activities.

The administration tried to eliminate 270 enforcement positions last year, but that proposal was blocked by the Senate.

The budget Bush will release on Monday seeks \$2.13 trillion in overall spending in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 for defense, domestic programs, foreign aid and interest on the national debt. After several years of surpluses, the new budget projects that overall spending will exceed revenue by about \$80 billion.

Administration officials have said that government spending other than for Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid is expected to grow by 9 percent next year, compared with the 4 percent growth this year. But when the big amounts for defense, homeland security and economic stimulus are set aside, the growth figure drops to 2 percent, barely keeping pace with the rate of inflation. Democrats, however, say their calculations show that spending would drop below this year's level.

The White House last year said that its budget would not touch Social Security payroll taxes to fund other parts of the government and was designed to pay down \$2 trillion of the federal debt by 2010. But recent administration and congressional projections suggest that Social Security funds will be tapped for other programs through

the rest of the decade, with little prospect for significant debt reduction.

"I think everybody understands our top obligation is to defend the nation," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad (D-N.D.). "In effect, what the administration is doing is taking Medicare and Social Security funds and using them for tax cuts and additional spending. The question for the country is whether that's a wise direction for America. I think it is unwise."

The budget plan would save about \$9 billion from changes in Medicaid accounting procedures, according to an administration official. It also proposes raising money by leasing mineral drilling rights in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, an initiative that Congress blocked last year.

In the weeks leading up to the budget's release, the White House and federal agencies have selectively announced increases for numerous federal programs that Bush has decided to recommend in his spending plan. In an administration that is highly disciplined in its release of information, these budgetary announcements represent a strategic effort to generate good news about areas of the budget that are important to constituencies whose support will be crucial to Republicans in the fall elections.

The administration has announced expansions of programs that are significant to Latinos and other

minority groups, to the elderly, and to the social conservatives who are at the core of Bush's political base.

Last month, for instance, the administration announced that the budget would propose \$2.1 billion in spending over the next decade so that poor immigrants who have lived legally in the United States for at least five years could, once again, become eligible for food stamps. On the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the White House announced a \$12 million increase for programs intended to strengthen historically black colleges.

Early last week, the administration said it wants to spend \$190 billion in the coming decade - less than Congress proposed last year - to modernize Medicare, the health insurance program for the elderly.

About \$77 billion of those funds would be used to help older Americans with low incomes afford drugs by subsidizing states that already offer their own prescription drug programs to older residents.


Later in the week, Bush's top health aides announced measures intended to improve younger people's access to health care, including \$89 billion worth of tax credits over 10 years to help working people buy insurance if they cannot get it through their jobs. And, in a move that pleased social conservatives, administration officials said they want to let states keep the \$3.2 billion that they have not spent under a children's health insurance program for the working poor...and to make developing fetuses eligible for prenatal care under that program.

Bush appears ready to spend more money on Interior Department programs, to begin to make good on a campaign pledge to halt the deterioration of national park roads and facilities while launching programs favored by conservatives to encourage private stewardship of the land.

The budget will call for \$1.58 billion for the general operation of national parks, a \$107.5 million increase over current spending. The Interior Department budget will include \$663 million to be used for eliminating a backlog of park maintenance and road improvement projects. However, that funding represents a minuscule increase over this year's level, and environmentalists warn that the administration is falling behind in its commitment to wipe out the \$4.9 billion backlog.

At the Education Department, officials expect a modest overall budget increase, but nothing comparable to the \$6.7 billion boost in spending in 2002 that raised the agency's budget to \$48.9 billion.

"I'm completely pleased with that," said Education Secretary Roderick R. Paige. He said that in the next fiscal year the agency will focus on improving early childhood education, implementing the education reform law enacted last year and beginning the arduous process of revamping the nation's special education laws.

  
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**Zoot Suit Revolution:**

**The Fashion Scandal That Changed History**

Close your eyes. Take a step back in time -- a time when life was black and white, not too much brown.

It is the 1940s, and Los Angeles was experiencing a West Coast version of a melting pot.

Thousands of Mexican immigrants looking for a better life made their way there, as did Anglo laborers escaping the Dust Bowl of the drought-plagued Southern Plains and African-Americans seeking more opportunity than they found in the South.

In August of 1942, eight months after the United States was thrust

into World War II, many Los Angelenos became anxious over the changing ethnic and social dynamics of their city.

A series of events that month thrust the City of Angels into a state of anarchy.

On a hot August night, 19-year-old Hank Leyvas unknowingly triggered one of the worst riots in the city's history as one murder incited a police dragnet that landed more than 600 Mexican-American youths in jail.

