

# El Editor

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

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## Lubbock, Sleeping Giant no More!

By Nephtali de Leon

National economic boycott planned for May 1<sup>st</sup> 2006  
Will Lubbock Join In?  
They say that the sleeping giant is awake.

The rumblings have been heard from east to west and north to south. One report had it that there were marches and demonstrations in over 100 American cities. That is more than remarkable. What is incredible is that it isn't a small group of people declaring their misgivings. It is millions. Half a million here; half a million there; 50,000 in unheard of places like

Atlanta, Georgia! A good chunk of a million in San Antonio, Texas; even Levelland and Littlefield had their own rumblings!

We are fortunate to live in such history making times. But for whatever reason the giant is still slumbering in some places. It is said that Lubbock is one such place. It is such a far-flung location that it should not surprise us that Lubbock may still be in a siesta mode. One important writer, West Texas' Abel Cruz, labeled it as "the giant side of silence."

The good news is that Lubbock wasn't totally cast aside - as a

non-significant entity bordering tornado alley. When Amarillo had its own 4 thousand plus immigration-support march on April 10, 2006, eyes were cast toward Lubbock, the hub of the plains.

In a city where the Hispanic population is about 30%, no percent raised its voice in union with its national brethren that spoke so loudly and eloquently on April 10! Where were the people that make things happen in Lubbock for the Hispanic community? Where were the

Hispanics themselves? Where was the church that so naturally picked up the mantle of the Virgin and Juan Diego on behalf of its parishioners and its huddling hungry masses? Where is that White Anglo community that knows justice and has traditionally supported the cause of its Hispanic side? Where are the people of any color that want and seek votes of the Spanish speaking community? Where are the students that are great organizers and ready to make history with their up to date presence? Did a west Texas spell

**At Press Time Thursday an Application for a March has been filed at City Hall for a March to be staged on May 1st starting at 12 noon. See Flyer Page 6!**

## 'Megamarcha' Advances Us Into the 21st Century

By José de la Isla

Sometimes you have to leave home to understand things more clearly. That happened to me after coming here after observing up close the 100,000-person pro-immigrant march in Houston. This city of 20 million is itself no stranger to demonstrations of that magnitude. But this month's U.S. demonstrations are referred to here as the "Megamarcha." The 130 megamarcha registered like a Richter scale of a human earthquake. Consensus is forming

had his others. The crooner improvised, "You are the soul of this nation because you are the ones who work it. You deserve to become American citizens" because - repeating revolutionary hero Emiliano Zapata's popular declaration - "it is better to die on your feet than live on your knees." The next day in Phoenix, 200,000 people were peacefully out in the streets with banners avowing both "We are America" and "God Bless America." This movement is not about choosing one way or the other, was Sefchovich's point.

some others in their writings and political campaigns. But it doesn't work in the age of global trade and instant messaging, pennies per minute, and when your hometown newspaper is now online around the world. This month 3 million demonstrators took to the streets representing an advancing 21st century to confront the 19th century practices of the repressive Sensenbrenner bill. In it the U.S. House of Representatives would permit our society to slip back into the 19th century, ours is the nation that at

the end of the Cold War promised a "new world order," not a worse world order. In a sense, our immigrants were in the streets to save the United States from its worse self. Earlier U.S. immigrants, maintains Sefchovich, not only integrated in the new country but converted into a new national identity. Today's immigrants "are about a new culture." That's why you can sing "México lindo y querido" with Juan Gabriel one day and pledge allegiance to the United States the next.

(continued on page 5)

## April 10 Rallies Marked an Important Step for Latino Political Participation

Last week, hundreds of thousands of immigrants and advocates marched in more than 136 rallies in 39 states and the nation's capital demanding comprehensive immigration reform

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., today applauded the Hispanic community's participation in the more than 136 rallies that took place in 39 states and the nation's capital. The rallies were organized by the Washington, DC-area National Capital Immigrant Coalition and hundreds of community-based organizations throughout the country to demand that Congress pass comprehensive immigration reform.

The rallies, which were part of the "National Day of Action for Immigrant Justice," represent the largest mobilization of immigrants in U.S. history. Following the country's great tradition of civic involvement, marchers participated peacefully in a family-oriented and positive environment.

"It's a great day to be in America," stated NCLR President Janet Murguía in her remarks at yesterday's march in Washington, DC. "This country was made by the participation of its people, and today we are here to make our voices heard."

The marches during the last weeks send a strong message that the 41 million Latinos in the U.S. and the entire immigrant community have grave concerns regarding the legislation passed last December in the House of Representatives which would criminalize undocumented immigrants. Furthermore, strong support was shown for elements of the Senate Judiciary Committee's bill which offer a comprehensive solution to the immigration issue. This bill is expected to be debated in the Senate at the end of April.

"NCLR will continue to work with organizations around the country to ensure continued participation and solidify engagement of Latinos in the political process of this country, including naturalization and voter registration," concluded Murguía.



here that maybe we witnessed the birth of a new North America. Sara Sefchovich, a writer-researcher at Mexico's national autonomous university, recounted that the weekend before the demonstrations popular singer Juan Gabriel performed in Phoenix to an overflow Hispanic audience. The troubadour led rounds of "¡Viva México!" but when the "¡Viva a one!" went "The time has come to return to your land," no one sang along, as the audience

It is also about being a part and not a cog in the wheel. The confrontation is a future shock as real as what Alvin Toffler depicted in the 1970s. The past has assumed that national and ethnic and social differences among people divided by national borders are justifiable sources of conflict. It's a 19th century protectionist notion that also justifies economic dysfunctions. That political legacy has long been promoted by Pat Buchanan and

## Half, All, or Nothing at All: Jackson Residents to Find Out Monday

By Abel Cruz

In an early February edition of this newspaper, a commentary began with this line: "This past week, city officials asked some 200 property owners a question: do you want to keep your home and your neighborhood as it is?"

On April 24, at 10:00 AM at a news conference to be held by City Councilwoman Linda DeLeon, residents who live in an area that can best be described as the future northern boundary of the Marsha Sharp Freeway (MSF), with University Ave on the west, Ave Q on the east, 3rd street on the north and the freeway service road serving as the south boundary, will soon find out what their future will look like.

Due to the physical impact that the MSF will have on the residents and their homes; on January 30 of this year, residents were presented with 3 land use rezoning options for their neighborhood.

On April 24, 2006, Councilwoman Linda DeLeon, along with Randy Henson, Senior Planner for the city, will present the results of a survey that was conducted in order to determine resident's preferences.

At the press conference, to be held at city hall, results of the survey will be presented. According to DeLeon, residents being directly impacted were invited to visit city hall offices and choose or vote on which option or one of the 3 versions they preferred. Those

residents who did not participate in the survey will be given until April 28 to do so.

The following versions were presented to area residents at the January 30 meeting:

**Version 1**  
This version can best be described as a mixed land use proposal. It calls for half of a block, between 4th street and 3rd and between University and Ave Q to be rezoned for use as approximately half residential and half commercial and includes a screening fence between the two. Access to the service road would remain open except for access from Temple Ave and Ave W.

**Version 2**  
This version would involve rezoning the total square block area from 4th street to 3rd between Ave X and Ave R. This would seem to require the displacement of all residential units since land use would be converted to commercial wholesale.

**Version 3**  
This version leaves the area relatively unchanged and zoned for residential use.

More than 300 property owners and residents attended that January 30 meeting with most of those in attendance preferring Version 2.

Although some parts of the neighborhood have fallen into disrepair due to a variety of economic circumstances, it is still

home to many. The schools surrounding the neighborhood, Jackson Elementary and Cavazos Jr. High further to the north, have been the same schools attended by the parents of some of the kids who attend school there deep: an indication of the new roots some families have in the area.

There are approximately 200 individual property owners directly impacted by the proposed land use change. That number increases when the total number of residents is added into the mix. The area is also heavily populated with renters as opposed to property owners; they too will be displaced along with the countless number of residents who live north of 3rd street. Although they may not live in the affected area, they nevertheless will be affected by the change and proximity of new commercial wholesale development to their neighborhood.

According to Councilwoman DeLeon, detailed information will be discussed at the press conference and citizens will then have more direction in this matter. DeLeon strongly encourages those residents who will be directly impacted and who have not yet done so, to "go by city hall and make their views known; they have until the 28th."

At this point DeLeon says that close to 99% of residents who have voted are in favor of version 2; which

calls for a change from residential use to commercial wholesale development. This would eventually result in all residential property being directly affected.

Once a land use plan is tentatively zoned on by the city's planning and zoning commission, the rezoning process will move towards its completion and ultimately be voted on by the entire city council. The process should take anywhere from 2 to several months. Then it will be up to private developers to decide whether they want to acquire property from the owners in order to commercially develop the land.

While some people feel that the zoning changes may be an opportunity to sell their property, other homeowners are more concerned with getting enough money from the sale of their property to be able to afford another house. Still others say that their home is paid for and are not sure whether they will be able to sell their home and have enough money to buy another one at today's prices; especially if they are retired. Still others are concerned with the problems that commercial development brings; increased traffic and congestion. All legitimate concerns.

Dramatic landscape shifts, such as this one, tend to have long lasting effects for years to come. Email: acruzsc@aol.com

catch everybody off guard and put everyone to sleep - all at the same time?

