

Tribunal Supremo Tiene en Sus Manos la Decisión Del Uso Oficial de Inglés

WASHINGTON, 16 de enero de 2001
El Tribunal Supremo de EEUU tiene ahora en sus manos la histórica decisión de oficializar el inglés como única lengua del país o de permitir la utilización de otras lenguas, tras escuchar hoy un caso de discriminación presentado por una mujer hispana de Alabama.

En la actualidad, el inglés ha sido declarada lengua oficial en 25 estados del país, lo que mantiene la obligatoriedad de su uso en todas las actividades, transacciones y operaciones que se lleven a cabo en esos estados.

Los magistrados del Supremo cuestionaron hoy el derecho individual a presentar demandas contra instituciones del Gobierno que reciben fondos federales bajo una ley que prohíbe la discriminación por raza, color o procedencia y emitirán su resolución en junio próximo. En la sesión presentaron sus argumentos los abogados de la demandante, la inmigrante mejicana María Sandoval quien se queja de discriminación; los letrados de las organizaciones que apoyan el inglés como la lengua oficial en todo EEUU, y los representantes del gobierno de Alabama.

Sin embargo, una buena parte de la audiencia estuvo centrada en la capacidad y el derecho de los individuos de poder presentar demandas como la actual, y no en la validez de las acciones de los estados

de mantener una política de sólo inglés como la lengua oficial de sus

sea el español.
Las gestiones judiciales de María

promueve el inglés como idioma oficial y busca eliminar las informaciones



actividades y servicios generales. El Tribunal Supremo realizó diligencias sobre la demanda presentada en 1996 por la inmigrante mexicana María Sandoval, que reside en Mobile (Alabama), y que considera ha sido discriminada en la obtención de su permiso de conducir porque no habla bien inglés. Abogados del Centro de Leyes para los Pobres del Sur, que han dado su respaldo a Sandoval, consideran que los derechos civiles de la inmigrante mexicana han sido violados y alegan que el gobierno del estado de Alabama está en la obligación de facilitar sus servicios en la lengua que habla ella, o

tuvieron éxito en un tribunal federal del distrito, y luego ante la undécima corte de apelaciones, que le dieron la razón, pero el caso se ha prolongado debido a las apelaciones realizadas por el gobierno de Alabama. El Tribunal Supremo ya ha escuchado casos similares, entre ellos el de la organización "Arizona por el uso oficial del Inglés" versus el gobierno de ese estado", pero los magistrados hasta hoy sólo han emitido resoluciones técnicas, dejando de lado los aspectos básicos. El movimiento "English Only" que, apoyado por grupos conservadores cobra fuerza en Estados Unidos,

gubernamentales disponibles en otras lenguas. Uno de los dirigentes del "English Only", el chileno Mauro Mujica, sostiene que todos los inmigrantes deben aprender el inglés, y este ha sido su principal argumento en la audiencia ante el Tribunal Supremo. Los demandantes han pedido que los magistrados decidan a favor del uso de varias lenguas en el estado de Alabama, donde en la actualidad se mantiene el inglés como el idioma oficial, pero que en 1991 permitía transacciones oficiales en 14 lenguas. Mujica declaró hoy que, al margen de los asuntos legales, el Tribunal

Supremo deberá responder a una pregunta básica, como es la de si las instituciones del gobierno tienen el derecho de realizar sus actividades en inglés, o ser forzados a ofrecer sus servicios en más de una docena de lenguas extranjeras.

¿Qué piensas sobre la oficialización del uso del inglés como única lengua? Comparte tu opinión con otros lectores de Latino.com

Agregó que como inmigrante, él reconoce que el aprender inglés es clave para las oportunidades que existen en Estados Unidos, y dijo que en su opinión, no sería correcto que los tribunales declaran a esta lengua como una opción en EEUU.

El contencioso de María Sandoval comenzó en 1990, cuando más del 90 por ciento de los votantes de Alabama decidieron una enmienda

constitucional que convirtió al inglés como la lengua oficial de este estado. En atención a este mensaje, las autoridades de Transporte de Alabama decidieron realizar sólo en inglés los exámenes para la obtención de permisos de conducir, en los que falló María Sandoval, en 1996, como consecuencia de sus pocos conocimientos de esta lengua. Aunque Mujica expresó simpatías p

Sandoval, manifestó su esperanza d

que el Tribunal Supremo fallará a

favor del inglés "como nuestra lengua común", porque no se puede mantener el uso oficial de las 329 lenguas que existen actualmente en EEUU.

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

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La Primera Mujer Gobernadora de Puerto Rico Promete Reformas

Por Juan González

La primera gobernadora en la historia de Puerto Rico promete disminuir agudamente la tasa de pobreza del 60 por ciento de su isla y limpiar su gobierno.

Hablando conmigo en la Ciudad de Nueva York en la víspera de su inauguración, el 2 de enero, Sila María Calderón dijo que ella está comprometida a restablecer la confianza en el gobierno, después de años de corrupción y escándalos que han estremecido a la isla.

"Nosotros, los puertorriqueños, no somos así," dijo el alcalde saliente de San Juan, de 58 años de edad, acerca de los escándalos que llevaron en los años recientes al encarcelamiento de varios políticos de alta jerarquía del Partido Nuevo Progresista de oposición -- por lavado de dinero, fraude y malversación de fondos federales para viviendas y el SIDA.

El furor público por los escándalos fué una razón por la que el Partido Popular Democrático de Calderón llegó al poder arrulladoramente. Capturó la mansión del gobernador, una mayoría en ambas cámaras de la legislatura y la mayor parte de las alcaldías de la isla.

"Mi gobierno será limpio, honrado y recto," dijo ella.

Para subrayar eso, ella ha designado a una comisión independiente para desarrugar la corrupción ulterior y ha nombrado a David Noriega, el descubridor de escándalos y dirigente del minúsculo Partido Independentista, para encabezar dicha comisión.

Su gobierno tiene la seguridad de llevar un cambio importante para los 3,800,000 residentes de la isla, después de ocho años bajo Pedro Rosselló, el gobernador de lengua ácida partidario de la estadística, que parecía prosperar con el enfrentamiento.

Rosselló, que no procuró la reelección, dirigió una política de privatización que enojó a los poderosos sindicatos de la isla. La misma incluyó la venta de la compañía telefónica propietad del gobierno, así como de numerosos hoteles, clínicas y hospitales.

También provocó la ira de la prensa puertorriqueña criti-

cando periódicamente la información que publicaba sobre él, y retirando la publicidad gubernamental de las empresas periodísticas que lo criticaban.

"Mantendremos las reformas buenas que (Rosselló) hizo," dijo Calderón, "pero tendremos que revisar otras."

Si cualquier mujer es capaz de superar a la cultura de machismo legendaria de la isla, es Calderón, graduada de la Escuela Superior de Manhattanville, veterana de los gobiernos anteriores del Partido Popular Democrático y que una vez fué banquera.

Ella dice que está determinada a hacer de su campaña contra la tasa de pobreza in-gobernable de Puerto Rico una señal distintiva de su gobierno.

Como alcaldesa de San Juan, ella obtuvo calificaciones altas por enfocarse sobre 53 bolsones de pobreza en la zona metropolitana, y después edificar alianzas entre su gobierno y las organizaciones comunitarias locales para mejorar las circunstancias.

"Ampiaré el mismo concepto a toda la isla," dijo ella. "Y ya he identificado a 426 comunidades pobres que recibirán atención especial."

Ella ha prometido también construir 50,000 unidades de vivienda y poner fin a la escasez crónica de libros de texto en las escuelas de la isla.

El otro asunto que le ganó un gran apoyo a Calderón de parte de los electores fué su postura enérgica contra el uso de la pequeña isla puertorriqueña de Vieques por la Marina de Guerra de los Estados Unidos para prácticas de artillería y ejercicios bélicos.

Su primera prueba sobre este asunto puede llegar tan pronto como el 22 de enero, cuando el Pentágono tiene señalado reanudar los ejercicios militares en la isla.

Conforme a un acuerdo que el Presidente Clinton convino con Rosselló en febrero último, la Marina de Guerra ha programado un referendo para los residentes de Vieques en noviembre próximo, a fin de decidir el futuro de la galería de tiro. Si los residentes votan contra eso, la Marina de Guerra se marchará en el año 2003.

Pero Calderón y la mayoría de los dirigentes puertorriqueños no quieren esperar tanto tiempo. Ella está amenazando con señalar su propio referendo más pronto y quiere que todo el uso de Vieques por parte de la Marina de Guerra termine inmediatamente.

También ha amenazado con retirar a la policía anti-motines de Puerto Rico del servicio de seguridad alrededor de la base, donde han arrestado a cientos de manifestantes contra la Marina de Guerra en los meses recientes.