"American Experience," the critically acclaimed PBS series,



California's history.

Seventeen of the defendants were found guilty, and Leyvas was sentenced to life in prison.

Celebrities such as Orson Welles and Rita Hayworth believed the youths were innocent, and lent their famous names to organize the Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee to lobby for their release.

In the months following the trial, sailors and zoot suiters had numerous bloody fights, which led to a June 3, 1943, brawl between zoot-suiters and more than 50 sailors armed with belts and clubs.

For the next five days, Los Angelenos did not have to listen to radio reports to learn about war -- they just had to peek out the window.

"What really drew me to it was how different people look at the story in different ways," Tovares said. "I found it fascinating that Chicanos see it one way, Mexicanos of that generation see it another, progressive whites see it one way, conservative whites see it another."

The hysteria over what these Mexican-Americans were wearing -- a zoot suit -- forced the Los Angeles city council to adopt a resolution banning the wearing of zoot suits on L.A. streets.

The zoot suit was initially an African-American youth fashion, closely connected to jazz culture. It was adopted by Mexican-Americans, who then made it their own.

The oversized suit was both an outrageous style and a statement of defiance. Zoot-suiters asserted themselves at a time when fabric was being rationed for the war

effort, and in the face of widespread discrimination.

Wearing the suit in public was punishable by 30 days in jail. Stores that sold the suits quickly moved to distance themselves from the style that had become a symbol of rebellion.

"Mexican-American youth were taught in World War II that they could not simply choose by themselves the way that they were to express themselves," historian George J. Sanchez says in the documentary. "They simply couldn't choose what they could wear. They simply couldn't choose who they could be. That this was not a society that allowed for that kind of freedom of expression, for these particular youth."

"It's a very painful lesson when one hears the rhetoric of Americans all," Sanchez says. "The rhetoric of the American promise open to all

sorts of immigrants, all sorts of people."

Carlos Ortega, a lecturer at the University of Texas at El Paso, briefly touches on the Zoot Suit Riots in his introductory courses in Chicano Studies.

"I do it just to familiarize people with events in Chicano history," he said. "There has never been anything in an in-depth form that looks at the Zoot Suit Riots. You will have films and documentaries that will briefly touch on the riots. It really is not a topic that gets as much attention as it should."

The zoot-suiters were victims of racial profiling before anyone used that term, Tovares said.

"If you look at what happened since 9-11 and what is happening to Arab-Americans, I think it strikes a chord and resonates," he said. "It serves as a reminder that these sorts of things have gone on in the past and maybe helps put the issue in some sort of historical perspective, and that is very helpful."

**Local Students Lean To Save Lives**

In honor of February being recognized as American Heart Month, The American Heart Association (AHA) will be providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training for sixth graders at Honey elementary School, located at 3615 86th Street in Lubbock.

The training sessions will take place at Honey Elementary on Friday, Feb. 15 from 8:20 am to 10:30 am. Certified trainers from the AHA's Emergency Cardiovascular Care Training Centers will be on hand to teach the basics of CPR and the importance of saving lives to the sixth graders.

In addition to learning CPR techniques, the students will be taught to recognize such life-threatening emergencies such as heart attack, stroke, cardiac arrest, and choking in both adults and children.

Killing more than 950,000 people each year, cardiovascular disease is the greatest cause of death in the United States. Even in Texas, as many as 40% of all deaths are attributable to cardiovascular disease. By learning tips for healthy living and simple CPR techniques, sixth graders at Honey elementary will be provided with the necessary knowledge to save lives and reduce their risk for cardiovascular disease.

Honey Elementary School is the only elementary school in Lubbock to require all sixth graders to be trained in CPR prior to graduation.

The AHA will also be offering a free mass CPR training event on Saturday May 4, 2002 and will be open to the public.



Knights of Columbus Council 11807 - Our Lady of Guadalupe will be hosting a free throw championship on Saturday, Feb. 9th. The event is absolutely free for boys and girls ages 10-14 years old. The event will kick off at 10:00 am to 11:30 am at the YWCA which is located on 3101 35th Street (35th & Flint). Pre-registration will be at 9:00 am. The awards for the event will be trophies, participant certificate and jacket patch. For more information call 794-2522 or 763-9087.

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will examine the events that led to what was called the "Zoot Suit Riots," in a one-hour documentary by Joseph Tovares.

"The Zoot Suit Riots and the Sleepy Lagoon case are really an important part of Latino history," Tovares said by telephone from Los Angeles. "It is one of those stories that, for some reason, we can't seem to shake. There is still a fascination with it."

