

Super Bowl XXXV

TAMPA, Fla. They both know the agony of losing in a championship game.

Three times in fact. That's why Sunday's Super Bowl is so special for the two men in charge of building these two Super teams, two men who happen to be good friends.

Ozzie Newsome had a brilliant career with the Browns, but his teams never reached the Super Bowl. (Allsport)

Ernie Accorsi, the New York Giants general manager, felt the heartache of a title game loss three times while working for the Cleveland Browns as executive vice president for football operations.

Ozzie Newsome, the Baltimore Ravens vice president of player personnel, was a Pro Bowl tight end on all three of those teams. They were both there when John Elway engineered The Drive. And they both felt the sting when Ernest Byner's fumble prevented the Browns from a tying touchdown in another title loss to the Broncos.

I told Ozzie a story recently that I still can see the vision of him on the field after Byner fumbled, with his shoulders slumped, wondering if he would ever get there, Accorsi said. Those losses hurt us all.

"There is a lot of emptiness in my life, a lot of unfulfillment because of those three losses," Newsome said. "Winning this year has erased some of it. A chance to prepare to go to the Big Dance has helped erase some of it. It will never go away, though. Losing those games as a player has caused an emptiness that can never be totally filled."

So they both come to Tampa, the architects of the two Super Bowl teams, trying to quench a thirst that has given them a taste of dry mouth for nearly two decades. One will finally quench it with a victory Sunday, while the other will have to wait longer.

"If it can't be me, I'm glad it will be him," Newsome said.

"I agree," Accorsi said. "I'd be upset, but I'd be happy for Ozzie."

That's the kind of bond the two have. It's a bond that goes back to those Cleveland years when Accorsi noticed Newsome always had an interest in personnel as a player.

"He was always talking about the draft," Accorsi said.

That's because after a career that eventually earned him a Hall of Fame induction, Newsome knew he wanted to stay in the game. He considered both coaching and personnel, and did both for a year. He served as a special assistant on the Browns staff and also helped in personnel.

"I remember the first draft meeting I attended," Newsome said. "Ernie let me get right into all aspects of it. A lot of times with a player there can be paranoia. He never had that with me. He really exposed me to the things I needed to do. He sent me right out on the road. I was like that little baby bird. He kicked me out of the nest."

Said Accorsi: "We put him to work right away. The first time he spoke in the draft room, it was like he had been in there for years. It all came so natural to him."

Accorsi was his mentor, teaching him the ways of scouting the same way he was taught some years earlier. Only Accorsi's path didn't take

him from the NFL field to the front office. His was markedly different. He went from sportswriter to personnel guru.

Think about that for a moment: Coaches think sportswriters know nothing anyway, so you can only imagine the reaction Accorsi received upon his entrance into the exclusive NFL club.

The guy who once covered the Philadelphia 76ers for the Philadelphia Inquirer, and later moved into PR with the Baltimore Colts, had to deal with a lot of animosity along the way to his current job.

"A lot of guys resent you" Accorsi said. "But you know how you get respect? You get it by beating them. What's their records against me? Nothing else matters. I don't apologize for the way I got here. I've been in personnel 23 years. You can become a Cardinal in 23 years."

He first became interested in scouting while with the Colts. It was there while working for Joe Thomas and George Young that Accorsi said he learned his personnel techniques.

"You're basically evaluating talent all your life," Accorsi said. "When you're a kid and you're picking out sides on the baseball field, don't you decide who's the best players so you can pick them? I've done it all my life."

Thomas and Young helped him hone those instincts.

News Briefs

U.S. Border officials fear El Salvador post-earthquake influx

U.S. Immigration officials fear that the earthquake that devastated El Salvador nine days ago will spawn a wave of illegal immigrants trying to cross the U.S.-Mexican border.

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials say that after a natural disaster hits a Central or South American country, the flow of immigrants into the United States increases dramatically.

Douglas Mosier, a spokesman for the U.S. Border Patrol in El Paso, Texas, said that this migratory pattern will likely begin in two to four weeks.

Mosier said that history has shown that people affected by a disaster generally decide to leave their native countries in search of a better life during this period of time.

U.S. Border Patrol statistics show that of the 115,707 illegal immigrants arrested on the U.S.-Mexican border during fiscal 2000 in western Texas and New Mexico, 161 were Salvadoran.

In January, arrests along the border have increased 30 percent compared to December.

This is mainly due, however, to the number of immigrants who traveled to their native countries to spend Christmas and New Years with their families and then encountered problems re-entering the United States.

Fernando Garcia, director of the Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Project, said his group is working with the National Coalition for Dignity and Amnesty to gather support to request a general amnesty.

The proposal's signatories are requesting that residency be granted to Salvadorans who are living under any type of irregular situation in the United States such as those who are being held in INS detention centers.

According to Garcia, there are thousands of Salvadorans in the United States who are living in legal limbo as the U.S. Congress last year would not extend the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) to also benefit people from El Salvador.

Carlos Santana to be named hometown's favorite son

Mexican guitarist Carlos Santana will be named the favorite son of the city where he was born, Autlan, in the western Mexican state of Jalisco, on Feb. 27.

Autlan Mayor Armando Perez traveled to San Francisco, California, on Jan. 12 to announce the city's decision to Santana and receive confirmation that he will attend the ceremony.

Santana will also be given the keys to the city and will unveil a bust of his father, Jose Santana.

The musician, who now lives in California, visited Autlan last year to appear in a show with the Mexican group Mana. "Santana has always been close to his town," Perez told the press, and he praised the guitarist's modesty, "despite being an international star."

According to the mayor, "Santana is excited about the tribute, especially because, although there are a street and a park named after him, there had never been a tribute like this."

Santana is scheduled to arrive in Jalisco on the day of the tribute with his mother, Josefina Barragan, and his children.

The author of "Black Magic Woman," and "Oye Como Va," who is one of the most famous performers of Latino music in the world, won nine Grammy awards last year for his latest release, "Supernatural."

Number of AIDS cases among blacks and Latinos up sharply

The number of AIDS cases among African-Americans and Hispanics in New York rose sharply this past year, according to figures compiled by the state's Health Department and published Wednesday in Newsday.

Of the 146 black male homosexuals between the ages of 23 and 29 who were tested for HIV, 48 tested positive, or 32.9 percent of the total.

In the case of Hispanic homosexuals, 28 of 197 men tested positive, or 14.2 percent of the test group.

However, of the 106 white male homosexuals who underwent tests, only two tested positive, and of the 40 Asians that were tested, none were infected.

The complete study of New York's Health Department, conducted between March 1999 and July 2000, will be released at a conference for AIDS specialists to be held in Chicago in two weeks.

Experts say that between 4.5 and 6.3 percent of young homosexual men are infected each year with the AIDS virus in New York.

Appointment of Cuban-American Martinez as HUD chief confirmed

Melvin Martinez on Tuesday became the first Cuban-American member of a U.S. government cabinet, when the Senate unanimously upheld his appointment as new head of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The U.S. Senate also unanimously gave the green light to the new head of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi, and Mitch Daniels, who will head the Office of Management and Budget.

Martinez, 54, arrived in the United States in 1962 as part of Operation Peter Pan, which brought thousands of Cuban children and teenagers to the United States.

The former chairman of Orange County, Florida, who actively cooperated with the George W. Bush presidential campaign, was appointed HUD chief on Dec. 20.

Another Hispanic, Henry Cisneros, was the first director of HUD under the Bill Clinton administration.

In 1962, Martinez arrived in the United States with group of 14,000 Cuban children and was housed in an overcrowded Catholic Charities camp in Miami.

Both Democrats and Republicans praised the appointment of Martinez as truly representing "the embodiment of the American dream."

Martinez, who will be sworn in as new HUD chief, with a \$30 billion annual budget, in the next few hours, faces the tremendous challenge of alleviating the housing problem for low-income U.S. families.

Republican Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida said that Martinez's was not a political appointment, "but an acknowledgment of his ability and leadership."

"Our Cuban exile community is particularly grateful for Mel's help in the case of Elian Gonzalez, when he sponsored the child's visit to Disney World," she said.

Martinez, married with three children, invited Elian and his Miami relatives to visit Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Another Hispanic, Linda Chavez, was appointed secretary of Labor, but was forced to withdraw her candidacy after being brought to task for once having employed an undocumented Guatemalan immigrant.

Bush also appointed another Hispanic, Texas Supreme Court Justice Albert Gonzales, as White House counsel. Cuban-Americans were the only sector within the Hispanic community who threw their weight behind Bush in the Nov. 7 presidential elections.

"El Respeto al
Derecho Ajeno
es La Paz."
"Respect for
the Rights of
Others is Peace"
Lic. Benito
Juarez

EL EDITOR

Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers
Vol. XXIII No. 17 Week of January 25, thru January 31, 2001 Lubbock, Tx

Los Salvadoreños De Todos Los EEUU Abren Sus Corzones A Las Víctimas

Por Cynthia L. Oroscó

A medida que los Estados Unidos se mueven de un modo algo truculento hacia la entrada de una nueva era política y social, la atención de más de un millón de salvadoreños que ahora residen aquí permanece inmovilizada sobre la seguridad y el bienestar de las familias y los amigos que dejaron atrás.

Los corazones y las bolsas de los salvadoreños que se hallan en los Estados Unidos - cuyas mayores concentraciones viven en Los Angeles (600,000), Washington, DC. (135,000) y Houston (80,000) - permanecen con las familias y los amigos de los pueblos asolados en mayor medida por el terremoto del 13 de enero que desafió una vez más a la fe de sus 6,200,000 habitantes.

Desde que empezaron a dirigirse al norte debido a la opresión política y a la inestabilidad económica, hace dos decenios, los refugiados de aquella nación han establecido comunidades importantes en otras ciudades de los Estados Unidos, tales como Dallas, Miami, San Francisco y Nueva York.

