

# el Esalador

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Lubbock, TX USA

## Minority lawmakers tout education-equality effort

By JO ANN ZUÑIGA

A new coalition of black and Hispanic state legislators from across the United States announced an initiative Tuesday to close the educational gap between minority and white students.

Meeting in Houston, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators and the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators are launching pilot projects in seven states, including Texas, to focus on recruiting and retaining quality teachers and improving curriculum and literacy.

Both groups, with a combined caucus membership of about 1,000 minority officeholders, said they have joined for the first time to press similar

education strategies for achievement levels.

Ohio state Sen. C.J. Prentiss, who called equality in education a "civil right yet unrealized," said her state increased funding for education to improve its poor graduation rates. The state has the fourth-lowest graduation rate -- 60 percent -- of black students in the nation.

She pushed through a \$20 million amendment in Ohio's state education budget for school districts in "academic emergency" in 2003; the money will go toward student intervention and teachers' professional development.

Called "Leave No Child Behind for High School Graduation," the funds will help the first group of students who must pass five Ohio graduation tests tied to 10th-grade standards. Their teachers of major subjects will have five extra days of professional development to learn new content standards.

Prentiss is not only helping spearhead the campaign in Ohio but is working to expand it to school districts in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, New York, Maryland and Illinois.

Texas state Sen. Leticia Van Putte, D-San Antonio, president of the National Hispanic Caucus of State

Legislators, and state Rep. Dora Olivo, D-Missouri City, said they are on board with black legislators and the campaign to close the gap.

"Why are our children not meeting their full potential when it's not their fault? It's systemic and systematic," Van Putte said.

The groups say recent studies indicated that "separate and unequal conditions" remain in urban school districts throughout the country, despite the historic Brown v. Board of Education decision, which promised equal education.

Two-thirds of minority students attend schools that are financed with state and local money at levels below those in nonminority school districts, the two groups found.

The groups are recommending increased teacher salaries, retention programs and improved professional development at underserved schools. They also want to see smaller class sizes, strengthened bilingual education, enriched curriculum, increased literacy and expanded access to preschool.

But the legislators also acknowledged that state funding is tight and any additional educational funding is



in question. Van Putte said she is "hopeful" that a funding solution will be hammered out in a Texas legislative special session in the spring to deal with public school refinancing.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress recently reported that African-American, Hispanic and poor students had slightly narrowed the achievement gap with Anglo students compared with test results over the past decade.

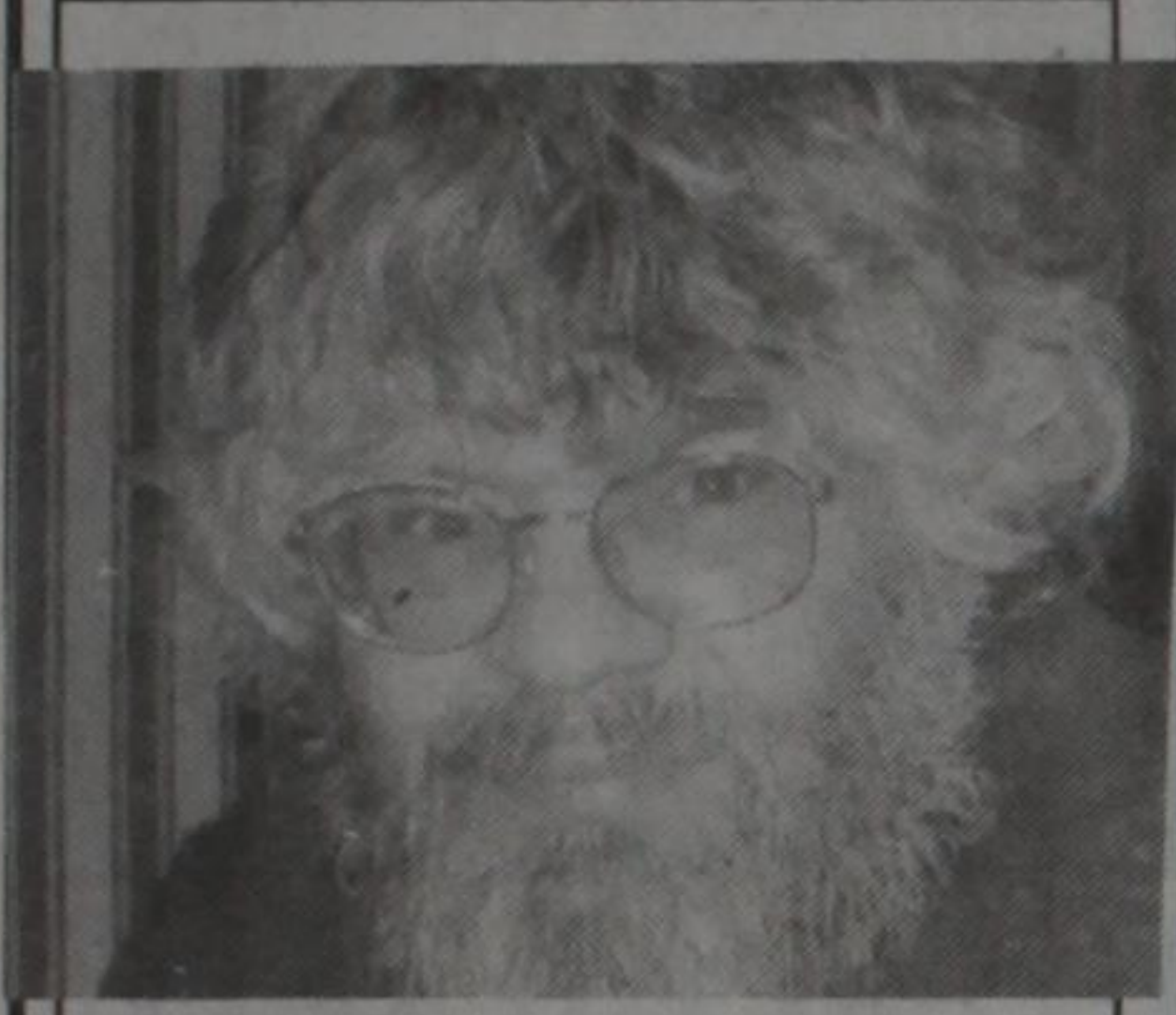
At the same time, the assessment

found that slightly fewer than one-third of all students -- nationally and in Texas -- cannot do math or read at a "proficient" level, as determined by a bipartisan board of education experts.

Among eighth-graders nationally, about 40 percent of whites and Asians read at or above the proficient level, compared with 13 percent of black students and 15 percent of Hispanics.

Hispanics and blacks continue to drop out of school at a higher rate than whites, the legislative studies showed.

### Comentarios



Last year one bill passed by the State Legislature will severely affect low income people and especially children and their health needs.

According to information furnished by the Texas State Employees Union, enrollment of children in the CHIP program will be reduced by 1,653 by 2005 in Lubbock County. In addition to CHIP cuts House Bill 2292 will cut jobs and services to pregnant women, to medically needy, aged and disabled persons. Next week we will feature a total story on the effects of this bill on Lubbock.

I guess Victor was a little bit bothered by us writing about his apparent announcement that he will not run for re-election. Victor told a radio announcer that thinking about his running again is "perhaps a bit of wishful thinking."

What Victor has to realize is that we report news as it happens. If he does not want us to talk about his plans, perhaps he should stop declaring his intentions in public. Our sources told us that Victor announced that he would not run for re-election at a meeting held with about 6 people attending.

We hear that lots of plans are currently being made for this year's Cinco de Mayo including the Concert to be held by Magic, a Super Cinco de Mayo Softball Tournament and various events being planned by Fiestas del Llano. More on this as soon as details are available.

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## Visas temporales Reducían Inmigracion Ilegal

Washington - La concesión de nuevas visas de trabajo temporal y la legalización de los millones de indocumentados en EE.UU., podría reducir significativamente la inmigración ilegal, según dos estudios recientes.

Ambos estudios, elaborados por Stuart Anderson, de la Fundación Nacional para Políticas de Estados Unidos, fueron difundidos en el Congreso, donde la creciente inmigración ilegal es motivo de gran preocupación.

Anderson dijo que las evidencias indican que la ausencia de sistemas para poder trabajar legalmente en EE.UU. es la "razón primaria" para que existan los actuales niveles de inmigración ilegal.

Las autoridades de inmigración estadounidenses, y el autor de las dos investigaciones, estiman que más de 8 millones de extranjeros indocumentados viven en este país, y que esa cifra aumenta casi a diario.

Uno de los estudios de Anderson: "Haciendo la Transición Migratoria de Ilegal a Legal", resalta que para lidiar con la inmigración ilegal, el Congreso

tiene varias opciones, incluso la de mantener el "status quo", una situación que dificulta a los indocumentados conseguir trabajo.

También los legisladores tienen la opción de promulgar una ley que establezca nuevas visas temporales de trabajo o mejorar las categorías de visados ya existente.

Asimismo, podría aprobar una legislación que permita crear nuevos programas de trabajo combinados con la transición de la legalización de los indocumentados ya existentes en EE.UU.

Subrayó, que mantener el "status quo" con una mayor aplicación de la ley, no presagia una reducción de la inmigración ilegal, pero sí prolonga una situación difícil en la que muchos indocumentados encuentran la muerte durante sus intentos de cruzar la frontera.

