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Advocates Press for More Action on Hispanic Inequities

By Arlene Martinez

Fresh evidence that Latinos receive lower quality health care and, in growing numbers, lack health insurance has given professionals and advocacy organizations added fuel in demanding national legislation and reversal of proposed federal funding cuts to narrow the disparities in health care between groups of color and whites.

Hispanic adults continue as the least protected of all groups: In 2002, 40.8 percent (9 million) lacked insurance, according to a report released this month by the Washington, D.C.-based Urban Institute. With data drawn from the National Survey of America's Families, it reported that 29 million adults overall were uninsured. The 1999 numbers for Hispanics were 37.7 percent (7.2 million).

Comentarios de Bidal Agüero



A recent statement by a self-styled representative of the press to an advertiser upset and almost brought me to the point of becoming angry.

According to the advertiser, "I first thought we would need to place the ad in both English and Spanish but one of the other Hispanic papers stated that just English would work since of the Hispanics that spoke Spanish not many read Spanish."

I said to myself: "What the heck is this person trying to say? Does this mean that he thinks we are a bunch of illiterate people that can't read our own language?"

Thankfully we can assume that these thoughts were those of a person who is basing the opinion on their own inexperience.

To disprove the theory, we have only to point to the hundreds of persons, young and old, that every Sunday read - in Spanish - the gospel in front of another thousands that understand every word. We have only to point to the many thousands of people who patronize not only the Casa Mexicana news racks but the stacks of books at Hastings, Barnes and Nobles and other major bookstores that in all probability would not restock shelves if they were not in demand. We have only to point to every major institution in Lubbock that continues to print every important document in both English and Spanish. We have only to point to the thousands of people who support three other newspapers in Lubbock that continually print stories in Spanish.

I have no idea who was the person who said this but I would hope that with this type of attitude, the person take a step back and perhaps look around and acknowledge that our people do read and are a very proud and very literate people.

To the person making the statement I would also say: Take a little time and stop listening to the radio. Read a book....in Spanish!

write Bidal at elitor@llano.net

"La Raza Cosmica" Defies Accepted U.S. Racial Labels

EDITOR'S NOTE. This is the second in a series of four interlocking personal essays written exclusively for Hispanic Link News Service by civil rights pioneer Raúl Yzaguirre, president and CEO of the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest constituency-based Hispanic organization.)

By Raúl Yzaguirre

What many of us Latinos see in the mirror doesn't necessarily define who we are.

To wit, I have a niece whose skin is so white, it is almost translucent, and she gets a lot of teasing about her impossible-to-tan complexion.

When she moved from South Texas to the Washington, D.C., area, she met, fell in love with and married a non-Latino. She refers to her husband as "white." In other words, not the same as she, even though he is no lighter.

Her story illustrates a key Latino reality: Some racial/ethnic terms do not make sense to our community. Latinos have traditionally defined racial and ethnic terms very differently than have non-Latino whites or African Americans.

The term *raza* can mean an actual racial grouping, but more often it refers to ethnic groups. When Latinos talk about the "Irish race," the

"Italian race" or the "Chinese race," they are referring to culture, language and ethnicity, not DNA.

We refer to ourselves as *raza*, a shortened version of *la raza Cómica*, the cosmic race. The term "cosmic race" originated with a Mexican philosopher/educator, José Vasconcelos. He contended that Latinos in the New World were an amalgamation, a *mestizaje*, of all the cultures and races of the world.

Latino roots include the indigenous people of the New World and the European settlers, as well as descendants of African slaves. We trace our ancestors to the Iberian Jew, as well as the Muslim Moor, to the Roman and Germanic invaders, as well as the original Celtic inhabitants of Iberia. Thanks to our Native American roots, we have ties to Asia. And even some of us who have Basque names are purported to have descended from the fabled city of Atlantis, since the Basque language has no connection to any other known language.

It isn't that we are not aware of differences in our pan-racial grouping. It is simply that race has traditionally not had the all-consuming power to label a person or the import it has in

U.S. society.

This is not to say that racism is absent among Latinos. But in Latin America, it is often not as virulent or as important as another "ism," classism.

Our responses to the 2000 census confirm our very different notions about race and ethnicity. Forty-two percent of us identified ourselves as "other." In other words, belonging to a nonexistent racial group, Latinos/Hispanics.

At the same time, only about 8 percent of us identified ourselves as of mixed race, even though it is probable that most of us have more than one race in our backgrounds.

Thus, confusion is common among Latinos whose fluid notions of race are confronted with the rigid black-white paradigm that dominates this nation's way of looking at race.

A couple of years ago, The New York Times ran a series about race in the United States. The only piece that dealt with the Latino community told the story of two immigrants from Cuba. These best childhood friends were inseparable as they grew up in Cuba. The fact that one was black and one was white made no difference in how they related to each other.

They immigrated to the United States and began to experience our prejudice. Over

time, the black Cuban was steered, by his job and his experiences to live in a black neighborhood, while the white Cuban moved in the Cuban circles.

Both men expressed profound sadness and deep bewilderment as to why they could not maintain their close friendship in the United States.

So where do Latinos fit in this country's race paradigm?

The short answer is they don't.

Some argue that Latinos need to "choose" which side they are on.

I argue instead that the paradigm is outdated, not only for Latinos, but given the skyrocketing rates of intermarriage in this country, for a lot of others, as well.

An important aspect of Vasconcelos' philosophy is that Latinos have all these varied roots, and thus the implication that all these races, ethnicities and groups have an intertwined future.

It's time for a new paradigm of how we view and address race and ethnicity in this country, and it is my hope that *la raza cósmica* will help lead the way.

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And Then There Were Two

By Abel Cruz

Well it seems that the search committee responsible for selecting the final candidates for the Lubbock city manager's position has extended the deadline for accepting applications to October 6. It was originally August 30. In announcing the decision to extend the deadline, Dr. Allen McInnes who chairs the search committee, was careful to point out that it wasn't because the committee was not satisfied with the applicants that had applied for the position so far.