Weird things do happen in West Texas. Lubbock is no exception. I happen to be a former migrant and field hand thrust upon the Lubbock sands by destiny and fate. It was here that I became a writer and a poet. It was here that I learned to appreciate the character and strength of the people of West Texas. It was here that I learned to appreciate Lubbock and its contrasts and contradictions.

Lubbock has sometimes been referred to as a hick town. Yet it has a very remarkable university and great engineering, science, law, health school and research centers. The CEO of AT&T is a graduate of Texas Tech. It's supposed to be musically backwards, yet Buddy Holly broke all records on the national scene. Texas Governor Preston Smith was a Lubbock native.

While it is true in the early 60's and 70's that there was a wide lack of education in the Hispanic community things have changed. In great contrast to this the raza natives lived in streets with names like Stanford, Harvard, and University streets. Miss Paulina Jacobo, daughter of a humble self

educated man ended up being assistant district attorney. While no one believed that La Raza could read, Agustin Medina faithfully put out a weekly newspaper called "Noticias," in the early years when there was much cotton and sorghum work for many migrants who followed the seasonal bounties of Lubbock crops. I was one such follower. I hardly knew how to read and write back then. Lubbock taught me to be different, to respond to nature's challenge and to triumph.

I have been around to see the book when I was a senior in Lubbock High. Today I am published in the U.S., Mexico, France and Spain. My visual work is in several nations and my literary work has been translated into half a dozen languages. I would not have done this had I grown up in some different part of the country. I attribute all this, and my subsequent good fortune to Lubbock and its incredible people.

I have been around to see the community rise to the need of the occasion - as when I saw the entire community, white, black and brown join hands to come to the aid of the 1970 tornado victims and give a selfless helping hand. (continued on page 6)

## COMMUNITY VOICES

### Immigration and Social Security

I am very disappointed about the hostile sentiment so many El Editor readers have expressed in their letter to the editor. What is most alarming to me, as a life long member of this community, is the complete disregard for the facts about immigration.

The truth is that the US wouldn't enjoy the quality of life we have without the daily contribution of immigrants. According to the Social Security Administration, undocumented immigrants provide the Social Security system with a subsidy of about

7 (seven) billion a year. Because immigrants are not eligible for Medicare and receive no public retirement benefits, they NEVER claim the money they have put into the system.

Are the critics of comprehensive immigration reform so blinded by hatred that they would be willing to exile the one group that truly subsidizes our future?

Why is it so hard for us to remember that this is a nation of immigrants?

Louis Gonzales, Lubbock via Email

**Re: Lubbock: The Giant Side of Silence**

It isn't just the Hispanic community that is out of step with the rest of the country's. The Lubbock community in general is out of step with the country.

When I first moved to Lubbock 5 years ago, the pilot reminded us to set our watches back 30 years.

That is not very far from the truth.

Barba, Lubbock via Email

*Editor's Note: The following excerpts are from letters in our "In Their Own Words" section. They can be read in their entirety on page 2.*

### What of my Neighbors?

If our legislatures, federal or state, pass any law (such as the one that currently awaits debate in the U.S. House of Representatives) that tells me I cannot offer food or drink or medical attention or shelter to any neighbor of mine, or passes a law that restricts my ability to treat my fellow man with dignity and respect, then save me a cell in the local jail - for on that day I shall become a lawbreaker as well.

Judge Rusty Ladd, Lubbock County Court at Law Number 1.

### This Policy is Based on Fear

Let us be clear. The Republicans and their allies in the Senate, including the junior Senator from Texas, want to punish people like you and me. Either go back to Mexico or to prison. This is a policy based on fear, hate and division. Why has the majority turned its back to the President who has talked of dignity and respect for Mexican labor?

Lubbock Attorney, Emilio Abeyta

"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 acruzsc@aol.com

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# In Their Own Words

The issue of immigration and all the associated sub issues that come along with it is not an issue that touches only those who share a common ancestry with those trying to come to this country in search of a better life. Rather it is an issue that touches us all today and will continue to impact future generations of Americans for years to come.

This week, two prominent Lubbock residents from Lubbock's legal community share their views on the immigration issue that has cut across all borders; in their own words.

## Open Letter to Fellow Hispanic Americans and all People of Goodwill:

For more than a year a debate over immigration divided America. Words and feelings expressed in that debate are especially important to us. All of us have friends, acquaintances, or family who entered our country without authorization. More than a few of us have stories from our grandparents who swam across the Rio Grande in the 1950's. This debate cuts close to our hearts.

Now the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives want to make felons of our relatives or friends without documentation. (A felon is a criminal who can be sentenced to serve time in prison.) An estimated twelve million people would not have a way to become citizens but would be threatened with prison.

The Republican majority want every employer to phone a Social Security office before hiring the people who pick our fruits and vegetables, pack our chicken and beef, take care of old folks and children, make beds, clean toilets, and haul mortar for bricks. The Republican majority want nearly 800 miles of fence crossing the desert and arroyos uniting Mexico and the U. S. They propose not one fence but several fences separated by a road and with sensors. It will resemble parts of the wall of the East German Communists.

Will they also propose a matching fence to divide the U.S. from Canada, which unlike Mexico, has been a source of terrorists attempting entry to the U.S.?

Let us be clear. The Republicans and their allies in the Senate, including the junior Senator from Texas, want to punish people like you and me. Either go back to Mexico or to prison. This is a policy based on fear, hate and division. Why has the majority turned its back to the President who has talked of dignity and respect for Mexican labor? We cannot say.

We can say that today is our moment to act, to express our love of American ideals and to defend family and friends. We must register to vote.

We must vote. We must encourage all our friends and associates to register and vote for persons whose words and intentions deserve our support.

This message needs to stay at the forefront of the Hispanic community from now until kingdom come!! Will you join with me and with those organizations and groups who are informing citizens about the issues that are affecting our lives and our families? Will you double your efforts to get citizens to register and vote? Do you believe we can and we will make a difference? Have you thought about the consequences of our failure to take action? Evil thrives when good people do nothing! We are called and we are sent to go forth and do good!

EMILIO ABEYTA, Attorney, Lubbock via Email

## Nation of 'Lawbreakers'

My friends who differ with me on the immigration issue begin their argument with a solemn, "But Rusty, they broke the law to get here."

Please consider this: every founding father of this country broke the law; every escaped slave and anyone who helped that slave broke the law; every Texian (of any color) who fought for the independence of our state broke the law; all those civil rights marchers and protestors of the 1950s and 1960s broke the law and our nation is the better for their having done so.

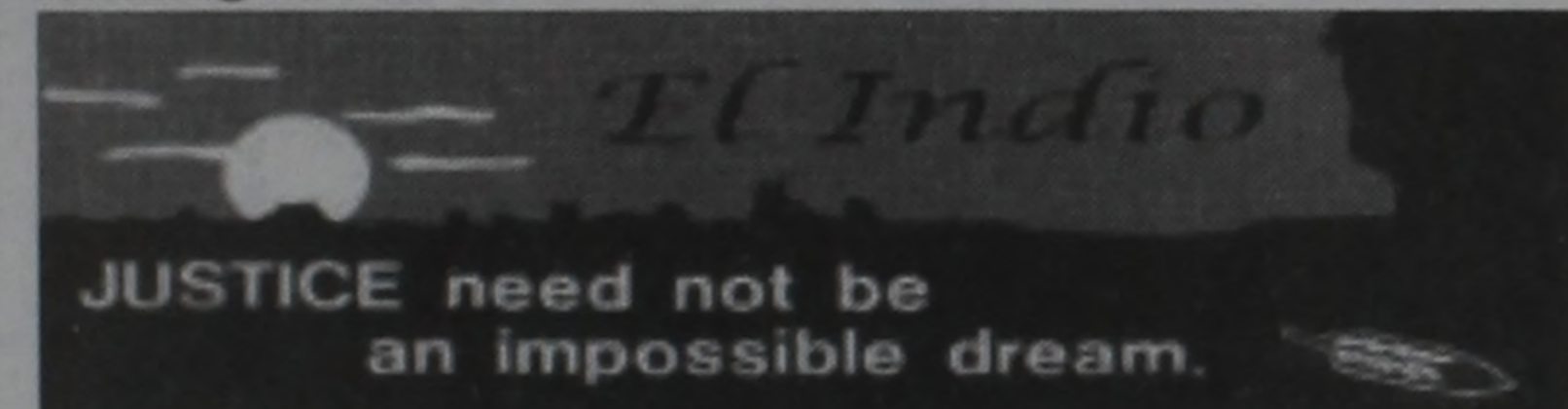
All of these lawbreakers I have mentioned we - today - call heroes and so they are.

If our legislatures, federal or state, pass any law (such as the one that currently awaits debate in the U.S. House of Representatives) that tells me I cannot offer food or drink or medical attention or shelter to any neighbor of mine, or passes a law that restricts my ability to treat my fellow man with dignity and respect, then save me a cell in the local jail for on that day I shall become a lawbreaker as well.

LARRY B. (RUSTY) LADD, Lubbock County Judge

**Editor's Note:** This letter first appeared in the April 17 edition of the Lubbock Avalanche Journal. Judge Ladd graciously gave El Editor permission to reprint his letter.