Con la inauguración inminente del Presidente electo George W. Bush, se le pregunta

By Tim Chávez

Days before the general election, U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.) gave the cheering GOP crowd what it wanted.

Just back on Tennessee soil from Washington, Thompson told the throng that President Clinton and the Democrats were trying to pass legislation that would let all those "illegal aliens" stay in the country. He promised that he and the GOP were not going to let this happen.

The crowd cheered lustily.

Immigration, legal or otherwise, gets the juices of the Republican faithful going. And the fear-heightening face of immigration is that of people who look like me, my parents and my grandparents.

But the great irony from the election is that the same face now holds the best, new hope for the GOP in the wake of its race relations disaster with African Americans over Florida voting irregularities. Nine of every 10 African Americans voted for Democrat Al Gore. And almost seven of 10 blacks surveyed later said they felt cheated by George W. Bush's victory.

Yet more than a third of Hispanic Americans voted for Bush. Exit polls cited by The New York Times, The Washington Post and ABC News put Bush's share of Hispanic voters somewhere between 33 percent and 38 percent. Four years ago, Bob Dole took 21 percent of that vote.

Bush's share might have been even larger if not for GOP opposition in Congress to the Demo-

tó a Calderón si ella esperaba mejor tratamiento de una Casa Blanca republicana que el que recibió del gobierno de Clinton.

"Tengo plena confianza en que nos tratarán con dignidad y respeto," dijo ella. "Pero mi postura sobre Vieques es firme."

(Juan González es columnista del New York Daily News y autor de "Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America" (Cosecha de Imperio: Una Historia de los Latinos en los Estados Unidos) (Editorial Viking, 2000)) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en el año 2001. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate)

tization policy that angered the island's powerful trade unions. It included the sale of the government-owned telephone company, as well as nu-

merous hotels, clinics and hospitals.

He also incurred the wrath of the Puerto Rican press by regularly blasting its coverage of him and by withdrawing government advertising from media companies that criticized him.

"We will treat the good reforms (Rosselló) did," Calderón said, "but we'll have to review others."

If any woman is capable of overcoming the island's legendary machismo culture, it is Calderón, who is a Manhattanville College graduate, a veteran of prior Popular Democratic Party administrations and a one-time banker.

She says she is determined to make her campaign against Puerto Rico's intractable poverty rate a hallmark of her government.

As mayor of San Juan, she won high marks for targeting 53 pockets of poverty in the metropolitan area, then building alliances between her government and local community organizations to improve conditions.

"I will be expanding the same concept to the whole island," she said. "And I've already iden-

The Barrio Door Is Open, But Will the GOP Walk In?

By Tim Chávez

Days before the general election, U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.) gave the cheering GOP crowd what it wanted.

Just back on Tennessee soil from Washington, Thompson told the throng that President Clinton and the Democrats were trying to pass legislation that would let all those "illegal aliens" stay in the country. He promised that he and the GOP were not going to let this happen.

But here's the most important statistic:

The Hispanic share of the national electorate, as reported by the National Council of La Raza, rose from 5 percent in 1998 to 7 percent in 2000. That share should reach 10 percent in 2004. And by then, U.S. Hispanics, who now number 36 million, will probably have surpassed African Americans as the nation's largest non-white racial or ethnic group.

The 2000 election showed that Hispanics still are more likely to choose candidates based on their positions on issues rather than party affiliation, La Raza said.

But in choosing his core Cabinet, Bush started off in the wrong direction. The high-profile negative views on affirmative action, immigration, bilingual education and civil rights expressed by the lone Mexican American he nominated -- Linda Chávez as Secretary of Labor -- caused La Raza president Raúl Yzaguirre to comment instantly,

"On virtually every policy issue of the day, her views are out of step with those of the vast majority of Hispanic Americans."

Chávez once headed U.S. English, the nation's premier Eng-

lish-only advocacy organization. The disclosure that Chávez had allowed an undocumented immigrant to live and work in her home early in the '90s forced her to withdraw herself from consideration as Secretary of Labor. It created an embarrassment for Bush and the GOP not only among Hispanics, but with the general population as well.

But the fact remains that the issue that can give Bush extra clout in the barrio is education.

Hispanic families revolve around the value of securing a better life for their children. The most ready way to achieve it is where to call, he was lonely and he didn't have anywhere to turn."

eight years under Pedro Rosselló, the acid-tongued pro-statehood governor who seemed to thrive on confrontation.

Rosselló, who did not seek reelection, spearheaded a privatized 426 poor communities that will be getting special attention."

She has also promised to build 50,000 housing units and to end the island's chronic shortage of school textbooks.

The other issue that won Calderón big support from voters was her strong stand against the U.S. Navy's use of the small Puerto Rican Island of Vieques for target practice and war games.

Her first test on this one may come as early as Jan. 22, when the Pentagon is scheduled to resume military exercises on the island. Under an agreement President Clinton reached with Rosselló in February, the Navy has scheduled a referendum for the residents of Vieques in November to decide the future of the training range. If residents vote against it, the Navy will leave by 2003.

But Calderón and most Puerto Rican leaders don't want to wait that long. She is threatening to schedule her own referendum sooner and wants all Navy use of Vieques to end immediately. She has also threatened to remove Puerto Rico's riot police from security duty around the base, where they have arrested hundreds of anti-Navy protesters in recent months.

With President-elect George W. Bush's inauguration looming, Calderón was asked if she expected any better treatment from a Republican White House than she got from the Clinton administration.

"I have full confidence that they'll treat us with dignity and respect," she said. "But my stand on Vieques is firm."

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A Defining Moment Who Was Standing At Linda Chavez's Side?

By Victor Landa
So what do we know about Marta Mercado?

We know that she's Guatemalan, that she came to this country with no documents, like millions have done before her, and that she lived and worked for two years in the home of a woman who may have given her up to \$1,500. We also know her now as the central figure in the first political blow suffered by the Bush Jr. presidency.

It took all of 48 hours for the fierce rivalries in Washington to dismantle President-elect George W. Bush's nomination for Secretary of Labor. It was swift, even by Washington standards. In fact, the designation of Linda Chavez for the labor post was ill-advised from the outset; trouble was expected.

Many leaders in the Latino community saw the nomination as an affront from the very beginning. She has the right ethnicity for the diverse administration that Bush has promised, but not the ideology. Her stance against affirmative action and against raising the minimum wage seemed more like a conservative entrenchment than a diversification.

Un Momento Definidor ¿Quién Estaba de Pie Al Lado de Linda Chavez?

Por Victor Landa
De modo que, ¿qué sabemos sobre Marta Mercado?

Sabemos que es guatemalteca, que vino a este país sin documentos como lo han hecho millones antes que ella, y que vivió y trabajó durante dos años en la casa de una mujer que puede haberle dado hasta \$1,500. También la conocemos ahora como la figura central en el primer golpe político sufrido por la presidencia de Bush Jr.

Se necesitaron 48 horas para que las rivalidades feroces de Washington desmantelaran a la persona postulada por el Presidente electo George W. Bush para el Departamento de Trabajo. Fue rápido, aún por las normas de Washington. En verdad, la designación de Linda Chavez para la plaza del trabajo fue imprudente desde el principio; se esperaba que hubiera dificultad.

Muchos dirigentes de la comunidad latina vieron a la postulación como una afrenta desde el comienzo mismo. Ella tiene la etnicidad correcta para el gobierno diverso que Bush ha prometido, pero no la ideología. Su postura contra la acción afirmativa y contra el aumento del jornal mínimo pareció más un atrincheramiento conservador que una diversificación.

Pero no fué su ideología

que la convirtió en la figura central de la controversia. La actitud de la Sra. Mercado hacia la dirección de la residencia es equivalente a la de la Sra. Linda Chavez. No sólo ayudó a una persona delincuente, sino que tuvo dificultad para contestar las preguntas de la FBI sobre sus acciones. Los agentes federales dicen que, a medida que ellos la interrogaban sobre el asunto, sus respuestas llegaron a ser "turbias." Se ha informado que, en un intento de aclarar la situación, Chavez telefónicamente a una vecina, presuntamente para tratar de recordar detalles específicos acerca del tiempo que la Sra. Mercado vivió dentro de su casa.

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Para mí, ésta es una razón suficiente para aplaudir su retirada de la postulación. Todas las madres latinas de la creación han amonestado, en una oportunidad u otra, a sus hijos con estas palabras: "No hagas cosas buenas que aparezcan ser malas." Evidentemente, Chavez no estaba escuchando.

Aunque no sé los detalles del relato de Chavez y Mercado, sí sé que el tener a alguien viviendo en la casa de uno durante dos años, haciendo tra-

Por el contrario, al momento

de su anuncio, ella estuvo flanqueada por inmigrantes, personas a quienes ella había ayudado anteriormente.

