

Casualties of
War in Iraq
2554
as of July 19, 2006

El Editor

"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez

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Lubbock Social Services Applicants; State Employees, Bear the Brunt of Contractor's Failures

Texas Health and Human Services Contract with Accenture labeled a "Disaster"

By Abel Cruz

The plan sounded simple enough; the State of Texas would contract with a privately owned company to handle the state's public enrollment system; whereby Texas residents apply for public assistance programs. By doing so, the state stood to save taxpayers over \$600 million dollars over a 5 year period by pink slipping, or in effect firing, close to 2,900 state employees.

But according to several news reports and the Texas State Employees Union, 1,000 layoffs have been cancelled and 900 other employees have been temporarily retained.

Originally the state had signed a contract with a group of companies which would provide the same screening and enrollment services which had previously been provided by state Health and Human Services employees. At the insistence of Albert Hawkins, Texas' Health and Human Services Commissioner, the contract, worth \$889 million dollars, was awarded to a consortium of companies known as the Texas Access Alliance, or TAA, of which one of the companies, Accenture LLP, would be the company charged with conducting the process for screening applicants for public assistance programs.

Since the initiation of the new system, critics contend the whole p

rocess has been a failure.

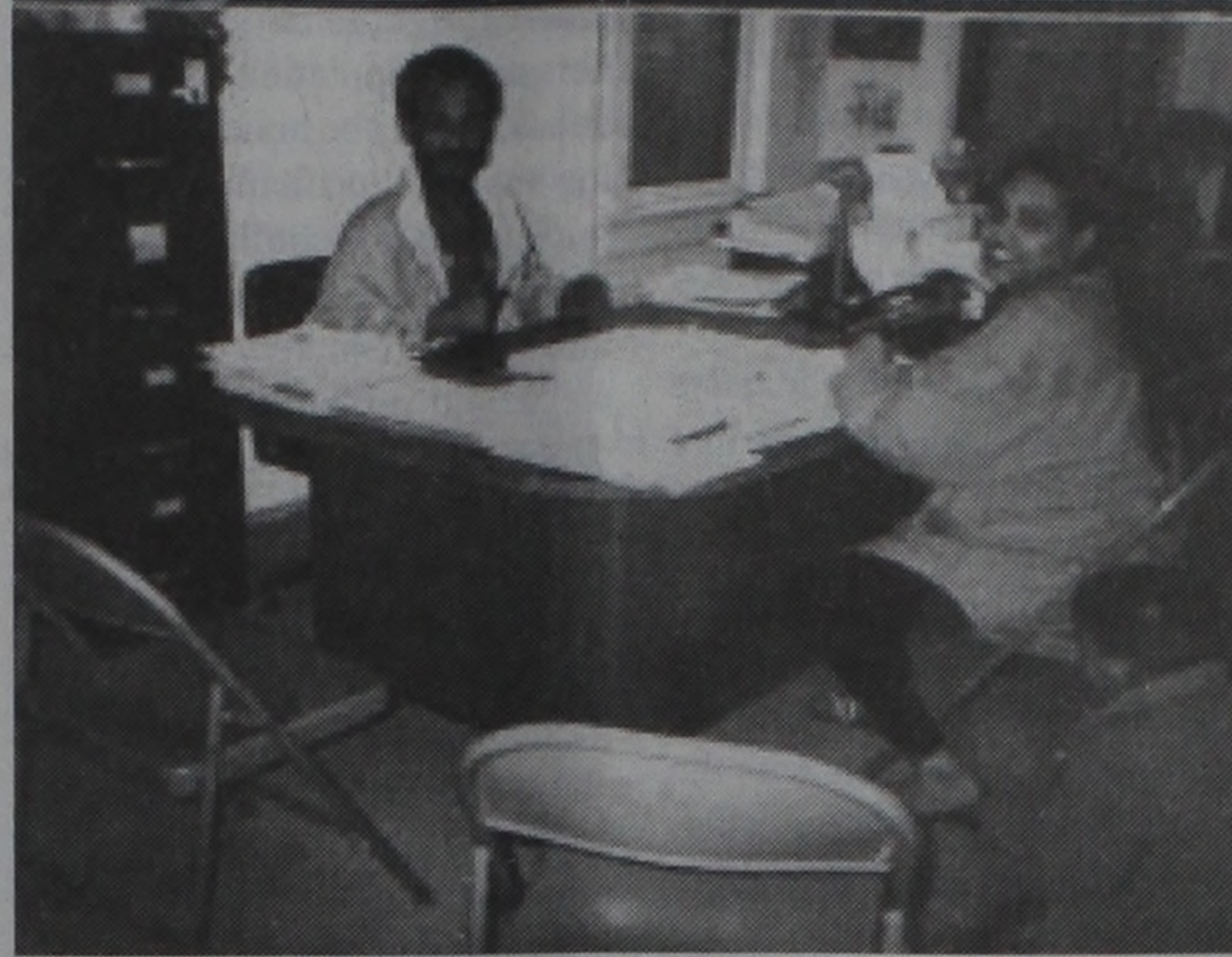
In January, when call centers staffed by Accenture employees started taking applications in areas designated as "pilot areas", applicants encountered "long wait times and spoke to representatives who couldn't answer their questions"

Then last week, 60 Texas House members, including Republican Representative Delwin Jones, District 83, which covers the Lubbock area, signed a letter calling on the state to cancel the contract with Texas Access Alliance and demanded that the contractor return some of the \$102 million it had already received from the state. The letter was signed by 37 Democrat and 13 Republican state legislators.

The letter stated that the legislators were concerned with "Accenture's poor performance ... and concerns of taxpayers dollars wasted on a project that is neither cost-effective nor an improvement" over the previous state system which had been in place.

But Health and Human Services Commissioner, Albert Hawkins, continues to defend the contract with Texas Access Alliance: even though he has acknowledged some of the problems and earlier had postponed a statewide rollout of the new system.

Hawkins has the backing of Governor Rick Perry and House Republicans who support Hawk-



ins' effort to recreate the state's system. According to a HHS Commission spokesperson, Hawkins also received support in the form of a letter signed by 30 House Republicans. But in the letter signed by the bi-partisan group of 60, legislators contend that "it is unclear what work, if any, is being done by Accenture" and contend that 12,000 backlogged cases had been returned to state workers because the contractor could not process the cases.

But being clearly left out of the debate are the many thousands of Texas residents who depend on public assistance programs like the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid, or Food

Stamps. No one, least of all Commissioner Hawkins, or Governor Perry, seems to be asking what effect all this controversy is having on Texas residents who are in need of social services. And what about the state employees, those whose lives have been turned upside down by this contracting nightmare?

According to Will Rogers, spokesperson for the Texas State Employees Union, "the impact of the Accenture call centers has been disastrous". In an email response to questions from El Editor, Rogers cites a Dallas Morning News article (May 28, 2006) which reported that "42 percent (or over 25,000) of the

60,000 people who applied for the state's CHIP program through the call centers during the week of May 15-21 were unable to reach an operator". And those who were able to get through faced the additional problem of getting accurate information from the improperly and poorly trained Accenture call center personnel. Consequently, one person who applied for food stamps in January did not find out she was eligible until July: hardly an acceptable timeframe for someone who has little or no resources to buy food.

According to Rogers, local food banks, like the one in Bastrop, Texas, about 30 miles east of Austin have seen a dramatic rise in the number of people they serve since it was taking Accenture too long to qualify them for food stamps. In addition, "the Medicaid and CHIP rolls shrunk substantially since the Accenture call centers began handling these applications", said Rogers.

And as for the HHS state employees who went from the brink of being fired to being put on hold, well the holding pattern will probably continue to be the only thing that they can be certain of. That and the fact that their increased case load is a direct result of Accenture's failure to hold up its end of the bargain.

According to Rodgers, "Between 2004 and 2006, employment in local (HHS) eligibility offices", similar to the one located on Lubbock's east side, "dropped from about 7,000 to 4,800 (employees) leaving these offices severely understaffed". Not surprisingly, the understaffing has resulted in those employees left, having to carry a

heavier workload and in some cases being forced to perform additional duties outside of their original job description.

One Lubbock state employee told El Editor that one morning she had had to neglect her own cases because she had had to translate for several hours for clients who were upset about a letter sent to them by HHS. Apparently the local office had failed to properly plan for an influx of primarily Spanish speaking clients after they had sent out a letter notifying them of a change in the application process. State employees argue that situations such as these are what were created by the huge number of state employee layoffs.

And to add insult to injury, aside from Accenture returning the 12,000 unresolved cases to HHS workers, Accenture has sent some of it's improperly or untrained employees to Health and Human Services state offices: to be trained by state HHS personnel. Consequently Texas state employees find themselves faced with having to train the contracted personnel who still might eventually take over their own jobs.

It's no wonder the confidence factor among the majority of state workers and the Texas State Employees Union is somewhere between zero and none. For them, the proof that Accenture and Texas Access Alliance has failed miserably is evident to all, except Commissioner Hawkins and those supporting his position to continue with the TAA contract debacle.

A close look at Accenture's past failures and its inability to fulfill its contractual obligations provides all the proof they need.
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Farmworker Women Confront Sex Abuse Issue

By Verónica Macías

Sexual harassment is a major problem for farmworker women that too often goes unreported, but recent successful trials of rape cases and informative forums have emboldened victims to speak out.

To address the abuse and provide advice to female field and packing house workers, the California-based Radio Bilingüe network and California Rural Legal Assistance hosted a forum on the issue July 12 at Washington Intermediate School in Dinuba, Calif.

Radio Bilingüe and its Southwestern affiliates direct their programming to meet the special informational needs of farmworker families.

The objective of the two-hour forum was to assure the workers that they do not have to keep rape or any form of sexual abuse quiet. Participants and listeners were encouraged to erase the notion that they are to blame for provoking men to commit rape, explained Radio Bilingüe producer María Eraña.