Anderson dijo que seguir con el "status quo" puede estimular al mercado negro laboral y crear medidas represivas más drásticas y contraproducentes contra los inmigrantes indocumentados.

Stuart Anderson estima que la opción que ofrece "la oportunidad más realista para cambios significativos y positivos" es la de combinar nuevas visas temporales de trabajo con una transición a la legalidad a los



According to recent studies, immigration of undocumented workers has proven to be reduced by the granting of visas through new immigration laws. Illegal immigration has recently been under concern by the Congress.

inmigrantes indocumentados que ya viven en EE.UU.

En su segundo estudio presentado: "El Impacto de los Programas de Trabajadores Huéspedes en la Inmigración Ilegal", este experto dice que el "Programa Bracero" -ya eliminado y ausente en el debate sobre políticas migratorias-, jugó un papel clave en la reducción de la

inmigración ilegal.

Entre 1942 y 1964 ese programa permitió el ingreso de trabajadores mexicanos agrícolas durante la temporada de cosechas estadounidenses.

Anderson dice que la eliminación de ese plan, en 1964, marcó el comienzo del aumento de la inmigración ilegal, "que ha crecido hasta los días actuales"

## Fox and Perry Discuss Water, Death and Immigration

Por Marco A. Delgado

Following a recent tour in the United States by Mexican president Vicente Fox, different media in his country criticized his position confronting Texas governor, Rick Perry, who was emphatic respecting the matters of water debt with his country and the death penalty; while remaining very reserved on the proposal of using the Consular Registration as official identification by Mexican immigrants.

After having visited and obtained better results in the states of Arizona and New Mexico, meeting with their respective governors, Janet Napolitano and Bill Richardson, President Fox reached the state of Texas enveloped in an anti-immigrant



environment, as pointed out by the Mexican daily "La Jornada" in its November 7 edition.

The controversial meeting between Fox and the Texas governor touched on three topics which have maintained the attention of both governments, and above all of Mexican as well as the North American media: the water treaties, immigration, and,

finally, the death penalty. The latter having been the cause on one occasion for the president of Mexico to cancel a trip to Texas, August of 2002, as protest for the execution of Mexican Javier Suárez Medina, accused of the murder of a narcotics agent.

This matter overshadowed relations between the Mexican federal government and the state of Texas, and went beyond being a simple protest when the government of Mexico accused Texas officials of violating Article 36 of the Vienna Convention, since they did not inform Suárez of his right to receive consulate assistance at the time of his arrest.

Perry's words to the media on this occasion voiced his respect for the feelings of the Mexican government and its commitment to the protection of its citizens, but he was adamant about a continued application of the death penalty to those who murder policemen and citizens within his territory.

Mexico's Secretary of State, Luis Ernest Derbez, in response to the comments made by Rick Perry, pointed out that the governor of Texas did not refer exclusively to Mexicans, as had been

published in the headlines of various Mexican newspapers.

On the other hand, the Mexican head of state, who in New Mexico had thanked Governor Bill Richardson for his support of Consular Registration use, found a very different response from Rick Perry, who, although he did not deny he would certainly study a better immigration agreement, remained very reserved about Consular Registration used as official identification.

For many, the climax of the meeting was the discussion of the water-related topic, where - as signaled in several media - the Texan governor was more direct stating firmly that Mexico has neither complied on time or according to form with the return of this vital liquid, to which Fox responded that his government keeps its commitments and will continue to study this case.

It seems that the only concrete agreement reached on this occasion was Perry's acceptance to an invitation issued by Vicente Fox for him to visit Los Pinos, so as to continue these talks geared towards reaching agreements that are not only advantageous to Mexico but to Texas as well.

EL EDITOR  
PRIMERO EN  
REPORTAR  
NOTICIAS QUE  
IMPORTAN

# After Years of Turmoil, Central America Welcomes U.S. Latino Diplomats

By Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid

More Latinos have served as U.S. ambassadors to Central American countries than to any other region. Between 1961 and 1999, 15 received such State Department appointments.

Each country in the region, with the exception of Panama and Belize, have hosted at least two U.S. ambassadors who had Hispanic roots. Nicaragua and Honduras have had three and four, respectively.

Those interviewed for this series readily agree that their personal culture connections served them well to advance U.S. diplomacy and aid in the region's recovery from the brutality of war that pervaded the region beginning in the late '70s and early '80s. U.S. interventions contributed to the social, economic and political chaos in the region that caused thousands of casualties and drove more than a million refugees north.

Crescencio Arcos, who is now in charge of international affairs at the Department of Homeland Security, recounts how, when he served as U.S. Ambassador to Honduras in 1990 to 1993, "my heritage allowed me to convey a genuine concern, appreciation and fondness for the Hondurans." His background, he says, "helped enormously in addressing human rights violations committed by the military, the perceived public corruption, and the inefficient and dysfunctional justice system."

He recounts one case in 1992 in which a senior military officer raped and murdered a high school student, and no charges were even brought against him. Arcos's intervention and public criticism of the government's inaction led students to conduct a "pro-U.S." demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy - possibly a first in U.S.-Latin America relations. The officer was ultimately convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Luis Guinot, former U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica, makes the point: "I was able to say to them that the same blood that goes through your veins goes through mine. They knew what I meant and they knew that I understood what the problem was."

During the Cold War, communist containment and the protection of U.S. interests drove this nation's policy in the region. In 1954, the CIA backed a coup to oust Guatemala's democratically elected government. Code-named "PBSUCCESS," it overthrew Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán, whom U.S. officials perceived as a Communist-sympathizer. Decades of military dictatorship, repression and violence followed.

In the early 1980s, the U.S. government mobilized to undermine the Sandinistas in Nicaragua after the Marxist-oriented Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) guerrilla forces ousted President Anastasio Somoza. Some of the funds the United States used to train the contra rebels violated congressional bans.

In El Salvador, U.S. aid gave strong support to the military-influenced government during the 12-year conflict that left 75,000 people dead. U.S. Green Berets and other military advisers were sent to train the Salvadoran military to combat Marxist guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation coalition (FMLN).

After the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, U.S. economic and immigration interests prevailed in foreign policy. El Salvador's civil war and its 2001 earthquake sparked the flight of hundreds of thousands of its people.

Then in 1998 Hurricane Mitch devastated Honduras and Nicaragua. The United States granted and periodically extended temporary protected status to those who reached the United States, allowing

them to hold jobs here.

Some 3.4 million Central Americans now reside in the United States. While they build personal and political capital, they support their families back home every year with regular remittances, influencing both U.S. immigration and foreign aid policies. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, more than \$3.5 billion U.S. dollars flowed to Central America in 2001. The value of remittances sent to Central America and Mexico increased from \$10.2 billion to \$13 billion that year.

"The remittance phenomenon has become the driver for the Central Americans, and in turn, the U.S. is constantly addressing its immigration policy to adjust to the exigencies of the relationships," Arcos says.

Over the years, the United States developed a "bully" reputation in much of Central America. Now attitudes depend on the country you are in, Guinot explains. Costa Rica, his former host, managed to avoid civil wars and direct U.S. intervention. It is the most pro-U.S. country in Latin America, he maintains, adding, "Costa Ricans consider the United States to be their friend and they reciprocate." He recalls upon his arrival there in 1991 seeing bumper stickers on cars that read "Bush/Quayle."

According to Arcos, in Honduras "Anti-Americanism historically has been absent with the exception of sporadic manifestations in the 1950s and 1980s. They readily embrace the U.S. Hispanic community."

In Nicaragua U.S. Latino diplomats face a tougher sell. Oliver Garza, now Diplomat-in-Residence and Visiting Scholar at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, served as U.S. Ambassador there from 1999 to

2002. He notes that long before the U.S. intervention in the '80s, U.S. adventurer William Walker left a lasting mark on the history of U.S.-Nicaraguan relations. Walker, a Tennessean, invaded civil war-torn Nicaragua in 1855 with a small army of mercenaries. He ruled that country for two years.

"It has tended to influence the way they see themselves and the way they are perceived from the outside," Garza says.

Arcos recalls that U.S. Hispanic politicians and community leaders did take a keen interest in the region during the turmoil of the 80's. Members of the Hispanic Caucus visited the area on several occasions. U.S. Honduran civic and religious leaders from New Orleans, a Honduran enclave in the United States, visited Honduras and worked with counterparts in that country.

With time, attitudes toward the nomination of Hispanic ambassadors to the region have changed. "Up until recently, some Latino countries perceived the assignment of a Latino ambassador as tokenism," concedes Frank Almaguer, another former U.S. Ambassador to Honduras.

"I had a distinct impression that most Central American governments and the upper tier of South America would prefer to have a blue-eyed blond gringo... than somebody named González because they felt the former would have more clout back in Washington," Guinot says. As Hispanics progress in the United States, he observes, "Our fellow Hispanics in these countries understand that you are not a token anymore."

(Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid is a correspondent with Hispanic Link News Service. She is based in Washington, D.C.)