Pero no han olvidado sus raíces. Cientos de salvadoreños y otros miembros de la comunidad latina, así como organizaciones de salud y religiosas, se han unido a otros grupos y agencias para ayudar a las víctimas del terremoto impresionante. Ellos continúan aceptando donativos de dinero, suministros médicos y alimentos, así como dando de sus propios recursos y tiempo.

El terremoto, que registró una lectura de 7.6 en la escala de Richter y produjo más de 1,000 temblores posteriores, provocó el derrumbe de una colina por sobre el pueblo de Santa Tecla, a seis millas al oeste de San Salvador, sepultando a una subdivisión, Las Colinas, bajo más de 25 pies de tierra.

Cientos de hogares fueron destruidos en Comasagua, La Libertad, San Miguel, San Vicente, Sonsonate y Usulután.

Se ha confirmado que murieron más de 700 personas, que hay más de 1,000 lesionadas y cientos han desaparecido todavía. El temblor, que se sintió tan al norte como en Ciudad de México y tan al sur como en Nicaragua, se llevó también seis vidas en Guate-



A French rescue worker digs as "Jim," dog at right, sniffs the area looking for Luis Alberto Alas in the Santa Tecla, El Salvador neighborhood of Las Colinas on Sunday, Jan 21, 2001. Luis Alberto Alas, 39, was building a balcony onto a luxury home Jan 13, when 7.6 magnitude earthquake buried the area under a mountain of dirt. Rescuers began the rescue after "Jim" smelled life under the mountain of dirt. (AP Photo/Victor Ruiz)

mala.

En Los Angeles, CARECEN -- el Centro de Recursos Centro-Americanos -- y la Asociación Salvadoreña de Los Angeles, están aceptando aportes económicos, ayudando a obtener información sobre familiares y respondiendo a las preguntas sobre inmigración. Aunque muchos están ansiosos de regresar a El Salvador para hablar a sus familiares, rendir los últimos respetos a sus muertos y cerciorarse de los daños, los que aguardan la tramitación de sus solicitudes de residencia legal se arriesgan a que se les prohíba regresar a los Estados Unidos hasta por 10 años si salen de aquí.

En Washington, DC., la Embajada de El Salvador, CARECEN y otras organizaciones están solicitando donativos en dinero para ayudar a comprar suministros médicos, generadores de electricidad y tanques de agua, así como equipos para tratamiento de aguas. Como en todas partes, las estaciones de radio locales en español están ayudando al promover el conocimiento de los artículos necesarios y dónde se pueden hacer los donativos.

Muchos de los 80,000 salvadoreños de Houston están enfrentándose a una crisis semejante a la de Los Angeles, esperando el informe oficial sobre la situación temporal protegida para aquellos que quieren viajar a El Salvador. Los inmigrantes hondureños y nicaragüenses recibieron esa protec-

ción después del Mitch de 1998.

En Houston, CARECEN y el Cónsul General de El Salvador están recibiendo donativos de dinero y artículos básicos necesarios. Las iglesias locales y los grupos latinos han establecido lugares de recolección. Los organizadores se hallan aún procurando la cooperación de una aerolínea para llevar por el aire los artículos adicionales indispensables que se recojan allí.

"Casa de Maryland," en Takoma Park, ofrece otro punto de recolección. Dicha entidad ha abierto una cuenta en el Bank of America para depositar los donativos. "Hemos tenido una reacción muy positiva de la comunidad," dice Violeta Ruíz, coordinadora de servicios a los clientes de Casa de Maryland.

Ella regresó de El Salvador el 15 de enero. "La destrucción es terrible. Gracias a Dios, ningún miembro de mi familia resultó lesionado. Muchas personas, incluyendo a mi abuela de 90 años, se hallan paralizadas todavía por el temor."

Más de 25,000 libras de equipos médicos, frazadas, agua y materiales de construcción -- junto con especialistas en desastres -- fueron llevados por aire a San Salvador por el Equipo de Búsqueda y Rescate Urbano de Miami-Dade, un grupo que responde a los desastres naturales en todo el mundo. Los negocios locales salvadoreños aceptan donativos, y se ha establecido una

cuenta en el Ocean Bank de Miami.

El Capítulo de CARECEN en Nueva York está distribuyendo lo que recauda a través de Oxfam. La directora del grupo para desarrollo comunitario, Mirna Cortez, informa: "Una mujer recaudó más de \$900 por su cuenta, recolectando entre inquilinos de su edificio de apartamentos y los negocios locales."

Equipos de búsqueda y rescate de México, los Estados Unidos, España, Noruega, Francia, Venezuela y otras naciones de la América Central han estado trabajando para descubrir a las víctimas y despejar las carreteras a fin de facilitar el transporte de medicinas y alimentos a los desamparados. Los países han enviado también personal médico, agua y alimentos, así como materiales para construir albergues provisionales.

Se han establecido zonas provisionales de albergues en las zonas afectadas de El Salvador, un país que tiene el tamaño de Nueva Jersey. En Santa Tecla, un campo de soccer está siendo utilizado. Los miembros de los Niños Exploradores y las Niñas Exploradoras del país, y los expertos en desastres de su Comité de Solidaridad Nacional y del Ejército, la Cruz Roja, CARE, la Organización Pan-Americana de la Salud y otras entidades se hallan cooperando.

Nelson Reyes, director de CARECEN en Houston, alaba la "magnitud y nivel de ayuda" que las organizaciones por todo el país ha ofrecido en solidaridad con los grupos salvadoreños que ofrecen ayuda. La comunidad Salvadoreña en los Estados Unidos seguirá solicitando, contribuyendo y distribuyendo todo lo que sea posible hasta que sus paisanos reconstruyen sus pueblos y sus vidas en El Salvador.

(Cynthia L. Oroscó es correspondiente de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, DC. Comuníquense con ella por zapotecoaol.com)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en el año 2001. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate Internacional.

La Union de Hispanos y Negros En El Sur:

Una Invitacion Pasada Por Alto

Por Tim Chávez

Hace dos años, hablé en una conferencia de Birmingham, Alabama, que se destinaba a reinvigorar y ampliar el movimiento de los derechos civiles en el Sur. Más de 600 participantes de todas las razas y etnias asistieron. Se les pidió que dieran una lista de los asuntos que formarían un programa de trabajo para la acción en sus comunidades y para la región también.

Allí estuvieron mi asunto y mi recomendación: El presidente del capítulo de Nashville de la Asociación Nacional para el Adelanto de las Personas de Color (NAACP en inglés) debería reclutar activamente a hispanos y otros inmigrantes de nuestra ciudad, sin que importara el color. Después, con esta sangre nueva, sus asuntos y sus pasiones, la NAACP desarrollaría un programa común de trabajo para la acción política y social.

Fuera de la Florida y Texas, los hispanos y otros recién llegados no tienen aún la cantidad y la influencia como para abrir las puertas de los medios de comunicación, judiciales y políticos. No tienen la clase de organización popular y la historia que tiene la NAACP para lograr acción. No obstante, los afroamericanos e inmigrantes continúan luchando contra las mismas injusticias, indiferencias y discriminación sistemáticas.

A cambio de eso, dije que la NAACP obtendría:

-- La oportunidad de instruir a los hispanos y otras personas sobre el sacrificio que han hecho los negros para ganar los derechos de que disfrutaban ahora las personas de color. Ellos podrían concentrar atención y energía nuevas sobre los asuntos que afectan a los afroamericanos y que no

han sido resueltos aún.

-- La oportunidad de dar comienzo a un movimiento nacional para contrarrestar a las fuerzas políticas que emplearían a los hispanos en las elecciones presidenciales del año 2000 para diluir la influencia de los afroamericanos en las urnas electorales. Advertí que los hermanos Bush, a ambos lados del Sur, desarrollarían una proyección sin precedentes hacia los hispanos. Y que eso podría costarles a los demócratas la pérdida de la Casa Blanca.

Emití el mismo desafío en escala nacional mediante una columna que redacté y que fue distribuida a muchos periódicos estadounidenses. Y recibí una carta en respuesta del dirigente de largo tiempo en los derechos civiles Julian Bond. Él respondió que la NAACP está abierta para todos.

Empero, en última instancia nadie escuchó. En verdad, nadie actuó. En su programa de trabajo final para la acción, la conferencia a la que me dirigí ni siquiera incluyó a las necesidades específicas de los hispanos y los inmigrantes. Estamos allí solamente como adornos para las vidrieras.

La NAACP de Nashville no se proyectó hacia los hispanos. En vez de eso, un año después, la NAACP y los dirigentes latinos se enfrentaron respecto de los abusos indignantes contra los derechos civiles de los hispanos por la policía de Nashville fuera del servicio. La preocupación de la NAACP era proteger el empleo del jefe negro de la policía de Nashville. Los hispanos se quedaron una vez más solos para luchar políticamente por ellos mismos.

Después de estos abusos, se formó un capítulo estatal de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latino-

Americanos Unidos (LULAC en inglés). Fue la única organización que protestó contra una mezquina sentencia de cuatro años de prisión dada a un granjero de Tennessee que ahogó a un trabajador migratorio. Emiliano Almaraz Monjaraz tenía cuatro hijos y una esposa en México. Pero no se podía depender de la NAACP estatal o local para que se manifestara ni siquiera sobre esta injusticia tan evidente, si la misma involucraba a un latino.

No todas las injusticias involucran situaciones de vida y muerte. En un pueblo de Georgia, se prohibió usar el español en los letreros comerciales. La policía se quejó de que no podían leer los letreros. La censura contra los negocios hispanos fue respaldada sobre la posibilidad de que la policía aprendiera unas pocas palabras de otro idioma.

Entonces llegaron las elecciones presidenciales, y los hispanos votaron en sus mayores cantidades de todos los tiempos por el candidato presidencial republicano, George W. Bush. Y él ganó.

