

# el Esalador

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## More Hispanic Catholics losing their religion

The Catholic Church appears to be losing its steadfast grip on Hispanics in the USA. And while some are joining other churches, the fastest-growing religion among Hispanics is no religion at all, reflecting the same secular trend seen in the general population.

Latin America has been overwhelmingly Catholic since colonial times, and Hispanics in the USA have traditionally held to that religion, says Anthony Stevens-Arroyo, a professor at Brooklyn College and co-founder and director of the Program for the Analysis of Religion Among Latinos.

But in the USA, that is changing, according to a study out today based on

findings from the American Religious Identification Survey 2001 (ARIS). The research was commissioned by Stevens-Arroyo's program. The ARIS authors, from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, looked at how religious identification has changed in the Hispanic community from 1990 to 2001.

The U.S. Hispanic adult population nearly doubled from 1990 to 2000, to 23 million from 14.6 million. And while the majority still call themselves Catholic, and raw numbers are up, the percentage is dropping. It's down from 66% (9.6 million) in 1990 to 57% (13.1 million) in 2001. At the same time, the percentage who said they had no religion more than doubled over the same period — to 13% (2.9 million) from 6% (926,000). Of the 2.9 million who cited no religion, 38% were women, 62% men.

But just because more Hispanics are turning away from organized religion doesn't mean they are shunning faith; 53% of those who said they have no religion also said they "strongly believe" in God. Only 4% professed a strong disbelief in God.

"You may call the Hispanic community unchurched, but they're definitely believers," report co-author Ariela Keysar says. "It just confirms in many ways that Hispanics follow the general trends of the American population."

Americans who cite no religion now account for 14% of the USA, up from 8% in 1990, the study shows.

Felipe Chavez, who came to the USA from Mexico at age 10, grew up devoutly Catholic. But when Chavez, a government analyst who now lives in Southgate, Calif., went to college, his beliefs began shifting. He still attends church for traditional ceremonies such as weddings, baptisms and funerals, but

he no longer considers himself Catholic.

"I'm still spiritual," says Chavez, 31. "I definitely believe there is a higher power. It's the church I distance myself from. I don't go by the book."

But many Hispanics — especially those living in areas without traditional Hispanic communities — responded "no religion" because they don't have a church they can attend, says Stevens-Arroyo.

Burgeoning Hispanic communities are hungry for churches that can provide community and social services as well as religious guidance. "Our people are

down from 7%.

\* Hispanics born in the USA are more likely than their foreign-born counterparts to belong to a church. Forty eight percent of U.S.-born Hispanics belong to a church, compared with 37% of foreign born.

\* More than two-thirds of Hispanic Protestants, 69%, said they were born

into their religion. Traditionally, nearly all had converted, because most were born into Catholic families, says Stevens-Arroyo. "There's a new face to the Hispanic Protestant."

\* Among U.S. Hispanics, 47% live in a household where they or someone else belongs to a house of worship. That's lower than among Americans overall; more than half (54%) of U.S. adults live in a home where they or

someone else belongs to a church, temple, synagogue or mosque.

The ARIS study was based on a randomly dialed telephone survey of 50,281 American adults from February through June 2001. The study included nearly 4,900 respondents in 1990 and 3,000 in 2001 who defined themselves as Hispanic. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 1 percentage point.

### Parcells vuelve a la NFL

## Coach acepta oferta de los Cowboys

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells confirmó el miércoles que volverá a la NFL la próxima temporada como entrenador de los

Cowboys de Dallas, un equipo de tradición en la NFL venido a menos en los últimos tiempos.

"Así será," dijo Parcells al canal de deportes ESPN. No hubo confirmación de los Cowboys. Parcells reemplaza a Dave Campo, quien fue despedido el lunes tras compilar una marca de 5-11 por tercera temporada consecutiva. Según ESPN, Parcells será presentado como técnico de los Cowboys el jueves.

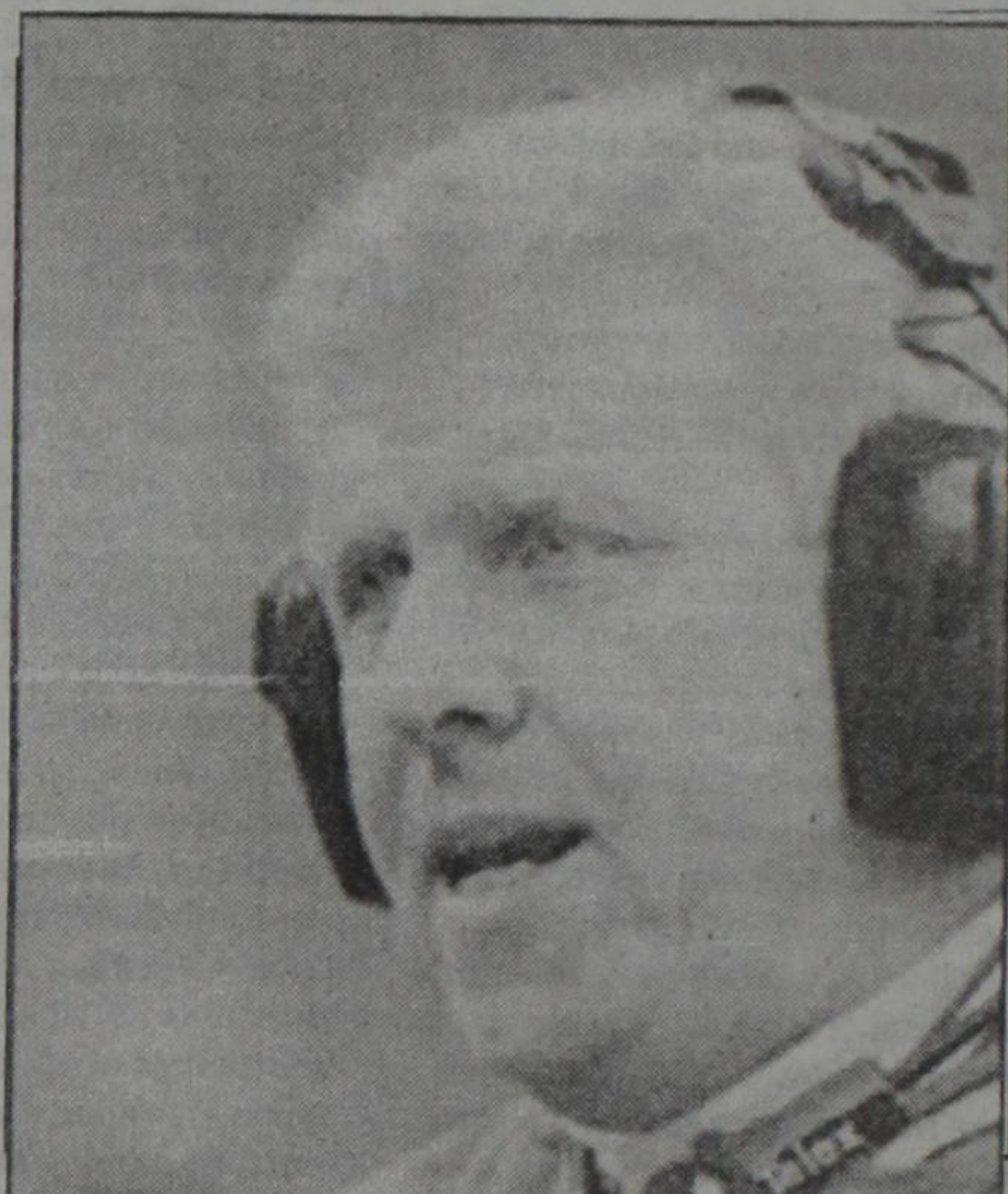
Será apenas el sexto entrenador en la historia de la experiencia, pero el primero que asume el puesto con experiencia previa como técnico en la NFL. Parcells ganó dos Super Bowls con los Gigantes de Nueva York y llevó a los Patriots de Nueva Inglaterra al partido por el campeonato de la NFL. También dirigió a los Jets de Nueva York.

Su marca como técnico es de 138-100-1 y 11-6 en partidos de postemporada. Sólo Tom Landry, Don Shula y Chuck Noll lo superan en

cuanto a victoria en la postemporada. Parcells, quien venía desempeñándose como comentarista de televisión, tiene reputación de resucitar a equipos moribundos. Cada uno de los tres equipos que dirigió venían de campañas negativas, pero en su primer año los supo clasificar a los playoffs.

ESPN, citando una fuente no identificada, informó que Parcells firmó un contrato de cuatro años por 17,1 millones de dólares.

Parcells dejó los Jets tras la temporada de 1999, pero le siguieron lloviendo ofertas. El año pasado, estuvo a un tris de aceptar una propuesta de los Buccaneers de Tampa Bay. El interés de los Cowboys fue cosa pública desde antes del fin de



la temporada. El propietario del equipo Jerry Jones inclusive se reunió dos veces con Parcells en las semanas previas al despido de Campo.

La contratación de Parcells podría ayudar a los Cowboys volver a los primeros planos. Desde la partida del quarterback Troy Aikman y el wide receiver Michael Irvin, los Cowboys han ido en franco declive.

### Comentarios

By Bidal Agueo

New Years has just about always been a good time for me and my family. A time to reflect on the good times

what happened during the year and a time to think about what we think might happen and sometimes what we would want to happen.

Predictions that I write about normally turn out to be more like things that I would like to happen rather than a prognostication of what fate has in store for us. This mainly because I really don't believe in fate but rather that the future can be decided more by our actions that by destiny.

In this coming new ear, we can expect a war with Irak. This will happen regardless of the changing attitudes of many people that are questioning the President's reasons for war since United Nations inspectors are not finding those alleged weapons of mass destruction.

Other things that might happen nationally are that soon after the Great Iraqi War, people will start to realize that that electing Bush and all his friends was not as good idea as some people told us. After getting a few more dollars in the mail, the realization will be made public that the few dollars we got are pennies in relation to the millions that corporations and big business are getting.

Here in Lubbock, we can expect a good election fight for the position of Congressman. After taking a good look at candidates like Isett, Naugerbauger and various other high rollers from Midland, voters will realize that the best person to represent the everyday working person will be Mayor David Langston.

On a LITE note other things we can expect in 2003 will be the replacement of the Martha Stewart show by the Mickey Mouse Show or even better a show that will feature Emeril Johnson and Bob Villa cooking and cutting grass together. We will also see the retirement of the Shaq only because he will grow tired of bruises on his body from pushing everybody around pretending to play basketball. He will be nominated by Bush to become Ambassador to Mexico. The Rangers will do better next year as well as the Cowboys. Both teams will combine to see Alex Rodriguez to become quarterback and Pudge to go at it as running back. Both under the direction of assistant coach Pete Rose.

In Lubbock we can see the first Hispanic Vice President at Texas Tech. He will take the prestigious role of managing Tech Custodial Department. He will be hired after an extensive search led by Bubba. El Editor will see a change in Editor this coming year. The person hired will work for a few weeks only to be fired by Editor Emeritus Bidal Agueo after demanding pay. Agueo will regretfully come back from a fishing trip in the Bahamas to make El Editor the most complete, exemplary, excellent, commendable, complete, comprehensive, complete and perfect newspaper in the world. Not that it isn't that already.



very religious. It's just that the Catholic Church hasn't caught up with the people," he says.

Other findings on the shifting religious beliefs in the Hispanic community:

\* The number of Pentecostals increased by one percentage point, despite a widely held belief that large numbers of Hispanics are turning to the Pentecostal church. "The common claim was that people are leaving the Catholic Church and becoming Pentecostal," Keysar says. The 2001 numbers show 918,000 Hispanics are Pentecostal (4%, down from 3% in 1990), and 1.1 million are Baptists (5%,

## Democrats say President needs to compromise on Medicare Reform

By John King

WASHINGTON — The economy and health care will dominate President Bush's domestic agenda for 2003, aides and experts say, but what gets accomplished in those areas could well hinge on challenges overseas, including the Iraq issue and the war on terrorism.