Several women presented testimonies, while attorneys from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and CRLA offered legal guidance.

The landmark case of Olivia Tamayo was presented at the forum. In 2005 a federal court awarded the Coalinga, Calif.-based Harris Farms employee \$944,000 when a jury found her employer did not respond to Tamayo's claim of sexual abuse from an ex-foreman.

It was the first time that the EEOC has taken a sexual-harassment case involving the agriculture industry to trial. The case is still on appeal and Tamayo has yet to receive any money.

According to EEOC attorney Evangelina Hernández, "We are very confident and are not willing to settle for anything but the full amount we are entitled to."

Tamayo told Hispanic Link News Service that the precedent, not the financial award, is what's important to her.

"There is lots of rape from foremen. We don't know how to act or who to tell. We are afraid our husbands will leave us," she said.

A 2003 study of immigrant women by law professor María L. Ontiveros of the University of San Francisco found that 90 percent of female farmworkers identified sexual harassment on the job as a major problem. Women make up about 20 percent of the agriculture labor force. Dolores Huerta, who co-founded

the United Farm Workers union with César Chávez 44 years ago, told Hispanic Link News Service that the Dolores Huerta Foundation, which she founded in 2003, is developing a program to work with male as well as female farmworkers on the problem. "Educating the perpetrator is also crucial," she said. Many women fear speaking out because of their legal status, she pointed out.

There is little data on sexual harassment in the agriculture industry. Mónica Ramírez, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Esperanza - Spanish for "hope" - program, knows of no national study on this major issue. Esperanza, which began in Florida in 2003, is its first national farmworker project.

"The reason the center created Esperanza was because there weren't many legal services available to help immigrants," said Ramirez. "Hundreds, if not thousands, of women have been sexually abused."

EEOC's Hernández attested that prior to the 1990s, the rights of farmworker women have been overlooked. "The agriculture industry has

(Continued on page 6)

Campesinas Enfrentan Problema de Acoso Sexual

Verónica Macías

El acoso sexual representa un gran problema para las campesinas, problema que con mucha frecuencia no se reporta, aunque últimamente pleitos jurídicos de demandas de violación sexual y foros informativos han permitido que las víctimas den voz al tema con menos temor a sufrir repercusiones.

Con el fin de hablar del tema de abuso y ofrecer consejos a las campesinas y trabajadoras de fábricas empaquetadoras, en California, Radio Bilingüe, y el grupo California Rural Legal Assistance (Asistencia legal para zonas rurales en California, CRLA en inglés) auspiciaron un foro dirigido al problema el 12 de julio en la escuela intermedia Washington, en Dinuba, California.

Radio Bilingüe y sus filiales del suroeste enfocaron su programación en atender a las necesidades especiales de información de las familias campesinas.

El objetivo del foro, que duró dos horas, fue asegurar a las mujeres que no tienen que ocultar ningún caso de violación ni otro tipo de acoso sexual. Se animó a las participantes y las radioescuchas a que borrarán la noción de que tienen la culpa por haber provocado supuestamente al hombre a cometer el acto de violación sexual, explicó María Eraña, productora de Radio Bilingüe.

Varias mujeres presentaron sus testimonios, mientras que abogados de la comisión federal de igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC por sus siglas en inglés) ofrecieron orientación legal.

(continúa en la pagina 6)

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

A collection and summary of news from around the U.S. and the World

Middle East - There appears to be no end in sight to the continuous bombing between Israel and the radical terrorist group Hezbollah. Since last week, over 200 deaths and 525 wounded have been reported in Lebanon. In Israel the count stood at 12 Israeli civilians and 12 Israeli soldiers with 300 wounded. The constant barrage of bombing by both sides has also seen the massive destruction of buildings in parts of Haifa in Israel and parts of Southern Lebanon; Hezbollah's land base.

For its part, Israel's leadership has vowed to keep up the attacks until "Hezbollah is destroyed" or they return at least the 3 Israeli soldiers kidnapped by the terrorist group. Hezbollah has so far refused to return the soldiers and also vowed to continue to pound Israel's northern border. Israel has also charged that Syria and Iran are supporting Hezbollah's efforts by providing missiles and bombs to Hezbollah. Israeli vice Prime Minister was quoted as saying that "This is the first time we can see the whole world standing helpless in the face of Iran and Syria trying to make a mockery of the

international community by sending arms and money to Hamas and Hezbollah to instigate a war".

Pregnancy and Smoking

If Arkansas' elected political officials have their way, women who are pregnant will be banned from smoking. This would follow recently passed legislation which makes it illegal for a person to smoke in a car when children are in the vehicle. Hot Springs Representative, Bob Mathis has introduced his second smoking related bill: this time aimed at women who are pregnant. Republican Governor, Mike Huckabee supports the Mathis proposal and was quoted as saying, "A lawmaker's suggestion to prohibit women from smoking during pregnancy makes sense from a health standpoint."

Overweight Women

Women who are overweight at age 18 have a higher risk of dying young, researchers at the health and research organization, Annals of Internal Medicine, reported yesterday.

A study of 102,400 female nurses showed that women who were overweight or obese at 18

drank more alcohol, smoked more and were less likely to exercise as teenagers — and were also more likely to die between the ages of 36 and 56.

The more a woman weighed at 18, the greater her risk of dying young, the researchers reported.

Women who were moderately overweight at 18 were more than 50 percent more likely to die in the 12 years of follow-up as the slimmest 18-year-olds, and obese women were more than twice as likely.

Stem Cell Research Bill Vetoed

Saying, "It crosses a moral boundary that our decent society needs to respect", President Bush vetoed the stem cell research bill which had been passed Tuesday by the U.S. Senate. On Tuesday the Senate had voted 63-37 to pass the legislation to provide additional federal funding for stem cell research. Proponents of the measure contend that people afflicted with incurable diseases like Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease among others could be the beneficiaries of such research.

But bowing to his conservative Christian base, since, according to

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COMMUNITY VOICES

The question was: Since David Miller was elected Mayor, do you see a difference in the way the Lubbock city council is conducting city business? If yes, why do you think so, if no, why not?

It seems that David Miller is conducting city business in a more effective way, or is starting to. He has started the Monday meetings that meet every 3rd Monday night where Lubbock citizens can attend and express their concerns and comments. I hope this will continue so that people will have an opportunity to ask questions. I hope he will continue to visit the different community organizations like he did for the day camp last month. Lubbock citizens need to know that he is concerned with what goes on in the whole city of Lubbock not just certain areas. I had heard good things about David Miller. I was not too familiar with him before the elections. I try to keep up with the news of what is going on in Lubbock. And I really do hope Mayor Miller will do a good job for Lubbock not just this year since it's his first year in office. But I do hope he continues to try to get people of Lubbock involved.

Minerva Alaniz, Lubbock via email

At any moment I expect the new Lubbock city council to stand up, hold hands, and led by the duet of Mayor David Miller and Councilman Floyd Price, break out into a deafening rendition of "Kumbaya". Where are the good old days when we had Tom Martin to pick on?

The biggest question: Is the city council getting anything done about the problems that still face certain parts of this city?

A. Juan Nolimporta, Lubbock via Email

From the outside looking in: there seems to be a new and refreshing sense of "Respect, Serenity, and Courtesy" at City Hall since Mayor Miller took the helm.

There is "Respect" for Citizens who are made to feel welcomed and whose opinions are valued. There is "Serenity" in City employees who seem to be more at ease as they carryout their daily job duties. There is a spring in their step and they seem happier and livelier. But the most visible change is professional "Courtesy" that members of the City Council tender one another.

Ysidro Gutierrez, Lubbock via Email

Of course the city council is operating differently now than when Marc McDougal was Mayor and Tom Martin was pointing his intimidating finger at Linda DeLeon. We now have a mayor who votes all the time instead of always recusing himself and Phyllis Jones isn't afraid to open her mouth and speak anymore; like she was when "the enforcer" Tom Martin was there! As the great Bob Dylan used to sing,

"The order is Rapidly fading".

And the first one now

Will later be last

For the times they are a-changin' O

Anonymous

"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. You may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive language, offensive or distasteful content, or personal attacks, and for space. Mail your comments to Community Voices, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comments to acruztc@aol.com

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The Reasons for Undocumented Immigrants

By Steve Crosby
The Boston Globe

THERE ARE two simple reasons why there are millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States. First, they want to improve their lives and the lives of their families. Second, there are hundreds of thousands of individuals and companies who are happy to employ them. If there were no jobs, there would be no immigrants. The contributions they make to society and economy are substantial -- and a prerequisite to our social and economic health. Yet to listen to the debate about porous borders and "illegal aliens," you would think that these people are imposing themselves on us; you would think that hostile foreigners are pouring over our borders, despite our every effort to discourage them.

And no one is calling for state troopers to arrest people who hire undocumented immigrants to mow their lawns.

The immigration debate is largely carried on with willful prejudice against the people we invite across our borders with the temptation of good jobs; with blatant intellectual dishonesty about the causes (and remedies) of the issue; and, all too often, as a cynical way to rouse economically vulnerable and racially sensitive middle and lower classes into political action.

Listening to this debate is particularly upsetting from my new seat as dean of the McCormack Graduate School at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. John McCormack was elected to Congress on a platform that included repeal of the National Origins Act, with immigration quotas he called "highly discriminatory to most nationalities, and greatly offensive to those of Irish, Jewish and Italian birth or extraction." Those were the people whom members of Congress wanted to exclude in the late '20s, and who eventually built much of the city's -- and nation's prosperity. And UMass-Boston -- home to an undergraduate student body that is 40 percent nonwhite, 60 percent first-generation college students, and where more than 70 languages are spoken -- repre-

sents both the history of Boston and its future: highly motivated, hard-working newcomers to America, or children of families trying to improve themselves in America, attending an inexpensive public university, often holding one or more jobs.