Mientras tanto, los afroamericanos y la NAACP desahogaron su indignación sobre los abusos electorales en el estado de la Florida. Espero que hayan advertido el silencio de las filas hispanas. Eso fue para igualar su silencio condenatorio ante las injusticias e indignidades que hemos sufrido durante el decenio último en el Sur.

Las necesidades de los hispanos y otros inmigrantes en el Sur deberían haber encajado fácilmente en el programa de trabajo de la NAACP. Por ejemplo, cuando se trata del sistema de justicia, ¿por qué

no podemos argumentar a favor de un cambio en las leyes de sentencias por infracciones de narcóticos que han puesto a demasiados varones negros tras las rejas? Y, ¿por qué no podemos procurar también una garantía de intérpretes en los tribunales para los laosianos, vietnamitas y latinos?

Los afroamericanos y los latinos se enfrentan a muchos de los mismos asuntos de justicia que se centran alrededor de la pobreza y la impotencia en el sistema político. Juntos, podemos defender los asuntos de enseñanza, atención a la salud, el sistema judicial, el empleo y la vivienda costosa. Si las personas de color y sus grupos de partidarios no tienen éxito juntos con un programa de trabajo común, entonces fracasaremos separados con toda certeza.

Es desgraciadamente insuficiente el que la NAACP diga que está abierta para todos. La organización debe mostrar que está dispuesta a luchar por la justicia sin que importe el color y la etnicidad de las víctimas. Entonces toda nuestra gente que se enfrenta a obstáculos discriminatorios verá que son bienvenidos en la principal organización de los derechos civiles de la nación. De otro modo, cada grupo debe continuar enfrentándose a la verdad difícil en el Sur de que, cuando se trata de la justicia, cada cual está por su cuenta.

(Tim Chávez es columnista de The Tennessean en Nashville. Se pueden comunicar con él por el indicativo tchavez(AT)SIGNtennessean.com.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en el año 2001. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Minorities still face barriers to medical care

Social and economic differences, language barriers and a different attitude toward life are among the factors preventing many U.S. Hispanics from obtaining needed health care, according to Esteban Flores of the federal Advisory Committee on Minority Health.

Recognizing the size of the challenge faced by the committee, which is part of the Department of Health and Human Services, Flores sought the help of minority organizations in making Latinos aware of the need to receive medical treatment.

The committee should "seek a way for the issues of minority health to be at the center of the discussion on health problems" in the country, said Flores, director of the Latino Research and Policy Center at the University of Colorado at Denver.

To that end, he said that the programs and budgets of federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control must "provide funds for research and prevention of illnesses afflicting Hispanics and other minorities."

Flores, the principal researcher on the National Hispanic Colorectal Cancer Outreach and Education Project, spent five years with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and was the first director of the Colorado Coalition for Hispanic Health.

The professor stressed that 10 years ago, Hispanic health issues were not even discussed, but that now "it is finally acknowledged that a problem exists."

Among the factors preventing minorities from obtaining adequate health care, he cited the high cost of health insurance and ignorance of the language, while noting that "even if one has the money and fluency in English," there is a dearth of accessible hospitals.

Cultural barriers constitute "another of the great obstacles," he added.

Flores said that the Hispanic's attitude of "enduring pain" makes him reluctant to visit the doctor, and observed that among Latinos, "the belief persists that a 'plump' child is a healthy child."

He emphasized that the health problems of the U.S. Hispanic community are different from those of the English-speaking population.

For example, Hispanics suffer from higher rates of asthma, diabetes and high blood pressure as well as from illnesses spread through bodily contact, ranging from childhood maladies to venereal diseases.

With the figures varying according to both country of origin and occupation, Hispanic life-expectancy is five to 10 years less than that of non-Hispanics, which currently stands at 76 years.

Moreover, Hispanics "have a different concept of health," according to Felix Gaido, a Honduran pediatrician in Denver who works with Flores on health programs for Hispanic children in rural areas.

Generally, he said, a Latino would rather "live happy" than "live many years."

Gaido added that Hispanics only go to the hospital "in cases of emergency" or when "they need immediate treatment," and not for preventive measures such as checkups.

Applicants for "Hispana of the Year" now being accepted

The Hispanic Association of Women (HAW), which has been organizing the efforts of Hispanic women since 1983 by promoting education, defining issues of concern, forming coalitions, resolving problems, developing leadership skills, and empowering women and youth in the Lubbock community, is still accepting applications for their Annual Hispana of the Year Awards. Awards will be given to seven Hispanic women dedicated to the Lubbock community.

Hispanic women can be nominated in categories including education, civic/church, legal, medical, media/public relations, business profession-

al, and youth. Recipients of the awards must have served as positive role models for the community; demonstrated outstanding work in the specified category; made contributions benefiting the Hispanic community; and demonstrated community service. Applications will be accepted through February 1, 2001. For "Hispana of the Year" application information please contact Margie Olivarez at 791-3040.

Selected recipients will be honored during a banquet, which will be held Saturday April 28, 2000 at the University Medical Center-McInturff Conference Center.

For general banquet information please contact Christy Martinez, president-elect and 2001 Banquet Chair at 797-7233.

Largest U.S. Hispanic coalition opposes Ashcroft's confirmation

The largest Hispanic coalition in the United States announced Tuesday that it opposes the confirmation of attorney general nominee John Ashcroft "because of his ultra-conservative views against immigrants and others that violate some parts of the Constitution."

Leaders of the bipartisan coalition the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), formed by several groups representing the more than 36 million Hispanics living in the United States, stressed that Ashcroft's record "affects the Latino community" in the country.

Given Ashcroft's imminent confirmation as attorney general by the Senate, Manuel Mirabal, president of the NHLA and the National Puerto Rican Coalition, told EFE on Tuesday: "its inevitable, we will have to work with him, but in a way that we will try to teach him and prevent him from doing many of the things that worry us."

"If appointed, we will keep him under strict observation because we fear that he will put his anti-immigrant ideas into practice," Mirabal said at a news conference in Washington on Tuesday.

Together with Mirabal, Cecilia Muñoz, of the National Council of La Raza, Marisa Demeo, of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), and Brent Wilkes, of the Latin American Citizens League, are concerned that the attorney general designate "could make immigration laws and civil rights less flexible."

As senator, John Ashcroft opposed giving naturalized immigrants the same rights as U.S. citizens, something which the NHLA considers unforgivable.

Like Muñoz, Demeo and Wilkes, Mirabal said that the new U.S. president, George W. Bush, does not recognize the present and future potential value of Hispanics.

An example of this lack of understanding can be found in the led - nomination of Linda Chavez and that of Ashcroft, two individuals who, according to Mirabal, "do not represent the interests of Latinos."

The Hispanic population makes up nearly 13 percent of the 283 million people living in the United States.

There are many senators like Ashcroft who do not want to change, who refuse to accept that this nation of immigrants is continuously changing, Mirabal said.

Muñoz said that Ashcroft is "very negative for Hispanics," and he is an attorney with outdated beliefs.

He would treat naturalized Latinos as "second-class citizens," Muñoz added.

"That is a civil rights violation," she said, adding that we need an attorney general who will "help Hispanics."

Meanwhile, Demeo said that as attorney general Ashcroft would not favor the appointment of Hispanic judges because he has opposed them in the past despite the candidates' excellent qualifications.

Uniting Blacks & Hispanics in the South:

An Invitation Ignored

By Tim Chávez

Two years ago, I spoke at a conference in Birmingham, Ala., that was designed to reinvigorate and broaden the civil-rights movement in the South. More than 600 participants of all races and ethnicities attended. They were asked to provide a list of issues that would form an agenda of action for their communities, and the region, as well.

Here was my issue and recommendation: The president of the Nashville chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) should aggressively recruit into membership Hispanics and other immigrants in our city, regardless of color. Then, with this new blood, their issues and their passions, the NAACP would develop a common agenda of political and social action.

Outside of Florida and Texas, Hispanics and other newcomers do not yet have the numbers and clout to open news media, judicial and political doors. They do not have the kind of grass-roots organization and history the NAACP does. Yet African Americans and immigrants continue to fight the same systematic injustice, indifference and discrimination.

In return, I said, the NAACP would get:

-- The opportunity to educate Hispanics and the others on the sacrifice blacks have made to gain the rights that

people of color enjoy today. They could concentrate new attention and energy on issues affecting African Americans that remain unresolved.

-- The opportunity to begin a national movement to thwart political forces that would use Hispanics in the 2000 presidential election to water down the influence of African Americans at the ballot box.

I warned then that the Bush brothers on both sides of the South would make unprecedented outreach to Hispanics. And that could cost Democrats the White House.

I issued the same challenge nationally through a column I wrote that was distributed to many U.S. newspapers. And I received a letter in response from longtime civil-rights leader Julian Bond. He answered that the NAACP is open to everyone.

Yet, ultimately, no one really listened. For sure, no one really acted. In its final agenda for action, the conference I addressed did not even include specific Hispanic and immigrants' needs. We were just there for window dressing.

The Nashville NAACP did not reach out to Hispanics, either. Instead, a year later, the NAACP and Latino leaders clashed over outrageous civil-rights abuses of Hispanics by off-duty Nashville police. The NAACP's concern was protecting the job of Nashville's black police chief. His-

panics were again left to fend for themselves.

After these abuses, a state chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) was formed. It was the only organization to protest a measly four-year prison sentence given to a Tennessee farmer who drowned a migrant farmer. Emiliano Almaraz Monjaraz had four children and a wife back in Mexico. But the NAACP, state or local, could not be depended on to speak out about even this most glaring injustice if it involved a Latino.