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# Naughty or Nice...Ready or Not...Here it Comes

By Abel Cruz

Well, Thanksgiving has come and gone, and now it's off to the races to see how much we can buy and how much debt we can accumulate between now and December 25. As usual the Christmas season is off to a very fast and furious start. It seems that the starter's gun goes off earlier and earlier every year with local retailers hoping that the holiday season will save them from a bad retail sales year. In fact, if we're not careful, one day we'll find ourselves going Christmas shopping on July 4!

By the way, speaking of Christmas, maybe Tommy Gonzalez, interim city manager for the city, will find a job offer under his tree this year. The field for the city manager's job has been narrowed to 5 candidates from the original 67. But according to rumors coming out of city hall, it may as well be 4 finalists. Let's face it; Mr. Gonzalez is not the frontrunner here. In fact, I don't even think he's in the race. Oh, the city council will have us believe that he is being given an equal chance to compete, but do you really think that the city would have gone through this recruiting process if they intended to offer Mr. Gonzalez the job? I don't think so! So in a few days when the finalists are selected, expect Mr. Gonzalez to be among them. But when all is said and done, I'm afraid it will be business as usual at city hall.

Christmas will also find the US involved in a conflict half way around the world, trying to liberate a people that didn't ask to be liberated. It will find over 100,000 of our young men and women, the future of our country, fighting a war in which the reason for their doing so is still not quite clear. And it will find an administration that questions a person's loyalty when we dare to question our reason for invading Iraq. Let's hope that Bush, Chaney, Rumsfeld, and Powell will find a good dose of reality and good sense in their Christmas stockings. Reality so that they realize once and for all that the invasion of Iraq was done for the wrong reasons, and the good sense to develop a workable, quick exit plan which includes the involvement of the United Nations. And then maybe we'll all get a Christmas present in the form of those young men and women returning home.

And so, as we enter this special time of the year, perhaps we won't allow ourselves to get too worked up about the commercialism that has become Christmas, or get too stressed out about not getting that prime parking space close to the front entrance, or even upset as we jockey for the first position at the cash register. Maybe we'll remind ourselves that Christmas should be a time filled with goodwill towards others and a time for reflection about the true meaning of Christmas.

But, if you do find yourself too caught up in the feeding frenzy of the holiday season, just think how you would feel if you were one of those young men or women who are serving their country, and won't be home for the holidays.

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# Tras Años de Tumulto, Centro America da la Bienvenida a los Diplomáticos Latinos de los EEUU

Por Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid

Ha habido más embajadores latinos de los Estados Unidos en países centroamericanos que en cualquier otra región. Entre 1961 y 1999, 15 recibieron tales nombramientos del Departamento de Estado.

Cada país de la región, con la excepción de Panamá y Belice, han tenido al mínimo dos embajadores de los Estados Unidos con ascendencia hispana. Nicaragua y Honduras han tenido tres y cuatro, respectivamente.

Los que fueron entrevistados para esta serie concuerdan en que sus conexiones de cultura personal les han servido bien al promover la diplomacia de los EEUU y su asistencia en la recuperación por la que pasa la región después de la brutalidad de las guerras que han azotado los países desde fines de los setenta y comienzos de los ochenta. Las intervenciones estadounidenses contribuyeron al caos social, económico y político que ocasionó miles de muertes y la huida más de un millón de refugiados hacia el norte.

Crescencio Arcos, encargado actual de asuntos internacionales del Departamento de Seguridad Territorial, narra cómo, cuando servía de embajador estadounidense en Honduras de 1990 a 1993, "mi herencia me permitió comunicar una verdadera preocupación, aprecio y afecto por los hondureños". Su ascendencia, dice, "fue una ayuda enorme en

dirigirme a las violaciones de derechos humanos propagadas por las fuerzas armadas, la percibida corrupción pública, y el sistema de justicia ineficiente y torpe".

Narra el caso en 1992 en el que un oficial principal militar violó y asesinó a una estudiante de secundaria, sin que se le acusara nunca. La intervención de Arcos y la crítica pública de la inacción gubernamental llevó a que un grupo de estudiantes realizara una manifestación "en pro de los Estados Unidos" en frente de la embajada estadounidense - quizás la primera nunca en los años de relaciones bilaterales. Al oficial lo condenaron al final y fue sentenciado a 15 años de cárcel.

Luis Guinot, ex-embajador de los EEUU a Costa Rica, indica que, "Yo les pude decir que la misma sangre que corre por tus venas corre por las mías. Sabían lo que quería decir y sabían que yo entendía el problema".

Durante la Guerra Fría, lo que condujo la política de esta nación en Centroamérica fue querer contener la diseminación del comunismo y la protección de los intereses estadounidenses en la región. En 1954, el CIA respaldó un golpe de estado en Guatemala para derrocar al gobierno democráticamente elegido.

Llamado por el código "PBSUCCESS", derrocó a Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán, percibido como simpatizante comunista por los funcionarios estadounidenses. El

resultado fue décadas de dictaduras militares, represión y violencia.

En los albores de la década de los ochenta, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos se movilizó para socavar a los Sandinistas en Nicaragua después que las fuerzas de orientación marxista del Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FSLN) derrocaran al presidente Anastasio Somoza. Algunos de los fondos utilizados por los Estados Unidos para entrenar a los "contras" violaron prohibiciones impuestas por el Congreso.

En El Salvador, la asistencia estadounidense apoyó mucho al gobierno de influencia militar durante el conflicto que duró 12 años con un saldo de 75,000 muertes. Los "boinas verdes" estadounidenses y otros asesores militares fueron enviados a entrenar la fuerza armada de El Salvador a combatir la guerrilla marxista de la coalición Farabundo Martí de Liberación Nacional (FMLN).

Tras la caída del muro de Berlín en 1989, fueron dominantes en la política exterior los intereses económicos y de inmigración para los Estados Unidos. La guerra civil de El Salvador y el terremoto allí en el 2001 causaron la huida de cientos de miles de sus nacionales.

Entretanto, el huracán Mitch de 1998 devastó a Honduras y Nicaragua. Los Estados Unidos otorgó y extendió periódicamente estado protegido temporal a los que llegaban a los Estados Unidos,

permitiendo que trabajaran aquí.

Unos 3.4 millones de centroamericanos residen hoy en los Estados Unidos. Mientras cultivan capital personal y político, mantienen a los familiares en sus países con remesas regulares cada año, que resultan ser de influencia tanto en las políticas de inmigración como en la política de asistencia extranjera de los EEUU. Según datos del Pew Hispanic Center, más de \$3.5 mil millones fueron enviados a Centroamérica en el año 2001. El valor de las remesas que llegan a Centroamérica y México aumentó de \$10.2 mil millones a \$13 mil millones ese año.

"El fenómeno de las remesas ha llegado a ser la fuerza motora para los centroamericanos, y a su vez, los Estados Unidos constantemente se dirige a su política de inmigración para ajustarla a las exigencias de las relaciones", comenta Arcos.

Con los años la reputación de los Estados Unidos era una de "mano fuerte" en gran parte de América Central. Ahora las actitudes cambian según el país en el que uno se encuentra, explica Guinot. Costa Rica, donde fue embajador, logró evitar la guerra civil e intervención directa de los Estados Unidos. Es el país que más apoya los Estados Unidos en América Latina, sostiene, agregando que, "los costarricenses consideran a los Estados Unidos (Continúa en la Pagina 5)

# A couple of real turkeys

By Molly Ivins

These Republicans have talent. It is not easy to do this much damage to people's lives with a straight face and that unctuous air of piety. I like the timing, too - they slipped that Medicare reform bill through just in time for the drug companies, the insurance companies and the HMOs to give loud hosannas around their Thanksgiving tables.

Let us hear their hymns of praise, paeans, benedictions and blessings upon the Republican Party rise from their groaning and appreciative boards over, amen. Oh, and as for you senior citizens who believed that amusing little claim that you would all benefit from this bill - suckers!

According to Public Citizen, pharmaceutical companies have given \$44 million since 1999 - 78 percent to Republicans, 22 percent to Democrats - and have spent millions more hiring an army of lobbyists that physically outnumber the 535 members of Congress.

The Health Reform Program of Boston University estimates that of the bill's \$400 billion price tag, \$139 billion will go to increase drug company profits over eight years - a 38 percent increase in what is already the world's most profitable industry. But forget about the Medicare bill - it won't take effect until 2006 anyway, so you won't even notice what it does 'til then. Regard the even more amazing energy bill.

In case you haven't been keeping up (and you do have to race to keep up), there is a gasoline additive called MTBE that has polluted ground water across the country. So naturally the Republicans have put in a provision that would limit the liability of the manufacturers of MTBE - that means you can't sue them for ruining the water - and the bill would give the companies up to \$2 billion in federal aid.

Congratulations! That means you, the users of MTBE-polluted water across the nation, will get to pay for cleaning it up. This is an amazing energy bill because it will not

- (A) reduce our dependence on foreign oil;
- (B) provide significant new energy sources;
- (C) create many jobs;
- (D) improve the grid system so we won't have more blackouts;
- (E) promote energy efficiency or conservation; or (F) do anything about global warming.

But - it will give at least \$20 billion in subsidies to fossil fuel companies. Those poor li'l oil, gas, coal and nuclear companies like Exxon Mobil and General Electric need our help. This is compassionate conservatism.

