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A Rising Share: Hispanics and Federal Crime

Sharp growth in illegal immigration and increased enforcement of immigration laws have altered the ethnic composition of offenders sentenced in federal courts. In 2007, Latinos accounted for 40% of all sentenced federal offenders—more than triple their share (13%) of the total U.S. adult population. The share of all sentenced offenders who were Latino in 2007 was up from 23% in 1991, according to an analysis of data from the United States Sentencing Commission (USSC) by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. Moreover, by 2007, immigration offenses represented nearly one-quarter (24%) of all federal convictions, up from just 7% in 1991. Among those sentenced for immigration offenses in 2007, 80% were Hispanic.

This heightened focus on immigration enforcement has also changed the citizenship profile of federal offenders. In 2007, Latinos without U.S. citizenship represented 29% of all federal offenders. Among all Latino offenders, some 72% were not U.S. citizens, up from 61% in 1991. By contrast, a much smaller share of white offenders (8%) and black offenders (6%) who were sentenced in federal courts in 2007 were not U.S. citizens.

Among sentenced immigration offenders, most were convicted of unlawfully entering or remaining in the U.S. Fully 75% of Latino offenders sentenced for immigration crimes in 2007 were convicted of entering the U.S. unlawfully or residing in the country without authorization.



Republicans and Hispanics continue growing apart

By Mercedes Olivera
Hispanic Republicans are an endangered species.

That's not wishful thinking on the part of Democrats. It's a growing concern by Hispanic Republicans themselves, and they say the GOP leadership seems oblivious to it.

"The underlying current in Hispanic communities is that Democrats are capturing the hearts and minds of Hispanics wholesale," said Jason Villalba, president of the Dallas chapter of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly. "Republicans will not be able to win any national elections if they don't do something soon. But the problem I'm having is breaking through to them with this message."

Texas seems to be following the same trajectory as California, with its burgeoning Hispanic population. After Republicans began policies that Latinos believed targeted them unfairly, Hispanic leaders organized massive voter registration and citizenship campaigns. The result: California is now a solidly blue state, with no indications of turning red anytime soon.

Texas has seen significant demographic shifts in three major urban centers — the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Harris County and Travis County — where Hispanics have become a third or more of the popula-



tions. At the same time, these areas have seen a sharp rise in the number of Democrats elected to city and countywide offices.

That trend is spreading nationwide, Villalba said.

Even a cursory look at the November election results appears to confirm his concerns: Most of the Southwest and battleground states such as Colorado and Nevada, with sizeable Latino voting blocs, leaned Democrat. Even Florida, which has been reliably Republican in the past, went Democratic.

"It's no longer a theory, it's a real-

ity," agreed Ana Navarro, a senior adviser to Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign who continues to advise him on Latino issues. "If Republicans don't start doing something with Latinos, they will be a minority party for a long time."

Every year, more — not fewer — Latinos head to the polls, Navarro said. It's one reason McCain is now working to recruit more Latino candidates to run for office.

"He firmly believes that's the key," she said.

But how do Republicans recruit

more Latinos when a vocal minority is doing everything to antagonize Latinos?

Both Villalba and Navarro said the GOP must tone down anti-immigration rhetoric.

Navarro said the GOP doesn't understand that more people watch Spanish-language Univision News than ABC, CBS and NBC combined. And every time some of the more strident anti-immigration advocates were quoted on Univision

No need to fear the 'Latinization' of Texas

By Juan Castillo

Some white conservatives fear the coming "Latinization" of Texas. But there is no reason to fear because it's already here, the official state demographer tells the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Columnist Bud Kennedy cites a couple of recent reports to reflect on the state's dwindling — and aging — white population, a demographic component that will make decisions about taxes and education for a generation of mostly minority children.

According to the Texas Education Agency, for the first time, Latino children are the majority in Texas' first-grade classrooms. A new TEA report finds that the state now enrolls 130,000 fewer white children than a decade ago.

A separate report by state demographer Karl Eschbach projects that Texas will become predominantly Hispanic within 10 years. The current white population of about 11.5 million will begin shrinking as baby boomers die out between 2020 and 2040. The African-American population will grow slowly.

"The children who don't 'look like us' will have the greatest say in the state's future success," he says.

Comentarios de Bidal

Well the talk of the town is one Mike Leach and what he is going to do. Your guess is as good as mine but I would bet that Tech will be stuck with a mediocre second rate Coach if Leach is fired. From all I hear it is up to the A.D.-Gerald Myers and Kent Hance what will happen. Whatever, in my opinion, a lot of people are going to be mad. But that is what happens when you have a town that is more concerned about Buddy Holly than keeping a Coach that is bring millions into the business economy.



Nothing is really happening here locally in politics. In all probability, City Manager Lee Ann Dumwauld will be fired now that she has decided to stay in Lubbock. This after testing the waters in another City. She knows she has it made here sucking up the gravy here in Lubbock, although I hear that some on the Council are not happy with her.

Like I said last week, La Quinceañera will be the theme of this year's annual Festival Viva Aztlan and it is proven to live up to the reputation that the Festival has gotten over the past 15 years. Ballet Folklorico groups will be coming to Lubbock to celebrate and let us hope that the population of Lubbock will follow suit.

The Hispanic Division of the Lubbock Chamber will celebrate a luncheon this Wednesday. Haber como les va. Hope it turns up well

Well that is all the space the owners of this paper gave me this week. Hope I provided a little information for everyone. Maybe if our readers send me a few more letters, I can respond to them in this column but maybe, I won't. Hasta la proxima!

U.S. Military Will Offer Path to Citizenship

By JULIA PRESTON

Stretched thin in Afghanistan and Iraq, the American military will begin recruiting skilled immigrants who are living in this country with temporary visas, offering them the chance to become United States citizens in as little as six months.

Immigrants who are permanent residents, with documents commonly known as green cards, have long been eligible to enlist. But the new effort, for the first time since the Vietnam War, will open the armed forces to temporary immigrants if they have lived in the United States for a minimum of two years, according to military officials familiar with the plan.

Recruiters expect that the temporary immigrants will have more education, foreign language skills and professional expertise than many Americans who enlist, helping the military to fill shortages in medical care, language interpretation and field intelligence analysis.

"The American Army finds itself in a lot of different countries where cultural awareness is critical," said Lt. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, the top recruitment officer for the Army, which is leading the pilot program. "There will be some very talented folks in this group."

The program will begin small — limited to 1,000 enlistees nationwide in its first year, most for the Army and some for other branches. If the pilot program succeeds as Pentagon officials anticipate, it will expand for all branches of the military. For the Army, it could eventually provide as many as 14,000 volunteers a year, or about one in six recruits.

About 8,000 permanent immigrants with green cards join the armed forces annually, the Pentagon reports, and about 29,000 foreign-born people currently serving are not American citizens.

Although the Pentagon has had wartime authority to recruit immigrants since shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, military officials have moved cautiously to lay the legal groundwork for the temporary immigrant program to avoid controversy within the ranks and among veterans over the prospect of large numbers of immigrants in the armed forces.

A preliminary Pentagon announcement of the program last year drew a stream of angry comments from officers and veterans on Military.com, a Web site they frequent.

Marty Justis, executive director of the national headquarters of the American Legion, the veterans' organization, said that while the group opposes "any great influx of immigrants" to the United States, it would not object to recruiting

temporary immigrants as long as they passed tough background checks. But he said the immigrants' allegiance to the United States "must take precedence over and above any ties they may have with their native country."

The military does not allow illegal immigrants to enlist, and that policy would not change, officers said. Recruiting officials pointed out that volunteers with temporary visas would have already passed a security screening and would have shown that they had no criminal record.

"The Army will gain in its strength in human capital," General Freakley said, "and the immigrants will gain their citizenship and get on a ramp to the American dream."

In recent years, as American forces faced combat in two wars and recruiters struggled to meet their goals for the all-volunteer military, thousands of legal immigrants with temporary visas who tried to enlist were turned away because they lacked permanent green cards, recruiting officers said.

Recruiters' work became easier in the last few months as unemployment soared and more Americans sought to join the military. But the Pentagon, facing a new deployment of 30,000 troops to Afghanistan, still has difficulties in attracting doctors, specialized nurses and language experts.

Several types of temporary work visas require college or advanced degrees or professional expertise, and immigrants who are working as doctors and nurses in the United States have already been certified by American medical boards.

Military figures show that only 82 percent of about 80,000 Army recruits last year had high school diplomas. According to new figures, the Army provided waivers to 18 percent of active-duty recruits in the final four months of last year, allowing them to enlist despite medical conditions or criminal records.

Military officials want to attract immigrants who have native knowledge of languages and cultures that the Pentagon considers strategically vital. The program will also be open to students and refugees.

The Army's one-year pilot program will begin in New York City to recruit about 550 temporary immigrants who speak one or more of 35 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Igbo (a tongue spoken in Nigeria), Kurdish, Nepalese, Pashto, Russian and Tamil. Spanish

speakers are not eligible. The Army's program will also include about 300 medical professionals to be recruited nationwide. Recruiting will start after Department of Homeland Security officials update an immigration rule in coming days.

Pentagon officials expect that the lure of accelerated citizenship will be powerful. Under a statute invoked in 2002 by the Bush administration, immigrants who serve in the military can apply to become citizens on the first day of active service, and they can take the oath in as little as six months.

For foreigners who come to work or study in the United States on temporary visas, the path to citizenship is uncertain and at best agonizingly long, often lasting more than a decade. The military also waives naturalization fees, which are at least \$675.

To enlist, temporary immigrants will have to prove that they have lived in the United States for two years and have not been out of the country for longer than 90 days during that time. They will have to pass an English test.

Language experts will have to serve four years of active duty, and health care profes-

sionals will serve three years of active duty or six years in the Reserves. If the immigrants do not complete their service honorably, they could lose their citizenship.

Commenters who vented their suspicions of the program on Military.com said it could be used by terrorists to penetrate the armed forces.

At a street corner recruiting station in Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, Staff Sgt. Alejandro Campos of the Army said he had already fielded calls from temporary immigrants who heard rumors about the program.

