

# el Esalvador

Vol. XXV No. 44

Week of August 1 thru August 7, 2002

Lubbock, TX USA

## Exhausto el Papa en la Canonización de Juan Diego

**GABRIEL MORENO / Reuters**  
CIUDAD DE MEXICO--El papa Juan Pablo II, visiblemente agotado, canonizó ayer a Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoczin como el primer santo católico indígena, en una ceremonia en la capital mexicana en la que el ritual cristiano se mezcló con la música y símbolos prehispánicos.

En el colorido y multitudinario acto litúrgico en la Basílica de Guadalupe, al norte de Ciudad de México, el Pontífice, que habló con cansancio durante la ceremonia de dos horas y media, también abogó por las etnias locales.

Tras recibir el saludo de millones de mexicanos que se lanzaron a las calles a ver su paso, el Papa, de 82 años y que visita México por quinta vez, fue ovacionado a su ingreso al templo para la ceremonia de canonización de Juan Diego.

"Con gran gozo he peregrinado hasta esta Basílica de Guadalupe para proclamar la santidad de Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoczin", dijo el Papa, que sufre de la enfermedad de Parkinson y de dolores por una artritis.

"Declaramos y definimos santo al beato Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoczin y lo inscribimos en el tratado de los santos", agregó luego entre los aplausos de la multitud en el templo.

En seguida, un grupo de danzantes con coloridas plumas y atuendos indígenas a la usanza de guerreros mexicas bailó frente al Papa, mientras otros soplaron conchas

marinas y tocaron instrumentos precolombinos. Una parte de las lecturas del Evangelio se realizó en náhuatl, la lengua indígena

Sin Juan Diego, la Iglesia Católica tal vez no hubiera podido atraer a millones de indígenas en México hacia la fe de los conquistadores españoles representada por

León, descendiente mexicana y jefe de un grupo de danzantes.

En México, donde viven 102 millones de personas, se estima que un 10 por ciento de la población es indígena.

Algunas de las principales avenidas de Ciudad de México, centro de una urbe de 18 millones de personas, fueron cerradas para el paso del Papamóvil en el trayecto hacia y desde la Basílica de Guadalupe.

El Pontífice, que cumple la tercera y última etapa de una gira de 11 días que antes lo llevó a Canadá y Guatemala, saludó desde el Papamóvil, que mantuvo ventanas laterales abiertas, a la gente que se apostó en las calles de la capital.

"Es una emoción muy grande, es lo más bonito que le ha pasado a México", dijo Virginia Sánchez, obrera de 37 años, tras ver pasar al Papa luego de la canonización de Juan Diego. Cerca, un policía tenía una cámara fotográfica en sus manos.

El Papa ingresó a la Basílica sobre una pequeña plataforma, que también utilizó al abandonar el recinto, tras ser recibido con una masiva ovación. Se estima que dentro y en la explanada de la Basílica se congregaron unas 24,000 personas.

A diferencia de sus agitadas cuatro visitas anteriores a México --en 1979, 1990, 1993 y 1999-- repletas de actividades, en esta ocasión el Papa sólo oficiará dos misas a las que asistirán 48,000 personas en una breve agenda para cuidar de su salud.

Los diarios mexicanos desplegaron en portada la imagen del presidente Vicente Fox besando el anillo Papal a la llegada del Pontífice la noche del martes a México, que es el segundo país con mayor número de católicos en el mundo tras Brasil.

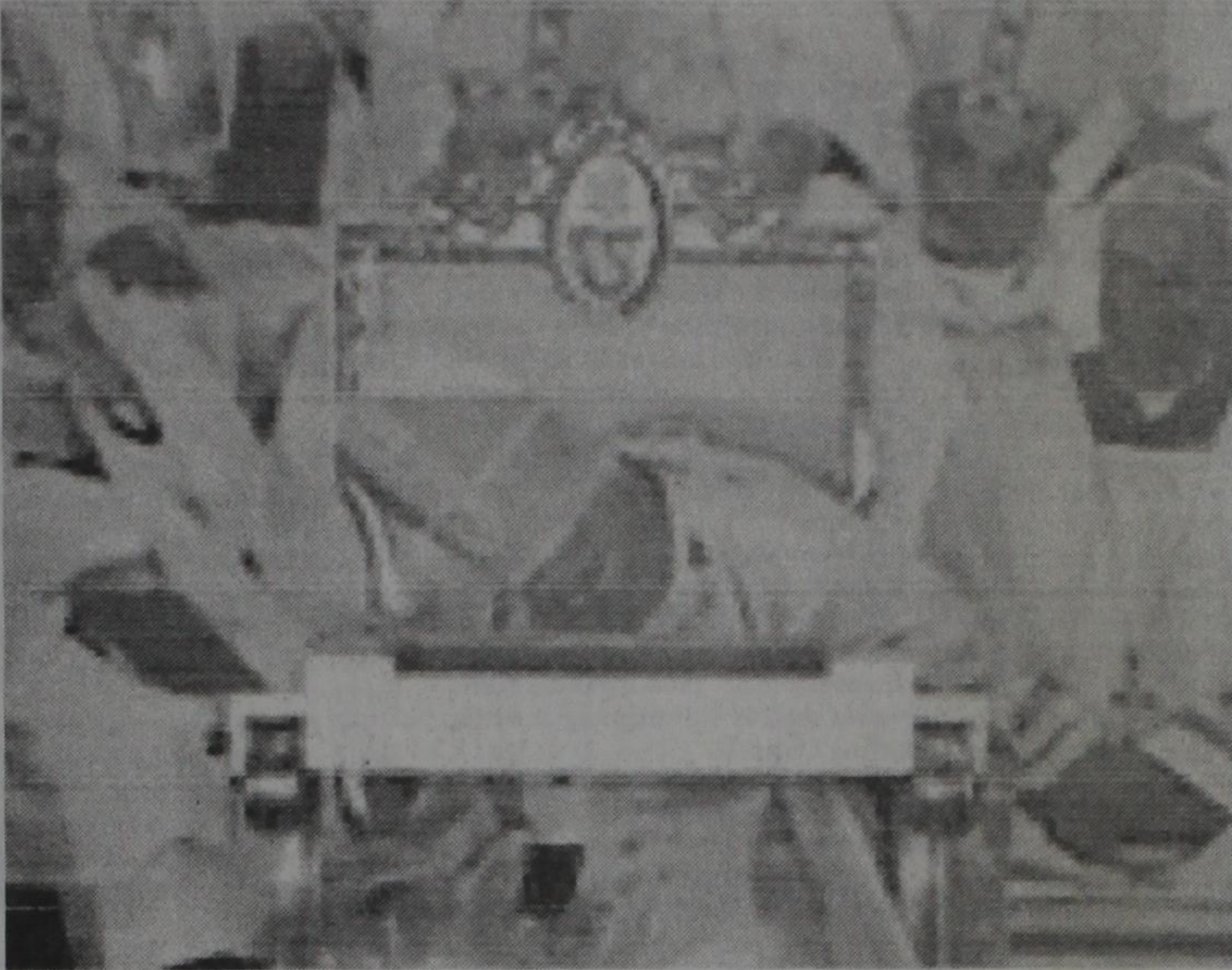
"México se entrega a JP", tituló el diario Reforma. "¿Y el Estado laico?", enfatizó La Jornada, haciendo referencia a la completa separación de poderes que existe en México.

El gesto de Fox derribó casi 150 años de tradición política del país, ya que desde la fundación del Estado moderno mexicano a mediados del siglo XIX los políticos se han abstenido de expresar públicamente su fe, apejándose a la separación de poderes.

Fox, un abierto católico casado en segundas nupcias, estuvo también a la Basílica, en la primera ocasión en que un mandatario asiste a una homilía pública en la historia moderna del país.

El Pontífice, que escogió a México como primer destino cuando asumió como Papa, permanecerá en el país hasta pasado el mediodía de hoy, tras beatificar a los indígenas Juan Bautista y Jacinto de los Angeles.

"Fue tremendo, la tristeza es su estado físico, su mentalidad y su espíritu es tremendo", dijo Nicolás Oropeza, de 74 años, que viajó desde Houston con su esposa para ver al Papa.



que hablaba Juan Diego.

Con su canonización, Juan Diego, a quien según los católicos se le apareció la Virgen de Guadalupe en 1531, se convirtió en el primer santo indígena de América.

la Virgen de Guadalupe, por mucho, el mayor icono católico del país.

La canonización de Juan Diego "es el reconocimiento espiritual de un pueblo en base a sus raíces antiguas", dijo Jesús

### Perry Touts Education Plan, Rips Rival at Hispanic Group's Forum

Republican Gov. Rick Perry went before Hispanic business leaders Friday and promoted his education agenda while bashing Democratic rival Tony Sanchez.

Mr. Perry never mentioned Mr. Sanchez by name when speaking to the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce. But over and over he referred to "my opponent" and otherwise made it clear he was talking about Mr. Sanchez, the multimillionaire banker seeking to become the state's first Hispanic governor.

"We're right smack-dab in the middle of a campaign season, and there are some out there who would try to tear Texas down," Mr. Perry said. "Frankly, Texas is running quite well."

The state's education system -- based heavily on standardized academic skills tests -- is improving and has been a model in President Bush's federal education plan, Mr. Perry said.

The Sanchez campaign countered that Mr. Sanchez's plan would improve accountability and education overall. Mr. Sanchez has said he favors exploring flexible standardized testing dates through an optional pilot program for school districts. He also contends standardized tests should be one of several factors in evaluating a child's performance in school.

Mr. Perry said Mr. Sanchez's flexible testing idea has been panned by educators and would make any day a test day.

Mr. Sanchez released a new television ad Friday in which a narrator says forcing teachers to "teach to the test" undermines education.

"There are no second-class kids. And we will not settle for second-class schools," Mr. Sanchez says in the ad.

Mr. Perry talked up his appointment of Hispanics to state posts and drew applause with his mention of Education Commissioner Felipe Alanis, the first Latino in the position.

The governor said 48 percent of scholarship recipients in the state's Texas Grant program for higher education are Hispanic.

As conference participants arrived at the Austin Convention Center, Sanchez campaign workers handed out letters from Mr. Sanchez in which he stated he wasn't invited to speak. He wrote that he would like to have addressed the group and that he knows the value of Hispanic business people in the Texas economy.

Chamber association chairman Ricardo Calderon said Mr. Sanchez was invited but the group never received a commitment from his campaign.

In Houston, Mr. Perry joined U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige at a suburban high school to announce Texas is getting nearly \$400 million more in federal education money in the coming fiscal year under the No Child Left Behind Act.

## Bush, Fox Plan Talks in Texas

President Bush plans to meet with his Mexican counterpart, Vicente Fox, next month at Mr. Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, Mexican officials confirmed Monday.

The meeting, which would take place during Mr. Fox's Aug. 26-28 swing through Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio, is one of several high-profile efforts planned by both administrations to restart a once-ambitious agenda highlighted by a proposed immigration pact that was derailed after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

After the meeting in Crawford, first lady Laura Bush is planning to travel to Mexico City in September to attend a meeting of first ladies of the Americas hosted by Mexican first lady Marta Sahagun de Fox.