Not every injustice involves life and death. In one Georgia town, Spanish was prohibited on business signs. The police complained that they could not read the signs. Censorship of Hispanic businesses was endorsed over the police learning a few words of another language.

Then the presidential election came, and Hispanics voted in their greatest numbers ever for the GOP candidate, George W. Bush. And he won.

Meanwhile, African Americans and the NAACP vented outrage over ballot box abuses in Florida. I hope they noticed the silence from Hispanic ranks. It was to match their damning silence to the injustices and indignities we've suffered the past decade in the South.

The needs of Hispanics and other immigrants in the South could have easily fit into the

publica para asegurar que ningún niño en los Estados Unidos se quede atrás, en responsabilizar a las escuelas públicas de su desempeño, y enfatizar la enseñanza temprana de la lectura.

"Pero el progreso en la educación requiere que responsabilicemos a las escuelas para que tengan resultados significativos que puedan medirse de manera justa y confiable. Me preocupa que el Presidente quiera utilizar métodos que tienen poco apoyo de los padres o maestros.

"También me preocupa su propuesta de vales educativos. Los vales educativos drenarían recursos de las escuelas públicas en el momento en que esos recursos se necesitan

NAACP agenda. For instance, when it comes to the justice system, why can't we argue for a change in drug sentencing laws that have put too many black males behind bars? And why can't we also seek a guarantee of court interpreters for Laotians, Vietnamese and Latinos?

African Americans and Latinos face many of the same issues of justice that center around poverty and powerlessness in the political system. Together, we can champion the issues of education, health care, the justice system, employment and affordable housing. If people of color and their advocacy groups do not succeed together with a common agenda, then we'll most certainly fail apart.

It's woefully inadequate for the NAACP to say it's open to everyone. The organization must show it is willing to fight for justice, no matter the color and ethnicity of the victims. Then all of our people who encounter discriminatory barriers will see that they're welcome in the nation's premier civil-rights organization. Otherwise, each group must continue to face the difficult truth in the South that when it comes to justice, we're on our own.

(Tim Chávez is a columnist with The Tennessean in Nashville, Tenn. He may be reached at tchavez(AT)SIGNtennessean.com.)

© 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate International.

Declaracion de Gephardt Sobre La Propuesta de Educacion del Presidente Bush

"Durante años, los Demócratas han respaldado apasionadamente la excelencia en la educación pública. Me complace que el Presidente Bush se haya unido a los Demócratas, a los educadores, a los padres de familia y a los directores de escuela en el esfuerzo nacional para hacer que todas las escuelas públicas sean una gran escuela pública, y le doy la bienvenida a este importante debate nacional. Aunque todavía no conocemos todos los detalles del plan del Presidente, a primera vista, parece que tenemos algunas importantes metas en común.

Ambos creemos en la necesidad de invertir en la educación. Debilitarían la educación pública y muchos niños se quedarían rezagados.

"Finalmente, debemos asegurarnos de que la propuesta del Presidente haga lo suficiente para invertir en la educación pública. Para que la reforma sea significativa, los Estados Unidos deben llevar a cabo un esfuerzo nacional que refleje las prioridades del pueblo norteamericano y de la inagotable capacidad de innovación y superación. Esto requiere una nueva gran inversión en la educación pública que logre la combinación cor-

It's a Long, Hard Road from the Lone Star State

By Congressman *Ciro D. Rodriguez*

(WASHINGTON, DC) In the wake of the 2000 Presidential election and the sharp political and philosophical divisions it has engendered throughout the country, I am encouraged by President Bush's calls for a Texas-style, bi-partisan approach to addressing the many issues facing our country. As he completes his transition from Austin to Washington, I would like to offer the following thoughts on the challenges President Bush will face in his first 100 days in office.

Washington and Texas are separated by much more than geography. Texas has established a tradition of bi-partisanship that encourages equal participation from both parties. As a former member of the Texas House, serving under Speaker Pete Laney, I know personally the benefits of a system that provides for enough partisan differences to allow many ideas to come to the surface without so much partisanship that you end in gridlock. The six-month legislative session meets only once every 2 years, ending with a tap of Speaker Laney's gavel and a list of accomplishments that far outshine the politics of Washington.

Success in Texas is no accident. Speaker Laney has established a leadership model that President Bush would be wise to bring to Washington. In the Texas House of Representatives, both Republicans and Democrats chair committees, where each member, regardless of party, is given the opportunity to address their concerns. In a democracy, it makes sense to encourage debate.

Yet, one of President Bush's most urgent challenges comes from his own Republican colleagues in the U.S. House. The 1994 Contract With America marked the era of Newt Gingrich and other Republican hardliners in House leadership. The Republicans in Congress have not even given lip service to bi-partisanship, making decisions on critical legislation in private and

informing Democrats only after the fact. To make matters worse, Democrats are not proportionately represented on committees. Democrats represent 49 percent of the seats in the U.S. House, but the Republican leadership has stacked the committees in their favor, cutting off Democrats from the critical legislative process. Now there is even an effort underway to restrict the ability of members to speak on the floor on topics of their choosing, an important avenue of expression for the minority party.

It is this tradition of in your face bi-partisanship President Bush will be forced to address within his own party. Bi-partisanship is about good ideas, compromise, and good leadership. The last 8 years witnessed unprecedented attention to the issues that strike at the heart of the American people. President Clinton's tough decisions led to the greatest budget surplus in history, set the nation on track to eliminate the national debt by 2012, and extended the solvency of the Medicare and Social Security systems. The economic expansion fueled investments in our capital markets, restrained inflation, and boosted workers' incomes.

And these are the priorities that matter most. President Bush inherits the leadership of a nation with unprecedented prosperity. If a \$1.6 trillion tax cut remains President Bush's top goal, the budget will be balanced on the backs of America's working families, an unacceptable alternative, and one that does not enjoy bi-partisan support. As President Bush's Cabinet choices undergo Senate confirmation hearings, it has become more and more evident that the budget projections used throughout his campaign are far less than adequate. We must make choices.

If the new president wants to accomplish results for the majority of Americans, then he should focus on those issues that improve working families' lives. Many issues enjoy wide support and would continue to build on the successes of the past few years: paying down the debt (which would lower interest rates), protecting our national security, expanding

health care coverage, providing for children's health care and education, ensuring Social Security for our seniors, and expanding Medicare to include prescription drug coverage. Tough, bi-partisan decisions must be made to accomplish these goals, and I will support President Bush and the new Administration to reach these goals in a fair manner that incorporates ideas from both parties. It can be done. Just ask Speaker Laney.

Esquina Poetica

palabras II, or los detalles de un boceto

(para Gloria L.)

hablaban de bocetos, midiendo los detalles de una mirada, miradas cual atraen un ser, cautivan la contemplación, cogen (quizas) un fragmento del mismo tiempo, y yo, yo te buscaba a través los pausos entre sus palabras, deseaba que disfrutaras el color del papel sobre cual borromeaba estas palabras

madrigal

El Terremoto en El Salvador

Comunicación de Solidaridad Por el Mons. Plácido Rodríguez, CMF

Obispo de Lubbock

El obispo y el pueblo Católico de la Diócesis de Lubbock, Texas, se enteraron de la tragedia que ocurrió a las 11:35 a.m.; sábado, 13 de enero, 2001, cuando el terremoto (7.5 de la escala Richter) sacudió y causó una destrucción masiva, y engendró el dolor al pueblo de El Salvador.

En este momento de su dolor y sufrimiento, nuestra Diócesis de Lubbock desea estrechar los lazos de amor, fraternidad, y solidaridad con nuestros hermanos y hermanas Salvadoreños que han sufrido esta tragedia, han perdido a sus seres queridos, y sus pertenencias destruidas, y las relaciones sociales derrumbadas. Además, les extendemos los brazos abiertos de amistad a los Salvadoreños que se encuentran en nuestra iglesia local, la Diócesis de Lubbock, y que se sienten con angustia por sus familias.

En unión con el Santo Padre, Juan Pablo II, nuestra Diócesis de Lubbock eleva sus oraciones al Cielo para su consuelo y apoyo.

Contamos con muchas iniciativas de ayuda para El Salvador. Los animo a ustedes de buen

corazón a participar y ayudar en los esfuerzos de asistencia. Favor de informar a otros en la Diócesis que más de 600 han fallecido en el terremoto, 1,000 heridos, y más de un mil de personas desaparecidas. Miles no tienen casa y se albergan a la intemperie.

La agencia de asistencia por parte de los Obispos en los E.E.U.U., llamada Catholic Relief Services (CRS-Servicios Católicos de Asistencia) encabezado el esfuerzo de asistencia y asesoramiento ha de necesidades, junto con la colaboración con la Iglesia Católica de El Salvador, en coordinación con su Conferencia Episcopal, la Arquidiócesis de San Salvador, la oficina nacional de CARITAS, y las oficinas diocesanas de CARITAS.

Los Servicios Católicos de Asistencia (CRS) ha comprometido \$250,000 dólares para asistencia inmediata. Además de esta asistencia, la Iglesia Católica de El Salvador está recibiendo más apoyo y asistencia mundial de Caritas Internacional.

Para más información, favor de llamar ó ponerse en contacto con CRS: teléfono: (410) 625-2220; Fax - (410) 685-1635; E-mail: webmaster@catholicrelief.org; Web site - www.catholicrelief.org.

A TODAS PERSONAS Y ENTIDADES INTERESADAS:

Texas Tech University se ha registrado con la Comisión de Conservación de Recursos Naturales de Texas (TNRCC o Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission) para autorizar un Permiso de Calidad de Aire Núm. 3401 el cual autorizará la modificación de una caldera en la central (P1-No.1). La central es localizada en la esquina de Flint y Main Street, oeste del Brownfield Highway, Lubbock, Condado de Lubbock, Tejas. Información adicional sobre esta solicitud se puede encontrar en la sección de avisos públicos de esta publicación.

The Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce cordially invites you to our Awards Banquet/Gala on Friday, February 2, 2001 at 5:30 P.M. to be held at the Holiday Inn Towers 801 Avenue Q

Keynote Speaker - Texas Tech University Chancellor John T. Montford

Banquet Sponsors
Southwestern Public Service
Cox Communications

Corporate Partner Sponsors
TransCom Wireless, Inc.
KLBK / KAMC - Television
Southwestern Bell Telephone

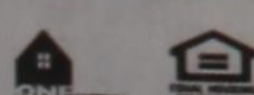
Promotional Sponsor
Lubbock Avalanche Journal

Cocktail Hour - 5:30 pm - Dinner and Program 6:20 pm - Dance 9:15 pm - 12:00
Dress Formal or Business Attire - R.S.V.P. 806-762-5059

FHA can put you 4500 dollars closer to the American dream.

HUD's Homebuyer Savings Plan reduces your mortgage insurance costs by a third over the life of your loan.* Every year, one million families all across the nation will save over one billion dollars. It's just one more way HUD is helping you realize the American dream - being part of a neighborhood and owning a home. It's a mission we've pursued since 1934, and one that has improved the lives of 30 million families. For more information, call 1-800-HUDS-FHA, or visit us at www.hud.gov, or contact your local lender or real estate professional.

www.hud.gov
1-800-HUDS-FHA

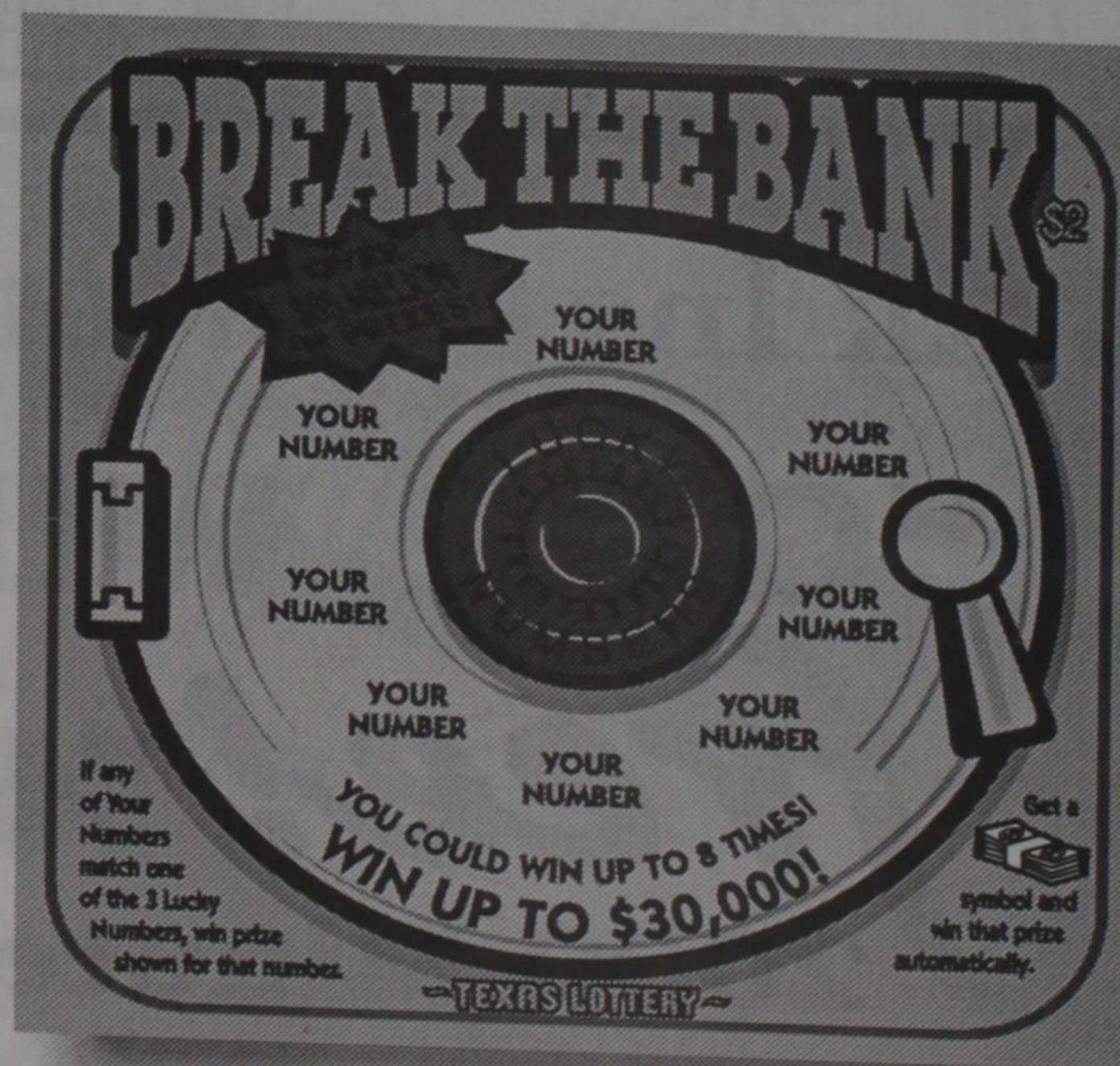


*Savings based on \$100,000 mortgage financed at 8% and held for 30 years.



HUD and FHA are your ally.

Todavía Hay Dinero en ésta Bóveda.



GAME #174

Pero no por mucho tiempo.



El 2 de Marzo del 2001 será la última vez que puedas jugar Break The Bank. Sin embargo boletos ganadores podrían ser cobrados hasta el 29 de Agosto del 2001. Premios en efectivo hasta \$599 podrían ser cobrados en cualquier tienda distribuidora de la Lotería de Texas. Premios con un total de \$600 o más son cobrables en cualquiera de los 22 centros de cobro de la Lotería de Texas o por correo. Para más información, por favor llama a la línea de servicio al cliente de la Lotería de Texas al 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).

AVISO: Un juego instantáneo puede seguir vendiéndose aun cuando todos los premios mayores hayan sido reclamados. Para la más reciente información sobre los premios restantes de los juegos instantáneos, favor de llamar al 1-800-37-LOTTO. Las probabilidades de ganar en Break The Bank son 1 en 4.94 incluyendo los premios del mismo valor del boleto. © 2001 Texas Lottery

Indigenous People Fight to Resurrect Indian Heritage

By PAULINE ARRILLAGA
Associated Press Writer
LOS ANGELES -- The sign on the door is in-your-face blunt: "Mexican! Not Hispanic. Latino. Stop the cultural castration."
It welcomes you to the storefront office of the Mexican Movement in East Los Angeles.

Inside, a bookshelf is stacked high with periodicals about Aztec and Mayan history. Above it hangs a poster describing the Mayan counting system, while a placard propped against the window challenges:
"Do you know your true history and identity?"

This is the epicenter of a little-known movement galvanizing pockets of Mexican and Central American communities in the United States:

Indigenous people fighting to resurrect their Indian history and heritage amid a society that labels them Hispanic or Latino.

They are brown. Most speak Spanish. And they are primarily Catholic.

Yet their heritage is traced not to Spain but to the ancient civilizations that inhabited Mexico and Central America before the Spanish conquest.

Their stories are akin to those of American Indians: Native people forced to forsake their names, language, customs and religion for those of invaders.

Some call the process "ethnocide" and maintain that it continues today, carried out through the blending of different cultures into one easy-to-describe group called Hispanic

or Latino that is soon to become the largest minority in the United States.

"This whole Latino-Hispanic agenda destroys our identity as indigenous people. It's like the Spanish empire lives again," says Olin Tezcatlipoca, who heads the Mexica Movement, which seeks to educate people about the indigenous culture. Pronounced Meh-SHEE-kah, Mexica is the Aztec word used to identify indigenous people from Mexico.

The cause has evolved in different forms and faces around the country.

In Minnesota, college students held a hunger strike until the "Hispanic" classification was deleted from university forms. A Denver woman refused to allow a hospital to classify her newborn as Hispanic rather than Mexican Indian. A New Mexico couple write a syndicated column about indigenous people. An Arizona man teaches schoolchildren about the Aztec history.

Some, like Tezcatlipoca, have gone so far as to legally change their names from Spanish to Indian. For others, the movement means teaching both their own people and others that to be Mexican or Central American -- and to be Indian -- is often one in the same.

"Many Latinos who are Spanish-speaking don't even know that Latinos include

Indians and that sometimes Spanish is their second language," says Refugio Rochin, director of the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives in Washington, D.C. "We're talking about populations with different cultures,

different interests, different networks than the traditional immigrants that come to the United States.

"It's a community that hasn't been studied or understood

As a young girl growing up in Los Angeles, Olga Gonzalez never thought much about her heritage. She was Mexican -- a "wetback" in the eyes of the other kids -- and that was it.

But Gonzalez was darker than the other Mexican kids and her hair was straighter, prompting neighbors to tell her mother that her daughter looked Indian.

"Why," she wondered, "is there this division within people who look like me?"

It wasn't until years later that Gonzalez learned the answer. While taking a Chicano studies course in college, she interviewed her grandmother for an assignment. It was then that she discovered she was an Otomi Indian -- Mexican, yes, but also indigenous.

"It was literally like looking at myself in the mirror for the first time," she says.

Through her grandmother, she learned the history that some Mexican children never come to know: of the Aztecs, Mayans, Zapotecs, Olmecs -- the native people who inhabited Mexico and Central America when the Spanish conquered the land in the 1500s. Gonzalez's ancestors lived with other Otomi Indians near San Miguel de Allende, in Mexico's Guanajuato state.