"I think you're going to see a heavy concentration in the months ahead on national security items and making sure that terrorism doesn't revisit American shores," said Kenneth Duberstein, former chief of staff to President Reagan.

Bush aides say the economy will be the major focus for the administration in the new year. That point was underscored last month when the president shook up his economic team, ousting

Congress to take a very hard look at that very early."

Democrats say compromise on that issue will be hard to come by unless Bush moves their way.

"The administration has again and again and again been very beholden to the pharmaceutical industry, the insurance industry, and been very reluctant to move legislation that can really make a difference to people," said Stanley Greenberg, a Democratic pollster.

Midterm election gains mean Republicans will control both chambers of Congress, and the president's aggressive campaigning was a major factor.

"And that gives the president a lot of say," Greenberg said. "Now he is going to be held accountable. He is going



Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill and top White House economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey.

"The economy is a huge issue," said White House adviser Mary Matalin, who left her post at the close of the year. "Peace and prosperity. That is why the president will offer — even before the Congress comes back likely — a growth package for investors and consumers and the market."

Aides say the economic package to be released by the administration will mix more tax cuts with business incentives and an extension of unemployment benefits.

About 800,000 individuals lost their unemployment benefits December 28, and Congress is under pressure to extend those benefits. President Bush, who for weeks was silent on the issue of extending those benefits, has more recently come out in support of such a move. (Full story)

Health care

The second domestic priority for Bush, say aides, is health care, primarily one issue critical to elderly Americans.

"There needs to be Medicare reform with the prescription drug benefit," said Nick Calio, the outgoing White House congressional liaison. "And we will ask Congress, he will ask

to be held accountable on whether the economy moves — whether they address health care and a whole range of issues."

These are other immediate Bush domestic priorities, aides say:

- Faster action on judicial nominees.
- Curbs on medical malpractice lawsuits.
- Reauthorization of the 1996 welfare reforms.

On a much slower track are a discussion of major tax reforms and the president's controversial campaign 2000 promise to allow some Social Security taxes to be invested in private stock accounts.

"He has not given up on that position," Calio said. "He will continue to push that position. Congress sometimes moves more slowly, and we'll look at that realistically."

The president is to lay out his agenda in detail in his State of the Union address in January.

White House officials view the first six months of the new year as the best window for action on the president's goals. One put it this way: "The closer you get to the 2004 campaign, the less you can expect to get done."

## El Papa volvió a pedir la paz en el mundo El Papa Juan Pablo II dice que "la paz es posible"

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — En su primer mensaje del año 2003, el Papa Juan Pablo II pidió el miércoles el fin de la violencia "fratricida y sin sentido" en el Medio Oriente y la búsqueda de soluciones pacíficas a todas las tensiones que amenazan al mundo.

"Contra los conflictos de hoy y las tensiones amenazantes del momento, una vez más invito a la oración para buscar medios pacíficos de resolver" los conflictos, dijo el Papa en su homilía durante la misa de Año Nuevo en la Basílica de San Pedro, en una jornada en que la Iglesia Católica celebra tradicionalmente el Día Mundial de la Paz.

"Hoy, como en el pasado, a pesar de los graves y reiterados intentos de romper la paz y la armonía de pueblos que viven unidos, la paz es posible y necesaria", expresó el Pontífice con voz clara y fuerte, entre los aplausos de los asistentes.

Para evitar un exceso de fatiga, el Papa presidió la misa, en lugar de oficiarla, ya que eso le hubiera obligado a permanecer de pie durante largo rato.

Llamado de paz

El llamamiento de Juan Pablo II por la paz en Año Nuevo se produjo en momentos en que el presidente estadounidense, George W. Bush, lidera una nueva campaña en busca de apoyos a una posible guerra contra Irak.

El Papa, de 82 años, no hizo referencia específica a la situación en Irak, pero el Vaticano ha enfatizado que cualquier ataque contra ese país debe contar primero con la aprobación de las Naciones Unidas.

El Pontífice apeló de forma especial a que se ponga fin a la violencia en el Medio Oriente y Tierra Santa.

"La situación persistente y dramática en la región de Medio Oriente precisa con mayor urgencia la búsqueda de una solución positiva al conflicto fratricida y sin sentido que ha estado ensangrentándola durante demasiado tiempo", dijo.

Por lo menos 1.755 palestinos y 675 israelíes han muerto desde el 2000, año en el que comenzó la revuelta palestina tras el fracaso de las conversaciones de paz.

Juan Pablo II indicó que "debe existir cooperación entre todos aquellos que creen en Dios" y que "la auténtica

religiosidad, lejos de colocar a individuos y a pueblos en conflicto mutuo, los impulsa a construir de manera conjunta un mundo de paz".

El obispo de Roma pidió a los fieles



congregados en la Basílica que realizaran un pequeño "gesto de paz" — hacia sus familias, en el trabajo, en sus comunidades — para ampliar una cultura global de paz.

Este mes, el Papa envió su mensaje del Día Mundial de la Paz a los gobiernos y organizaciones internacionales, en el que instó a los líderes del mundo a resolver la explosiva situación del Oriente Medio, diciendo que tendrían que rendir cuentas por sus acciones.

Posteriormente el miércoles, durante su discurso del Angelus, el Papa reiteró ese mensaje ante miles de feligreses que abarrotaron la Plaza de San Pedro en el primer día del año.

"¿Cómo puedo no expresar una vez más la esperanza de que aquellos que están en posiciones de responsabilidad hagan todo lo posible por encontrar soluciones pacíficas a las muchas tensiones presentes en el mundo, en particular en el Oriente Medio", dijo el Papa.

# Immigrants in the Military

By Sgt. Oscar O. Villa

On July 4 of this year, President George W. Bush signed an executive order to facilitate citizenship for the military's 31,000 non-citizens. Although a progressive move on behalf of our commander-in-chief, it does not address the inequities in opportunities available to enlisted military personnel who are legal permanent residents.

More than 62,000 immigrants serve on active duty in today's 1.3 million-member military. Approximately half are non-citizens. A legal permanent resident may join the U.S. military if he or she meets the enlistment requirements. Once in, a non-citizen's military career choices are sharply limited.

Due to national security and many other restrictions, non-citizen members of the military have only a small, select number of Military Occupational Specialties (MOS's) to choose from when enlisting or re-enlisting. In all branches of the military, immigrants and non-citizens are over-represented in the field of infantry, where they train in combat missions for ground warfare as riflemen and artillerymen — and are most likely to be called first to the front lines.

They are also quickly placed in manual-labor positions, as electricians, mechanics and technicians. They cannot qualify to secure positions in the fields of intelligence or military police. Only citizens can qualify to become commissioned or warrant officers, or serve in special warfare programs, such as the Marine Recon or Navy SEALs.

Immigrants are locked out of these types of MOS's because they cannot get a security clearance — restricted to U.S.-born and naturalized citizens. Non-citizen military personnel cannot attain positions in these fields until they have been active-duty military for at least three years and have applied for and obtained U.S. citizenship.

Collectively, immigrants constitute 4.8 percent of all enlisted personnel on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. In the Navy they make up 6.7 percent of total enlisted personnel, approximately 22,000.

In times of war, immigrants have the same obligations and sense of loyalty to defend this country as do

native-born citizens. They have expressed this by serving voluntarily in the United States Armed Forces.

Historically, immigrants and non-citizens have made remarkable contributions to our nation's military strength through their knowledge, energy and actions. Courage in battle does not recognize nationality. In our country's great history, immigrants have gone so far in defending our nation that they have been recognized with the prestigious Medal of Honor, the highest level of recognition presented by the president of the United States.

Of the millions who have served in the U.S. military, only a few thousand have received the Medal of Honor, first established in 1861. Yet more than 20 percent of the total number of Medal of Honor recipients — 715 out of 3,405 — are immigrants.

## Los Inmigrantes en el Ejercito

## El Mismo Uniforme. Alternativas Diferentes

Por el sargento Oscar O. Villa

El 4 de julio de este año, el presidente George W. Bush firmó una orden ejecutiva para facilitar la ciudadanía a los 31,000 militares no ciudadanos. Aunque es un movimiento progresivo de parte de nuestro comandante en jefe, no trata la desigualdad en las oportunidades disponibles para el personal militar alistado que no es residente legal permanente.

Más de 62,000 inmigrantes participan en el servicio activo entre 1.3 millones de miembros actuales del ejército. Casi la mitad no son ciudadanos. Un residente legal permanente puede unirse al ejército estadounidense si él o ella cumplen con los requisitos de alistamiento. Una vez dentro, las oportunidades en la carrera militar son muy limitadas para los no ciudadanos.

Debido a la seguridad nacional y a muchas otras restricciones, los miembros no ciudadanos del ejército sólo tienen para elegir una cantidad reducida y selecta de Military Occupational Specialties (especialidades ocupacionales militares, MOS por sus siglas en inglés) al alistarse o re-alistarse. En todas las ramas del ejército, los inmigrantes y los no ciudadanos están muy representados en infantería, donde entrenan en misiones de combate de tierra como fusileros y artilleros, y es probable que sean los primeros llamados al frente armado.

También los colocan en posiciones de trabajo manual como electricistas, mecánicos y técnicos. No cualifican para posiciones en los campos de la inteligencia o en la policía militar. Sólo

They include such heroes as Mexico native Marcario García, who served in World War II. He was 24 years old when near Grosshau, Germany, his company was pinned down by heavy gunfire from Nazi troops. Though wounded, García refused to be evacuated. He crawled forward, hurling grenades at the enemy fortification that had his company pinned down. He killed three German soldiers and capturing four more, helping to save his company.

Another example is Alfred Rascón, an Army medic in the Vietnam War who was still a Mexican citizen when he saved fellow soldiers in an act of bravery that later won him the distinguished honor.

Countless foreign nationals have played instrumental roles in aiding the United States secure victory in the battlefield. As part of the 58th fighter

group of the 5th U.S. Air Force, Mexico's *Escuadrón 201* comprised 300 Mexican volunteers. As the only Mexican combat unit in World War II, the "Aztec Eagles" participated in approximately 60 combat missions, some of which were key in forcing the Japanese from the Luzon and Formosa islands. Twenty members of the squadron received U.S. Air Medals.

U.S. newcomers have been as willing as native citizens to support the nation's defense needs and, if necessary, give their lives for their country. Valor is a quality instilled in our hearts, regardless of country of origin. Immigrants and non-citizens should not be ignored as a powerful force in the military. They should be empowered with a greater variety of military responsibilities that allow them to prove their skill, courage and devotion to our flag.

los ciudadanos cualifican para convertirse en oficiales o suboficiales del ejército, o para servir en programas de combate como el Marine Recon o el Navy SEALs.

Los inmigrantes quedan fuera de estos tipos de especialidades porque no pueden recibir un permiso de seguridad, restringido sólo para ciudadanos nacidos en los Estados Unidos o naturalizados. El personal militar no ciudadano no puede obtener posiciones en estas áreas hasta que haya estado en el servicio activo del ejército por lo menos tres años y haya solicitado la ciudadanía norteamericana.

En conjunto, los inmigrantes comprenden un 4.8 por ciento de todo el personal alistado en el servicio activo de las fuerzas armadas de los Estados Unidos. En la fuerza naval suman un 6.7 por ciento de todo el personal alistado, casi 22,000 marineros.

En tiempos de guerra, los inmigrantes tienen las mismas obligaciones y sentido de lealtad para defender a este país que los ciudadanos nacidos aquí. Lo han expresado al servir de forma voluntaria en las fuerzas armadas de los Estados Unidos.

En el pasado, los inmigrantes y los no ciudadanos han hecho notables contribuciones a nuestra fuerza militar con sus conocimientos, energía y acciones. El valor en la batalla no reconoce nacionalidad. En la gran historia de nuestro país, los inmigrantes han hecho tanto para defender nuestra nación que han sido reconocidos con la prestigiosa Medalla de Honor, el reconocimiento más alto que otorga el presidente de los Estados Unidos.

De los millones de soldados que han servido en el ejército estadounidense, sólo unos cuantos miles han recibido la Medalla de Honor, creada en 1861. Más del 20 por ciento del total de soldados que han recibido la Medalla de Honor, 715 de 3,405, son inmigrantes.