A White House official declined to comment on either event, saying, "At this point, nothing is official."

But Mexican officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, confirmed both events. One source said the meeting at the Crawford ranch "is likely to take place on Aug. 26."

National Security Council spokesman Sean McCormack would say only, "The president very much values his friendship and working relationship with President Fox and also the progress they have made together in strengthening and deepening United States-Mexico relations, deepening an already strong bond between the two countries."

The meeting between the presidents would come about a week before the expected Senate confirmation hearing of Texas Railroad Commissioner Tony Garza, the White House nominee for U.S. ambassador to Mexico.

**God Bless America!  
God Bless U.S.A.!**

## Bush Firma Ley Contra el Fraude Corporativo

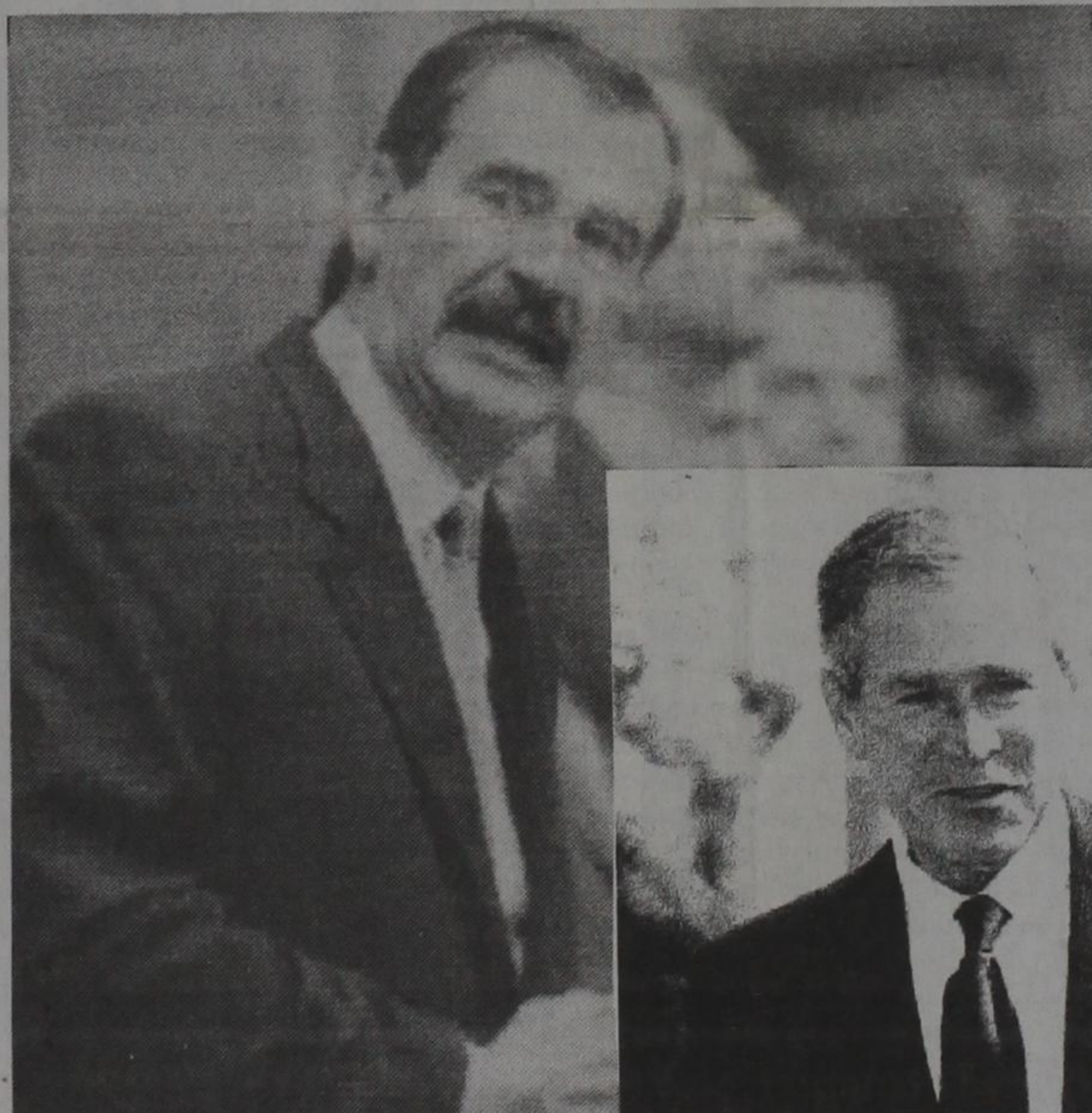
El presidente George W. Bush promulgó ayer la nueva ley de combate al fraude corporativo que impone severas penas carcelarias a ejecutivos corruptos y ejerce mayor control y más supervisión sobre las acciones y decisiones empresariales.

"Terminó la era de pobres normas y de falsas ganancias. Esta ley les dice a todos los líderes corporativos deshonrados que serán expuestos y castigados", declaró Bush en una ceremonia en la Casa Blanca antes de convertir en ley la mayor reforma corporativa desde la Gran Depresión.

Al prepararse a firmarla añadió: "No más dinero fácil para los delitos corporativos. Sólo cárcel".

Aunque no citó por su nombre a las compañías implicadas, Bush se refirió a las irregularidades que han mermado la confianza en los mercados bursátiles y en la recuperación económica.

Se calcula que algo más de 80 mil-



Congressional sources said that Mr. Garza is expected to breeze through the hearing.

The ranch visit echoes the two men's first meeting as heads of state at Mr. Fox's Guanajuato's ranch in February 2000, when the two leaders embarked on an ambitious agenda of immigration reform, economic development and bilateral trade.

The United States, Mr. Bush once said, "Had no more important friend than Mexico," and he referred to the friendship between both countries as "a special relationship."

But much has changed since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks raised new concerns about border security. Once a top priority within the administration, Mexico and its immigration agenda are "on hold for now," as one

congressional source put it.

But Mexico is too important to ignore, given the potent Mexican-American electorate in the Southwest, analysts said. It's no coincidence, analysts said, that the meeting between the two presidents comes just as the gubernatorial race between Texas Gov. Rick Perry and his Democratic challenger, Tony Sanchez, heats up before Labor Day weekend.

Before traveling to Crawford, Mr. Fox and Mr. Perry will meet in Austin, Mexican officials said.

"The visit is really an attempt to put the agenda back on track," said Armand Peschard-Sverdrup, director of the Mexico Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "It's an attempt to pick up where both presidents left off on Sept. 10."

## LULAC President Stresses Education for Oilfield Workers

The new national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens emphasized education and stabilizing the oil industry at a reception in his honor Sunday.

Hector Flores, elected less than a month ago, told the members of District V LULAC and their guests that he would lobby for education and training for the Hispanic oilfield worker and stable gasoline prices. He also presented 10 Odessa scholarship winners with \$600 each, noting that the youths are an example to their peers.

Flores said that by helping high school graduates attend college, LULAC is influencing the students' peers, extended family and friends. The others see one person going to college to get a degree and want to follow in their footsteps, he said.

Flores worked himself through college in nine years; he was a police officer for six of those years.

Because he went to second grade knowing only a few English words, Flores speaks passionately about the merits of bilingual education.

"Sometimes the schools themselves push out kids," Flores said, because the school does not emphasize both Spanish and English.

Although the dropout rate for Hispanics has improved in recent decades, Flores said it is still too high.

"We cannot continue economic power without an educated workforce," he said.

Yolanda Flores, president of the Odessa chapter of LULAC, said Hector Flores' words were inspiring.

The scholarship recipients, she said, have taken the first steps to success by being interested in higher education.

Hector Flores said his goal for West Texas of stabilizing the price of oil and providing training for oil patch



workers is vital for the success of the nation.

"We cannot become too dependent on foreign oil," he said. "The oil workers are going to have to be trained so we can compete with people in other places like California, Asia and Latin America."

The sooner we can begin training, the sooner our quality of life can improve."

Ruben Ramirez, president of the Kermit chapter of LULAC, said he knows the oil industry cannot be regulated, but that stabilization is vital.

"We've got to get people motivated again," Ramirez said. Hector Flores also addressed the relationship between Anglos and Hispanics.

"We can here in different ships but now we are all in the same boat -- Texas."

**Have A Safe Weekend!  
Relax & Enjoy!**

total. Existe el temor de que, si la economía no repunta, los republicanos paguen las consecuencias en los comicios de noviembre y la Casa Blanca quiere detener cualquier impacto que eso pueda tener en las aspiraciones de reelección de Bush en el año 2004.

La nueva ley incrementa las penas para los ejecutivos, imponiendo hasta 20 años por fraude a quienes urdan o desarrollan planes para defraudar a los inversionistas. Igualmente, impone penas de hasta 25 años de cárcel por fraude en la manipulación de acciones, valores asegurados y activos. Incrementa además las penas por destrucción de documentos.

La ley también ordena la creación de una junta independiente encargada de fijar normas de ética para funcionarios de auditoría en corporaciones. La junta tiene poderes para investigar e imponer castigos a las firmas auditoras que incurran en irregularidades

Bush y los republicanos ofrecieron resistencia a algunas de las medidas incluidas en el proyecto, pero fueron cediendo por tratarse de un asunto políticamente volátil en año elec-

# Con El "Antisemitismo" Hispano Surge Otro Debate

Por Marisa Treviño

No todos los latinos son iguales. Es una afirmación que hay que repetir con frecuencia.

Quizás sea porque ya que toleramos, por conveniencia, que nos identifiquen con el mismo sello, existen aquellos que aún nos ven como clones culturales.

No siempre es fácil recalcar las diferencias entre nosotros a personas que no son latinas, pero una encuesta nacional realizada por la Anti-Defamation League (la liga en contra de la difamación, ADL por sus siglas en inglés), probó que este asunto es un cuchillo de doble filo.

En el análisis de la encuesta, "Anti-Semitism in America 2002", la ADL encontró que un 35 por ciento de los hispanos son "muy antisemitas."

Mientras las noticias dadas a conocer por la ADL insisten sobre

esta revelación insoportable, las mismas no mencionan el hecho de que los autores encontraron el mismo porcentaje en otro grupo, losafricano-americanos.

Ken Jacobson, subdirector nacional de la Anti-Defamation League, afirma que destacaron a los hispanos debido a toda la atención que los medios de comunicación le dan a nuestros números crecientes. El expresa que la ADL sólo quería tener una idea más precisa sobre cómo se sienten los hispanos de forma colectiva con respecto a los judíos.

La ADL nos informa que un 44 por ciento de los hispanos entrevistados que no nacieron en los Estados Unidos son antisemitas, comparado con un 20 por ciento que sí nació en los Estados Unidos.

¿Qué significa esto?

Si la metodología de la ADL es válida, definitivamente confirma mi

punto de que todos los latinos no son iguales.

La encuesta de la población actual del Censo de los Estados Unidos del 2000 sobre los hispanos revela que un 39 por ciento de la población total hispana nació en el extranjero, y de aquel grupo, 40 por ciento ha llegado aquí en los últimos diez años, según la encuesta.