Para una mujer de la reputación ideológica que tiene Linda Chavez, el cuadro fué casi grotesco. Ella ha sido siempre celebrada por la derecha como una "persona minoritaria ejemplar," como lo que debería ser una persona minoritaria. Ella se opuso a la enseñanza bilingüe, a la acción afirmativa, al aumento del jornal mínimo. Entonces ella les tiró una bola de curva lenta y engañosa. Ayudó y apoyó a una persona delincuente -- albergó, alimentó y dió dinero a una mujer indocumentada de Guatemala. Lo que es peor, ella "entubó" sus respuestas a los investigadores de la FBI.

Encuentro interesante que la figura central de esta controversia, la piedra que mató al gigante, sea una mujer de la América Central aparentemente vulnerable, indefensa e indocumentada. Tampoco pude dejar de observar la ironía. La única cosa que puede haber sido de valor rededor a los ojos de los críticos latinos de Chavez es la que hizo que sus aliados conservadores le volvieran la espalda. Ni un sólo miembro del equipo de Bush, ni un sólo dirigente u operador republicano, estuvo de pie para defender a Chavez mientras ella publicaba su decisión de retirarse del trámite de la postulación.

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withdraw from the nomination process.

On the contrary, at the moment of her announcement, she was flanked by immigrants, people she had helped in the past. For a woman with the ideological reputation that Linda Chavez has, the picture was almost bizarre.

Chavez has always been touted by the right wing as a "model minority," as what a minority ought to be. She opposed bilingual education, opposed affirmative action, opposed raising the minimum wage. Then she threw them a sly-slow-curve ball. She aided and abetted a criminal -- she housed, fed and gave money to an undocumented woman from Guatemala. Worse than that, she "muddied" her answers to FBI investigators.

This is the kind of story that makes me wonder about coincidences. What if none of this had happened? What if Linda Chavez had never crossed paths with Marta Mercado?

Victor Landa is news director for Telemundo affiliate KVDA-TV60 in San Antonio, Texas.)

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Fox's "Open Borders" Deserve More than Closed Minds

By RAYMOND RODRIGUEZ

Nothing Mexican President Vicente Fox has said or done has aroused as much controversy as his "open borders" statement. In many quarters, it is viewed with alarm or outright hostility. In the minds of some people, it conjures up images of hordes of Mexicans sweeping across our southern border. This adds to the fear along the border states of the Mexicanization of the United States.

Others view it as a silent reconquest of the lands ceded to the United States in 1848, after the Mexican American War.

Such xenophobic beliefs are unfounded. Those who espouse them do so either out of ignorance or with the intent to arouse fear and incite hatred. Mexican bashing is seldom far below the surface, in spite of professions of amity and mutual respect.

What President Fox is espousing is granting people the same rights enjoyed by commerce. His proposal reminds me of the time when hogs could be shipped across the United States without having to change trains, while passengers had to change trains in Chicago. That situation was altered when it came to the public's attention. People should enjoy the same privileges accorded to commerce.

President Fox believes that if commerce can be regulated by treaty to benefit trade, as is the case with NAFTA, then labor ought to enjoy the same benefits. If one judges his remarks on that basis, it is difficult to fault or disagree with his premise. The rights and well-being of human beings should be a prime concern in governmental decisions.

President Fox hopes to put that concept on the negotiating table for consideration by Canada, the United States and Mexico. If they can agree on a free-trade compact, why can't they agree on the right of workers to enjoy the rewards of their labor? That is a question that begs an answer, and one that needs to be resolved in a sagacious manner, but with deliberate speed.

No reasonable person will argue with the concept that all sovereign nations have the right to control their borders and decide who will be allowed to reside therein. Due to its abutment with Guatemala, Mexico is well aware of the importance of this basic concept of nationalism and employs it stringently. In another historical example, one reason Mexico did not object more strenuously when Mexicans were repatriated during the 1930s was that it was repatriating thousands of Chinese nationals.

No, Fox's "open borders" remarks do not envision an abdication of sovereignty or the onslaught of massive hordes inundating the border. In fact, his concept is nothing more than the resurrection of an idea proposed by the Mexican government more than 70 years ago, to establish a system for mutually controlling the flow of immigrants to the United States. U.S. business firms successfully lobbied Congress to reject any attempt to interfere with the flow of their source of cheap labor from Mexico.

That shortsighted, self-serving view has been the bane of our existence. Having an unregulated supply of workers unprotected by government-imposed controls or standards allows unscrupulous employers to exploit the illegal or undocumented newcomers. Any attempts at controls or unionization efforts designed to benefit the workers result in threats by employers to close shop or relocate elsewhere.

What President Vicente Fox is proposing is a plan that will regulate the flow of workers, assure their safety and well-being, and provide fair compensation for a day's work. Leveling the employment field will reduce the lure of U.S. firms relocating to Mexico to take advantage of low wages. Eventually it will reduce the need for Mexican workers to emigrate.

Contrast Fox's idea with the knee-jerk reaction of the INS, which is proposing to build a second fence along the Tijuana corridor, 150 feet from the first one. The idea is so obscene that even the residents of the border community of Imperial Beach are asking the INS to reconsider the location of the 10-foot fence. In all candor, a second or even a third fence will not solve the illegal immigration problem.

I believe that Fox's visionary idea will be implemented in due time. As our society ages, more workers than the U.S. produces will be needed and our dependence on foreign labor will increase. Since we are already importing scientists, technical workers and teachers, it is time to address the problem of how to control immigrant labor to the mutual benefit of everyone involved.

(Raymond Rodriguez, a retired university professor living in Long Beach, Calif., is author of "Decade of Betrayal" (University of New Mexico Press), an account of the repatriation of a million Mexicans from the United States during the Great Depression.)

Los Hispanos Necesitan Dirigentes Que Comprendan y Respeten al Barrio

Por Cynthia L. Orosco

Aunque los latinos, como el público en general, necesitan dirigentes que sean dignos de confianza e inteligentes, están más inclinados a buscar otros dos ingredientes de dirigencia: Un conocimiento completo de las necesidades comunitarias específicas y un compromiso a mantenerse conectados con sus seguidores populares y a ser respetuosos con ellos.

Estos hallazgos -- y otras conclusiones relacionadas con un aumento considerable de la adopción de los estilos de dirigencia latinos por parte de grandes entidades políticas y empresariales -- se hallaban entre las revelaciones presentadas al comienzo, en la Asociación Nacional de la Prensa el 10 de enero, de una serie de informes sobre los hallazgos de un estudio de tres partes.

"Reflejando una Perspectiva Estadounidense: La Naturaleza y el Efecto de la Dirigencia Latina," publicado por la Comunidad Nacional para la Dirigencia Latina (NCLL en inglés), examina las visiones y los valores latinos. Efectuada por la entidad multi-disciplinaria y de intercambio radicada en Washington, D.C., la encuesta es la primera de su clase que haya mirado a la dirigencia desde la base popular hacia arriba.

"Es un estudio rico en informa-

ción que, por primera vez, proporcionará un entendimiento de la experiencia y el tránsito de la dirigencia en la comunidad latina, desde la perspectiva latina," dijo Andrew Hernández, analizador principal de investigación de la NCLL. "Los latinos determinarán tanto la cantidad como la calidad de la dirigencia en este país durante los 25 años próximos."

El presidente de la NCLL, Alfred Ramírez, dijo que esta información debe ser examinada cuidadosamente, no sólo por los latinos, debido a las inferencias de la dirigencia por parte de este grupo en las comunidades de todo el país.

"La corriente principal de los Estados Unidos no ha incluido nuestra voz, ni nuestros valores, visiones y perspectivas. Eso es importante para todos nosotros en los Estados Unidos porque, si somos el grupo minoritario de más rápido crecimiento, el más joven, el que será pronto el mayor grupo minoritario de este país, ellos necesitan saber lo que repercute en nosotros," dijo Hernández.

Las fundaciones Ford y Kellogg financiaron el proyecto, que entrevistó a 3,032 latinos de California, la Florida, Nueva York, Illinois y Texas entre el 25 de octubre de 1999 y el 24 de enero del 2000. Se hicieron muestras estadísticas superpuestas de 500 cubano-ameri-

canos y 500 puertorriqueños el cual 500 dirigentes populares de Nueva York, Miami, Chicago, San Antonio, Washington, D.C. y Los Ángeles se reunían para participar en grupos de enfoque.

"Necesitamos pensar sobre la dirigencia desde un nuevo paradigma que incluya a un sistema de valores culturales basados sobre los principios de servicio, integridad, equidad e igualdad," dijo Hernández, mencionando el trabajo del autor Stephen R. Covey.