For Comments or Questions: Email: [acruzts@aol.com](mailto:acruzts@aol.com)



# WHERE IS THE MARCH?

by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

Well, Easter is over...but the immigration issue is still on the front burner. Here on the Giant Side of Silence, docile Lubbockites still are sitting on their hands.

Why? Some would say that the Easter celebration precluded any immigration demonstration...if so, I wonder what the man from Galilee would think about a community which sits idly by while a great national mistake, a moral travesty, is about to be made.

Yes, dozens of cities have had marches...so have Amarillo, and Midland-Odessa, and Austin, and Dallas...but sheepish Lubbock is still on the fence.

Last week, Abel quoted Martin Niemoller, one of my favourite quotations, about how Germans sat by while freedoms were being lost. Here in the US, we are sitting by while the Patriot Act, Homeland Security, and a runaway police state chip away at our freedoms. The national obsession/S for more police, prosecutors and law and order are transforming America into a benign dictatorship...or should we say plutocracy...or theocracy?

If the Congress succeeds in further criminalizing immigration status, the potential for police abuse is incalculable. How many people would be herded into custody, prosecuted, and jailed? With over 11 million illegal immigrants, the number could be huge.

We must not let this happen. Taking to the streets may not solve anything, but it is a start...and it is high time for Lubbock to join this national crusade.

Should we do it? Yes. When should we do it...as soon as possible. Where should we do it...wherever we achieve the most visibility. How do we do it...the answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind...it is up to you and me...MAKE IT HAPPEN!

# 'Illegal' Means 'Apartheid'?

By Roberto Rodríguez

Wasn't it Howard Dean who predicted last year that 2006 would be the year that conservatives would use the issue of immigration as a subterfuge to distract the nation from focusing on the administration's incompetence and immoral and illegal behavior?

Wasn't he again deemed deranged for making such a suggestion?

Yet, could even he have predicted the current nationwide protests involving millions in Washington, D.C., the entire state of California, in Chicago, Milwaukee, Phoenix, Denver, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta and another 100 cities?

These protests - which are actually just beginning - are not simply in response to draconian immigration bills that would treat migrants as felons and that would put up hundreds of miles of Berlin-style walls. They are actually about rejecting the codification not simply of apartheid laws, but an apartheid form of government.

This is not hyperbole or a misspelling; A\*P\*A\*R\*T\*H\*E\*I\*D is a legal system that produces two types of human beings: those with rights and those without. Under this system, as a society, we have grown comfortable with creating a two-tiered society of citizens and non-citizens. Or better yet, with full-fledged citizens and dehumanized, expendable "illegal aliens."

Even the allies of undocumented workers remind them to occupying a position in society to "the jobs no one wants." In other words, they are being consigned either as a permanent illegal criminal alien caste or simply to occupying a permanent subhuman caste.

They're already treated as criminal aliens. They already live in shadows. Even in protest, they're supposed to speak English and hide their flags.

But it's not about race, right? Yet, who would have predicted that in the land touted as the pinnacle of democracy, a society would remand millions of red-brown human beings to such a status, to such a caste?

And people wonder why we're outraged and why we protest?

The reason is called apartheid. All under the guise of the F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. subterfuge. His proposals, endorsed by vote of the U.S. House of Representatives, are so outrageous (where even good Samaritans become criminals) that

apartheid has become the moderate and sensible alternative.

Apartheid goes by another name: B\*R\*A\*C\*E\*R\*O. The workers take the work that employers claim no one else wants. They are prohibited from unionizing. They work under subhuman wages and conditions. They cannot switch jobs. They cannot bring their families with them. And when their labor is used up, they are sent home.

They can clean up and manure the homes of the middle class; they just can't live in the same neighborhoods, or the same country.

What if braceros decide to change occupations and attend community college? No, braceros cannot go to college, though they may be given the right to go to school to forget their language and to reject their culture.

Will they be permitted to fall in love and get married?

BRACERO is coolie labor. It is racialized indentured servitude. It is modern-day slave labor. Bracero labor is millions of red-brown workers consigned to a semi-permanent, subhuman status.

It is semi-permanent only because when their labor is used up, they must go back to where they came from.

Congress has a different name for them: guest workers.

Not workers, not citizens, not full human beings. Just guests. Unwanted guests.

And people wonder why we protest?

What of those who remain outside of this generous apartheid scheme? Congress has figured that one out, too. Hunter battalions and internal checkpoints, charged with finding 12 million red-brown peoples. Soon, we will see mass deportation raids. Or perhaps we will not be permitted to see them on television.

How did this all come about? The Minutemen? Lou Dobbs? Colorado Rep. Tom Tancredo? Wisconsin Rep. Sensenbrenner? The war on terror? Fear of brown hordes?

All subterfuge. All part of the strategy to create a nation of fear. Designed to bring about a militarized apartheid state.

Rather than actually solving this issue - by incorporating them as full members of society, as was the promise of NAFTA - let's instead give this apartheid labor scheme another, more palatable name. That'll fix everything.

(c) 2006

# 'Illegal' Significa 'Apartheid'

Roberto Rodríguez

¿No fue Howard Dean quien el año pasado predijo que el 2006 sería el año que los conservadores usarían el tema de la inmigración como subterfugio para distraer la nación de la incompetencia y comportamiento inhumano e ilegal de la administración?

¿No lo volvieron a tildar de loco por sugerir tal cosa?

No obstante, ni él hubiera podido predecir las protestas actuales por toda la nación, con la participación de millones en Washington, D.C., el estado entero de California, en Chicago, Milwaukee, Phoenix, Denver, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta y otras cien ciudades.

Las protestas -- que en realidad acaban de empezar - no vienen simplemente como respuesta a proyectos de ley de inmigración draconianos que tratarían a los migrantes como criminales y que construirían cientos de millas de muros, al estilo de Berlín. Se tratan realmente de rechazar la codificación no sólo de leyes de apartheid, sino también de un tipo de gobierno en base al apartheid.

Esta aseveración no es hiperbólica ni es un error ortográfico; el A\*P\*A\*R\*T\*H\*E\*I\*D es un sistema legal que produce dos tipos de seres humanos: los que tienen derechos y los que no los tienen. Bajo este sistema, como sociedad, nos hemos vuelto complacientes con la creación de una sociedad a dos niveles, la de los ciudadanos y la de los que no lo son. Más bien, con la de ciudadanos por completo, y la de personas deshumanizadas, desechables, en inglés "illegal aliens" -- seres ajenos ilegales.

Hasta los aliados de los trabajadores sin papeles los remiten a una posición en la sociedad de "hacer el trabajo que nadie más quiere hacer". En otras palabras, se les consigna o a una casta permanente de criminales ajenos ilegales, o a una casta permanente subhumana.

Ya se les trata como criminales ajenos. Ya viven en la penumbra. Hasta cuando protestan se requiere que hablen inglés y escondan sus banderas.

Sin embargo, no se trata de raza, ¿verdad? ¿Quién habría podido predecir que en la tierra promocionada como la cumbre de la

democracia, una sociedad remitiría a millones de seres morenos a tal estado, a tal casta?

¿Y la gente quiere saber por qué nos resulta ultrajante y por qué protestamos?

La razón se llama apartheid. Todo ocurre disimulado bajo el subterfugio de F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. Sus propuestas, respaldadas por el voto de la Cámara de Representantes de los EEUU, son tan ultrajantes (en las que hasta el buen samaritano resulta ser criminal) que el apartheid se ha convertido en la alternativa moderada y sensata.

El apartheid tiene otro nombre: B\*R\*A\*C\*E\*R\*O.

Los trabajadores que hacen el trabajo que los empleadores alegan nadie más quiere hacer. Se les prohíbe organizarse en sindicato. Trabajan bajo salarios y condiciones subhumanas. No pueden cambiar de empleo. No pueden venir con sus familias. Y cuando se acaba su labor, se les envía de vuelta a casa.

Pueden limpiar y perfeccionar las casas de la clase media; sólo que no pueden vivir en los mismos barrios, ni en el mismo país.

¿Qué pasaría si los braceros decidieran cambiar de empleo y asistir a la universidad comunitaria? No, los braceros no pueden ir a la universidad, aunque es posible les otorguen el derecho de asistir a la escuela para olvidar su lengua materna y rechazar su cultura.

¿Se les permitirá enamorarse y casarse?

BRACERO es la mano de obra barata. La servidumbre por contrato racializada. Es el trabajo de esclavo del mundo actual. La mano de obra del bracero es consignar a millones de trabajadores morenos a un estado subhumano semi-permanente.

Es semi-permanente sólo por lo que cuando se acaba su labor, deben regresar a donde estaban antes.

El Congreso tiene otro nombre para ellos: trabajadores invitados.

No son trabajadores, ni ciudadanos, ni completamente humanos. Sólo son invitados. Invitados indeseados.

¿Y la gente quiere saber por qué protestamos?

¿Y qué de los que se quedan fuera de este plan generoso de apartheid? El Congreso ya tiene respuesta para ellos, también. Batallones de cazadores y puntos de revisión internos, encargados de encontrar a 12 millones de personas morenas. Pronto veremos redadas masivas de deportaciones. O tal vez no nos permitan verlas por televisión.