We would, of course, tell you who wrote this abomination, except Dick Cheney, who headed the task force, doesn't think any of us should know, and the Republicans who have been working on it for months met in secret. Democrats were not even admitted to the committee meetings.

The environmental groups are still going through it, finding new horrors hidden away. Greenwire reports: "Section 349 would remove the discretion of the Interior Department to deny applications to drill amid onshore and offshore lands - upon receiving an application to drill in a leased area, the department would have 10 days to determine whether additional information is required to grant a permit. Once the information is provided, the department must approve the application regardless of whether drilling would damage the environment." I like that.

The Natural Resources Defense Council reports that the bill will roll back environmental protections to boost oil and gas drilling on American's last remaining wild lands and open spaces. It also will eliminate consumer protections and subsidize construction of new nuclear plants that most Americans don't want, and it will exempt polluters from laws that ensure clear water and healthy air. A provision seriously weakening the Clean Air Act was inserted behind closed doors. And the sin of omission once again outweighs all the sins of commission, even in this stupefyingly bad bill, which is on hold for further discussion until after the Senate's holiday recess.

Our economy wastes more energy than any other country - perhaps as much as half our total energy. This bill does nothing to encourage energy efficiency or fuel economy standards. The simplest, cheapest thing we can do about energy is save it - but of course if we conserve energy and make our cars more efficient, that means lower profits for the oil, gas, coal and nuclear industries.

No wonder the energy companies have given more than \$71 million in contributions to politicians, over 80 percent to Republicans, since 1999. They're getting a \$20 billion return on that little investment just in direct subsidies, and there is much more in the bill in indirect subsidies.

Folks, it is time to get serious about fixing this system.



# English Insecurity?

More than 47 million American residents age five and older use a language other than English at home, according to the latest figures of the US Census. That translates into nearly one in five Americans, while ten years ago one in seven Americans spoke a foreign language at home.

This information has been widely publicized in the media recently. For some Americans, the "large" number of non-English speakers causes problems since the fear is that these new immigrants will not integrate and dilute the fabric of our country.

However, another way to look at it is that these "non-English speakers" make not only valuable economic contributions but linguistic ones as well.

Looking beyond the headlines, you discover first of all that about half of the 47 million who speak a language other than English at home also speak English "very well," according to information provided to the Census.

That means we have a lot of bilingual people in the US. That is a great asset, which unfortunately is used very little at a time when our need to communicate with the rest of the world keeps increasing.

As the US continues its presence in many other countries militarily, economically, and politically, the need for linguistically competent people rises.

We know very well that we lack qualified bilingual personnel both domestically and abroad.

That shortage became very clear a few years ago when the FBI announced soon after 9-11 that it needed Arabic speakers to translate large amounts of data that had been collected through various means. To remedy the situation, the FBI eventually held a job fair in a New Jersey mosque to hire bilingual agents.

Shortages of bilingual personnel exist also in other areas of our government. In China, 62 percent of the US Foreign Service officers did not meet the language requirement for their jobs, according to a General Accounting Office report. In Russia, 41 percent did not speak Russian. In Saudi Arabia the head of public outreach for an American consulate did not speak Arabic.

Although there is no easy solution to finding linguistically qualified personnel, the millions of people in the US who speak English and another language can be tapped to fill positions in government.

What foreign languages are spoken in US homes? Spanish, of course, is the most widely used with about 28 million potentially bilingual people. Other languages with more than a million speakers include Chinese, French, German, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Italian, Korean, Russian, and Polish.

These linguistically capable individuals need to be encouraged to apply for positions requiring language skills. Even if immigrants don't know a particular language, they can use their bilingual skills to learn it a lot faster than monolingual Americans. For example, it's easy for a Spanish speaker to learn Portuguese because the two languages are closely related. Similar cases apply for eastern European and Asian languages.

## Recientes leyes refuerzan el caso contra Jackson

Hace 10 años, cuando Michael Jackson fue acusado de abuso sexual de un niño de 13 años, Jackson pagó a la familia del niño una suma considerable para resolver una demanda.

La investigación criminal de las acusaciones fue abandonada posteriormente, cuando el niño dejó de cooperar con las autoridades.

Quentin L. Kopp, juez de un tribunal superior del condado de San Mateo que era senador estatal en ese entonces, se sintió indignado por la percepción de que Jackson había comprado el silencio de su acusador. Kopp redactó una legislación, respaldada por el fiscal de distrito de Los Angeles, que hizo ilegales tales arreglos.

US needs to develop a climate of multilingualism within our borders by encouraging language study in schools beginning in the early grades. This needs to occur for the kids of immigrant children who should be encouraged to maintain their parents' languages as they also learn English.

In the case of monolingual American kids, the same opportunity to learn two languages should be made available. Dual language schools, which teach subjects in two languages, are increasing although their numbers are still very small. There are more than 300 such schools in the US, up by more than two-thirds since 1992. Former Secretary of Education Richard Riley wisely called on the nation to nearly quadruple the number of dual-language schools to 1,000 within five years.

han indicado que no pueden comentar sobre la fuerza de la evidencia en contra de Jackson. Los cambios incluyen leyes de sentencias más severas que ayudaron a persuadir a los acusados a llegar a acuerdos con los fiscales, así como requisitos más flexibles para admitir cierto tipo de pruebas en tribunales.

David R. Ross, ex fiscal de distrito del condado de Los Angeles, dijo que se sentiría sorprendido si las nuevas leyes tuvieran un papel importante en el caso de Jackson. Ross, quien se retiró en 2001 luego de 32 años como fiscal, dijo que muchos de los cambios legales se aplican en raras circunstancias, lo que permite a los fiscales reafirmar casos frágiles que, de otra forma, podrían venirse abajo.

Aunque los expertos y fiscales lencio de su acusador. Kopp redactó una legislación, respaldada por el fiscal de distrito de Los Angeles, que hizo ilegales tales arreglos. "Creí que era contrario al interés público que una víctima de abuso sexual pueda ser silenciada con dinero", aseveró Kopp. "Quise prevenir que volviera a ocurrir". Se ignora si la ley, que fue aprobada en 1994, ha sido puesta a prueba. Pero esa y otra serie de leyes podrían darles a los fiscales del condado de Santa Bárbara una mano más dura para perseguir nuevas acusaciones en contra de Jackson, que implican a un niño de 12 años, según expertos legales y fiscales veteranos no relacionados con el caso.



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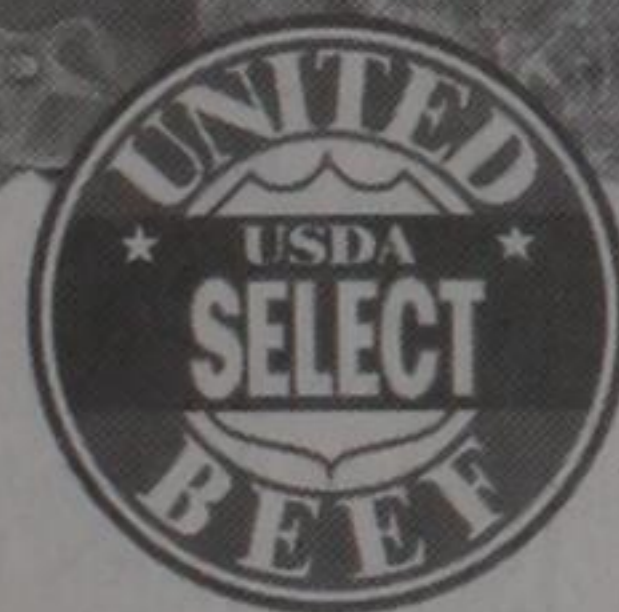