"We're going to give people the opportunity to be part of the United States who are dying to be part of this country and they weren't able to before now," said Sergeant Campos, who was born in the Dominican Republic and became a United States citizen after he joined the Army.

Sergeant Campos said he saw how useful it was to have soldiers who were native Arabic speakers during two tours in Iraq.

"The first time around we didn't have soldier translators," he said. "But now that we have soldiers as translators, we are able to trust more, we are able to accomplish the mission with more accuracy."

Hispanic Funding Options for College Shrink

By Edwin Mora

Lending options for Latino college students are diminished as a result of the nation's economic instability. Even those non-federal lenders still remaining after some have abandoned the college-loan business due to the credit crunch are tightening the reins on their lending standards.

"Private loans are now charging higher interest rates, demanding higher credit scores and insisting on co-signers," says Ronald Johnson, director of financial aid at the University of California-Los Angeles. "With tighter restrictions, students will find that their lender options have dwindled."

Due to new demands by private lenders, it is anticipated that students without co-signers will not be eligible for private funding, Johnson points out.

Tuition fees for undergraduate students present the new scenario. At UCLA they add up to about \$25,000. Latinos make up 14.1 percent of its 12,579 admitted freshmen for the fall 2008 semester.

According to a recent Pew Hispanic Center study, when compared to other ethnic/racial groups such as non-Hispanic blacks, full-time undergraduate Latino students receive the lowest amount of financial aid funds and take out larger federal and non-federal loans.

Private funding for college is a common alternative. In some cases, it supplements federal student loans. In the last decade, more and

more students have resorted to private lenders to cover their higher education costs, according to The College Board.

Of the estimated \$62.3 billion in overall student loans in the 1997-98 school year, about \$60 billion, or 96 percent, came out of federal loans. These include those provided through states and institutions.

A decade later, the same types of loans paint a different picture. Of the estimated \$162.5 billion total in 2007-08, about \$143.5 billion, or 88 percent, came from federal funding; the remaining \$19 billion, or 12 percent, came from non-federal loans.

Financial aid advisors at both UCLA and the University of Texas-El Paso pronounce that at this point, those students in need of assistance will not find themselves in financial limbo. Federally guaranteed loans and grants are still available at institutions for students who demonstrate monetary need.

State-sponsored assistance, on the other hand, is becoming less common as some states struggle to stay afloat during this economic downturn. Some have started reducing their higher education budgets. This could result in tuition fee increases.

On Nov. 4, a budget cut of \$65.5 million for the University of California was posed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. This was in addition to a \$48 million reduction already included in the state's budget proposal.

As part of a contingency plan, UCLA's John-

son says there are some limited types of funding that his office can deploy on a case-by-case basis. However, he points out, UCLA cannot replace the money made available by private lenders.

Raúl Lerma, University of Texas-El Paso financial aid director, cautions, "For the next year we will be ready for people who might have lost their job, but we may have to do some financial aid recalculations based on the applicants' household income at the time."

Both financial aid advisors say that they have not seen a substantial influx of students to the financial aid office this semester, but this may change in the upcoming year.

Details as to how the nation's economic stimulus plan agreed upon by President Barack Obama and Congress could affect the college aspirations of Hispanic students remain to be clarified.

Of extra concern to high school graduates with exemplary education credentials but whose immigration status remains clouded is whether The Dream Act, rejected by past Congresses, will finally become a reality when voted on by a friendlier Congress this session. It would not only provide them with more affordable higher education opportunities, but allow those who perform well a chance to adjust their status and remain in the country

(Edwin Mora reports for Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. Email him at edwin.mora@gmail.com) ©2009

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LAS DROGAS Y EL REGOCIJO CON EL MAL AJENO

José de la Isla
En NewspaperTree.com, un sitio web de El Paso, Texas, el novelista Sergio Troncoso, llamó la atención a cómo la aspiración de Michael Phelps de una pipa de cristal, la admisión de Whoopi Goldberg de haber fumado yerba (defendiendo a Phelps), y las bromas sobre los cigarrillos de marihuana de Jon Stewart del programa por cable The Daily Show, son sintomáticas de la hipocresía. Gran parte de la población tolera el uso recreativo de la marihuana. Los Estados Unidos tiene uno de los más altos porcentajes de fumadores de marihuana en todo el mundo. No obstante, fingimos no saber nada sobre la forma en que el producto llega al mercado. Ése es problema ajeno, no es nuestro problema. Troncoso opina que estamos "regocijándonos con el mal que sufre México", derivando placer de su predicamento. La guerra violenta entre los carteles de narcóticos en México es como una guerra civil. La guerra la hacen uno contra el otro (para participación en el mercado) y contra tropas federales y autoridades locales cuando los narcotraficantes no logran corromperlos. El mercado estadounidense es la concesión que los carteles se pelean.

Pero recientemente, se oyó un susurro del consejo municipal de El Paso que instaba a los legisladores a considerar el lado de la demanda en el comercio de las drogas. El uso ilícito de los narcóticos, cannabis y confecciones químicas son el impulso a la violencia por motivo del margen extraordinario entre el costo del producto y el precio que pagan los consumidores. El seis de enero, el consejo municipal de El Paso aprobó una resolución titulada un llamado al razonamiento. Representante estatal Beto O'Rourke, como miembro de un comité, añadió una enmienda a la medida propuesta al pedir, sencillamente, "un debate nacional honesto y abierto sobre acabar con la prohibición de los narcóticos". El alcalde John Cook vetó la medida, y con el tiempo el voto del consejo municipal se estancó cuatro a cuatro en cuanto a anular al veto del alcalde.

Me dijo O'Rourke en un correo electrónico que "la estrategia tradicional no está surgiendo efecto, y somos testigos de ello". Dijo, "Me preocupa mucho que muy pocos a nivel nacional quieren considerar el lado de la demanda de esta ecuación - que estamos financiando a estos carteles con nuestra demanda por las drogas. Tenemos que dar cara a nuestra contribución al prob-

lema y decidir cuál va a ser nuestra solución. Eso fue todo lo que pedíamos". Tal vez El Paso está a la vanguardia del cambio, un reflejo de la manera en que otros están cuestionando la hipocresía que subyace a la política estadounidense sobre el abuso de las drogas. Por otro lado, los pesos pesados latinoamericanos se están registrando del lado de los disidentes en El Paso.

La Comisión Latinoamericana sobre Drogas y Democracia publicó su informe el 11 de febrero en Rio de Janeiro pidiendo "un cambio de paradigma" en cuando a las políticas prohibicionistas contra las drogas. El grupo fue formado originalmente por ex presidentes Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brasil), César Gaviria (Colombia) y Ernesto Zedillo (México).

Razonan que estamos más distantes que nunca de la erradicación del uso ilícito de las drogas. Van empeorando la violencia y el crimen organizado en el comercio de los narcóticos, cannabis y químicos de alteración mental. Estos son los indicadores claves de una campaña fracasada. Hay que rectificar ese viejo enfoque.

Después de 30 años de guerra contra el abuso de drogas, ¿estamos preparados a volver a considerar el uso y la adicción desde una perspectiva de salud pública, en la que los adictos y los consumidores reciben tratamiento y se elimina la ganancia de las ventas ilegales?

La carga quedará, por último, con los Estados Unidos, y si tiene la capacidad de cambiar. Eso sí que es digno de discusión y debate. Si no levantamos los tabúes y sacamos a la luz los intereses fracasados y arraigados que proponen seguir con el enfoque fracasado, no sólo resulta ser un desperdicio y peligroso, sino que también perjudica a la democracia por la manera en que los carteles de drogas y el dinero de las drogas corrompen a la democracia. Me pareció interesante que, así como Troncoso en El Paso, entre los 17 miembros de la comisión latinoamericana que considera los temas de la democracia y las drogas se encuentran los novelistas eminentes Paulo Coelho y Mario Vargas Llosa.

La razón por su participación po- drá tener algo que ver con lo que la escritora Flannery O'Connor dijera alguna vez: "Siempre me irrita tremendamente la gente que implica que el escribir ficción es una fuga de la realidad. Es un sumirse en la realidad y resulta ser muy chocante para el sistema".

[José de la Isla, autor de The Rise of

DRUGS AND SCHADENFREUDE

By José de la Isla
Novelist Sergio Troncoso, in the El Paso, Texas website, NewspaperTree.com, called attention to how Michael Phelps' inhaling from a bong, Whoopi Goldberg admitting smoking weed (in Phelps defense), and Jon Stewart of the Daily Show joking about joints are symptomatic of the hypocrisy.

A large portion of the public tolerates the recreational use of marijuana. The United States has one of the highest percentages of pot smokers in the world. Meanwhile, we pretend ignorance about how the product gets to market. That is somebody else's problem, not ours. Troncoso says we are "reveling in schadenfreude on Mexico," getting pleasure coming from their predicament.

Mexico's violent war between drug cartels is like a civil war. It is waged against each other (for market share) and on federal troops and local authorities when the gangsters don't succeed in corrupting them. The U.S. market is the franchise those cartels fight over to supply.

Yet recently, a peep was heard from the El Paso city council urging policy-makers to look into the demand side of the drug trade. The illicit use of narcotics, cannabis and chemical confections drive the violence because of the extraordinary mark-ups users pay.

On Jan. 6, the El Paso city council passed a resolution labeled a call to reason. State Representative Beto O'Rourke, serving on a committee, tacked on an amendment to the proposed measure by simply calling for "an honest, open national debate on ending the prohibition on narcotics."

Mayor John Cook vetoed the measure, and eventually city council deadlocked on a 4 to 4 vote to override.

O'Rourke told me in an e-mail the "traditional strategy is not working, and we bear witness to that." He said, "I am really concerned that very few at (the) national level want to look at the demand side of the equation - we are funding these cartels through our demand for drugs. We need to own up to our contribution to the problem and decide what our solution will be. That's all we were asking."

Perhaps El Paso is a bellwether of change, reflecting how others are questioning the hypocrisy underlying U.S. drug-abuse policy. In a separate development, Latin American heavyweights are registering on the side of the El Paso dissidents.

The Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy released its report Feb. 11 in Rio de Janeiro calling for "a paradigm shift" in drug policy. The group was originally formed by former presidents Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brazil), César Gaviria (Colombia) and Ernesto Zedillo (Mexico).