¿Cómo surgió todo esto? ¿Con la milicia de los Minutemen? ¿Con Lou Dobbs? ¿Con el representante por Colorado Tom Tancredo? ¿Con el representante por Wisconsin Sensenbrenner? ¿Por la guerra contra el terrorismo? ¿Por el miedo a las hordas morenas?

Todo es subterfugio. Todo es parte de una estrategia por crear una nación en base al miedo, diseñada a resultar en un estado de apartheid militarizado.

En vez de ponerse a resolver el problema - incorporando a los que no tienen papeles como miembros completos de la sociedad, como prometía el Tratado de Libre Comercio - vamos a darle otro nombre, más aceptable, a este plan de mano de obra de apartheid. Eso resolverá todo.

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# What Came First; The Chicken or the Egg?

By Abel Cruz

In a short 11 days, early voting begins for this year's city council and school board elections. In the city elections, you and I will have an opportunity to decide what style of mayoral leadership we want our next mayor to possess as he leads this city for the next 4 years.

Management and leadership style go a long way towards being able to accomplish those things that really matter. They go beyond issuing a proclamation and reading agendas. Style goes to the heart of political philosophy and political beliefs; style is important.

The question in my mind is; will people care enough to decide whether this city will be led by someone who has at times shown to be mostly rude and indifferent towards this community's Hispanic population or will voters decide that it is time to vote for someone who will try to unite and not divide?

Let me state upfront that I have always been critical of what I will call mayoral candidate Tom Martin's 4 year legacy of "polarization" on the council. And to those of you that would say that it is not only Mr. Martin and would point to others on the council as the source of divisiveness, I would remind you that every cause has a resulting effect.

In other words, what determines what came first, the chicken or the egg; sometimes depends on whether you're the chicken or the egg?

It is no secret that there is a strong negative sentiment in some segments of Lubbock's Hispanic community because of Martin's stance during the Tommy Gonzalez saga, his perceived belittling of Councilwoman Linda DeLeon when the issue of televising citizen's comments came up last year, and the overall sense that his vision for this city does not extend further east than the downtown area nor further north than the new Sharp freeway.

But I'm a realist; I don't expect that there will not be a certain amount of division that exists in a city. When we have as much cultural diversity as this city enjoys, cultural differences and divisions are inevitable; but this council seems to have set a new standard for partisanship politics. And I don't mean political party partisanship.

Ethnic diversity is not the only element to the story. Economic diversity also has come into play as this city seems to be spinning itself into more and more economic classes which range from the haves to the have-nots; with everybody else falling somewhere in between. If you don't believe me, then please tell me why over 18% of people who live in this city do so at or below the poverty level; while the south and northwest parts of the city are enjoying an economic boom? And that figure is likely to grow rather than decrease by the time the next census rolls around.

Whose leadership is responsible for that statistic? And most importantly who will stand up and start doing something about it?

This election cycle, 5 people are vying for the mayor's job. In addition to Martin, Ysabel Luna, David Miller and Gilbert Montes are hoping that the voters will make them their choice at the voting booth. The last candidate is write-in candidate Larry Noland who will be a non factor in the election.

I recently attended a candidate's debate sponsored by local radio station KFYO and was actually impressed with the answers given by Mr. Luna. He seemed to have done his homework and showed knowledge of the "behind the scenes" issues that never come to the forefront. He referred to the over \$600,000 dollars this city has "thrown away" on several severance pay packages, property tax rollbacks being offset by higher property assessment values, and most importantly suggested that the city council should hold city council meetings in the evenings or at night so that more citizens could have the opportunity to attend. None of the other candidates were as specific and most did not address these types of issues that we all know exist; but never are discussed.

For his part, David Miller probably had one of the best one liners of the evening when he said that, "there is a big difference between being tough and being mean spirited". Hum, I wonder who he was referring to?

And speaking of Mr. Martin, it seems that he is getting a lot more press coverage than even he could have hoped for. Late Wednesday night, the local Fox channel reported a story about a city employee who has filed suit against the city. One interesting aspect to the story is that Councilman Tom Martin is specifically singled out in the suit. Apparently, the employee is alleging that Martin played a role in the attempt to fire him; which would be a violation of the city charter and open meetings laws. For his part, Martin has denied the allegation.

Is this a case of eleventh hour politics, or is there merit to the lawsuit? The outcome probably will not be known until after the election. Whichever way this case is resolved, and indeed it is too early to make a final determination, it is impossible to look the other way and not take notice.

At the end of the day; what does it really take for someone to be mayor of this city: education; experience; money to run a campaign? Or is it a combination of all three and then some?

Education is important, but not all education comes in the form of degrees. Experience is important, but empathy with those who have experienced life from a different perspective is invaluable. And money, well, money continues to be the great equalizer. In this race, 99.9% of the money spent has flowed from the wallets of Miller and Martin. Luna and Montes have no chance of even coming close to raising the sums that Martin or Miller has raised. Which is unfortunate, because it means that neither one of those candidate's voices will be heard outside of a sponsored debate setting.

But even more important are the qualities that seem to elude most politicians. In this case, I would argue that they have definitely not been a part of Mr. Martin's credentials. Qualities such as cultural sensitivity, cultural understanding, compassion, a sense of fairness, and above all a sense that inclusiveness; is infinitely more important than exclusiveness.

Hopefully, voters in this city will take a hard look at all the candidates and make the right decision at the polls.

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# EL EDITOR

is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. El Editor has been published on a weekly basis since 1977. Our physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. El Editor is available on the internet at <http://www.eleditor.com> and is distributed throughout West Texas in retail outlets. Opinions expressed in El Editor are those of the individual writer and not necessarily those of the publisher or the advertisers. Advertising information available by emailing us at [eleditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eleditor@sbcglobal.net) or by calling us at 806-763-3841. Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can be sent to the same email address. All opinions and letters to the editor must contain the writer's name, address and phone number but name can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

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## US legislators analyze of possible taxes



Legislatures of some states are analyzing the possibility of taxing money remittances sent abroad to fund a part of the cost of public services used by immigrants.

Most of the international money transfers are carried out by immigrants who send money to their families in Mexico and other countries at least once a month.

The proposals at the Texas, Arizona and Georgia legislatures suggest immigrants be the ones financing the costs generated by their attention in public hospitals and other services and even the cost of their jailing.

The bills suggest a special tax is charged, which goes from a 0.5% to an 8% of the amount sent in each of the transfers of wires.

International money transfers carried out through banks would be exempt from this taxes which would only be effective on remittances submitted throughout specialized companies.

Such proposals are based on the idea that undocumented people do not pay taxes when paid their cash salary, something human rights defenders state as false.

Many undocumented workers pay their taxes to register in their jobs with fake Social Security numbers, even when these immigrants are not entitled to public benefits.

The tax on the transfers will constitute an important source of new state incomes if taken into consideration the fact that only in 2005

Mexican immigrants in the US sent some 20 billion dollars to Mexico and a 96% of them were sent throughout money transfer or money wire.

In Texas, the Chamber of Representatives is analyzing the H.B.2345 bill that would tax with a 0.5% all money transfers from this state to other countries.

The proposal, introduced by the Corpus Christi democrat representative, Vilma Luna, did not make it through the last legislative session but will be taken into consideration once again during the next period.

A similar proposal rose in Arizona, the HR 2037, introduced by the Republican representative Russel Pearce. It would tax an 8% of the money sent from Arizona to other nations.

According to the bill, the money would be used to tighten the border security on the state side.

In Georgia, the Chamber of representatives passed last February a bill to tax a 5% of all money transfers of undocumented people sent

to their home countries.

Under such proposal, still to be considered by the Senate in that state, all the people who can prove their legal residence in the United States or who pay Georgia taxes will be exempt from paying such tax.

Immigrant rights defending activists expressed their opposition to the idea after stating that such tax would be unfair since it would mainly affect poor people who are already paying high money transfer rates.

"Immigrants are already being extorted by the money transfer prices", Jacob Monty, labor attorney at law and counselor of Mexico's Consulate in Houston.

"It would be quite bizarre to have the state support such bills and affect all these people", he said.

The Texas state democrat Senator, Eliot Shapleigh, said he strongly opposed such proposals. "In my community (El Paso), nobody I know is in favor of creating new taxes against immigrants to build walls", he affirmed.

## Se esperan más alzas en la gasolina

Especialistas anticipan que los precios de la gasolina regular sin plomo "unleaded" podrían llegar a los 3.40 dólares el galón durante el próximo verano afectando, principalmente, a la clase media y a la gente de bajos ingresos.

El barril del crudo alcanzó ayer un nuevo precio récord de 72.64 dólares, lo que significa que en los próximos días veremos un incremento en las bombas de gasolina, adicional a los 25 centavos más que pagábamos por galón desde principios de marzo.

El precio promedio de la gasolina regular en Riverside y San Bernardino es de 3.01 dólares por galón; en los condados de Santa Bárbara y San Luis Obispo se vende a 3.15 dólares y en Los Angeles a 2.98 dólares; mientras que en el ámbito nacional la gente paga en promedio 2.78 dólares por la misma cantidad.

Sin embargo, especialistas pronostican que esto es sólo el principio, ya que los precios podrían llegar hasta 3.40 dólares el galón para el verano. Aunque por lo pronto, sólo se espera un aumento de 15 centavos más en las siguientes dos semanas.