According to a statement by Mayor Marc McDougal, "one of the reasons the committee extended the deadline was to give more time to get more applications". Duh?

Apparently, Mayor McDougal feels that the time frame in the hiring process, ("late summer with school about to start") has made it difficult for some potential candidates to apply.

Yeah, and I have some beach front property in Arizona that...well you know how that line ends.

I have no doubt that the mayor and the selection committee chair were sincere in their explanation of why the deadline was extended. But, do you think that these were the only reasons for the extension?

Another reason given is so that the position can be advertised at the International City Managers Association conference which is being held this week in North Carolina. See, doesn't it sound like maybe the powers that be are not fully satisfied with the current pool of candidates? If they were, do you think that the deadline would be extended and the search firm, The Oldam Group, paid an additional month of consulting fees; if that is in fact the case?

Initially there were 46 candidates, including current interim city manager Tommy Gonzalez that had applied for the position before two dropped out of consideration. Surprisingly, or maybe not, most of the applicants come from smaller cities with the majority coming from Texas. The current Longview city manager that applied represents the largest city (pop. 75,000) from which an applicant has responded.

If I am a candidate for this position, I can draw two conclusions after reviewing the latest developments. One that the committee is not convinced that any of the candidates applying from outside the city is exactly what they are looking for and two, if I'm Tommy Gonzalez, I better start polishing up on my interviewing skills.

Pretty sad huh?

According to the city of Lubbock website, the city's organizational chart lists about 73 positions ranging from city manager to HR director to CFO, to city secretary, etc, etc. All top positions just below the city council. Of these 73 positions, 2 positions seem to be vacant and the rest are listed by position with the name of the staff member under each job title.

Believe it or not, out of those 73 positions, there are only 3 surnames that would indicate that the employee is of Hispanic descent. Those names are Gonzalez, Garza, and Trevino. In a city where the Hispanic population is at least 28% and growing, we manage to fill a whopping 4% of the top jobs in the city.

And the saddest part is that all signs indicate that that may change soon.

And then, there will only be 2.

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La Raza Cosmica Desafia las Etiquetas Raciales Aceptadas en E.E.U.U.

(Este es el segundo en una serie de cuatro ensayos personales relacionados entre sí, escritos para Hispanic Link News Service por Raúl Yzaguirre, presidente y CEO del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, la organización de electores hispanos más grande de la nación.)

Por Raúl Yzaguirre

Lo que muchos de nosotros los latinos vemos en el espejo no necesariamente define lo que somos.

Por ejemplo, tengo una sobrina cuya piel es tan blanca que es casi transparente y muchos la molestan porque es prácticamente imposible que su piel se tueste bajo el sol.

Cuando se mudó del sur de Texas a Washington, D.C.,

conoció, se enamoró y se casó con uno que no era latino. Ella se refiere su esposo como 'blanco'. En otras palabras, no igual de blanco que ella, a pesar de que la piel de él no es más clara. Su historia ilustra

una realidad clave de los latinos: algunos términos raciales o étnicos no tienen sentido en nuestra comunidad. Los latinos han definido los términos racial y étnico muy diferente de como lo han hecho los que no son latinos o los afroamericanos.

El término 'Raza' puede verdaderamente significar un grupo racial, pero más a menudo se refiere a grupos étnicos. Cuando los latinos hablan de la "raza irlandesa", la "italiana" o la "china", en realidad se refieren a la cultura, el idioma y la etnicidad, no al ADN.

Nosotros nos referimos a nosotros mismos como 'raza', una forma corta de raza cósmica. El término raza cósmica lo originó el filósofo y educador mexicano, José Vasconcelos. El sostiene que los latinos en el Nuevo Mundo eran una amalgama, un mestizaje de todas las culturas y razas del mundo.

Las raíces latinas incluyen a los indígenas del Nuevo Mundo y a los colonizadores europeos, así como a los descendientes de los esclavos africanos. Trazamos a nuestros antepasados hasta el judío ibérico, así como a los moros musulmanes de África, a los invasores romanos y germanos, así como a los primeros habitantes celtas de Iberia. Gracias a nuestras raíces indígenas americanas, tenemos lazos con Asia. Y algunos de nosotros que tenemos nombres vascos, se supone que hayamos descendido de la legendaria ciudad de Atlantis, ya que el idioma vascongado no tiene relación alguna con otro idioma conocido.

No es que no estemos conscientes de nuestras diferencias en nuestra agrupación de razas. Es simplemente que tradicionalmente, la raza no ha tenido el poder suficiente como para marcar una a una persona ni la importancia que tiene en la sociedad de E.E.U.U.

No es que se diga que el racismo está ausente entre los latinos. Sin embargo, en Latinoamérica no es tan comúnmente virulento ni importante como otro "ismo", el clasismo.

Nuestras respuestas al censo del 2000 confirman nuestras diferentes nociones de lo que son la raza y etnicidad. Cuarenta y cuatro por ciento de nosotros nos identificamos como 'otro'. En otras palabras, que pertenecemos a un grupo racial inexistente, latinos (o hispanos).

Al mismo tiempo, aproximadamente el ochenta por ciento de nosotros nos identificamos como provenientes de raza mixta, aun cuando es probable que la mayor parte de nosotros tengamos más de una raza en nuestra sangre.

Así las cosas, la confusión es algo común entre los latinos, cuyas nociones variables del concepto raza, confrontan el rígido paradigma del negro-blanco que domina la forma en que esta nación ve dicho concepto.

Hace unos cuantos años, el New York Times publicó una serie sobre la raza en Estados Unidos. El único artículo que trataba sobre la comunidad latina, era uno que hablaba de la historia de dos inmigrantes de Cuba. Estos dos buenos amigos de infancia eran inseparables cuando se criaban en Cuba. El hecho de que uno era negro y el otro era blanco no hacía diferencia en la forma en que se trataban uno al otro. Ambos emigraron a los Estados Unidos y comenzaron a sentir nuestros prejuicios. Con el tiempo, el trabajo y las experiencias del cubano negro lo llevaron a vivir en un vecindario de negros, mientras que el cubano blanco se movió en el círculo de cubanos blancos.

