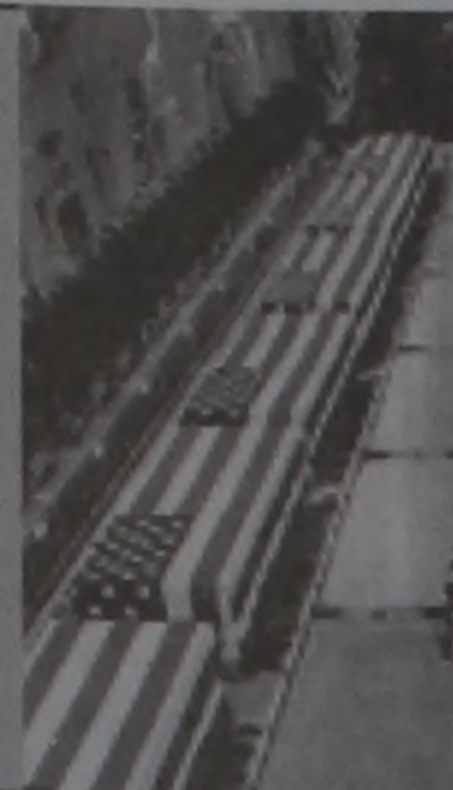


Casualties of  
War in Iraq  
4,280  
as of Apr.  
30, 2009



# El Editor

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

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Lubbock/West Texas Region

## Latinos in the South Facing Widespread Abuse and Exploitation

Washington, DC—NCLR (the National Council of La Raza), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, today joined the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) for the release of SPLC's new report, *Under Siege: Life for Low-Income Latinos in the South*. The report found that Latinos in the South are encountering widespread hostility, discrimination, and exploitation.

"For nearly 40 years, SPLC has done groundbreaking, heroic work uncovering and fighting discrimination, hate crimes, harassment, and worker abuse in our nation. This report continues that tradition and provides invaluable insight into the

troubling conditions facing the South's newest residents," stated Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO.

The report interviewed more than 500 immigrants currently

living in Charlotte, NC, Nashville, TN, New Orleans, LA, North Alabama, and South

Georgia. Among the survey's results: 68% of respondents said they have suffered racism in their daily lives.

41% have experienced wage

theft, and one-third have been injured on the job. The death rate for Mexican workers is more than double that of the na-

tional average. 47% know someone who has been treated unfairly by the police; 47% cited traffic stops as the most common form of unjust treatment. Only 46% of total respondents expressed confidence in the police; that number dropped to 27% in South Georgia.

77% of Latinas said that sexual harassment was a major problem at their workplace.

"This report is stark evidence of how a broken immigration system is affecting not only Latinos, but all workers. A system that tolerates or condones widespread worker abuse, exploitation, and harassment undermines working conditions for everyone," concluded Murguía.

For more information, visit [www.WeCanStopTheHate.org](http://www.WeCanStopTheHate.org).



## Immigration: An American Priority

Americans are in the midst of difficult times. Each evening, the news brings stories of foreclosures, job losses, and a failing stock market into our homes. It is hard to escape the serious realities that our nation faces. With such a troubled economy making headlines every day, many would say that this is a bad time to try addressing another crisis that has affected our country for decades: immigration reform.

Yet immigration reform is es-

sential to economic recovery, our values as a nation, and restoring the rule of law. We can't deport 12 million people, and leaving them in the shadows undermines our economy and the rule of law. Bringing them into the system would help end the demonization of immigrant families, create a level playing field for the American worker, lift wages, and increase tax revenues. The estimated government tax revenue of legalizing this population would be

between \$48 and \$66 billion.

Currently, our nation's immigration system is rigged for exploitation. Legal channels to immigration are blocked, pushing countless people seeking entry outside the system. As undocumented workers, these individuals are then exploited by unscrupulous employers, a situation that affects all.

We've spent millions of dollars on detention and deportation without making a dent in the prob-

lem—we end up chasing dishwashers and cooks rather than hardened criminals. Deportation is a simply a false solution; it would take 40 years to deport everyone who is here without documents.

We cannot maintain the status quo because that would be an assault on our nation's values. We have seen U.S. citizens racially profiled. SWAT-like teams descend on the homes of suspected undocumented families. Men, women, and children with no criminal records have been locked up with hardened criminals for committing a civil offense. Perhaps worst of all, families are being torn apart—it is estimated that more than 300,000 children have been tragically affected.

U.S. history is riddled with the demonization, exploitation, and persecution of immigrants and minorities. It was wrong then, and it is wrong now. Most of the undocumented people living in this country have worked hard, paid taxes, lived productive lives, and been good neighbors. Many are people of faith. Many have children serving in our nation's defense. Many have spouses and children who are U.S. citizens.

We must restore the rule of law by enacting comprehensive, practical solutions rather than putting forth piecemeal approaches. We need to bring order to the border by engaging in smart enforcement—better policing it in collaboration with our neighbors, providing the training, technology and resources needed, and taking into account the input of those who live in our border communities. We need to enforce our labor laws and protections, and crack down on unscrupulous employers who cheat the system, workers, and us all. And we need to create a legal means of entry for families and future needed workers that is in synch with our values.

Americans voted for change, and the urgency is clear: there is an economic, moral, and practical imperative for us to do right by all who live in this country. We need determined elected leaders to achieve reform this year. Our community stands at the ready to make change happen.

## Hispanic Christian Groups Split on Illegal Immigrants,

By Jennifer Riley  
Several Hispanic organizations, including some Christian groups, spoke out this week about whether illegal immigrants should participate in the 2010 U.S. census. The debate intensified when leaders of the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian (CONLAMIC) urged illegal immigrants to boycott the census unless Congress passes immigration reform legislation. The leaders claim information obtained by the census will be used

to target the undocumented population, census officials say the information is confidential and respondents are not asked about their immigration status or for a social security number. Still, CONLAMIC wants the U.S. government to provide a way for the undocumented to become legal residents and workers before they agree to be counted in the census. There are an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the country. Meanwhile, the National Hispanic

social justice for the NHCLC, in a statement Thursday.

"The clear majority of Latino advocacy and faith organizations support the efforts of the U.S. Census Bureau to count each person in America in 2010, including the traditionally undercounted Hispanic population," he said.

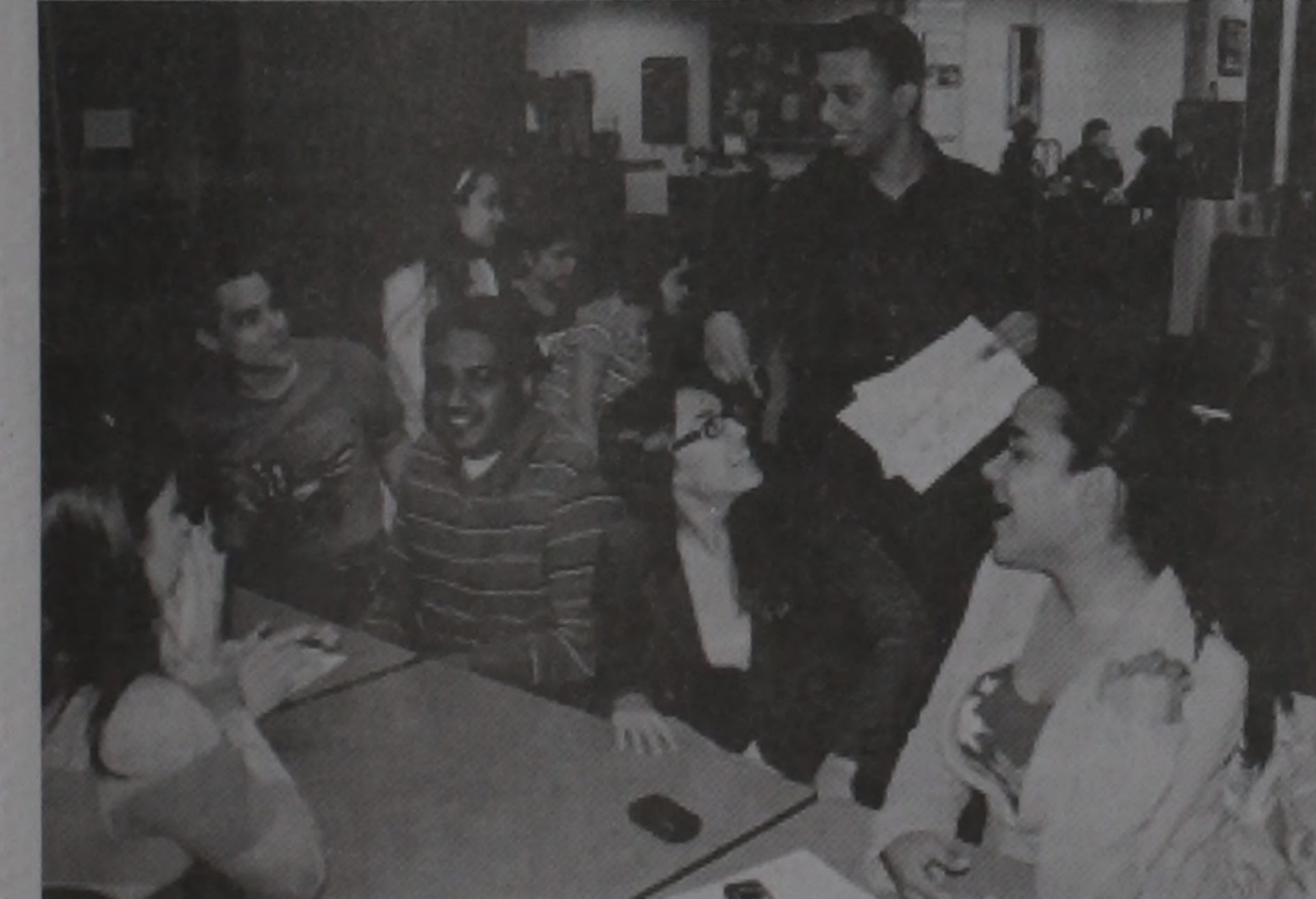
Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) and a member of the Decennial Census advisory committee, further pointed to the consequences of skipping out on the census.