"No se puede especular, pero de continuar la tendencia como se ha visto en estas últimas semanas, muchos colegas están hablando de 3.40 dólares el galón de gasolina sin plomo", expresó Jack Kyser economista principal de la Corporación de Desarrollo Económico del condado de Los Angeles.

En algunas gasolineras de Los Angeles la gente ya no cree en el gobierno y muchos conductores piensan que simplemente les están robando el dinero. "Siempre es la guerra, los huracanes, refineras en mal funcionamiento. El chiste que bajan el galón 10 centavos, pero lo aumentan 30. Eso es un robo", expresó Juan Rivas, un taxista en el surcentro.

Por qué suben

Entre otros motivos, los precios del combustible están aumentando, según expertos, por el nerviosismo mostrado ante las ambiciones nucleares de Irán y, por otra parte, el 25% de reducción en suministros de Nigeria debido a sus problemas internos.

Rob Schlichting, portavoz de la Comisión de Energía de California, indicó que en estos momentos hay problemas con las refineras en Alaska, y aún existe un 21%

menos en producción en las refineras del golfo de México debido a los huracanes del año pasado.

"La demanda del crudo en el mundo se ha vuelto más competitiva. Cada vez más países como China e India utilizan más petróleo y esa competencia aumenta los precios; además, seguimos utilizando combustible extra en Irak", expresó Schlichting.

Otro de los factores, según el Club de Automóviles de California, son los 44 millones de galones que gastan los 22 millones de conductores del estado cada día.

"El estado produce sólo 42 millones de galones diarios, mientras que ocupamos 44 para simplemente ser autosuficientes", sólo en transporte automotor, expresó Paul González, vocero del club.

"Esto significa que contamos con dos millones de galones diarios de déficit que los tenemos que traer de diversos lugares.

Agregó que la transportación, las medidas ambientalistas y los impuestos del estado y el condado, hacen que los precios en las bombas de gasolina se disparen más que en cualquier otro lugar.

Actualmente los californianos son los conductores que más combustible gastan en el mundo, de acuerdo con la Comisión de Energía de California.

Kyser subrayó que la clase trabajadora o de bajos recursos es la más vulnerable y los que a la larga tienen que hacer decisiones entre comprar gasolina o comprar comida o ropa, o simplemente no salir a comer.

continúa en la pagina 5

## ¿Que Pasa?

### Junior League Hosts Kids in the Kitchen

The Junior League of Lubbock will host its first Kids in the Kitchen program April 29 in the Arnett Room, on the sixth floor of Covenant Lakeside, 4000 24th Street. There will be two chances during the day to participate in the events, beginning at 9 am to 11 am and again at 1 pm to 3 pm.

Both sessions will include two interactive cooking demonstrations performed by Shelley Phillip, R.D., L.D., outpatient dietitian at the LifeStyle Centre at Covenant Health System, for parents and children to participate in together. There will also be information presented about portion control and label reading, as well as a food IQ test about healthy snacks and free prizes.

"We want the kids to have fun with this hands-on experience, instead of just watching me cook" Phillip said. "Whether it is snacks or meals, it will be a great way to increase awareness of cooking together as a family."

Free parking will be available and an R.S.V.P. is required to 1-866-COVENANT (1-866-426-8362). For more information, visit [www.kidsinthekitchen.ajli.org](http://www.kidsinthekitchen.ajli.org).

### Fiestas del Llano-Cinco de Mayo

The Fiestas del Llano organization will be celebrating the Cinco de Mayo with their annual "Si Se Puede" scholarship banquet at the KoKo Palace on Friday, May 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Ernestine Omega Cantu and the keynote speaker will be Steve Gomez, LCU girls basketball coach, which took the team to the runner-up position at the NAIA National basketball tournament.

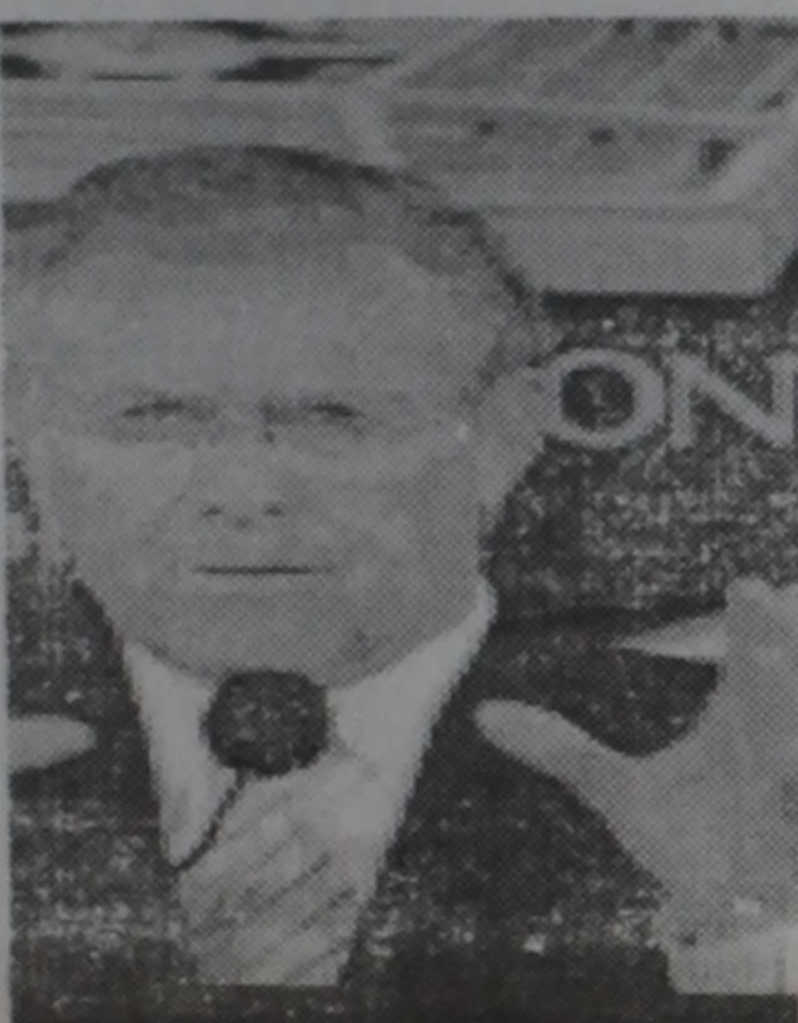
For more information call 792-5037 or 781-6277.

## Rumsfeld asegura que no ha pensado renunciar

El secretario de Defensa de EU, Donald Rumsfeld, contra las cuerdas, tras recibir las críticas de varios generales en la reserva, afirmó ayer que no se ha planteado dimitir.

Rumsfeld se reunió ayer con varios analistas militares, a los que explicó la situación en Irak, tras lo cual celebró una rueda de prensa en la que se vio acerbillado a preguntas sobre sus planes y su futuro.

El secretario de Defensa dejó claro que no se plantea dimitir y atribuyó el descontento expresado por esos generales a las reformas que él y su equipo han introducido



en las Fuerzas Armadas de EU.

En cualquier caso, apuntó, su cese como responsable del Pentágono debe corresponder al presidente, George W. Bush.

Bush "sabe, como lo sé yo, que no hay hombres indispensables, y sabe que yo estoy a su servicio en tanto él lo quiera", afirmó Rumsfeld.

Desde el pasado viernes, Bush defendió públicamente a su secretario de Defensa y volvió a hacerlo ayer, en una breve comparecencia en los jardines de la Casa Blanca, donde dejó claro que no tiene ninguna intención de cesarlo.