Ambos hombres manifestaron profunda tristeza y desorientación al no saber por qué no podían continuar con su estrecha amistad en los Estados Unidos.

Así que, ¿dónde cabemos los latinos en el paradigma de este país?

La respuesta corta es, en ningún sitio. Algunos dirán que los latinos deben escoger de qué lado están. Yo digo que lo que pasa es que el paradigma está obsoleto, no solamente para los latinos, sino para muchos otros, dadas las altas tasas de matrimonios mixtos en este país.

Un aspecto importante de la filosofía de Vasconcelos no es solamente el que los latinos tengan toda esa variedad de raíces, sino también la implicación de que todas esas razas, etnias y grupos tienen un futuro entrelazado.

Es tiempo de que tengamos un nuevo paradigma de cómo vemos y entendemos el asunto de la raza y la etnicidad en este país. Espero que La Raza Cómica lleve la delantera.

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Una Humilde Propuesta para Invadir a Mexico

Por Frankie Terrazas
(Con la dispensa de Jonathan Swift)

Los Estados Unidos debería invadir a México. Deberíamos apoderarnos de su gente, su propiedad y todos sus recursos naturales. Sólo entonces podremos resolver nuestras diferencias y cosechar los beneficios de una unión tan lógica como el jamón y huevo o frijoles y tortillas.

Los mexicanos, claro está, tendrán que tragarse un poco el orgullo nacional, pero con el tiempo verán la sabiduría de convertirse en ciudadanos de E.E.U.U. prácticamente de la noche a la mañana -- sin peleas, ni filas y sin costosos y a veces mortales esquemas para cruzar la frontera.

La experiencia reciente ha demostrado que nuestras fuerzas militares pueden invadir países con desiertos y montañas y millones de personas, todo en cuestión de semanas. Y debido a que México está tan cerca de nosotros, el trabajo de conquistar y ocuparlo será mucho más fácil. Sencillamente anejamos nuestros 26 nuevos estados, otorgándole a nuestra población de ciudadanos añadidos todos los derechos y privilegios que disfrutan los residentes legales de E.E.U.U.

Una vez que hayamos liberado a los mexicanos de su historial de corrupción, su fraude, su revolución social y su régimen antidemocrático, nuestra acrecentada nación beneficiará a todo el mundo de las siguientes formas:

-- Se esfumará la inmigración ilegal de los mexicanos.

-- Sin una frontera, el tráfico de drogas se debilitará y llegará a su fin.

-- Nuestra producción doméstica de petróleo se elevará al añadir sustanciales reservas de petróleo mexicano.

-- A mayor cantidad de trabaja-

jadores provenientes del sur, más mano de obra barata.

-- El CIA y otras agencias podrán contratar zapatistas para contribuir a luchar contra el terrorismo con su exclusiva perspicacia para obtener información sobre la mentalidad y las motivaciones del rebelde contemporáneo.

-- Económicamente, el libre flujo de personas, productos y costumbres sociales -- como por ejemplo, las siestas o la ética puritana del trabajo, nos harán más fuertes y competitivos en el mercado mundial.

-- Culturalmente, nos volveremos aun más diversos. El hablar español e inglés será tan común como leer a Cervantes y a Shakespeare en los idiomas originales.

-- Los mexicanos, particularmente los de baja estatura y piel oscura, ya no serán vistos como importaciones exóticas en Spokane, Washington o en Portland, Maine.

-- Los norteamericanos de tez clara y ascendencia europea, para todos los efectos, no serán vistos como ingenuas girasflas patilargas en las calles de Oaxaca, o en los poblados de cholas de Cancún.

-- El aire de la Ciudad de México se tornará más limpio una vez se hayan puesto en efecto los controles de emisiones tóxicas.

-- Las maquiladoras, esas fábricas de mano de obra barata de las fronteras, se mudarán al sur y al norte, lejos de todo el calor y el polvo.

-- Nunca volverá a ser posible que llamen a alguien el primer alcalde latino, el primer gobernador latino, el primer senador latino, incluso el primer presidente latino. Luego de la adquisición territorial, los Estados Unidos ganará docenas de alcaldes mexicanos, gobernadores y una masa de honorables líderes históricos con nombres tales como Benito

Juarez y Lázaro Cárdenas.

-- Se inflarán las filas de soldados mexicanos en la milicia. Muchos más podrán ahora morir por su nuevo país en lugares hostiles en todo el mundo. De igual forma, los gringos 'nativos' en los 50 estados más al norte, podrán unirse libremente a sus hermanos hispanohablantes del sur de El Paso en el combate armado. Juntos erradicarán los males que pudieran surgir de tiempo en Centro y Sudamérica.

Podría seguir enumerando beneficios, pero baste con decir que, al final, solamente pro-

A Modest Proposal to Invade Mexico

By Frankie Terrazas (With apologies to Jonathan Swift)

The United States should invade Mexico. We should take possession of its people, their property and all their natural resources. Only then can we resolve our differences and reap the benefits of a union as logical as ham and eggs or frijoles and tortillas.

Mexicans, of course, will have to swallow a little national pride, but with time they'll see the wisdom of becoming U.S. citizens virtually overnight -- with no paperwork, no lines and no more expensive and sometimes deadly schemes to cross the border.

Recent experience has shown that our military forces can successfully overrun countries with deserts and mountains and millions of people, all in a matter of weeks. And because Mexico is so close to us, the job of conquest and occupation will be vastly easier. We simply annex our new 26 states, effectively giving our added population of citizens every right and privilege all legal U.S. residents enjoy.

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Once we've liberated Mexicans from their history of corruption, failed social revolution, and undemocratic rule, our enlarged nation will benefit everyone in the following ways:

-- Illegal Mexican immigration will vanish.