Entonces, ¿Deberían los nacidos en el extranjero ser una medida válida para determinar la opinión de alguien sobre otros grupos? Yo no nací en este país, pero me crié aquí. Para mí, está claro que la edad que tiene el individuo al llegar puede hacer una gran diferencia en sus creencias culturales. Llegar de niño significa mezclar los valores familiares tradicionales con la cultura nativa que permea los medios de comunicación populares, las escuelas y los grupos coetáneos.

Llegar de adulto significa luchar para mantener la identidad, resistirse a perder los valores formativos, incluso si esos valores están equivocados, en una cultura nueva que envía el mensaje de que para tener éxito y ser aceptado se debe renunciar al pasado.

Para los que llegaron de adultos, el Nuevo Mundo es un mundo diferente, en términos de las actitudes que conciernen la confianza en el gobierno, la responsabilidad comunitaria, el logro educacional y la tolerancia religiosa.

Entonces, ¿es de extrañar que una encuesta diseñada para medir las percepciones estadounidenses pase por alto actitudes fomentadas en países cuyas iglesias pueden predicar las opiniones del Viejo Mundo, tales como culpar a los judíos por matar a Jesucristo?

¿Prueba esto que una cantidad significativa de hispanos en todas partes

son antisemitas?

El profesor del Amherst College, Ilan Stavans, un judío mexicano criado en la ciudad de México, cuyo idioma principal era el Yiddish, es el autor de "On Borrowed Words: A Memoir of Language". El no siente que México o América Latina sean antisemitas en su totalidad. También sostiene que hay "muchísima información errónea sobre quiénes son los judíos".

Es una situación que se puede remediar con educación y diálogo, dos alternativas que según la ADL ya están en proceso para la comunidad hispana. Es a través del diálogo que las personas ven la gran posibilidad de disipar los mitos hirientes.

Stavans percibe que los latinos y los judíos son dos grupos que han tenido poca oportunidad de conocerse.

"Sería interesante ver qué piensan

los judíos de los latinos", reflexiona. "Pienso que también habría mucha información errónea".

La referencia de Stavans sobre la importancia de conocerse entre sí tiene un uso más amplio, incluso entre los grupos hispanos aquí en los Estados Unidos. Por décadas, hemos vivido "con los nuestros", en comunidades estructuradas por los países de los cuales hemos emigrado, aislados de otros hispanos con orígenes en otras tierras.

No todos los latinos son iguales. Hemos aceptado esto desde hace mucho tiempo.

No obstante, solamente al espacirnos por esos límites aprendemos a deshabcernos de nuestros malentendidos sobre nuestros compañeros latinos y a apreciar las diferencias.

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# Hispanic "Anti-Semitism" Starts the Debate

By Marisa Treviño

Not all Latinos are the same. It's a statement that needs repeating often.

Maybe it's because since we tolerate, for convenience sake, to be identified under the same label, there are those who still perceive us as cultural clones.

It's not always easy to underscore the differences among us to non-Latinos, but a recent nationwide survey by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has proven to be a double-edged sword in that regard.

In its analysis of the survey "Anti-Semitism in America 2002," the ADL found 35 percent of Hispanics to be "strongly anti-Semitic."

While press releases distributed by the ADL harp upon that disgusting

revelation, they made no mention of the fact that the authors found the same percentage true for another group as well, African-Americans.

Ken Jacobson, assistant national director of the Anti-Defamation League, says Hispanics were singled out because of all the media attention given to our growing numbers. He claims that the ADL just wanted to get a better idea how Hispanics collectively feel toward Jews.

The ADL informs us that 44 percent of the surveyed Hispanics who were not born in the United States are anti-Semitic, as are 20 percent of those who are U.S.-born.

So what does that mean?

If the ADL methodology is sound, it certainly punctuates my point that not all Latinos are the same.

The U.S. Census 2000 Current

Population Survey on Hispanics reveals that 39 percent of the total Hispanic population is foreign-born, while 40 percent of those born in other countries, it says, arrived here in the last 10 years.

So should being foreign-born become a valid measure in determining someone's views about other groups? I myself wasn't born in this country, but I was raised here. It seems clear to me that the age at which an individual arrives can make a big difference in his or her cultural beliefs. To come as a child means to meld traditional family values with the native culture that permeates popular U.S. media, schools and peer groups.

To arrive as an adult means to struggle to hold onto your identity, to resist losing the values that shaped who you are -- even if those

values are misguided -- to a new culture that sends the message that to be successful and accepted persons must surrender their past.

For those who arrived as adults, the New World is a world apart in terms of attitudes regarding government trust, community responsibility, educational attainment and religious tolerance.

Is it any wonder then that a survey designed to gauge U.S.-bred perceptions would hit a stone wall with attitudes fostered in countries where churches may preach Old World views, such as still blaming Jews for killing Christ?

Does this prove that a significant number of Hispanics everywhere are anti-Semitic?

Amherst College professor Ilan Stavans, a Jewish Mexican raised in

Mexico City whose first language was Yiddish, is the author of "On Borrowed Words: A Memoir of Language." He doesn't feel Mexico or Latin America, as a whole, are anti-Semitic.

He also says there is "a lot of misinformation about who Jews are."

It's a situation that can be remedied through education and dialogue, two avenues that the ADL says are in the works for the Hispanic community. It's the dialogue where people see the greatest hope in dispelling the hurtful myths.

Stavans perceives Latinos and Jews as two groups that have had little opportunity to know each other.

"It would be interesting to see what Jews think of Latinos," he muses. "I think a lot of misinformation would

be there, too."

Stavans' reference to the importance of knowing one another has much broader application -- even among Hispanic groups here in the United States. For decades, we lived "with our own," in communities structured by the countries we emigrated from, in isolation from other Hispanics with origins in other lands.

Not all Latinos are the same. We have accepted that for a long time.

But only as we spread beyond those boundaries are we learning to shed our misapprehensions about our fellow Latinos and appreciating the distinctions.

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# Stop the Corporate Take-Over of Our Water

Jim Hightower, Hightower Lowdown

They hang the man and flog the woman  
That steal the goose from off the common,  
But let the greater villain loose  
That steals the common from the goose.

The law demands that we atone  
When we take things we do not own,  
But leaves the lords and ladies fine  
Who take things that are yours and mine.  
--English Nursery Rhyme c. 1764

The greater villains are loose in our world today, literally thirsting to take things that are yours and mine -- and this time they might make off with the greatest plunder of all: our water.

Yes, the ideologues and greedheads who brought us the fairy tale of energy deregulation and the Ponzi scheme of Enron are aggressively pushing for deregulation and privatization of the world's water supplies and systems. They are determined to turn this essential public resource into another commodity for traders and speculators -- a private plaything for personal profiteering.

In just the past few years, trans-national conglomerates already have privatized all or parts of the water systems of Atlanta, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Bolivia, Casablanca, Charleston, Chattanooga, Ghana, Houston, Jacksonville, Jersey City, Lexington, New Orleans, Peoria, Ontario, San Francisco, and many other places.

It amounts to a corporate "water rush." In our country, private control has rapidly become global control. The largest U.S. firm, American Water Works, was recently swallowed up by RWE of Germany (which also got Azurix in Enron's fire sale); Suez Lyonnaise of France took our second biggest company, United Water Resources; and Vivendi of France grabbed U.S. Filter.

Water gets hot

Two years ago, Fortune magazine exulted that water "will be to the 21st century what oil was to the 20th." And the magazine was thrilled that "the liquid everybody needs . . . is going private, creating one of the world's great business opportunities." Four factors are powering this rush to privatization: scarcity, greed, ideology, and political weakness.

The World Bank predicts that two-thirds of the world's population will run short of adequate water in the next 20 years. You might think that the sheer scarcity of this scarcity would prompt policy makers to focus on such goals as protecting the purity of the aqua we have, pushing rational conservation, and promoting the long-term public interest in this irreplaceable resource.

Whoa there, Pollyanna! You forget greed. Speculators look at the looming scarcity of a substance that no one can do without and think: "Wow, if I could control that, I could make a killing." Suddenly, the unsexy task of piping in water and piping out sewage became a hot prospect.

This coincided nicely with the corporate right wing's ideological zealotry for the mumbo-jumbo of deregulation and privatization. Not only can conglomerates do everything better than a democratic government can, goes their religious mantra, but they firmly believe that today's global corporations are magical kingdoms run by new-economy wunderkinds.

In Fortune's paean to the corporatization of water, Suez Lyonnaise was lionized as being "more than a water company. It's a fresh invention." This is the same gibberish that, until only a year ago, was being heaped on Enron, Global Crossing, World Com, and other hucksters whose only invention was a new way to package the age-old shell game.

There's nothing fresh or inventive about global corporate greed thrusting its way throughout both the industrial and developing worlds to establish empire. Suez Lyonnaise knows a lot about that. It is the descendant of the corporation

that built the Suez Canal in 1858 under the patronage of Emperor Napoleon III. Suez marches on, expanding its multibillion-dollar water empire by 10 percent a year.

As for picky concerns that cities, states, and entire nations ought not surrender control of their water supply to the whims of corporate empire builders, the CEO of Suez retorts: "We must rise above national egotism!"

This is where the political weasels come in. From the mid-seventies to the present, just about every politician from mayoral to presidential candidates of both major parties have caved in to the privatization ideologues, campaigning and governing as tight-fisted, no-more-taxes, business-minded conservatives.

So local pols have frittered away public funds on building flashy sports palaces for privately owned teams, and national pols have cooked up trillion-dollar tax giveaways to the richest people in the country -- and all of the pols have let America's crucial water systems fall apart. To fix decades-old leaking pipes, sputtering pumps, and the other faltering parts of the water infrastructure will require an estimated \$11 billion a year more than governments now are spending.

Faced with this unpleasantness, weaseling politicians have simply escalated their weaseling. Rather than being straight with people by saying, "Look, we've got to get our public house in order," the pols at all levels have thrown open the doors of our house to any corporate flimflammer with a medicine wagon, a talking pony, and a bottle of that old magic elixir: Privatization!

Promises, promises

As Bob Dylan sang, "The pump don't work 'cause the vandals took the handle." In case after case where corporate water vandals have taken the handle to the public pump, folks have found themselves left with skyrocketing bills, foul water, lousy service, non-functioning fire hydrants -- and no control over the culprits.

Anyone thinking that a dose of good old corporate efficiency is just what their cranky, antiquated utility needs should check out the excellent reports that Public Citizen has written on the broken promises of water privatization.

Take the case of United Water Resources, which had humble origins as the Hackensack Water Co. In the mid-nineties, however, the company got ambition, dressing up in the sleeker corporate name of UWR Inc. and going on an expansionist binge that quickly made it the second-largest corporate water fiefdom in the U.S., before UWR itself was swallowed by Suez Lyonnaise last year.

The company and its executives have hauled in millions in profits and personal gains from its privatization adventures, but its customers have been soaked. In Atlanta, UWR promised dramatic cost savings, which it proceeded to get by whacking the city's water staff from 731 employees to only 327. Among the "savings" this produced:

-- Debris and rust started turning up in residents' water. At first, UWR honchos denied there was a problem. But, hey -- the tap water was brown! Even then, it was four months before the company did anything.