"To do this boycott to pressure comprehensive immigration reform is like cutting off your nose to spite your face," Vargas told The Associated Press. "There is no connection between the census and immigration reform; it's undermining the community by encouraging an undercount; and it's misguided and irresponsible."

He added, "The census is confidential and is a constitutional requirement. In essence, they're encouraging people to break the law."

People who refuse to answer a census can be fined as much as \$100, while those that provide false information can be fined as much as \$500, according to U.S. law.

Vargas said that while everyone in the Latino community wants to see comprehensive immigration reform, the "more impactful way" to get there is to be counted rather than having an undercount. Efforts in support of immigration reform got a boost from the Obama administration earlier this month when senior White House staff said the president plans to start tackling the thorny issue this year, with talks beginning as soon as early May. The staff, however, clarified that there is no promise for a vote this year on new immigration laws.



by "anti-immigrant forces" to the disadvantage of undocumented Latinos in the country.

"Our church leaders have witnessed misuse of otherwise benign Census population data by state and local public officials in their efforts to pass and enact laws that assist in the perpetration of civil rights violations and abuses against undocumented workers and families," expressed the Rev. Miguel Rivera, president of CONLAMIC, in a statement this week.

"We cannot tell our congregants to be patient, cooperative, and to trust our government any longer. We must protect them as God would have it and urge them to protect their families from any further mistreatment," he added.

Though Rivera claims that the information collected in the 2000 cen-

sus were used to target the undocumented population, census officials say the information is confidential and respondents are not asked about their immigration status or for a social security number.

Still, CONLAMIC wants the U.S. government to provide a way for the undocumented to become legal residents and workers before they agree to be counted in the census. There are an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the country. Meanwhile, the National Hispanic

Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC), the largest Hispanic Christian organization in the country, has voiced its disagreement with CONLAMIC's call and urges all Latinos to participate in the upcoming census.

## News Briefs LATINO STUDENTS UNDER-SERVED BY THE CURRENT EDUCATION SYSTEM

Washington, DC—On April 30, people around the globe will observe Día del Niño, or Children's Day, a day to honor and celebrate young people throughout the world. NCLR (National Council of La Raza), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, will mark the day with the release of *Missing Out: Latino Students in America's Schools*, a statistical brief which presents a snapshot of Latino students from prekindergarten through postsecondary school. The data presented in this brief suggest that the growing Latino student population is missing out on many educational opportunities and is not being effectively served by the current U.S. education system.

Hispanic children now constitute one-fifth of all school-age children in the U.S., and most are neither immigrants nor undocumented—the vast majority (91%) of Latinos under the age of 18 are U.S. citizens. An overwhelming number (98%) of Hispanics believe that education is "important," and more than half (51%) report that it is an "extremely important" issue. Even so, the brief suggests that the rapid growth of the Latino student population and the high value that Hispanic families place on education have not been reflected in a corresponding improvement in their educational outcomes.

## Broad Coalition Urges Swift Passage of Bill to Strengthen Protection from Hate Crimes

*Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act Expected to Go to House Vote Wednesday*  
WASHINGTON—On Tuesday, April 28th at 1 PM EST, the eve of an expected House vote on the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (LLEHCPA), the leaders of several of the nation's largest civil rights and faith groups will hold a press conference call to urge swift passage of the bill that would strengthen protection against hate crimes.

The LLEHCPA enhances federal involvement against hate crimes where necessary and authorizes the U.S. Justice Department to investigate and prosecute bias-motivated violence against a person based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

A wide coalition of national civil rights organizations, faith groups, and law enforcement organizations has called for the passage of the LLEHCPA legislation.

## HARD ECONOMIC TIMES CALL FOR TOUGH PREDATORY LENDING ENFORCEMENT, SAYS NCLR

Washington, DC—In testimony presented before the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services Putting an End to Predatory Lending in Minority and Latino Communities <<http://www.nclr.org/content/publications/detail/56943/>>, Graciela Aponte, Legislative Analyst at NCLR (National Council of La Raza), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, today called on Congress to take stronger action against predatory lenders who have victimized Latino and other minority communities. Though NCLR commends Congress for taking the first steps toward addressing predatory lending, lawmakers need to go further during these times of economic hardship to protect Americans from unscrupulous lenders.

"The lack of strong regulations and enforcement has impacted Latino and other minority communities severely," said Aponte. "We are disappointed that it took a foreclosure and economic crisis in order for Congress and regulators to seriously address predatory and abusive lending practices."

Latino homeowners are twice as likely as Whites to end up with a subprime loan, which results in higher fees and greater susceptibility to foreclosure. This year, the nation's broken mortgage system will leave more than 400,000 Hispanics without a home. NCLR has long urged Congress to take bold steps to end predatory lending. The testimony includes the following recommendations to effectively address the root causes of the foreclosure crisis that has crippled our nation's economy:

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de parte de el periodico  
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# Editorial

## Guest Commentary

### BRINGING OUR IMMIGRATION CHAOS TO A HALT

By Janet Murguía

Our nation is in the midst of difficult times. Each evening, the news brings stories of foreclosures, job losses and a failing stock market into our homes. It is hard to escape the serious realities that we face. With such a troubled economy making headlines every day, many would say this is a bad time to try addressing another crisis that has affected our country for decades: immigration reform.

Yet immigration reform is essential to economic recovery, our values as a nation and restoring the rule of law. We can't deport 12 million people. Leaving them in the shadows undermines our economy and the rule of law. Bringing them into the system will help end the demonization of immigrant families, create a more level playing field for U.S. workers, lift wages and increase tax revenues. The estimated government tax revenue of legalizing this population would be between \$48 billion and \$66 billion.

Currently, our nation's immigration system is rigged for exploitation. Legal channels to immigration are blocked, pushing countless people seeking entry outside the system. As undocumented workers, these individuals are then exploited by unscrupulous employers, a situation that affects all.

We've spent millions on detention and deportation without making a dent in the problem. We end up chasing dishwashers and cooks rather than hardened criminals. Deportation is a false solution. It would take 40 years to deport everyone who is here without documents.

We cannot maintain the status quo because that would be an assault on our nation's values. We have seen U.S. citizens racially profiled. SWAT-like teams descend on the homes of suspected undocumented families. Men, women and children with no criminal records have been locked up with hardened criminals for committing a civil offense. Perhaps worst of all, families are being torn apart. It is estimated that more than 300,000 children have been tragically affected.

U.S. history is riddled with the demonization, exploitation and persecution of immigrants and persons of color. It was wrong then, and it is wrong now. Most of the undocumented people living in this country have worked hard, paid taxes, lived productive lives and been good neighbors. Many are people of faith. Many have children serving in our nation's defense. Many have spouses and children who are U.S. citizens.

We must restore the rule of law by enacting comprehensive, practical solutions rather than putting forth piecemeal approaches. We need to bring order to the border by engaging in smart enforcement — policing it better in collaboration with our neighbors, providing the training, technology and resources needed, and taking into account the input of those who live in our border communities. We need to enforce our labor laws and protections, and crack down on unscrupulous employers who cheat the system, workers and us all. And we need to create a legal means of entry for families and future needed workers that is in synch with our values.

Our voters cast their ballots for change, and the urgency is clear: there is an economic, moral and practical imperative for us to do right by all who live in this country. We need determined elected leaders to achieve reform this year. Our community stands at the ready to make change happen.