They reason we are further than ever from eradicating illicit drug use. Violence and organized crime in the narcotics, cannabis and mind-altering chemicals trade grow worse. These are the key indicators of the failed campaign. That old approach needs to be rectified.

After 30 years of the drug abuse war, are we prepared to reconsider use and addiction from a public health perspective, where addicts and users are treated and the profit taken out of street sales?

The onus will ultimately lie with whether the United States has the capacity to change. That is worthy of discussion and debate. Unless we lift the taboos and out the failed entrenched interests that propose more of the failed approach, not only is it wasteful and dangerous, it is also hazardous to democracy because of how cartels and drug money corrupt democracy.

I found it interesting that just like Troncoso in El Paso, among the 17 members on the Latin American commission looking into democracy and drugs were the eminent novelists Paulo Coelho and Mario Vargas Llosa.

The reason might have something to do with what writer Flannery O'Connor once said: "I'm always highly irritated by people who imply that writing fiction is an escape from reality. It's a plunge into reality and it's very shocking to the system."

(Houston-based José de la Isla writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. He may be contacted by e-mail at joseisla3@yahoo.com.) © 2006

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WHITE HOUSE 'TAKEOVER' OF THE CENSUS

By Angelo Falcón
Hispanic Link News Service

The controversy over White House plans to play a more direct role in overseeing the operations of the U.S. Bureau of the Census as some sort of "political grab" reflects, more than anything else, an astounding ignorance of how the Census operates. The charge is that having the Census Bureau director report directly to Rahm Emmanuel, President Obama's chief of staff, would allow him to manipulate the 2010 population count for partisan advantage in reapportionment and redistricting.

That contrasts with the myth under President George W. Bush, where he kept the Census Bureau "independent."

This became an issue when President Obama surprised most of us this month with his nomination of Senator Judd Gregg, since then declined, to be Commerce Secretary. Gregg had in the past voted to eliminate this Commerce Department and been a strong opponent of providing needed resources for the 2000 Census. The move raised serious concerns by black and Latino leaders working for an accurate count of their communities in the 2010 Census. Nomination of the New Hampshire Republican, given his track record, was grounds for reasonable questions about the appropriateness of his candidacy for the post.

The reactions, largely by Republicans, to the White House's announced plan to play a more direct role with the Census have been either purely political or based on ignorance of the way the federal government works. The Census Bureau or any other agency under a full department is overseen directly or indirectly by the White House.

When the Census Bureau ran into problems last year with management of its failed handheld computers program that would have automated the population count, the Bush White House set up a special group inside of Commerce to oversee the matter. The Commerce Secretary under Bush was in no way an independent player "protecting" the Census Bureau from partisan influences.

Accepting these assertions would be tantamount to making up history from scratch. It is not possible for the White House or anyone else to manipulate the 2010 population count to rig reapportionment or redistricting in favor of one party or the other. The Census Bureau has a well-developed set of protocols and procedures to assure as objective a population count as possible. No one, neither a powerful figure like Emmanuel nor even the President, can manipulate this process.

Finally, influencing broader policy issues on the use of Census data, such as using sampling to adjust population counts, is most definitely a political process beyond the purview of the

bureau. It would not be affected by who the Census Bureau reports to. Whether it is the White House or the Commerce Secretary, this is an issue that would be framed by whoever is President.

The use of sampling for adjusting Census numbers is ultimately under the jurisdiction of the federal courts. In addition, the political redistricting process is something that is overseen by the Department of Justice in its administration of the Voting Rights Act. And as we have seen with the Bush Administration, the Justice Department has certainly not been kept "independent" of politics.

By taking a direct interest in the 2010 Census, President Obama will be assuring that this population count, only 15 months away, would get the attention and resources needed to make it accurate and assure that hard-to-count populations are included. Currently, there are thousands of Census staff working hard to make sure that the 2010 Census is the most accurate and fairest possible. President Obama is telling them he supports them fully and understands the importance of the 2010 Census to the country. It is the critics who seem to want to politicize this situation, at the cost of turning the 2010 count into a disaster and tremendous waste of money.

(Angelo Falcón is president of the National Institute for Latino Policy, based in New York City. He chairs the Latino Census Network and is a member of the Census Advisory Committee on the Hispanic Population, and the national steering committee of the Census Information Centers Program of the Census Bureau. Email: info@latinopolity.org) ©2009

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"Freedom of Expression"

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions
Rewarding Failure

By Ysidro Gutierrez

There was a time in America when success was celebrated, admired and emulated. It was a time when hard work earned rewards and failure was an opportunity to try and try again. There was a time when it was noble to fall, get up, brush yourself off, learn from your mistakes and move forward to the greater achievements of the future. There was a time in America when its people relied on themselves, their friends, neighbors and family and not on the whims of politically motivated politicians in Washington D.C. These were the old fashioned core values that defined America. Are these days gone forever in America?

There was a time in America when the news media outlets were considered the fourth branch of Government because of the "Checks and Balances" effect they had on Government. There was a time in America when news reports shed the light of truth on Washington politicians. There was a time when news stories were based on facts, supported with charts and corroborated by eyewitness testimony before they were aired or printed. Are these days gone forever in America?

This commentator is deeply frustrated about the "Spending, Spending and Spending" package that was sold as a "Stimulus" and signed into law on Tuesday by President Obama in Denver Colorado. This commentator is also frustrated by the widespread support of the American people. How could so many believe the spin and fall into the "It's a Stimulus" trap? How could so many believe that it will help end the recession and keep us from slipping into a depression. To those Americans who have fallen for the hype I pose this question: Do you support your family by borrowing money to pay your living expenses? How long do you think will take before you go bankrupt?

Reasonable people understand that we cannot continue to live on borrowed money. There was a time in America when everyone understood that borrowed money has to

be paid back with interest. There was a time when Americans were outraged over the mere idea that our loans will have to be repaid over the life times of our children and grandchildren. Why would Americans believe it is OK to finance our lives today on the earnings of future generations? Why would they acquiesce and not stand up for the American values in defense of the rights of future generations. This commentators frustration is that too many Americans fell for the spin.

This commentator is also frustrated by the US Congress' willingness to take money away from families who are honest, live by the rules, work hard, pay their taxes, and obey the laws and give it away to Wall Street tycoons and millionaire bankers who lined their pockets, built huge personal fortunes while they bankrupted their companies and left investors standing in line at the soup kitchen.

It is wrong to spend, spend and spend and ignore the harm spending does to our National Economy. It is a commonly held economic principle that flooding the market with federal spending causes crippling inflation. Inflation of this magnitude diminishes and may very well destroy the Middle Class. It will be long before America's middle class recovers. This degree of inflation may be its coup de grace.

Why is this so? The simple truth is that spending leads to inflation and devaluation of the US Dollar. This is certain. There is no guessing about this as opposed to the President and the US Congress who admit that they don't know whether the "Stimulus" will work. It is likely that it will not work.

My friend OA points out that the President has the support of at least half of the American people. My answer is, "OA, if you think spending the way to end inflation, why is California broke? My fear is that California is too often the trend setter for America. My frustration is that how goes California so goes the US. I sure am glad the glass is half full. Ain't it great to be a Texan?"

MÁS DETALLE SOBRE LA 'ADQUISICIÓN' DEL CENSO POR LA CASA BLANCA

Angelo Falcón

La controversia sobre los planes de la Casa Blanca por jugar un rol más directo en supervisar las operaciones de la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos como si fuera algún tipo de "agarrar político" refleja, más que todo, una asombrosa ignorancia de cómo funciona el Censo. La acusación es que al tener al director del Censo directamente bajo la supervisión de Rahm Emmanuel, jefe de personal del presidente Obama, le permitiría manipular el conteo de la población del 2010 aventajando su partido en la nueva distribución de representación en el Congreso y la redistribución de distritos electorales.

Eso, en contraste con la situación bajo el presidente George W. Bush, cuando mantuvo al Censo "independiente". La controversia surgió cuando el presidente Obama nos sorprendió este mes con nombrar al senador Judd Gregg, quien luego no aceptó el nombramiento, a ser secretario del Departamento de Comercio. En el pasado, Gregg había votado para eliminar el Departamento de Comercio y había sido ferviente opositor a suplir los recursos necesarios para el Censo del 2000. La movida trajo a colación serias consideraciones por parte de dirigentes negros y latinos quienes obran por lograr un conteo correcto de sus comunidades en el Censo del 2010. El nombramiento del republicano de Nuevo Hampshire, dado su historial de votos, fue motivo de cuestionamiento razonable sobre lo apropiado de su candidatura para el puesto.

Las reacciones, grandemente provenientes de republicanos, al plan que anunciara la Casa Blanca por jugar un rol más directo con el Censo han sido o puramente políticas o fundamentadas en la ignorancia del funcionamiento del gobierno federal. La Oficina del Censo, o cualquier otra agencia bajo un departamento la supervisa directa o indirectamente la Casa Blanca.

Cuando la Oficina del Censo se encontró en problemas el año pasado con el manejo de su programa fracasado de computadoras de mano que habría automatizado el conteo de la población, la Casa Blanca bajo Bush estableció un grupo especial dentro del Departamento de Comercio para supervisar el tema. El secretario de Comercio bajo Bush de ninguna manera era un jugador independiente "protegiendo" a la Oficina del Censo de influencias de partido. El aceptar estas aseveraciones constituiría inventar la historia de la nada. No es posible que

la Casa Blanca ni nadie más manipule el conteo de la población en el 2010 para amañar ni la nueva distribución de representación en el Congreso ni la redistribución de distritos electorales a favor de un partido o el otro. La Oficina del Censo cuenta con una serie bien establecida de protocolos y procedimientos para asegurar que el conteo sea lo más objetivo posible. Nadie, ni una figura poderosa como Rahm Emmanuel, ni tan siquiera el presidente, puede manipular este proceso.

Por último, la influencia sobre temas de políticas de mayor amplitud en cuanto al uso de la información derivada del Censo, como usar las muestras para ajustar conteos de la población, es, en definitiva, un proceso político que sobrepasa el alcance de la Oficina del Censo. No sería afectada por el ente al cual se reporta la Oficina del Censo. Sea la Casa Blanca o el secretario del Comercio, éste es un tema que circundaría quien esté de presidente.