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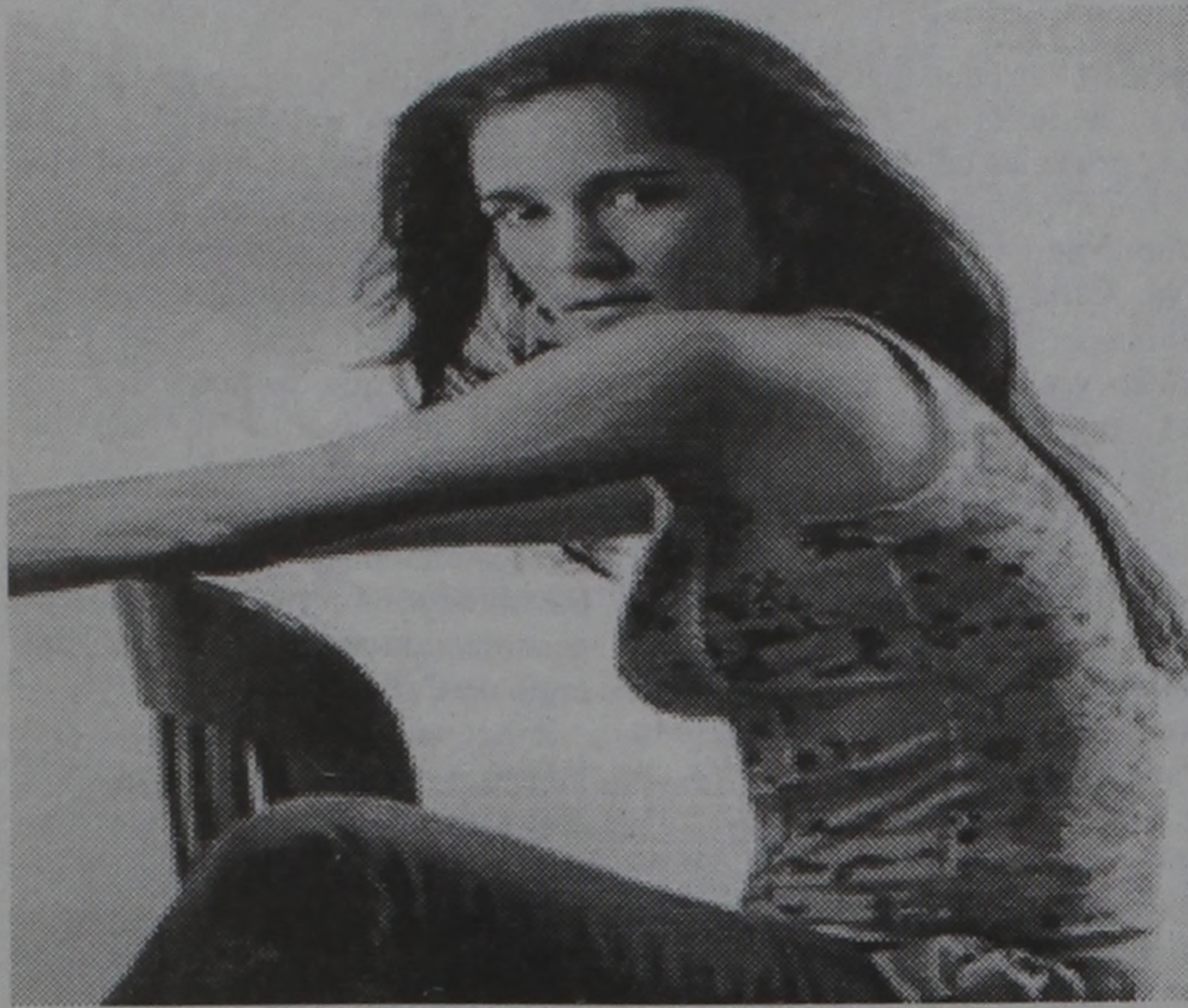
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# Julieta Venegas sings to love with a taste of Limon y Sal



well as duets with rappers Dante and Anita Tijoux.

The singer and songwriter explained the album "tastes a lot like life, like all the stages of love and reflects a very different stage of my life I am going through now as a woman, as a person and in all the senses".

Venegas, who has recorded homage songs for José Alfredo Jiménez and has sung in duet with Coty, Paulina Rubio, Diego Torres and Vicentico, recently collaborated with a song for the soundtrack of the film "Solo Dios sabe" directed by Mexican Carlos Bolado and starred by Diego Luna.

The singer and accordion player thanked the audience for the broad acceptance of her previous album called "Si" which earned her several awards in Mexico and the United States after selling hundreds of thousands of copies in 2005.

"What's really important is that people are getting to know me", she added after assuring she can still walk on the streets without being walked upon by any fan because "I can't even drive".

"I see things have improved little by little", she added. "This is my fourth album, things change a lot and I am not sure if this album will be as big as the last one".

Venegas explained that "it's not that people crowd me on the street, not at all, I see that is only up to oneself".

Although some people ask her for autographs or say hi to her, "they get really nervous when they see you stepping off the stage but not when you are walking down a street".

Born in California and raised in Tijuana, Julieta also talked about the current US controversy over the undocumented immigrants issue. She said "immigrants are people who are not taking jobs away from anybody, they just come here in search of a better life".

Mexican singer Julieta Venegas is currently promoting in Miami the taste of "Limon y Sal" (Lime and Salt), her fourth studio album in which she sings to love to the rhythm of rock, pop, cumbia and ranchero. She considers this album reflects what she is going through now in her life.

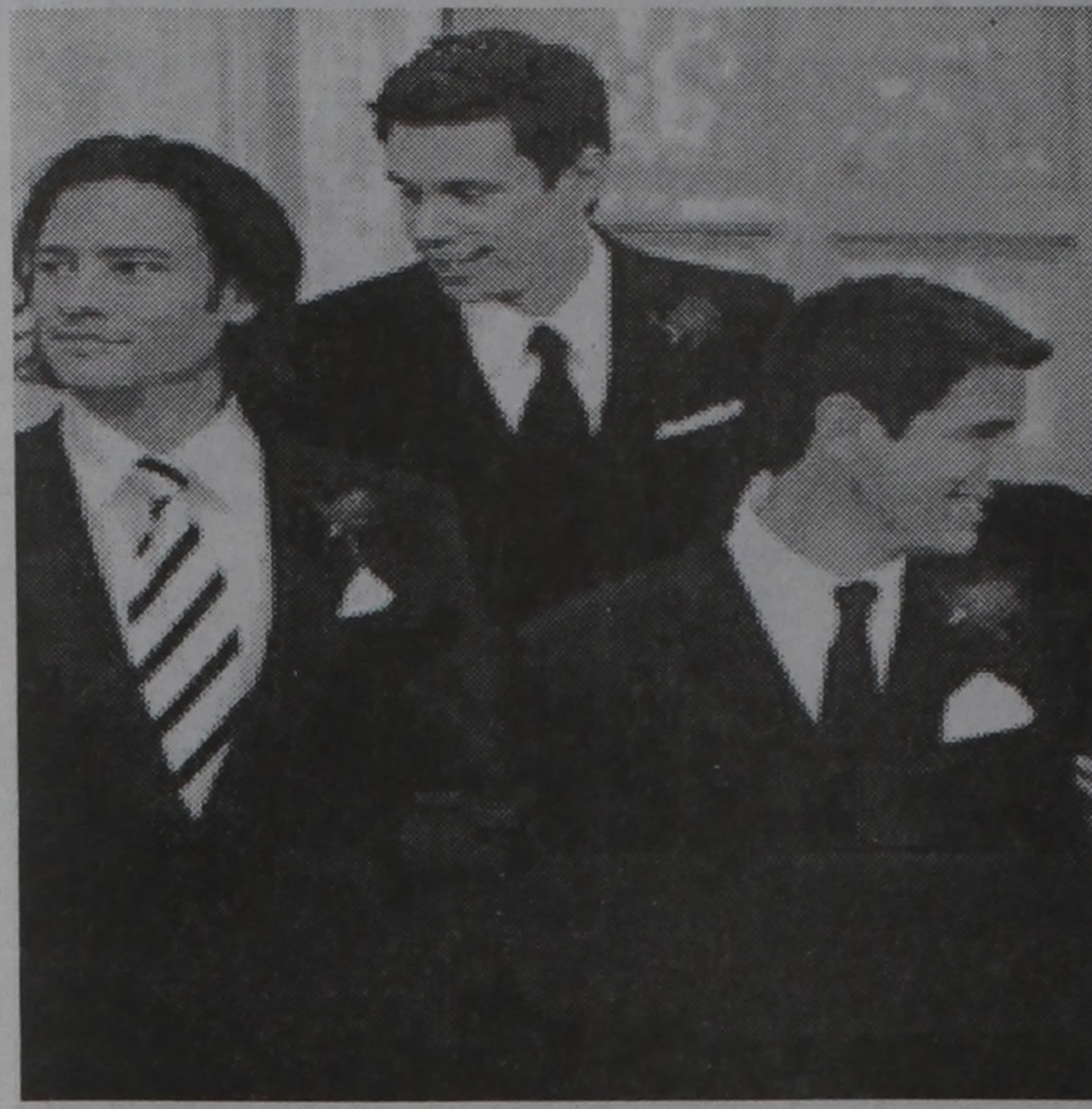
Venegas' latest album, to hit music stores next June 6, will be promoted during a tour that will include Mexico, the United States and Spain.

The first single from this album recorded in Argentina last month has been released on Mexican and

US radio stations. The name of the single is "Me voy" (I'm leaving), a rock-pop ballad with ranchero samples.

Venegas wrote along with Cachorro Lopez Jorge Villamizar and Coty, along with other authors, the 13 tracks in the album which also includes a cumbia version of the song "Sin documentos" (Undocumented) by the Rodriguez Bros. recorded as a homage to South American Andres Calamaro.

The album also features the tracks 'Primer día', 'Canciones de amor', 'Última vez', 'Eres para mí', 'Mírame bien' and 'Adonde sea', as



## Il Divo, Tony Braxton to sing World Cup's official song

This week, the official song of the football World Cup, "Time of our lives" will be released worldwide. The song is performed by the opera-pop group Il Divo and singer Tony Braxton.

This single is part of the official album for the Germany 2006 World Cup, "Voices." It will be performed live for the first time on June 9 in Munich, Germany during the tournament's opening ceremony. According to the record

company, it is expected to be listened to by a billion people from the audience.

The official album will be released on May 12. It includes the performances of renowned artists like Whitney Houston, Elton John, Mariah Carey, Michael Jackson, Rod Stewart, Shakira, Elvis Presley, Dido, Westlife, just to mention a few.

"Voices" will also have the participation of Kelly Clarkson, Barbara Streisand, George Michael, Savage Garden, Eros Ramazzotti, Billy Joel, Annie Lennox, Herbert Groenmeyer, and includes another duet of Il Divo and Celine Dion.