Leyvas was charged along with 21 other Mexican-American youths in the death of 22-year-old Jose Diaz at a reservoir called Sleepy Lagoon.

When the Sleepy Lagoon trial began in October 1942, it was the trial with the most defendants in

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- \* Don't forget to pick up the latest CD from Los Palominos entitled "Un Poco Mas" also this past Monday, Feb. 4th marked the 1st Anniversary of the fallen Palomino Jesse Arrelo.
- \* Stampede is currently recording their 4th CD which should be released in April 2002 ... producers for the new album are Joel Gusman & Joe Trevino

Hasta La Proxima have a SAFE TEJANO DAY !!!!  
Bueno Bye@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!@!

**MAGIC 93.7 "Top 10"**

TW	Title	Artist
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2.	Ahora Que Hago Sin Ti	Jimmy Gonzalez
3.	Sangre De Rey	Michael Salgado
4.	Sueno Contigo	Ram Herrera
5.	Que Metida De ...	Jay Perez
6.	Lluvia	Elida y Avante
7.	Quiero Decirte	Costumbre
8.	1,2,3	Iman
9.	Por Amor	Grupo Vida
10.	Dile La Verdad	Solido

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## Bush Names Hispanics on Commission for Education

The Commission will report and advise on strategies for improving the educational achievement of Hispanic Americans.

The White House Office of the Press Secretary announced yesterday that President Bush intends to appoint 17 individuals to serve on the President's Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

President Bush authorized the commission when he signed Executive Order 13230 on Oct. 12, 2001, and charged it with creating a multi-year plan to close the educational achievement gap between Hispanic American students and their peers. The commission members will: (1) advise U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige on the progress of Hispanic Americans in closing the academic achievement gap and meeting the promise of the new No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; (2) monitor and measure the performance of federal agencies in creating federal initiatives within the Hispanic community and hold them responsible for improving the participation of Hispanic Americans in federal education programs; (3) identify successful methods of expanding parental, state and local government, private sector, and community involvement in improving education; and (4) recommend ways the federal government can assist Hispanic parents to successfully prepare their children to graduate from high school and pursue postsecondary education opportunities.

The appointees named yesterday include: Frank Hanna of Georgia, who upon confirmation will serve as co-chair, Patricia Janette

### Government Wants Hispanic Workers

Uncle Sam wants you--especially if you are Hispanic.

This group makes up 13 percent of the population and 11 percent of the private sector work force. But Hispanics account for just 7 percent of the federal payroll.

The government's top recruiters want that to change to better reflect the country's shifting demographics and to reach out to the Latino population.

The growth in the Hispanic community during the 1990s exceeded all previous Census Bureau forecasts, and Hispanics now rival blacks as the nation's largest minority group.

During that decade, Hispanic immigration soared from the nation's urban centers to rural towns in the Midwest and South. Both Democrats and Republicans see winning the Latino vote as crucial for success in this year's midterm elections and in 2004.

So is politics a factor in stepping up recruiting of Hispanics?

"I can assure you that is not the case," said Kay Coles James, director of the Office of Personnel Management. "It's just good government."

"Whether it's for political reasons or other reasons, it needs to be done now," said Larry Gonzalez, executive director of the Washington office of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials. "The bottom line for our community is that they want to see folks [in government] who look like them."

U.S. citizenship is required for federal employment, which could be a barrier to administration recruiting goals.

"Unfortunately, there's no room for flexibility for hiring there," said Cecilia Munoz, vice president of the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic advocacy group. "That's a problem in all fields."

There are other factors, too. James said a lack of trust in the federal government and the belief that a government workplace is unwelcoming is common among Latinos.

Strengthening recruiting efforts on college campuses and producing more advertisements for Spanish-language media are seen as important ways to reach out to Hispanics.

"The very first barrier is ignorance," said Max Stier, president of the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service, which promotes government employment. "People literally do not know about the opportunities in the federal government."

Mazzuca of Pennsylvania who upon confirmation will serve as co-chair.

Also Micaela Alvarez of Texas, Christopher Jeffrey Barbic of Texas, Jose Guadalupe Conchola of Arizona, Jaime Alfonso Escalante of California, Charles Patrick Garcia of Florida, Norma Sanchez Garza of Texas, Alexander Gonzalez of California, Miguel Angel Hernandez Jr. of Texas, Jose Eugenio Hoyos of Virginia, Francisco Jose Paret of Puerto Rico, Altagracia Ramos of Ohio, Eneledia Schofield of Oregon, Ofelia Saenz Vanden Bosch of Texas, Rene Vasquez of Puerto Rico, and Octavio Jesus Visiedo of Florida.