El uso de las muestras para ajustar las cifras del Censo al final queda bajo la jurisdicción de los tribunales federales. Además, el proceso de volver a distribuir los distritos electorales es algo que supervisa el Departamento de Justicia al administrar su Ley de Derechos al Voto. Y, como hemos visto con la administración de Bush, el Departamento de Justicia de hecho no se ha mantenido "independiente" de la política. Al tomar interés directamente en el Censo del 2010, el presidente Obama estará asegurando que este conteo de la población, a sólo 15 meses de ahora, reciba la atención y los recursos necesarios para hacer que sea correcto y asegurar que se incluya a las poblaciones difíciles de contar. Actualmente, hay miles de empleados del Censo trabajando arduamente para asegurar que el Censo del 2010 sea el más correcto y más justo posible. El presidente Obama les está diciendo que les da su respaldo por entero y que comprende la importancia que tiene el Censo 2010 para el país. Son los críticos los que parece ser quieren politizar la situación, a costo de convertir el conteo del 2010 en un desastre y tremendo desperdicio de dinero. (Angelo Falcón es presidente del National Institute for Latino Policy, con sede en la ciudad de Nueva York. Es presidente del Latino Census Network y miembro del Census Advisory Committee on the Hispanic Population, comité directivo del Census Information Centers Program de la Oficina del Censo. Comuníquese con él a: info@latinopolity.org). © 2009



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Social Justice Groups Watching How \$787B is Distributed



families earned a median income of \$90,494, compared to \$43,916 to Latino families and \$50,878 for black families. "Moving forward to eliminate inequity demands a new understanding

of the reasons for the persistent gap between whites and people of color, and a critical assessment of what can be done now to close the gap.

For decades, government researchers, scholars, foundations and nonprofits have documented racial disparities across income, educational attainment, home-ownership, wealth accumulation, health status, incarceration and employment, a report released Tuesday notes.

But social justice groups working on race and poverty are gearing up to make sure that those in charge of administering funds allocated in the \$787 billion stimulus package, signed by President Barack Obama Tuesday, do so in a way that is inclusive.

During a national "Race and Jobs" conference call that coincided with the bill signing, Dominique Apollon, director of research for the Applied Research Center, said that at the same time that people of color are a growing part of the nation's population, the national median income for families of color lags behind the income of white families.

Apollon announced the release of "Check the Color Line, 2009 Income Report," which highlights the family income gaps between races nationally and state by state.

The research was conducted by ARC, based in California, and the Center for the Study of Social Policy in Washington, D.C. "We want to focus on how to advance viable policy alternatives that will benefit everyone," Apollon said. "People of color are hurting in this country as far as incomes are concerned. Jobs have to be a key part of closing that gap."

Nationally, the median annual income earned by whites in 2007, the latest year of available data, was \$68,083, compared to \$42,074 for Latinos and \$40,259 for blacks. In Connecticut, white

Too often, instead of addressing the institutional and structural causes of these inequitable outcomes in communities of color, the reasons for these failures have been attributed solely to personal responsibility, poor choices and inadequate work ethic," the report says.

Fred Redman, vice president of United Steelworkers of America International, said discussions are taking place with the construction trades about recruiting apprentices of color and women as infrastructure projects take shape that will use the stimulus money. "In 2007, women were 46 percent of all workers but they were over-represented in low-wage jobs," Redman said.

He advocated the growth of the labor movement as an avenue for lifting families into the middle class and voiced support for the Employee Free Choice Act, still under debate in Congress. Julian Mocine-McQueen, a field organizer for Green For All, said the legislation presents an opportunity for training and jobs in weatherization and improving energy efficiency in government, commercial and residential structures, but public-private partnerships will be needed for those efforts to work.

"The scope is very large," he said. Green For All advocates for the creation of green economy job and entrepreneurial opportunities at the local, state and federal levels, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

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Frenar importación armas a EEUU ayudaría a México



Congresistas estadounidenses pidieron al presidente Barack Obama restringir las importaciones de armas de asalto para impedir que lleguen a manos de los carteles de las drogas en México, donde las han utilizado para escalar la violencia y enfrentarse a las autoridades.

El presidente del subcomité para el Hemisferio Occidental de la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos Eliot Engel, dijo el miércoles en rueda de prensa que la petición se debe a que el mercado estadounidense se ha visto prácticamente inundado por armas de asalto procedentes en su mayoría de Europa del Este y China.

Engel, congresista demócrata por Nueva York, señaló que ese tipo de armas son las que han permitido a los carteles de las drogas aumentar su capacidad de fuego y desatar una violencia mayor en México, que sólo en 2008 cobró más de 6.000 víctimas.

"(Esas armas) vienen a los Estados Unidos de Europa y otros lugares, y luego se dirigen a México", afirmó. Engel encabezó una delegación de seis congresistas al país para observar la aplicación de la Iniciativa Mérida, un programa de cooperación de Estados Unidos para contribuir a incrementar las capacidades en el combate al narcotráfico.

Aseguró que ese tipo de armamento "nunca habría llegado

a México si la prohibición (a su importación) en Estados Unidos fuera aplicada". Dijo que la prohibición fue aplicada por los ex presidentes George Bush padre y Bill Clinton, pero en los últimos ocho años fue abandonada.

México ha sido azotado por una creciente violencia por parte de los carteles de las drogas, los cuales se han hecho de grandes arsenales que incluyen fusiles de asalto automáticos, lanzagranadas y morteros.

Las autoridades de ambos países coinciden en que cerca del 90% de las armas incautadas en México tienen su origen en Estados Unidos.

Para Engel, el problema no es la posibilidad legal de adquirir armas en Estados Unidos, sino el flujo de armamento importado de Europa y Asia.

"Debemos hacer un mejor trabajo para reducir el flujo de armas al sur de la frontera", dijo el congresista, quien refirió que durante un encuentro con el procurador mexicano Eduardo Medina Mora se les mostraron algunas de las armas confiscadas al crimen organizado.

Expresó que pese a la actual crisis económica mundial, trabajarán para que se mantengan los fondos previstos para la Iniciativa Mérida.

El plan está previsto para aplicarse por tres años y considera recursos totales por 1.400 millones de dólares. Además de México, la iniciativa beneficiará a Centroamérica, República Dominicana y Haití.

U.S. Military to Recruit Immigrants with Citizenship Offers

Stretched thin in Afghanistan and Iraq, the American military will begin recruiting skilled immigrants who are living in the United States with temporary visas, offering them the chance to become U.S. citizens in as little as six months.

Immigrants who are permanent residents, with documents commonly known as green cards, have long been eligible to enlist. But the new effort, for the first time since the Vietnam War, will open the armed forces to temporary immigrants if they have lived in the United States for a minimum of two years, according to military officials familiar with the plan.

Recruiters expect that the temporary immigrants will have more education, foreign language skills and professional expertise than many Americans who enlist, helping the military to fill shortages in medical care, language interpretation and field intelligence analysis.

"The American Army finds itself in a lot of different countries where cultural awareness is critical," said Lieutenant General Benjamin Freakley, the top recruitment officer for the army, which is leading the pilot program. "There will be some very talented folks in this group."

The program will begin small - limited to 1,000 enlistees nationwide in its first year, most for the army and some for other branches. If the pilot program succeeds as Pentagon officials anticipate, it will expand for all branches of the military. For the army, it could eventually provide as many as 14,000 volunteers a year, or about one in six recruits.

About 8,000 permanent immigrants with green cards join the armed forces annually, the Pentagon reports, and about 29,000

foreign-born people currently serving are not U.S. citizens.

Although the Pentagon has had wartime authority to recruit immigrants since shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, military officials have moved cautiously to lay the legal groundwork for the temporary immigrant program to avoid controversy within the ranks and among veterans over the prospect of large numbers of immigrants in the armed forces.

A preliminary Pentagon announcement of the program last year drew a stream of angry comments from officers and veterans on Military.com, a Web site they frequent.

Marty Justis, executive director of the national headquarters of the American Legion, the veterans' organization, said that while the group opposes "any great influx of immigrants" to the United States, it would not object to recruiting temporary immigrants as long as they passed tough background checks. But he said the immigrants' allegiance to the United States "must take precedence over and above any ties they may have with their native country."

The military does not allow illegal immigrants to enlist, and that policy would not change, officers said. Recruiting officials pointed out that volunteers with temporary visas would have already passed a security screening and would have shown that they had no criminal record.

"The army will gain in its strength in human capital," Freakley said, "and the immigrants will gain their citizenship and get on a ramp to the American dream."

In recent years, as American forces faced combat in two wars and recruiters struggled to meet their goals for the all-volunteer

military, thousands of legal immigrants with temporary visas who tried to enlist were turned away

because they lacked permanent green cards, recruiting officers said.

Recruiters' work became easier in the last few months as unemployment soared and more Americans sought to join the military. But the Pentagon, facing a new deployment of 30,000 troops to Afghanistan, still has difficulties in attracting doctors, specialized nurses and language experts.

Several types of temporary work visas require college or advanced degrees or professional expertise, and immigrants who are working as doctors and nurses in the United States have already been certified by American medical boards.

Military figures show that only 82 percent of about 80,000 army recruits last year had high school diplomas. According to new figures, the army provided waivers to 18 percent of active-duty recruits in the final four months of last year, allowing them to enlist despite medical conditions or criminal records.

Military officials want to attract immigrants who have native knowledge of languages and cultures that the Pentagon considers strategically vital. The program will also be open to students and refugees.

The army's one-year pilot program will begin in New York City to recruit about 550 tempo-



rary immigrants who speak one or more of 35 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Igbo (a tongue spoken in Nigeria), Kurdish, Nepalese, Pashto, Russian and Tamil. Spanish speakers are not eligible. The army's program will also include about 300 medical professionals to be recruited nationwide.

Under a statute invoked in 2002 by the Bush administration, immigrants who serve in the military can apply to become citizens on the first day of active service, and they can take the oath in as little as six months.