(Janet Murguía, president of the National Council of La Raza, writes a monthly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. E-mail her at opi@nclr.org)

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## EFECTUANDO EL CESE DE NUESTRO CAOS MIGRATORIO

Janet Murguía

Hispanic Link News Service

Nuestra nación está viviendo tiempos difíciles. Cada noche, las noticias traen a nuestros hogares historias de ejecuciones hipotecarias, pérdidas de empleos y la caída de la bolsa de valores. Es difícil escapar la seria realidad que enfrenta nuestra nación. Con una economía tan problemática que llena los titulares de prensa a diario, muchos dirían que éste no es el momento para abordar otra crisis que ha afectado a nuestro país por décadas: la reforma migratoria.

Sin embargo, la reforma migratoria es esencial para la recuperación económica del país, para nuestros valores como nación y para restaurar los principios del derecho de nuestro país. No podemos deportar a 12 millones de personas, y si los dejamos en las sombras debilitamos a nuestra economía y a nuestra estabilidad como un país de principios del derecho. Integrarlos al sistema ayudaría a poner fin a la demonización de familias inmigrantes, crearía igualdad de condiciones para los trabajadores estadounidenses, aumentaría los salarios e incrementaría los ingresos tributarios del gobierno. Se estima que los ingresos de impuestos al país, al legalizar a esta población, serían de \$48 a \$66 mil millones de dólares.

Actualmente, el sistema de inmigración de nuestro país está diseñado perfectamente para la explotación. Las vías para la inmigración legal están obstruidas, lo que empuja a un sin número de personas a buscar la entrada ilegal al país. En su condición de trabajadores indocumentados, estas personas luego son explotadas por empleadores sin escrúpulos, una situación que nos afecta a todos.

Hemos gastado millones de dólares en detención y deportación, sin siquiera hacer mella al problema — terminamos persiguiendo a lavaplatos y cocineros en lugar de criminales endurecidos. La deportación es simplemente una solución falsa; tomaría 40 años deportar a todos los que están aquí sin documentos.

No podemos mantener el status quo porque sería una agresión contra los valores de nuestra nación. Hemos visto el uso de la ficha racial contra ciudadanos estadounidenses. Equipos similares al SWAT descienden a las casas de familias que se sospecha son indocumentadas. Hombres, mujeres y niños sin antecedentes penales han sido encerrados con criminales serios, sólo por cometer un delito civil. Quizás, lo peor de todo, es que familias están siendo separadas — se estima que más de 300.000 niños se han visto trágicamente afectados.

La historia de los Estados Unidos está llena de demonización, explotación y persecución de los inmigrantes y las personas de color. Estuvo mal entonces y está mal ahora. La mayoría de las personas indocumentadas que viven en este país han trabajado duro, pagado impuestos, llevado una vida productiva y han sido buenos vecinos. Muchas son personas de fe. Muchas tienen hijos que defienden militarmente nuestra nación. Muchos tienen cónyuges e hijos que son ciudadanos americanos.

Debemos restaurar el principio del derecho de nuestro país mediante la implementación de soluciones prácticas e integrales, en lugar de enfoques poco sistemáticos. Necesitamos poner orden en la frontera por medio de una inteligente aplicación de la ley: una mejor vigilancia policíaca en colaboración con nuestros vecinos; proporcionando capacitación, tecnología y los recursos necesarios; y tomando en cuenta las ideas y aportaciones de los que viven en nuestras comunidades fronterizas. Tenemos que hacer cumplir nuestras leyes y protecciones laborales, y acabar con los empleadores sin escrúpulos que engañan al sistema, a los trabajadores y a todos nosotros. Y necesitamos crear una solución legal para la entrada futura de familias y trabajadores que esté de acuerdo con nuestros valores.

Los estadounidenses votaron por el cambio, y la urgencia es clara: hay un imperativo económico, moral y práctico para que hagamos lo correcto para todos los que viven en este país. Necesitamos líderes electos empeñados en lograr este año la reforma. Nuestra comunidad está a la orden para hacer ese cambio realidad.

(Janet Murguía, presidenta del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, redacta un comentario mensual para Hispanic Link News Service. Se invita a los lectores a responderle a: opi@nclr.org).

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## The True Meaning of Cinco de Mayo

By: Ysidro Gutierrez

There are events in history which transcend time and endure in the hearts of men. These are the accounts of people who struggle for freedom and liberty and prevail against insurmountable odds. The celebration of Cinco de Mayo which commemorates the 1862 Battle of Puebla is such an event.

When recounting the story of Cinco de Mayo, the writer is at once challenged to find words worthy of a story of heroes. Cinco de Mayo is a story of triumph, and of the sacrifice and courage of ordinary people who took up arms in defense of their country. In the end the writer must describe, with clarity, how freedom was won and liberty preserved by the actions of patriots.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Battle of Puebla, but it is less a celebration of victory in battle and more a celebration of the patriot's courage. When its true meaning is understood, its spirit is embraced and the celebration joined.

Cinco de Mayo celebrations are becoming increasingly popular in the U.S. especially in areas with a high population of people of Mexican heritage including Lubbock. The day is usually a celebration of Mexican culture and tradition featuring food, music, beverage and customs unique to Mexico. But food, music, and dance alone convey neither the meaning nor the spirit of the day. History records the events but it is the people who give the celebration its flavor. The celebration's true meaning is found in the honor derived from the people who find inspiration in the heroic actions of the brave who fought and died for freedom. A famous author once wrote, "The fame of heroes owes little to the extent of their conquests and all to the tributes paid to them." The acts of husbands and wives fighting side-by-side along with their sons and daughters joined in bitter battle against a stronger, better equipped and highly trained army are memorialized in the stories and songs of the people who pay them tribute.

History recounts how the French came to Mexico not to settle but to conquer and plunder. The French as others before them came thinking it would be an easy victory. There would be no one to stop them. A civil war raged in the United States. It was obvious that America could not oppose them and neither would the other powers of the time, Great Britain and Spain. For the opportunistic French, it was an opportune time for conquest. That is as it has always been with the French. They came for gold, to exploit the people, and to rape the land. It was the perfect time for France to realize its long held colonial ambitions in the Americas.

The French plan was cleverly crafted, except for one important omission. They failed to consider the determination of Mexican farmers and peasants who, under the leadership of Benito Juarez, stood firmly against the invaders with a resounding, "No! you will not take our gold. You will not ravage our land. You will not abuse our people."

The battle was fought on May 5, 1862 in Puebla about 100 miles southeast of Mexico City. It was about 12 noon when the French with a force of about 6000 well trained and disciplined soldiers equipped with modern rifles and artillery engaged the rag-tag Mexican Army of 2000 comprised mainly of peasant men and women, young and old motivated solely by a yearning to live free. History records how the Mexicans drove back the attackers and then took the fight to the invaders. The French who had regroup from the first trouncing and were ensconced behind a hastily constructed defensive line must have scoffed at the audacity of the attackers who charged at them armed with antiquated rifles and farm implements as weapons. In the face of withering artillery and rifle fire, the undeterred Mexicans killed over 1,000 French and at about 4:30 in the afternoon, secured the victory that we celebrate today. The words of Winston Churchill following the "Battle of Britain" aptly fit the Mexican fighters: "Never had so many owed so much to so few."

The least that can be said of the heroes of the Battle of Puebla is that Cinco de Mayo does not celebrate victory in a single battle, but the bravery of the ordinary people who fought the fight. It is a celebration of the willingness to sacrifice, the willingness to give their lives, the willingness to fight against impossible odds, the willingness to stand before death grip for the justness of the cause. American novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote: "The truest heroism is to resist the doubt; and the profoundest wisdom." Owing to the bravery and determination of the citizen soldiers, had the battle been lost, it would have been no less a victory of the human spirit. Had the battle been fought last week or a thousand years ago, it would be no less a sacrifice, the act of courage no greater.

There are those who say that Puebla was only one battle. Others say that the war continued long after the battle. Such arguments fail to grasp how this victory inspired the masses to continue the struggle until final victory was achieved. The victory at Puebla made victory possible in the end. Winning the battle was winning the war. Had the French prevailed at Puebla, Mexicans would be speaking French instead of Spanish.

The story of the Battle of Puebla cannot be told without telling of the man who rallied the people.

Great men make history, not events. The events come to be because of the leadership and vision of great men who at great personal sacrifice and the willingness to give their lives, lead the people to victory. The American Revolution had George Washington. Great Britain had Winston Churchill. Cinco de Mayo had Benito Juarez.

Benito Juarez pledged his life, fortune, and sacred honor. For Benito Juarez, it was not his life nor his fortune that were sacred but his honor. This is yet another lesson of the Battle of Puebla; that virtue is greater than fortune, more dear than life.

The brave who fought and died at Puebla fought and died for all men. In all times, the struggle to cast off the yoke of tyranny transcends history and is the subject of stories and the theme of songs. In all times and places the struggle is no less noble.