When the Spaniards arrived in Mexico, many "indio" children were taken from their families, given Spanish names, taught the Spanish language and converted to Catholicism. Gonzalez's great-grandfather tried to retain some of his ancient traditions. He was an Aztec dancer and, although he had adopted Catholicism, mixed those beliefs with some of the Aztec ways. Gonzalez's grandmother was sent to Catholic school,

where they cut her hair and forced her to speak only Spanish. She eventually turned her back on her native past because of the stigma associated with being Indian.

Even in her late 60s, when Gonzalez interviewed her, her grandmother still used bleaching cream on her face to look "less Indian."

Today, Gonzalez is proud of her native heritage. Living in Denver, she and her husband take Aztec dance lessons and started a youth group to teach Mexican children about their indigenous past.

When the couple had their first child in June, Gonzalez refused to allow hospital administrators to put Hispanic on her daughter's birth certificate, even though they insisted their computers wouldn't allow them to list "Mexican Indian."

When Gonzalez later received the document, the racial category was blank.

But the certificate nevertheless reflects her child's true identity: Her daughter's first name, Citlalmina, is Aztec.

"It was very important to me that she grow up knowing who she is, because

I didn't," Gonzalez says. "A person without a history is like a tree without roots. We want her to know what her roots are so she can grow strong."

Researchers estimate that the majority of Mexicans and Central Americans have indigenous roots. In Mexico, about 60 percent of the population is "mestizo" -- a mix of Indian and Spanish -- while about 30 percent is predominantly Indian. Indigenous languages such as Mayan and Nahuatl are still spoken in parts of Mexico, as well as by some Mexicans and Central Americans living in the United States.

In the United States, the indigenous movement is gaining strength as Mexican and Central American Indians

seek to reclaim their past as part of a cultural reawakening. Like American Indians, some are relearning their native language and customs, to keep them alive for the next generation.

"People are not only sustaining their Hispanic identity but their indigenous identity," says Jose Barreiro, a Cuban Indian and editor of the Akwe:kon Press, an indigenous journal published by Cornell University. "The idea that people must give up these aspects of culture in order to be American, to blend into the larger country, are being seen as not necessary. People can retain their cultural identity and yet be part of American life."

But there remain those who, like Gonzalez years ago, know little about their indigenous history. Others, says Tezcatlipoca, would rather forsake their Indian roots in the name of assimilation.

"There's a lot of shame. Our people associate being indigenous with being poor, being illiterate, being at the bottom," he says. "They see it as irrelevant. How's that going to get me a better job? How's that going to get me the house in Beverly Hills?"

The so-called Hispanic movement has only contributed to that shame, he contends. Chicano studies programs that taught indigenous history have become Hispanic studies. Or-

ganizations are labeled "Hispanic" or "Latino" -- not Mexican or Central American or indigenous.

The president of one such organization, while acknowledging that the issue of identity is explosive, said Latino groups recognize and respect the cultural differences among Spanish-speaking people.

"People acknowledge that there are indigenous groups among Latinos," said Harry Pachon of the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, a Latino research organization. "We wrestle with this issue. At academic conferences, we've seen people come to blows over the terms Hispanic and Latino. No matter what term you use, you're never going to be able to please everybody all the time."

Yet others contend such labels have left indigenous people with an identity that isn't theirs.

"You might call it a causality. For convenience purposes, for the sake of political power, we sacrifice our identity," says Roberto Rodriguez of Albuquerque, N.M., a Mexican Indian who writes a syndicated newspaper column on indigenous cultures.

"We're wasting a lot of time on public labels," Rodriguez says. "At the core of who we are is a spirit -- and that has no name."

"The reverse side also has a reverse side."

Alimony Payments Have Tax Implications

When the end of matrimony leads to the start of alimony, how does it affect your taxes? Alimony payments you receive are taxable to you in the year received.

The amount is reported on line 11 of Form 1040. You cannot use Form 1040A or Form 1040EZ. The person making the payment may claim a deduction in the year paid on Form 1040. You must give the person who paid the alimony your Social Security number or you may have to pay a \$50 penalty.

If your decree or agreement calls for both alimony and child support and specifies amounts for each, only the alimony is taxable. Because no taxes are withheld from alimony payments, you may need to make estimated tax payments or increase the amount withheld from your paycheck.

For more information, see Publication 504, "Divorced or Separated Individuals." Publications and forms may be downloaded from the IRS Web site www.irs.gov or ordered by calling 1-800-829-3676.

Taxability of Social Security Benefits

Whether your Social Security benefits are taxable depends on your total income and marital status. Form SSA-1099, which Social Security recipients receive by January 31, shows your total benefits, but determining your taxable benefits requires putting pencil to paper.

Generally, if Social Security benefits were your only income, your benefits are not taxable and you probably do not need to file a federal income tax return. If you received Social Security benefits plus other income, the answer to how much, if any, is taxable can be found in the worksheet in the Form 1040 instruction book.

For a quick computation, add one-half of your Social Security benefits to all your other income, including tax-exempt interest. If this amount is greater than the base amount for your filing status, a part of your benefits will be taxable.

The 2000 base amounts are:

\$25,000 for single, head of household, or qualifying widow/widower with a dependent child.

\$25,000 for married individuals filing separately who did not live with their spouses at any time during the year.

\$32,000 for married couples filing jointly.

\$0 for married persons filing separately who lived together.

If your benefits are taxable, you can avoid estimated tax payments and minimize your tax bill next year by having federal income tax withheld from your benefits. Simply complete Form W-4V, Voluntary Withholding Request and file it with the Social Security Administration.

For additional information on the taxability of Social Security benefits, see IRS Publication 915, "Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits." Both Publication 915 and Form W-4V can be downloaded from the IRS Website at www.irs.gov.



TexCare Partnership
Seguro Médico Para Sus Niños
Al Alcance De Su Presupuesto

TexCare Partnership
es una nueva campaña de seguro médico para niños creada especialmente para las familias de Texas a un precio que esté a su alcance.

Beneficios
Exámenes periódicos
Vacunas e inmunizaciones
Exámenes de la vista
Medicinas con receta
Cuidado de hospital
Rayos X
Servicio dental
Cuidado de salud mental

PATROCINADO POR
mch Medical Center
Many Caring Hands

Llame al 1-800-647-6558
de lunes a viernes de 9am - 9pm, y sábados de 9am - 3pm

TAX REFUND TAX REFUND TAX REFUND

TAX DEPOT

Sue Johnson's Business Services
Bring This Ad For **\$5 OFF**
Ask About Our Cash Bonus
Se Habla Español
4th & Ave. Q (West of Taco Bell)
806-745-8335
REFUND LOANS IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY
Friendliest Service In Town
2 Other Locations:
South University & 115th St.
50th & Ave. L at Huber's Pawn Shop

TAX REFUND TAX REFUND TAX REFUND

Walk Ins - Welcome - Bienvenidos

"GET WIRELESS"

Free! Nokia 918
2000 Minutes \$39⁹⁹

Some Restrictions Apply

PLUS:

- FREE • Leather Case or Cigarette Lighter Adapter
- FREE • American Toll Free
- FREE • Call Forwarding
- FREE • Call Waiting
- FREE • Conference Calling
- FREE • Pooling

CELLULAR ONE
Authorized Dealer

Brito
Communication Inc.
Town & Country Shopping Center • 308 University
747-5426
(Plainview Location - 1901 Quincy - 806-291-8882)

Billy Alexander, CPA
2802 34th 799-0936

Electronic Filing
With Direct Deposit
To Your Bank
OR
FAST FUNDS (Refund Loan)
Tax Preparation --
Business or Personal
M-F 8:30am-3pm • Saturday 8:30am-2pm
Thru Feb. 17th

24 Yrs. of Dependable Professional Services at Reasonable Rates

El Editor, Lubbock, Tx.-January 25, 2001

Salvadorans Across U.S. Open Hearts to Quake Victims

By Cynthia L. Orocco

As the United States moves somewhat truculently into a new political and social era, the attention of more than a million Salvadorans now living here remains transfixed on the safety and welfare of families and friends they left behind.

The hearts and purses of U.S. Salvadoreños -- with their largest populations living in Los Angeles (600,000), Washington D.C. (135,000) and Houston (80,000) -- remain with families and friends in the small towns hit hardest by the Jan. 13 earthquake that challenged, once again, the faith of its 6.2 million people.

Since they first began streaming north because of political oppression and economic instability two decades ago, that nation's refugees have established significant communities in other U.S. cities, such as Dallas, Miami, San Francisco and New York.

But they have not forgotten their roots. Hundreds of Salvadoran and Latino community, health and religious organizations have joined up with other agencies to aid victims of the massive quake. They continue to accept donations of money, medical supplies and food, as well as to give of their own resources and time.

The quake, which measured 7.6 on the Richter scale and has produced more than 1,000 aftershocks, triggered the collapse of a ridge above the city of Santa Tecla, six miles west of San Salvador, burying Las Colinas under more than 25 feet of earth. Hundreds of homes were destroyed in Comasagua, La Libertad, San Miguel, San Vicente, Sonsonate and Usulután.

More than 700 people are confirmed dead, thousands injured and hundreds still missing. The quake, felt as far north as Mexico City and as far south as Nicaragua, also claimed six lives in Guatemala.

In Los Angeles, the Central American Resource Center, or CARECEN, and the Asociación Salvadoreña of Los Angeles are accepting financial contributions, helping track down information on relatives, and answering immigration questions. While many are eager to return to El Salvador to find family, pay respects to the dead and survey damage, those awaiting the processing of legal residency applications risk being barred from the United States for up to 10 years if they leave the country.

In Washington, D.C., the Embassy of El Salvador, CARECEN and other organizations are soliciting monetary donations to help purchase medical supplies, electric generators and water tanks and treatment equipment. As elsewhere, local Spanish-language radio stations are assisting by promoting awareness of the items needed and where donations can be made.