For foreigners who come to work or study in the United States on temporary visas, the path to citizenship is uncertain and at best agonizingly long, often lasting more than a decade. The military also waives naturalization fees, which are at least \$675.

At a street corner recruiting station in Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, New York, Staff Sergeant Alejandro Campos of the army said he had already fielded calls from temporary immigrants who had heard rumors about the program.

The Very Definition of Partisanship?

The signature into law by President Obama of the economic reactivation plan constitutes the first major policy decision accomplished during his mandate. Therefore, the form in which the decision was adopted indicates the political atmosphere that will prevail in Washington, at least, until 2010.

Until now, one of the most remarkable facts about the economic reactivation plan is the partisan alignment required for its approval in Congress. Despite exhortations to the other side, President Obama could not obtain the degree of bipartisanship he intended.

In an impressive show of discipline, in the House of Representatives, no Republican voted in favor of the plan. While in the Senate, where Republican votes were essential, the bare minimum of three Senators from the minority crossed the aisle in support of the bill.

The Republican Party refusal to support the plan means that

they believe the economy will not be reactivated. Therefore, they expect to be rewarded for their skepticism in the next legislative elections of 2010, reducing or wiping out the majority presently enjoyed by the Democrats. President Obama was also very frank about the political stakes. He admitted the Democratic Party could lose the majority, if the economy is not reactivated by 2010.

Furthermore, he also said, if the recession cannot be overcome, he will be a one term President.

The Republicans are betting, according to former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, on the belief that "big bureaucratic spending never works." However, Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, one of the three Republicans who voted in favor of the plan, warned that the Republicans risk becoming "the party of Hoover," the last Republican President in twenty years, between 1933 and 1953.

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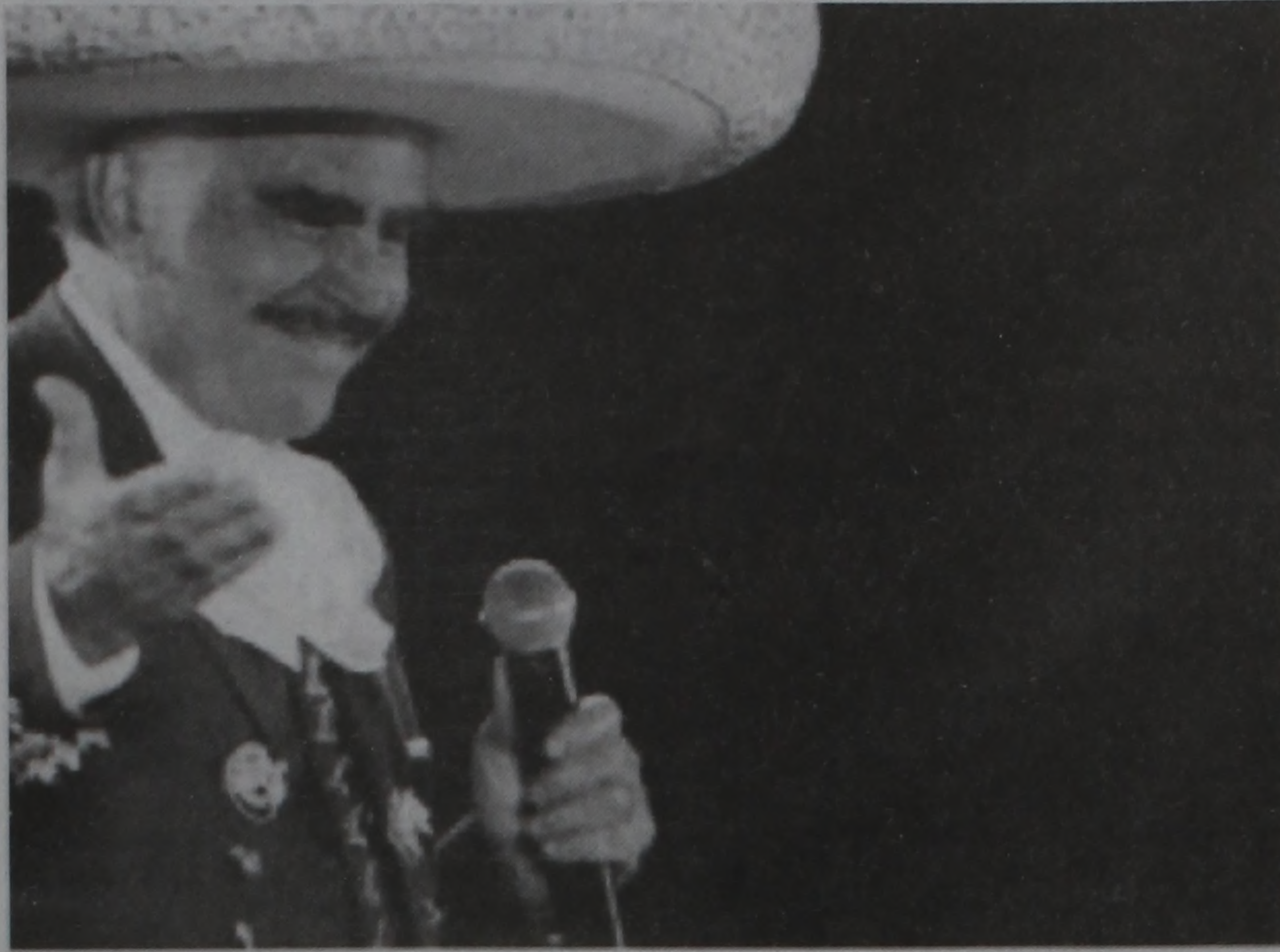
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Chente rompe el récord

Vicente Fernández canta ante 217 mil en el Zócalo de la capital mexicana



El cantante mexicano de música ranchera Vicente Fernández logró el sábado romper la marca del mayor concierto público celebrado en el zócalo de Ciudad de México, que ostentaba la colombiana Shakira, al reunir a 217 mil personas en ese lugar, informaron

fuentes de la compañía OC-ESA, organizadora del evento. En el marco de la celebración del día de San Valentín, el cantante deleitó a los asistentes que superaron a los 200 mil reunidos por Shakira en un concierto celebrado en 2007 en

el mismo lugar.

Acompañado por un grupo de mariachi, el artista de 68 años realizó un recorrido por todos los éxitos de su trayectoria musical, muchos de los cuales fueron coreados por el público, que se congregó en la mayor plaza pública

del país. "Amor es... sin violencia. Bésame Mucho" es el lema que las autoridades capitalinas eligieron este año para conmemorar el día de San Valentín en el centro histórico de la capital mexicana, una jornada llena de actividades lúdicas que culminó con el concierto de Fernández y que buscaba manifestarse contra la violencia, por la paz, las libertades, el amor y la amistad.

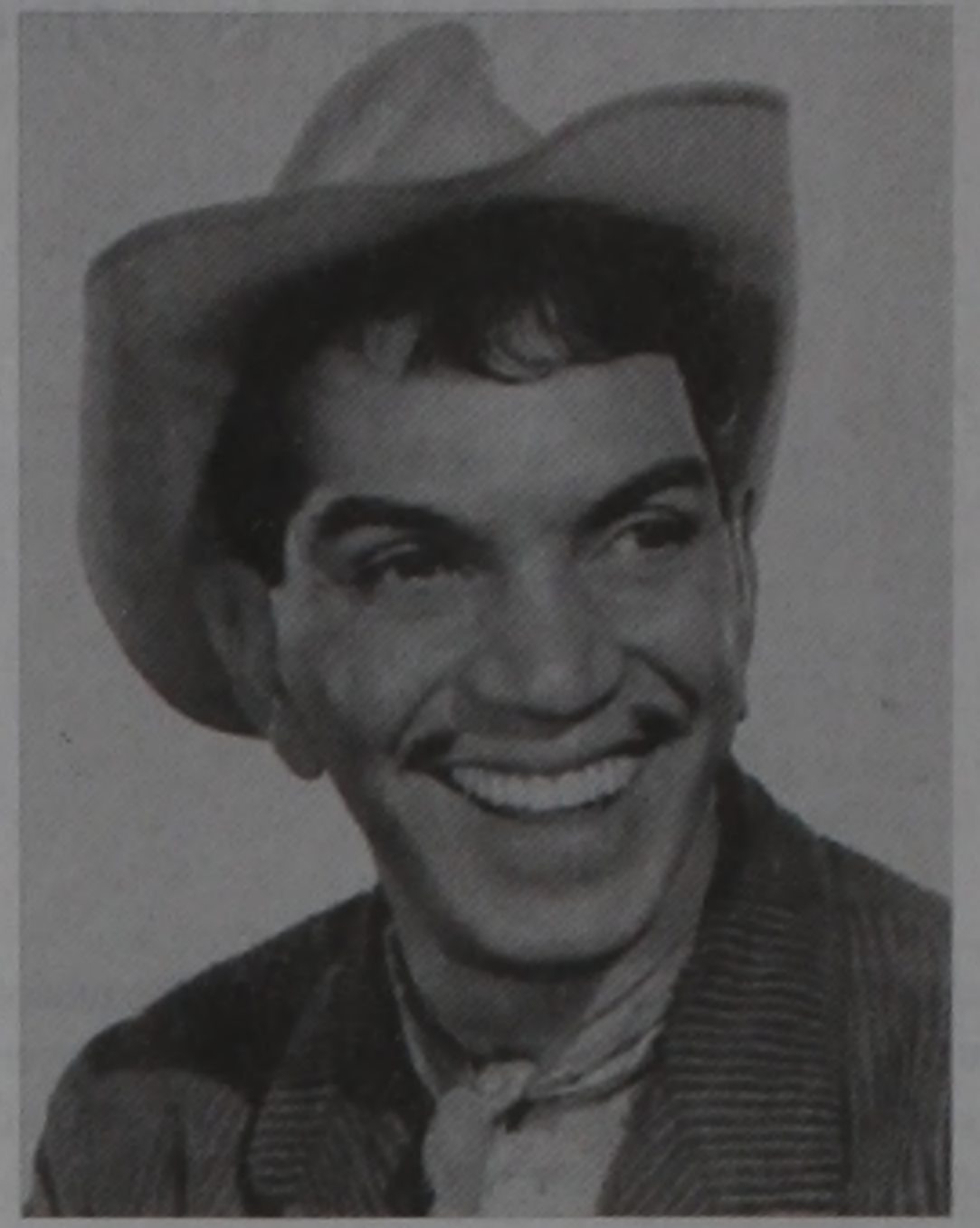
La catedral metropolitana y el Palacio Nacional, que se ubican en los márgenes del zócalo, sirvieron de fondo del gran evento musical.