These are the kinds of people who built Boston, and America. And so are the idealistic strivers who are fighting for a future when they avoid our irrational and inadequate immigration laws to accept the jobs we offer them. No one in this debate is immune to the need for reasonable standards of security, nor of a nation's inherent right to regulate its borders or its population. But such a debate should be honest: discussing the real, difficult economic imperatives and conflicting social values, rather than demonizing those who are merely doing what we would probably do in their shoes, and what our economy calls on them to do.

From its inception, sometimes for good, sometimes for ill, Boston has been at the forefront of the debate about immigration and about the country's ability to accommodate diverse peoples of all types: Anne Hutchinson, King Phillip's War, abolition, "Irish need not apply," busing, the gay marriage decision. Our history of diversity, and dealing with diversity, is by turns, rich, traumatic, and inspirational. At this moment in history, when immigration is again in the forefront, when Boston's future seems dependent on immigrants and other diverse peoples, and when this nation of immigrants is turning fearful and shutting down its shores, perhaps Boston can again lead the way:

Let's assess our own attitudes, laws and institutions honestly, and remedy what needs to be remedied; let's lead the way for this country to work its way through this era of insecurity and intolerance; and let's make Boston a shining example of harmonious diversity -- because it is right, and because it is in our own economic self-interest.

Steve Crosby, dean of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies at UMass-Boston, served as secretary of administration and finance for Governors Paul Cellucci and Jane Swift.

U.S. Department of Education Introduces Scholarship Program to Aid Thousands of Low-Income Students

The America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids Act is a proactive measure taken by the United States Department of Education that would provide 23,000 scholarships for low-income students in under-performing schools.

Currently, 1,065 public schools in the nation have failed to meet Adequate Yearly Progress standards for six or more consecutive years. Furthermore, the Department of Education expects an additional 1,000 schools to be added to the list after the announcement of this year's Adequate Yearly Progress results.

"Most of the public schools on that list serve high-poverty and minority students, including many Latinos," said Rebeca Nieves Huffman, President and CEO of Hispanic CREO, "who deserve better educational opportunities and resources to close the student achievement gap. It's a known fact that a higher percentage of Hispanics do not complete high school, in comparison to White and Black students - this must stop."

America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids Act would provide \$10 million in scholarships to 10 cities, serving approximately 2,735 recipients from low-income students who are attending persistently failing public schools under No Child Left Behind benchmarks. The act would create two scholarships in the amount of \$4,000 and \$3,000 for private school tuition and payment for supplemental educational services such as after-school tutoring.

"Today, education is the most important function for upward mobility in the Hispanic community, but the success of our Latino children depends on their ability to access a high quality education. For this reason, we are pleased that the United States Department of Education is striving to expand parental choice in education," said Huffman.

EL EDITOR

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Abel Cruz decided to give the 5 faithful, regular readers of his column a break this week. His column will return next week.

Discrimination Spoken Here

By Cecilia Munoz Among the myths and outright lies that regularly come up in the immigration debate -- you know the ones I mean: that immigrants come to simultaneously steal Americans' jobs and go on welfare, or have "anchor babies" who can get them legal status in 21 years -- perhaps the most persistent one has to do with English.

Americans are jealous guardians of the English language and are convinced that immigrants -- Latinos especially -- refuse to learn it. The latest result of this notion was an amendment to the Senate immigration bill declaring English our "national" language. We need a law to tell us that English is important in this country about as much as we need a law to tell us to breathe air.

Latinos are especially subject to accusations of not wanting to learn English, even though the 2000 Census tells us that, of the households who say they speak Spanish at home, more than 70 percent reported speaking English "well" or "very well."

By the second generation, as any immigrant can tell you, our households are bilingual, and by the third generation, we have to struggle to make sure that our children's children can speak and understand the language of their grandparents.

It's the same pattern that every immigrant group in this country has followed, yet other Americans have always feared that the pattern won't continue, that English is somehow in danger in the United States.

English amendment supporters in the Senate may have believed they were voting to protect the language, but they may not have realized the damage they can inflict. The amendment, which was added to the Senate immigration bill, could make it impossible for the government to communicate with its people in other languages unless there's a specific federal law requiring such communication.

This means that many agencies that are now doing important outreach work on health, safety and even disaster relief may face new obstacles in getting information to our communities. If such a provision were to become law -- and we have many opportunities to prevent this from happening -- information our communities now get about immunizations, potential floods, devastating storms or public safety hazards, may no longer reach people who would most benefit from that information in other languages. This jeopardizes not only our own health and safety, but that of the rest of the American public as well.

If this issue were merely symbolic, as many in the media have claimed, it would be offensive enough. But its impact goes far deeper than symbolism, threatening the well-being of immigrants and their communities. There's still time to make sure there's no English language provision in a final immigration bill, but that will require immigrant communities themselves to step forward and speak out.

If English is going to be an issue, then Congress should be putting resources on the table for the hundreds of thousands of us who are willing to do the work and learn, but who can't find language classes because there are too few of them. Community agencies struggle to meet the demand for English language instruction, with no help from government sources.

It's outrageous for Congress to endanger our communities in the name of "protecting" English, while doing nothing to make language classes more accessible. Perhaps English-only supporters can learn an important word in Spanish -- basta. Enough.

Cecilia Munoz is the executive director of the National Council of La Raza.

The Government's Sick War on Marijuana

by Jim Hightower

Excuse me for a moment while I vent about the mind-boggling stupidity of the autocratic, bureaucratic, right-wing, neanderthal numbskulls who keep pushing an insane, inane, and inhumane holy war against marijuana -- which is after all, a weed.

The most embarrassing thing for these holy warriors is that the weed is winning! They've been at this war since 1937, spending billions and billions of our tax dollars, militarizing our borders, and stomping on our Bill of Rights. They've used phone taps, garbage searches, jack-booted raids, and draconian prison terms to... well, to do what? To nab peaceful, mellow tokers who aren't bothering anyone, that's what.

Despite 60 years of spending our money, they've failed: 85 percent of Americans say marijuana is easy to obtain today, a third of our population says they've tried it, nearly 15 million people partake of it at least monthly -- and more high school students now smoke marijuana than cigarettes!

Meanwhile, the holy warriors have become more fanatical and tuggish than ever. A marijuana arrest is made every 41 seconds in America -- nine out of ten of them for mere possession. In 2004, 772,000 Americans were arrested on marijuana charges -- more than for all violent crimes combined. And 40,000 Americans are in prison today for this victimless crime -- more than the entire prison populations of eight European countries.

Even sicker, the sanctimonious weed warriors have made it a crime for thousands of seriously sick people to get the medical benefits of using small amounts of doctor-prescribed marijuana. Weirdly, our doctors can prescribe cocaine for patients -- but not marijuana. Worse, drug thugs from the DEA and FBI bust down the doors of these patients, seize their dosages... and haul them to jail.

This is Jim Hightower saying... For information and action to

Check It Out...Minority Representation in the Old vs. New "Super Precincts" ...a Real "Super Shaft" ...a Call to Action!

By Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

Last week, Bidal graciously published an extremely long article about our voting systems, and the effect the new proposed "Super Precincts" shall have...

This week, I wish to follow up that article with a list of the current Election Precincts, and then a list of the proposed "Super Precincts"...the suddenly timid County Commissioners have already approved them at the behest of Election Administrator Dorothy Kennedy...now, their fate rests with the Secretary of State's office...and "Governor Goodhair" Rick Perry's political hack appointee, Roger Williams. If his office "approves" them, their adoption is a foregone conclusion [isn't everything these days? The word "done deal" in government means... "we have already decided"...our public hearings are a SHAM to deceive the people into thinking we still have input into our government...which we don't!!!]

The Guadalupe Center situation...which I shall discuss in this column next week...pales in comparison to this "SUPER SHAFT!" The "Super Tuesday" Primary which went into effect 1988 was supposed to promote Texas influence in the Presidential selection process, and it was a total failure...and now we're at it again, with another "Super" failure about to happen...this writer predicts that this November's election could be a "Super" fiasco because of the new Electronic Voting Machines...which cannot be verified without "paper trails". Wait until someone important needs a RECOUNT!

Notice that NONE, NONE of our elected "Minority Representatives" have spoken out on this "Super Precincts" issue? Linda DeLeon, Floyd Price, Ysidro Gutierrez, Mario Ybarra, Vernita Woods-Holmes, where are you? County Democratic Chair Johnnie Jones, County GOP Chair John D. Steinmetz, and County Libertarian Chair Brad Clardy, WHERE ARE YOU??? SILENT AGAIN???

However, we still have the protections of the Voting Rights Act...anything passed in Texas or the South must go to the Justice Department in Washington for approval. If enough minority citizens write or call about the "Super Precincts", perhaps we may persuade the Bushite Justice Dept. appointees to reject them...and if that fails, we can go to Court...if we don't, then all of our language about "Minority Representation" and "People's Rights" and all the rest means nothing...if we allow this TRAVESTY to go through...we shall PERMANENTLY lose our representation on the political party committees, and in the election process...and ONCE AGAIN, we shall get what we really and truly deserve...NOTHING...if we sit on our hands and do just that...NOTHING!