-- Without a border, drug smuggling will wither and die.

-- Our domestic oil production will jump with the addition of substantial Mexican petroleum reserves.

-- More workers flowing from the south will mean cheaper workers.

-- The CIA and other agencies can hire Zapatistas to help fight terrorism with their unique insights about the minds and motivations of the modern rebel.

-- Economically, the free back-and-forth flow of people, products and social habits -- like *siestas* or the Puritan work

Un Estilo de Vida

Dr. David R. Smith.
Sistema Universitario Texas Tech

Un cambio en el estilo de vida que incluya una actividad física requiere disciplina, responsabilidad y determinación, pero el costo casi siempre es sobreestimado y los beneficios, subestimados.

Antes de concentrarse en el costo del tiempo y el dolor

Press for more action on Hispanic Health Inequities

"From the time you check in to the time you leave, you need English," says Yolanda Partida, national program office director for Hablamos Juntos. The project is looking at ways to better understand the critical role of the interpreter, she explains.

ACS representations at the briefing also urged increased federal funding for the Centers of Excellence Program, designed to give more opportunities to persons of color pursuing careers in the medical professions.

The program's 2002 \$32.6 million budget is scheduled for

elimination by the Department of Health and Human Services in the White House proposed 2003 budget.

que debe hacerse con un médico.

Existen muchos pretextos para evitar participar en un programa de ejercicio e igualmente tantos para no levantarse y moverse.

"La clave para seleccionar el medio es encontrar algo que usted puede aguantar o que le guste", dijo Paxton.

"Es importante empezar despacio y no consumirse

hasta al punto de abandonarlo.

Caminar es buen ejercicio y es fácil. Si usted prueba una máquina de ejercicio, pruebe varias más hasta que encuentre una donde pueda continuar la labor por largo tiempo".

Lento, pero seguro

Según Paxton, los fragmentos de actividad versus la actividad continua son igual de beneficios. Una investigación de la revista de la Asociación Americana de Medicina demostró que el mayor aprovechamiento se consigue con 200 minutos de actividad a la semana. Pero una, dos o tres caminatas de 15 minutos al día son también muy favorables.

"La frecuencia recomendada es de casi todos los días de la semana", dijo Paxton.

"Ahora, el ejercicio se asocia con hacerse miembro de un club y esto no es necesario".

El mejor tiempo para realizar una actividad física depende de cada individuo pero, según las estadísticas, una buena mayoría que hace ejercicio por la mañana continúa con el programa y lo practica en su hogar.

"Es muy importante encontrar el tiempo apropiado para usted y su horario", dijo Paxton.

"Empiece con el primer paso", sugiere Paxton.

"Considere esto como una inversión de largo plazo. Un programa que se toma despacio evita heridas y torceduras. Evite cambios drásticos, por ejemplo, si corre no aumente drásticamente la distancia, lo mismo sucede con las pesas o superficies. Los cambios repentinos causan heridas y dolor".

No deje para mañana

Los beneficios de cualquier actividad física, sin tomar en consideración la edad o el sexo, incluyen una sensación de bienestar, un incremento evidente de energía y una reducción importante de los riesgos de contraer cáncer, osteoporosis, depresión y otras enfermedades como la diabetes.

"Tengo que enfatizar la importancia del ejercicio en la prevención y el control de la diabetes", dijo Paxton.

No tiene que ser un corredor experto o dedicar demasiado tiempo para desarrollar sus músculos, pero debe saber que lo fundamental en una rutina de ejercicios para ver cambios es empezar a efectuar una actividad física, añadió el doctor.

Exigen mas Accion con Respecto a

Desigualdades de Salud entre Hispanos

El estudio de IOM del 2002 encontró que las desigualdades existían aun cuando los factores de seguro y socioeconómicos se tomaban en cuenta.

La American Cancer Society (ACS) estima que durante el 2003 se diagnosticarán más de 67,400 casos nuevos de cáncer entre los hispanos. Cerca de 22,100 morirán a causa de la enfermedad.

La portavoz de la ACS, Rachel Tyree, sostiene que los hispanos, como grupo, no entienden la importancia de someterse a exámenes de detección del cáncer y otras enfermedades.

Los cabildeos de ACS se reunieron con los miembros del Congreso para alentálos a firmar el proyecto de ley conocido como Patient Navigator, Outreach and Chronic Disease Prevention Act, el cual presentaron este año el Representante Robert Menéndez, demócrata de Nueva Jersey y Deborah Pryce, republicana de Ohio. El proyecto cuenta con el apoyo bipartita y al dia de hoy 68 representantes de la Cámara han firmado el mismo.

El proyecto utilizará los recursos de la comunidad para ayudar a los pacientes en el proceso de cuidado de salud, de forma consistente y conveniente a sus creencias culturales. La National Hispanic Medical Association, la cual representa a algunos 35,000 médicos, apoya el proyecto.

El proyecto Hablamos Juntos, financiado por la Fundación Robert Wood Johnson, está estudiando, en diez localidades de la nación, la forma de mejorar la comunicación entre pacientes y médicos de habla hispana. Una de tales localidades, la Fundación del Sistema de Salud Inova, en Falls Church, Virginia, implementará un programa en el cual se utilizarán algunos de los componentes que se mencionan en el proyecto de ley.

"El inglés es necesario desde el momento en que el paciente ingresa hasta que sale", dice Yolanda Partida, directora de la oficina del programa nacional Hablamos Juntos. Partida explica que el proyecto procura encontrar la forma de entender mejor el importante rol del intérprete.

Las ponencias de ACS abogaron por la urgencia de que se aumente la asignación de fondos federales para el programa Centers of Excellence, diseñados para darles mayores oportunidades a las personas de

color a que estudian profesiones relacionadas con la medicina.

El presupuesto del programa, el cual era de \$32.6 millones en el 2002, será eliminado por el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos en el presupuesto presentado por la Casa Blanca para el 2003.