Canciones como Estos celos, La ley del monte, Mujeres divinas, y El rey, hicieron vibrar a los presentes que ovacionaron sin tregua al también conocido como El Charro de Huentitán.

Un emocionado Fernández agradeció a los asistentes al espectáculo su apoyo incondicional durante toda su trayectoria.

En días pasados el intérprete manifestó su deseo de imponer un nuevo récord en el zócalo del Distrito Federal.

Cantinflas Bio Pic In the Works



The announcement last month that the bio-pic on the life of Mexico's beloved icon, comedian/actor Cantinflas, has picked up speed with rumors on who will be cast as the comedian/actor who helped usher in the golden era of Mexican filmmaking in the '40s and '50s. John Leguizamo tops the list, which also includes Gael Garcia Bernal, Wilmer Valderrama and Diego Luna.

Alejandro Gomez Monteverde (Bella) is set to direct and will co-write the screenplay along with Jose Portillo. One of the producers will be Jay Weisleder with Cantinflas' son Mario Moreno Ivanova on board as associate producer. Benjamin Silverman, NBC co-chairman, who has already had success with Latino themed projects such as ABC's Ugly Betty, will serve as the executive producer of the bio-pic tentatively titled simply Cantinflas.

The film which is slated for a 2010 Mexican/U.S. production release, will be shot in Spanish with some scenes in English. The plot is currently under wraps but is said to be a coming of age story centered on the goodwill Cantinflas brought upon his country. Names for the female co-star being considered include Natalie Portman, Rachel McAdams, and Scarlett Johansson.

Reyes, "Cantinflas", was born August 12, 1911. He earned wide popularity with his stage and film persona Cantinflas, usually portrayed as an impoverished campesino slumdweller of "pelado" (streetwise) origin. The character came to be associated with the national identity of Mexico, and allowed Moreno to establish a long, successful film career that included a foray into Hollywood. Charlie Chaplin once called him "the greatest comedian in the world", and Moreno is often referred to as the "Charlie

Chaplin of Mexico."

Moreno was a pioneer of the cinema of Mexico, and helped usher it into its golden era. His success, as part of Mexico's cinematic blossoming, helped establish Mexico as the entertainment capital of Latin America. In addition to being a business leader, he also became involved in Mexico's tangled and often dangerous labor politics. Although he was himself politically conservative, his reputation as a spokesperson for the downtrodden gave his actions authenticity and became important in the early struggle against charrismo, the one-party government's practice of co-opting and controlling unions. Cantinflas died at the age of 82 on April 20, 1993.

"[Cantinflas] is a bigger than life personality, the biggest to come out of Mexico, and the bigger the personality.

The greater responsibility for a director," said Monteverde. "It will be a very interesting film, that will focus only on the good he brought to his country and not on his private life."

Cantinflas is revered as a great performer the world over, but no more so than in Mexico. To a whole generation of Mexican baby boomers, he is just one notch below a saint. This long overdue film may introduce a whole new generation to a complex and gifted talent, but to millions of die-hard Cantinflas fans, the success of this film will depend on how he is portrayed and who is chosen to play the role.

¡Se casó Salma Hayek!

La actriz mexicana Salma Hayek se casó con su pareja francesa el Día de San Valentín, confirmó el lunes un funcionario de la alcaldía parisiense.

La fuente dijo que Hayek se casó con el magnate Francois-Henri Pinault en una ceremonia civil realizada el sábado. El funcionario pidió no ser identificado, conforme a las políticas institucionales.

La boda siguió a un complicado romance. Luego de

que ambos se conocieron en Italia en 2006, anunciaron su compromiso y tuvieron una bebé, Valentina Paloma, en septiembre de 2007. El año pasado se rompió todo compromiso, pero luego se reconciliaron.

La actriz de 42 años fue nominada para un Oscar en 2003 por su actuación en la cinta "Frida", que produjo y estelarizó. Pinault, de 46 años, fundador de la empresa francesa PPR.

Carlos Mencia Pulled From Mardi Gras Parade For Offensive Routine

"I'm Confused. How can 2,000,000 blacks get into Washington, DC in 1 day in sub zero temps when 200,000 couldn't get out of New Orleans in 85 degree temps with four days notice?"

Comedian Carlos Mencia was yanked Thursday from a Mardi Gras parade's list of celebrity riders for jokes made about Hurricane Katrina.

But Orpheus Captain Sonny

Borey said in a statement Thursday that the club became aware of "certain remarks Mr. Carlos Mencia has made in regards to New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina."

Story continues below Borey said Mencia would not be riding because "our krewes is very sensitive to the feelings of our community and the way our city is viewed."

Jennifer Lopez Set to Spearhead New Show



Once a Fox girl, always a Fox girl. Jennifer Lopez is coming

home. The singer, dancer and actress is once again exercising one of her lesser-known roles: that of television show producer.

Lopez, according to several published media reports, has

signed on to produce an English version of the Argentine telenovela "Rebel's Way," a kind of Beverly Hills 90210-style drama aimed at teens.

She will reportedly put her successful singing career on hiatus to pursue the new project. She has some experience in this field, having executive-produced Como Ama Una Mujer, a mini-series, for

Univision in 2007. The 39-year-old entertainer is



one Hollywood's most powerful and wealthiest Hispanic women. She became a household name

after starring as "Selena" in a 1994 biography of Selena Quintanilla-Perez, the slain Mexican singing icon.

Lopez began her career as dancer, including a stint as "Fly Girl" on Fox's breakthrough television hit variety show "In Living Color," which

also launched the careers of Jim Carrey, Damon Wayans and others.

Texas Tech Offers Wind-oriented Summer Camp for Youth

Run on the Wind: Engineering a Clean Tomorrow debuts this summer.

Registration is underway for a new academic enrichment program, Run on the Wind: Engineering a Clean Tomorrow. This Texas Tech residential summer camp, scheduled for June 7-12, is open for students in grades 7 to 11.

The camp, offered through the Institute for the Development and Enrichment of Advanced Learners (IDEAL), will provide students with information regarding

careers in wind science as well as information about the necessary academic skills to succeed. Sessions and activities include: building a wind turbine, principles and physics of wind to electricity, wind sailing at Reese Technology Center, atmospheric and meteorological aspects of forecasting wind power and a wind tunnel demonstration. Martha Hise, IDEAL direc-

tor, said that Run on the Wind will provide students an introduction to the field of wind science and an opportunity to consider wind science as a future academic pursuit.

"Fostering the growth of this clean energy source is largely dependent upon creating a competent well-educated workforce," Hise said. "This camp is a step in that direction."

IDEAL, a department in the

Texas Tech Division of Institutional Diversity and Community Engagement is a nonprofit organization. Formed in 1984, the institute has introduced thousands of students in grades K-11 to the university through a variety of on-campus academic enrichment programs.

For a program brochure or more information, contact IDEAL at (806) 742-2420.

Llorona en 'American Idol'

Tal vez ahora Tatiana Del Toro deje de llorar. El nombre de la cantante de 23 años fue develado el miércoles como uno de los 36 semifinalistas de American Idol.

Del Toro y los otros 53 participantes que quedaban tuvieron que enfrentar un juicio final durante la última fase de la competencia antes de las semifinales del popular concurso de canto de la cadena Fox.

Del Toro, quien ha llamado la atención por sus arrebatos emocionales — de la risa al llanto —, en un momento dado fue trasladada de uno a otro cuarto, donde algunos esperaban ansiosos conocer su destino.

La boricua de 23 años pensó que estaba fuera de la competencia.

Pero una de las 36 finalistas fue descalificada casi tan pronto como fue seleccionada.

El mismo miércoles, Fox dijo en un comunicado de prensa que Joanna Pacitti es "inelegible para continuar", sin especificar las razones.

Felicia Barton, una mamá de 26 años de Virginia Beach, Virginia, ocupará el puesto de Pacitti, una nativa de Philadelphia.

Pacitti, de 23 años, no pudo ser localizada de inmediato para obtener una reacción.

Pacitti audicionó para el concurso en Louisville, Kentucky, y llegó a American Idol con un resumé en la industria del espectáculo bajo el brazo: tuvo un contrato discográfico con Geffen y lanzó un álbum en el 2006 que, según la revista Billboard, vendió más de 16 mil copias. La jueza de American Idol Kara DioGuardi reconoció a la joven cuando se presentó para



la prueba.

Pacitti también protagonizó Annie en Broadway cuando niña y cantó en las bandas sonoras de las películas Legally Blonde y Bratz.

Toda esa experiencia generó quejas de televidentes que opinaban Pacitti estaba demasiado pulida como para el programa, cuya idea es lanzar al estrellato talentos desconocidos.

Sin embargo American Idol, ahora en su octava temporada, ya ha seleccionado cantantes con experiencia previa en el estudio de grabación.

La situación de Pacitti recordó la controversia del año pasado en torno a las finalistas Carly Smithson y Kristy Lee Cook, quienes ya habían tenido contratos discográficos.

Smithson había grabado un álbum para MCA Records, mientras que Cook estuvo una vez bajo el sello Arista Nashville. Otros experimentados cantantes en la séptima temporada fueron Robbie Carrico, quien formó parte del grupo pop Boyz n Girlz United, y el primer finalista David Archuleta, quien en el 2003 ganó la prueba de talento Star Search.

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Pavlik, Cotto seek redemption after first losses

Miguel Cotto isn't interested in a mulligan. Neither is Kelly Pavlik, for that matter, even though both might well be entitled to a second chance.

Rather, the former welter-weight champion and reigning middleweight champ are seeking redemption following their first career losses when they're featured Saturday night in a unique split-site doubleheader.