Junto con la encuesta, el es-

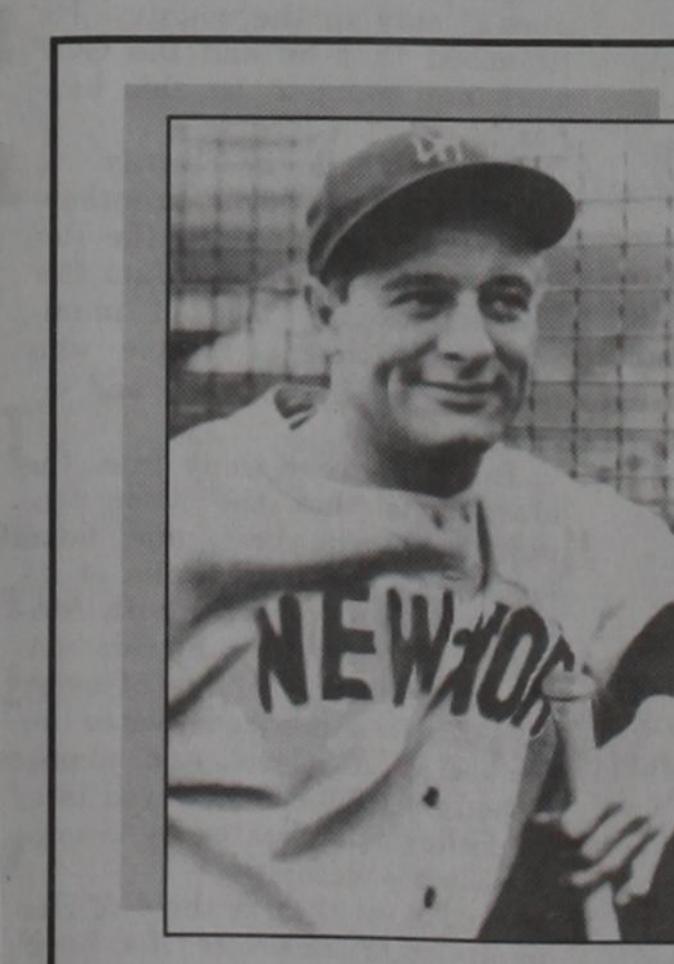
timio consiste en entrevistas de 50 dirigentes latinos reconocidos nacionalmente, que están siendo efectuadas por Ramírez; y el Proyecto de Dirección Comunitaria Latina, en

"Queremos ver dónde están las tendencias, a través de estos tres grupos de personas, y después preparar un documento maestro que correlacione toda esa información," dijo Ramírez.

(Cynthia L. Orosco es corre-

spondiente de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C. Es posible comunicarse con ella por e-mail, al indicativo cynthia.hispaniclink.org).

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Una Marcha de Repetición Para Bert Corona

Por Joseph Torres

El pionero defensor de derechos civiles, el mexicanoamericano Bert Corona, falleció el 15 de enero a 82 años de edad. El artículo que sigue sobre su presencia en la Marcha del Millón de Hombres en Washington, D.C., es un ejemplo de su reputación como el líder de derechos civiles más desatendido del siglo viente. El artículo es republicado de Hispanic Link Weekly Report, el 23 de octubre de 1995.)

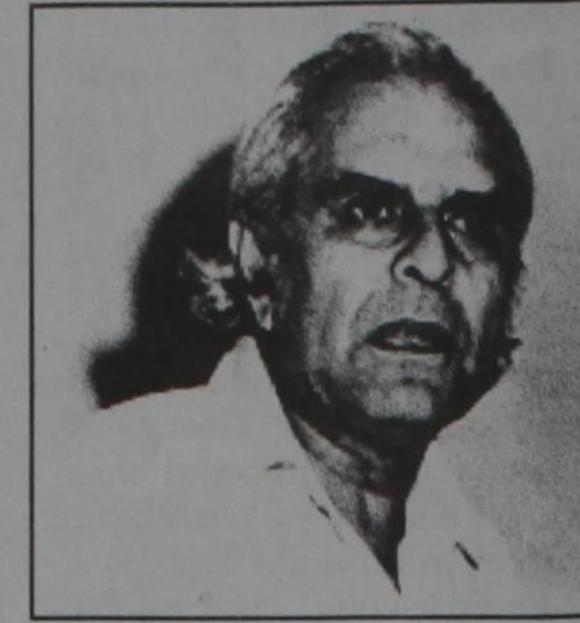
Hubo una época en que una caminata de más de tres milas loma abajo desde la vecindad latina de Mount Pleasant, en el noreste de Washington, D.C., hasta la Rambla del Capitolio, no habría sido un gran reto para Bert Corona.

Pero el legendario activista chicano, que ha caminado miles de millas en cientos de manifestaciones de costa a costa, tiene casi 80 años de edad ahora. El hizo lo más que pudo el 16 de octubre para mantener el paso con el contingente latino de 50 hombres y mujeres que siguieron su camino hacia la calle 14 para unirse a sus hermanos afroamericanos en la Marcha del Millón de Hombres.

Después que habíamos caminado una milla o algo así, él se tocó el pecho, se volvió hacia mí y explicó: "Tengo que desacelerar el ritmo de mi corazón. Tengo un 'marca-ritmo.' El entró al asiento del pasajero del auto de escolta.

Nadie, sin embargo, puso en tela de juicio a su corazón.

Nacido en El Paso en 1918, Corona empezó su carrera de protesta en Los Angeles a mediados del decenio de 1930, después de abandonar la escuela de derecho. Organizó a los trabajadores de los muelles de embarque y de los campos, para declararse en huelga contra los patronos explotadores.



En las cacerías de comunistas del decenio de 1940, a menudo se le catalogó de comunista por sus gestiones incansables para obtener derechos civiles para los latinos.

En el decenio de 1960, Corona ayudó a fundar organizaciones tales como la Asociación Política Méxicoamericana.

Su talento como orador y sus éxitos como organizador le llevaron a la corriente política principal en calidad de presidente de "Viva Kennedy" durante la campaña presidencial de John F. Kennedy que tuvo éxito, y después como co-presidente de la organización "Viva" de Lyndon Johnson.

Durante los decenios, Corona empalmó a menudo con los afroamericanos, apoyando sus campañas de derechos civiles. El ayudó a organizar la coalición negra-hispana-blanca que eligió a Tom Bradley como el primer alcalde negro de Los Angeles en 1973.

Mientras viajábamos hacia las Ramblas, Corona volvió a relatar los paralelos entre las luchas latinas y negras. "Tenemos mucho que ganar al trabajar juntos, porque tenemos una comunidad en muchos asuntos," dijo él. "Un daño para uno es un daño para todos."

El había sido invitado por su amigo de largo tiempo y copresidente de la Marcha del Millón de Hombres, el Dr. Ben Chavis, a participar en la ceremonia de la tarde.

Literalmente cientos de dirigentes negros de todos los Estados Unidos procuraban hablar en el acontecimiento histórico. El contingente latino había promovido a Corona ante Bob Brown, coordinador de logística de la manifestación, quien a su vez promovió a Corona como el latino que podría dirigirse a la multitud

sobre la solidaridad entre negros y latinos. Por último, dos días antes de la manifestación, los organizadores acordaron permitir que Corona hablara.

A medida que el contingente latino se abría paso por la calle 14 hacia abajo y se acercaba a las Ramblas, sus gallardetes de "Unidad" fueron vitoreados y abiertamente aceptados. Varios hombres afroamericanos se unieron al grupo. Otros tomaron fotos de los gallardetes. Los que viajaban en autos hicieron sonar sus bocinas. Se elevaron puños de amistad al aire y gritos de "¡Hermanos!" saludaron a los latinos.

Brown se reunió con el grupo en la Rambla y guió a Corona por entre un mar de hombres negros hacia la alberca cerca del Capitolio. Allí, él y Corona llegaron a un callejón sin salida. La fuerza de seguridad de la Nación del Islam del Rev. Louis Farrakhan no reconoció a Brown y no quiso dejarlo pasar.

Brown se las arregló para enviar un mensaje a Conrad Worrill, quien confirmó que Corona habría de aparecer en la plataforma y dirigirse a los cientos de miles de personas que congestionaban las Ramblas. Pero no vino respuesta alguna de regreso.

Brown volvió a persuadir a

un grupo de guardias de seguridad para que le dejaran seguir adelante con Corona, sólo para ser detenido por otro grupo más de guardias estrictos. La seguridad estaba apretándose en anticipación de la llegada de Farrakhan.

Una vez más, Brown explicó que Corona era un dirigente del movimiento chicano que estaba señalado para hablar.

Un guardia de entre 20 y 25 años de edad contestó que él respetaba a un hombre de la dirigencia. El se ofreció como voluntario para escoltar a Corona y hallar a Worrill.

Con su "marca-ritmo" cooperando, Corona desapareció tras un muro de cuerpos, todavía esperanzado de hablar a la mayor multitud a que él se había enfrentado en su vida.