List of Current "Minority" Precincts:

1. Wolfarth Elementary
2. Arnett Elementary [Super Precinct]
3. McWhorter Elementary
4. Jackson Elementary, replaced by Cavazos
5. Guadalupe Elementary
6. Alderson Academy
8. Ramirez Elementary
10. Lubbock High, replaced by St. Paul's Episcopal
17. Dupre Elementary
18. O.L. Slaton, replaced by Byron Martin [Super Precinct]
19. Bean Elementary
20. Ella Iles Elementary...
25. P.F. Brown Elementary
26. Harwell Elementary [Super Precinct]
40. The former Posey Elementary
110. Broadview Baptist [Super Precinct]

Not traditionally "minority" precincts, but large minority populations:

21. Stubbs Elementary
24. Wheelock Elementary
29. Atkins Jr. High
38. Slaton

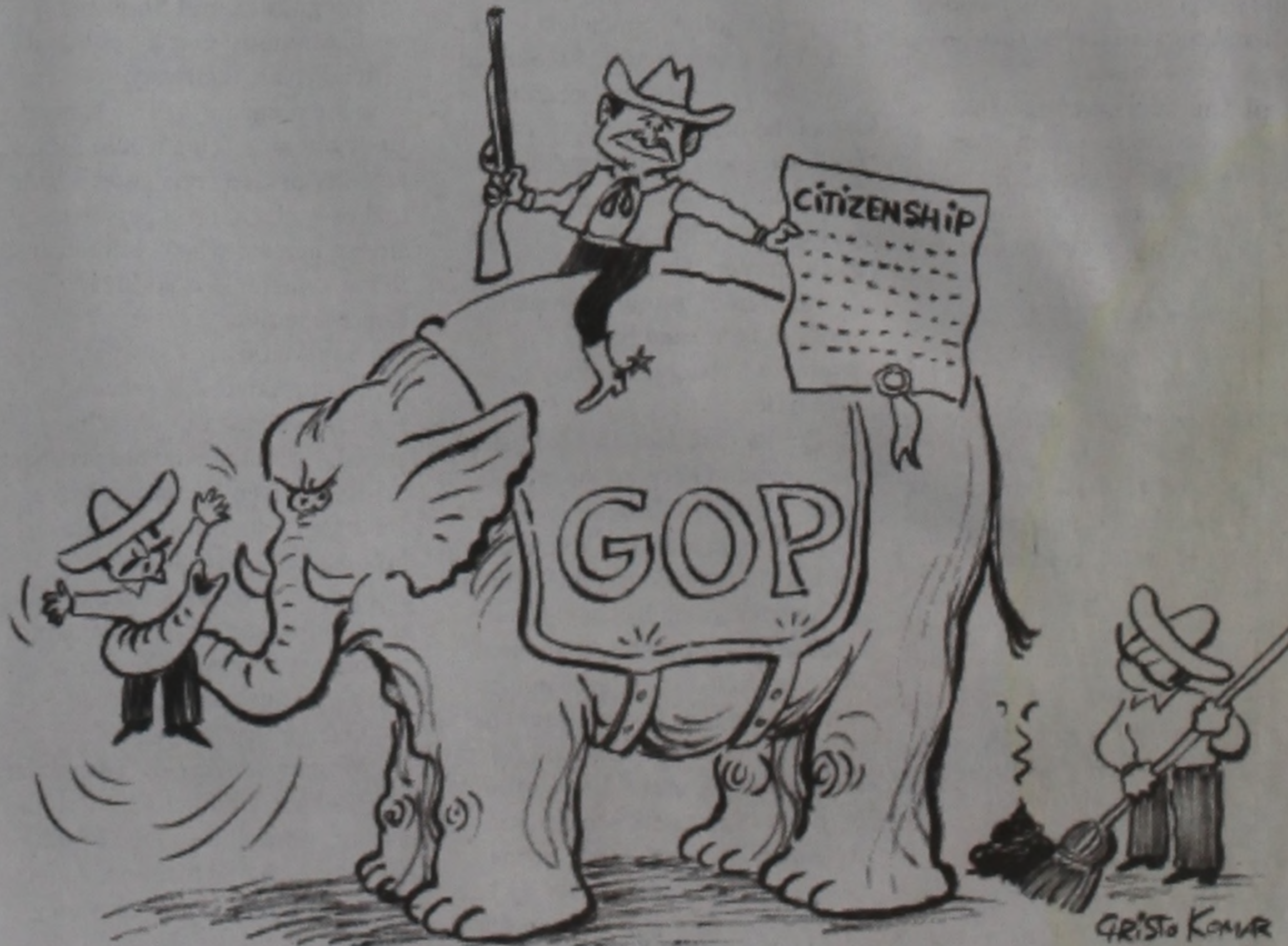
Note: the "powers that be" might consider the Catholic Diocese at 4620 4th to be a "minority" precinct, but it has never been a traditional voting place, and is not located in minority neighborhoods. The two "minority" United Supermarkets on North University and Parkway do not allow campaigning or campaign signs, a barrier to minority candidates. My home neighborhood, Overton, does not have a designated polling place, a considerable barrier to its large elderly and minority population, estimated by some to be in excess of 9,000 residents. This fact was noted by the Democratic Party, which requested a 36th polling place...guess asking for just ONE more Precinct was too much to ask...this proposal was rejected by the suddenly assertive County Commissioners, who seem to only listen to aggressive new Elections Administrator Dorothy Kennedy, and not to citizens who speak in public hearings or vote in Avalanche-Journal polls...Where are you, Sorca [South Overton Residential and Commercial Association], and Brad Clardy? SILENT again? The new OVERTON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION is going to speak out on this issue!

List of Proposed "Super Precincts"

- Albertson's 3249 50th St.
- All American Chevrolet 8802 E. Highway 84
- Arnett Elementary 701 E. Queens St.
- Bacon Heights Baptist Church 54th Street and Slide Road
- Broadview Baptist Church 1302 N. Frankford Ave.
- Byron-Martin ATC 3201 Ave. Q
- Calvary Baptist Church 5301 82nd St.
- Casey Elementary School 501 Seventh St., Wolfforth
- Catholic Diocese of Lubbock 4620 Fourth St.
- Church on the Rock 10503 Slide Road
- Elks Lodge No. 1348 3409 Milwaukee Ave.
- Harwell Elementary 4101 Ave. D
- Idalou Clubhouse Seventh and Walnut Streets, Idalou
- Lubbock County Elections Office 1308 Ave. G
- Lakeridge Methodist Church Family Ministry Center 4601 83rd St.
- Lubbock-Cooper ISD Administration Building 15302 Loop 493
- Lubbock-Cooper North Elementary School 3202 108th St.
- Mae Simmons Community Center 23rd Street and Oak Avenue
- New Deal ISD Administration Building 410 S. Auburn St., New Deal
- Reese Education Center 9421 Fourth St.
- Roosevelt Clubhouse County Road 3300, Roosevelt
- Saint Isidore Catholic Parish Hall 17813 N. Interstate 27, Abernathy
- Shallowater Community Center, 902 Ave. H, Shallowater
- Slaton Clubhouse 700 W. Garza St., Slaton
- Trinity Church Activities Center 6701 University Ave.
- Texas Tech Recreation Center or Student Union Building, Hartford and Main Streets or 15th and Akron
- United Supermarket 2630 Parkway Dr.
- United Supermarket 112 N. University Ave.
- United Supermarket 401 Slide Road
- United Supermarket 1701 50th St.
- United Supermarket 8201 Quaker Ave.
- United Supermarket 29th Drive and Brownfield Highway
- United Supermarket 2703 82nd St.
- United Supermarket 8010 Frankford Ave.
- Wayland Baptist University 2002 W. Loop 289, Suite 120

Source: Lubbock County Office of Elections

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Estados Unidos Suspende el Cobro por la Evacuación

Los esfuerzos diplomáticos por poner fin a la crisis en Líbano parecían estancados anoche, mientras que la Administración de Bush declaró que no cobraría los costos de la evacuación a los ciudadanos de EU, tras presión bipartidista en Washington.

La medida había provocado protestas. La decisión fue confirmada por el portavoz del Departamento de Estado, Sean McCormack, quien dijo que fue tomada por la secretaria de Estado, Condoleezza Rice, después de una reunión con el senador John Sununu, según la cadena de televisión CNN.

En virtud de una ley promulgada en 2003, los estadounidenses tienen la obligación de pagar su evacuación en una situación de emergencia. Pero el

legislador republicano de origen libanés y las legisladoras Nancy Pelosi y Debbie Stabenow, ambas demócratas, habían criticado la exigencia. "Un país que puede proporcionar más de 300,000 millones de dólares para una guerra en Irak, puede dar ese mismo dinero para sacar a su gente de Líbano", dijo Pelosi.

Stabenow manifestó que "nuestro gobierno debería preocuparse de traer a casa a los estadounidenses de la manera más rápida y segura posible, no de cuánto les cobrará".

Durante el día, el presidente George W. Bush dijo tener suspicacias de que Siria estaría buscando reafirmar su influencia en Líbano, apenas un año después de que Damasco puso fin a lo que en términos efectivos fue



una larga ocupación de su vecino.

Mientras, el Ejército de Líbano se ha visto reducido a espectador impotente en el conflicto actual entre las fuerzas israelíes y la guerrilla islámica Hezbolá.

Las autoridades israelíes advirtieron que las operaciones militares durarían varias semanas y posiblemente participarían grandes contingentes terrestres, lo cual ponía en duda la eficacia de los esfuerzos diplomáticos para negociar un alto al fuego.

El primer ministro Ehud Olmert dijo a una delegación de la ONU en Jerusalén que Israel seguirá combatiendo a Hezbolá y seguirá atacando blancos del grupo hasta que libere a los soldados capturados y los ciuda-

danos israelíes estén a salvo de los ataques.

La canciller Tzipi Livni dijo que los esfuerzos diplomáticos continuarán, pero que no habría cese de fuego hasta la devolución de los tres soldados y el despliegue de fuerzas libanesas en la frontera común con garantías de desarmar a Hezbolá.

Las declaraciones de Livni, hechas luego de una reunión con delegados de la ONU que recorren la región, fueron el primer indicio de que las dos partes realizaban un esfuerzo serio para poner fin al bombardeo israelí de Líbano y los ataques de Hezbolá a Israel.

Los reclamos de una fuerza estabilizadora internacional parecían ganar impulso.

En Bruselas, el secretario general de la ONU, Kofi Annan, pidió que se instale una poderosa fuerza internacional en Líbano para poner fin a "los combates y las matanzas" en el Medio Oriente.

Annan subrayó que la nueva fuerza debería ser más grande y fuerte que la fuerza de paz de la ONU instalada desde hace décadas en Líbano, que tiene unos dos mil efectivos y que todas las partes en el conflicto consideran ineficaz y carente de un mandato fuerte.