Many of Houston's 80,000 Salvadorans are facing a crisis similar to the one in Los Angeles, awaiting official word on temporary protected status for those who want to travel to El Salvador. Honduran and Nicaraguan immigrants were granted similar protection after 1998's Hurricane Mitch.

In Houston, CARECEN and the Salvadoran general consul are receiving donations of money and basic-needs items.

Local churches and Latino groups have set up collection points. Organizers are still seeking cooperation from an airline to fly additional essential items collected there.

CASA de Maryland, in Takoma Park, offers another collection point. It has set up an account through the Bank of America into which donations can be deposited. "We have had a very positive response from the community," says CASA coordinator Violeta Ruiz, who returned from El Salvador on Jan. 15. "The destruction is terrible. I thank God no one in my family was injured. Many people, including my 90-year-old grandmother, are still paralyzed with shock."

More than 25,000 pounds of medical equipment, blankets, water and construction materials -- along with disaster specialists -- were flown into San Salvador by the Miami-Dade Urban Search and Rescue Team, a group that responds to natural disasters around the world. Local Salvadoran businesses are accepting donations, with an account established at the city's Ocean Bank.

The New York City chapter of CARECEN is distributing what it collects through Oxfam. The group's community development director, Mirna Cortez, reports, "One woman raised more than \$900 on her own, collecting from others in her apartment building and local businesses."

Search-and-rescue teams from Mexico, the United States, Spain, Norway, France, Venezuela and other Central American countries have been working to uncover victims and clear roads to facilitate the transportation of medicine and food to those left homeless. The countries have also sent medical personnel, water and food, and materials to construct temporary shelters.

Manehshift shelter areas have been set up in affected areas across El Salvador, a country about the size of New Jersey. In Santa Tecla, a soccer field is being used. Members of the country's Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and disaster experts from its National Solidarity Committee and Army, the Red Cross, CARE, the Pan American Health Organization and others are all pitching in.

Nelson Reyes, director of CARECEN in Houston, praises the "outpouring of help" offered across the country in solidarity with his and other Salvadoran aid groups. U.S. Salvadoran residents will continue to contribute, solicit and distribute whatever it takes until their *pais anos* in their homeland rebuild their towns and lives.

(c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate International.

I'M MAD ... at banks who don't give real estate loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, (254) 947-4475

JOB OPENING
Currently hiring outside sales reps. Bilingual a plus. If interested please fax resume to 791-3702 or call 791-3692

Earthquake in El Salvador

A Statement of Solidarity
By Most Rev. Plácido Rodríguez, CMF

The Bishop of Lubbock
The bishop and Catholic people of the Diocese of Lubbock, Texas, learned with sorrow of the tragedy that occurred at 11:35 a.m. on Saturday, January 13, 2001, when an earthquake (7.5 on the Richter scale) caused such massive devastation and pain for the people of El Salvador.

In their moment of grief and sorrow, our Diocese of Lubbock wishes to strengthen the bonds of love, fraternity, and solidarity with those of our brothers and sisters of El Salvador who have suffered tragedy, lost loved ones, had their possessions destroyed and their social relationships abruptly changed. Moreover, we extend open arms of friendship to our Salvadoran brothers and sisters who find themselves among us in our diocese and who feel the anguish of this tragedy to their families.

In union with the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, our Diocese of Lubbock offers prayers to God for their consolation and comfort.

There are many initiatives presently underway, bringing relief to El Salvador. I encourage you to participate and help in these relief efforts. Please inform others that over 600 people are confirmed dead, 1,000 injured, and over a thousand unaccounted for. Thousands are homeless and living in shelters.

The U.S. bishops' overseas relief agency, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has been at the forefront of assessing needs and orchestrating relief efforts, in collaboration with the Church of El Salvador, through direct coordination with the Episcopal Conference, the Archdiocese of San Salvador, the National Caritas office, and the diocesan Caritas offices.

Catholic Relief Services has made initial commitments of \$250,000 for immediate relief efforts. In addition to CRS funding, the Church in El Salvador is receiving support and expressions of solidarity from other Caritas International partners around the world.

For information, please call or contact CRS at:

Phone -- (410) 625-2220; Fax -- (410) 685-1635; E-mail -- webmaster@catholicrelief.org; Web site -- www.catholicrelief.org

AVAILABILITY OF COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation (GESC) has received funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to operate the CEAP program.

The intent of this program is to make funds available to enable GESC to respond to energy needs affecting low-income households. Priority will be given to eligible households containing one or more persons age 60 or above, a handicapped individual and families with young children under the age of six.

The basic philosophy of energy self-sufficiency will be the central theme in the CEAP Program. The program is designed to offer flexibility to allow for creative implementation and innovation. Service delivery not only entails utility payments on behalf of the client, but also a system that addresses the underlying contributing causes of energy-induced hardship.

For additional information concerning this program, please contact:

Address: GESC
1416 First Street
Lubbock, Texas 79401
Phone: 806-744-4416
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

2000 Minutes \$39.99



TransCom Wireless Center, Inc.
www.transcomtexas.com

CELLULARONE®
Authorized Agent

FREE Cellular Phone
FREE Website Design
FREE Internet Service



Call us Today for Details!
791-3692

Solving your communication needs of tomorrow, today!
LUBBOCK - 791-3692
4210-D 50TH ST. *CONDITIONS APPLY - CALL FOR DETAILS
LEVELLAND - 897-2929
1001 8TH ST.

INCOME TAX RETURNS
FAST REFUNDS
Electronic Filing
Competitive Rates
GARRETT & CO.
2321 50TH SUITE J
797-0506

WANT TO BE IN DEMAND?

Do you find yourself thumbing through the classifieds every day wondering when your big chance will arrive? Here it is. The health care industry is hiring, and HealthTraxx can help prepare you to be a part of this high-tech industry. HealthTraxx offers career planning, education options, financial assistance, mentoring programs and job placement. We're guiding people like you into rewarding careers. Stop looking for that big chance; you just found it. Seeking career? Start here. Make the call today.

MANY POSITIONS AVAILABLE!

HEALTHTRAXX is your open door into the high-tech health care industry.

Call 725-6673
or visit
www.healthtraxx.com

HealthTraxx

A Program of
Covenant Health System

In cooperation with South Plains College

HealthTraxx
SEEKING CAREER? START HERE.
806-725-6673
www.healthtraxx.com

Lo Mejor En Comida Mexicana
MONTELONGO'S RESTAURANT
3021 Clovis Rd - 762-3068

AVISO DE RECIBO DE SOLICITUD Y INTENTO DE OBTENER UN PERMISO DE CALIDAD DE AIRE

PERMISO NUM.3401

SOLICITUD. Texas Tech University, P.O. Box 41090, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1090, se ha registrado con la Comisión de Conservación de Recursos Naturales de Texas (TNRCC o Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission) para autorizar un Permiso de Calidad de Aire Núm. 3401, el cual autorizará la modificación de la Central para incluir una caldera adicional (P1-No.1). La central es localizada por la esquina de Flint y Main, Oeste del Brownfield Highway, en Lubbock, Condado de Lubbock, Texas. La instalación propuesta emitirá los siguientes contaminantes atmosféricos: dióxidos sulfúricos, óxidos nitrógenos, materia particulada, compuestos orgánicos y monóxido de carbono.

Esta solicitud fue sometida al TNRCC el 21 de November, 2000. La solicitud es disponible para reviso y hacer copias en la Oficina Central del TNRCC, en la Oficina Regional del TNRCC en Lubbock, y en Lubbock County Courthouse, 904 Broadway, Lubbock, Condado de Lubbock. El archivo del cumplimiento de las leyes de la instalación, si existe, estará disponible para el público en la Oficina Regional del TNRCC en Lubbock.

El director ejecutivo del TNRCC ha determinado que la solicitud está administrativamente completa y conducirá un análisis técnico de la solicitud.

COMENTARIOS PUBLICOS/JUNTA PUBLICA Usted puede someter comentarios públicos, solicitar una junta pública, o solicitar una audiencia en controversia sobre esta solicitud a la Oficina del Chief Clerk en la dirección a continuación. El TNRCC considerará todos los comentarios públicos en el desarrollo de una decisión final sobre esta solicitud. El plazo límite para someter sus comentarios es 30 días después de la publicación de este aviso. Después del plazo límite para los comentarios públicos, el director ejecutivo preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos relevantes y materiales o significativos.

El propósito de una junta pública es para proveer la oportunidad de someter comentarios, o hacer preguntas sobre la solicitud. Una junta pública sobre la solicitud se llevará a cabo si el director ejecutivo determina que existe un grado significativo de interés público en la solicitud o si la solicita un legislador local. Una junta pública no es considerada una audiencia en controversia.

Si sólo se reciben comentarios sobre esta solicitud, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con un aviso de la decisión del director ejecutivo sobre la solicitud, será enviada por correo a todos que hallan sometido comentarios o solicitado que se les incluyera en la lista de correo para esta solicitud.

Si la petición para una audiencia en controversia es sometida a tiempo, el director ejecutivo completará el análisis técnico, emitirá una decisión preliminar sobre la solicitud y un Aviso de Solicitud y Decisión Preliminar será entonces publicado y enviado por correo a todos los que estén en la lista de correo para esta solicitud. Este aviso tendrá la fecha final para someter comentarios públicos.

Después del plazo final para someter comentarios públicos subsecuentes a cualquier Aviso de Solicitud y Decisión Preliminar, el director ejecutivo tomará en consideración los comentarios y preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos relevantes y materiales, o significativos. Si se reciben comentarios, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con la decisión del director ejecutivo sobre la solicitud, serán enviadas por correo a todos que hallan sometido comentarios públicos o que estén en la lista de correo sobre esta solicitud.