Pero su escolta tropezó con fuerzas de seguridad adicionales de Farrakhan y no pudo llegar más lejos en su búsqueda de Worrill o Chavis.

Enviado de regreso, Bert Corona se reunió nuevamente con los manifestantes latinos, que expresaron tristemente su desilusión.

Pero el septuagenario ligeramente encorvado, que había pasado su vida perseverando contra los opositores de los derechos civiles, se limitó a sonreír. Sin amargura. Sin lamentarse. "Solo vine aquí para marchar y apoyar a la causa," dijo él, de igual modo que ha estado haciendo durante 60 años.

(Joseph Torres ahora es director de comunicaciones de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos en Washington, D.C.)

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"Algunas enfermedades afectan más a algunos grupos étnicos que a otros. Tal es el caso de la hepatitis A entre los latinos de Colorado".

-Ken Salazar, presidente de la Coalición Contra la Hepatitis A. Una coalición de políticos, empresarios y dirigentes comunitarios de Colorado han iniciado una campaña para reducir la incidencia de la hepatitis A entre los latinos de este estado, mediante programas de educación y vacunación masiva, informaron hoy sus organizadores.

"Algunas enfermedades afectan más a algunos grupos étnicos que a otros. Tal es el caso de la hepatitis A entre los latinos de Colorado", expresó el procurador general del estado, Ken Salazar, presidente de la coalición.

"Esta enfermedad puede prevenirse fácilmente por medio de la educación y la vacunación", indicó.

Pero la hepatitis A afecta a 104 de cada 100.000 niños hispanos, mientras que el índice entre el resto de la población es de 8,6 cada 100.000 niños, según datos de 1999 del Departamento de Salud de Colorado.

Los casos de hepatitis disminuyeron notablemente entre 1992 y 1999 en Estados Unidos, pero entre los hispanos siguió en aumento.

El análisis de esta situación llevó, tras varios meses de deliberaciones, a crear a fines del mes pasado la Coalición Contra la Hepatitis A entre Latinos de Colorado.

"Nuestro primer paso será que todos los niños de Colorado que aún no han sido vacunados contra la hepatitis A la reciban en el 2001", explicó el empresario Zenón Ferrufino, uno de los miembros de la coalición.

"Aunque no se tratará de un programa de vacunación obligatoria, creemos que el 50 por ciento de los niños de Colorado necesitan recibir esta vacuna", recalco.

La hepatitis A es una enfermedad vírica que ataca al hígado, y que afecta a unas

Buscan Reducir Casos de Hepatitis A en Población Latina

150.000 personas al año en EEUU, y a diez millones en el mundo.

La enfermedad se transmite por contacto directo entre personas, y es especialmente peligrosa entre menores de 14 años, porque muchas veces se enferman sin mostrar ningún síntoma.

Los adultos y jóvenes presentan los síntomas típicos como fiebre, pérdida de apetito, náuseas, diarrea y malestar general, según expertos. Además la piel y los ojos presentan un color amarillento.

Los médicos recomiendan cómo método de prevención lavarse las manos y higiene personal.

Una vez detectada la enfermedad, las personas se recuperan con los remedios adecuados, pero la recuperación, como promedio, se prolonga por un mes.

"Aunque aún no ha concluido el estudio sobre las razones de por qué hay tantos hispanos con hepatitis A, creemos que hay una relación entre la transmisión de esta enfermedad y el número de niños hispanos en escuelas y en jardines de infantes", puntualizó Salazar.

"Y si al fin del 2001 no se registra la reducción proyectada, podríamos pedir que la vacunación se haga obligatoria para el 2002", indicó.

More Health News On Page Six

An Encore March For Bert Corona

By Joseph Torres

(Editor's note: Mexicanoamericano civil rights pioneer Bert Corona died in Los Angeles on Jan. 15 at age 82. The following column on his appearance at the Million Man March in Washington, D.C., typifies his reputation as the nation's most under-appreciated civil rights leader of the 20th Century. It is reprinted from Hispanic Link Weekly Report of Oct. 23, 1995.) There was a time when a three-plus-mile downhill hike from the Latino neighborhood of Mount Pleasant in northwest Washington, D.C., to the Capitol Mall would have been no great challenge for Bert Corona.

But the legendary Chicano activist, who has walked thousands of miles in hundreds of demonstrations from coast to coast, is nearly 80 now. He did his best on Oct. 16 to keep up with the Latino contingent of about 50 men and women who wended their way toward 14th Street to join their African-American *hermanos* in the Million Man March.

After we had walked a mile or so, he tapped his chest, turned me and explained, "I have to get my heart rate down. I have a pacemaker." He climbed into the passenger seat of the escort car.

No one, however, questioned his heart.

Born in El Paso, Texas, in 1918, Corona began his career of protest in Los Angeles in the mid-1930s, after dropping out of law school. He organized Chicano workers on the shipping docks and in the fields to strike against exploitative employers.

In the red-baiting 1940s, he was often labeled a communist for his nonstop efforts to gain civil rights for Latinos. In the 1960s, Corona helped found such organizations as the Mexican American Political Association.

His talent as an orator and his successes as an organizer brought him into the political mainstream as California "Viva Kennedy" chairman during JFK's successful presidential campaign, and later as co-chair of the "Viva" organization of Lyndon Johnson.

Throughout the decades, Corona frequently teamed with African Americans, supporting

their civil rights quests. He helped pull together the black-brown-white coalition that elected Tom Bradley as Los Angeles' first black mayor in 1973.

As we traveled toward the Mall, Corona recounted the parallels between the Latino and black struggle.

"We stand to gain enormously by working together because we have commonality on many issues," he said. "An injury to one is an injury to all."

He had been invited by long-time friend and Million Man March co-chair Dr. Ben Chavis to participate in the afternoon's ceremony.

Literally hundreds of black leaders from throughout the United States vied to speak at the historic event. The Latino contingency promoted Corona to Bob Brown, the march's logistics coordinator, who in turn promoted Corona as the Latino who could address the multitude on black-brown solidarity. Finally, two days before the march, the organizers agreed to let Corona speak.

As the Latino contingent made its way down 14th Street and neared the Mall, its "unity" banners were cheered. Several African-American men joined the group. Others took pictures of the banners. Those in cars honked their horns in

support. Fists of friendship were raised in the air, and yells of *Hermanos* greeted the Latinos.

Brown met the group at the Mall and guided Corona through a sea of black men to the basin beneath the Capitol. There, he and Corona ran into a dead end. The Rev. Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam security force did not recognize Brown and wouldn't let him pass.

Brown managed to send a message to Conrad Worrill, who confirmed that Corona was to appear on the platform and address the hundreds of thousands jamming the Mall. But no answer came back.

Brown again persuaded a set of security guards to let him proceed with Corona, only to be halted by yet another set of stern guards. Security was tightening in anticipation of Farrakhan's arrival.

Once more, Brown explained that Corona was a leader of the Chicano movement and scheduled to speak. A guard in his early 20s replied that he respected a man of leadership. He volunteered to escort Corona to find Worrill.

With his pacemaker cooperating, Corona disappeared behind a wall of bodies, still hopeful of speaking to the large

continued on page 6

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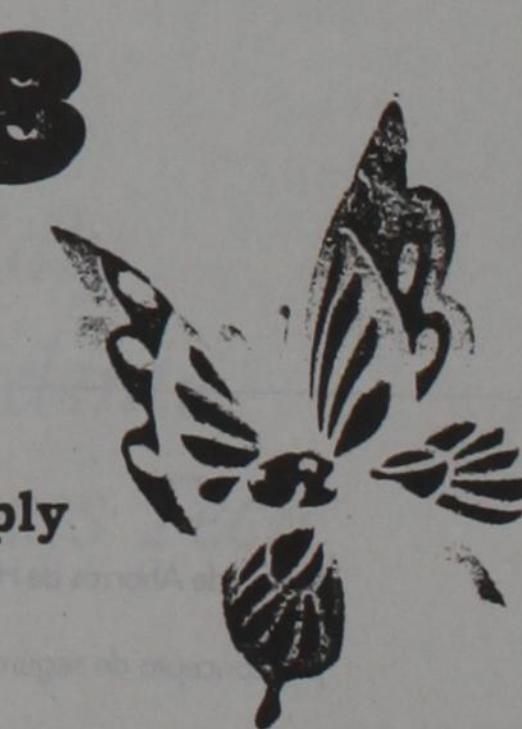
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What Linda Chavez Did For Me

By Kay Bárbaro

It was another chilly day in the nation's capital. At the Bush-Cheney Transition headquarters a few blocks from the White House, Linda Chávez was speaking to a battery of TV news cameras, asking President-elect George W. Bush to delete her name as his nominee for Secretary of Labor.