"Es urgente que la comunidad internacional actúe para hacer sentir su presencia en el terreno", dijo Annan.

En Washington, el presidente Bush declaró que "es de gran interés para nosotros que Siria se mantenga al margen de Líbano y que el gobierno sobreviva", dijo Bush en referencia al gobierno libanés.

"La raíz del problema es Hezbolá y ese problema debe abordarse", dijo Bush.

Explicó que la inestabilidad que provocarán los ataques de Hezbolá invitaría a Siria a llevar nuevamente las riendas de Líbano.

REFUGIOS Y EVACUACIÓN Los ataques han obligado a cientos de miles de israelíes a encerrarse en refugios subterráneos.

Los extranjeros huían del con-

flicto, y familias enteras del sur libanés se desplazaban hacia el norte, agitando banderas blancas desde los vehículos para disuadir a los pilotos israelíes. Los conductores optaban por los caminos secundarios entre los huertos de naranjos y bananos, evitando el camino de la costa bombardeado desde los buques israelíes.

Europeos y libaneses con pasaportes extranjeros huían de a millares, y la armada estadounidense se aprestaba a evacuar a unos 25 mil ciudadanos.

Un crucero griego con 700 ciudadanos de Francia y otros países europeos, entre ellos muchas mujeres y niños, arribó al puerto chipriota de Lamaca. Un millar de personas partían a bordo del Hual Transporter, una nave sueca anclada en el puerto de Beirut, también hacia Larnaca. Los diplomáticos se afanaban para poner fin al conflicto, iniciado por un ataque de Hezbolá la semana pasada en que los guerrilleros islámicos lanzaron cohetes contra Israel y mataron a ocho soldados israelíes y secuestraron a dos. Desde entonces Israel ha lanzado una ofensiva en Líbano con el objetivo de lograr la liberación de sus militares y el desmantelamiento o repliegue de Hezbolá, y para tratar de que el gobierno libanés recupere el control de su propia frontera como le han exigido varias resoluciones de la ONU.

Salma Hayek an Exec on ABC Show Ugly Betty



Salma Hayek started her acting career appearing in telenovelas. Now, the Oscar-nominated Mexican actress is bringing her own comedic take on one to network television.

Hayek is one of six executive producers on "Ugly Betty," debuting Sept. 22 on ABC. America Ferrera plays Betty Suarez, a plump, decidedly unhip girl from New York City's borough of Queens who works as an assistant to a fashion magazine publisher.

Asked whether the show's title might offend viewers, Hayek said, "It's sarcastic. Anybody who isn't super skinny and really tall, some people think they're really ugly. We're making fun of it. We're not really calling her ugly."

The show is based on "Yo Soy Betty La Fea," a Colombian telenovela. Telenovelas have been hugely successful in the United

States on Spanish-language networks such as Univision and Telemundo.

"I'm sure that the American audience is very thirsty for something like this and they're just going to love it," Hayek said Tuesday at the Television Critics Association's summer meeting.

"It's causing a lot of excitement in the Latin community. They will definitely not be able to get enough of this Betty."

Ferrera, a 22-year-old who gained notice as a plump girl in the 2002 independent movie "Real Women Have Curves," sees Betty as representative of real women.

"I didn't even know how fat I was until I started acting. I don't feel that way inside," she said.

"It seems like the roles that mean something are roles that are flawed and no one else wants."

Good diet, female depression antidote

Due to hormonal imbalance, PMS, and menopause women are more vulnerable than men to "endogenous" depressive states. Experts agree on the fact that this is related to inner physiological causes.

However, a good, "varied and harmonious" diet helps to avoid those states of mind to be extended "long term", or worsen. It can also help women avoid medication.

According to nutritionist Maria Eugenia Chapa Azuela, following a good diet "is a great start" because it establishes the woman's integral health state: her digestive system, heart health, sex life, skin, mind, and even emotional health.

Having a balanced diet in every stage of the woman's life "allows her, among other things, to have a healthy weight, which, in most cases, is an important factor in self-esteem issues."

Also, nutritionist Maria Elena Fresan states that "the basis for women's integral health is an appropriate diet, along with exercise."

She added that "the diet-depression relation is very close, since we see how a depressive

state reduces appetite. Also, starvation (which may come in the form of a fashion diet carried out for a long period) may end in depression. This is a vicious circle which requires lots of attention."

For example, zinc, which can be found in ostriches, and wheat, in its several forms, has a high content of niacin and pyridoxine (which can also be found in liver, beans, and almonds). They help to improve the biological reactions that avoid depression.

In addition, sugar, cereal, pasta, and bread have a key role in fighting the depressive disorder. They raise the carbohydrate level in the body and provide lots of energy.

On the other hand, including

fresh fruit and vegetables in the diet helps the body boost its defenses against depression, no matter if it is internal, or caused by external factors (losses, pain, medicine interaction, severe health problems, accidents, etc).

Another thing women need to fight depression is iron. It can be found in pork, chicken, or beef, as well as in spinach, seafood, eggs, liver, and kidneys.

Also, magnesium is really helpful with depression. This mineral can be found in all seafood and fresh vegetables, so it is recommended for these to be part of our diet.

According to Chapa Azuela, having a balanced diet "as well as harmonious physical activity, receiving attention, social life,

knowing how the body works, and keeping spirit and mind healthy" will help women to establish the basis for good health, "not totally without sadness, but lacking of long-time depression."

In order to achieve that balanced diet, it is necessary to know the individual needs of each woman, helped by a qualified doctor or nutritionist.

Along with an expert's advice, women "must learn to listen to their own bodies" for their diet "to be the one they need," said Chapa Azuela.

For Fresan, women must have a good diet "so they leave the depression shadow behind," especially when life has so many wonderful surprises waiting for them.

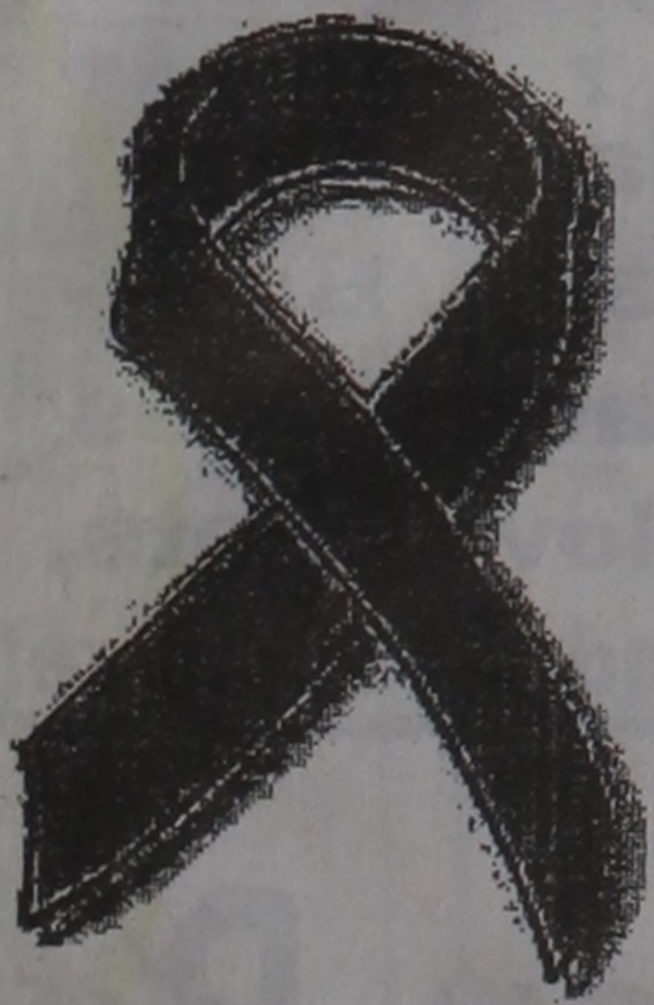
After Years of Torment, Rape victim tells others, 'Speak Out'

By Verónica Macías

As if pesticides, burning temperatures and low wages were not enough, working in the fields for Olivia Tamayo also meant being sexually abused by her foreman. For six years Tamayo found herself in the predicament of silencing rape for the sake of her safety.

After more than a decade, the traumatic memories continue to torment Tamayo. In a phone conversation with His-