-- Fire hydrants started coming up dry or inoperative. Again, executives tried to deny that there was a problem. Then, when it was pointed out that this was life-and-death stuff, UWR tried to shift the blame (and the cost), saying that after the company repaired or replaced a hydrant, it was the city's responsibility to test it to see if it actually worked.

-- Complaints piled up about impossibly slow service on everything from repairing leaks to installing water meters.

Likewise, Jersey City has been hosed by UWR. The company is paid millions in annual fees to bring its corporate efficiency to this municipal water system, but instead it has produced a chorus of complaints about billing errors. It turns out that, as in Atlanta, UWR's "efficiency" is based on cutting staff -- in this case, it subcontracted meter reading to a low-wage firm. No problem, though, for when the complaints about misread and broken meters roll in, UWR service representatives have simply been directing irate citizens to municipal employees.

What a deal -- UWR privatizes the water revenue, but socializes the problems! Worse, the company is not required by its contract to open its books or justify its fees. It simply sends a bill, which is not subject to public review.

In Jacksonville, Florida, UWR's ownership and operation of the water sys-

tem was so outlandish that citizens have taken it back in a \$219 million buyout. In its brief, five-year stewardship, the corporation's chief efficiency was in getting rate increases from the Florida utility commission. Monthly bills shot up by an average of \$9.44 in 1997; then the company went back to the trough a year later for another 12.5% rate hike. By instituting public control, residents of the Jacksonville area are expected to enjoy an average cut of 25 percent in their water and sewer bills.

Privatization

While most media have gushed about the boundless promise of privatization, they have been practically mute about one of the most sweeping developments taking place in water management: deprivatization. As in Jacksonville, officials in many cities that have sipped the tainted waters of corporate control have been struggling mightily to regain public control. But it's not easy, for monopolization of a water market turns out to be a cash cow for corporations, and once they get it, they cling to it.

-- Chattanooga, Tennessee. American Water Works (now RWE) has owned Chattanooga's water for a long time, but Mayor Jim Kinsley led a 1998 move to buy the system, noting that public ownership could cut rates by 25 percent and save \$100 million. There was also the matter of AWW gouging the city on fire-hydrant fees and a secret effort by corporate executives to export Chattanooga water to Atlanta. AWW refused to negotiate a sale, instead rushing to court, launching a massive multimillion-dollar PR campaign, and resorting to dirty tricks like hiring an agency to snoop on the mayor. Outspent, the city finally settled, allowing AWW to keep its ownership. But the corporation did agree to cut fire-hydrant fees from \$300 a year per meter to \$50, and to submit any water-exporting scheme to voters for approval.

-- Huber Heights, Ohio. In 1993, a Florida-based company decided to sell its water holdings, including the water system it owned in this suburb of Dayton. The city tried to buy it, but couldn't match the deep pockets of American Water Works. Local folks feared the worst -- and got it. As soon as AWW took control, it raised rates by a third. It also contracted to deliver two million gallons a day of Huber Heights' water to an industrial park outside the city. City officials initiated eminent-domain proceedings to buy back the system.

Once again, AWW ran to court and launched a massive PR campaign, but in a referendum voters overwhelmingly supported the effort to reclaim their water. Even after the 1995 buyback, however, AWW has kept the city tied up in legal knots, requiring that Huber Heights still keep piping its water to the industrial park.

-- Pekin, Illinois. When Citizens For Locally Owned Water (FLOW) began a buyout campaign here two years ago, our friends at American Water Works launched their usual PR blitz, spending a million bucks to assert that city officials don't have the expertise to run a water system. This was a bit ironic, since AWW had run the system into the ground, failing to keep up infrastructure, failing to maintain fire hydrants in working order, and providing slow service -- all while averaging rate hikes of more than 10 percent a year.

However, AWW's big-money PR hustle won in a narrow victory in a non-binding referendum, so the buyback is on hold. But FLOW is not going away, and it points out that at AWW's current rate of infrastructure upgrades, it'll take the company 268 years to replace Pekin's deteriorating water mains.

Water privatization doesn't work because its fundamental promises are lies. Far from bringing "market forces" to bear, these corporations are handed a monopoly and face no competition. Wielding monopoly power, they slash staff, lower wages, compromise service, cut corners on quality, skimp on long-term investment, raise rates -- and call this "efficiency." Any savings derived from these tactics are routed into extravagant executive-pay packages, luxurious corporate headquarters, bureaucracy for the parent conglomerate, lavish advertising and lobbying budgets, and profits. All of this is done behind closed doors, for these private empires are not subject to the open-access and disclosure rules of public agencies. Then, when the peasants rebel, the faraway CEO dispatches an army of PR flacks and lawyers, overwhelming the financial resources available to local citizens and governments.

Buying in bulk

Not content to control our water systems, corporate powers are now selling the water itself. Through court actions, lobbying, trade deals, and bribery (campaign contributions), the law is being perverted to turn public bodies of water into a tradable commodity, like pork bellies. Speculators and corporate hustlers are claiming a right to buy, sell, extract, and move massive amounts of fresh water.

-- Texas oilman and corporate raider T. Boone Pickens has just forced a state water district to authorize him to pump and sell up to 65 billion gallons of water a year from the Ogallala aquifer, sending it by pipeline to San Antonio, Dallas, or other water-short cities. The Ogallala, which underlies the Texas Panhandle and is the water source for the whole area, already is severely depleted and can't be replenished, but Pickens plans to poke holes into it, mine the water, and reap colossal profits by selling it to the highest bidder.

-- Keith Brackpool (I don't make up these names), a California corporate farmer and fat-cat contributor to Governor Gray Davis, also is trying to become a water baron. With the governor's backing, his Cadiz Inc. proposes to suck water out of the aquifer underlying federal land in the ecologically fragile Mojave Desert, then sell some 20 billion gallons of this public groundwater each year to Southern California cities, reaping up to a billion bucks for Cadiz.

-- Ric Davidge, an Alaskan water-preneur who previously was an aide to the infamous James Watt, has a deal for San Diego, which imports almost 100 percent of its water. Davidge wants to siphon some 65 billion gallons of fresh water a year out of two Northern California rivers, pipe it into inflatable bags bigger than three football fields, then tow these "bladders" by tugboat to thirsty San Diego. He says this will save fresh water that otherwise would "disappear" into the Pacific Ocean. (Hello, Ric -- river water running into the sea is an essential part of the ecological cycle.) Davidge admits that there are many questions he can't answer, but, he says, "We need new ideas." New, yes. Loopy, no.

I suppose it will not surprise you to learn that this global corporate rush for the "blue gold" of our public water resources is being ably aided and abetted by our own government.

continued on page 4



## El Editor Newspapers

is a weekly bilingual publication that is published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806: 763-3841. Suscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers.

Editor/Publisher: Bidal Agüero  
Business Manager: Olga Rios-Aguero  
Articles: Amalia Agüero  
Subscriptions: In House Crew  
Distribution: Gilbert Acuña & Joe Adam & Albert Riosjas

Lo mejor en Noticias

## Minority Women Sought for Study on Breast-Cancer Drugs

What can you do when you spend millions of dollars on a clinical trial to help prevent breast cancer and minority women will not participate?

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Organizers of the national Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene -- called STAR -- say only 6 percent of the 13,883 women enrolled in the trial are from minority groups, far below their numbers in the general population.

The organizers believe black, Hispanic and American Indian women are not participating because they do not have enough information about the trial or about breast health in general. In West Michigan, the organizers hired Namita Sharma to reach out to these women, whose rates of breast cancer mortality are higher than the general population.

Sharma's job as STAR outreach coordinator in the Grand Rapids Clinical Oncology Program is twofold: to give minority women more information about breast health resources and to recruit more minority women for the current national study. Funded by the National Cancer Institute, it is the largest breast cancer clinical trial in history.

STAR is testing whether tamoxifen or raloxifene is more effective in preventing breast cancer. Both drugs are known to cut breast cancer rates.

Because so few minority women participate in clinical trials, the results of most breast cancer studies are based on how drugs and treatments affected white women, Sharma said. And that may not be helpful to women of different ethnicities.

"It's important to get minority women in these trials because bodies react differently," she said.

Since February, Sharma has done 88 breast assessments on minority

women in this area, a necessary preliminary step for enrollment in the STAR trial. But to date, only two minority women from this region have agreed to participate in the trial.

"It has been difficult to convince Hispanic women to become part of STAR when they aren't sick," Sharma said.

Black and American Indian women also have been difficult to recruit.

"There's a historical mistrust among ethnic groups about clinical trials because of things that have happened in the past," said Phyllis Davis, a Grand Rapids nurse who is health services director for the Dorr Indian community. "And when you have many family obligations, you are not necessarily looking at the big picture -- helping millions of other women by getting into a clinical trial."

Sharma already has talked with several groups of black and Hispanic women. And she will meet with women of the Gun Lake Tribe from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at the tribal office in Dorr.

She can tell them that breast cancer cure rates are improving, but it is still a leading cause of death among U.S. women ages 35-54.

Although white women have the highest incidence of breast cancer, figures from the National Institutes of Health show black women are twice as likely to die from breast cancer between the ages of 40 and 55, probably because their cancer is not detected early enough.

"There are a lot of reasons why early detection isn't happening," Sharma said. Limited access to health care, lack of insurance, and cultural and language barriers all are part of the problem, she said. "But a lot of times women just don't know the resources that are out there for them."

## Next Pope from Latin America?

The crowds for Pope John Paul II's visit here are expected to swell to more than a half-million, a tribute to the centuries-old strength of the Catholic Church in Latin America.

But there is clearly deep affection for this particular pontiff, who has become known for his support of the poor and downtrodden in the developing world. Many also realize this may be their last chance to see this ailing, fragile pope in person.

But there is another reason for a building sense of expectation among Latino Catholics: the enticing question of who will be the next pope, and an unstoppable excitement that he might come from Latin America.

"It would be a tremendous boost for Latin America should the next pope come from here," said Herbert Aguilar, 22, a devout Catholic who works at a newsstand in an upscale shopping mall. "There is no question it would renew our church, bringing more converts and the faithful who have strayed away."

Predicting when John Paul II will depart the scene -- he has vowed not to retire, despite his ill health -- and who the College of Cardinals will choose as his replacement is a bit like betting on stocks or horses.

But like the talking heads on American television who now begin discussing the next presidential elec-



tion years in advance, the pope watch is already well under way.

Some longtime observers think the chances that the next pope will be a

native Spanish-speaker are quite good.

"The Latin American group believes their time has come," said John Allen,

a veteran Vatican correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter, a U.S. publication, and author of *Conclave*, a book on papal succession. "They are really jazzed about having the next pope be one of their own."

Allen cites compelling arguments. First, nearly half the world's 1 billion Catholics come from Latin America, and church leaders realize the value of cultivating their richest home turf. Second, the doctrinal tensions between the Vatican and a generation of young, socially conscious local priests who dabbled in Latin America's explosive politics during the 1980s have largely eased as John Paul II has promoted more conservative leaders.