# A NEW YEAR - SAME OLD TAX POLICY

By Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The beginning of a new year means many things. It offers an opportunity for all of us to move on from the last year and, hopefully, work toward a better new year. We are familiar with the symbolism of Father Time passing into history as a newborn year arrives. But we also know that there is never a clean break -- the mistakes of the past do not always go away simply because a page on the calendar has been turned.

There is no better example of this than our nation's rapidly sinking economy. We all went to sleep on New Year's Eve knowing that unemployment is at its highest in nearly a decade, the federal deficit is now expected to reach \$157 billion, the government's top two economic chiefs have resigned in shame, and the economy shows little hope of emerging from what may become a full-blown recession.

The current budget outlook is not encouraging. Tax cuts for the wealthy have consumed virtually all of the projected budget surplus -- and there's more to come. Just a year-and-a-half ago, the federal government was enjoying surpluses and had finally ended the practice of deficit spending. But now, the government's bank account is at zero and we are spending money we no longer have.

Even after borrowing the entire Social Security and Medicare trust fund surpluses, we are still facing a budget shortfall of more than \$150 billion. Worse still, the government will need to borrow Social Security surpluses for the rest of the decade unless we change the path we're on. Congress recently passed and President Bush signed into law legislation to increase the debt limit from the current level of \$595 trillion to \$6.7 trillion. This is the equivalent of a family, who knows they will have less money this year than last, getting a huge increase on their credit card limit just to pay the light bill.

The Bush Administration has claimed that tax cuts will stimulate the economy. But the Administration does not explain that most Americans will never see any of this proposed tax "relief," nor will they admit that only the wealthiest 1 percent of taxpayers will see significant benefits. President Bush told us that his tax cut would still leave room to meet our national priorities - and it hasn't, and he told us that the budget would still be able to withstand unexpected contingencies - and it didn't. No one could predict 9/11, but it was the responsibility of the Administration to prepare for unknown disasters. They just looked the other way.

But like a football coach whose team is down by four touchdowns with 30 seconds left on the clock, Bush refuses to admit he has not played this series well.

The most uncomfortable truth for the Administration remains clear: tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans have not solved our economic problems. In fact, the reduced federal revenues have only compounded the fiscal woes now facing our nation. The government is writing checks it cannot cash and is now having to consider cutting funding for our schools, roads and bridges.

The White House does have a plan, however -- more tax cuts. But don't think you will see more money in your checkbook next year. In all likelihood, you'll have less. You see, instead of shifting the focus of tax cuts to those who need it most -- working families -- the Bush Administration is pushing to force the middle-class to pay more while the rich pay less. According to White House sources, the Administration is now making plans to restructure the tax system by threatening that "the tax burden will have to begin extending backward down the income ladder."

Democrats in Congress will be developing an alternate proposal, one that provides middle class tax cuts designed to help the majority of working families while stimulating the economy. My constituents have told me we need a payroll tax cut before an estate tax cut.

It is hard enough for many Americans to make ends meet. Many families live paycheck-to-paycheck yet they are the ones who this Administration are going to ask to work harder -- for less. It is difficult to understand that the White House still cannot see that the health of our economy is tied directly to every-day working Americans. Those with wealth will get more, while those struggling to move up will get less. Some things never change.

## Léa El Editor - Primero News That Matter

# President Bush and Us 2002

## Bush Discovers Hunger and Looks the Other Way

by Molly Ivins

The only president we've got went down to the Capitol Area Food Bank in Washington, D.C., the other day for a photo-op with people who can't afford to eat. "I hope people around this country realize that agencies such as this food bank need money. They need our contributions. Contribution are down. They shouldn't be down in a time of need," said GeeDubya Bush.

Right away, we notice real progress. When Bush was running for the presidency in 2000, the feds released their annual report on hunger in America, and Texas was once again in its perennial spot at the top of the list, No. 1 in hunger.

Bush thought it was some dastardly scheme by the Clinton administration to make Texas, and hence Bush, look bad. He denied there were any hungry people in Texas and said, "You'd think the governor would have heard if there are pockets of hunger in Texas." Yeah, you would. But look on the bright side: so he didn't know there's hunger in Texas after six years in office; after only two years in Washington, he's discovered the problem.

Sort of. Here's what he has done about it:

- Number of seniors who will be cut off of meal programs because of the Bush budget: 36,000.
- Number of families who will be cut off of heating assistance because of the Bush budget: 532,000.
- Number of homeless kids who will be cut off of education programs because of the Bush budget: 8,000.
- Number of kids who will be cut off of after-school programs because of the Bush budget: 50,000.
- Number of kids who will be cut off of child care because of the Bush budget: 33,000.

Question: Which news got more attention from the media -- Bush's photo-op at the food bank or the facts in his budget?

It's commendable of the president to urge us to contribute to food banks, but since his No. 1 domestic priority is to enrich the rich while leaving the poor to charity, we are stuck with a quandary he noted himself -- need is up, and contributions are down. And as the charities have been screaming for years, they cannot possibly replace government programs.

On the theory that the world will be saved not by irony but by empathy, I'd like to quote the end of an article in a recent issue of The New York Times Sunday Magazine about adopting Ethiopian AIDS orphans. This beautifully written account about saving a handful of the millions of African AIDS orphans was written by Melissa Fay Greene, the adoptive mother of one of the orphans. She reports of her new daughter, "One day not long ago, she collapsed in my arms to cry about her late mother. I held her as she writhed, wailing, 'Why she had to die?' A few moments later, she said, amid tears: 'I know why she died. Because she was very sick, and we didn't have the medicine.'

"I know," I said. "It's true. I'm so sorry. I wish I had known you then. I wish I could have sent her the medicine."

"But we didn't have a phone," she cried, "and I couldn't call you."

Pretend that they have phones -- the AIDS orphans and the homeless kids and the hungry families. Pretend that they can call you and tell you how desperate their needs are. And if you can only save one orphan or help one homeless kid or feed one hungry family once, well, that's something, isn't it?

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## Bush's Legislative Record For Disadvantaged Wanting

By Dana Milbank, Washington Post Staff Writer

Two years after assuming the White House on a platform of "compassionate conservatism," George W. Bush so far has achieved few of the items on his legislative agenda to help the disadvantaged, even as he has notched a string of victories on foreign, security and fiscal policy.

Earlier this month, as Bush announced that the AmeriCorps volunteer program was "expanding mightily," the program disclosed that it had halted enrollment; his proposed expansion of national service has not cleared Congress. That same week, the White House acknowledged that it was unlikely to free from congressional gridlock Bush's "faith-based initiative" to help charities, instead enforcing a limited version of it through executive orders.

Meanwhile, action on major welfare, prescription drug and disabilities legislation was postponed. Proposals to liberalize immigration were dropped, a plan for health-care tax credits was not pursued, and efforts to expand low-income housing are yet to see the funding Bush said he would seek.

The one major success on the compassion list -- education legislation -- has become the subject of a budget fight, with Bush proposing only \$22 billion of the \$28 billion the new law authorized for the current year.

Many reasons for the delays are outside the Bush administration's control. Last year's terrorist attacks put on hold much of the domestic agenda, and Senate Democrats have blocked pieces of Bush's agenda. But several lawmakers and current and former advisers say the Bush White House has not pushed its compassion agenda with the energy and determination that it put behind tax cuts, defense spending and other priorities.

"He has always been rhetorically on the right side of the issue," said Harvard University's Robert Putnam, who has been consulted often by Bush aides. "They have not yet done nearly enough in practical terms to match the rhetoric." Putnam said right-wing conservatives trumped compassion-minded aides. "The compassionate win a lot of rhetorical battles," he said, "but when you look where the budget is, it shows hardly a hint of the compassionate."

Marvin Olasky, a conservative academic whose writings helped Bush form his views, said Bush has expertly used his appearances to stir public compassion, but without victory in Congress. "I give them an 'A' in terms of President Bush's personal effort in setting the message, and an 'F' in terms of legislation at this point," he said, adding that he gives Bush top marks for regulatory changes, mostly on the conservative side.

White House officials say such criticism misses the point. Though many of the legislative items on Bush's compassion agenda stalled in the last Congress, Bush aides point out that he has done much with the bully pulpit -- his stirring denunciation of Sen. Trent Lott's racially tinged remarks was a powerful example of Bush's inclusive rhetoric -- and by making administrative changes. "If you look at what's been enacted, what's been achieved administratively, I think we're 80-plus percent there," said John Bridgeland, a Bush domestic policy adviser.

Aides say Bush will redouble efforts to enact his compassion agenda, and now he will have the leadership of one of his closest allies on these issues, incoming Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.). Aides expect Congress will enact Bush policies next year on national service, welfare and disabilities. In his State of the Union address, aides said, he plans to propose a major mentoring initiative for low-income children and hundreds of millions of dollars for a new drug treatment program.

"The president went out and made education one of the top priorities, and he pushed and he pushed, and we were able to get a bill," said Jay Lefkowitz, head of Bush's Domestic Policy Council. "I think we're going to see some of that samekind of effort in some of the key and critical domestic policy areas in the coming year." Undoubtedly, congressional gridlock has made Bush's job more difficult. Still, he demonstrated -- on everything from tax cuts to homeland security -- that Congress would bend to his will. And Bush, busy with economic and anti-terrorism policy, did not put much of his compassion agenda at the top of the legislative list.

"I've seen no push for legislation from the White House," said Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who sought Bush's help with national service legislation. After an early expression of support, "we never heard from them again," he said, adding that he would use parliamentary tactics to pass the bill.

Steve Goldsmith, who coordinated the Bush campaign's domestic policy agenda, listed six policy areas of compassionate conservatism in an April 2000 speech to the Hoover Institution. Of the six -- retirement accounts, home ownership, education, refundable health-care tax credits, prescription drug benefits for the elderly and support for religious charities -- only one has seen a true legislative victory.

But that ignores progress on several items, Bush aides say. "We're on the 10-year line," said Margaret Spellings, Bush's top domestic policy adviser.

The core of Bush's compassionate conservatism is his "Armies of Compassion"

proposal to boost religious and community service organizations. Bush, as he promised, has established a "faith-based" office in the White House and a "Compassion Capital Fund" to help religious groups access government funds.

But the centerpiece of Bush's effort plan, a 10-year, \$90 billion plan to increase charitable donations by giving deductions to those who do not itemize tax returns, was cut to \$6 billion by the House in agreement with the White House, and never passed the Senate. And charities complain that repeal of the estate tax will deprive them of billions of dollars.

"They talked a really good game, but in the end the compassionate part of compassionate conservatism got omitted from the final calculation," said Harvard's Putnam.

The "charitable choice" component of Bush's proposal, which would ease restrictions on religious charities receiving government money, became embroiled in controversy when the White House and House Republicans included provisions that would allow religious charities to avoid laws against hiring discrimination. The bill "bore few marks of 'compassionate conservatism,'" John J. DiIulio Jr., the former head of Bush's "faith-based" office, said in the current issue of Esquire magazine.

Bush's recent executive orders eased restrictions on religious groups but did not attempt to extend "charitable choice" through the government.

In contrast to the "faith-based" bill, Bush's experience on education was a triumph. The White House reached broad consensus on legislation to increase education funding and standards, while freeing schools from many rules and requirements.

Now, however, Democrats say the White House has "gutted education funding," as David Sirota, House Appropriations Committee Democratic spokesman, put it. When some Republicans complained last month about the lack of funds, Bush budget Director Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. criticized the "explosively larger education bill."

"There is a flat-out contradiction between the promise the president has made and the position of his OMB director," said William A. Galston, a University of Maryland professor who was an adviser to Bill Clinton.

As with the "faith-based" initiative, action on Bush's national service initiative has been limited to executive action. He created the USA Freedom Corps to oversee the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps volunteer programs. The new entity, in turn, created a clearinghouse of volunteer service opportunities and a survey to monitor volunteerism.