De igual forma se eliminará el Health Careers Opportunity Program (Programa de Oportunidades para las Profesiones de Salud), el cual adiestra anualmente a más de 6,000 estudiantes de escuela secundaria y universitarios. La tasa de aceptación de los participantes del programa en las escuelas profesionales de salud es 20 por ciento mayor que el promedio nacional. El presupuesto del programa para el 2002 era de \$34.7 millones.

El Dr. Glenn Flores, profesor asociado de Pediatría en la Medical College de Wisconsin, dice que tales recortes "son completamente inaceptables". Un estudio que Flores y otros investigadores llevaron a cabo en el 2000, reveló que solamente un 8 por ciento de las escuelas de medicina tienen cursos específicos de capacitación cultural.

Los médicos que no son blancos tienen mayores probabilidades de trabajar en comunidades donde residen personas de color y de servir a personas no aseguradas, señala Flores. Aproximadamente el 5.5 por ciento de la facultad médica no pertenece a la raza blanca, al igual que el 11 por ciento de los estudiantes de medicina.

Al observar que los errores de los intérpretes pueden causar, y en efecto, tienen consecuencias peligrosas, Flores insiste en que por motivos de seguridad, deberían haber más requisitos culturales y lingüísticos en las escuelas de medicina, especialmente para los médicos residentes. "Ellos están al frente", dice.

El Dr. Joseph Betancourt, profesor asociado de Medicina en la Universidad de Harvard, responsabiliza a la administración de Bush, alegando que ésta ha sido lenta en responder al estudio de IOM 2002, el cual tiene una buena reputación y en el cual Betancourt fue uno de los investigadores. "Si no respondieron al estudio IOM 2002, será difícil que respondan a este nuevo estudio", concluye.

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Latino Organization Rally Against Merger of First Data & Concord

Representatives from key national Hispanic organizations will hold a press conference to announce their strong opposition to the merger of First Data (owners of Western Union) and Concord EFS. The groups cite the well-known predatory and abusive practices of Western Union, as the main reason for opposing the merger. The group will release a letter, which will be hand delivered at a meeting with officials at the U.S. Department of Justice urging them to oppose the merger. Also participating at this meeting will be representatives from office of State Attorney Generals from throughout the country who are concerned over the impact this merger will have in the Hispanic community.

"Currently, 25 percent of U.S. Latinos do not have a bank account and these are the people that have disproportionately suffered the consequences of the predatory practices of companies like Western Union," said Jacob Monty, General Counsel of the Association for the Advancement of

Mexican Americans. "The acquisition of Concord by First Data will harm these people by increasing First Data's stranglehold on many payment markets crucial to those without bank accounts. These consumers have the fewest choices and are the most likely to be exploited by a lack of competition. This merger will further harm these vulnerable consumers by increasing First Data's dominance in many of these critical markets, including ATM networks, transaction processing and point-of-sale platforms."

The press conference will be held at the National Press Club's Lisagor Room at 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 25th. The National Press Club is located at 529 14th Street, NW in Washington, D.C. Groups represented at this press conference include The Latino Coalition, the Mexican American Grocers Association, the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, the Hispanic Business Roundtable and the Hispanic Alliance for Progress.

Dr. Glenn Flores, an associate professor of pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin, calls such cuts "completely unacceptable." A 2000 study by Flores et al, revealed that just 8 percent of medical schools have specific courses on cultural competence.

Non-white doctors are more likely to work in communities of color and serve the uninsured, Flores points out. About 5.5 percent of medical faculty are non-white, as are 11 percent of medical students.

Observing that mistakes by interpreters can and do lead to dangerous consequences, he urges that there should be more cultural and linguistic requirements in medical schools, especially for residents. "They're on the front lines," he says.

Joseph Bétancourt, M.D., an associate professor of medicine at Harvard, says that the Bush administration has been slow to respond to the highly regarded 2002 IOM study, on which he was a researcher. "If they didn't respond to the IOM study, it will be hard to get them to respond to (the new survey)," he concludes.

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Las Grandes Ligas de Beisbol 2003

La posttemporada de las Grandes Ligas de Beisbol será televisada nacionalmente otra vez, en vivo y en español, a través de Fox Sports en Español comenzando con la Serie Divisional a partir del martes, 30 de septiembre a las 8:00 p.m. (tiempo este)/5:00 p.m. (tiempo oeste). La posttemporada de 2003 marca el tercer año consecutivo en el cual Fox Sports en Español ofrece cobertura a todos los entusiastas de

béisbol de habla hispana en los Estados Unidos. Fox Sports en Español presentará una selección de juegos de la Serie Divisional, cobertura completa de la Serie de Campeonato de la Liga Nacional y de la Liga Americana y la Serie Mundial.

Las transmisiones de béisbol por Fox Sports en Español serán conducidas por Fernando González y José Tolentino quienes regresan a intercalar sus análisis con entrevistas de los

jugadores desde los estadios. Pepe Mantilla, la reconocida estrella de las Grandes Ligas Tito Fuentes, Rafael "Felo" Ramírez y Pepe Yñiguez regresan a compartir los comentarios jugada tras jugada.

Fox Sports en Español comparte los derechos para la transmisión en español de la posttemporada y la Serie Mundial de las Grandes Ligas de Beisbol de FOX Broadcasting

Company en 2001. FOX Broadcasting Company retiene estos derechos hasta el 2006. Para más información acerca de la transmisión en Español de la posttemporada de las Grandes Ligas de Beisbol, visite la página web de Fox Sports en Español en www.fse.terra.com.