In addition to the up-to-21 members appointed by President Bush, Secretary Paige will serve as an ex-officio member of the commission as will Hector Barreto, administrator of the Small Business Administration; Paul O'Neill, secretary of the treasury; and Mel Martinez, secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

"President Bush has selected an outstanding group of men and women to guide our efforts to close the inexcusable achievement gap between Hispanic American students and their peers," Paige said. "I look forward to working with them to help Hispanic students across the country reach high standards of achievement, regardless of the language or other barriers to academic success that they may bring to the classroom. Every child in this country can succeed and with the assistance and advice of this commission, I look forward to improving the academic performance and attainment of all of our Hispanic students."

The individuals selected by President Bush to advise him and Secretary Paige represent a variety of backgrounds including education, business and the community service. They will work together to deliver interim and final reports to the president. Their final report will be due not later than March 31, 2003, shortly after which the commission will terminate.

## Mexican President Aims To Improve Relationship With Communist Island

Mexican President Vicente Fox journeyed to Cuba on Sunday in what was heralded as the start of an era of warmer relations between Mexico and the communist nation.

"You have to have valor to travel to Cuba and not yield to the pressure of the United States. And President Fox has valor," Cuban

Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque said. "Not everyone comes to Cuba."

Late Sunday, a representative of the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation said that Mr. Fox had agreed to meet with several dissidents on Monday. Among the dissidents

expected to attend were Elizardo Sanchez, president of the commission; Osvaldo Paya, coordinator of the National Christian Liberation Movement; and Raul Rivero, head of Cuba Press, an independent journalists' group.

Cuba's political opposition also planned to ask Mr. Fox to press the Cuban government to free political prisoners on the island.

Earlier, he praised a Cuban government project aimed at renovating Old Havana, a historic neighborhood filled with centuries-old colonial homes, many of them crumbling. As Cuban President Fidel Castro watched, Mr. Fox gave a medal of honor to Cuban historian Eusebio Leal, the leader of the renovation project.

Relations between Mexico and Cuba suffered during the administration of Mexico's previous president, Ernesto Zedillo. Mr. Zedillo visited the island in 1999 and publicly criticized the government, saying it denied people of many basic liberties.

Traditionally, the countries have

ten along well. Mexico is the only Latin American nation that did not cut diplomatic ties with Cuba after its 1959 socialist revolution. In May, the two nations will mark 100 years of uninterrupted diplomatic relations.

"This trip is very important for us," Mr. Fox said after arriving in Havana. "We are doing this at the beginning of our administration because we want to tighten, we want to strengthen our relationship with Cuba."

Many Mexican officials have said that they oppose the strict U.S. economic sanctions against Cuba. At the same time, they have embraced capitalism and have developed an increasingly tight relationship with the United States.

If there were tensions, though, they didn't show Sunday as Mr. Fox and Mr. Castro strolled through Old Havana.

Some of the hundreds of Cubans gathered said they did not know who the visiting Mexican VIP was, but everyone recognized the Cuban leader.

"Fidel! Fidel!" they yelled.

## Mexican Supreme Court Orders Investigation 1968 Student Massacre



Oct. 2, 1968 troops move in (see story)

The Supreme Court in Mexico has ordered a federal investigation into the 1968 massacre of hundreds of students by the army.

In a unanimous ruling, the five judges rejected arguments by the government, which had said that even if any crimes had been committed, no prosecutions would be possible because they had taken place too long ago.

The Mexican Government has always maintained about 30 people were killed when soldiers opened fire on a demonstration by university students in Tlatelolco Plaza in Mexico City. Witnesses say the number is closer to 300.

What has become known as the Tlatelolco massacre on 2 October 1968 has recently returned to the spotlight as President Vicente Fox's administration moves to punish past state crimes.

The investigation would be aimed at determining what crimes were committed and how to proceed.

Investigations have previously been hampered because the Institutional Revolutionary Party that ruled Mexico for 71 years until Mr. Fox took office in 2000 refused to open archives on the massacre.

Unclear sequence of events

After a season of growing unrest ahead of the Olympic Games that year, a group of protesters marched on the Plaza of Three Cultures in the Tlatelolco district in the north of Mexico City.

The marchers that day were demonstrating against police brutality at earlier student actions in Mexico City.

What happened next remains a mystery. Troops and police began firing and the crowd fled in panic.

The government of the day accused young communist idealists of opening fire to provoke a popular uprising. The official account said troops only shot back in self-defense.

Many of the protest organizers were imprisoned for years afterwards. But witnesses have argued that government snipers fired on the crowd from apartment towers surrounding the plaza.

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