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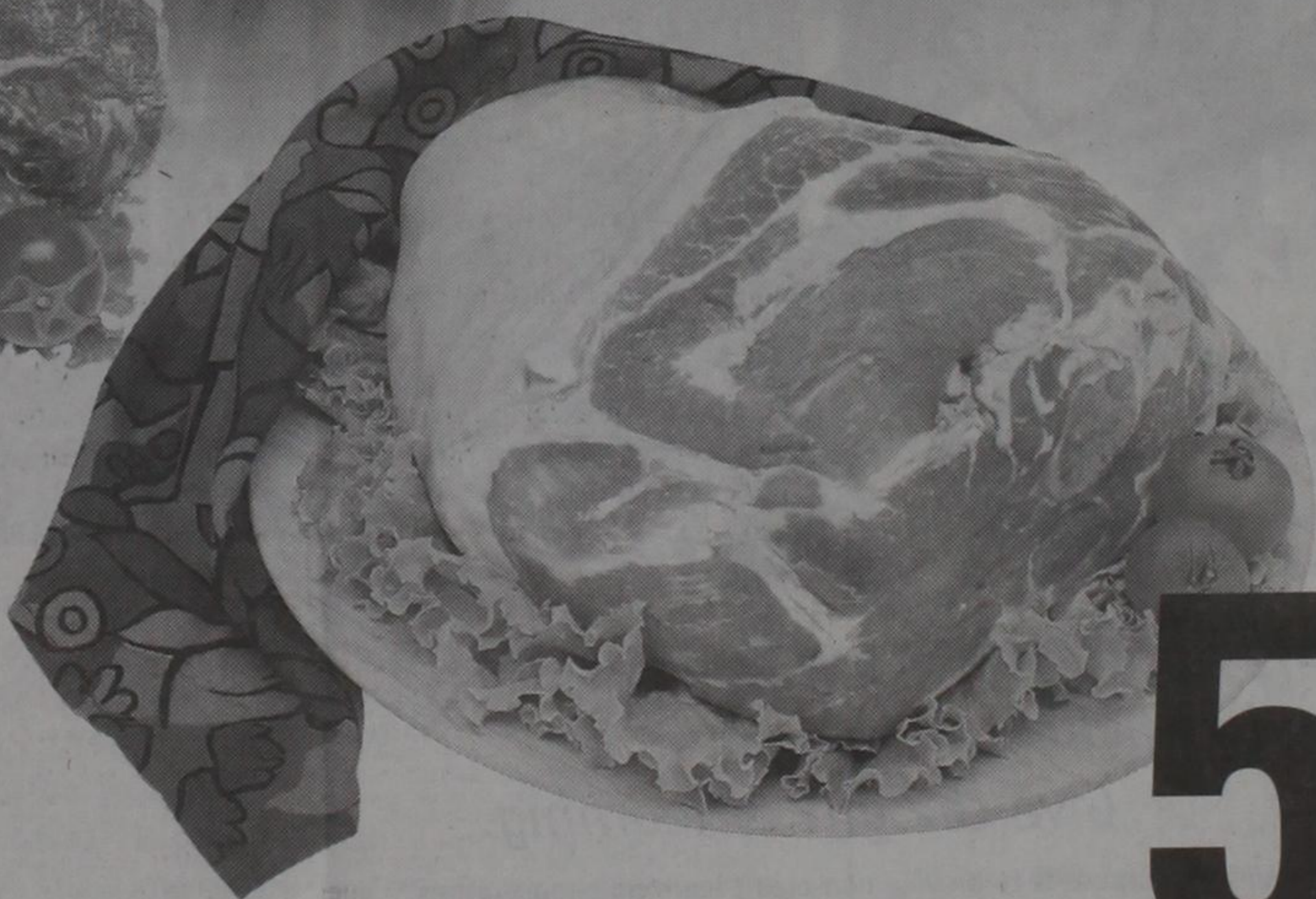


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## Bryant, Lakers erase 9-point fourth-quarter hole, beat Spurs

The Lakers are now 3-0 against the Spurs this season, while the defending NBA champions have fallen below .500. What a difference a year makes.

Kobe Bryant made only six of his 20 shots Wednesday night, but 10 of his 21 points came in the final period as Los Angeles erased a nine-point deficit to beat San Antonio 90-86.

Last season, San Antonio swept all four regular-season matchups and eliminated Los Angeles in the playoffs.

"We buckled down and did what we're supposed to do," said Gary Payton, who scored 16. "We're trying to make statements to everybody that we're for real this year. It's going to be hard to beat us."

The Lakers trailed 71-62 after three quarters but made eight of their 16 shots in the fourth as their defense pressured San Antonio into seven turnovers and poor shot selection.

"In the fourth quarter, that's when you have to lock teams down," Bryant said. "That's what we did."

Karl Malone, who finished with 16, made all four of his shots in the period, while Shaquille O'Neal had five of his nine blocks in the quarter.

The Spurs managed to make only three of their 17 attempts in the final 12 minutes and stumbled to their fourth straight loss.

"Sometimes we're our own worst enemy," said San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich. "Our pace is too frenetic -- it creates turnovers and puts pressure on the defense."

The Spurs are now 9-10. They have not been below .500 this late in the season since 1996-97 -- before the team drafted Tim Duncan.

Duncan, returning from a one-game suspension for pushing a referee in Saturday's loss at Golden State, finished with 30 points and 15 rebounds.

"I got two or three open looks down the stretch -- I just wasn't able to knock them in," said Duncan, who missed all five of his shots in the fourth quarter.

Devean George added 18 for Los Angeles, which extended its winning streak to seven. O'Neal, who scored 15 points, narrowly missed a triple-double, grabbing 16 rebounds.

A 3-pointer by Tony Parker, the Spurs' first basket of the fourth, gave San Antonio its final lead -- 80-78 with 5:05 left. A free throw by George and a layup by Payton put the Lakers ahead for good with 4:16 remaining.

The Spurs hit nine of their first 15 attempts from the floor to build an 18-11 lead late in the first quarter, but a pair of layups by Payton and 3-pointers from Bryant and George gave the Lakers their final lead of the half, 21-20.

A 20-8 run by San Antonio early in the second quarter stretched the advantage to 46-31. The Lakers outscored the Spurs 10-1 over the final four minutes of the half as San Antonio missed its final seven shots.

O'Neal scored his first points of the game on a dunk over Duncan with 3:23 remaining in the first half, and Payton made two more layups and a 4-foot jumper to pull Los Angeles to 47-41.

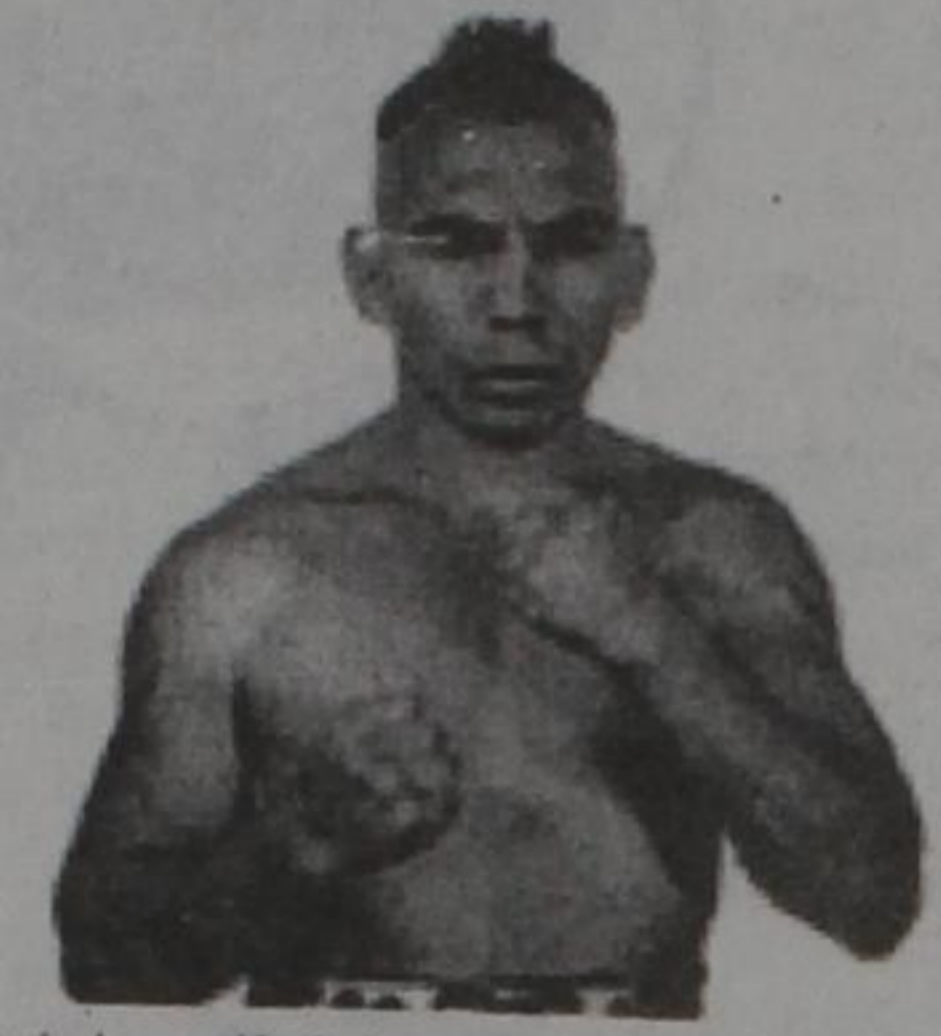
## Former IBF champion plans to leave ring

Former IBF featherweight champion Jorge Paez said he will retire after his next fight unless Top Rank makes good on promises to set him up for another title shot.

Paez, 38, a huge draw in the Southwest and his native Mexico, is featured against Scott McCracken (14-5) of Aliquippa, Pa., in a Top Rank-promoted fight card Friday night.

"I think this is it," Paez said Wednesday through a translator. "I'm tired of making the weight and leaving my family. Top Rank has been telling me I would fight for a world championship since two years ago, and they haven't given me the opportunity."

Paez (78-14-5, 51 knockouts) is ranked ninth in the IBF's 130-pound super featherweight division, but he will fight McCracken as a lightweight (135 pounds) and has had difficulty making weight even in a



nigher division.

The former circus acrobat, nicknamed "Maromero" for his trademark victory somersault, has a 17-fight winning streak since early 2000.

Paez said he tried to discourage 16-year-old Jorge Luis, his only child from his first marriage, from starting a ring-career and has taught two younger sons fighting techniques only for self-defense.

"I didn't want my kids to fight," he said. "I wanted my kids to go to school."

## La Fusion de musica Hip Hop Latina Mezcla la raza, soul y ritmo

Por Rosa Ramirez

Con una mezcla de sonidos jamaicanos, música funk y soul con compases latinos, los raperos hispanos han creado una nueva variedad dentro de los ritmos hip-hop que representan una oportunidad para que los hispanos expresen su identidad bicultural.