But perhaps most important of all, Latin Americans now hold 26 seats in the College of Cardinals, the largest single bloc and more than the 24 from Italy. The college has more than 180 members, but only those under the age of 80 -- now numbering 134 -- are allowed to vote.

"I think the Latin Americans have a good chance," said the Rev. Thomas Reese, author of *Inside the Vatican*. "At the least, there is a good chance a cardinal from the Third World will be elected. Forty percent of the cardinals are from the Third World. It's a completely different world from the early 20th century."

## Pope to Canonize Saint in Mexico

Hundreds of thousands of believers sang, cheered and sobbed along Mexico City streets Wednesday, exploding in a flurry of yellow-and-white flags and balloons as Pope John Paul II passed by on his way to canonize the Roman Catholic Church's first Indian saint.

John Paul made the sign of the cross with his right hand, then lifted it to wave to the crowds, as he rode in his popemobile to the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the shrine in honor of the glowing woman who appeared to Juan Diego in 1531. He strained to lift his head to see the jubilant throngs.

He looked weak and haggard on arrival in Mexico on Tuesday night, his voice trembling with exhaustion and infirmity as he said it was "with deep joy" that he would enter Juan Diego into the canon of Catholic saints.

Only 22,000 people fit into the Basilica, and earlier plans for a Mass that would accommodate up to 5 million people were canceled. So most of the faithful had to be content with catching a glimpse of the pope as he passed on his way to the Mass.

"Our faith is great, so we want to see him close up," said Juvenino Carrillo, of San Jose, Calif., a 54-year-old cook at Stanford University.

For most, seeing the pope meant nothing more than a quick glimpse of the popemobile with the white-robed pontiff illuminated inside a clear bulletproof case. But for many, that was enough.

"I got chills up to my head," said Irene Guzman, a 25-year-old speech therapist from San Gabriel, Calif.

The enormous ribbon of humanity that stretched the length of Mexico City created equal measures of joy and chaos. "Brother John Paul, now you are Mexican," jubilant crowds chanted. Traffic was at a standstill in much of the city, and businesses closed amid the confusion.

Mexicans have a special affection for John Paul, who chose their country for the first foreign trip of his papacy and has returned on what many expect will be one of his last.

Mexico was the final leg of an 11-day, three-country trip that took the pope to Toronto for a celebration of Catholic youths from across the

world and to Guatemala City, where on Tuesday he canonized a 17th-century missionary who dedicated his life to helping prisoners, abandoned children and the sick.

The travels appeared to be taking their toll on the 82-year-old pontiff, who suffers from symptoms of Parkinson's disease (news - web sites) and hip and knee problems. In Guatemala, he climbed a staircase to board his airplane, but on arrival in Mexico he used a hydraulic lift to get out, and was wheeled on a platform to a stage.

As a band struck up the national anthems of Mexico and the Vatican (news - web sites), the pope motioned to an aide to help him to his feet. But he began to slide back into his seat, and President Vicente Fox (news - web sites) reached over to steady him.

His words slurred, the pope said he was ecstatic to return to Mexico, where in 1979 he strummed a guitar with mariachis and donned a sombrero at a bullfighting ring.

"My joy is immense at being able to come to this hospitable land for the fifth time," he said.

The focus of this trip was Juan Diego, an Indian born before Europeans

arrived in the New World. According to church tradition, the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in 1531, leaving an olive-skinned image of herself on his cloak and helping drive the conversion of millions of Indians throughout the Americas.

Debate has intensified in recent months over Juan Diego, who some believe never existed. Several Mexican priests unsuccessfully petitioned the Vatican to delay the canonization because of the doubts. Canonization is the process by which the Roman Catholic church declares someone a saint.

But the vast majority of Mexicans tie their national identity to the Virgin of Guadalupe, and to the man to whom she appeared.

"This is the first pope to recognize an Indian, a humble Indian," said Maria Socorro Dominguez, a 48-year-old lawyer among the faithful lining the streets.

More than 30,000 police were deployed around the city to keep the peace, and some officers said they were told they wouldn't sleep for three days -- the duration of the pope's stay.

"It's worth it, isn't it?" said officer

Ruben Alejandro Rodriguez, 29, holding his city-supplied meal of two small ham-and-cheese sandwiches and an apple.

On Tuesday morning in Guatemala City, John Paul canonized Pedro de San Jose Betancur, a former church handyman and prison pastor who founded an international order that serves the poor. He urged Guatemalans to follow Betancur's example and said the new saint "represents an urgent appeal to practice mercy in modern society."

The pope said Indians, many targeted by Guatemalan troops during a 1960-1996 civil war that killed 200,000 people, deserve "justice, integral development and peace."

"The pope does not forget you and, admiring the values of your cultures, encourages you to overcome with hope the sometimes difficult situations you experience," he said to the many Mayan Indians at the ceremony.

At the pope's arrival in Mexico, Fox praised him for fighting against poverty and human rights violations.

"The world in which we live today wouldn't be the same without the spiritual and moral leadership ... of John Paul II," Fox said.

## Older Mexican Americans Face Serious Deficiencies in Health Care Coverage

Substantial racial and ethnic disparities in income and assets among the elderly exist in the United States and consequently many older Mexican-Americans are facing serious deficiencies in health care coverage, according to a study involving two researchers from The University of Texas at Austin.

The study by Ronald J. Angel, Ph.D., and Jacqueline Angel, Ph.D., of The University of Texas at Austin, working with Kyriakos S. Markides, Ph.D., of The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, will appear in the August issue of *The American Journal of Public Health*.

Their research shows that the relative health care disadvantage Hispanics face in earlier years persists into

old age and has potentially serious health consequences. The researchers said the economic disadvantage many Mexican-Americans encounter when they grow old is a continuation of having been disproportionately represented among the poor in the United States across the life cycle.

Older Hispanics are far less likely than older non-Hispanic whites to have private pensions or significant assets, so many of them depend on Medicare for access to health care, according to the study. Sometimes, however, even health care through Medicare is not affordable to them.

"Medicare premiums and co-payments, as well as the portion of hospitalization costs that must be paid by the patient and the cost of uncovered services, including prescription drugs, can be substantial. If such costs are too high, individuals may simply do without needed health care," the researchers said.

Jacqueline Angel said her conclusion from the study is that Congress and other public leaders must commit to finding ways to improve and strengthen Medicare as a federal program that guarantees affordable, high-quality and comprehensive health care to all entitled seniors, as well as people with disabilities.

"Likewise, adequate reimbursement to providers caring for older Medicare recipients should be an urgent priority," she said.

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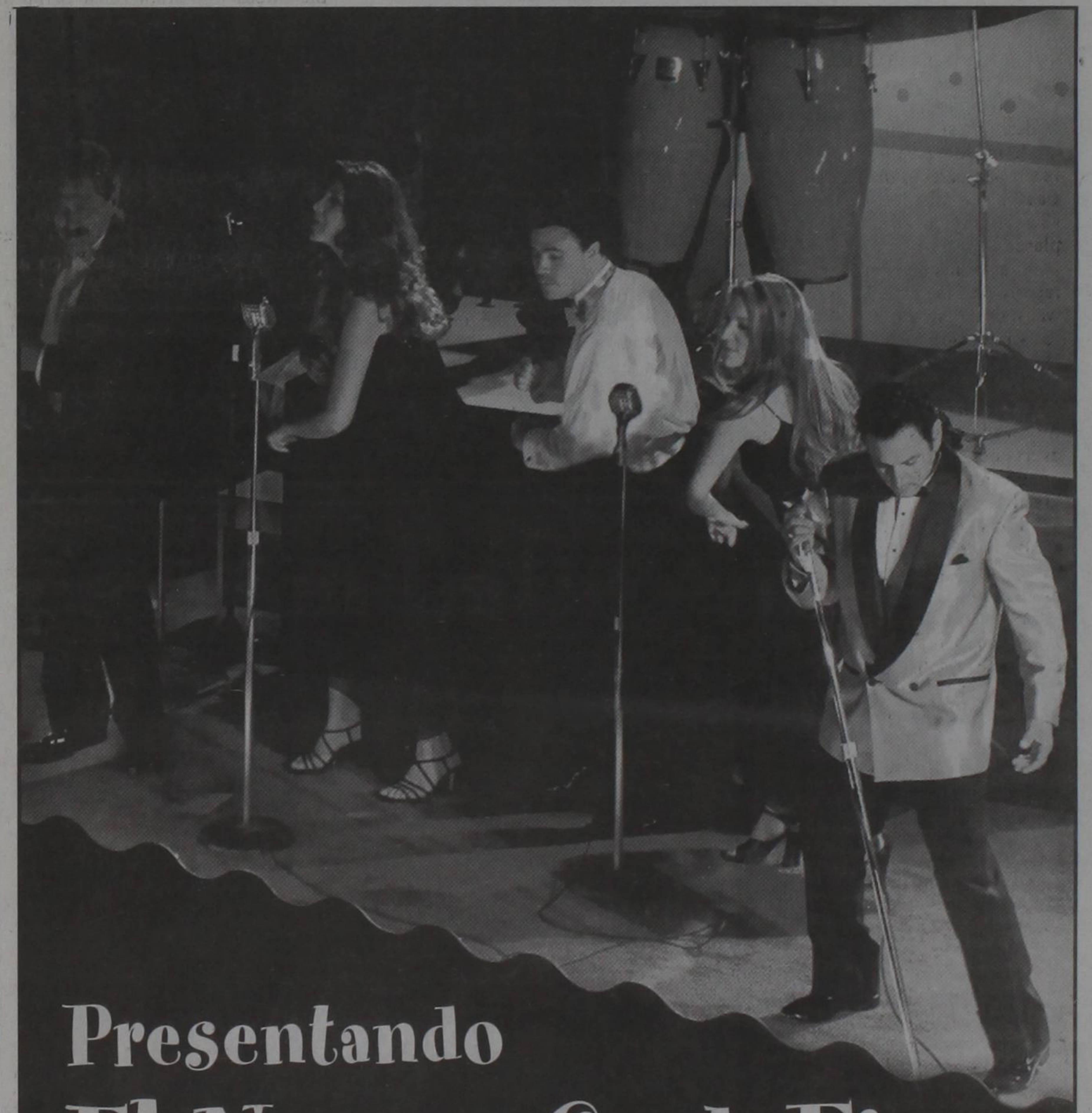
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**Cowboys Report:**