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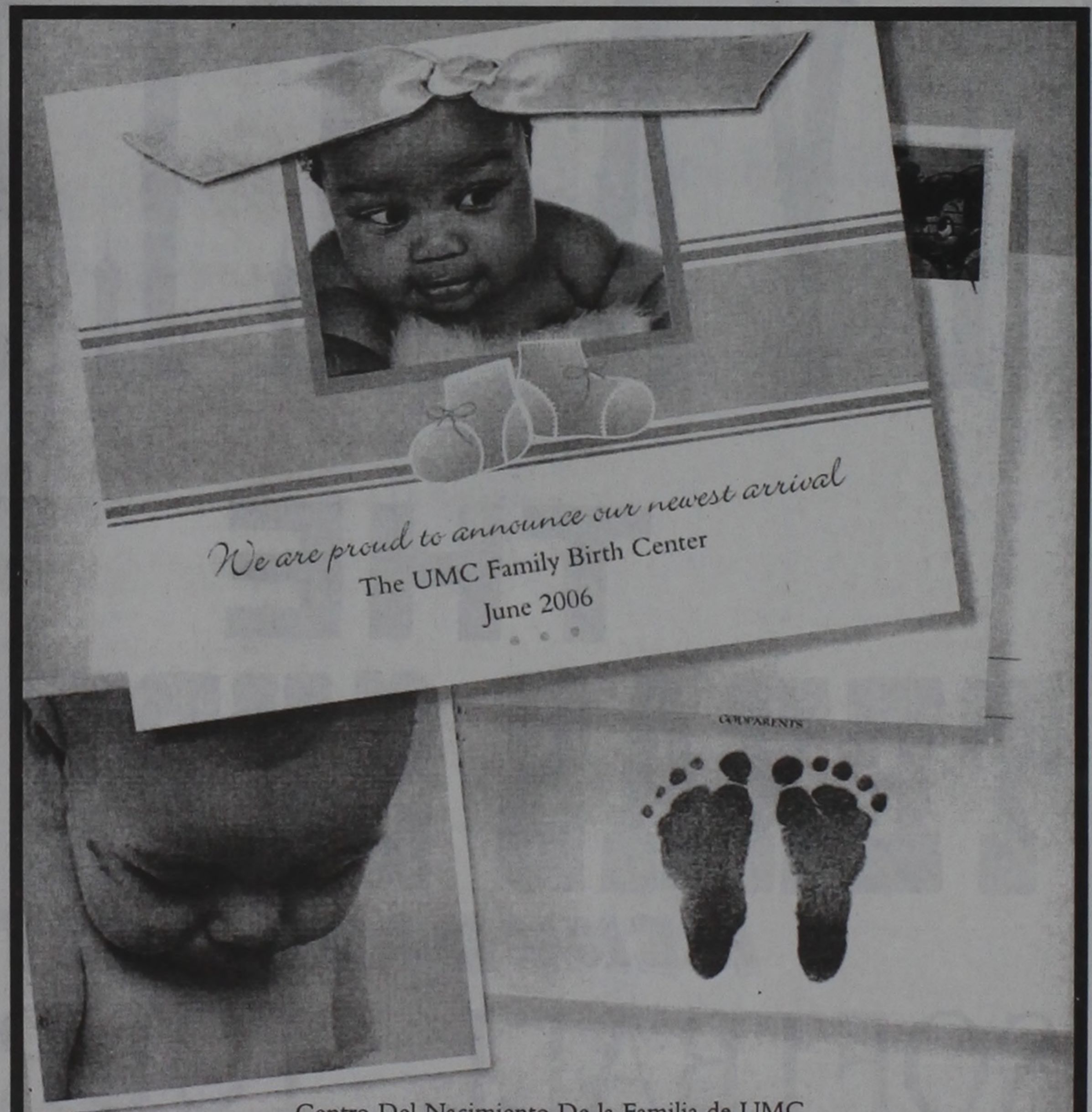


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HIV conspiracy or not, Morrison's a fighter

In the mind of Tommy Morrison it is all so clear. There is no fog mucking up his memories, no misfiring of neurons causing him to forget. The recollections of how he became the first known high profile professional boxer to test positive for the virus that causes AIDS are crystalline and thick with substance.

There are some who will read this and think Morrison is anything but clearheaded about those dark days, however. They will believe he has been knocked in the cranium one too many times after seeing his words about conspiracies and plots and false positives. Morrison seems like a levelheaded man, an intelligent man and, possibly, a terrifically misguided man who has been sucked into the gaseous anomalies that are crackpot claims and Internet-generated nonsense that the AIDS crisis is mostly a government-induced hoax.

Morrison was knocked out of boxing in '96 after being diagnosed with HIV. (Getty Images) Morrison was told before a tuneup fight in Nevada 10 years ago that he had tested positive for the HIV virus, changing his world and altering the boxing landscape forever. It had happened. One of theirs, one of the big-name fighters, had been caught in the AIDS snare like a handful of other athletes such as Magic Johnson and Arthur Ashe.

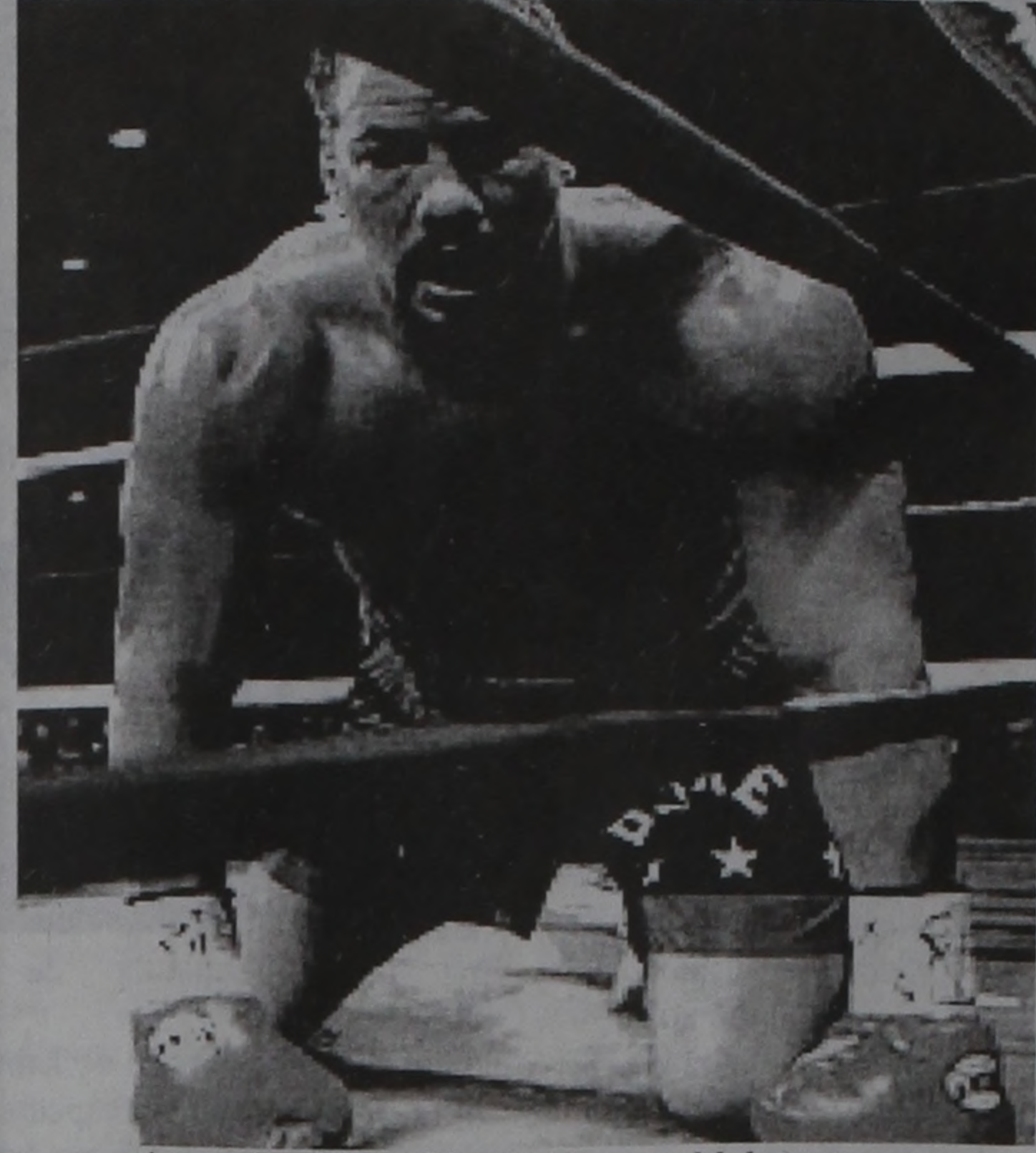
Now, incredibly, Morrison blames that positive result on the nefarious forces of the sport's underworld. Or is it the United States government? Or was it the supplement he was taking? He has floated between these and other theories with the greatest of ease. The one he seems to cling to the most is that the test result was a lie, a devious set up, a monstrous piece of trick-

ery. "I do not believe I am HIV positive," Morrison said in a telephone interview. "It was a false positive. I know it was. It has been 10 years that I have allegedly had HIV." "I never believed" that he had the virus, Morrison later added. "I've never had so much as a symptom."

When asked to elaborate about why he believed it was a false positive, Morrison said it was possible he was set up by a rival promoter, who rigged the blood test to show he was HIV positive when he was not.

"That question has crossed my mind," he said. "There was some pretty shady stuff going on then."

There are always shadows and evil-doers in boxing, and there always will be. Corruption is in the sport's DNA and it is a place where despicable rogues, scams



and con artists rule. But a faked HIV test result? Even for boxing

that would be extreme, yet that is something Morrison, one of the most intriguing heavyweight fighters of the last 5-10 years, is claiming.

Morrison has made other strange statements, including how at least a portion of the HIV crisis might be a government-induced conspiracy where a great many people are duped by false positives. He also spoke of how the supple-

ments he was taking at the time could have triggered a false positive as well. He explains his expulsion from boxing by serving up plots and schemes almost a la carte.

"Since I was forced into retirement," Morrison said, "two other boxers were forced into retirement for the same reason."

Other fighters have tested positive for the HIV virus, but none nearly as famous as Morrison and none, at least publicly, have claimed their results might have been some frightening plot against them.

There are only two possibilities when it comes to Morrison. He is either understandably denying the painful fact that he has contracted a terminal illness, or he is the victim of a monstrous scheme that would put every other boxing scandal to distinct shame and supermarket tabloids on red alert.



Hey T.O.: If you don't get it, you don't get it

So Terrell Owens claims he's misunderstood, which is another way of saying that the pro football season officially is upon us.

There can be no kickoff until T.O. launches into another woe-is-me rant, and we have it now in a soon-to-be-aired interview on HBO's Real Sports -- with the Dallas wide receiver blaming the media for what he believes is undeserved criticism.

There's no question he can catch. Now, about that attitude

"Why me?" he asks.

Man, am I glad you asked, T.O. But I don't know that you should consult your HBO audience. Maybe pose that question to someone like, oh, say, Richard Bloch. I think he's more qualified to respond.

If the name doesn't ring a bell, let me refresh your memory: He's the arbitrator who ruled against you in last year's grievance against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Essentially, he said the Eagles acted properly when they suspended you, then sat you down for the rest of the season -- in effect, preventing you from poisoning the locker room. In a 38-page decision he called you "a destructive and continuing threat

to the team," remember?