Los nuevos sonidos incluyen un rápido juego de palabras propias del rap, a la vez que añaden ritmos de banda, corridos, salsa, merengue y mariachi o música norteña con compases del hip-hop. La combinación refleja, en más de una forma, las experiencias de miles de jóvenes latinos de la urbe, quienes se balancean entre dos mundos, dos culturas y dos idiomas.

En cierta forma, el movimiento de fusión nació de la necesidad de ver a los artistas expresar su realidad hispana. Byron Brizuela, presidente de Producciones Brizz, dice, "No velamos artistas que pudiéramos decir que en realidad eran nuestros". Producciones Brizz se especializa en música latina popular, incluyendo hip-hop y house.

A pesar de que los fanáticos comenzaron a escuchar la fusión de música hip-hop en las estaciones de radio y a comprar los discos a principios de este año, los artistas dicen que hace más de cinco años ya venían entreteniendo a la audiencia con dicha música en el movimiento clandestino.

La mezcla de géneros latinos tradicionales con los compases del hip-hop fue un paso natural para muchos de estos artistas, los cuales crecieron escuchando música en español en sus hogares y el hip-hop en la escuela y entre amigos, dice Brizuela. "El matrimonio de ambos géneros se ha convertido ahora en algo que refleja su identidad".

"Somos una mezcla de dos culturas", dice Sergio Gómez, del grupo AKWID, compuesto por dos hombres que comenzaron el fenómeno hip-hop urbano regional en Los Angeles. "Nuestro español no es perfecto y tampoco nuestro inglés lo es, pero está bien". El álbum Proyecto AKWID, el cual lanzó al mercado Univisión Records, llegó a ser uno de los 10 mejores en las listas del Latin Billboard. Dicha producción obtuvo el disco platino al vender 250 mil ejemplares.

Brizuela asevera que, a juzgar por las ventas, la aceptación de este tipo de música es "un logro fenomenal". El artista conocido como Jae-P ha vendido más de cien mil ejemplares de su primer álbum, Ni de aquí ni de allá, aún cuando el mismo apenas se ha escuchado en la radio. El álbum fue lanzado al mercado por Univisión Records en octubre de este año.

A pesar de que los raperos y artistas del hip-hop están incurriendo ahora en el mercado latino de EEUU con sus composiciones en español, su participa-

ción en el movimiento no es nada nuevo. Desde principios de la década de los noventa, cuando el rap se estableció en el mercado general, los raperos latinos han capturado a la audiencia bicultural mediante composiciones que exaltan su herencia, tanto en inglés como en español.

El rapero chicano, Arturo Molina Jr., a quien se conocía con el nombre artístico de Kid Frost cuando grabó su hit, La Raza, dice en ritmo de rap: "It's in my blood to be an Aztec warrior/Chicano, and I'm brown and proud," en su álbum, "Hispanics Causing Panic".

Lo que separa al movimiento de música fusión del rap en español que se escuchaba en el pasado, es la integración del acordeón, la trompeta y el bajo con compases hip-hop, tal como en el "rap corrido" de Jesús Chávez en su primer álbum, "Mr. Party".

Como muchos cantantes del corrido, Chávez habla sobre el amor y la vida, pero, contrario a los trobadores mexicanos, dice en ritmo rap: "Como el mundo regional no hay otro igual /Chuy" is on the box with "corridos" and hip-hop/ "dándoles calor pa' que bailen bien chingón" en su álbum, No que no.

Entre los recién llegados al regional urbano se encuentra Yahira García, cuyo nombre artístico es La Flakiss, quien debutó con el álbum, Libérate, el cual lanzarán al mercado en enero Headliners y Univisión Records. La letra de sus composiciones es distinta a muchas otras del hip-hop.

"El mensaje consiste en darle poder a la mujer", dice ella. "Quiero decirles a todas las mujeres que ellas pueden lograrlo por sí mismas".

Mientras los artistas de la costa oeste le llaman a esta mezcla, música urbana regional (urban mix) por su gran influencia de los corridos mexicanos, los artistas de la música norteña y banda de la costa este la llaman regetón por su raíces en la salsa y el merengue del trópico, particularmente de Cuba, Puerto Rico y la República Dominicana.

No obstante, los pioneros de la música de fusión, David Rolas, Jae-P y los integrantes de AKWID, dicen que este tipo de música le da a la juventud hispana otra razón más para celebrar su herencia.

"Veo a muchos muchachos hoy día más orgullosos de sus raíces", dice Rolas, cuyo álbum, Nuestra Vida, Fonovía Records lanzó al mercado en octubre. "Y debido a que incorporamos el elemento gruperío en esta música, veo también a mucha gente mayor a quienes les gustan nuestras canciones".

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## Latino Hip-Hop Fusion Blends La Raza, Soul & Rhythm

By Rosa Ramirez

Through a concoction of Jamaican sounds, funk and soul with traditional Latin beats, Hispanic rappers have created a unique extension of hip-hop rhythms that provides a venue for Hispanics to express their bicultural identity.

The new sounds include the fast-paced game of words of rap while adding banda, corridos, salsa, merengue, mariachi or norteño music with hip-hop beats. In more than one way, the combination reflects the experience of thousands of young urban Latinos who balance between two worlds, two cultures and two languages.

In part, the fusion movement was born out of a need to see artists express Hispanic realities. Byron Brizuela, president of Brizz Productions, says, "We just didn't see artists that we could say are our artists." Brizz Productions specializes in Latin

continued on page 5



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CITY COUNCIL APPROVED  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

At 11:00am on December 8, 2003, the Lubbock City Council will hold a Public Hearing and will vote on January 8, 2004 to establish a Community Development Program for the City of Lubbock. The process of soliciting public comment is a necessary prerequisite to establishing a Section 108 Loan Program. On June 19, 2003, City Council approved a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract and all related documents for the Housing and Urban Development Section 108 Loan Program that will be used to fund a citywide housing rehabilitation program.

The Public Comment period will end on December 22, 2003, at 5:00 pm. Comments will be submitted by mail to the following:

City of Lubbock  
Community Development Department  
Attn: Bill Howerton, Jr.  
P.O. Box 2000 Lubbock, TX 79457

Comments will also be accepted at the Municipal Building located at 1625 13th Street, Room 107. The offices are open from 8:00am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Persons may drop by to review the information during this time. If assistance or an alternative time is needed, please call the Community Development office at 775-2301.



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El Editor, Lubbock, Tx.- December 4, 2003

# Fox fired UN Ambassador because he embarrassed Mexico, not because he was told to do it by the US-so he said

Mexico's U.N. ambassador was forced out because he made comments on U.S.-Mexico relations that embarrassed the country, not due to pressure from the United States, President Vicente Fox said Wednesday.

Fox's statement confirmed suspicions that the president was behind the ouster of U.N. Ambassador Adolfo Aguilar Zinser for saying the United States treats Mexico as its "back yard."

The president said the ambassador's comments were an offense to Mexico.

"I didn't do it to support the United States, or (U.S. Secretary of State Colin) Powell, nothing like that," Fox told reporters.

Mexican officials announced Monday that Aguilar Zinser would leave his post on Jan. 1 amid the diplomatic flap caused by his comments to university students in Mexico City last week.

"Unfortunately, the understanding that the political and intellectual class of the United States has of Mexico is a country whose position is that of a

back yard," he told the students.

The remarks came on the eve of sensitive U.S.-Mexico talks aimed at warming chilly relations, and prompted sharp rebuttals from Powell, Fox and Foreign Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez.

"It seems to me that it's an offense to Mexico to say that Mexico is the 'back yard' of the United States," Fox said Wednesday at a news conference with visiting German President Johannes Rau.

Derbez, in announcing that the ambassador would leave his post, had made vaguely worded statements that left it unclear whether Aguilar Zinser quit or was fired.

Mexican analysts and politicians note that most Mexicans share Aguilar Zinser's sentiment and that he certainly was not the first to describe Mexico as the subordinate neighbor.

Some analysts speculated that Powell, whose dislike of Aguilar Zinser was public knowledge, used Aguilar Zinser's comments to pressure Mexico to fire him.

Fox said that was not the case. "I did it thinking ... that we

Mexicans don't like being told that," he said, referring to the "back yard" comment. "At least I don't like it."

In separate comments during the news conference, Fox said, "I believe that the facts have shown that the relationship with the United States is one of great maturity and is based on a frankness that allows us to discuss even the complicated and difficult themes. ... Fortunately, we agree on a majority of things."

## Diabetes: amenaza seria para los hispanos

La intención no es aguarle el placer de devorar los suntuosos banquetes de las fiestas navideñas que se acercan, pero si usted padece de diabetes, recuerde que esta enfermedad no se detiene ante la Navidad y el fin de año. Por lo tanto, también en las fiestas decembrinas hay que cuidar lo que uno lleva a la boca.

De acuerdo a la Asociación Americana de la Diabetes (AAD), las personas mayores de 40 años, con sobrepeso, antecedentes familiares y además hispanas, enfrentan el gran riesgo de ser diabéticas. Según estadísticas, más de 14 millones de residentes de este país sufren de esta enfermedad y alrededor de uno de cada siete latinos de California es diabético.