Acknowledging her superb qualifications to be "a great Secretary of Labor," and her tireless service and loyalty to the incoming president, she explained that, nonetheless, she had become a "distraction" in a city that practices "the politics of personal destruction."

There wasn't a wet eye in the press gallery.

Linda has that kind of effect on people who have followed her career. That includes those of us who remember how, on a search-and-destroy mission for Ronald Reagan, she almost singlehandedly wiped out the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in the Eighties.

After she took over as the commission's staff director in August 1983, Chávez used her administrative skills and White House muscle to get the long-respected body to cancel a study on the employment of women and people of color in high-tech and other growth industries. Her justification: "Women and minorities often lack the math and science training to enter these industries."

What a perfect candidate to run the nation's labor machine.

In January 1984, she proposed and won adoption of a commission resolution against the "use of quotas" in affirmative action, and got the body to rubber-stamp her idea for a study on the adverse consequences of affirmative action on Euro-ethnics.

She even went so far as to kill a ready-for-print article in the Civil Rights Digest, the commission's quarterly journal, on César Chávez's role in the civil rights movement.

From there, Linda went on to head the country's premier official-English lobby, U.S. English, and to create one of



Marta Mercado (above), an immigrant from Guatemala, was in the country illegally when she lived with Cabinet nominee Linda Chavez in the early '90s. Ms. Chavez says that she didn't know the woman's status at the time and that she didn't employ her.

its busiest anti-affirmative-action organizations, the Center for Equal Opportunity.

Facing the bank of microphones the other day, Linda confided that she's had a hard life. "A lot of adversity," she shared.

In a performance captured on CNN, she described how, when she was a child in New Mexico, "My father got into a number of car accidents and spent a great deal of time in the hospital. So did my mother." But whenever there was a screech-thud-crash that put her parents back in traction, nice people regularly rushed forward to help out little Miss Linda.

That's why she, as a grown-up, has always been nice to people, she explained. That's why, in the early 1990s, she took in a moneyless, paperless Guatemalan "illegal alien" lady and let her do chores around the house for a couple of years and paid her \$1,500.

It's the compassion she learned as a child.

"Knowing everything that happened last week, if that woman showed up at my door, I would do it (again) in an instant, without hesitation," she said. (I presume she would include a cost-of-living increase

"He's on an airplane coming

A young Latino from the Bronx admitted he was afraid when he first met Linda. "I was kind of nervous about what things she would do," he said. Sometimes now, he added, he even calls her "Mother." A young Latina called Linda "a second mother for me."

When all five finished, Chávez mentioned that while she was a staff member in the senior George Bush White House, she used her influence to help a U.S. doctor bend an immigration regulation to get his girlfriend here from Mexico.

Then she paused to scold the press for blowing the maid story way out of proportion, for forcing her withdrawal. She defined herself as a victim of Washington's "search-and-destroy" mentality, the term used to describe her modus operandi in the past.

It all got me to thinking.

If Linda Chávez can round up that many immigrant families on such short notice to bear witness to her saintly qualities, there are probably hundreds more out there whom she has befriended. Think back. Did Linda Chávez ever offer you shelter? Did she ever rub your tired feet? Last Christmas, did she loan you her phone card so you could call your relatives in Mexico or Central America to wish them -- in English, of course -- Feliz Navidad?

If she performed these or any other Samaritan acts for you, come forward now. The nation needs us -- Hispanics, in particular -- to reveal "What Linda Chávez Did For Me" so it can gain a true perspective on the real Miss Linda.

(Kay Bárbaro is a pseudonym by-line for the staff-written column "Sin Pelos en la Lengua" -- "Telling it like it is" -- in the national newsmagazine Hispanic Link Weekly Report. Editor Charlie Erickson contributed to this column.)

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que sé..."

Excepto el inglés, lo cual se supone que sea su especialidad.

Un latino joven del Bronx reconoció que él estaba temeroso cuando se reunió con Linda por primera vez. "Estaba algo nervioso sobre lo que ella haría," dijo él. Algunas veces ahora, agregó él, hasta la llama a ella "Madre." Una joven latina calificó a Linda de "una segunda madre para mí."

Cuando los cinco terminaron, Chávez mencionó que, mientras ella era miembro del personal en la Casa Blanca del primer Presidente Bush, ella usó su influencia para ayudar a un médico estadounidense a estirar un reglamento de inmigración para traer aquí a su "amiga" desde México. "El está en un avión que viene para acá desde la Florida," para verificar la compasión que ella siente por los inmigrantes, prometió Chávez.

Entonces ella hizo una pausa para regañar a la prensa por inflar el relato de la sirvienta muy fuera de proporción, a fin de obligarla a retirar su postulación. Se definió a sí misma como una víctima de la mentalidad de "búsqueda y destrucción" de Washington, el término que se usó para describir su forma de funcionar anterior.

Todo eso me hizo pensar.

Si Linda Chávez puede reunir a tantas familias inmigrantes con tan poco tiempo de aviso para dar testimonio de sus cualidades de bondad, hay probablemente otros cientos a quienes ella ha dado su amistad.

Piensen retrospectivamente. ¿Le ofreció Linda Chávez albergue a usted alguna vez? ¿Frotó ella alguna vez sus pies cansados? En la Navidad reciente, le prestó ella a usted su tarjeta telefónica para que usted pudiera llamar a sus familiares de México o la América Central, a fin de desecharles -- en inglés, desde luego -- una Feliz Navidad?

Si ella realizó estos u otros actos de Buena Samaritana para usted, adelántese ahora. La nación nos necesita -- especialmente a los hispanos -- para revelar "Lo que Linda Chávez Hizo por Mí," de modo que se pueda obtener una perspectiva verdadera sobre la Señorita Linda real.

Kay Bárbaro es un nombre periodístico de pseudónimo para la columna redactada por el personal "Sin Pelos en la Lengua" en el semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report. El Editor Charlie Erickson contribuyó a esta columna.

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El Plan de Ahorros de HUD para los compradores de casas reduce en un tercio los costos por concepto de seguro de su hipoteca durante la vida de su préstamo*. Cada año, un millón de familias en todo el país ahorrarán más de mil millones de dólares. Es otra de las formas que HUD usa para ayudarle a convertir en realidad el sueño americano: formar parte de un vecindario y ser propietario de su vivienda. Es una misión que nos hemos trazado desde 1934, y que ha mejorado las vidas de 30 millones de familias. Para más información, llame al 1-800-HUDS-FHA, visítenos en www.hud.gov, o comuníquese con las instituciones financieras o los agentes de bienes raíces de su localidad.

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Lo Que Linda Chavez Hizo Por Mi

Por Kay Bárbaro

Era otro día frío en la capital de la nación. En las oficinas principales de la Transición de Bush y Cheney, a pocas cuadras de la Casa Blanca, Linda Chávez estaba hablando a una batería de cámaras de noticias, pidiendo al Presidente electo, George W. Bush, que eliminara el nombre de ella de su postulación para Secretaria del Trabajo.

Reconociendo sus calificaciones excelentes para ser "una gran Secretaria del Trabajo" y sus incansables servicios y lealtad al presidente entrante, ella explicó que, no obstante, ella había llegado a ser una distracción -- en sus propias palabras -- en una ciudad que practica "la política de destrucción personal."

No hubo ningún ojo húmedo en la galería de la prensa.

Linda tiene esa clase de efecto sobre las personas que han seguido su carrera. Eso incluye a aquéllos de nosotros que recordamos de qué modo, en una misión de "búsqueda y destrucción" para Ronald Reagan, ella casi barrió del mapa a mano limpia a la Comisión de los Estados Unidos sobre los Derechos Civiles (USCCR en inglés) en el decenio de 1980.

Después que ella tomó posesión como directora de personal de la USCCR en agosto de 1983, usó sus habilidades administrativas y su influencia en la Casa Blanca para hacer que dicha entidad, que había sido respetada por mucho tiempo, cancelara un estudio sobre el empleo de mujeres y personas de color en la industria de alta tecnología y otras industrias en crecimiento. Su justificación fue: "Las mujeres y las personas minoritarias carecen a menudo de capacitación en matemáticas y ciencias para entrar en estas industrias."

Qué candidata perfecta para administrar la maquinaria del trabajo de la nación!

En enero de 1984, ella propuso y ganó la adopción de una resolución de la Comisión contra el "uso de cuotas" en la

acción afirmativa y obtuvo que la misma adoptara su idea de un estudio sobre las consecuencias adversas de la acción afirmativa sobre los euro-étnicos.

Ella llegó tan lejos como hasta suprimir un artículo listo para ser impreso en la publicación "Civil Rights Digest" su órgano trimestral, sobre el papel de César Chávez en el movimiento de los derechos civiles.