Este Cinco de Mayo La Raza de Lubbock will gather for the annual celebration. All are invited to join in the commemoration of the human deeds which are as inspiring today as they were in 1862.

**"QUE VIVA EL CINCO DE MAYO!" "QUE VIVA!"**

## WHY CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO?

By José Antonio Burciaga

Had Mexico not defeated the French in Puebla on May 5, 1862, France would have gone to the aid of the South in the U.S. Civil War and our destiny could have been very different. Justo Sierra (1848-1912), a great Mexican writer who lived that period and wrote "The Political Evolution of the Mexican People," made this observation at the turn of the century.

In 1861 Mexico was bankrupt, owing staggering sums to Britain, Spain, France and the United States. Years earlier the United States had offered to assume Mexico's debt in exchange for a mortgage on part of its territory. Mexico flatly rejected the offer, having already lost half its territory to this country. What kept the European powers from direct intervention in Mexico were the United States and the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 that warned Europe to stay away from interfering in this hemisphere.

But in the summer of 1861 the United States Civil War broke out. In October of that same year, France, Spain and England convened to sign the Covenant of London in which these nations agreed to send troops to Mexico in sufficient numbers to secure payments. They solemnly added that this use of force was not for territorial gain or interfering in Mexico.

Spain and England sent the first bill-collecting expedition, met no resistance at Vera Cruz but was unable to collect, though an agreement was reached.

Meanwhile, France had landed a sizeable force in Mexico and the European intervention became exclusively French.

On May 5, 1862, the French attacked Puebla and the Mexican Army, under General Ignacio Zaragoza, defeated the militarily superior French forces. This victory gave Mexico an electric current of patriotism and inspiration. It gave Mexico a soul of her own and national unity. This is why Cinco de Mayo is almost as important as their own Sept. 16th Independence Day.

Meanwhile Robert E. Lee was winning battles for the South. Had France won at Puebla, it would have joined forces with the South and easily convinced England to help free the Southern ports of the Union blockade. Louisiana had at the time been French. France and England also wanted to paralyze U.S. expansionism into Latin America. Napoleon III also dreamt of binding stronger ties between France and Mexico, because both were Latin.

The victory at Puebla not only protected the integrity of Mexico but also that of the United States — "an involuntary service...of inestimable value," wrote Justo Sierra.

A year later, the French won several victories, paving the way for Napoleon III to send Maximilian, Archduke of Austria, and his wife Carlota to set up a monarchy in Mexico. But the Mexican resistance continued, and Washington continued to recognize the Benito Juárez government as the only legitimate one. At times, the Juárez government was situated in El Paso (now named Ciudad Juárez) and at times the Juárez government did have to go into temporary exile on this side of the Río Grande.

Maximilian and Carlota set up their court, wrote a book on court etiquette and reintroduced Mexico City to the royal grandeur it had known earlier through Spain. There were many upper class Mexicans who supported the monarchy.

In 1865 the U.S. Civil War ended and Maximilian is supposed to have exclaimed, "This is the end of the empire!"

By 1866 the armed resistance against the French occupation was growing and the victorious U.S. Union Army clamored for war against France. It had already been to Mexico as part of the U.S. invasion in 1847. For Mexico, the possibility of American involvement was more frightening than the French presence. At U.S. urging, the French, also facing prob-

## "Freedom of Expression"

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

## WHEREVER IT OCCURS, TORTURE IS A MORAL ISSUE

By Diana Washington Valdez

Hispanic Link News Service

The United States government has reached an important juncture on the issue of torture. Under Barack Obama, its new president, it must decide and declare whether torture to extract information from suspects in official custody is ever justified.

Regular law enforcement officers are not permitted to torture suspects during questioning. A regular person who tortures another human being is subject to prosecution for violating laws against assault and injury.

It is a documented fact that Mexican law enforcement officers applied torture in several of the investigations of people suspected of killing women in Juárez and Chihuahua City.

One of the victims of this practice was Cynthia Kiecker, a U.S. citizen who, along with her husband, Ulises Perzabal, was accused of killing a young woman in Chihuahua City. They were taken into custody and tortured into confessing to a crime they did not commit. Eighteen months later, and after intervention by activists and U.S. authorities, they were exonerated and set free in 2004.

In fact, this week the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has scheduled a hearing for three of the unsolved murders from the Mexican state of Chihuahua. All three cases involve 2001 victims who lived in Juárez. The Mexican authorities had presented suspects in the deaths of Ivette González-Banda, Berenice Ramos and Esmeralda Herrera-Monreal, but the suspects claimed they were tortured into confessing to the crimes. One of the suspects died in custody.

The International Tribunal, which is part of the Organization of American States, is based in Costa Rica. The extraordinary session for the case is set to take place in Santiago, Chile. The United States is a member of the OAS, which exists to promote justice in the Americas. The Juárez "cotton field case" is the first gender violence case to come before the court, and only the court's third case against the Mexican government.

Some of the activists involved in seeking justice for the slain women have criticized U.S. authorities for looking the other way when it came to the murders and disappearances of girls and young women in Mexico. Perhaps the United States considered it politically unacceptable to discourage other countries from torturing people in police custody while the White House was justifying the practice for terrorist suspects in U.S. custody.

Each year, the U.S. State Department issues a report on human rights conditions in countries around the world. In some of these reports, the U.S. government has condemned torture and extrajudicial executions by security forces in other countries.

The torture issue that confronts Obama can derail the United States from its historic role as a champion for human rights. Our great nation should not turn off its lantern for the sake of expediency.

At a fundamental level, whether or not to torture implies a moral decision; it is an issue of right or wrong, one which cannot be negotiated into something less than that.

To argue that the use of water-boarding and other similar techniques on human beings does not constitute torture is to join the ranks of those who minimize the murders of women from poor families in Mexico and other countries and who deny the Nazi Holocaust took place.

(Diana Washington Valdez is a journalist based in El Paso, Texas, and author of The Killing Fields: Harvest of Women. Her forthcoming book, Mexican Roulette: Last Cartel Standing, is set for release this year. Email her at dwvaldez@gmail.com)

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lems in Europe, departed.

Thus the United States repaid Mexico for its resistance to the French, which prevented the French from becoming allies of the confederates and indefinitely prolonging or changing the course of the Civil War.

By 1867 Maximilian would not abdicate his throne, declaring he was 100 percent Mexican, heart and soul. Besides, Napoleon III had promised to stand by him. Carlota had already returned to France to hold Napoleon III in his word. Napoleon III reneged.

Maximilian remained in Mexico and courageously met his execution on June 19, 1867. Carlota became despondent and eventually insane. She died in Belgium in 1922.

Mexico's second war of independence came to an end with a cost of 300,000 casualties.

What did France leave in Mexico? Mexican law is based on the Napoleonic code. Mexico's architecture was greatly influenced. Popular dances such as "La Varsoviana" are of French origin. Mexico's bread and pastries were greatly influenced. In Cuernavaca they still call the police "Gendarmes." In Mexico City, El Paseo de la Reforma was Maximilian's idea of a direct route to his palace from city's center. It was modeled after the Champs-Elysees.

There still exist isolated pockets of French-speaking descendents the way they do in Louisiana.

If you travel through the small towns in the state of Jalisco you will see many blonde blue-eyed 100% Mexicans of French descent.

Maximilian and Carlota loved to entertain. Mexican folk orchestras frequently played at French weddings (marriages). Out of this French word evolved the name of Mexico's mariachis. What would Mexico be without mariachis? Inconceivable

¡Viva el Cinco de Mayo!

¡Viva México!

(Muralist/artist/poet José Antonio Burciaga wrote this essay for Hispanic Link News Service in 1981. Hailed as the Chicano Renaissance Man, he died of cancer as age 56 in 1996.)

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# The seeds were planted in first 100 days, now voters want to see them grow

President Barack Obama's first 100 days on the job exploded



with activity on many fronts: the \$787 billion economic stimulus, the order to close the Guantanamo Bay prison within a year, a withdrawal plan for Iraq, an expansion of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, and outreach to several hostile nations.

Still, America's economic crisis largely shaped these 100 days. It also empowered Obama, even as it overshadowed some of what he'd hoped to do.

"The ability to enlarge executive power is a function of crisis," said Ross K. Baker, a Rutgers University political scientist. He'll help lead a national conference next month on Obama's first 100 days, a traditional measure for new presidents since Franklin D. Roosevelt's ambitious new administration in 1933.

Obama has benefitted from "a double lift-off," Baker said, "not only the normal honeymoon but, in addition, the fact that the American people and Congress are looking to him to get them out of a crisis."

Whether the new president will succeed at that, of course, remains to be seen.

Despite his talk of bringing spending under control, the non-partisan Congressional Budget

Office projects that Obama's \$3.55 trillion budget will drive the deficit to a record \$1.8 trillion this year and double the national debt over the next decade.