OPORTUNIDAD PARA UNA AUDIENCIA EN CONTROVERSA Usted puede peticionar una audiencia en controversia. Una audiencia en controversia es un proceso legal semejante a un juicio civil en una corte de distrito estatal. En el caso de que una petición por escrito para una audiencia en controversia no sea sometida dentro de 30 días después de la publicación de este aviso, el director ejecutivo podrá aprobar la solicitud. Si no se reciben peticiones para una audiencia en controversia dentro de este período de 30 días, no habrá mas oportunidad para

peticionar una audiencia en controversia. Una audiencia en controversia sólo se otorgará basada en asuntos en controversia que sean relevantes y materiales a la decisión de la Comisión sobre la solicitud. Además, la Comisión sólo concederá una audiencia en controversia en esos asuntos que fueron presentados durante el período de los comentarios públicos y que no se retiraron.

Una persona que pueda ser afectada por las emisiones de contaminantes atmosféricos de la instalación tiene derecho a peticionar una audiencia en controversia. Para solicitar una audiencia en controversia, usted deberá proporcionar lo siguiente: (1) su nombre (o, para un grupo o asociación, un representante

oficial), dirección postal, número de teléfono durante el día, y número de fax, si existe; (2) el nombre del solicitante y el número de permiso; (3) la oración en inglés "I/we request a contested case hearing;" (4) una descripción específica de cómo le perjudicaría la solicitud y las emisiones atmosféricas de una manera que no es común con los miembros del público en general; (5) la localización y distancia de su propiedad en relación a la instalación; y (6) una descripción de cómo usted usa la propiedad que pudiera ser afectada por la instalación. Si la petición es hecha por un grupo o asociaciones, el miembro o miembros

que tienen derecho a pedir una audiencia en controversia y los intereses que el grupo o asociación quieran proteger deberán también ser identificados. Usted también podrá someter sus propuestas de ajustes a la solicitud o permiso que puedan satisfacer sus preocupaciones. Peticiones para una audiencia en controversia en controversia deberán someterse por escrito dentro de 30 días después de la publicación de este aviso a la Oficina del Chief Clerk, en la dirección a continuación.

Si una petición para una audiencia en controversia es recibida a tiempo, aviso adicional será proveído. Después de que se cierran todos los períodos aplicables de comentarios y pe-

ticiones, el director ejecutivo mandará la solicitud y todas las peticiones de audiencia en controversia a los Comisionados del TNRCC para su consideración en una junta de Comisionados en su itinerario. Si se concede una audiencia en controversia, el objeto de la audiencia en controversia será limitado a los asuntos de hecho en disputa relevantes y materiales a la calidad del aire, que hayan surgido durante el período de comentarios. Asuntos como el valor de la propiedad, ruido, seguridad de tráfico, y zonas municipales están fuera de lo que la Comisión tiene la jurisdicción de considerar en este proceso.

LISTA DE CORREO Además de poder someter comentarios, usted puede solicitar que su nombre sea agregada en una lista de correo para recibir información adicional de esta

aplicación solicitando, por escrito, a la Oficina del Chief Clerk en la dirección a continuación.

INFORMACION Comentarios públicos por escrito, peticiones para una junta pública o peticiones para una audiencia en controversia deberán someterse a la Oficina del Chief Clerk, MC-105, TNRCC, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Tejas 78711-3087. Para más información sobre esta solicitud o el proceso de permisos, por favor llame a la Oficina de Asistencia Pública, gratis, al 1-800-687-4040. Información general sobre el TNRCC se puede encontrar en www.tnrcc.state.tx.us.

Más información también puede obtenerse de Texas Tech University en la dirección escrita anteriormente o llamando al Señor Randy Nix, al (806) 742-3876.

"Our #1 goal is accessibility for all our customers..."

- Tom S. Hawkins, Jr., President, Energas Co.



Recently, some of you may have been surprised to receive a natural gas bill that in many instances is two or three times more than last year. And you were probably even more surprised to call our offices only to receive a busy signal or be asked to hold for a long period of time. Although certain issues contributing to higher-than-usual gas bills are beyond our control - mainly the dramatic increase in natural gas prices and significantly colder temperatures - we can control how we respond to our customers. We know you expect quality service from our company, so in response to the higher volume of questions and requests for assistance, we have acted quickly by taking the following steps to provide you answers:

- We have temporarily reassigned company representatives so they are available to respond to your questions at every local office listed below. (As always, payments must continue to be paid by mail, automatic bank draft, Telepay or at one of the company's authorized payment centers.)
- We have increased our telephone capacity and added Customer Service Associates to answer your questions. This should eliminate the busy signals when you call us at 1-888-363-7427.
- We have Customer Service Associates monitoring incoming e-mail in order to provide timely responses to all electronic customer inquiries. You can e-mail us at customer@energass.com.
- We are updating our Internet site on a regular basis to provide you with answers to many of your questions. This information can be viewed at www.energass.com.
- We continue to offer billing alternatives like the "Budget Billing" option. We understand that higher natural gas bills may be a financial burden to some customers, and we offer a budget billing program that takes the average gas usage over a one-year period and divides it into twelve equal payments.

Why Your Natural Gas Bill Is Higher Than Usual

The high cost of natural gas is a national issue driven by record prices for natural gas which are reaching as high as \$10.00 per 1000 cubic feet (MCF). The cost of natural gas is a pass-through, meaning we do not add any profit margin to the price we pay for natural gas. The price of natural gas is market-driven and is unregulated; regulatory agencies regulate the delivery and service of natural gas - not the cost, which is mostly determined by the open market forces of supply and demand. In addition, significantly colder temperatures have resulted in increased demand for natural gas as customers turn up their thermostats. As a result, natural gas consumers all across the country have been surprised to receive monthly bills that, in many cases, were more than two or three times the amount from the previous year. (See chart at right.)

Increased Natural Gas Prices Affect All Of Us

When gas prices go up, so does your gas bill - even though Energas makes no profit on gas costs, whether it is \$2.00 per MCF or \$10.00 per MCF. Our income is derived from the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas to our customers. Like you, we're concerned about this situation and are strengthening our commitment to addressing your needs. While there are certain things that will remain out of our control - such as the cost of natural gas and the colder-than-normal weather - we can control how we respond to your concerns and are doing everything we can to provide answers to your questions.

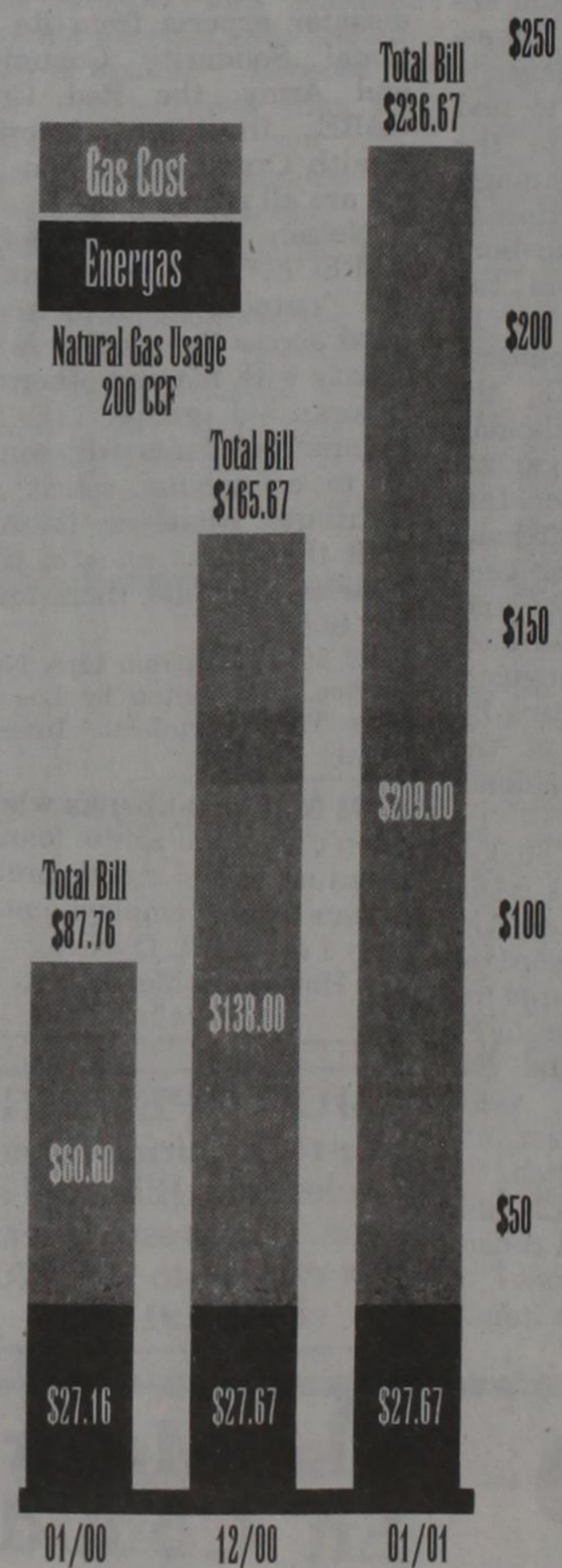
Energy Conservation Saves You Money

Finally, we recommend that you very carefully evaluate your home's energy efficiency. Natural gas is the most efficient means of heating your home, but when gas costs soar it's wise to make sure your home is energy efficient. A few simple energy conservation steps can go a long way to helping you lower your monthly heating bills. These cost-saving ideas have been and will periodically be included in monthly bills, or you can view them at our website at www.energass.com.

In the event you have more questions, you can reach us by phone, e-mail or in person at:

Telephone: 800-642-6180 (toll free)
E-mail: www.energass.com
customer@energass.com
Local Office: 5110 80th Street
 Lubbock, Texas
Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm

Higher Gas Costs Don't Equal Higher Profits



ENERGAS
 Your ENERGY Connection...