Horario de la Posttemporada de las Grandes Ligas de Beisbol de 2003 por Fox Sports en Español **

Horario de la Posttemporada de las Grandes Ligas de Beisbol de 2003 por Fox Sports en Español **, pagina 2)**Fecha**

Martes, 30 de septiembre

Jueves, 2 de octubre

Sábado, 4 de octubre

Domingo, 5 de octubre

Lunes, 6 de octubre

Lunes, 6 de octubre

Martes, 7 de octubre

Miércoles, 8 de octubre

Miércoles, 8 de octubre

Jueves, 9 de octubre

Viernes, 10 de octubre

Sábado, 11 de octubre

Sábado, 11 de octubre

Domingo, 12 de octubre

(La Posttemporada de las Grandes Ligas de Beisbol de 2003 por Fox Sports en Español **, pagina 2)

Fecha

Domingo, 12 de octubre

Lunes, 13 de octubre

Martes, 14 de octubre

Miércoles, 15 de octubre

Miércoles, 15 de octubre

Jueves, 16 de octubre

Sábado, 18 de octubre

Domingo, 19 de octubre

Martes, 21 de octubre

Miércoles, 22 de octubre

Jueves, 23 de octubre

Sábado, 25 de octubre

Domingo, 26 de octubre

Serie de Posttemporada

Serie Divisional

Serie Divisional

Serie Divisional

Serie Divisional *

Serie Divisional *

Serie Divisional *

Serie Campeonato de Liga Nacional, Juego 1

Serie Campeonato de Liga Nacional, Juego 2

Serie Campeonato de Liga Americana, Juego 1

Serie Campeonato de Liga Americana, Juego 2

Serie Campeonato de Liga Americana, Juego 3

Serie Campeonato de Liga Americana, Juego 4

Serie Campeonato de Liga Americana, Juego 5*

Serie de Posttemporada

Serie Campeonato de Liga Americana, Juego 4

Serie Campeonato de Liga Americana, Juego 5*

Serie Campeonato de Liga Nacional, Juego 6*

Serie Campeonato de Liga Americana, Juego 6*

Serie Campeonato de Liga Nacional, Juego 7*

Serie Campeonato de Liga Americana, Juego 7*

Serie Mundial, Juego 1

Serie Mundial, Juego 2

Serie Mundial, Juego 3

Serie Mundial, Juego 4

Serie Mundial, Juego 5*

Serie Mundial, Juego 6*

Serie Mundial, Juego 7*

Hora (Tiempo Este)

8:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

Las Negociaciones entre Israelitas y Palestinos carecen de los elementos vitales

El escenario en el Salón Este era algo que en un tiempo hubiera parecido inimaginable: el presidente Anwar Sadat de Egipto abrazando al primer ministro Menachem Begin de Israel ante un sonriente presidente Jimmy Carter.

Esa ocasión, que cumplirá 25 años el próximo miércoles, se realizó el histórico acuerdo de Camp David, en que se requería un tratado de paz entre Israel y Egipto y un acuerdo final entre israelíes y palestinos en menos de cinco años.

Un cuarto de siglo después, la paz final sigue siendo evasiva.

De hecho, el colapso aparente de la iniciativa más reciente de Estados Unidos, la hoja de ruta propuesta por el presidente George W. Bush, enfatiza la ausencia de los dos ingredientes más esenciales para resolver este conflicto afejo.

Uno es la necesidad de un liderazgo fuerte e imparcial de Estados Unidos. El otro es la disposición de ambos bandos para aceptar compromisos a corto plazo por el interés a largo plazo de la paz.

Bush, a diferencia de los tres presidentes que más progresos lograron en los últimos 25 años, ha apoyado con menos reservas a Israel que cualquier presidente desde Ronald Reagan y sólo ha estado de acuerdo en presionar a su gobierno en forma intermitente.

Además, elementos de línea dura controlan tanto a Israel como a los palestinos, lo que reduce la posibilidad de un compromiso.

Los esfuerzos de Estados Unidos en esta región que es vital en lo estratégico y lo económico se iniciaron desde la presidencia de Franklin D. Roosevelt. Estos esfuerzos se intensificaron con la "diplomacia de ida y vuelta" del secretario de Estado Henry Kissinger después de los choques de la guerra árabe-israelí de 1973 y el embargo del petróleo árabe.

From Page 2

both Spanish and English will be as commonplace as reading both Cervantes and Shakespeare in the original.

-- Mexicans, especially the shorter, darker variety, will no longer be viewed as exotic imports in Spokane or Portland, Maine.

-- Light-skinned Americans of European descent will no longer be seen as gangly, naive giraffes on the streets of Oaxaca or the shantytowns of Cancún, for that matter.

-- Mexico City's air will become cleaner once emission-exhaust controls are enforced.

-- Maquiladoras, those cheap-labor border factories, will move south and north, away from all that heat and dust.

Calling someone the first Latino mayor, the first Latino governor, the first Latino senator, even the first Latino president, will never again be possible. After the territorial acquisition, the United States will gain dozens of Mexican mayors, governors and a host of honorable, historic leaders with names like Benito Juárez and Lázaro Cárdenas.

-- The ranks of Mexicans serving in the military will swell. Many more will now be able to die for their new country in threatening hotspots around the world. Likewise, the "native" gringos in the upper 50 states will be free to join their Spanish-speaking American brethren south of El Paso in armed combat. Together they will root out evils that may pop up from time to time in Central and South America.

I could go on listing benefits, but suffice it to say that at bottom, I only propose making official what in most instances already exists. For example, Mexican nationals today do die in Iraq and Afghanistan while wearing U.S. military uniforms. And thousands of Mexicans go back and forth across our southern border seeking work and sometimes dying in brutal desert crossings (there were more than 150 border deaths in southern Arizona this past summer). In other words, let's shed the hypocrisies and make ourselves into the one big family we already are. Let's get it on. Let's invade Mexico.

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El impulso crucial tuvo lugar en 1977 cuando Sadat se ofreció a visitar Israel y Begin le hizo una invitación oficial. Cuando vacilaron los esfuerzos iniciales, Carter los invitó a Camp David.

Por casi dos semanas, surgió informes de frialdad entre ambos. En un viaje al cercano campo de batalla de Gettysburg, los reporteros observaron poca relación personal.