Cotto takes on unheralded Michael Jennings for the vacant WBO title before what's expected to be a heavily Puerto Rican crowd at Madison Square Garden, while Pavlik defends his WBC and WBO belts against top contender Marco Antonio Rubio in his hometown of Youngstown, Ohio. "It can't get here soon enough,"

Pavlik said during a conference call. "We're definitely anxious to



get back in there."

Especially considering the circumstances surrounding their recent defeats.

Unable to settle on a title defense last October, Pavlik (34-1, 30 KOs) instead wound up in a dangerous catch-weight bout with savvy veteran Bernard Hopkins, whose slick style didn't match up well with Pavlik's straight-ahead punching. Pavlik promoter Bob

Arum acknowledged he wasn't thrilled with the fight and it quickly became evident why.

The 43-year-old former middleweight champion gave Pavlik a lesson, hitting him almost at will. The budding young star looked slow and tired at 170 pounds, unable to uncork his jab until the 11th round, which by then was much too late.

"After the first round, I came back to the corner and said, 'Hey, it's OK, I'm stiff but I'll loosen up. Give me a couple more rounds,'" Pavlik recalled. "Then after the second round I came back and I said, 'He's throwing a lot of punches, maybe he'll fade and I'll start getting warm,' and then after the third or fourth round I was like, 'Well, it's a long night.'"

Hopkins pitched a shutout, including 119-106 on one of the scorecards.

Never one to make excuses, Pavlik complimented Hopkins and chalked up the poor performance to a bad night. But it turns out Pavlik was struggling with bronchitis leading up to the fight, and had hurt his elbow in training.

His team considered calling off the bout at the last minute.

"Kelly we know had an off night for various reasons," Arum said last week, "but now he's back down to his weight and he's ready to give a fantastic performance."

Cotto may have even more to prove after his loss to Antonio Margarito last July.

Considered one of the best pound-for-pound fighters in the

world, Cotto (32-1, 26 KOs) came into the fight against the hard-punching Margarito with a spotless record, the WBA title and momentum built up from victories over the likes of Carlos Quintana, Zab Judah and Shane Mosley.

Cotto looked good in the early rounds, easily beating Margarito to the punch. But the Tijuana Tornado began wearing Cotto down in the middle rounds, knocking him to the floor twice before Cotto's corner threw in the towel midway through the 11th.

Margarito's stunning victory looks more like a sham six months later.

He had his license revoked for at least one year by the Califor-

nia State Athletic Commission earlier this month -- effectively banning him from boxing in the United States -- after a plaster-like substance was found on his wraps before a loss to Mosley in January.

That immediately threw into question several of Margarito's recent victories, including his punishing defeat of Cotto at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Cotto has been openly critical of Margarito, who like him is promoted by Arum, but stopped short of saying he thinks Margarito also had loaded gloves in their fight.

"All I can tell you is I choose to think he had a good night," Cotto said, "and that's all I'm going to say about that."

Carbajal fights on despite personal, professional trials



Those are words that could be etched alongside the cracks in the sidewalk out in front of Carbajal's Ninth Street Gym, a church in the 1920s that still includes a stage and bully pulpit where today a speed bag pounds out its own kind of rhythmic sermon.

A few days ago, Carbajal and I sat on the steps of the old place just down the street from his boyhood home, which had a Super Bowl banner proclaiming loyalty to the Arizona Cardinals hanging in one window. Kids, cars and winos saw him sitting there. Some waved. Some stopped. Everybody remembered.

"Champ, champ, my kids in Mexico have your poster," an old woman says.

"Yo-yo, champ, keep fighting," says a guy with an aging face and a very young bottle of wine.

Arce isn't the only one who hasn't forgotten.

Carbajal's name is out there again, in conference calls and historical references, because of Saturday's fight for Darchinyan's super flyweight titles. With almost every significant fight in the lightest divisions, Carbajal's heavyweight impact is mentioned. It looms as large now as it ever has, in part because the attention on fighters between 108 and 115 pounds has never been duplicated and perhaps because Carbajal's turbulent life after boxing is still news.

In some ways the two elements are as hard to explain as they are inseparable. Carbajal is remembered for his great ability to fight through adversity.

There was Arce, who was beating him badly through 10 rounds. Before that, there was longtime rival Humberto "Chiquita" Gonzalez, who knocked him down twice before Carbajal came roaring back in 1993 for a seventh-round stoppage.

In two rematches, Gonzalez's corner figured out that a wounded

Carbajal was at his dangerous best. Through two rematches, Gonzalez abandoned the blood, guts and bruises demanded by Mexican fans. He kept Carbajal at bay and danced away, first with a split decision and then a majority decision..

"I was always there to fight," Carbajal said. "That's how I hope I'm remembered. When people think of me, I want them to think of a warrior."

Boxing's ranks are populated by a lot of warriors. Carbajal's legacy goes beyond that cliché. He represents a unique chapter in a sport as old the First Testament, mostly because he was a pioneer. From junior to super, the flyweights have never been quite the same since Carbajal-Gonzalez. Darchinyan, predictably confident of victory over Arce, is already talking about heavier weights, including -- he says -- a shot at Manny Pacquiao, a former junior flyweight who fought as a welter in his stunner over Oscar De La Hoya.

Carbajal's success, all at 108 pounds, created possibilities that weren't realized until Bob Arum broke out of the heavyweight mold and signed the 1988 Olympic silver medalist.

Above all, Carbajal's arrival awakened Arum, Showtime and other promoters to an untapped market. It could not have happened at a more propitious moment. The business was hooked on Mike Tyson. Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, Marvin Hagler and Tommy Hearns were leaving the stage. Just as Tyson was about to go to jail on a rape conviction, promoters discovered an audience for fighters at 130 pounds and less.

But I don't think Arum or the television people would have known it was there without Carbajal.

Trouble is, pioneering can be hazardous. Few plan on it. Carbajal's emergence surprised him as much as it did Arum.

He became the lightest ever to

collect a \$1 million purse, in the first Gonzalez rematch in 1994. I can still remember hearing Danny Carbajal -- then Michael's manager and trainer -- saying he never would have guessed anything more than maybe a \$20,000 purse. The money got a lot bigger than anybody could imagine or handle.

"I want to train a world champion one day," Carbajal said. "But I'll never ask them to sign a contract or take a percentage. If I'm lucky enough to work with a world champ, I'll just tell him to pay me whatever he thinks I deserve. Hey, the fighter takes the punches."

The comment sounds naive. But that too is Carbajal. He means it. The money stolen from him is still a bitter shock and a lasting lesson.

"All I ever wanted to do was fight," he said. "I let Danny do all of the rest of it. I trusted him."

Trusted him like a brother. The first hint of trouble, Carbajal said, came from his late and beloved father, Manuel, who died not long after his career-defining victory over Gonzalez.

"In 1992, he told me that he thought Danny was stealing from me," said Carbajal, who earned about \$8 million over 53 fights (49-4, 33 KOs). "I confronted Danny then. He told me there's no way he'd do that. I forgot about it."

It wasn't until 2007 that Carbajal realized that something sinister was happening. A year after he tearfully called Danny "a Hall of Fame trainer" during his induction ceremonies in Canastota, N.Y., he had planned to attend the same ceremony for Duran, his boyhood hero. But he decided not to go when he figured out money in his accounts had been diverted in an elaborate scheme, which began to surface in part because of investigations into the still-unsolved murder of Danny's estranged wife, Sally, in 2005.

"Danny was there in New York and he wanted to know what the hell was going on," said Carbajal,

who calls him "a disgrace" to his family. "I just told everybody that my son was sick and left it at that. Then, I confronted Danny three times. By the third time, I knew, man. I knew then."

Since then, Carbajal has talked to his brother only once. That was at a poignant sentencing of Danny to a five-year sentence last February. The judge ordered Michael not to look at Danny. Michael didn't. He didn't have to. Instead, he asked Danny how he could have stolen -- not from him, but from his four kids.

With tireless help from girlfriend Laura Hall, Carbajal continues to pursue what belongs to him. Hall and Carbajal are building a case that he says includes evidence of further fraud.

"It's all going to be settled pretty soon," Carbajal said. "You'll be amazed. Danny is sitting in that little cell and he'll have to deal with those depositions before long." Through it all, Carbajal says he relied on Hall.

"She has been there for me every step of the way," he said.

He admits that he still drinks at times, but he says he has learned how and when to stop. Drinking led to sporadic trouble with the law, especially in the wake of Angel's murder in 2000 behind a bar in central Phoenix. After that killing, Carbajal said he locked himself away in his house, trapped by his own grief, for months.

After each bout of adversity, Carbajal has re-emerged and headed back to his gym, the battered old church that represents the only craft that has ever given him much peace. His reverence for what happens within the ropes remains the same, despite everything.

"I look back on my career and I wouldn't do much different," he said. "The money changes things. It's the greed, just greed."

But there is a sense that Carbajal never really fought only for money, which he never expected to

make much of anyway. The money and his brother's greed were things encountered by a pioneer who never planned to be one. There have been days when he takes refuge in sparring and takes it out on an unsuspecting partner. It's then when he thinks about fighting again. But not for long.

"Yeah, all the time," he said when asked about returning. "But then I know to leave it alone. I retired as a champion and I don't want to change that."

Meanwhile, he hopes Arce can do what he did in a 1999 curtain-closer. Few give Arce much of a chance against Darchinyan, who has called the popular Mexican "dumb." The bullying from Darchinyan offends Carbajal, who didn't indulge in trash talk.

"I don't like him at all," Carbajal said. "He talks too much. He's real awkward, and I think that's going to give Arce some problems. I think Arce has to put pressure on him. I mean a whole lot of pressure. He also needs to move his head little more. If he can do that, I think he can beat Darchinyan. But Arce isn't the greatest defensive fighter and Darchinyan throws punches from everywhere. That scares me a little."

"But I'm pulling for Arce. I want him to beat the crap out of Darchinyan. I can't stand him. I wish I could have fought him."

Perhaps, the power from Carbajal's big right hand from so long ago is still there and will re-emerge in Arce Saturday night. Carbajal hopes so. That, he says, would begin to re-empower the flyweights, who always seem to be searching for the next Carbajal.