Meanwhile, some of Obama's initial steps on the foreign stage have raised eyebrows. On Afghanistan and Pakistan, even some of his own top officials concede that the administration's strategy has little chance of halting the advance of Islamic extremism in Pakistan or crushing the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan.

It also isn't clear whether Obama's overtures to Iran, Venezuela, Cuba and North Korea, while demonstrating his preference for cooperation over confrontation, will produce diplomatic breakthroughs or be interpreted as weakness by those countries' leaders.

Much of what American presidents accomplish begins in their first 100 days. Just as the Great Depression allowed Roosevelt to quickly lay the groundwork for the New Deal, Obama seized on today's crisis to frame an ambitious agenda.

He got both chambers of Congress to pass sweeping \$3.6 trillion budget plans largely on his terms. His \$787 billion stimulus package included tax breaks he wanted and spending on his priorities, including expansions of health care, infrastructure, renewable energy and education. He's also announced a \$275 billion plan to stave off home foreclosures and a \$100 billion bank

rescue program.

He forced out the chief executive of General Motors, told the company to consider bankruptcy, and is pushing Chrysler to merge with a more stable automaker.

Gerhard Peters, a co-founder of the American Presidency Project at the University of California, Santa Barbara, said that Obama's sweeping agenda could make him a transformational president, just as Roosevelt made America more reliant on government and as Ronald Reagan made it less so.

"He is transforming American politics right now," Peters said of Obama, "in terms of reshaping the relationship between government and society, government and business, and society and business. There's a perception now that we need government to protect us."

Obama has signed more executive orders, memoranda and proclamations in his first 100 days than any president since Franklin Roosevelt. One notable order lifted former President George W. Bush's restrictions on federal funding for human embryonic stem cell research.

Obama also spent more of those first months outside the country than any of his 43 predecessors, according to the American Presidency Project.

So far, a majority of Americans like what they see.

Obama's average approval rating for his first three months in office was 63 percent in the Gallup Poll.

That's the highest since Jimmy Carter's 69 percent rating after his first 100 days more than three decades ago. However, Carter's presidency is widely considered a failure, which underscores the risk of reading too much into a president's first 100 days.

Obama also opened a new

era of relations with Congress, moving quickly to enact legislation that Democrats couldn't get past Bush: expanded children's health insurance coverage (paid for with higher cigarette taxes) and pay equity legislation giving women more grounds for lawsuits. He also delivered a signature expansion of national service programs in the tradition of Democratic presidents John F. Kennedy and Bill Clinton.

Obama signed orders to expand access to information under Freedom of Information and Presidential Records laws. But while making good on his promise to make government more transparent, Obama's White House nonetheless tries to shape the media message by limiting access to much information via selective leaks by unnamed sources.

The president also has begun laying the groundwork for sweeping health care and global warming legislation. He says he'll preserve private health insurance but offer more government-managed insurance so that everyone is covered. Critics think that will guarantee significant tax increases down the road, despite the president's promise to raise taxes on only the wealthiest Americans.

His health-care overhaul is far from assured of passage. Neither is his plan to curb greenhouse gases. Both face epic struggles in Congress.

Turning to national security, Obama ordered the closure of secret CIA prisons overseas and of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, within a year. He rescinded the Bush administration's authorization of harsh interrogation techniques, and he made public

four previously secret Bush-era memos that described those methods in detail.

At the same time, he told CIA officials who followed the Bush guidelines that they won't be prosecuted, and invoked the same state secrets privilege that he'd criticized Bush for abusing to shield other details about spying and anti-terrorism programs. Both moves have frustrated some of his liberal backers.

Obama then waffled on his no-prosecution pledge last week, saying that the decision of whether to prosecute Bush administration officials who authorized the harsh techniques will be up to Attorney General Eric Holder.

The new president has brought a warm new tone to global diplomacy. He sought to recast relations with the Muslim world, including his video overture to Iran for new diplomatic relations. He relaxed Cuba policy, opening what some see as a window toward lifting the almost 50-year-old trade embargo. He was all smiles when shaking hands recently with Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, a leftist who once denounced Bush at the United Nations as "the devil."

Obama's campaign promise to open a new era of bipartisanship has fallen short. Only three Senate Republicans and none in the House of Representatives supported his stimulus bill.

His effort to change the culture of revolving-door and special-interest politics also achieved mixed success at best. While putting in place a detailed ethics policy that aims to reduce lobbyists' influence, he made exceptions to his own rules. And several of his

Cabinet nominees -- from Tom Daschle to Timothy Geithner -- were felled or tainted by controversies over their failure to pay taxes.

Obama's also fallen short so far in his effort to convert his campaign's effective grassroots and Internet operations to a force that can help him govern. Lawmakers report no evidence of political impact from those efforts.

Still, the new president has brought a new-media sensibility to the White House: His YouTube videos of Saturday radio addresses, his first "online town hall" meeting, and his administration's creation of a Web site to track the spending of the economic stimulus have made the White House more accessible.

Each presidency has its own 100-day narrative, but scholars who study presidential records made public years later say they're struck by how much all presidents tend to have in common -- and how often perceptions of how a president spends his time doesn't match reality.

Historically, the public component represents only about 6 percent of a president's day, and much of his time goes to behind-the-scenes duties as commander in chief and head diplomat.

"So much of what they do is dictated by what they must do," said Terry Sullivan, the executive director of the nonpartisan White House Transition Project and an associate professor of political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"The first 100 days is about figuring out, 'How are we going to focus on the things we want to focus on?'"

## U.S. Unveils More Homeowner Aid

The U.S. government proposed more aid to struggling homeowners on Tuesday, while a private group reported that a record housing price collapse in the country may finally be easing.

The Treasury Department announced it would help homeowners modify their second mortgages and would make it easier for people that are unable to sell their homes to refinance into government-backed mortgages. President Barack Obama has said he will spend as much as 75 billion dollars to help people stay in their homes.

The U.S. housing downturn has

been at the centre of a massive financial crisis, costing banks 1



trillion dollars in mortgage-related assets and helping lead the world into its first global recession since World War II.

But there are signs the collapse

may be slowing.

According to the S&P/Case-Shiller Index, which measures markets in 20 major U.S. cities, housing prices fell 18.6 percent in February compared to the year before.

But that was less than the record 19 percent year-over-year decrease in January and marked the first slowdown in the price collapse since 2007.

A record decline in housing prices since mid-2006 has forced more than 3 million people into foreclosure. About one-fifth of U.S. property owners currently owe more on their mortgages than their home

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# Does Salma Hayek have to go anywhere?



No, she's la viuda negra — the black widow — known for killing her former husband in a fit of jealous rage.

Donaghy's willing to overlook that transgression ("everybody has a bad day") until he sees her capacity for jealousy up close.

She secretly follows him when he's out on the town with Tracy Jordan, revealing herself at the end.

Set aside for a moment the idea of Hayek going undercover in New York nightclubs — we said this was an absurdist comedy — Donaghy is spooked and calls off their engagement.

Jordan has a secret of his own, one he shamefully admits to Donaghy. In 20 years of marriage, he's never once cheated on his wife. All those times he passed out phone numbers to ladies in the clubs, they were false numbers.

This leads to the night's other guest shot, a brief one by NBC News anchorman Brian Williams. He's seen answering the phone, presumably from one of the ladies given a wrong number by Jordan.

"I've not heard of that term before," Williams says.

He's a good sport. But he's no Salma Hayek.

Long live Elisa Padriera!

Let's hope a little thing like a broken engagement won't keep Elisa Padriera away from "30 Rock."

Salma Hayek's spirited guest appearances as Padriera are among the best this absurdist comedy has to offer.

Hayek throws herself into her role with gusto, matching Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin step for silly step, and it would be a shame if Thurs-

day's shot was her last.

She returns to tell Fey's Liz Lemon that she can't accept Jack Donaghy's (Baldwin) engagement offer because she has a shameful secret.

"Are you a man?" Lemon asks.

"Is that your guess? You're a man? Do you want to see me naked?" an insulted Padriera says.

Replies Lemon: "Sort of."

# Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns puts focus on United States national parks

Ken Burns, who has told the uniquely American stories of baseball, the Civil War, jazz and World War II in television documentaries, has turned his focus on the national parks and will come to the Chamizal National Memorial to promote them to local Hispanics.