Al final, el deseo de terminar con 30 años de hostilidad, y con alguna ayuda de Carter, se produjo el sorprendente acuerdo. Pedía un tratado israelí-egipcio formal que se firmó el año siguiente y una compleja serie de pasos durante un "periodo de transición" de cinco años que sugería, pero no prometía, un estadio palestino.

En una señal de los proble-

mas futuros, el acuerdo apenas sobrevivió a una discusión sobre el periodo en que Begin había consentido en detener los nuevos asentamientos israelíes en Cisjordania, que estaba ocupada. La presión de Estados Unidos mantuvo las conversaciones en marcha, pero el problema persistió.

En última instancia, la resistencia árabe al proceso de paz ha retardado el esfuerzo. Cuando Reagan llegó a presidente, optó por reevaluar el asunto completo. El siguiente octubre, Sadat fue asesinado y desapareció la esperanza de progresos.

La situación se mantuvo casi en el limbo hasta que el primer presidente Bush, después de la Guerra del Golfo Pérsico de 1991, inició nuevos intentos que dieron fruto a su sucesor, Bill Clinton. Ayudó a producir acuerdos en 1993 entre el líder palestino Yasser Arafat y el primer ministro israelí Yitzhak Rabin y, un año después, entre

Rabin y el rey Hussein de Jordania.

De nuevo el proceso de paz se diluyó después del asesinato de Rabin en 1995, la elección de Benjamin Netanyahu de línea dura y la ola de terrorismo antisemita.

Hasta el último esfuerzo de Clinton falló cuando Arafat rechazó un plan de Estados Unidos que hubiera conducido a un estado palestino que controlara la mayor parte de Cisjordania. En medio de la renovada violencia palestina, Israel eligió como primer ministro a Ariel Sharon, símbolo de la resistencia de línea dura a la paz por dos décadas.

Bush, quien se hizo amigo de Sharon antes de que ambos tuvieran poder, apoyó al nuevo líder israelí, esquivó a Arafat y buscó mantenerse apartado de la participación directa en las conversaciones.

La creciente violencia lo obligó a tomar parte, aunque el ci-

clo recurrente de ataques terroristas palestinos contra los israelíes y los contraataques del gobierno de Sharon socavaron los esfuerzos de Estados Unidos por realizar conversaciones serias.

Renunció el primer ministro palestino, que fue nombrado a propuesta de Estados Unidos, Mahmoud Abbas. Arafat seleccionó a Ahmed Qureia, considerado un moderado, como su sucesor. Pero existen dudas sobre su autoridad y su capacidad para controlar a los terroristas. Y como es menos probable que Bush presione a Israel en vísperas de elecciones en Estados Unidos, es mínima la posibilidad de progresos rápidos.

En el tiempo del acuerdo de Camp David, muchos pensaron que su calendario de cinco años era poco realista. Pero pocos hubieran imaginado que 25 años después muchos temas siguieran sin resolver y tal vez sin solución.

New Presidential Aspirant Clark Backpedals on Iraq

Democratic presidential candidate Wesley Clark backed away from a day-old statement that he probably would have voted for the congressional resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq saying Friday he "would never have voted for this war."

The retired Army general, an opponent of the conflict, surprised supporters when he indicated in an interview with reporters Thursday that he likely would have supported the resolution. On Friday, Clark sought to clarify his comments in an interview with The Associated Press.

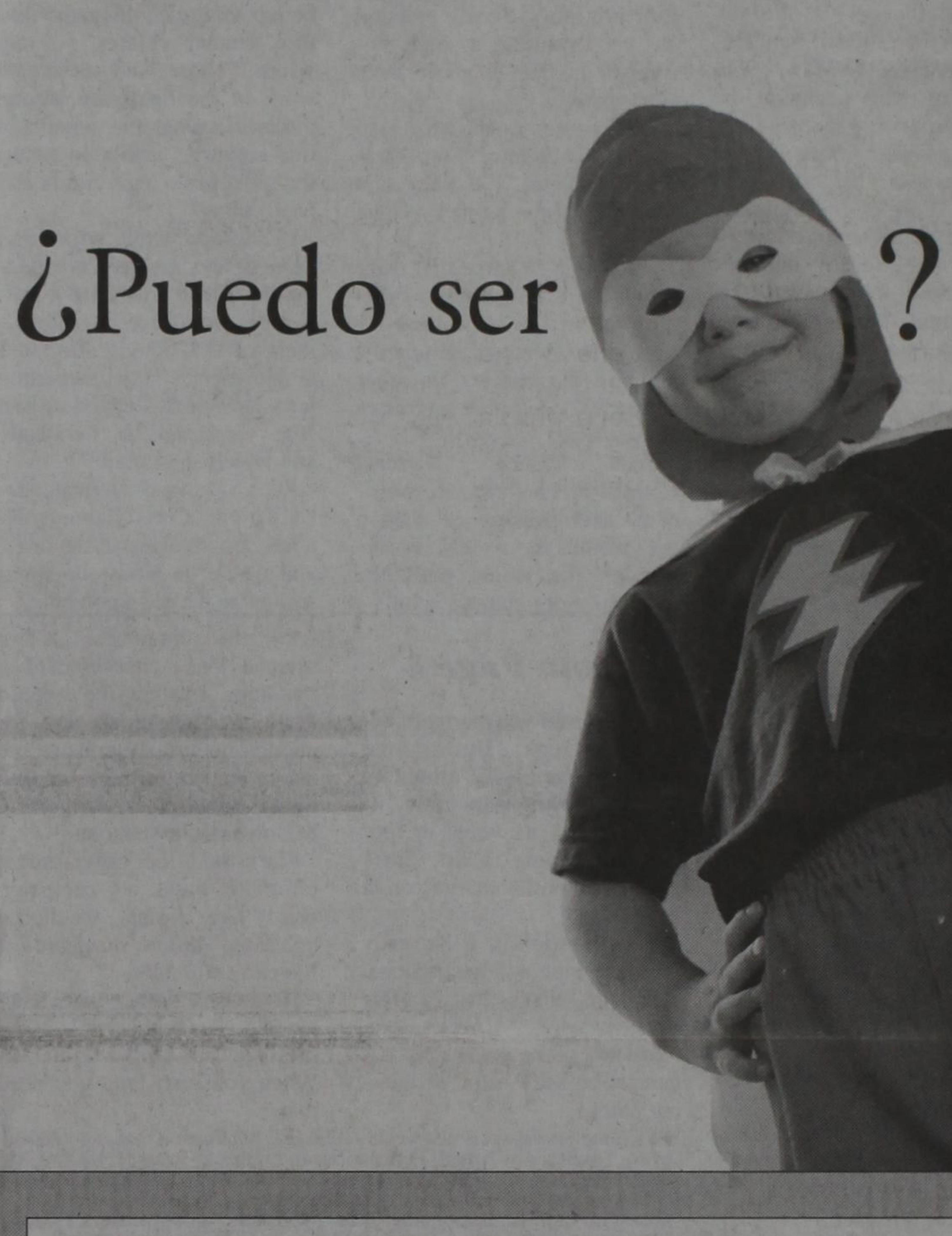
"Let's make one thing real clear, I would never have voted for this war," Clark said before a speech at the University of Iowa. "I've gotten a very consistent record on this. There was no imminent threat. This was not a case of pre-emptive war. I would have voted for the right kind of leverage to get a diplomatic solution, an international solution to the challenge of Saddam Hussein."