But the White House has for now dropped earlier notions to enhance the Freedom Corps by using tax credits or a major scholarship program to boost volunteerism. Larger proposals -- expanding AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps -- still await action. Bush this year opted not to challenge House Republicans who oppose the AmeriCorps. A number of experts say Bush missed a chance to channel the outpouring of patriotism after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks into a broad volunteer effort for homeland security. "What was new and cutting edge disappeared," said Amitai Etzioni of George Washington University.

Bridgeland, who runs Bush's USA Freedom Corps, predicted victory for the legislation in the new Congress. "We're poised to move this," he said, noting that it typically takes 18 months to get legislation passed.

In a variety of related areas, Bush has made generous requests for funding to fulfill the components of his compassionate conservative agenda. But relatively few of the requests for funding and legislation have been accepted. Failure to complete fiscal 2003 spending bills has delayed Bush's requests for housing programs, drug treatment, child nutrition, help for prisoners' children and foreign aid.

Some smaller items on the compassion agenda have become law. Though Bush has not yet won action encouraging charitable contributions from corporations and IRAs, and he has not pushed his plan to seek state tax credits for anti-poverty donations, he won a permanent extension and increase in the adoption tax credit.

In some areas where legislation has foundered, Bush has taken unilateral action, proceeding with an administrative restructuring of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and implementation of a Supreme Court decision broadening rights of the disabled.

In other areas, the White House backed away from some bold ideas. After sending signals that it would expand guest-worker programs that would allow more immigrants to earn legal status, for example, the Bush administration quietly dropped the idea after the terrorist attacks.

Also, some legislation has not yet turned out as advertised. When Congress passed a measure pledging more funds for nursing training, Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao said, "the Bush administration has issued what I call a 'call to care.'" But the funds are not in the spending bills. The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, which lobbied for the legislation, said that for now, "it's all just rhetoric."

# En Balsa Por El Mar Del Trabajo Voluntario

Por Marisella Veiga

Puede que sea nueva en la ciudad y que esté haciendo adaptaciones culturales, pero el concepto de ofrecer mi tiempo para el beneficio de otro no es nuevo. De hecho, es un estilo de vida para aquéllos que crecieron en familias con tradiciones extensas.

La diferencia radica en que soy parte de un grupo al que conozco poco, a saber, personas que solicitan y se entrevistan para hacer trabajo voluntario de forma oficial.

En el sur de Florida, donde me establecí por muchos años tras emigrar de Cuba, era parte de una familia extensa. También viví en un pueblo pequeño donde las personas son vecinos activos. Hacer favores o ayudar a estas personas con frecuencia me tomó tiempo, pero no estaba programado. Las horas que dediqué para ayudar a otros no aparecieron en ninguna parte en mi resumé.

Durante tres años, fui parte de la junta de una agencia de servicio social que sí está anotado en mi resumé.

Más adelante, me mudé a Alexandria, Virginia. Mi familia se redujo a un esposo y a un perro, y mis vecinos no estaban interesados en dejarme pasar el umbral de sus

puertas. Por lo que acudí a la oficina local de trabajo voluntario para ver quién necesitaba ayuda. Así es como se hace en este lugar.

Busqué en una larga lista de agencias y organizaciones. Al principio, me llamó la atención una sociedad de horticultura. Conozco bastante bien las plantas tropicales y subtropicales, pero me falta la familiaridad con la vegetación local. De seguro, podría ser asistente de horticultura, sembrar, regar abono y desherrar durante tres horas a la semana.

Sin embargo, para trabajar con la tierra, tenía que completar una solicitud de dos páginas, concertar una cita para conocer al coordinador del trabajo voluntario, ser aceptada, y luego hacer una visita obligatoria a los jardines. Qué gran esfuerzo para dar mi tiempo y mi talento gratis, pensé, mientras estaba parada frente a la ventana de mi cocina observando el patio.

Soy una mujer profesional de mediana edad con una maestría. He aprendido a superar los obstáculos y alcanzar las metas. Me pregunto cómo personas con menos experiencia, en particular mis ex alumnos, mantienen la resistencia que se necesita para conseguir un trabajo de voluntario.

# EU Refuerza Presencia Militar en la Zona Con Otros 11 mil Hombres

El gobierno del presidente de Estados Unidos, George W. Bush, ordenó el envío a Kuwait de 11 mil soldados de la primera y tercera brigada de la Tercera División de Infantería, que se unirán en ese país a sus camaradas de la segunda brigada.

Los cuatro mil soldados de la segunda brigada han practicado en el desierto desde septiembre.

Mientras Estados Unidos tomaba esa decisión, el régimen de Bagdad saludó ayer el ejemplo de Pyongyang, que resiste las presiones de Washington por su programa nuclear, mientras continuaban las inspecciones de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU) sobre el armamento iraquí.

"Nosotros, árabes, necesitamos revisar nuestro comportamiento respecto de Estados Unidos, como lo ha hecho Corea del Norte, para hacer respetar por éste", señaló el diario Babel del partido Baas (en el poder).

Para el periódico, "los árabes debemos aprender la lección a partir del ejemplo coreano para movilizarnos, impedir una agresión contra Irak y prevenir la cruzada estadounidense-sionista en el mundo árabe".

Babel defendió el derecho de Pyongyang a contar con tecnología nuclear y saludó "su posición valiente". Su ejemplo es un llamado a que "la ley internacional sea

aplicada a todos por igual", estimó el diario.

Por su parte, las inspecciones de armas de la ONU continuaron ayer en su jornada 33 desde que comenzaron el 25 de noviembre último. Los expertos visitaron cuatro lugares, según su portavoz, Hiro Ueki.

En Bagdad y sus alrededores especialistas en balística inspeccionaron la usina Al-Harith, en el vasto complejo militar de Al-Taji, químicos visitaron un centro de almacenamiento, biólogos fueron a una usina de bebidas alcohólicas y otros expertos fueron a una fábrica de bebidas gaseosas.

En aumento Estados Unidos ha estado aumentando sus fuerzas militares en la zona del Golfo Pérsico a medida que ha venido denunciado que el gobierno del presidente iraquí, Saddam Husein, está desarrollando armas biológicas, atómicas y químicas, pese a que los inspectores de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU) no hayan encontrado indicios de ello.

Las brigadas que suman los más de 15 mil soldados en la Tercera División de Infantería del Ejército, con cuartel general en Fort Steawart (Georgia), han llevado a cabo varios meses de prácticas de combate y operaciones por turnos en Kuwait y el Sur de California.

Buena parte de los pertrechos de



la Tercera División, incluidos muchos de sus 4,300 vehículos, se encuentran ya en Kuwait.

La semana pasada, el jefe del Pentágono, Donald Rumsfeld, puso en marcha el desplazamiento de tropas, aviones, barcos, tanques y otros equipos militares que elevarán de 60 mil a 100 mil el número de soldados estadounidenses en el Golfo, el mayor desplazamiento militar de este país desde la guerra de 1991.

La Marina de Guerra, que ya tiene en el Golfo al portaaviones Constellation con su grupo de batalla, desplazó al Harry S. Truman al Mediterráneo, desde donde podrá

pasar rápidamente a la región del eventual conflicto navegando por el Canal de Suez.

El portaaviones George Washington, que retornó recientemente a Norfolk (Virginia) con su grupo de batalla después de un turno de servicio en el Golfo, podría ser enviado de vuelta a la región, junto con el Kitty Hawk, que tiene su base en Japón.

La Marina de Guerra ordenó al portaaviones Abraham Lincoln y su grupo de combate, que permanezca en alta mar otros tres meses.

El Abraham Lincoln y las siete naves que lo escoltan habían com-

continúa en la página 6

# Rafting On A Voluntary Sea

By Marisella Veiga

I may be new in town and making cultural adaptations, but the concept of volunteering my time for another's benefit is not new. In fact, it's a way of life for those who were raised with extended family traditions.

What is different is that I'm part of a group I know little about, namely, people who apply and interview to officially volunteer.

In South Florida, where I settled for many years after emigrating from Cuba, I was part of an extended family. I also lived in a small town where people are active neighbors. Doing favors or helping these people took time, regularly, but it wasn't scheduled. The hours I dedicated to helping others do not appear anywhere on my resumé.

For three years, I was also on the

board of a social service agency, which is noted.

Then I moved to Alexandria, Va. My family was reduced to a husband and a dog, and my neighbors were not interested in letting me past the threshold of their doors. So I went to the local volunteer bureau to see who needed help. That's how it's done around here.

I searched through a long list of agencies and organizations. At first, a horticultural society appealed to me. I know subtropical and tropical plants fairly well, but I lack familiarity with local vegetation. I could certainly be a horticultural assistant, planting, mulching and weeding for three hours a week.

However, to dig in the dirt, I would need to complete a two-page application, make an appointment to meet with the volunteer coordi-

nator, be accepted, then take a mandatory tour of the gardens. What an effort it is to give my time and talent for free, I thought, as I stood at the kitchen window surveying my back yard.

I'm a middle-aged professional woman with a graduate degree. I've learned to overcome obstacles and reach goals. I wondered how less experienced people -- specifically, my former students -- kept the stamina needed to land volunteer jobs.

When the application came, I threw it away.

Clinics in northern Virginia need Spanish-English interpreters to help immigrants meet basic needs. I called one clinic four times. Finally, the volunteer coordinator answered the call and said they didn't need any more volunteers. She re-

ferred me to another clinic.

I called that person twice. After a few days I got a call back. I had to complete an application, attach my resumé and interview with two managers. Then a decision would be made. Once again, with so many formalities, I was becoming discouraged. What was the red tape all about? Was there some concerted effort to keep the meek out?

I put the process in the category of cultural differences and continued. I wondered, still, if others like me would want to do the same.

While I waited for the application to come, I decided that I really didn't want to work at the clinic. It would put me in the midst of the duller conversations: people discussing their medical problems.

I thought of my former students, the majority of whom live in a

small, agricultural town and come from extended families. They have responsibilities that include taking their elders to doctor's appointments, spending nights sleeping in hospital chairs, accompanying parents to government offices to translate. Sometimes, when a freeze threatens crops, they are out all night watering the fields with the farmers. All volunteers.

I considered the national trend for high school students completing required community service before graduation. By the time they graduate, they do quite a bit of volunteering that remains unaccounted for. Listing these hours on a college application is problematic.

For example, as a child I did translation and served as an interpreter for my great aunt and grandmother, who didn't speak English.

As I grew older, my vocabulary in both Spanish and English expanded as a result of translating official government documents, filling out forms and even negotiating work for them. Those continuous and time-intensive extracurricular activities sharpened my skills, but there is no record, no reference for future employment, volunteer or otherwise.

In my search, I did find two brief volunteer jobs, one of which was translating for someone who managed a community service program. Community service hours are court-ordered volunteer time for those who have committed crimes. Maybe if I had come through the system that way, I would have gotten my volunteer positions with less effort.