Desde allí, Linda continuó para dirigir el cabildo principal del país por el inglés oficial, U.S. English, y crear una de sus organizaciones contrarias a la acción afirmativa más ocupadas, el Centro para la Igualdad de Oportunidades.

Al enfrentarse al grupo de micrófonos el otro día, Linda confesó que ella ha tenido una vida difícil: "Muchas adversidades," compartió ella.

En una función captada por CNN, ella describió cómo, cuando ella era niña en Nuevo México, "mi padre estuvo involucrado en cierto número de accidentes automovilísticos y pasó mucho tiempo en el hospital. A mi madre le ocurrió otro tanto." Pero siempre que hubo algún accidente que envió a sus padres de regreso a la cama de tracción, personas maravillosas se adelantaron periódicamente para ayudar a la pequeña Linda.

Esa es la razón de que, cuando ya era adulta, ella haya ayudado siempre a las personas, explicó ella. Esa es la razón de que, a principios del decenio de 1990, ella recogió a una "extranjera indocumentada" guatemalteca desamparada en su casa, y le permitió ayudar con las labores domésticas durante un par de años, y le pagó \$1,500.

Esa es la compasión que ella aprendió cuando era niña.

"Conociendo todo lo que pasó la semana pasada, si esa mujer llegara a mi puerta, haría lo mismo en un instante, sin vacilar," dijo ella. (Presumí que ella incluiría un aumento por el costo de la vida en el sobre de pago de su amiga.)

Antes de hacer los arreglos para que cinco amigos hispanos e inmigrantes de varios países aparecieran frente a los micrófonos (por un momento pensé que estaba de regreso en la convención del Partido Republicano en el Centro First Union de Filadelfia), Linda nos advirtió: "Yo no soy la Madre Teresa."

Sus cinco apóstoles discutieron. Uno de ellos, un hombre vietnamita de edad media, declaró (en inglés defectuoso): "Llegué aquí en 1979. ... Si no hubiera sido por Linda Chávez, yo no tendría de todo hoy. Ella me enseñó todo lo que pasó la semana pasada, si esa mujer llegara a mi puerta, haría lo mismo en un instante, sin vacilar," dijo ella. (Presumí que ella incluiría un aumento por el costo de la vida en el sobre de pago de su amiga.)

Conociendo todo lo que pasó la semana pasada, si esa mujer llegara a mi puerta, haría lo mismo en un instante, sin vacilar," dijo ella. (Presumí que ella incluiría un aumento por el costo de la vida en el sobre de pago de su amiga.)

The Panamanian Tourism Institute (IPAT) will launch a "Panama: It's the Trip" advertising campaign in the United States in 2001 to promote tourism to the isthmus, institute director Liriola Pitti said Thursday.

The official said the United States was chosen for the campaign because it is the third largest source of tourists in the world.

IPAT will spend some \$800,000 in the ad campaign directed primarily at potential visitors from New York, California, Florida and Texas, according to an IPAT press release.

Besides the ad campaign,

'Panama: It's the Trip'

Campaign To Be Launched in U.S.

The Panamanian Tourism Institute (IPAT) will launch a "Panama: It's the Trip" advertising campaign in the United States in 2001 to promote tourism to the isthmus, institute director Liriola Pitti said Thursday.

The official said the United States was chosen for the campaign because it is the third largest source of tourists in the world.

IPAT will spend some \$800,000 in the ad campaign directed primarily at potential visitors from New York, California, Florida and Texas, according to an IPAT press release.

Besides the ad campaign,

promoting adventure tourism will be IPAT's second challenge during 2001, as well as attending to the large number of cruises expected for the next season, and the introduction of a bill in Congress to create the Tourism Authority to replace IPAT and obtain independent funding, she said.

Panama signed an agreement at the end of 2000 with the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) for luxury cruise ships to stop in Panama. Since November, 11 cruise ships, carrying an average of 500 passengers and crew members, have docked in Panama.

The government of Panama assigned \$14.5 million for IPAT operations in 2001.

Americo De La Guardia, IPAT's marketing and advertising director, said Panama is ready to make tourism its main source of foreign currency.

According to preliminary IPAT figures, Panama received \$575 million in tourist revenues in 2000, a \$37 million or 6.9 percent increase over 1999.

Some 590,000 tourists - an average of 49,000 a month - visited Panama in 2000, and each visitor spent an average of \$970 during an estimated three-day stay.

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LeRoy Butler Analysis The Giants Are Hungrier

By LeRoy Butler

For NFL Insider

(EDITOR'S NOTE: LeRoy Butler played in Super Bowls XXXI and XXXII for the Green Bay Packers. The five-time all-pro safety analyzes Super Bowl XXXV between the New York Giants and Baltimore Ravens for SuperBowl.com.)

If you're not used to the hype and the hoopla, a Super Bowl can get overwhelming. Once you get to the game, you're just physically and mentally drained.

At our first Super Bowl, some of our guys weren't having any fun and seemed a little intimidated. You saw all those cameras, all those microphones, Japanese people, people from Europe, and every major station. When we got back on the bus after media day on Tuesday, guys were freaking out. You've got to go there and have fun but know that everything you say will be reported. Just don't say anything to actually fuel the other team.

The matchup this year obviously has two great defenses and two ball-control offenses. You have two coaches who are offensive-minded. These two teams match up very, very well.

Obviously, I like the NFC. I like the Giants because I think they'll be hungrier. They're underdogs. They play better as underdogs. They'll feel a lot looser because there will be less pressure on them. I think their offense will try to attack again this week. I just think the Giants have the better offense and can score on the Ravens' defense. Vinny Testaverde of the Jets put up 481 yards on the Ravens' defense and Jacksonville put up 386 yards. So it can be done. If Kerry Collins has to drive the Giants down the field, he can do that. Whether or not Trent Dilfer can do that for Baltimore remains to be seen.

The Ravens will run the ball. Jamal Lewis will get it 35 times. He's going against a defense that strips the ball. Michael Strahan will be matched up against a massive Baltimore offensive line with an experienced right tackle (Harry Swayne) with long arms.

Strahan has been on fire. He'll mix it up again. They'll probably move him down a little



Ravens LB Jamie Sharper gets overlooked because of his two dominating teammates. (Allsport)

bit and bring some zone blitzes off the same side. Kind of what we used to do with Reggie White. Stunt him down and bring a linebacker or a safety off the corner. The only thing Strahan doesn't have that Reggie did is that club move.

It was unbelievable what Strahan did to (Minnesota's Koy Stringer). It was fun to see—especially on grass, man. You've got to make big tackles like that work. You just can't run into them. At times, he did run into him and Stringer didn't expect it and Strahan just ran right over him. I'm sure he'll try to do the same thing to Swayne.

Of all the Ravens, I'm so happy for Trent Dilfer. He's a very, very, very good friend of mine. He fought back from all the criticism. He won't throw more than 17 passes because that's not their thing, but he'll try to be efficient. He knows he's got a great defense so he doesn't need to try to do anything spectacular. He's a pretty good, efficient quarterback.

The only time he makes mistakes is when he's blitzed and forced into them. When you blitz him from his blind side, he'll move out of the pocket, and that's when he starts to make some judgment errors. When he's in the pocket, he'll be okay, but he carries the ball very low. You'll notice when he scrambles that he'll almost fumble the ball by hitting it on his thigh. Guys will strip that ball from him.

The Ravens' receivers run option-type routes. You run what you need to run to get open. That's what makes Dilfer hold the ball a little bit. He has to read the coverage and wait to see what his receivers are running. It's a good offense for wide receivers because they can just sit down in a soft zone. Or, if they read man coverage, they can just run deep.

Qadry Ismail uses his hands and pushes off a lot. He swims. He's a big target. Long strider. He's the Ravens' deep threat. Jermaine Lewis will be in the backfield on third down. He will run an option route on the linebacker, so Jessie Armstead and probably Mike Barrow will zone him off.

The Ravens will put two wide receivers to a side and Ben Coates. They'll play-action that way and Shannon Sharpe will be on the back side by himself. He will run to the post and then come all the way back to the corner route. When they play-action to the two wide receivers, everybody takes that fake and Shannon is wide open on the back side. They ran that play a couple of times during the season. It was wide open against Jacksonville. Shannon runs that route very well.

Their offensive linemen latch on to guys and push. Now pass protecting, people are getting a lot of pressure on them up the middle, where the Giants are very strong with Keith Hamilton. They'll try to push that pocket and zone-blitz Trent a little bit and try to force him into some turnovers.

When the Giants have the football, they're going to show everybody, "Look, we're going to challenge this defense." They're going to use their multiple sets and move that ball. Ron Dayne should be a bigger factor in this game.

They're going to get in different formations and shift a lot and use a lot of motion and make the Ravens move—not just line up and stand still. They're going to get into the formation they want to get into, hoping they can confuse the Ravens' defense into a matchup problem. The Giants are damn good at it. That coordinator they've got (Sean Payton) is very good with formations. He's working with the quarterback. That helps.