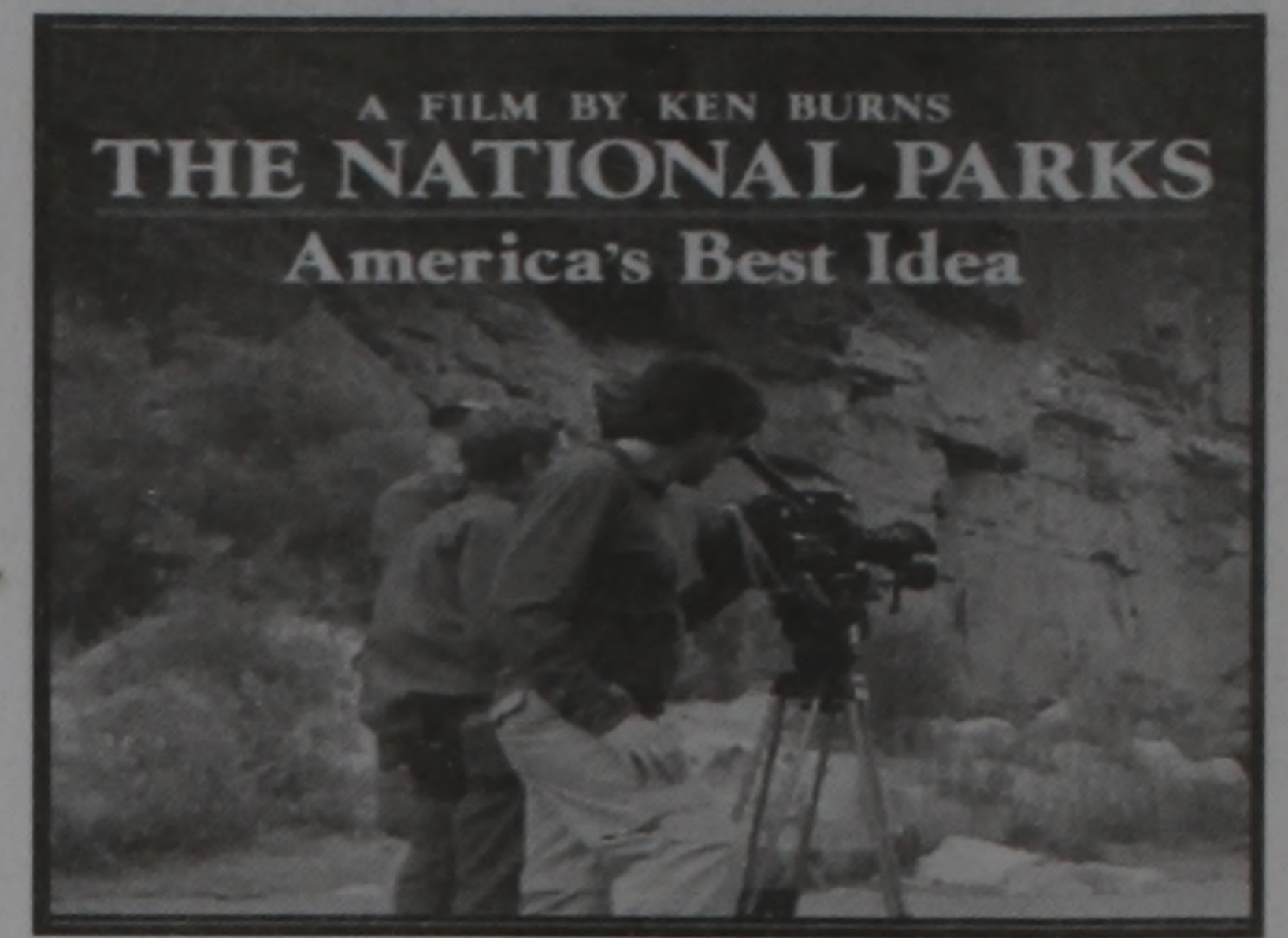
Burns will appear May 27 at a pair of free, public events at the Chamizal, one of 391 sites operated by the National Park Service.

He'll show footage from the six-part, 12-hour "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," airing in September on PBS, and will join five Hispanic parks leaders, including two with El Paso roots, in a pair of public forums that day.

"Those populations more often than not don't feel the same sense of ownership that other people might," Burns said from San Francisco, where he was to announce Wednesday - Earth Day - an outreach project that will take him to El Paso and 44 other cities.

Hispanics, blacks and Native Americans played a significant role in the creation and evolution system of natural parks and historic sites run by the federal agency, he said, but they historically underutilize the parks.

"Sometimes you go and English isn't the second language (you hear); it's German, French or



Japanese," he said of foreign tourists who flock to places like Yosemite and the Grand Canyon.

"They know the great resources we have and what we want is more diversity in these places."

Burns and National Park Services leaders will participate in a forum, "Public History and the Advertisement Hispanic Heritage," from 4 to 5:30 p.m. May 27 in the Chamizal National Memorial Theater.

They also will show clips from the film and discuss the agency in "National Park Service: Looking to the Future" at 7 p.m. that day in the theater.

Forums like this are needed, said Michael Quijano-West, a Coronado High School graduate

whose 26-year career with the park service started as a student intern at the Chamizal.

"Many of us have these discussions now at this level about how we can do what we can to make a difference, reach out to all minorities, because it's about their histories and their parks," said Quijano-West, 46, superintendent of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site in Massachusetts and a panelist in the coming forums.

Burns said the initiative was not in response to Hispanic groups who criticized him for a lack of Hispanics in 2007's "The War."

"Not at all," he said. "This was in place well before that."

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# Zoë Saldaña abraza la ciencia ficción con "Star Trek"

La vida de la actriz Zoë Saldaña dará un vuelco a partir del 8 de mayo con el estreno de la esperada "Star Trek", aunque se trate de un aperitivo comparado con la llegada en diciembre de "Avatar", el regreso al cine de James Cameron.

Esta estadounidense (Nueva Jersey, 1978) de padre dominicano y madre puertorriqueña, cuyo papel más relevante hasta ahora fue una breve aparición en "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" (2003), dará vida en "Star Trek" a Uhura, uno de los personajes favoritos del universo "trek-kie", el nombre que reciben los aficionados a la saga.

Uhura es la oficial de comunicaciones de la nave Enterprise en esta "precuella" que sienta las bases de toda la franquicia e indaga en la psicología de personajes tan célebres como los del capitán Kirk y Spock, aquí

interpretados por Chris Pine y Zachary Quinto.

El personaje de Saldaña ya estaba presente en la serie original de televisión. Por entonces le daba vida Nichelle Nichols, quien se convirtió en la protagonista del primer beso interracional en una serie de televisión estadounidense, con la ayuda de William Shatner.

"El personaje y Nichelle eran verdaderas pioneras para todas las mujeres en Hollywood, no sólo las de color, y sentí que era un bello honor poder hacer este papel", dijo Saldaña, de 30 años, orgullosa de interpretar a "la única mujer en una cabina llena de hombres".

"Zoë es tan bella, con esos ojos que simplemente te matan, pero también es fuerte. Me encanta la dicotomía de su suave feminidad y su gran fuerza. Es la actriz adecuada para dar vida a Uhura", agregó el director del

filme, J.J. Abrams.

El universo de ficción creado por Gene Roddenberry ha sido rescatado por Abrams para la undécima película de la franquicia, en la que el responsable

de series como "Lost" o "Alias" regresó a los orígenes de los personajes principales.

"Tuve la oportunidad de volver al principio y pensar realmente sobre la proceden-

cia de Uhura, estudiar quién era ella y cómo era capaz de mantenerse en la Enterprise", comentó la intérprete.

"La vi básicamente como una luchadora, alguien que nunca se relaja porque sabe que siempre tiene que ser mejor que todos los que la rodean", añadió.

Ese afán de autoexigencia y superación, por otra parte, es el que ha llevado al director James Cameron a tomarse 12 años para volver a estrenar una película desde "Titanic" (1997), el filme de mayor recaudación en la historia, con más de 1.800 millones de dólares en todo el mundo.

La historia de Cameron, en la cual trabaja desde hace más de una década, narra la vida de un ex soldado herido que es enviado contra su voluntad a un planeta lejano, en el cual deberá luchar por su supervivencia. Para el filme, el director

mezclará la imagen real con animación fotorrealista para lograr una proyección tridimensional, lo que constituye un nuevo formato digital que él mismo ha diseñado.

La cinta será protagonizada por el australiano Sam Worthington, que el próximo día 21 estrena "Terminator Salvation", y por Saldaña, que se preparó durante seis meses para su personaje.

"Creo que 'Avatar' va a representar un gran cambio en la historia del celuloide", dijo la actriz en una entrevista con el portal io9.com. "No puedo compararlo con nada que haya visto antes. Va a ser algo tan grande como la introducción del sonido o del color en las películas", continuó Saldaña.

"Avatar" llegará a las salas el 18 de diciembre, el mismo fin de semana en el que se lanzó "Titanic" doce años atrás.



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# Why do we celebrate Cinco de Mayo?

The 5th of May is not Mexican Independence Day, but it should be! And Cinco de Mayo is not an American holiday, but it should be. Mexico declared its independence from mother Spain on midnight, the 15th of September,

French Army had not been defeated in 50 years, and it invaded Mexico with the finest modern equipment and with a newly reconstituted Foreign Legion. The French were not afraid of anyone, especially since the United States

and through hundreds of head of stampeding cattle stirred up by Indians armed only with machetes.