Reading your comments to HBO, it sounds as if you don't. OK, then, try to remember what happened in Philadelphia last year. You started hunting season early, opening fire on quarterback Donovan McNabb somewhere around April and didn't stop until the Eagles threw you out of the locker room.

It started with you questioning McNabb's performance in the Super Bowl, with you saying something like "I wasn't the guy who got tired." Now, c'mon, T.O., admit it: That was stupid. Teammates ... no, good teammates ... don't do that.

But stupidity doesn't get you fined or suspended. Taking on a coaching staff does, and sorry, but the media served only as interested spectators while you self-immolated. You watch a guy tear himself apart more than once, and you start thinking ... hmmm, I think I know what's going on here.

And I think we do. Let's see, you battled with your head coach in San Francisco, Steve Mariucci. You erupted at his offensive coordinator, Gregg Knapp. You "vilified" -- to borrow a word from your HBO vocabulary --

your quarterback with the 49ers, Jeff Garcia. You took on Baltimore G.M. Ozzie Newsome when it appeared you were headed to the Ravens. You mixed it up with Eagles' head coach Andy Reid. You declared war on offensive coordinator Brad Childress. You can't stop lobbing grenades at McNabb.

Oh, yeah, I almost forgot: The 49ers punished you by sitting you down for a week. The Eagles sat you down for half a season.

What, you want me to draw a picture? You see, T.O., when you wonder why you don't get the benefit of the doubt, it's because you don't deserve it. Simple as that. You think the media doesn't get you? Try talking to the publicist for your latest tell-all book. Kim Etheredge told the Dallas Morning News that reports suggesting you were misquoted in T.O. just aren't true.

I know, I know, you said ... or at least were alleged to have said ... that you never used the word "heroic;" that co-author Jason Rosenhaus picked it. But that's the problem with writing your own book, T.O. Autobiographies, by definition, mean you're responsible for what's in there -- especially when you re-

mind readers that "these are my words, straight from me to you" on the book's second page.

Man, I hate when that happens. So, if you're misunderstood, T.O., it's with the author of the book ... that you just wrote.

Which takes me back to Richard Bloch. In essence, he offered what should have been helpful advice. He tried to tell you that it wasn't the Eagles who were at fault last year; it was you. It wasn't McNabb. It wasn't Reid. It wasn't Childress. It wasn't Joe Banner or Hugh Douglas or the Philadelphia Inquirer or Daily News or anyone who happened to disagree with you.

It was Terrell Owens. Period. You screwed up; the Eagles didn't.

Once, I thought Bloch's ruling might serve as a wake-up call. Once, I thought by sitting you down for a time-out, he'd compel you to reconsider what just happened and to ask yourself why Philadelphia and San Francisco -- two clubs where you were a critical component of the offenses -- were glad to be rid of you

But I was wrong. It's not the media that doesn't get it, T.O. It's you.

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Mana's Style is a Classic in Mexican Music: Fher

Mana's rock is not a fad, because its style is a classic in Mexican music, stated lead singer Fher Olvera.

"Style doesn't exist; you set it," Fher stated. He added that there are classic things that stay, "I say that Mana is a classic."

Mana was away from the stage for two years and is back with their album "Amar es Combatir." They want for "people to feel alive, get goosebumps and cry with the song."

"We're very happy for the great welcome 'Labios compartidos' (their latest single) has had in Mexico and other countries. We're surprised about the love people have shown for the band," Fher stated.

About the new music styles they include in "Amar en Combatir," he stated that "the preparation (for the album) took us 2 years. We had different experiences and that gave us the opportunity to experiment."

On the other hand, Sergio (guitar) added that they wanted to add new elements (reggae, bachata, cha cha cha, and cumbia) because "it's natural and that is shown in the album."

About having Juan Luis Guerra featured in the album, Sergio stated that they had a natural interaction that was above all expectations.

About doing an album in Eng-



lish, the guitarist stated that "if we do it is because we want to communicate something, like poets do when they translate books into another language. There is no need to do it. Mana has had lots of impact as it is right now."

He added that "you have to do music that comes from the heart, and for people to say 'wow!' Don't bother buying a lot of instruments. If the songs are good nobody can stop you."

They stated that they want to have a reunion with the Mexican people because they miss them, "as well as all the Latinos living in Brazil, the US, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Italy, Germany, France, Spain, and other countries-to share our music with them."

Fher stated that "we want to go to Japan and present a band from Guadalajara, Jalisco for all the Japanese to begin dancing."

Salma Hayek produce versión anglo de 'Betty la fea'

Salma Hayek comenzó su carrera como actriz de telenovelas, y ahora quiere sazonar la televisión estadounidense con la versión anglo de la comedia "Yo soy Betty la fea".

La estrella mexicana nominada a un premio Oscar es una de los seis productores ejecutivos de "Ugly Betty", que debuta el 22 de septiembre en la cadena ABC. En esta nueva versión, América Ferrera encarna a Betty Suárez, una joven regordeta y fuera de onda del condado neoyorquino de Queens que trabaja como asistente del editor de una revista de modas.

Al preguntársele si el título del programa podría ofender de algún modo al televidente norteamericano, Hayek dijo: "Es sarcástico. Cualquiera persona que no sea súper flaca o realmente alta es tildada de horrible. Nos estamos riendo de eso. En realidad no la estamos llamando fea".

El programa se basa en la telenovela colombiana "Yo soy Betty la fea". Las telenovelas que transmiten las cadenas hispanas Univisión y Telemundo han tenido un enorme éxito en Estados Unidos.

"Estoy segura de que el público estadounidense está sediento de algo como esto y simplemente les encantará", dijo Hayek el martes en una reunión de la Asociación de Críticos de la Televisión.

La idea "está generando mucho entusiasmo en la comunidad latina. Definitivamente no se cansarán de esta Betty", agregó Hayek.

Ferrera, una actriz de 22 años que se dio a conocer como una chica rellenita en la película independiente del 2002 "Real Women Have Curves" (Las verdaderas mujeres tienen curvas), ve a Betty como una representante de la mujer real.

"Yo ni siquiera sabía lo gorda que era hasta que empecé a actuar. No me siento de ese modo en mi interior", declaró Ferrera. "Parece que los papeles que tienen algún significado son papeles (de personajes) con imperfecciones y nadie más los quiere".

U.S. Department of Education Introduces Scholarship Program to Aid Thousands of Low-Income Students

The America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids Act is a proactive measure taken by the United States Department of Education that would provide 23,000 scholarships for low-income students in under-performing schools.

Currently, 1,065 public schools in the nation have failed to meet Adequate Yearly Progress standards for six or more consecutive years. Furthermore, the Department of Education expects an additional 1,000 schools to be added to the list after the announcement of this year's Adequate Yearly Progress results.

"Most of the public schools on that list serve high-poverty and minority students, including many Latinos," said Rebeca Nieves Huffman, President and CEO of Hispanic CREO, "who deserve better educational opportunities and resources to close the student achievement gap. It's a known fact that a higher percentage of Hispanics do not

complete high school, in comparison to White and Black students - this must stop."

America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids Act would provide \$10 million in scholarships to 10 cities, serving approximately 2,735 recipients from low-income students who are attending persistently failing public schools under No Child Left Behind benchmarks. The act would create two scholarships in the amount of \$4,000 and \$3,000 for private school tuition and payment for supplemental educational services such as after-school tutoring.

Based in Washington DC, Hispanic CREO's mission is to improve educational outcomes for Hispanic children by empowering families through parental choice in education. Hispanic CREO's purpose is to be a national voice for the right of Hispanic families to access all educational options and to be an agent for equity and quality in education.

After Years of Torment, Rape victim tells others, 'Speak Out'

from page three

panic Link News Service and California's farmworker network Radio Bilingüe, Tamayo revealed details about her experience of dealing with a sexually abusive boss and explains why she finally decided to break her silence.

Like many Mexican immigrants, Tamayo came to this country looking for a better future. At age 16, newly wed and with child, Olivia was happy to begin her family in the United States. With only a third-grade education, she found work as a campesina - farmworker - in Coalinga, Calif., in 1975.

At first Tamayo's perpetrator acted no different with her. But her life changed drastically on a summer morning in 1993.

Tamayo says, "One day during break he offered me a soda and told me that he would take me to a section to overlook the other workers." Once she entered the company truck, her gut told her something was awfully wrong. "He started to drive fast, headed toward another direction."

She vividly remembers the water cans in the back of the truck shaking as he drove at faster speeds. She was trapped. "He had a gun and told me he would kill me if he wanted to," she continued.

It was the first time he raped her but not the last. That same year, he blocked her path with his truck while she walked alone on an isolated dirt road, and he raped her a second time. The third occurrence happened in 1999 in her own home while her husband was away at work and her children were sleeping. Tamayo declined to mention explicit details of the third incidence because they continue to cause her pain.

"He tormented me daily. He always threatened me with a gun and knife," she said.

She convinced herself to keep quiet for her own safety and that of her family. It was not until 1999 that she broke her silence when her foreman

punched her in the face, demanding she belong to him.

Tamayo blames the persisting machismo of farmworker men for the abuse that occurs in the fields. "There must be respect. The companies need to talk to men and make them view women as co-workers. There should be meetings to discuss what bothers us women at work."

The incipient discussion of farmworker rights for women serves as a dose of courage. Tamayo has gained confidence through these discussions. Now she advises other Latina farmworkers, "No callen... Don't keep quiet. It is better to look for help and not allow it to continue."

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Campesinas Enfrentan Problema de Acoso Sexual

El caso de Olivia Tamayo, que marcó hito, se presentó en el foro. En el 2005 un tribunal federal falló a favor de Tamayo, empleada de Harris Farms, en Coalinga, California, ordenando que se le diera una recompensa de \$944.000 cuando el jurado halló que su empleador no respondió a la queja de abuso sexual que le presentó Tamayo contra un capataz que trabajaba con ella.