La diabetes no mata, pero sí atenta contra la vida las complicaciones que esta enfermedad genera.

Dieta y pobreza De acuerdo a un estudio realizado años atrás por un grupo de investigadores en Texas, a cargo del doctor David Stern, uno de los factores destacados que provocan tantos casos de diabetes tipo II entre los hispanos es una dieta alimenticia inadecuada.

Asimismo, el estudio detectó que el aspecto social y económico también desempeña un papel fundamental.

En estos estudios realizados en Texas, se descubrió que la incidencia de diabetes fue mayor en los vecindarios pobres, debido a una deficiente alimentación.

Los alimentos procesados y con alta concentración en grasa y carbohidratos son más baratos pero promueven el riesgo a contraer diabetes.

Lo preocupante de este descubrimiento es que la enfermedad está atacando la fuerza productiva hispana, que es tiene cada vez mayor importancia en el país. El problema se agrava si tenemos en cuenta que muchas familias de

Aguilar Zinser, once a close friend of Fox and a strong supporter during his campaign, told the newspaper Milenio that his departure is his "definitive separation" from the administration and that he will "say everything that needs to be said" when the president's term ends.

"I am happy because soon I will be completely free to write, and to think about how and when I will resume my political life," he told the newspaper.

bajos ingresos no poseen seguro médico, lo que les impide practicarse chequeos para detectar enfermedades.

El doctor Jaime Alvarado, que ejerce su práctica médica en San Antonio, Texas, dijo que "la mayoría de los latinos con diabetes en California, no saben que la tienen hasta que se manifiestan complicaciones serias para su salud".

Según el galeno, la dieta alimenticia es la que influye mayormente en el desarrollo de la diabetes, pero también puede incidir el factor hereditario.

"Se han realizado estudios que confirman que la genética desempeña un rol en el desarrollo de la diabetes. Uno hereda características genéticas que bajo ciertas circunstancias van a desarrollar la enfermedad. Por lo tanto, son varios los factores que inciden, pero la clave para controlarla es seguir una dieta saludable y con frecuencia realizar ejercicios", dijo.

La enfermedad Según la Asociación Americana de Diabetes, ésta es una enfermedad que se caracteriza por exceso de azúcar en la sangre que —a través de los años— endurece las arterias, afectando seriamente el corazón, los riñones, el cerebro e incluso puede obstruir las arterias de las piernas.

Existen dos tipos de diabetes, una es la denominada tipo I, en la cual la persona no cuenta con insulina en su organismo y debe inyectársela para poder vivir. La diabetes tipo II, es la que más afecta a los hispanos, especialmente a los obesos. En este caso, el páncreas no produce suficiente insulina para cubrir las necesidades del organismo.

Una vez que la diabetes se diagnostica en un paciente por medio de un examen de sangre o de orina, inmediatamente éste tiene que someterse a un tratamiento para prevenir mayores complicaciones a su salud.

## Diplomaticos

(Viene de la Segunda Pagina) como un amigo y corresponden con el mismo sentimiento". Recuerda cuando llegó a Costa Rica en 1991 vio calcomanías sobre los paraques de los autos que decían "Bush/Quayle".

Según explica Arcos, en Honduras, "el sentimiento anti-americano ha estado históricamente ausente con la excepción de manifestaciones esporádicas en los años cincuenta y ochenta. Abrazan sin reservas la comunidad hispana de los Estados Unidos".

En Nicaragua la situación es más difícil para los diplomáticos de los Estados Unidos. Oliver Garza, actual diplomático residente y académico invitado de la Escuela de Asuntos Públicos Lyndon B. Johnson de la Universidad de Texas en Austin, fue embajador a Nicaragua de 1999 a 2002. Nota que mucho antes que los Estados Unidos interviniera en los años ochenta, el aventurero estadounidense William Walker dejó una marca duradera en la historia de las relaciones entre los Estados Unidos y Nicaragua.

Walker, de Tennessee, invadió Nicaragua, vulnerable de una guerra civil, con un pequeño ejército de mercenarios, y gobernó el país durante dos años.

"Este episodio? tiende a influenciar cómo se perciben ellos mismos y cómo se les percibe desde fuera", explica Garza.

Arcos recuerda que los políticos

y dirigentes comunitarios hispanos de los Estados Unidos se interesaron mucho por Centroamérica durante el tumulto de los años ochenta. Miembros del Caucus Hispano hicieron varias visitas a la región. Dirigentes cívicos y religiosos hondureños de un enclave en Nueva Orleans visitaron Honduras para colaborar con sus contrapartes allí.

Con el tiempo las actitudes hacia el nombramiento de embajadores hispanos a la región han cambiado. "Hasta hace poco, algunos países latinoamericanos no veían con buenos ojos el nombramiento de un embajador latino", concede Frank Almáguera, otro ex-embajador estadounidense a Honduras.

"Tuve la absoluta impresión que la mayoría de los gobiernos centroamericanos y la parte superior de Sudamérica hubieran preferido un gringo rubio de ojos azules ... más que alguien de apellido González por lo que percibían que el primero tendría mayor influencia en Washington", explica Guinot. En la medida que los hispanos progresan en los Estados Unidos, "Nuestros pares hispanos en estos países comprenden que ya no estás allí simplemente para aparentar ¡que Estados Unidos carece de prejuicios?".

(Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid es corresponsal con Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.) (c) 2003 Hispanic Link News Service. Distribuido por Tribune Media Services International

## Latino Hip-Hop from page four

street music, including hip-hop and house.

Though fans began listening to hip-hop fusion on radio stations and buying the albums earlier this year, artists say they have been entertaining audiences for more than five years in the underground.

Mixing traditional Latin genres with the hip-hop beats was a natural step for many of these artists, who grew up listening to Spanish-language music at home and hip-hop in school and with friends, says Brizuela. "The marriage has now become something that is reflective of them."

"We are a mixture of two cultures," expands Sergio Gómez de AKWID, the two-man group that jump-started the urban regional hip-hop phenomenon in Los Angeles. "Our Spanish is not perfect and our English isn't perfect either, and it's OK." The album "Proyecto AKWID," released by Univisión Records, climbed to the top 10 on the Latin Billboard charts. It reached platinum, selling 250,000 units.

Brizuela calls the acceptance of the music a "phenomenal feat," due to booming sales. The artist Jae-P has sold more than 100,000 units of his debut album with very little radio play. His "Ni de aquí, ni de allá" was released by Univisión Records in October.

Though Hispanic rappers and hip-hop artists are making inroads into U.S. Latin markets with their Spanish lyrics, they are not new to the scene. Since the early 1990s, when rap established itself in the mainstream market, Latino rappers have captured the bicultural audience with lyrics exalting their heritage in Spanish and English.

Chicano rapper Arturo Molina Jr., who used the stage name Kid Frost when he recorded the hit song "La Raza," raps: "It's in my blood to be an Aztec warrior/Chicano, and I'm brown and proud," in the "Hispanics Causing Panic" album.

What separates the music fusion movement from past Spanish rap is the complete integration of the accordion, trumpet and bass with hip-hop beats, as in the "corrido rap" by Jesús Chávez in his debut album, "Mr. Party."

Like many corrido singers, Chávez talks about love and life, but unlike the Mexican troubadours he raps: "Como el mundo regional no hay otro igual /Chuy is on the box with corridos and hip-hop/dándeles calor pa' que bailen bien chingón" in "No que no."

Among newcomers to the urban regional is Yahira García, stage name La Flakiss, with her debut album, "Liberate," sched-

uled to be released in January by Headliners and Univisión Records. Her lyrics are unlike many in hip-hop.

"The message is women empowerment," she says. "I want to tell all my women that they can make it on their own."

While West Coast artists call the mix urban regional because of its heavy influence by Mexican corridos, norteños and banda music, artists on the East Coast call the mix reggaetón for its roots in salsa and merengue of the tropics of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Nonetheless, pioneers of the music fusion movement, David Rolas, Jae-P and AKWID members, say this type of music gives Hispanic youth one more reason to celebrate their heritage.

"I see a lot of kids nowadays prouder of who they are," says Rolas, whose album entitled "Nuestra Vida" was released by Fonovisa Records in October. "And because we incorporate the gruper element in the music, I also see older folks jamming to our songs."

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Atn: ¡¡¡Seniors de la Escuela Secundaria!!! Participen en el Concurso de Composición "Honremos Nuestra Herencia Hispana de Fanta" para tener la oportunidad de ganar una de veintin Becas de \$1000.

APRESÚRENSE... ¡Las composiciones deberán ser recibidas a más tardar para el 31 de Diciembre de 2003! Para detalles completos, consulten las Reglas. Coca-Cola Bottling Company of West Texas contribuirá \$21,000 de las ventas de Fanta en Lubbock, TX al Programa de Becas "Honremos Nuestra Herencia Hispana".