When the battle was over, many French were killed or wounded and their cavalry was being chased by Diaz' superb horsemen miles away. The Mexicans had won a great victory that kept Napoleon III from supplying the confederate rebels for another year, allowing the United States to build the greatest army the world had ever seen. This grand army smashed the Confederates at Gettysburg just 14 months after the battle of Puebla, essentially ending the Civil War.

Union forces were then rushed to the Texas/Mexican border under General Phil Sheridan, who made sure that the Mexicans got all the weapons and ammunition they needed to expel the French. American soldiers were discharged with their uniforms and rifles if they promised to join the Mexican Army to fight the French. The American Legion of Honor marched in the Victory Parade in Mexico, City.

It might be a historical stretch to credit the survival of the United States to those brave 4,000 Mexicans who faced an army twice as large in 1862. But who knows?

In gratitude, thousands of Mexicans crossed the border after Pearl Harbor to join the U.S. Armed Forces. As recently as the Persian Gulf War, Mexicans flooded American consulates with phone calls, trying to join up and fight another war for America.

Mexicans, you see, never forget who their friends are, and neither do Americans. That's why Cinco de Mayo is such a party -- A party that celebrates freedom and liberty. There are two ideals which Mexicans and Americans have fought shoulder to shoulder to protect, ever since the 5th of May, 1862. VIVA! el CINCO DE MAYO!!



1810. And it took 11 years before the first Spanish soldiers were told and forced to leave Mexico.

So, why Cinco de Mayo? And why should Americans savor this day as well? Because 4,000 Mexican soldiers smashed the French and traitor Mexican army of 8,000 at Puebla, Mexico, 100 miles east of Mexico City on the morning of May 5, 1862.

The French had landed in Mexico (along with Spanish and English troops) five months earlier on the pretext of collecting Mexican debts from the newly elected government of democratic President (and Indian) Benito Juarez. The English and Spanish quickly made deals and left. The French, however, had different ideas.

Under Emperor Napoleon III, who detested the United States, the French came to stay. They brought a Hapsburg prince with them to rule the new Mexican empire. His name was Maximilian; his wife, Carolota. Napoleon's

was embroiled in its own Civil War.

The French Army left the port of Vera Cruz to attack Mexico City to the west, as the French assumed that the Mexicans would give up should their capital fall to the enemy -- as European countries traditionally did.

Under the command of Texas-born General Zaragoza, (and the cavalry under the command of Colonel Porfirio Diaz, later to be Mexico's president and dictator), the Mexicans awaited. Brightly dressed French Dragoons led the enemy columns. The Mexican Army was less stylish.

General Zaragoza ordered Colonel Diaz to take his cavalry, the best in the world, out to the French flanks. In response, the French did a most stupid thing; they sent their cavalry off to chase Diaz and his men, who proceeded to butcher them. The remaining French infantrymen charged the Mexican defenders through sloppy mud from a thunderstorm

Feliz Cinco de Mayo

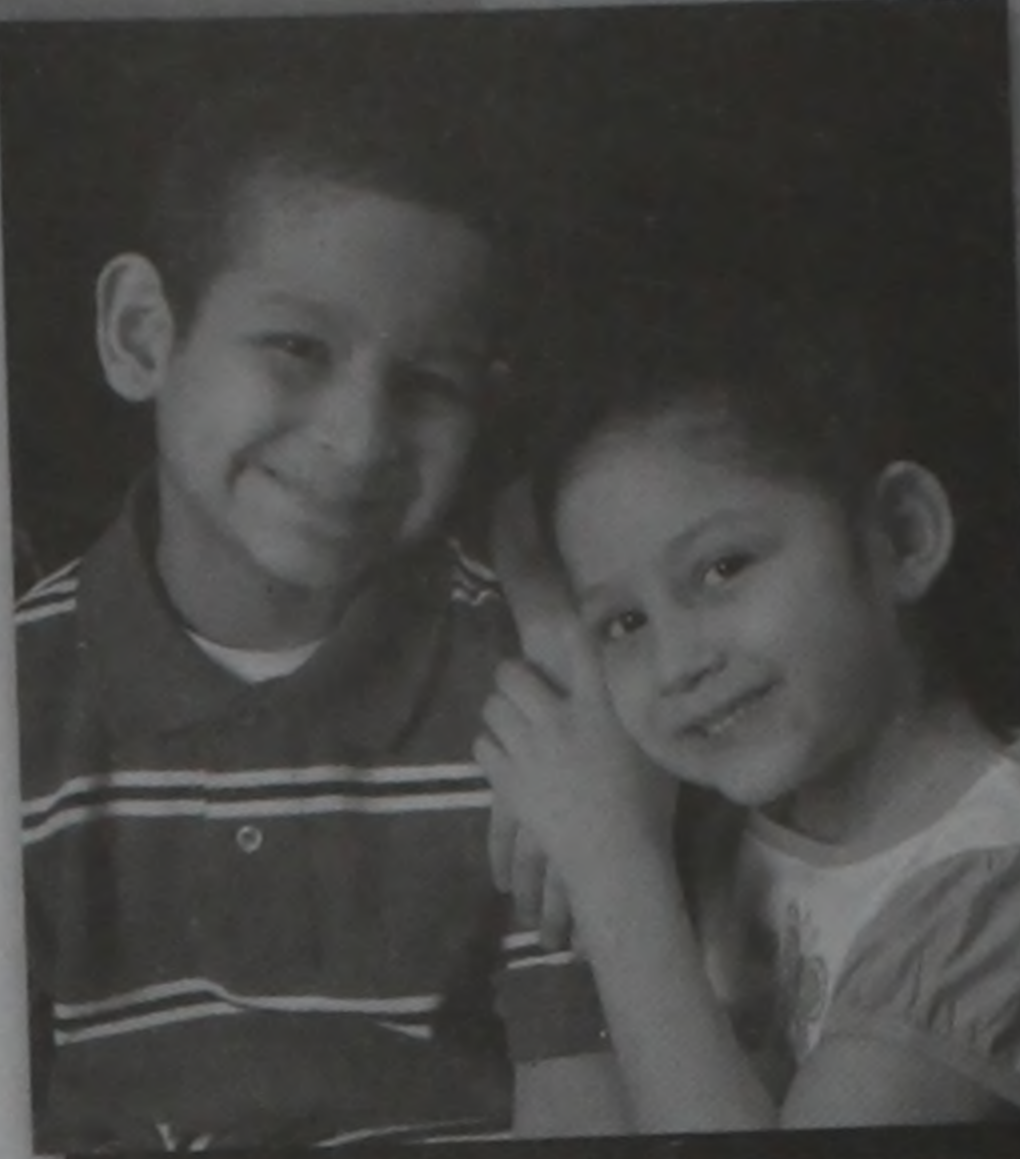
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# La gripe porcina, un nuevo virus muy contagioso



El actual brote de gripe porcina parece ser un virus "híbrido" que tiene componentes porcino, humano y aviar, por lo que puede reunir la alta patogenicidad del aviar y la facilidad del humano para transmitirse de persona a persona.

Además, se trata de un virus nuevo, por lo que no se sabe cómo puede comportarse, según los científicos.

La gripe porcina es una enfermedad respiratoria que afecta a los cerdos, causada por el virus de la gripe tipo A, que provoca con frecuencia brotes de gripe entre estos animales, fundamentalmente en otoño e invierno. Su morbilidad suele ser alta y su mortalidad baja (1-4%).

Según explica la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) en su página web, los virus de la gripe porcina (o influenza porcina) más comunes son del subtipo H1N1, aunque también hay otros subtipos como son H1N2, H3N1, H3N2.

Por lo general, los virus de la gripe porcina no infectan a los humanos, aunque ocasionalmente se ha informado de brotes en personas en contacto directo con cerdos.

Hay también algunos casos

documentados de transmisión entre personas.

Por ejemplo, en 1988, un brote de gripe porcina en cerdos en Wisconsin (Nueva Jersey, Estados Unidos) causó múltiples infecciones en seres humanos y se pudo comprobar la transmisión del virus de un paciente a personal de atención médica.

Sin embargo, al igual que todos los virus de la gripe, los virus de la influenza porcina cambian de manera constante.

Se da la circunstancia, además, de que los cerdos pueden infectarse no sólo por los virus de influenza porcina, sino también por los de la influenza aviar y humana, lo que hace posible que esos virus puedan coincidir e intercambiar genes, originando nuevos virus.

Los síntomas de la gripe porcina en las personas son similares a los de la gripe común -fiebre alta, tos, dolor de cabeza, músculos y articulaciones, irritación de ojos y flujo nasal, además de vómitos y diarrea-, aunque la asociación con una neumonía puede causar la muerte.

El período de incubación estimado es de diez días, y para su diagnóstico se debe recoger una muestra obtenida del aparato respiratorio entre los primeros 4 a 5 días de infección.