This time, the official song for the World Cup, "Time of our lives," will be in charge of the opera-pop band Il Divo (who have mixed the bel canto and pop music), and six-time-Grammy-winner Tony Braxton.

So, on June 9 the band formed by Carlos Marin (Spain), Sebastien Izambard (France), Urs Buhler (Switzerland), and David Miller (US) will perform along with Tony Braxton at the opening ceremony of the Germany 2006 World Cup.

The success the World Cup songs have had a great impact and popularity among the fans. Some of the songs for this tournament are "Força" (Nelly Furtado), "Boom" (Anastacia), "The cup of life" (Ricky Martin), and "Football's coming home" (Three Lions).

## Juan Gabriel promoting US immigrants support campaign

Mexican singer and songwriter Juan Gabriel defended an initiative stating no one should buy American products on May 1 because "that's the least we can do for all those Mexicans who had to leave their homes".

Interviewed by the Spanish paper "La Vanguardia", and published today on its online edition, the singer stated "Mexicans on the other side of the border are setting a great example to the rest of us by defending their rights without any violence and in reason".

That is why he is backing the US immigrant support campaign in the framework of the immigration bill currently at debate at the Senate and which has led to the mobilization of hundreds of thousands of Latinos.

"Even Superman entered the US as an illegal alien", Juan Gabriel, who stressed such measure is "the least we can do to support those Mexicans forced to leave their homes and who keep sending their remittances to Mexico", stated.

"Let's do this small effort for in a day" me underlined. The call to "boycott" American products in Mexico scheduled for next Labor Day will coincide with the "Day without Immigrants" summoned by Latin organizations in the US.

Such an initiative was born after the huge marches celebrated in the US lately in favor of immigrants and seeks to put pressure on the Congress so that millions of undocumented people are considered as US residents.

A coalition of Union and Hispanic organizations in the US, as well as immigrant rights defend-



ing groups summoned a general strike in the US for next May 1 in search of a fair immigration reform.

They are mainly trying to stop a bill which considers illegal residence in the US as felony and demands the construction of a high fence along the US-Mexico border.

The Ranchero-music songwriter, author of the songs turned into hits by the recently late Spanish singer Rocío Dúrcal, highlighted the stance defended by Hispanics who are fighting for their rights with pacifist rallies.

"They are not drawing threatening machetes or breaking window glasses or insulting anyone", Jun Gabriel said after pointing out the example set by the Mexican people who came into America when trying to vindicate fairer legislation.

"People go out in the streets by millions in defense of a cause: not being called criminals", the Mexican songwriter concluded.

## Warning over highly addictive drug in Texas

Texas education authorities have issued a warning to teachers and parents over a new highly addictive drug, known as "cheese", which is quite popular among Hispanic teenagers.

The drug is a powder derived from a mix of heroin and two common painkillers, acetaminophen and difenhydramine.

Generally, the mix includes ground "Tylenol" pills and heroin, up to 8.0%. The substance forms a brown or cream granular powder.

According to authorities, "cheese" users -which is inhaled- have disorientation, lethargy, sleepy and hunger sensations. The drug is becoming popular in some areas of the country, especially among Hispanic high-school students.

The substance has been spotted in Dallas schools, where the authorities reported it is sold for five dollars for a fourth of gram.

Authorities from Dallas Independent School District (DISD) informed through a bulletin last week that the school police has prosecuted 54 offenses in the district's schools this year, in 24 of those cases this drug was involved.

"Cheese" seems to be highly addictive and the symptoms for the lack of it may be present in a 12-hour period, those include headaches, shivers, muscular pain, spasms, anxiety, agitation and disorientation, Jeremy Liebbe warned, DISD agent.

"Many users have tried to quit, but they are beaten by abstinence physical symptoms and return to its regular use in two or three days", Liebbe explained.



## Playoffs to tip off with four valedictorians

The 82-game marathon has virtually come to a close and 14 teams have been weeded out of the mix. Based on what you expected from your teams, are you satisfied?

Hoops prodigy LeBron James leads the Cavaliers to a B-plus.

(AP) For the teams that coasted at the top all year, there's really not much to be said, other than the real season is around the

corner and it's time to perform.

For the teams that made great strides, the playoffs will be about gaining experience for future endeavors. For those that took steps backward, offseason retooling is imminent.

It's time to get in where you fit in. Here are the final grades for the 2005-06 season, as well as their placing at year's end.

## SOFTBALL CALENDAR

- May 5-7 4th Annual Cinco de Mayo Men's D NIT (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225
- 4th Annual Women's Cinco de Mayo (Qualifier) USSSA \$175
- May 19-21\* 8th Annual Cotton Pickin' Fast Pitch NIT (All age groups) USSSA \$300 (6 game guarantee -World Series Qualifier)
- June 2-4\* 18th Annual Hub City Youth NIT (Girls & Boys - all ages) USSSA \$175/\$250 (Slow Pitch & Fast Pitch -World Qualifier)
- June 9-11 4th Annual South Plains Men's D NIT (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225
- 4th Annual South Plains Women's NIT (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225
- June 16-18 13th Annual Hub City Men's C NIT (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225
- 13th Annual Hub City Men's E NIT (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225
- 3rd Annual Hub City Mixed NIT (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225 (Other Divisions Offered - Women's) \$175
- July 14-16 Youth Slow Pitch State USSSA \$200
- July 22-23 - Texas SuperCup/Menudazo Softball Tournament Aug 4-6 USSSA West Texas Men's C and E State USSSA \$250
- Aug 11-13 USSSA West Texas Men's D and Women's State USSSA \$250
- Aug 25-27 2nd Annual Cotton Pickin' Midwest National (Men's & Women's) USSSA \$300 S

HispanicWorld - Sept. 16-17 --Competitive and Recreation Divisions USSSA \$300 (Men's and Women's)

For More information call 792-7111

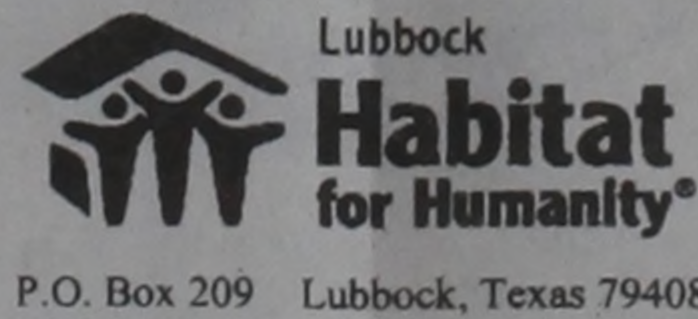
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KCBD, NewsChannel 11 is looking for an aggressive mid level manager to join the #1 rated news team in Lubbock, Texas. Responsible for organizing and assigning daily news efforts to reporters and photographers and coordinating breaking news. College degree and minimum one (1) year experience with newsroom computer systems preferred. Send resume and cover letter to: Benji Snead, KCBC, 5600 Avenue A, Lubbock, TX 79404. E.O.E.

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- Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006

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## Gasolina viene de la página 3

"Esta situación merma la calidad de vida de los ciudadanos, particularmente de aquellos que ganan menos de 10 dólares la hora y tienen hasta dos trabajos para sobrevivir", expresó el economista.

Fernando Ramos de 59 años tiene su propia grúa y gasta diariamente 80 dólares de gasolina, 20 dólares más de lo que pagaba anteriormente para llenar el tanque.

"Ya la gente no quiere pagar por el servicio de remolque. Se le hace muy caro, pero no tenemos otra. Si a nosotros nos suben la gasolina, ¿qué vamos a hacer?", expresó el conductor, quien por un viaje de cinco millas cobraba anteriormente 30 dólares, pero desde que subieron los precios del gas, ya cobra 40.

**Quién gana**  
Debido a la ley de la oferta y la demanda, muchos de los conductores buscan los precios más baratos y compañías como Arco, Exxon, y algunas no muy conocidas como World Oil han visto un aumento en sus ventas, debido a



que regularmente se mantienen hasta 10 centavos más baratas que las gasolineras de renombre como Shell, Mobil y Chevron.

"Nosotros ganamos más, porque

hay un poco de más clientela, pero el porcentaje de la comisión es lo mismo", expresó un manejador de gasolinera.

Schlichting, de la Comisión de

Energía, expresó que las refineras y las compañías petroleras son los que están multiplicando sus ganancias, ya que no les sale más caro que antes convertir el crudo en gasolina. Obtienen las ganancias de las especulaciones y los constantes aumentos del barril.

Un reporte publicado el fin de semana en el Los Angeles Times indicó que los productores de gasolina como Exxon-Mobil, habían duplicado sus ganancias el año pasado. En consecuencia, las utilidades del mes de enero del 2006 habían sido similares a todo el primer cuarto del 2005, lo que significa que se espera otro año muy, pero muy próspero si se mantiene el ritmo actual de aumentos de precio.

El presidente George Bush anunció ayer que promovería una investigación para asegurarse de que no estén estafando a las familias y pequeños negocios del país con los altos precios del crudo.

Actualmente, el gobierno no tiene autoridad para controlar o supervisar los precios de la gasolina. El precio reportado en enero del 2002, hace sólo 40 meses, era de 99 centavos el galón.