"I'm not sure why I had an impact," he said. "I can't explain it. But it happened to me. It just did."

"Thank God, it did." Behind him, a couple of kids were starting to train. Church was in session, another reason for Carbajal to say thanks and another reason to fight on.

Texas State Regional Golden Gloves Boxing Championship

This year's Golden Gloves Tournament will feature some of the best boxing talent in West Texas. The event will be on Friday, Feb. 20 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 pm. The event will be at the City Bank Coliseum.

Locally the Lubbock Warriors Boxing Team will enter several state and nationally ranked boxers.

Among the Lubbock Warriors Team entries will be: Kayla Combs-Bantamweight Champion. She holds the 2008 National Women's Golden Gloves Finalist; 2008, 2007, 2006 Texas State USA Boxing Champion; National Ringside National Champion and currently ranked #3 in the United States by the USA Boxing Olympic Committee.

Nicolas Rendon-Light Heavyweight. He holds the 2009-Texas TAAF Champion; 2008, 2007 Texas State Regional Golden Gloves Cham-

pion; 2006 Texas State USA Boxing Jr. Olympic Champion and the National USA Boxing Jr. Olympic Finalist.

Joseph Aguilar Lightweight; National PAL Champion; 2 Time Jr. Golden Gloves Champion and 2008 Texas State Jr. Olympic Champion; 2008 Texas State TAAF Jr. Olympic Champion.

Travis Anderson Featherweight; 2009 Lubbock ISD City Wrestling Champion; 2008 New Mexico Jr. Golden Gloves Champion; 2008 WT USA Boxing Jr. Olympic Champion.

Nat Castillo Lightweight; 2008 Tx State TAAF Jr. Olympic Champion; 2008 WT USA Boxing Jr. Olympic Champion and 2007 Tx State TAAF Jr. Olympic Champion.

Head coach Edward Hernandez, Jr. would like to invite the whole public to come and support these great outstanding boxers.

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Viva Aztlan Festival will be celebrating 15 years! Stay Tuned for more details about Ballet Folklorico & Mariachi Competitions on March 13 & 14!

El Editor gives a sneak peak at this years entertainment.....Mariachi Los Arrieros desde El Paso, TX!!!

Partnership for Prescription Assistance Prepared to Help Texas Workers Hurt by Recession

The 'Help is Here Express' bus tour will be stopping in Texas throughout the week of February 23-27 at various cities throughout the state in order to help uninsured and financially-struggling Texans access information on programs that provide prescription medicines for free or nearly free. With unemployment rates in Texas having risen for seven straight months, standing today at 6 percent, the Partnership for

ies have been visited so far, and more than 5.5 million patients have been helped nationwide since the PPA began in April 2005. "At a time when national unemployment is the highest in almost two decades, the PPA has become an important lifeline for a growing number of patients," PhRMA's Tauzin said. "Millions of Americans have been added to the jobless rolls over the last several months and there could be a sharp increase in the



Prescription Assistance (PPA) is ready to help state residents who face layoffs and loss of health care benefits find programs that provide prescription medicines for free or nearly free.

The PPA, a nationwide effort sponsored by America's pharmaceutical research companies, provides a single point of access to more than 475 patient assistance programs that help those who are uninsured or struggling financially. Nearly 200 of the programs are provided by pharmaceutical companies.

"The PPA, so far, has helped well over 440,000 Texans find out if they may qualify for free or discounted medicines and as we move forward into 2009, the assistance is still available," said PhRMA President and CEO Billy Tauzin. "That's good news for the citizens of Texas, where the unemployment rate has jumped from 4.1 percent to 6 percent since February 2008 and where some 712,000 people are now out of work."

Patients who qualify for help from the PPA's participating patient assistance programs have access to more than 2,500 brand-name and generic prescription medicines. In addition, the PPA provides information on more than 10,000 free health care clinics in America and has connected more than 277,000 patients with clinics and health care providers in their communities.

Patients seeking help from PPA can call a toll-free number (1-888-4-PPA-NOW) to talk to a trained operator or access the PPA Web site (www.pparx.org). It only takes 10 to 15 minutes to find out if someone may qualify for free or discounted medications.

To help spread the word about the assistance available, the PPA's "Help Is Here Express" buses continue to visit communities all over the country with trained specialists on board to provide information on how to access patient assistance programs. All 50 states and more than 2,500 towns and cit-

ies have been visited so far, and more than 5.5 million patients have been helped nationwide since the PPA began in April 2005. "At a time when national unemployment is the highest in almost two decades, the PPA has become an important lifeline for a growing number of patients," PhRMA's Tauzin said. "Millions of Americans have been added to the jobless rolls over the last several months and there could be a sharp increase in the

number of our citizens losing health care benefits." "PPA is currently helping thousands of people every day," Tauzin added, including those who need treatments to fight such debilitating chronic diseases as cancer, heart disease, diabetes and asthma.

On a national level, the Partnership for Prescription Assistance is represented by Emmy-winning syndicated television talk show host Montel Williams, named PPA's national spokesman in January 2006. In addition, nationally recognized Telemundo talk show host and author Mayte Prida leads the PPA's Hispanic outreach effort.

"Since January 2006, I've been traveling the country talking about the Partnership for Prescription Assistance, urging people to pick up the phone, log on to the Web site or visit the big, orange PPA bus to see if they may qualify for assistance," said Williams. "As a patient who must cope every day with the effects of multiple sclerosis, I understand only too well the importance of having access to the medicine you need."

More than 1,300 national, state and local partners, including the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Texas Pharmacy Association, Gateway to Care, Hispanic Health Care Professionals Association, Texas Medical Association, NAMI Texas and the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute, are working with America's pharmaceutical research companies to spread the word about the program. Trained specialists work with doctors, pharmacists, health care providers and community groups, educating them on the process and use of the PPA's easy-to-access Web site and toll-free number.

"We're excited that the 'Help is Here Express' is coming to Texas," said Richard Cron from The Texas Healthcare Access Network. "Now even more people will see how easy it is to get help by calling PPA's toll-free number, using the Web site, or by visiting the bus. And that translates to more people getting the help they need."

To find out if there are patient assistance programs that may meet their needs, patients should call toll-free 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669) to speak with a trained specialist or visit www.pparx.org.

Divided We Fail Pushes to Keep Health Care Reform as a Top Priority for Congress and the New Administration



Specter spoke with constituents on the prospects for bipartisan action on America's health care problems under a new Administration and Congress.

"We have long struggled to adequately cover all Americans with health insurance, and I am working in a bipartisan fashion to reform and enhance our current market-based health care system. I find these town hall conversations to be very helpful and provide a strong basis for moving forward on this important subject," says Senator Specter.

AARP Pennsylvania, Business Roundtable, National Federation of Independent Business, and the Service Employees International Union held a town hall meeting today on the need for health reform with U.S. Senator Arlen Specter in Philadelphia at the National Constitution Center. While in Philadelphia, Senator

With the recent passage of the expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), it is critically important that health care reform remains on the agenda for the 111th Congress. Today's town hall participants expressed their views on how rising health costs are affecting their families, businesses, and communities. "We are facing the worst economic crisis since

the Great Depression. As wages tighten and unemployment rises, soaring medical costs are squeezing individuals, families, businesses, and the nation as a whole," says Estella Hyde, AARP Pennsylvania State President.

As the nation continues to experience economic woes, AARP remains hopeful that acts of Congress like the recent passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 brings the nation a step closer to health care reform. The new legislation contains many provisions which AARP believes are paramount to promoting the foundation for meeting the critical needs of Americans such as health care. "The health of our economy depends to a great extent on our dealing with health care reform," says Hyde.

Overwhelmingly, participants from today's meeting have grown weary of partisan gridlock and agreed that there could

be no real economic security without health care security. "Partisan gridlock won't do anything to end the health and economic problems our country faces. If our organizations -- business, labor and consumers -- can join forces, so can our leaders in Washington. We're just getting started and we're ready to help," says Dick Chevrefils, AARP Pennsylvania State Director.

Divided We Fail has organized nearly 1,000 events across the country to give voice to the millions of Americans who are tired of letting Washington gridlock stand in the way of affordable, quality health care. More than 360 members of the 111th Congress signed the Divided We Fail pledge or wrote a letter of support. In addition to AARP, Business Roundtable, NFIB and SEIU, more than 100 independent groups have joined our efforts.

"We stand ready to work with the President and the new Congress to bring about important legislation to provide real security to the American people," adds Chevrefils.

Descubren un nuevo beneficio de la aspirina

La aspirina, además de ser un analgésico cuyos efectos anti-coagulantes frenan las enfermedades cardiovasculares, también ayuda a prevenir lesiones hepáticas, reveló un estudio divulgado hoy por la revista Journal of Clinical Investigation.

Según científicos de la Universidad de Yale, una simple aspirina puede impedir lesiones en el hígado de millones de personas que sufren los efectos secundarios de medicamentos, así como de otras enfermedades vinculadas al consumo de alcohol y la obesidad.

Los investigadores indicaron que en pruebas realizadas en ratones la aspirina redujo la tasa de mortalidad causada por sobredosis de acetaminofeno, cuyo nombre comercial en algunos países es Tylenol.

El estudio también demostró

un efecto similar al de la aspirina en un tipo de moléculas que se conocen como "antagonistas TLR" y que bloquean receptores que activan la inflamación.

Al demostrarse un mejor resultado contra la inflamación producida por una lesión, el estudio sugiere que la aspirina ayuda a prevenir y tratar lesiones hepáticas causadas por agentes no infecciosos, dijo Wajahat Mehal, profesor del Departamento de Immunobiología de la Escuela de Medicina de Yale.

El científico añadió que "muchos agentes como las drogas y el alcohol causan lesiones hepáticas", y precisó que han descubierto "dos formas de bloquear el proceso responsable de esas lesiones".

Mehal añadió que la estrategia



es ahora "administrar la aspirina diariamente para impedir las lesiones hepáticas, y si estas ocurren acudir a los antagonistas TLR para tratarlas".

Según el inmunólogo, el descubrimiento ofrece la "muy buena posibilidad de reducir el dolor y el sufrimiento de muchos pacientes con enfermedades hepáticas".



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