Clark's initial remarks left members of his campaign team a bit flummoxed. "That caught me off guard a little. The general has been very critical of the war," said George Bruno, a New Hampshire activist.

Clark launched his bid for the Democratic nomination on Tuesday with the type of media attention candidates crave, but early missteps underscore the dangers facing his late-starting campaign.

The former NATO commander and his campaign staff went back and forth on whether he will participate in a Democratic debate next week — all in a single day. Creating more confusion were Clark's

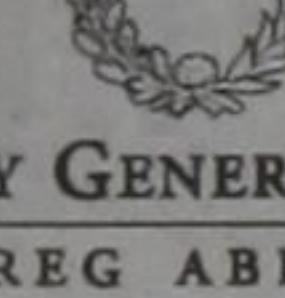
continued on page 6



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Final Touch on Farmworker Bill to give up Farmworkers a 1-Time Opportunity to Legalize Stay in U.S.

Final touches on a bipartisan bill to give up to 500,000 farm workers not currently authorized to work in the United States a one-time opportunity to legalize their stay are being negotiated by two key U.S. senators.

"We're nearing agreement. What we hope to have by the end of this week, or perhaps next week, is a truly bipartisan piece of legislation," said Will Hart, a spokesman for Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho.

The bill will focus solely on farm workers and will not be as far-reaching as a controversial "guest worker" bill sponsored by Arizona Reps. Jim Kolbe and Jeff Flake and Sen. John McCain that would extend temporary U.S. work visas to millions of undocumented immigrants who toil in restaurants, hotels and other industries.

Though the details must be finalized, the office of Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who is working with Craig on the bill, along with groups representing growers, farm worker advocates and immigrants, provided a draft of the measure. Kennedy is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship.

Main provisions would:

- Provide farm workers with eligibility for temporary U.S. resident status after they performed at least 575 hours, or 100 days, of agriculture work during any 12 consecutive months since March 1, 2002.

- Enable workers who became temporary residents under the program to achieve permanent residency after 2,060 work-hours of agriculture labor, or 360 workdays, during the next six years.

- Extend eligibility for adjustment to permanent resident status to a farm worker's spouse and children once the worker completed the work requirement and gained permanent status.

- Give farm workers the right under federal law to join a union and give them the same labor-law protections as U.S. farm workers.

- Require their employers to pay the same federal payroll taxes as for employees who were U.S. citizens.

The bill essentially would re-

form an existing agricultural visa program that the Kennedy office summary says "has failed to protect worker rights and is criticized by employers as costly and burdensome."

Marc Grossman, a spokesman for the United Farm Workers of America, said he did not want to discuss specifics of the work being done on the Kennedy-Craig bill but said, "We're trying to hammer out an agreement."

Sharon Hughes, executive vice president of the National Council of Agriculture Employers, could not be reached for comment on the measure.

A major bone of contention in negotiations has been whether temporary workers would be protected by a majority of the same laws that protect domestic farm workers.

Craig last week sent a letter to other lawmakers urging them to take final action on a farm worker measure.

Vulnerable persons'

"In recent months, we have read of the senseless and inhumane deaths of farm workers being smuggled illegally into the United States," Craig wrote. "Those who survive to work in the fields are among the most vulnerable persons in this country, unable to assert the most basic legal rights and protections."

In addition, Craig wrote that farmers and growers are finding it difficult to secure a predictable workforce, as enforcement of U.S. immigration and employment documentation laws have been stepped up and "the workforce is frequently and widely disrupted."

Reps. Howard Berman, D-Calif., and Chris Cannon, R-Utah, are involved in the talks, and would be House co-sponsors of an agreed-upon bill.

From Page 5

the way," said veteran Iowa activist Jeff Link. "By the time people began paying attention, he had it down pretty good."

Iowa casts its votes in four months, giving Clark little time to smooth out the rough edges.

"The question is, is he ready to jump into a huge national campaign that's just a few months away," Link said. "That is a pretty good sized organization with a lot of moving parts."

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In the interview, Clark sketched out a checkerboard of positions, saying he would leave in place a tax cut for middle-income Americans and indicating his support for gun rights, although he supports a ban on assault weapons.

Clark said the helter-skelter effort to build his campaign was "like trying to bottle lightning," but he shrugged off the early stumbles.

"It doesn't bother me a bit," he said. "It helps you get the message out across America. When you start late, you need that."

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