### REGLAS OFICIALES DEL CONCURSO DE COMPOSICIÓN "HONREMOS NUESTRA HERENCIA HISPANA" DE FANTA • LUBBOCK, TX

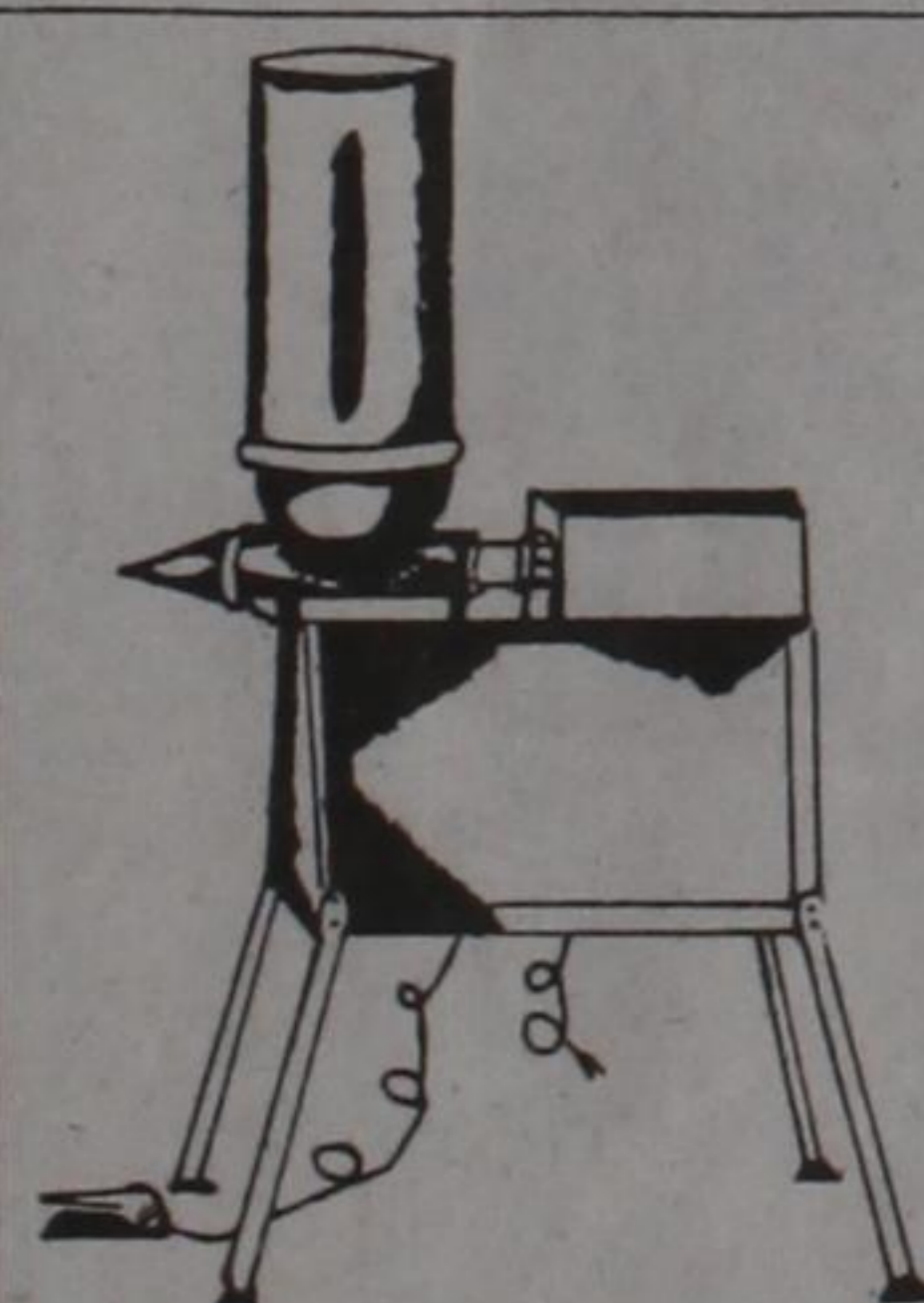
1. QUIEN PUEDE PARTICIPAR: Este concurso sólo está al alcance de los residentes del estado de Texas que actualmente se encuentren inscritos en el nivel Senior en una escuela secundaria (high school) en Lubbock, TX y los condados contiguos, y que ingresen a una institución de estudios superiores o universidad acreditada de 2 o 4 años de duración en el otoño de 2004 en los 50 estados de los EE.UU. o en el Distrito de Columbia. Los empleados de The Coca-Cola Company, Beverage Partners Worldwide (Norteamérica), Coca-Cola Bottlers, sus respectivas afiliadas, subsidiarias, agencias de publicidad y promoción, y los familiares cercanos y/o aquellas personas que vivan en el mismo hogar, no reúnen los requisitos de participación. 2. FUNCIONA DE LA SIGUIENTE MANERA: En un Formulario Oficial de Participación, disponible mientras duran las existencias en el estado de Texas, o en una hoja de papel de 8-1/2" x 11" (escribiendo sólo en un lado, a doble espacio - usa hojas de papel adicionales de ser necesario), escribe a mano en letra de imprenta o a máquina tu nombre completo, tu dirección residencial (no se aceptan P.O. Boxes), ciudad, estado, código postal, el nombre de tu escuela, el grado en el que estás inscrito actualmente, el nombre de tu maestro además del número telefónico de tu hogar. (Si no tienes teléfono, indica "No Phone". La falta de cumplimiento de esta o cualquier otra Regla Oficial dará como resultado la descalificación.) IMPORTANTE: Junto con tu formulario de participación, también tienes que incluir una composición original escrita a mano en letra de imprenta o a máquina de 250 palabras o menos en la que describas "Lo que la herencia hispana significa para mí". 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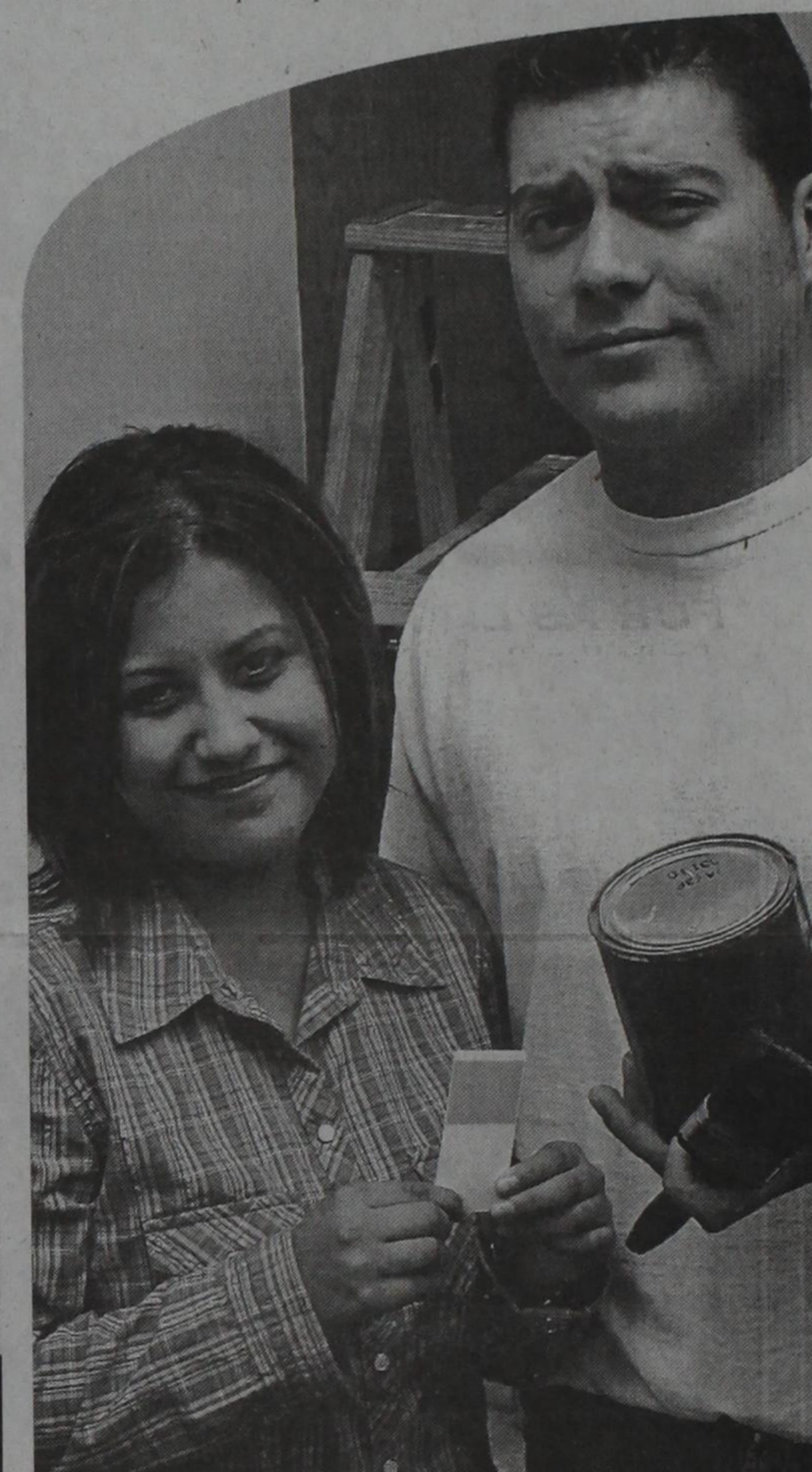
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