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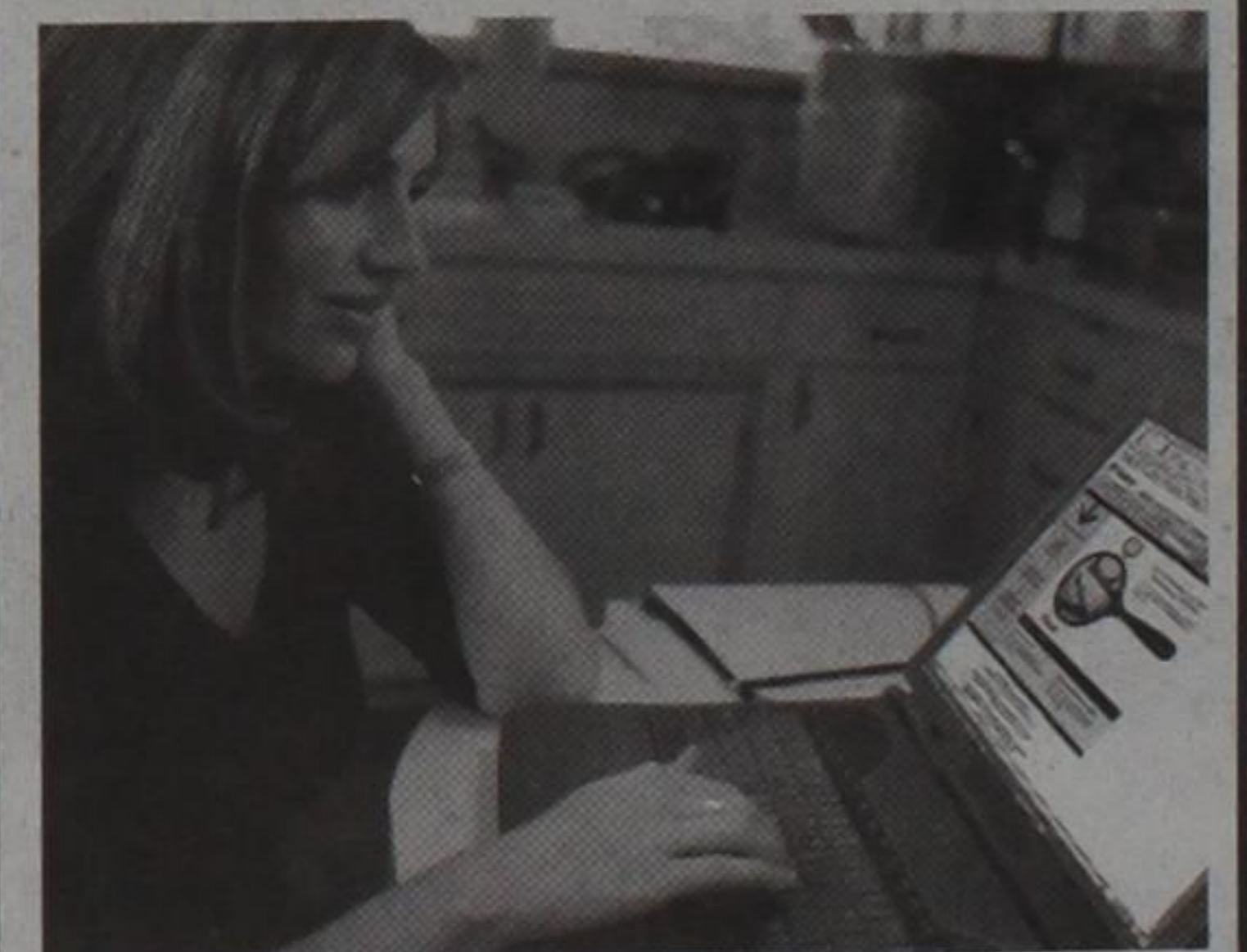
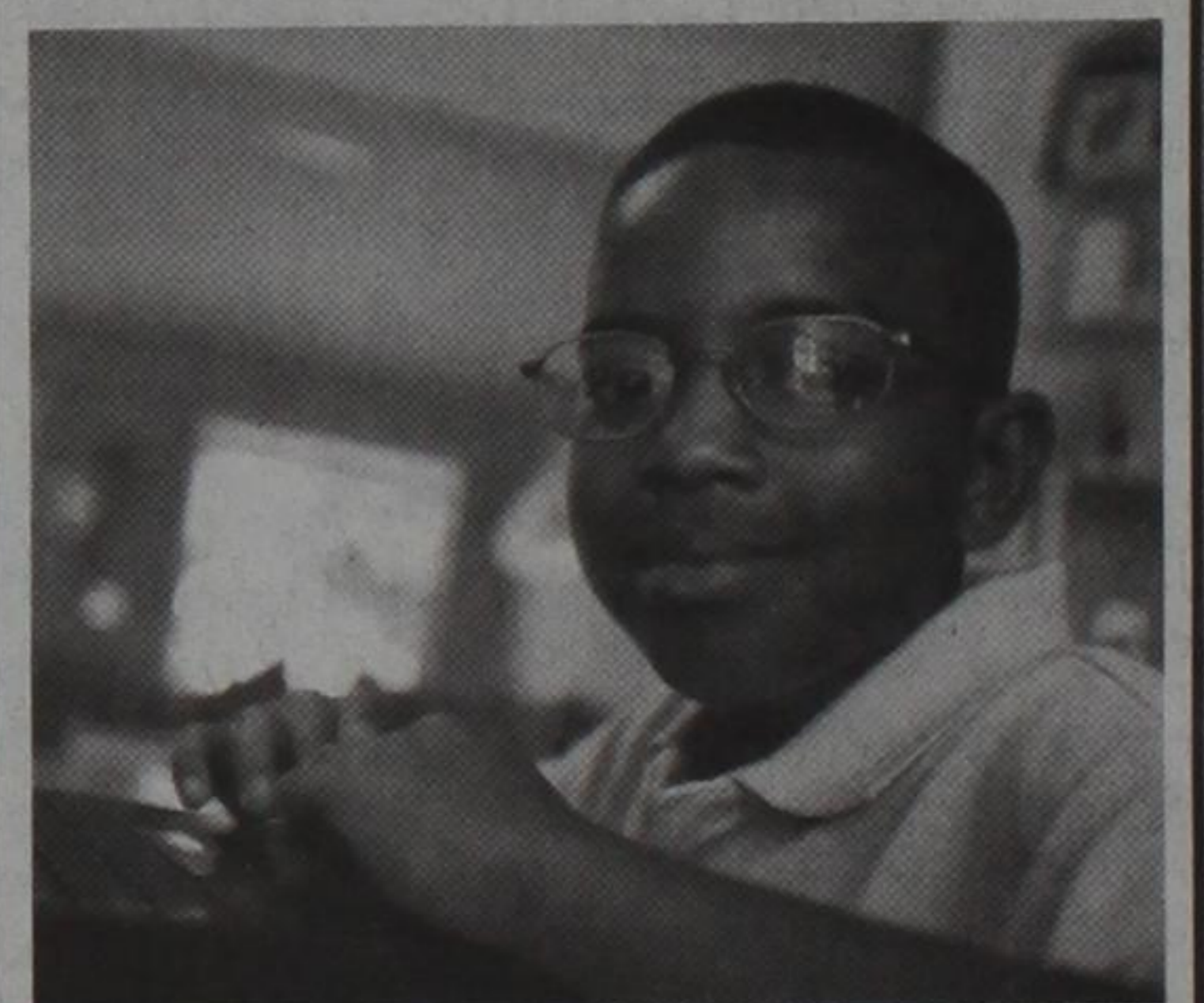
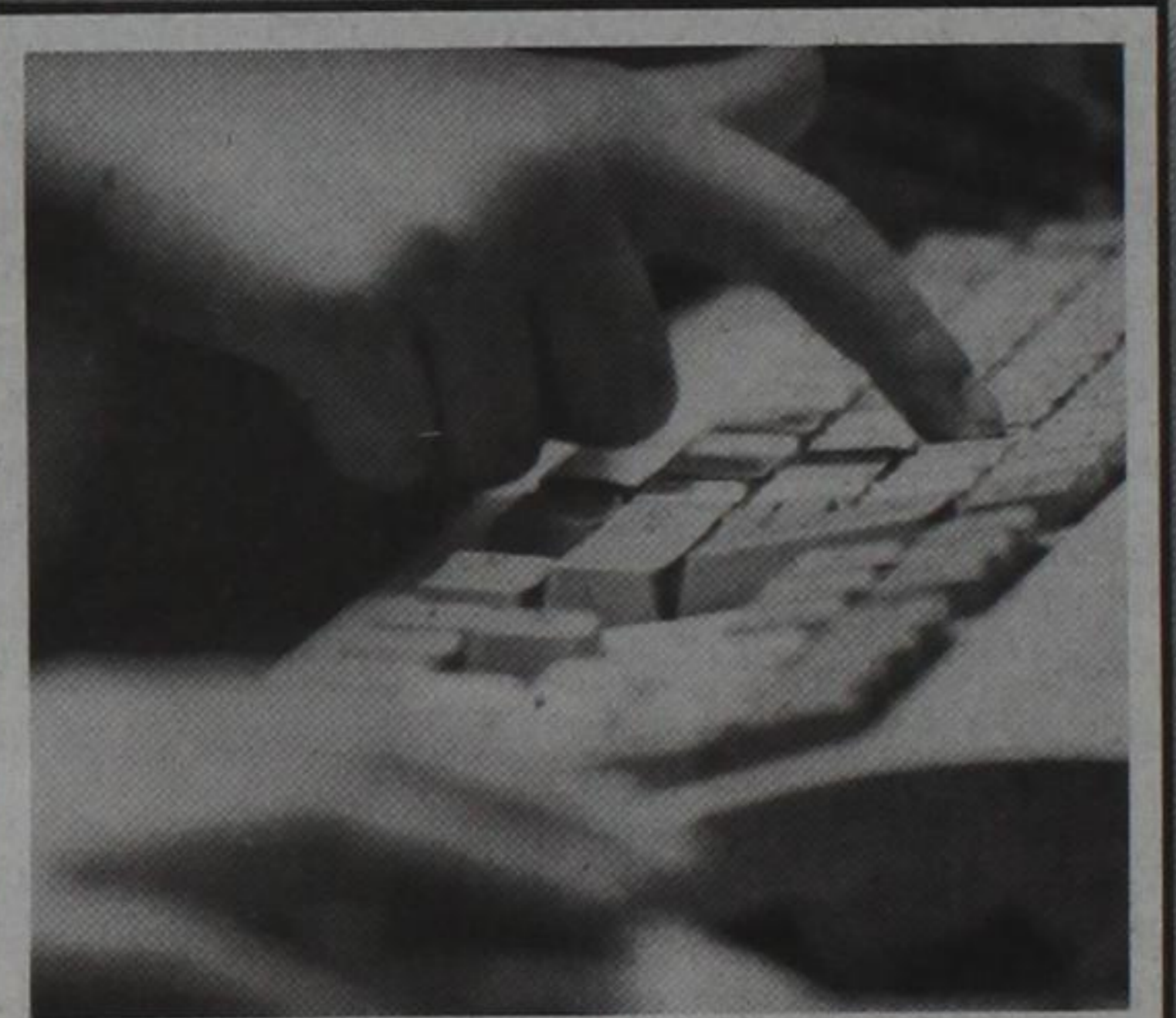
La Inclusión Digital es el principio bajo el cual se fundó la Fundación Beaumont de América. Nuestra visión es "cumplir la promesa de la Era Informativa mediante el suministro de acceso a la tecnología para los americanos y los conocimientos para utilizarla."

La Fundación Beaumont de América fue creada con fondos generados por la resolución de una demanda de grupo. Es un ejemplo extraordinario de como puede funcionar el sistema civil de justicia para marcar una

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# Majority Audience for 'Minority' Films

When the producers of "Drumline" asked 20th Century Fox for more money to make their movie, they made an inspired appeal. Yes, it's a movie about black college marching bands. Yes, there's but one non-black actor (and in a minor role). And yes, the movie's musicians range from Nappy Roots to Trick Daddy. But this is a movie for all audiences! Fox bought the argument, forking over \$20 million. "At first glance, you looked at 'Drumline' and said, 'It looks like an African American movie,'" says Bob Harper, Fox's vice chairman. "But then you look at it more closely and say, 'Whoa, it really works for everybody.'"

Working for everybody is the new battle cry for movies traditionally aimed at minority audiences. As recently as a few years ago, the studios looked upon black and Latino stories as movies targeted at filmgoers from only those ethnic groups. A studio might manage a small profit, but the limited size of the target audience would always curb the returns. But then the teen moviegoers who drive ticket sales began rejecting black-and-white labels. That rapid shift is sparking Hollywood's hottest phenomenon: movies that star minorities but attract moviegoers of all ethnicities.

"The young audience is much less racially confined than the older generation," says Tom Rothman, Fox's co-chairman. "Kids today are much less doctrinaire in the way they see the world." Two recent movies dramatize that shift. "Waiting to Exhale" and "Barbershop" are two black comedies with similar box-office grosses. The first film took in \$66 million in 1995 and the second movie more than \$74 million this year. Yet the parallel numbers actually tell completely divergent stories.