El contagio de una persona a otra se produce de igual forma que la gripe estacional, principalmente cuando una de

ellas tose o estornuda.

La OMS descarta, sin embargo, que pueda contraerse por comer carne de cerdo o sus derivados, e insiste en que no hay riesgo si dichos alimentos han sido manipulados y cocinados de manera adecuada.

De hecho, según indica la OMS, si se cocina la carne de cerdo a una temperatura interna de aproximadamente 71° C, se eliminan no sólo los virus de la gripe porcina, sino también otras bacterias y virus.

Existen vacunas que se administran a los cerdos para la prevención de la gripe porcina, pero no hay una vacuna para proteger a las personas contra dicha enfermedad, ni tampoco se sabe aún si la vacunación con las cepas actuales de la gripe ofrece alguna clase de protección.

Para prevenir y tratar la enfermedad se dispone de cuatro antivirales: amantadina, rimantadina, oseltamivir y zanamivir, aunque sólo dos de ellos (oseltamivir y zanamivir) parecen haber tenido éxito con la nueva cepa del virus.

La OMS tiene almacenadas 5 millones de dosis de Tamiflú (oseltamivir), el medicamento empleado contra la gripe aviar y al que también es sensible la gripe porcina.

Según la OMS es posible que muchas personas, especialmente aquellas que no tienen contacto regular con cerdos, no tengan inmunidad que los proteja contra la infección por virus de influenza de origen porcino, de forma que

si un virus de origen porcino consigue establecer una transmisión eficiente de persona a persona, podría causar una pandemia (epidemia mundial).

Por el momento, la OMS no ha recomendado que se restrinjan los viajes a las zonas afectadas.

Las autoridades sanitarias aconsejan sin embargo a los viajeros que se dirijan a las zonas de riesgo que deben seguir una serie de medidas de prevención.

Éstas son extremar el cuidado de su higiene personal lavándose frecuentemente las manos con agua y jabón; cubrirse la nariz y boca al toser o estornudar con un pañuelo, y desecharlo en una bolsa de plástico.

También se aconseja evitar tocarse los ojos, la nariz o la boca.

Las personas que viajen desde México deben prestar mucha atención a su salud durante los diez días posteriores al regreso y en caso de aparecer fiebre, tos o dificultad respiratoria, contactar inmediatamente con los servicios sanitarios.

En México han sido hospitalizadas más de 1,600 personas por posible contagio de gripe porcina y el Gobierno ha cifrado en 103 el número de muertes sospechosas de haber sido causadas por el brote que afecta al país.

# Racial disparities found to persist in higher-paying jobs

Blacks and Hispanics lag behind whites for higher-paying jobs at the largest rates in about a decade as employment opportunities dwindle during the nation's economic woes and housing slump.

Census data released yesterday show an increasingly educated US workforce whose earnings didn't always seem to match up with its potential.

"The lesson of most economic downturns is minorities are the last hired, first fired. They lose jobs more quickly, and they will be the last to recover," said Roderick Harrison, a demographer at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a think tank that studies minority issues.

Among those 25 and older last year, 86.6 percent had graduated from high school, up from 85.7 percent the previous year. It was the biggest increase since 1992, with record percentages of people earning diplomas across all racial and Hispanic categories.

The share of people with at least a bachelor's degree from college also increased, from 28.7 percent to 29.4 percent, continuing a decades-long rise.

Blacks overall slightly narrowed the gap in 2007 with whites in average salary, but the pay disparity widened for blacks with college degrees. Blacks who had a four-year bachelor's degree earned \$46,502, or about 78 percent of the salary for comparably

educated whites.

It was the biggest disparity between professional blacks and whites since the 77 percent rate in 2001, when the United States fell into a recession due to the collapse of the tech bubble and the Sept. 11 terror attacks. College-educated blacks had previously earned as much as 83 percent of the average salary of whites in 2005.

Hispanics saw similar trends. Those with high school diplomas earned about 83 cents for whites' every dollar, largely unchanged from a decade ago. But Hispanics with bachelor's degrees had an average salary of \$44,696, amounting to roughly 75 cents for every dollar made by whites - the lowest ratio in more than a decade - after hitting a peak of 87 cents to every dollar in 2000.

The numbers highlight some of the barriers for minorities, said Mark Mather, a demographer for the Population Reference Bureau. He said the pay disparities could widen further, since blacks and Hispanics tend to be relative latecomers to the professional world and thus more vulnerable to layoffs in the current recession.

"It's clear education alone is not the full reason for the pay gaps," said Sarah Crissey, a housing and economic statistician for the Census Bureau



The Guadalupe Association had a clean up this past weekend to beautify the entrance to the neighborhood.

Thanks to all volunteers, Good Job! Above are pictures before and after.

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El conferenciante internacional Lorenzo Rodríguez, es un practicante de la Ciencia Cristiana y es miembro del Cuerpo de Conferenciarios de la Ciencia Cristiana.

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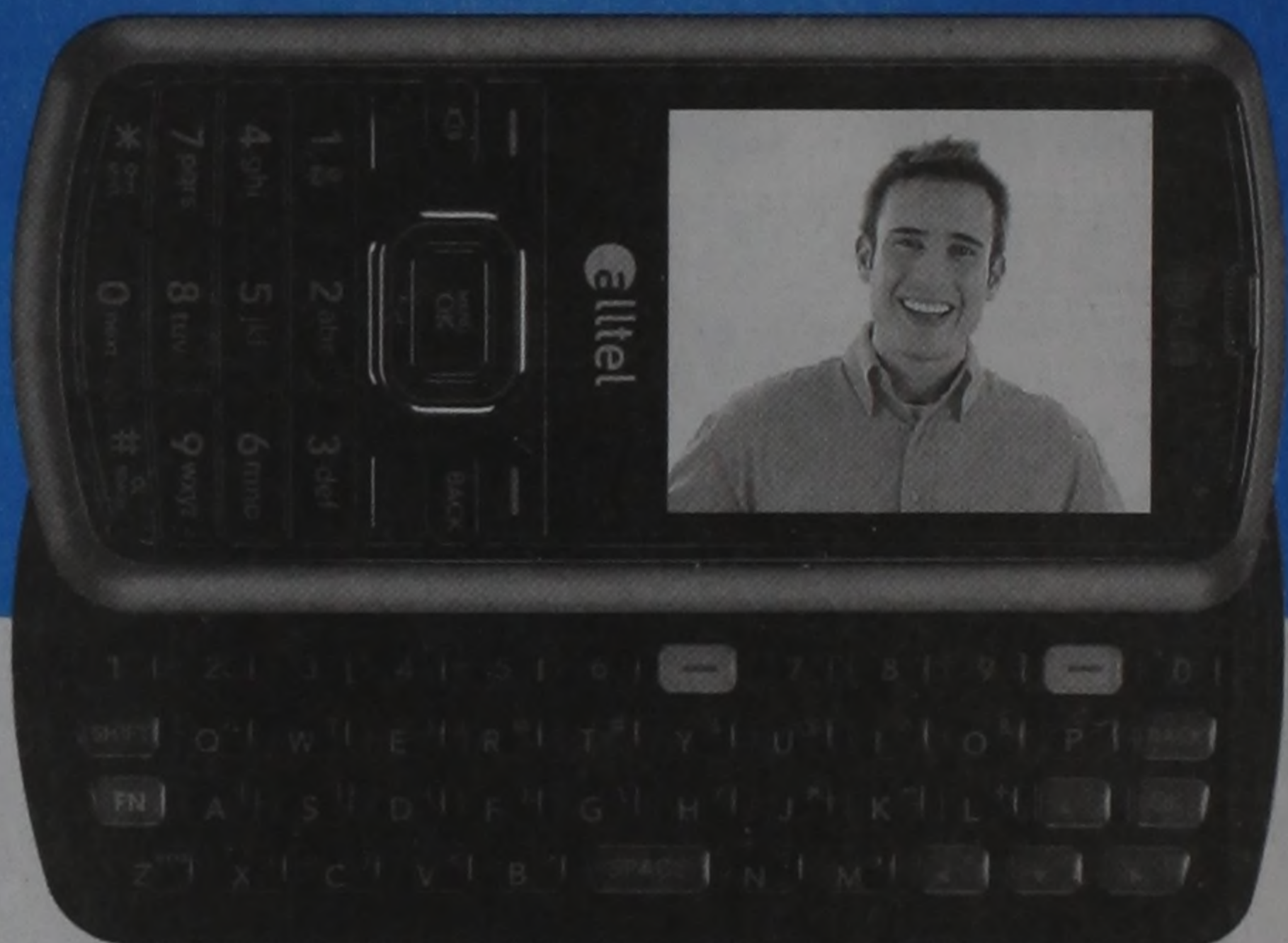
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