# Inside Slant

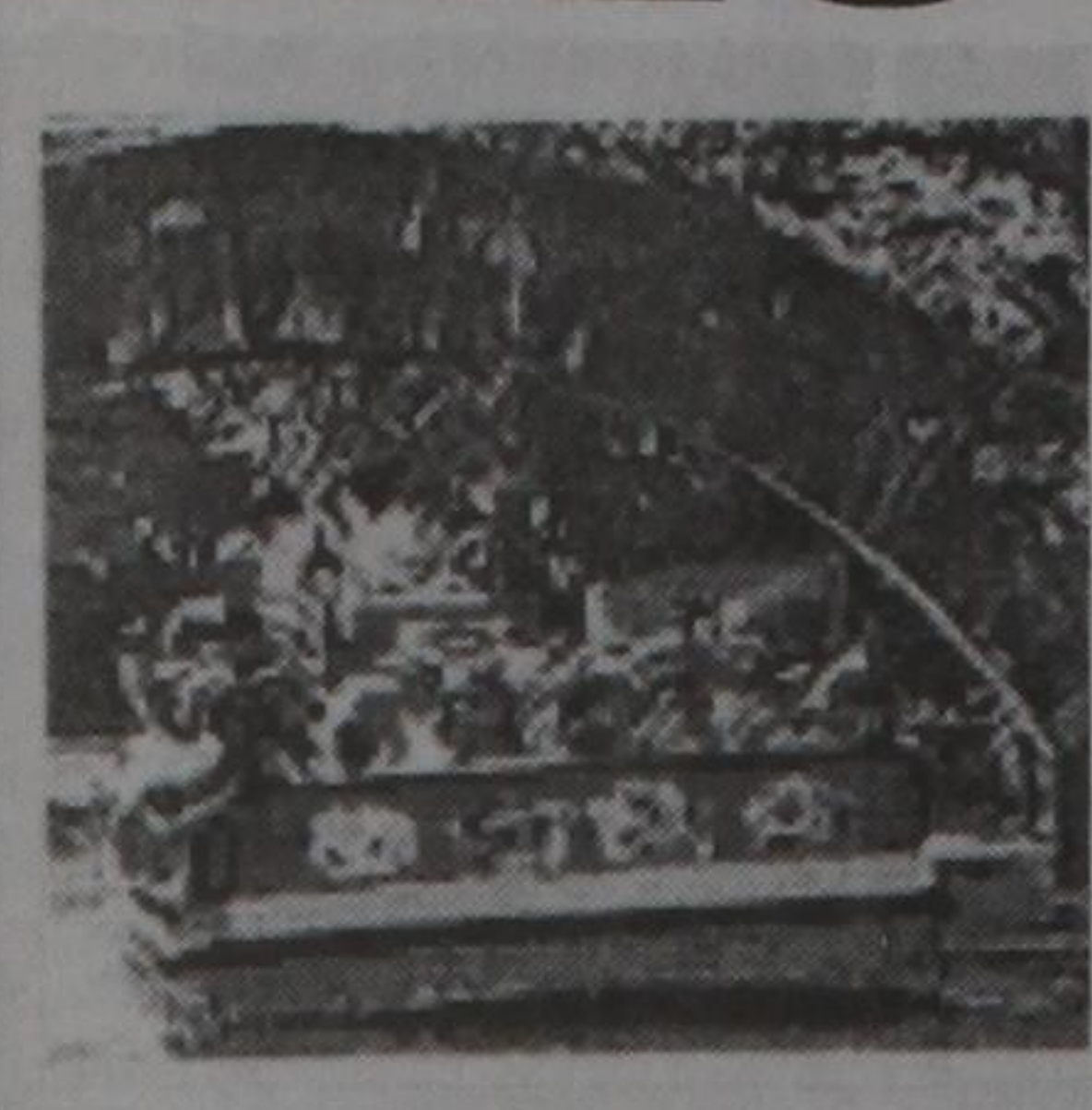
With mariachi bands playing in the background, the traveling circus known as the Cowboys training camp officially put down stakes in the city internationally known for its ability to throw a party.

The Alamo, Fiesta Texas, Sea World and River Walk won't take back seats over the next four weeks but they will gladly move to the side a little for the Cowboys and the HBO cameras that will chronicle their every move at the Alamodome and beyond.

The festive atmosphere certainly befits the excitement and good feelings the Cowboys have brought with them to San Antonio. Spurred by what was easily their best offseason in years, there is a general feeling in this organization that the good times may be back after back to back 5-11 seasons.

The Cowboys got a good omen Thursday when they avoided a rash of holdouts by coming to contract agreements with its top four draft picks, including safety Roy Williams (first round) and center Andre Gurode (second round), who both have already been penciled into the starting lineup. Starting today, however, when training camp really begins, the good feelings and the signings up to this point mean nothing, said owner Jerry Jones.

If the Cowboys are to live up



to their own expectations of considerable, Jones said it will be because of hard work inside the Alamodome over the next four weeks not the party raging on the outside.

"The offseason is behind us," Jones said. "All the good things we have been able to accomplish means nothing. What counts starts (today). How we will make our grade is the re-

sult of what we do in training camp and the season. I've asked everybody to feel good about what we have done but don't look back. We are pleased with the progress we have made and building blocks we have put in place. But we are looking ahead."

Though has refused to make a prediction about what he thinks the Cowboys will do this

year, he does acknowledge Super Bowl aspirations, if not this year then in the near future.

Jones believes the Cowboys are moving in the right direction after what they did in the offseason to build on last year's better-than-their record 5-11 season. Free-agent additions defensive tackle La'Roi Glover, linebacker Kevin Hardy, cornerback Bryant Westbrook and

deep snapper Jeff Robinson are expected to make immediate impacts along with Williams and Gurode.

For Jones the additions make it easier not to look back -- not to the offseason -- but to the past two seasons, when injuries, salary-cap constraints and youth were blamed for the team's woes.

In essence, the additions mean there will be no excuses for another losing season. It also means there will be no excuses for Cowboys coach Dave Campo, who has been praised for his ability to keep the team together through adversity but also understands he has been judged on a curve the past two years.

Although any Cowboys improvement is directly connected to continued development of second-year quarterback Quincy Carter, Campo is ready for the challenge.

"I am excited about that. Me and my players will be judged on how good I coach and how well they play. That is a good feeling. We feel we are a better football team right now."

Campo said the addition of veteran standouts like Hardy and Glover, who are both supposed to inject the big play into an already outstanding Cowboys defense, make the team better on the field. But they also make them better in the locker room with their leadership and experience.

That's something the Cowboys have missed over the past couple of years with a host of retirements of players from their glory days in the 1990's --

including quarterback Troy Aikman, receiver Michael Irvin, cornerback Deion Sanders and defensive tackle Chad Hennings.

"They are good locker-room guys," Campo said. "They are guys that love to play the game and will get in your face when you are playing well. They give us the mental toughness we lost over the last few years. We need those guys. They give you that extra on field chemistry."

Those good feelings have the players themselves excited about coming to training camp and the possibilities for the season. Safety Darren Woodson said it's a far cry from last year when the Cowboys went to training camp with a bargain-basement roster because of \$25 million in salary cap constraints.

"We worked hard in camp last year," Woodson said. "We wanted to win. But it was hard to have expectations. We have legitimate reasons to feel good this year. We still have to work hard and do it on the field. We will find out a lot in camp. But it's hard not to come in excited."

Even running back Emmitt Smith, who openly quarreled with Campo last year over team's emphasis on rebuilding for the future rather than winning games, is on board with excitement. And Smith's outlook goes beyond the fact that he is 540 yards away from passing Walter Payton as the NFL's all-time leading rusher.

## Cowboys

## Stop the Corporate Take-Over of our Water

From page 2

Deep inside NAFTA, for example, is tucked a little nasty called Chapter 11, which water corporations already are using to force local governments to break the dam and turn loose their water for private exploitation. Also, with our government's blessing, the World Bank and IMF routinely pressure Third World nations to privatize their water systems.

Now, the White House and Congress are ratcheting up their privatization push here at home with a sneak attack called the Water Investment Act of 2002. Despite its boring title, S.1961 contains a stick of dynamite in Section 103(J)(1)(b). This proviso says that a local water project in your city cannot get federal financing unless the local government "has considered" privatizing your water system. Upgrading and expanding water systems is hugely expensive, and cities must have federal support to do the job -- but S.1961 would make this funding conditional on whether cities consider turning over their water to private corporations.

This boondoggle is pushed by a powerhouse lobbying outfit called the National Association of Water Companies, and it means that your local water board will have to spend your tax dollars offering your public water supply for sale -- knowing that Big Water corporations will sue the hell out of them if they don't get their way.

Substituting private interest for public interest has not exactly been serendipitous in the energy sector -- so why in hell should we give corporations (foreign-based ones, at that) our water? At least government entities are supposed to be legally and politically responsible to We the People. But corporations maintain (and the law agrees) that they are responsible solely to their big stockholders -- an elite group that invariably includes the CEO. In water, the stockholders' interests inevitably will conflict with the public's. Plus, corporations are anti-democratic, used to making decisions in secret -- and, as Enron has taught us, hiding their financial shenanigans in a labyrinth of offshore accounts. Take the case of Azurix, a high-flying water privatizer that was not really a company but a convoluted consortium of more than 50 limited partnerships and interlocking subsidiaries created in the secretive tax haven of the Cayman Islands. Its creator was none other than Enron. Now it's owned by RWE.

Water is one of life's necessities, which is why we must treat it as part of our commons -- the wealth that we hold in trust so it will be there for all of us, not only for today, but for all of our tomorrows as well.

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## Especulan Que Ben Laden Podría Ya Estar Muerto

Algunos de los guardaespaldas del líder de Al Qaida, Osama Ben Laden, fueron capturados y se encuentran entre los prisioneros en la base militar de Estados Unidos en Cuba, dijeron funcionarios de EU ayer.

Los hombres eran parte de la escolta de Ben Laden, con la expresa misión de proteger al exiliado millonario saudita. Pero no resulta claro la cantidad de información que puedan o quieran entregar a las autoridades estadounidenses.

Los guardaespaldas se encuentran entre los 564 sospechosos de ser miembros del régimen talibán o de Al Qaida, confinados en celdas de metal en la base naval en Guantánamo. La mayoría de ellos fueron capturados en Afganistán o Pakistán durante la guerra iniciada por Estados Unidos el 7 de octubre del año pasado.

Portavoces militares dijeron ayer no saber cuántos miembros de la guardia de seguridad personal de Ben Laden habían sido detenidos. El último envío de prisioneros a Cuba se llevó a cabo el 18 de junio.

El hecho de la captura del líder de Al Qaida no significa necesariamente que esté muerto. Recientes informes de inteligencia militar no apoyan esta posibilidad, y el Ejército cree que Ben Laden estaría vivo, dijo un funcionario del Departamento de Defensa que habló bajo la condición de anonimato.

Sin embargo, la última comparecencia de Ben Laden en video fue hace más de siete meses, y el jefe de contraterrorismo del FBI, Dale Watson, dijo a principios de mes que cree que éste estaría muerto. La última vez que EU dice haber avistado a Ben Laden fue en diciembre, cuando se creía que estaba en la región de Tora Bora en Afganistán, de donde huyó cuando se acercaron las fuerzas aliadas a Estados Unidos.

El diario The Washington Post indicó ayer que el gobierno rechaza la idea de que el hijo de Ben Laden, Sad, haya tomado las riendas de Al Qaida.

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**'Thalía Ayudó Mucho a la Música Grupera'**

Los Tucanes de Tijuana, vendedores de más de 10 millones de discos con promedio de 400 mil por cada nuevo lanzamiento, conmemoraron 15 años de trayectoria musical con el lanzamiento de su álbum número 26, El jugo a la vida, que incluye un rock norteño con el cual esperan seguir cosechando éxitos.