The audience for "Exhale," an adaptation of the Terry McMillan novel starring Whitney Houston, was 90% African American. Attendance at "Barbershop," starring Ice Cube as a haircutting entrepreneur, was far more diverse, with non-black audiences accounting for nearly 40% of ticket buyers.

In show business terms, it was a crossover hit. What changed? The rigid cultural segregation that existed a generation ago has vanished. White teens who once listened to Soul Asylum now follow Jay-Z, African Ameri-

can kids tune in Eminem; and high-schoolers everywhere wear baggy hip-hop clothes and laugh at Bernie Mac.

"It used to be if you showed African American images, you only got African American audiences," says Revolution Studios partner Tom Sherak. "But the younger audience is starting to see less color."

The latest entry in the crossover campaign, following "Barbershop" and last week's urban gangster drama "Empire," is "Drumline," a tale of two college marching bands and one talented but rebellious percussionist (Nick Cannon). Facing strong competition from Jennifer Lopez's "Maid in Manhattan" and a new "Star Trek" sequel, "Drumline" grossed \$13 million in its debut weekend, finishing in third place. Fox said 40% of its audience was non-African American.

"Four-quadrant" hit Hollywood's paradise on earth still remains the "four-quadrant" smash, a film appealing to both young and old, male and female. But reaching all segments of the audience is expensive and, consequently, risky. It often costs more than \$100 million to produce a blockbuster such as "Spider-Man," and mass-appeal titles require an additional \$50-million marketing blitzard to entice every demographic constituency.

Crossover movies can be a more attractive investment. Because they rely more on concepts than stars, they don't cost much. Universal and partner Arenas Entertainment purchased distribution rights to "Empire" for just \$650,000, and it has so far grossed an estimated \$10.7 million. MGM spent \$12 million making "Barbershop," and another \$12 million selling it. Fox Searchlight's "Brown Sugar" was made for \$8 million, and it grossed more than \$27 million.

Thrifty production budgets are only the start of the savings for these films. Advertising buyers can cheaply target the core demographic, rather than blow a fortune pitching a movie to all audiences (including many with zero interest in seeing it) by buying pricey spots on such mass-appeal TV shows as "The West Wing" (news - web sites). "Want to reach just middle-age Latinos? Buy an ad on Univision's talk show 'El Gordo y La Flaca.' Need young black males? Book a spot on KHHT-FM (92.3 FM). Thanks to tailored marketing such as this, the typical ad budget for an "urban" film is about \$10 million, a fraction of the resources committed for the average major studio release.

"That's why so many people are attracted to making movies for urban audiences," says Nancy Utley, Fox Searchlight's marketing chief. She sold "Brown Sugar" with TV spots on "Soul Train," "The Steve Harvey Show," "Cedric the Entertainer Presents," "Girlfriends" and "The Parkers." "These movies are easily targeted, and the African American audience is generally very reliable in coming out to see the movies."

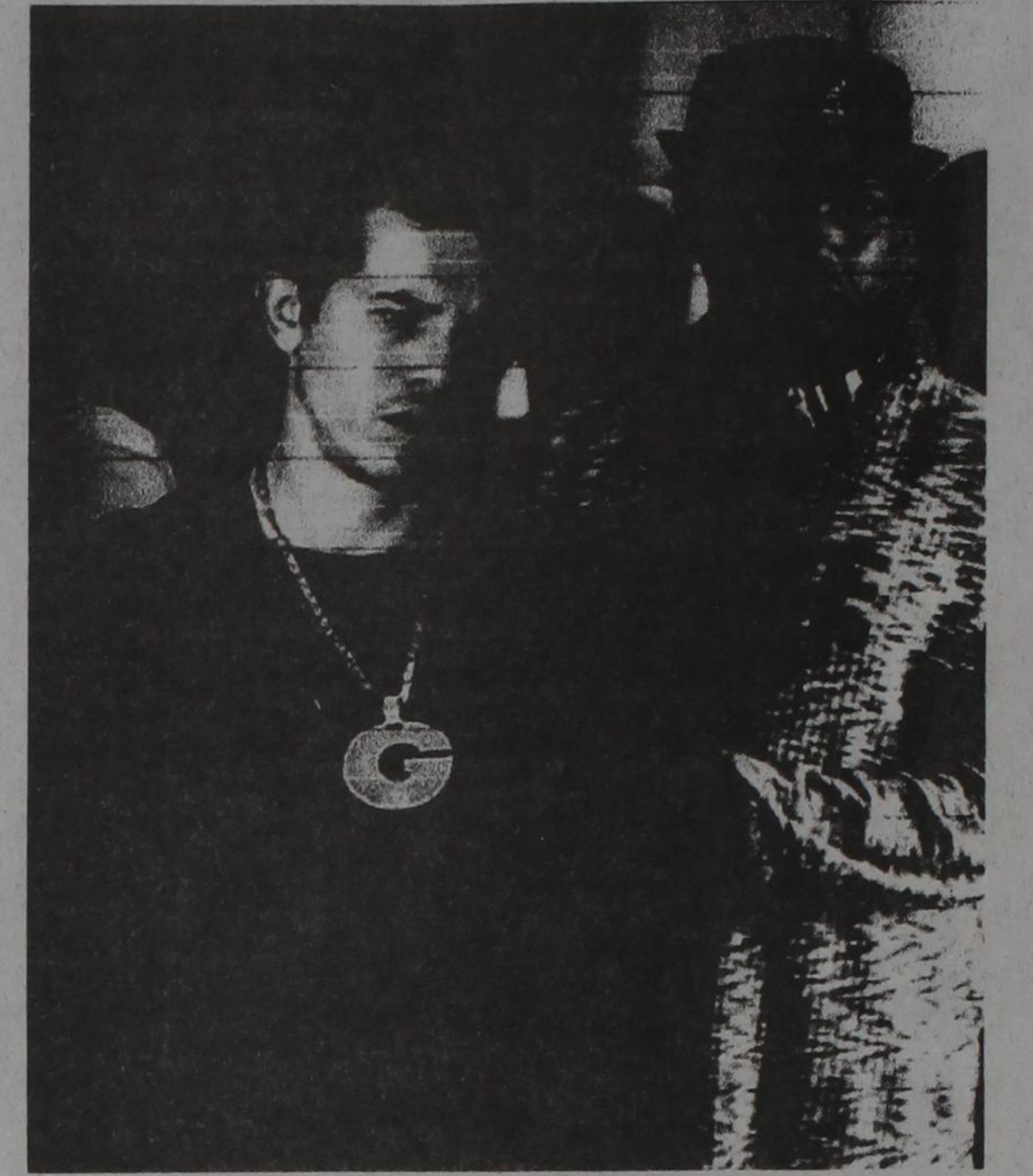
So, too, are more and more teens of all races. To broaden the fan base of "Barbershop," MGM committed a sixth of its marketing budget to

MTV. Slowly but surely, non-African Americans turned out. In its first weekend, 85% of "Barbershop's" audience was black or Latino. By the second weekend, it was 75%; by the third, 70%; and by the fourth, 60%. That crossover surge will make "Barbershop" one of 2002's most profitable releases.

Universal and partner Arenas had similar wide-appeal success with "Empire," whose first-weekend audience was 51% Latino, 21% Caucasian and 18% African Ameri-

where it was expected (such as Los Angeles and New York), but also in such cities as Boston and Denver.

Not all attempts to broaden an audience are successful. In a reverse instance of trying to cross over a movie to urban moviegoers, Artisan tried to attract young blacks to its much-admired documentary "Standing in the Shadows of Motown," booking the film into Magic Johnson Theatres in Los



can. The John Leguizamo movie actually crossed over within the Latino population as well: Just as Caucasian audiences are hardly homogenous, neither are Latinos.

Universal and Arenas drafted different "Empire" trailers for Eastern and Western markets to address regional differences. TV ads in New York and adjacent states, where the vast majority of Puerto Ricans live on the U.S. mainland, featured a scene from the movie of a traditional Puerto Rican meal of roast pork and fried plantains. In California and other Western states, the TV ad's food was replaced by other footage. To make the film's music appeal to a broader national audience, Universal added the DMX song "Fame" to both "Empire's" trailer and soundtrack, even though the song does not appear in the film itself. Universal put the "Empire" trailer on "8 Mile," further guaranteeing wide demographic exposure.

The strategy worked. Debuting in just 867 theaters, "Empire" grossed \$6.3 million in its premiere weekend, with the highest per-screen average among the Top 20 films. The movie performed strongly not only

in Los Angeles. But the core audience remained older, art-house moviegoers who grew up listening to the music.

Unlike critic-proof action movies that can generate huge opening numbers just by a familiar concept and extensive marketing — think "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" — urban movies actually have to be good to succeed. In fact, the crossover audience typically doesn't buy tickets until favorable word of mouth trickles down, and it is likely to be influenced strongly by reviews. "If a Mexican person tells you this is the best place for tacos and salsa, then you will go there to eat," says Santiago Pozo, Arenas' chief executive.

Some other crossover benefits can come from unexpected places. When Jesse Jackson and others protested "Barbershop's" jokes about civil-rights leaders, a movie just off the mainstream radar suddenly turned up on TV news programs and the front pages of major newspapers. "That controversy," says Alex Gartner, the MGM production president who supervised making the film, "probably brought us an extra \$10 million."

## Léa El Editor - Primero News That Matter



He wrote the final shooting draft but due to Writers Guild rules was denied any credit.

Honorary Oscars: To Whom This Year?

It's that time of the year again. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences may have already decided, or are in the process of deciding, who should get honorary Oscars.

Somewhere out there is a group that campaigns annually for Doris Day. The 77-year-old animal-rights activist was a better jazz singer than she was an actress, but Day has a loyal following and has done a lot for charity. She's also someone everyone remembers positively. She's a prime candidate. Of course, the only problem is that she doesn't care one way or the other.

My choice this year, as it was last, is Richard Widmark. Nomi-

nated only once in 1948 for his famous first role, as Tommy Udo in Kiss of Death, the 88-year-old Widmark has a long list of terrific performances in key movies.

Among his many hits were Pickup on South Street, Judgment at Nuremberg, Panic in the Streets and Cheyenne Autumn. His last movie was 1991's True Colors.

It's been a gross oversight that Widmark hasn't gotten recognition from the Academy. Maybe this year will be different.

I'm also starting to think there should be a special citation for the all the actors who were blacklisted in the 1950s.

Recently one blacklisted actor, Jeff Corey, passed away. But there are plenty who are still alive, including Lee Grant (who was nominated for Oscars subsequently) and John Randolph.



## Prayers for Celia Cruz

By Miguel Pérez

She wears colorful ruffled dresses, dances like a tornado and sings with a voice that drowns out musical instruments. Her name is Celia Cruz, a Fort Lee, N.J., resident who is the world's foremost ambassador of Afro-Cuban music.

She is black, Hispanic and beautiful. No other Latina commands the love and admiration felt for "the Queen of Latin Music."

And so when news broke that the 78-year-old diva was gravely ill and had undergone emergency surgery in New York on Dec. 5, the Hispanic community skipped a heartbeat. We feared the world would not be the same without her.

Everyone wanted to know just what was wrong with Celia. But no one was saying — not her manager, friends or family. After the surgery, she released a statement asking her fans to respect her privacy.

The silence led to conjecture in the media and gossip in the barrios. People said she either had cancer, a brain tumor or a heart ailment. Her illness couldn't be worse than the speculation. Now sources say she is recovering well and should be home soon.

Nevertheless, all the rumors are reasons for great concern by her millions of fans around the world. Everyone is wondering whether we'll see her perform again.

If it's up to Celia, I'm sure we will. Retirement has never been in her plans. When I met her in 1983, she was upset with an ambitious promoter in Colombia. To sell more concert tickets, the promoter had announced that it was her last appearance before her retirement.

"I had to go around telling people that it wasn't true," she said. "With the strength and health and willingness I feel to keep working, I'm not thinking of retiring. I'm not going to retire until I feel I can't sing any longer, or until the public no longer comes to my performances."