Fue la primera vez en que la EEOC considerara un pleito de acoso sexual proveniente de la industria agrícola. El pleito sigue en apelación y Tamayo aún no ha recibido el dinero de la recompensa ordenada por el tribunal.

Evangelina Hernández, abogada de la EEOC asegura que, "Estamos muy confiados y no pensamos considerar nada menos que el monto

entero que se nos debe". Tamayo le dijo a Hispanic Link News Service que establecer el caso como precedente, y no la recompensa económica, es lo que para ella tiene importancia.

"Muchos capataces cometen violaciones. No sabemos cómo comportarnos ni a quién recurrir. Nos da miedo que nos dejen nuestros esposos".

Un estudio sobre mujeres inmigrantes del 2003 que realizó María L. Ontiveros, profesora de derecho de la Universidad de San Francisco, halló que el 90 por ciento de las campesinas identificó como gran problema el acoso sexual en el lugar de empleo. Las mujeres comprenden un 20 por ciento de la fuerza laboral agrícola.

Dolores Huerta, hace 44 años cofundadora con César Chávez del sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos, le indicó a Hispanic Link News Service que la Fundación Dolores Huerta, la cual fundó en el 2003, está desarrollando un programa para atender al problema tanto con los hombres como con las mujeres. "Es crucial también educar al que comete el acoso", dijo, agregando que muchas mujeres temen hablar del problema por su estado legal.

No existe mucha información sobre el acoso sexual en la industria agrícola. Mónica Ramírez, directora del programa Esperanza, del Southern Poverty Law Center (centro legal sobre la pobreza en el sur), indicó que no hay un estudio nacional que atienda este importante tema. Esperanza es el primer proyecto del sector agrícola a nivel nacional del

centro, y comenzó en Florida en el 2003.

"La razón por la que el centro creó el programa Esperanza fue por lo que no existen muchos servicios de asistencia legal para los inmigrantes", explicó Ramírez. "Cientas, sino miles, de mujeres han sufrido el acoso sexual".

Hernández, de la EEOC, afirmó que antes del decenio de los noventa, se había hecho caso omiso de los derechos de la mujer campesina. "La falta de litigios y de programas de información y asistencia en industria agrícola se debe a que la gente no sabía cómo reportar sus casos a la EEOC", explicó.

Tamayo aseveró que el miedo y la humillación silencian a las mujeres. Ella rompió su silencio después de sufrir tres incidentes de violación propagados por el mismo capataz durante seis años. "Al final, pensé que si mi esposo me comprende, fantástico, pero prefiero confrontarlo que ese hombre me vuelva a poner las manos encima", le explicó Tamayo, llorando, a Hispanic Link.

En lo que las campesinas ven que tienen mayor acceso a la representación legal, van armándose de valor para dar voz a su situación. Las organizaciones de campesinas, como Líderes Campesinas, la Fundación Dolores Huerta, Esperanza, y grupos de abogados como la CRLA y la EEOC ofrecen talleres a las mujeres para que aprendan qué acciones tomar cuando se ven enfrentadas con el acoso sexual en el lugar de trabajo.

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Reiteran interés de Bush por una pronta reforma migratoria

El presidente George W. Bush no le dijo a su homólogo mexicano Vicente Fox que hay escasas posibilidades de que la reforma migratoria integral se apruebe antes de las elecciones de noviembre, aclaró ayer la Casa Blanca. Por el contrario, Bush sigue comprometido con obtener la reforma "lo más pronto posible", se indicó.

En Madrid, Fox dijo que Bush sí está comprometido en avanzar la reforma este año, aunque en la víspera indicó que Bush le dijo que había pocas probabilidades de que ocurriera.

El portavoz presidencial, Tony Snow, indicó que Fox quizá "escuchó mal" o entendió mal lo

Sex Abuse Issue

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lacked litigation and outreach because people did not know how to report their cases to EEOC," she said.

Tamayo affirmed that fear and humiliation silences women. She broke her silence after three rape incidents involving the same foreman within six years. "In the end, I thought if my husband understands me, that is great, but I prefer to confront it rather than have that man's hands on me again," Tamayo tearfully explained to Hispanic Link.

As there are increased avenues for legal representation for farmworker women, they are building the valor to speak up. Farmworker organizations such as Líderes Campesinas, the Dolores Huerta Foundation, Esperanza and legal groups such as CRLA and the EEOC are providing workshops for women to learn what actions to take when they are confronted with sexual harassment at work.

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debido liderazgo para que su Partido Republicano, sobre todo en la Cámara Baja, permita la conciliación de los proyectos aprobados por ambos organismos. El Capitolio fue escenario de diversos eventos a favor y en contra de la reforma. Grupos hispanos nacionales catalogaron de irresponsable e innecesaria la conducta de la Cámara Baja y sus audiencias para "evitar abordar los problemas domésticos serios que enfrenta nuestra nación, incluyendo la reforma migratoria amplia", dijo Rosa Rosales, presidenta de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC).

El congresista demócrata de Texas, Silvestre Reyes, testificó ante el panel y al término dijo a la prensa que aunque la sesión del Congreso es corta, "tiempo hay" para avanzar la reforma. "Lo que no hay es la voluntad del presidente y el liderazgo del presidente" para romper el tranque que impide la negociación bicameral de la reforma.

"Estas audiencias tienen un sólo objetivo: agotar el tiempo" agregó. "Esta farsa no va a engañar al público", dijo, por su parte, la demócrata de California, Linda Sánchez. Agregó que son los republicanos los que tienen un pobre historial de asignar fondos adecuados para la seguridad fronteriza y la aplicación de leyes migratorias, pero ahora quieren convencer a los estadounidenses de que son ellos los interesados en la seguridad y los demócratas los interesados en otorgar "amnistías". Y catalogan el proyecto del Senado como una medida demócrata, agregó, cuando sus principales arquitectos y auspiciadores son republicanos, incluyendo la Casa Blanca que apoya al menos el "concepto" de legalización ganada y el plan de trabajadores temporales.

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The World We Live In

(Continued from Front)

The Washington Post, most polls show that most Americans support embryonic stem cell research, the President exercised the first veto of his presidency; the first during both of his terms.

The approval of the bill, which was passed by the House last year, was a bipartisan effort supported by conservative Republicans like Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn. and former first lady Nancy Reagan. It appears that neither the House nor the Senate have enough votes to override the veto. Consequently, Democratic proponents of the bill may make it an issue in the upcoming November elections; since a majority of Republican House and Senate members voted against the bill.

State's Sixth Largest Insurer Goes Bust

Lubbock and other Texas residents who have a home insured by homeowner's insurer, Texas Select Lloyds, Texas' sixth largest insurance company, better hurry and find another insurer to make sure their home is protected. In a report which appeared in the Wednesday, July 19 edition of the Austin American Statesman, State Insurance Commissioner Mike Geeslin is quoted as saying, "We could not allow policyholders and ultimately Texas taxpayers to be at risk given the financial condition of these companies".

The problem lies with the parent company, Vesta Insurance Group, of Birmingham, Alabama, which has been caught up in financial difficulty after taking substantial financial hits after paying out claims after hurricane's Katrina and Rita.

Policy holders are being urged to find a new insurance company before August 23; the cancellation date. Those homeowners needing help or having questions about the transition may call the Texas Department of Insurance at 1-800-252-3439.

Email eleditor@sbcglobal.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goals for Federal Fiscal Year 2007

The Lubbock International Airport hereby announces its fiscal year 2007 goal of 5.17% for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise airport construction projects.

The proposed goals and goal setting methodology is available for inspection between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning July 24th and ending August 23rd in the Office of the City Purchasing manager, 1625 13th Street, Lubbock, Texas.

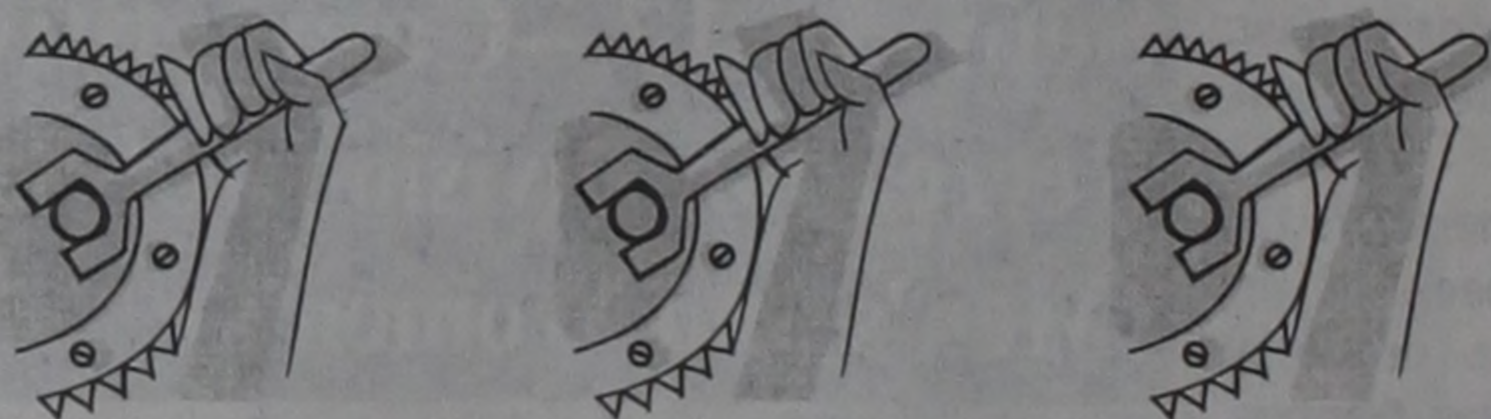
The Airport will accept comments on the DBE goals for 45 days beginning July 24th and ending September 7th. Comments can be sent to either of the following:

Purchasing Manager,
City Of Lubbock
Re: Airport DBE Goal-2007
P.O. BOX 2000
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