El tema ya ha alcanzado el primer lugar en la revista Billboard en la lista de música regional y la decimotercera posición en la clasificación general.

Precisamente su compositor, Mario Quintero, quien también es el director, cantante y arreglista principal de la agrupación, explicó a La Opinión que le gusta vivir de noche fue un rock con sabor norteño y sirvió como punta de lanza en esa modalidad dentro del repertorio de Los Tucanes de Tijuana.

"Fue tan bien recibida esa propuesta musical que lanzamos El jugo a la vida en ese estilo, pero con una temática más agresiva", apuntó quien ha compuesto más del 90% de las canciones de los llamados "tucaneros".

Esto te ubica como un compositor más versátil, ¿seguirás explorando distintos ritmos y modalidades musicales?

Trato de no caer en la monotonía. Por eso estamos grabando corridos, polkas, baladas, rancheras, mambos y hasta una salsa mexicana, además de rock norteño.

A su vez, tratamos de pulir la música norteña para que salga del cartabón en que estuvo por décadas, cuando se le calificaba de música para borrachos. Nosotros pretendemos que sea para todos los gustos.

Asimismo, cuidando mucho nuestra indumentaria estamos logrando que se nos trate en buena forma y se nos respete como artistas que somos. Por supuesto, que no se nos vea como gente rara.

¿O sea que de alguna manera Los Tucanes de Tijuana están tratando de vestir mejor al género norteño?

Esa, al menos, es mi intención, como compositor y como director del grupo. Incluso, en mi calidad de arreglista, busco escribir los arreglos con un sonido internacional con la finalidad de que nuestra música obtenga una mayor difusión.

Debe recordarse que antaño los conjuntos norteños eran de acordeón, guitarra y bajo sexto. Después se agregó la tarola. Luego tololoche, tarola y batería. Actualmente, Los Tucanes de Tijuana le agregamos percusiones y teclado.

¿Existe algún proyecto de realizar una gira mundial?

Estamos en tratos con la casa discográfica para que las grabaciones de Los Tucanes de Tijuana lleguen a todos los países de habla hispana y conquisten todos los mercados en que entiendan nuestro idioma. Posteriormente, intentaremos alcanzar países de otras lenguas y para entonces tener un repertorio en inglés, que es el idioma universal.

¿Qué opinas de estrellas del pop que han incursionado en el género grupero?

A nosotros nos parece algo fabuloso. Por ejemplo, Thalía que grabó con banda, le ha dado un giro muy especial a nuestro movimiento musical. Como ella es conocida a nivel mundial por sus telenovelas, por sus discos, por su belleza o por su

Tommy Mottola, aporta algo muy grande a nuestra especialidad. Eso es importante y hay que verlo por el lado positivo. Nos ayuda mucho a quienes estamos en este género.

¿Será eso un apoyo más para que la música norteña permanezca siempre y no se quede como una moda pasajera?

Creo que debemos estar conscientes de que esta música ya se quedó y que seguirá creciendo mucho, ¡mucho más!

Lo mismo se puede decir de la música con bandas. Varios artistas de pop han grabado con bandas y se han estado produciendo muy buenos discos. Las agrupaciones ya se están preocupando por contratar a buenos arreglistas. Se está quedando atrás la etapa en que cada cual hacía su trabajo según lo sentía individualmente y en muchos casos en forma improvisada.

¿De qué forma afectan las bandas y grupos norteños a la música de mariachi?

Creo que el mariachi está reconocido mundialmente y siempre ha estado ahí. Aunque no ha sido nunca promocionado como para actuar en bailes y en conciertos. Siempre ha sido un marco musical. Se ha identificado como conjunto de acompañamiento de cantantes, pero tiene una posición muy representativa de México, que es la tierra de los mariachis.

En otras palabras, tanto los grupos norteños como las bandas podemos triunfar, pero sin que ello signifique que el mariachi deje de tener su sitio. Eso nunca sucederá.

En tu calidad de compositor, ¿qué relación especial tienes con las bandas?

Que la primera canción mía que se

popularizó no fue un éxito de Los Tucanes de Tijuana, sino de Banda El Recodo. Era La clave privada y la compuse a los 16 años de edad. Dos años más tarde tuve oportunidad de conocer a Don Cruz Lizárraga en ocasión de una actuación que tuvo en Tijuana.

Para entonces ya había grabado la banda mi canción con la voz de Julio Preciado y había sido un trancazo. Fui a verlos y me presentaron a Don Cruz. Al enterarse que yo era el compositor, me dijo: "Muchacho, gracias a ti comemos".

Esa es una anécdota que nunca se me olvida. Fue, por cierto, la única vez que vi al señor Lizárraga. Tengo que agradecer que gracias a ese corrido y a Banda El Recodo se me abrieron las puertas como compositor.

¿Existían ya Los Tucanes de Tijuana?

Sí, pero no habíamos grabado ese corrido. Yo se lo había dado a Los Incomparables de Tijuana, que son mis tíos; luego se grabó con Lalo El Gallo, antes que lo hiciera Banda El Recodo.

¿O sea que el compositor Mario Quintero pegó primero con Banda El Recodo antes de hacerlo con Los Tucanes de Tijuana?

Así fue. Aunque después también la grabó mi conjunto.

En cuanto a la gira que están realizando, en la que han actuado ante más de 160 mil personas en México y Estados Unidos, ¿se sintió la ausencia del acordeonista Joel Higuera?

En lo absoluto, no hubo ningún problema. Alfredo González hace muy bien lo suyo tocando acordeón y como segunda voz, y Los Tucanes de Tijuana siguen siendo los mismos ante los diversos públicos.



**Paulina no se olvida de su público mexicano...**  
**La "Border Gil" Tendrá un encuentro íntimo con sus fans en el teatro metropolitano.**

Paulina no se olvida de sus miles de fans mexicanos... Ahora regresa triunfal para un gran encuentro en directo lleno de música y energía. Manteniéndose en los primeros lugares de toda la República Mexicana con su éxito "Si tu te vas", mañana hará delirar a sus fanáticos del Distrito Federal durante su encuentro íntimo en el histórico Teatro Metropolitano. Actualmente, su nuevo tema promocional es uno de los más tocados a nivel internacional tanto en inglés como en español. La estrella mexicana viaja proveniente de Chile, donde estuvo realizando la promoción de su nuevo material. Este sábado Paulina actuará en el "Pepsi World Cup Half Time Show" a celebrarse en Washington D.C.

**Commonwealth Celebration Splits Puerto Ricans**

Half a century ago, at the Capitol set behind a massive fort overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, this island's single star was raised alongside the U.S. flag for the first time since U.S. troops invaded in 1898.

Inside the majestic structure, 92 delegates ratified a U.S.-sanctioned Constitution that consecrated new laws and created a union between both lands by making Puerto Rico a commonwealth, referred to here as Estado Libre Asociado (ELA) -- the Free Associated State.

But when festivities are held today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELA, only half of the population will be celebrating.

"It's a shame that this government is celebrating a date that really stands for a smoke screen for U.S. colonialism," said Manuel Rodríguez Orellana, 54, a leader of the Puerto Rican Independence Party. "Colonialism, of course, is not just illegal, but it is immoral."

Five decades after the U.S.-Puerto Rico union, the island's status remains a thorny issue that reaches beyond intellectual debate and tears at the collective heart of a population divided into three primary camps -- those who support the status quo, those who would like the island to be incorporated as U.S. state, and those who favor full sovereignty.

As the government and its supporters gather in the capital to honor the anniversary, independentistas -- promoters of independence -- will have an anti-commonwealth rally in Guánica, a small municipality on the southwest coast where U.S. troops landed on July 25, 1898.

"The purpose of our protest is to bring out the fact that this is an invasion and not a celebration," Rodríguez said.

Secretary of State Ferdinand Mercado, president of the commission overseeing commemorative events, said the celebration is about recognizing a fruitful partnership that remains in effect.

"The important thing about this is

that we have managed to achieve three things -- sustained economic development, a permanent union with the United States and a cultural identity and idiosyncrasy as a people," Mercado said. "Sometimes, that is not understood by the people who are far away, but it is lived by those of us here."

Commonwealth status did achieve a degree of internal administrative freedom for Puerto Rico.

Somewhat modeled after the U.S. Constitution, Puerto Rico's Constitution provides for three branches of government: the executive, the legislative -- consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives -- and the judicial branch. The island is represented in the U.S. House of Representatives by a delegate who has a voice, but no vote except in committees.

As U.S. citizens, Puerto Ricans are subject to military service and most federal laws, and are also eligible for food and health benefits. But they cannot vote in presidential elections -- though they do in primaries -- and don't pay federal income tax on locally generated earnings.

Many who prefer statehood said that although the current arrangement has functioned, they would like to have the benefits that come with full membership in the nation with which

they are affiliated.

"It's a great one-way deal, but we have no power," said Samuel Chico, 27, who works for the San Juan municipality. "We're good enough to fight in a war for the United States, but not good enough to vote for the president. If we were a state, that wouldn't happen."

Few Puerto Ricans oppose sovereignty, but many say it is unrealistic.

"It would be great to be our own nation, but I haven't heard of a viable plan to keep us from becoming another Third World country," said Chico. "I don't think it's possible."

"The idea that independence is impossible is only stimulated by those who don't want it," said Rodríguez, adding that autonomy would cut expenses for the United States and let the island establish its own trade agreements and implement a flexible economy.

Puerto Ricans already have voted to determine their political status, but the results have not provoked definitive action by the U.S. Congress.

In the first plebiscite, in 1967, about 60 percent of the population voted in favor of remaining a commonwealth, while statehood received 39 percent and independence got 1 percent of the vote.

**'Real Women' Gets Theatrical Release**

Instead of premiering on the award-winning network, HBO will be giving the film, "Real Women Have Curves," a theatrical release in North America, the company announced Tuesday. The movie, which won this year's Sundance Audience Award, will open in October under the HBO Films banner in association with Newmarket Films' new theatrical distribution division.

Based on Josefina Lopez' semi-autobiographical play, the film tells the story of a first-generation Mexican-American woman from East Los Angeles who struggles to find a compromise between her mainstream ambitions and her traditional cultural heritage as she forges into her future. "Real Women Have Curves" is a remarkable movie and one of the few films that takes an honest and candid look at the Latino experience," says Colin Callender, president, HBO Films. "When the film premiered at Sundance, it was clear that it spoke to a wide theatrical audience of all backgrounds, and in Cannes, we saw firsthand the enthusiastic reaction the film received in the international marketplace."

"Curves" stars America Ferrera in her feature film debut alongside Lupe Ontiveros ("Chuck & Buck"), and Ingrid Oliu ("Stand and Deliver"). It is director Patricia Cardoso's first feature film.