The Ravens' defense is very good. They've got three great linebackers, and they have a

very good secondary. I'm proud of Rod Woodson, man, because he's in my age group (35). They've got a lot of speed on that defense with Duane Starks and Chris McAlister at cornerback.

You've got to make the corners play. They play a lot of soft Cover 2, so you've got to run the ball wide and run a lot of misdirection stuff. And you've got to throw the ball deep. Their corners are outside soft, and the safeties can jump any deep in route. It's not really a zone blitz.

It's more what we call a read blitz. If your guy blocks, you can blitz.

It's a very good system. That Marvin Lewis, man, he's a very good defensive coordinator. He's pretty exciting to watch.

He knows one thing: The offense's playbook is deeper than his. He knows that the offense knows he has to repeat defenses.

They'll get a fix on your first 15 defensive calls on first and third downs and will assume you'll repeat those calls. Which is true. Defenses do repeat a lot. But what Marvin does, when he repeats his defense, he'll flip-flop it. That screws the whole offense up. Now, when you think they're in Cover 2, they're actually in a soft Cover 2 with a zone blitz behind it. All you can guarantee is that Ray Lewis is always going to be in the middle.

Sometimes Peter Boulware will be standing up. Then, right when you get into your cadence, he'll get in a three-point stance. The quarterback will think:

"Wait a minute. Yeah, they are in Cover 2, but they're bringing heat with it."

Kerry Collins has to make sure that when the Ravens do

blitz, he's on time. He has to be more involved in this game plan than he's ever been. Because this defense will show you some weaknesses. Now you have to see it, diagnose it, execute, and take advantage. If not, they'll make you look bad.

I always thought Collins had the potential to do it. He's a tall guy. He has that little hitch in his arm, but he throws spirals that are nice and soft and guys can just reach up and grab them.

Once again, number 88 (Ike Hilliard)...I've been saying it, but the guy runs these cuts and breaks on the ball probably better than anybody. Remember the short touchdown against Minnesota when he came in and then came back out? Can you believe that? He cuts and starts on a dime. They'll do the same thing against Baltimore. They'll put him in space against their nickel guy—Robert Bailey, I think it is. Field day. They'll put Hilliard in the slot and Ron Dixon, the fast dude, outside and let him just run Starks to death. Put him deep all day. Just let Hilliard run option routes all day.

When Hilliard runs that option route and comes across, Tiki Barber will sneak through the line on what we call a burst and come all the way back over. He should be wide open. They've got to get Tiki matched up on Ray Lewis some kind of way. When Kerry Collins realizes they're in Cover 2, he has to check to sending everybody long and let Barber be isolated on Ray Lewis.

The Giants have to use misdirection, traps, and sweeps. That's how you get outside on the Ravens.

The center (Dusty Zeigler) is so important because he's the guy that has to go and cut Ray Lewis. Now, Tony Siragusa and Sam Adams won't let him do that because they'll grab linemen. They don't want to make any tackles. They want the linebackers to make all the plays. So the Giants have to bypass those big guys and try to cut the linebackers, Jamie Sharper and Lewis. If you don't do it, they'll have a field day.

Ray Lewis is probably the best player in the NFL this year. Not defensive player. Player. He's smart. He's a great tackler. He's always around the ball. His teammates just feed off what he does. He's made Sharper step up to a whole other level. You assume a guy that big can't run that fast, but even on their negative plays, the Ravens have got guys hustling.

Ray is a great leader. Last year, he was in a little trouble down there at the Super Bowl. A big story this year will be, "Can he stay focused?"



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Latino AIDS Organization Making Prevention Outreach Culturally Relevant

By RICARDO VAZQUEZ
 © Latino.com
 SAN FRANCISCO, January 11, 2001

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida do outreach where gay Latino men actually hang out, or as Sergio Morales puts it, "where community is created." (Photo / PCPV)

Except for the hanging papel picado depicting the genitals of men and women, there is nothing conspicuous about the offices of Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida (PCPV), a San Francisco HIV prevention Latino organization that shares space with a dozen other non-profit agencies in the city's Mission District.

But it is the creative use of Latino cultural traditions, like the papel picado, in education and prevention campaigns that distinguishes PCPV from other mainstream outreach groups.

Take for example Sergio Morales' first workshop since joining the organization earlier this year. Provocatively titled, "Entre la Virgen y la Puta: Creating Queer Spirituality," it combines talk about HIV and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) with a discussion of gay spirituality. To make sure it catches people's attention, the workshop flyer includes explicit pictures of a crucifix wrapped around a man's genitals and a cross-dressing Juan Diego wearing a dress with a print of the Virgin of Guadalupe.



and other local organizations in a bilingual campaign. Bus stop shelters in San Francisco were covered with eye-catching posters showing Latino families being loving and accepting of their gay siblings.

Although it may not be immediately self-evident, Moreno said the message of acceptance is invaluable in their prevention efforts.

"Lack of acceptance has negative effects for self-esteem and self-worth," explained Moreno, who added that these problems can lead to self-destructive behavior such as having unprotected sex. "We need to build [our clients] as a person and help them feel good about themselves. Our message involves not just safer sex, but a positive life."

PCPV is also expanding its prevention focus to include not just HIV, but other STDs in its message. That's what Moreno said he tried to accomplish in a recent workshop on how images in gay porn films shape the community's views and ideas about safe sex.

For example, he noticed that in gay pornography -- often used in the gay community as a safe sex method -- condoms are not used when two men are shown engaging in oral sex. But unprotected oral sex may put people at risk for STDs.

"Right now, everyone focuses on HIV and AIDS, but people don't talk about other STDs," he argued. "It's not just an issue

about HIV. Other diseases that can be transmitted through unprotected oral sex also have the potential to kill someone or ruin their life."

As required by the city, Moreno said the PCPV keeps numbers on the race, ethnicity and behavior of people they encounter through outreach efforts. They also follow up to assess the success of their prevention campaigns.

But to Moreno, those are mere numbers and statistics. His main goal is getting to know his clients on a personal level over a period of time. "I'll say, 'Now be honest with me. When was the last time you didn't use a condom?'" he said. "I talk at their level and gauge whether my message is effective."

Overall, Moreno sees 40 to 50 youth regularly, though it is not unusual for him to get telephone calls like one he received last week from a desperate caller: "A guy called me from Memphis because he didn't know through an appropriate and fair education. But such an education is not available to immigrant children here in Nashville, where I work, or in nearly all other large U.S. cities."

Democrats have bent over backward for the African-American agenda. But they have been most unwilling to budge for us. They see African-American anger over Florida as their way to win back Congress in 2002.

Yet our Hispanic children suffer the highest high-school

dropout rate for any race or ethnicity. They do the worst in math and science testing, so they're eliminated from futures in higher-paying jobs. Because of little education and, for many, a lack of English proficiency, our families earn the least. Parents are more reticent to bring their concerns to educators. So our children are more easily neglected.

Ultimately, unaddressed wrongs become unbearable. Hispanics in California recently sued the state for the abysmal conditions of their children's schools. Here in Nashville, attorney Mario Ramos says his task force on the English-language education of immigrant children is weighing whether to sue the metro school district for gross inequities. This injustice is ongoing in a city where Gore's campaign headquarters was located and the mayor was a member of the Democratic Party's national platform committee.

During the debates, Gore boasted that Hispanic employment is at an all-time high. Yet our hopes -- through education -- remain dimly low.

More of Bush's sensitivity to such issues and less of Thompson's rhetoric will grab an even greater share of the Hispanic electorate for the GOP the next time at the polls. And Democrats will be left grasping for more to run on than African-American anger.

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

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

CONSUMER

Ideas You Can Use

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Reader's Digest Launches Campaign to Attract Hispanic Readers

The Reader's Digest Spanish-language magazine is launching an aggressive campaign to become a must-read for Hispanics living in the United States.

"We are redesigning the cover to make it more contemporary and our Internet site, which has most of the magazine's articles and is more interactive for our Mexican audience, will be oriented toward life in the United States," she added.

Selecciones, which sold 250,000 copies in January, enjoys the second-highest circulation of any Spanish-language magazine in the United States.

From Page 3

gest crowd he'd ever faced in his lifetime. But his escort ran into additional Farrakhan security forces and could advance no further in their search for Worrill or Chavis. Turned back, Bert Corona rejoined the Latino marchers, who glumly expressed their disappointment.

But the slightly stooped septuagenarian, who had spent his lifetime persevering against civil rights opponents, only smiled. No bitterness. No regrets.

"I just came here to march and support the cause," he said, just as he has been doing for 60 years.

Joseph Torres is now communications director for the National Association of Hispanic Journalists in Washington, D.C.

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