### Salma Hayek's Hit:

## Frida Passes \$20 Million

Forget all this Lord of the Rings, Gangs of New York, Catch Me If You Can stuff. The big news of the movie season is that Julie Taymor's Frida has just passed the \$20 million mark at the American box office.

Frida, the story of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo and her husband, artist Diego Rivera, only cost \$12 mil-

lion to make. Factoring in marketing costs, Frida is now not only profitable but could possibly make money in foreign releases and DVD/video sales and rentals.


Last week Frida took in an astonishing half-million dollars, even though it's playing in only a handful of theatres compared with many Christmas releases.

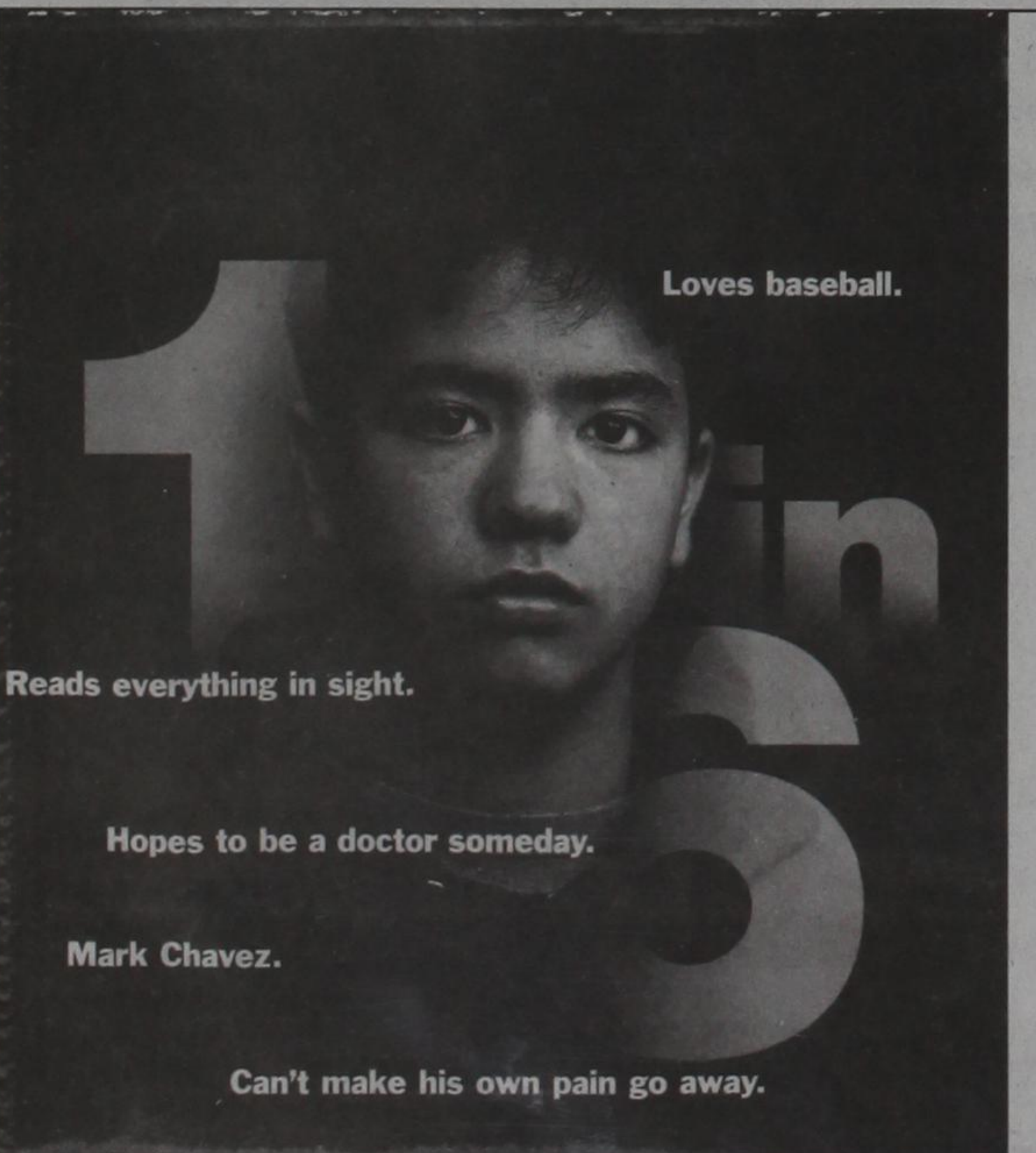
Of course, Frida is a movie with a history. At Miramax there was a public tug of war over how to edit it and which material should stay or go. Luckily it was decided in the end to keep the section in which Geoffrey Rush plays expatriated Russian Leon Trotsky.

Frida is up for a couple of Golden Globe awards on Jan. 19, including

**One out of every six children in America is living in a state of poverty** — ill-fed, ill-housed and with little or no access to health care. But who hears the cries of the nearly 12,000,000 children suffering under the weight of hunger and misery? Who feels the anguish of mothers mourning an infant mortality rate 50 percent higher than children on the other side of the poverty line? Who gives more than a passing glance to the 31,000,000 Americans struggling to rise above that cruel line? Who cares to notice?

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Mark Chavez.

Can't make his own pain go away.

**Sumario 2002 de los Medios Hispanos:**

**¿Avances Con Posibles Obstáculos?**

Por Joseph Torres

La compra de Telemundo por NBC, a un costo de \$2.7 mil millones fue una de las noticias más importantes en la industria de los medios de comunicación, que destaca la expansión de la comunidad latina en los Estados Unidos y la influencia de los medios de comunicación en español.

Cuando NBC compró a Telemundo, prometió hacer las cadenas de difusión en español más competitivas con Univisión, la cadena en español dominante en la nación. Sin embargo, mientras NBC trató de aumentar la teleaudiencia de Telemundo, Univisión también buscó aumentar su dominio. Univisión anunció en junio pasado que planea fusionarse con Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation, la mayor propietaria de emisoras de radio en español de la nación.

El posicionamiento de NBC y de Univisión subraya el cambio en el ámbito de los medios de comunicación como resultado de la consolidación. En septiembre, la Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones (FCC por sus siglas en inglés) anunció un aviso sobre una propuesta de ley para rescibir los reglamentos actuales de la nación sobre la propiedad de cadenas de difusión que permitiría más fusiones. No obstante, la propuesta ha encontrado oposición.

También en el 2002, Juan González, uno de los periodistas latinos de mayor influencia en el país, fue electo presidente de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos (NAHJ por sus siglas en inglés). González prometió presionar a la industria de manera más agresiva para aumentar la presencia de latinos en las salas de redacción noticiosas y monitorear la manera en que la fusión en los medios de comunicación ha afectado la calidad del periodismo.

NBC/TELEMUNDO  
Una coalición de organizaciones hispanas, incluido el Concilio Nacional de La Raza, desafiaron la

compra de Telemundo por NBC. Las organizaciones entienden que el acuerdo no sirve a los mejores intereses de la comunidad hispana en la nación. La FCC rechazó el desafío y aprobó el acuerdo en abril.

La American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (la federación americana de artistas de televisión y de radio) solicitó a NBC extender la representación del sindicato a los empleados de Telemundo que salen al aire en Chicago y en Los Angeles. Todos los empleados de Telemundo en Chicago firmaron una petición pública solicitando representación. El grupo de congresistas hispanos escribió a NBC pidiéndole a la cadena que honrara la petición.

Por su parte, NBC se negó, con el argumento de que el proceso debería pasar por la National Labor Relations Board (la junta nacional de relaciones laborales).

UNIVISION/HBC  
Univisión Communications anunció que se propone comprar la Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation en un acuerdo bursátil de \$3.5 mil millones que fusiona la cadena de televisión en español más grande de la nación con la compañía de radio hispana más grande del país. HBC es propietaria de 55 emisoras en la nación. La fusión propuesta permitiría que Univisión fuera propietaria de cadenas de radio, televisión y emisiones por cable, así como de compañías de música y compañías en la red, dándole ventaja sobre sus competidores al extender ofertas publicitarias.

La fusión anunciada llevó al Spanish Broadcasting System (SBS por sus siglas en inglés) a presentar una demanda contra HBC y contra la propietaria de emisoras de radio más grande de la nación, Clear Channel Communications, con el reclamo de que las compañías violaron leyes antimonopolio. Clear Channel es propietaria de un 26 por ciento de HBC.

SBS, la compañía de radio diri-

gida por hispanos más grande del país, también estaba buscando fusionarse con HBC.

LA REVISIÓN DE LAS REGULACIONES POR LA FCC

La Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones anunció en septiembre su revisión más exhaustiva en la historia sobre las regulaciones de propiedad de las cadenas de difusión en la nación. La comisión examinará varias preguntas, entre las cuales figura si la revisión de las regulaciones promoverá la competencia y una mayor diversidad. La comisión está revisando las siguientes regulaciones: propiedad cruzada de periódicos/cadenas de difusión, propiedad de las emisoras radiales locales, propiedad de las emisoras televisivas nacionales, propiedad de múltiples emisoras televisivas, propiedad cruzada de radio/televisión, cadenas de televisión compartidas.

El comisionado de la FCC Michael Copps, demócrata, ha expresado preocupación por la rapidez con la que la comisión está buscando rescribir las leyes sobre la propiedad. Copps pretende llevar a cabo sus propias vistas por el país en el 2003, en la cuales invita al público a expresar sus preocupaciones sobre la fusión. Grupos de interés público como el Media Access Project y el Center for Digital Democracy han criticado a la FCC por no examinar con detenimiento los reglamentos de la propiedad y no dedicar más tiempo para recopilar la opinión del público antes de emitir el anuncio sobre la propuesta de ley.

Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos (NAHJ por sus siglas en inglés) Tras la elección de Juan González como presidente de la NAHJ en junio, la junta de la organización desarrolló y aprobó un plan estratégico de cinco años para crear el "Parity Project" (proyecto para la igualdad) con el propósito de aumentar la fuerza laboral latina en los mayores medios de comunicación de imprentas y de difusión

en varias ciudades específicas.

En noviembre, González se debatió con William McGowan, autor de "Coloring the News: How Crusading for Diversity Has Corrupted American Journalism", en el National Press Club, organización que otorgó a McGowan el premio del club más importante del 2002 por la crítica a los medios de comunicación.

EN OTRAS NOTICIAS:

La Radio-Television News Director Association (la asociación de directores de noticieros de radio y televisión, RTNDA por sus siglas en inglés) encontró en su encuesta anual dada a conocer en julio que los latinos comprenden un 6.1 por ciento de todos los empleados en los noticieros que trabajan en emisoras televisivas en inglés en el 2001, una baja del 7.3 por ciento del año anterior. La encuesta informó que la contratación de latinos en los noticieros en las emisoras radiales en inglés disminuyó de un 5.5 por ciento a 2.4 por ciento.

El por ciento de latinos en el personal de los noticieros de los diarios aumentó poco, de un 3.7 por ciento a un 3.8 por ciento, según el informe anual de la American Society of Newspaper Editors (sociedad americana de editores de periódicos) publicado en abril.

Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting dio a conocer un estudio en la edición de junio de su revista Extra! el cual encontró que un 92 por ciento de todas las fuentes entrevistadas por televisión en los noticieros nocturnos de ABC, CBS y NBC en el 2001 eran personas blancas. Además encontró que de 14,632 de las fuentes sólo un 7.0 por ciento era negro, 0.6 latino, y 0.2 asiático.

La RTNDA otorgó al programa Latino USA de la National Public Radio el premio Edward R Murrow en la categoría de reportaje investigativo.

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**Pancho Clos a Great Success!**

American GI Forum had Pancho Clos at the Maggie Trejo Supercenter on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2002 and it was a great success. The attendance was tremendous and the kids were full of joy and happiness. Parents and children went out of their way to visit and get acquainted with Pancho Clos.

All photos were taken by John P. Cervantez and can be reached for photo appointments 744-1654.



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**Tabaquismo de los Padres Afecta Arterias de los Hijos**



menté. Los investigadores compararon sus resultados con los obtenidos de un grupo de niños no expuestos a fumadores. Los niveles del compuesto en la sangre y la orina resultaron elevados si los niños estaban expuestos al humo de los familiares fumadores.