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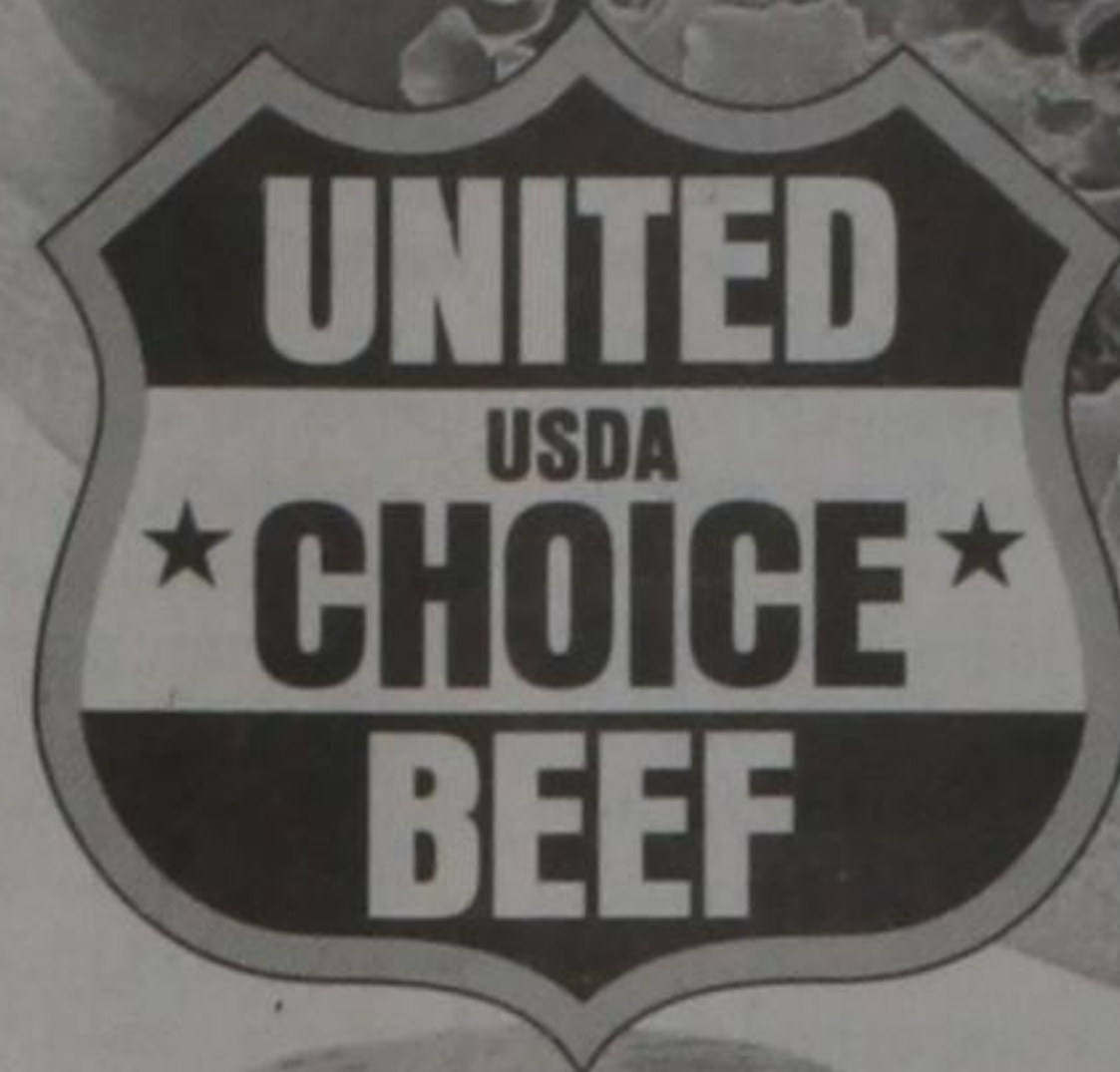


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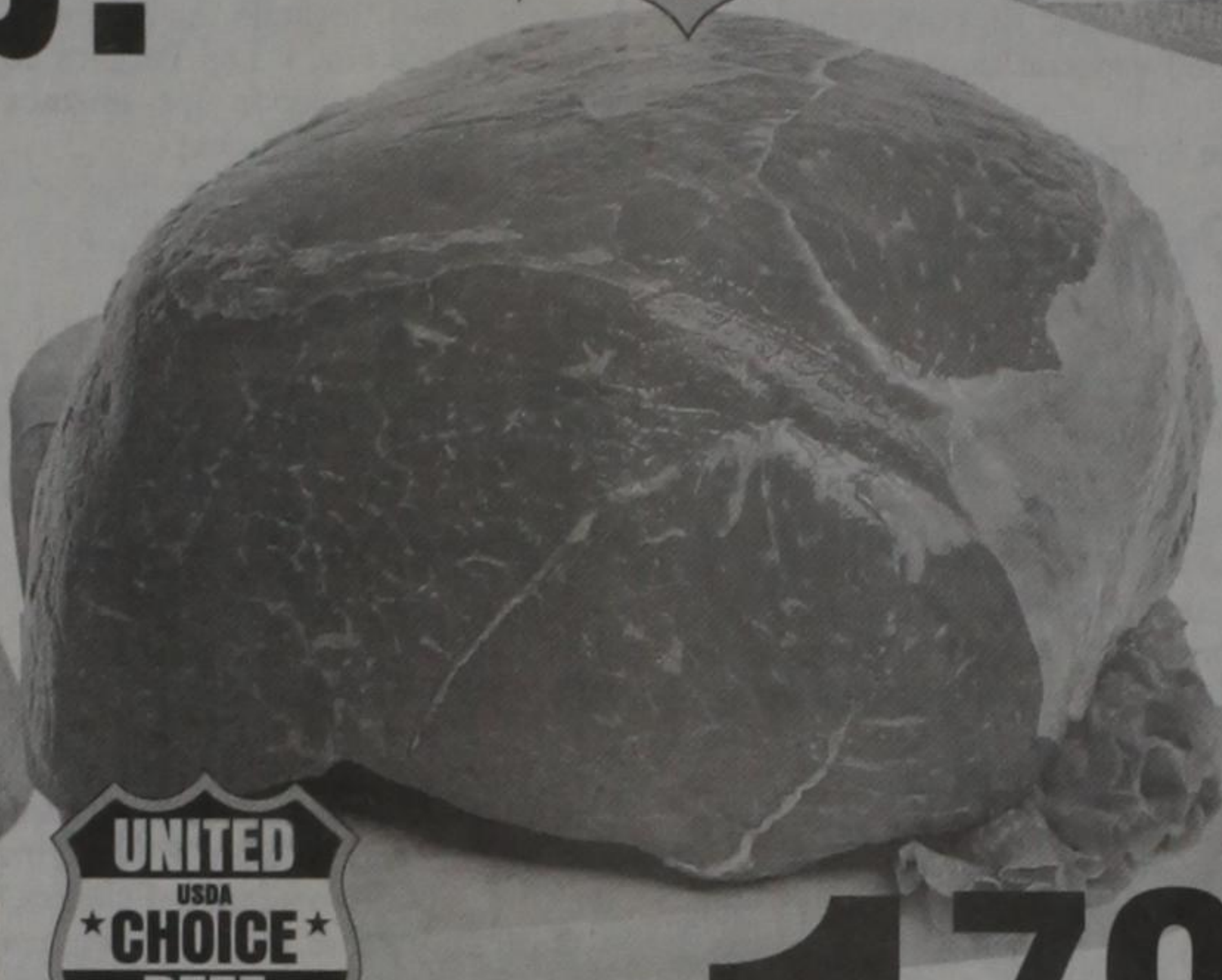
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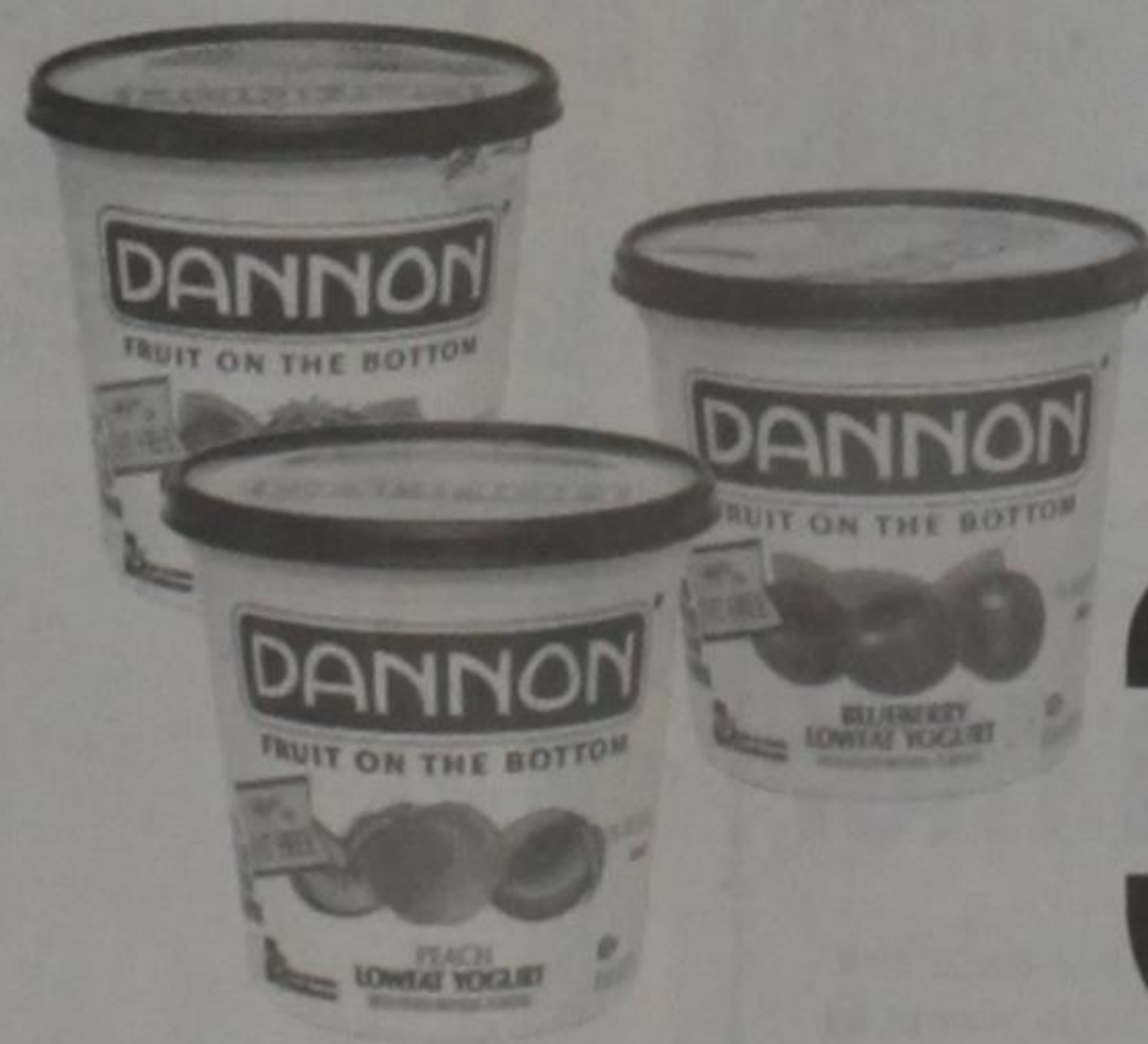
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