"Aún si estaban expuestos al humo de menos de 20 cigarrillos por día y con uno de los mayores fumando en la casa, los niveles (del compuesto 8-epi-PGF2alfa) en la sangre se elevaron entre el 35 y el 50 por ciento, y en la orina entre el 20 y el 30 por ciento", añadió Sinzinger. El aumento del número de cigarrillos fumados en el hogar se relaciona con los niveles más altos de ese compuesto, y los investigadores determinaron que si tanto el padre como la madre fuman más de 40 cigarrillos por día, los niveles del compuesto en la sangre de los niños aumentaban hasta el 130 por ciento.

Sinzinger. A los niños se les agrupó en categorías de acuerdo con el nivel de tabaquismo de sus familias, dependiendo de la cantidad de cigarrillos que fumaban diaria-

Los niños en hogares donde los padres fuman corren un 50 por ciento más de riesgo de tener problemas en sus arterias que aquellos cuyos progenitores no son adictos al tabaco, según un estudio austriaco difundido la semana pasada en

Los resultados de la investigación fueron presentados ante la Asociación Cardíaca de Estados Unidos, que celebró días atrás su congreso anual en Chicago. "Hay pruebas crecientes de que la exposición al tabaquismo de otras personas -el humo de segunda mano- destruye las defensas antioxidantes, lo cual perjudica las funciones de las paredes arteriales de la misma manera que ocurre con el comienzo de la arterioesclerosis", dijo Helmut Sinzinger, investigador de la Universidad de Viena.

"Esa enfermedad (arterioesclerosis), llamada disfunción endotelial, es un marcador biológico importante del daño de las vías circulatorias", agregó. Los radicales libres son moléculas inestables producidas durante la oxidación, y pueden dañar las células del cuerpo. A este daño se le llama el estrés oxidativo, y es notablemente más común entre los niños expuestos al humo de fumadores. Para medir el daño de oxidación, los investigadores austriacos examinaron los niveles de un compuesto biológico llamado 8-epi-PGF2alfa en la sangre y la orina de 71 niños y 87 niñas de 3 a 15 años. Ese compuesto se forma cuando los radicales libres atacan el ácido que contribuye a la dilatación de los vasos sanguíneos, la prevención de coágulos y la reacción a las inflamaciones. "Ese compuesto es un constrictor muy potente de los vasos sanguíneos y puede contribuir a crear espasmos de los vasos sanguíneos, lo cual crea las condiciones para la formación de coágulos de la sangre", añadió

**LULAC 263 will host a 'Meet the Candidate for Congress' on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.. The event will be held at the LULAC 263 Hall which is located on 13th & Ave. O**

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## Una Tragedia Ensombrece el Fin de Año en México

BOMBEROS INTENTAN apagar un fuego que se produjo tras una fuerte explosión en un local que almacenaba productos pirotécnicos en el puerto de Veracruz, México. Al menos 28 personas murieron y otras 70 resultaron heridas.

La explosión de un puesto de venta de cohetes y la reacción en cadena de otros negocios callejeros de material pirotécnico ocasionaron una tragedia con un saldo preliminar de 28 muertos en la víspera del Año Nuevo, en el centro del puerto de Veracruz, en el Golfo de México.

El alcalde de Veracruz, José Ramón Gutiérrez, indicó ayer que unas 30 personas fueron atendidas con problemas respiratorios, heridas y quemaduras de diferente gravedad.

Gutiérrez hizo un balance de la tragedia y precisó en conferencia de prensa que la primera explosión se produjo a las 5:30 p.m. en la esquina de las calles Hidalgo y Juan Soto, donde había un puesto clandestino de almacenamiento y venta de cohetes.

Frente a ese lugar se ubicaba otra bodega clandestina que también saltó en pedazos. La estela de fuego consumió 47 puestos de venta de mercancías y comida, y destruyó 12 edificios, la mayoría comerciales.

El agente de la Fiscalía local Ignacio Avilés declaró a la prensa que

las explosiones y el incendio en el mercado de Hidalgo, situado en el casco antiguo de la ciudad, dejó 32 muertos, 15 desaparecidos y 27 lesionados, de los cuales 17 ya fueron dados de alta.

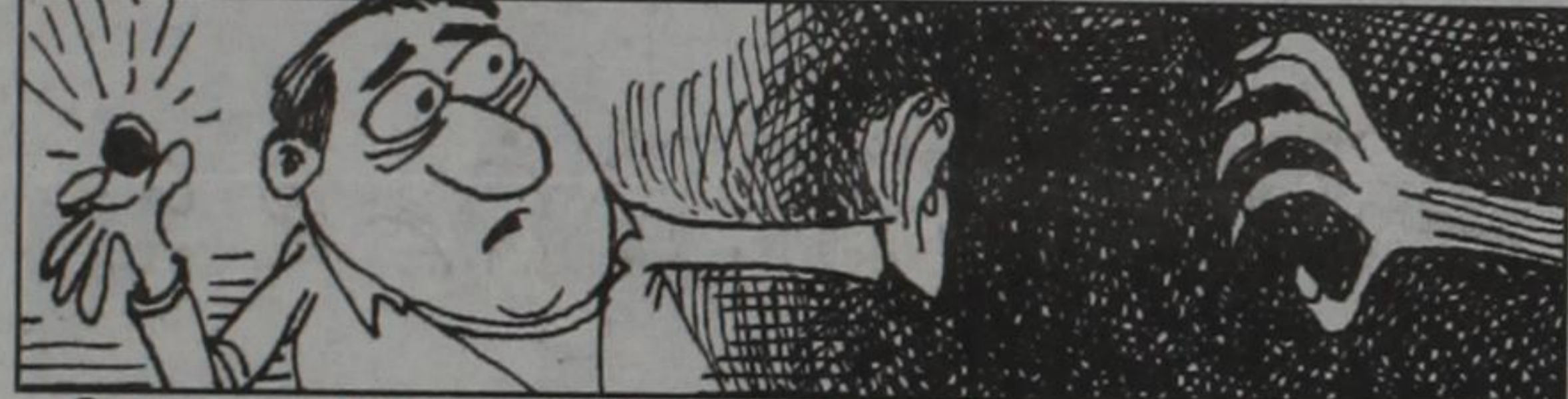
Fuentes periodísticas habían indicado que el número de muertos ascendía a 38 y que el de desaparecidos sobrepasaba los 50, aunque no se confirmó esa versión.

Respecto a las numerosas versiones que se manejan sobre la tragedia, el coordinador operativo de Protección Civil de Veracruz, Josué Cinta, indicó que la cifra oficial es de 28 muertos: 15 que quedaron en la vía principal, y 13 encontrados durante la remoción de los escombros.

También enfatizó que aún no se conocen las causas que produjeron la tragedia, aunque dijo que las hipótesis más probables tienen que ver con la manipulación ilegal de material pirotécnico.

Las autoridades decomisaron ayer cuatro toneladas de cohetes en la zona y detuvieron a cinco personas que escondían pólvora, mientras mantienen aislada la zona con efectivos del Ejército.

El alcalde Gutiérrez afirmó que gracias a la rápida reacción de los bomberos se evitó que hicieran explosión dos tanques de gas que contenían 2,000 litros de combustible.



Some people once believed that a sapphire would protect the wearer against the powers of darkness

## 'Fair Roads Standard' Offer Police Free, Fair Baseline for Racial Profiling Data

Calculations can be done in 20 minutes without hiring expensive consultants (Austin, TX) To ensure fair and useful reporting under Texas' new racial profiling law, four organizations today jointly mailed hundreds of letters to Texas police chiefs and county sheriffs urging them to use the recommended "Fair Roads Standard" baseline in their reporting.

As 2002 comes to an end, so also do Texas police departments come to the end of their first year of collecting racial profiling data under SB 1074, a bill passed in the 77th 2001 legislative session requiring local law enforcement agencies to collect data on the race of people subjected to traffic stops and vehicle searches.

"We've been gratified so many departments have viewed SB 1074 as an opportunity to improve relations with the community and to better local police practices, said ACLU of Texas Executive Director Will Harrell, adding that "the law has increased both officer safety and police accountability."

Now that data must be interpreted and reported. On March 1, 2003, more than 1,000 Texas law enforcement agencies will be required to

report that first year's data to their local governing bodies.

Four organizations concerned with civil rights - the ACLU of Texas, NAACP of Texas, Texas LULAC, and the Texas Criminal Justice Reform Coalition - have jointly endorsed a single, statewide baseline for comparing racial profiling data called the Fair Roads Standard. That standard is based on data from the 2000 US Census using questions regarding vehicle availability, or whether respondents had access to cars.

Other baselines had shortcomings, the groups said. Proposals to use Texas drivers license data ignore the fact that Texas license data lumps together whites and Latinos, even though the law requires they be analyzed separately. "Road surveys" advocated by some academics are expensive and not feasible for the large number of individual Texas departments, said the groups in the letter.

By comparison, the Fair Roads Standard uses US Census data that is directly on point regarding who uses the roads, and it's simple for departments to implement. "There are consultants both in Texas and Washington D.C. who are charging

departments a fee to produce their March 1 reports, but that's an unnecessary cost to taxpayers," Harrell said. "Baselines under the Fair Roads Standard can be calculated in just 20 minutes, for free, and we're giving departments a detailed methodology to do it," he said.

Neither state law nor guidelines recommended by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) specify a single baseline to which departments may compare data. But the organizations promoting the Fair Roads Standard fear that if racial profiling data is not comparable among jurisdictions, it will be useless.

"To be of any use at all, racial profiling data must be compared to a single, statewide baseline that reflects a realistic assessment of who is actually driving on Texas roads. To do anything else would undermine the purpose of the statute," Harrell said.

The four organizations, along with the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMET), are sponsoring a state wide symposium on racial profiling data analysis in Austin on January 31st, 2003 for law enforcement agencies and community leaders.

## EU Refuerza Presencia Militar

Viene de la pagina 3

pletado ya su turno de navegación de seis meses y habían zarpado de Australia con rumbo a su puerto de base en Everett (Washington).

Pero el Pentágono le ordenó seguir en la región occidental del océano Pacífico y se preparara para una posible acción en el Golfo.

Hacia fines de enero estarán en la región, o a distancia de un ataque a Irak, al menos cuatro portaaviones de Estados Unidos, con un total de 300 aviones, capaces de asestar a los iraquíes el asalto aéreo que los expertos creen la clave de esa eventual campaña de Washington.

La guerra de 1991 para la expulsión de las tropas iraquíes que habían invadido Kuwait, se inició con cinco semanas de bombardeos en los que Estados Unidos demostró los rudimentos de sus "bombas inteligentes" y lo mejor hasta entonces de sus misiles guiados.

Una década más tarde, y con tecnología mucho más avanzada, los expertos creen que a Estados Unidos le bastarán unos cuatro o cinco días de ataques aéreos para demoler la estructura defensiva de Irak antes de que comience el asalto de la infantería y los tanques.

Bush, que lleva meses empujando fuerzas militares en torno a Irak, dijo el martes que Bagdad amenaza a Estados Unidos con alguna forma de ataque, no especificada, que podría quebrantar la economía estadounidense.

La semana pasada, el Pentágono alertó a la 101 División Aerotransportada, con cuartel en Fort Campbell (Kentucky), y a la Primera Fuerza Expedicionaria del Cuerpo de Infantería de Marina, que cuenta con 17,500 soldados y tiene su cuartel en Camp Pendleton, que pronto podrían marchar al Golfo.

## Cavazos Beginner And Advanced Choirs



Photo by John P. Cervantez 744-1654 On Dec. 17, the Cavazos Choir held a Winter Concert in the school auditorium. The attendance was tremendous and everyone had a great time. The concert was directed by Marcy Galvan.



Photo by John P. Cervantez 744-1654 A Salvation Army volunteer was at the United Supermarket at Parkway Drive during the collection of funds for the needed. All volunteers are greatly appreciated.

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