## Un Rayito de Luz

por Sofía T. Martínez

Por revelación de Dios, en Cristo Jesús, sabemos que no es la nada lo que nos espera al final del camino, sino un destino glorioso...o tortuoso. (Jn 14, 1-4). Sn Agustín nos dice que todos, desde el momento en que existimos tenemos un lugar en el reino de los cielos, esa es la voluntad de Dios (1. Tim. 2, 4), pero como sabemos, nuestro buen Dios no quiso crear titeres que se movieran al antojo de su voluntad, sino seres libres, capaces de responder con autonomía y profunda conciencia; y por ese precioso don podemos abrazar el destino glorioso de los bienaventurados o la eterna infelicidad de los condenados.

Cielo e infierno no son lugares ubicados en el espacio y en el tiempo, son estados de vida sobre natural que asumimos o escogemos por propia decisión. Numerosos artistas nos pintan el cielo como un lugar entre las nubes, los moradores viven en medio de ellas y tocan instrumentos melódicos, mientras en forma casi estática contemplan la gloria de dios. De igual modo, damos forma demaciado terrenal al infierno: cuevas oscuras en las profundidades de la tierra, llenas de fuego; cazos de aceite hirviendo por doquier y pequeños demonios torturando a los desgraciados.

Pero, quizá es más fácil, o útil lo que la teología actual nos enseña guiada por el espíritu santo a través del magisterio de la iglesia. Dice que el cielo no es un lugar físico, según dice la escritura: "Lo que ni ojo vio, ni oído oyó, ni al corazón del hombre llegó, lo que Dios preparó a los que le aman". (1 Cor 2.9); es comunión de amor, dicha sin fin, participación de la vida trinitaria: "El cielo es el fin último y la realización de las aspiraciones más profundas del hombre, el estado supremo y definitivo de dicha". (Cat. 1.c. 1024). Así también, el infierno es "estado de autoexclusión definitiva de la comunión con Dios y con los santos" (Cat. 1.c. 1033). es decir, una actitud de permanente rechazo hacia Dios y sus criaturas. La pena mayor consiste en la separación eterna de Dios en quien únicamente puede tener el ser humano la vida y la felicidad para las que ha sido creado y a las que aspira.

Por eso, si vivir el Cielo es "estar con Cristo," y vivir el infierno es "estar ausente de Cristo" es en esta vida donde comienza la decisión que durará por toda la eternidad.

### En Memoria Betty Mojica

Abril 23, 1927 - Abril 17,  
2006-04-19

La Señora Betty Samaro Mojica, falleció el 17 de Abril a



lado de su querida familia después de 78 años de vida. Betty Mojica, nació en Maxwell, TX el día 23 de Abril del año 1927. Su madre, la señora Anita Samaro, la sobrevive en duelo.

La misa de resurrección se llevo acabo el Jueves 20 de Abril en la iglesia Católica, St. John Nuemann al las diez de la mañana.

La señora Mojica fue casada con Pedro Mojica el 14 de Julio

del 1946 en Lockhart, TX. Su esposo la procede en muerte.

El resto de su familia que la sobrevive incluye tres hermanas, Mary Luna, Juanita Juárez, y Nicolasa Alfaro; todas de Lockhart. Cuatro hermanos: Luis Samaro de San José, CA., Aniceto y Joe Samaro de Austin, y Monico Samaro de Lockhart.

Su hija Marina Gloria y esposo Leo, hijo Juan Mojica y esposa Mona, hija Lucy Hernández y esposo Manuel, y Pete Mojica, Jr.

Además la sobreviven 8 nietos y aun esperaba su primer bisnieto en julio.

La familia sugiere donaciones a Vistacare o South Plains Dialysis Center.

Durante su vida, ella fue muy activa en la Asociación de la comunidad del Barrio Arnett Benson.

Qué en paz descance.

## Cuarta Parte

### "Tiempos Verdes y de Oro - Una Carta para Recordar

Armando Gonzales  
—¡Otra vez con la misma chingadera!... decía nuestra abuela. Estaba frustrada con el aparato nuevo, electrónico, eight track player del estereo que nuestro padre le había comprado.

—Hija... hija ven y picala a esta cosa condenada. Picala a estos botones desgraciados que para algo han de servir, si no, para qué existiesen.

—Quiero oír cantar a Cornelio Reyna. Hija... ven. Nuestra abuela cacheteaba la cara gris del estereo con sus dedos fornidos, prietos y atríticos. Sus labios temblaban y formulaban palabras que no entendíamos, más discernábamos por el gesto de sus ojos y frente arrugada que estaba muy molesta por no poder escuchar su canción favorita. "Si tu Supieras," acapela de Cornelio Reyna. Ataques directos, vocíferos de los más feroz, aunque sencillos, salían dirigidos al aparato. Ella esculcaba la caja escrupulosamente para encontrar la manera de que saliera su música.

—Aquí... aquí abuelita linda aplánele a este botón para oír su canción, pero antes se necesita instalar el cartucho... ¿Ve?

—¡Ah... sí, sí gracias hija, qué

Dios te colme de bendiciones hija. Bien.

Después, con grandes entusiasmos y esperanzas de escuchar a Cornelio nuestra abuela se sentaba en el portal de la casa grande que Terry nos había proporcionado por trabajar en su rancho. El portal se convertía en un lugar mágico, feliz. Abajo de la sombra fresca pasaban los olores de la albarca y llovizna venidera. Con la voz tierna y melancólica nuestra abuela acompañaba a Cornelio Reyna cantar. "Si tu Supieras". Sus ojos estaban fijados en el baile breve de su juventud y en el pisar inminente de tiempos marcados por carencia de cariño paternal -de la humanidad. Nuestra abuela nos platicaba en tonos rendidos a la tristeza:

—Envejecí cuando apenas tuve los diez y nueve años de edad. Cuando las autoridades del Condado Nueces asesinaron a nuestro abuelo todo el pelo se me hizo blanco para el siguiente día, en víspera del primer cumple años de Enrique nuestro primer hijo. Como Gilberto estaba recién nacido, yo les daba pecho a los dos cuando se me cerro el mundo. El zumbido de los tiros resonaron por entre los mesquites esa tarde neblina

y espesa de sentimientos moribundos. Oí el quejido final de nuestro abuelo, también al mismo instante Enrique y Gilberto empezaron a llorar. Miré la vileza de esos hombres con sus sombreros puntiagudos. Y también vi la lumbrer escupirse de los cañones de las escopetas que estaban apuntadas detrás del carrerón donde había caído nuestro abuelo. Sus organos vitales brillaban con una luz desconocida. Su viscera estaban sueltos y llenos de tierra. La sangre se agoteaba despaciosamente del hígado color morado. La ganadería rebuznaba y pateaba en círculos angustiados argumentando ruido estruendoso. Nunca comprendí porque un ser humano pueda tener la arrogancia de quitarle la vida a otro ser y sentirse justificado. La justificación para los malditos oficiales era que nuestro abuelo había retobado al diputado después de haberle escupido sus botas. Esto sucedió a consecuencia de que nuestro abuelo les negó llevarse "al capitán," la mula favorita del patrón. Con la autoridad del Condado y de la ley ellos deseaban confiscar a la mula para utilizarla en su oficio diario. Según Franke, nuestro tío, surgieron insultos parentescos de parte de los diputados

—sus caras rojas y sejudos negros. Con esto saltó el tabaco de los labios furiosos de nuestro abuelo cayendo en la plenitud de las botas. Nuestro abuelo me sussurraba su amor y a ustedes: y que le avisara a Meme que a los caballos se les tenía que cantar para que hicieran caso. Los desvarios continuaron por solo tres minutos más e incluyeron que las manzanas son deliciosas con leche quemada. La neblina y el calor del día se llevaron las últimas palabras y aliento de nuestro abuelo. Franke se tardó toda la tarde para avisar al siguiente rancho del asesinato. Yo no supe qué hacer. Con los niños apretados en mis brazos me senté a un lado de mi esposo - el único hombre que jamás he amado. ¡Qué Dios lo conserve en el cielo!

Debajo el portal nuestra abuela nos platicaba todas sus historias. Terry comía a la hora del lonche muy seguido con nosotros. Le encantaban las tortillas de nuestra abuela y el chile y salsa. El preguntaba cuando era el día que iba a cocinar enchiladas. Terry nunca se dio cuenta de que un diputado había matado a nuestro abuelo - por esa razón nunca supo porque nuestra abuela lo miraba con ojos enojados.

sique la proxima semana

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# Mexico City Press Views US Pro-Immigrant Demonstrations as new Latino Civil Rights Movement

By José de la Isla  
 Hispanic Link News Service  
 MEXICO CITY - Instead of its usual banner headline, El Universal, one of Mexico's leading newspapers, carried a full-color photograph over two-thirds of the paper's top half, showing a sea of humanity. The signature white t-shirts, United States flags, scatterings of Mexican and other Latin American banners and hand-lettered signs told the story.

How Mexico City, a metropolis of 20 million - seat of government, business and communications - reported the U.S. pro-immigrant demonstrations this month affects how large portions of the world will interpret what happened.

News and analyses have radiated from this listening post to the Spanish-language world, as well as to influential cities in Europe, Asia and Africa, since the early days of the Cold War.

"Migrants Take the Streets of Forty U.S. States" was the headline story by its Washington, D.C.,

correspondent José Carreño in El Universal. "Africans and Asians Unite in the Protest."

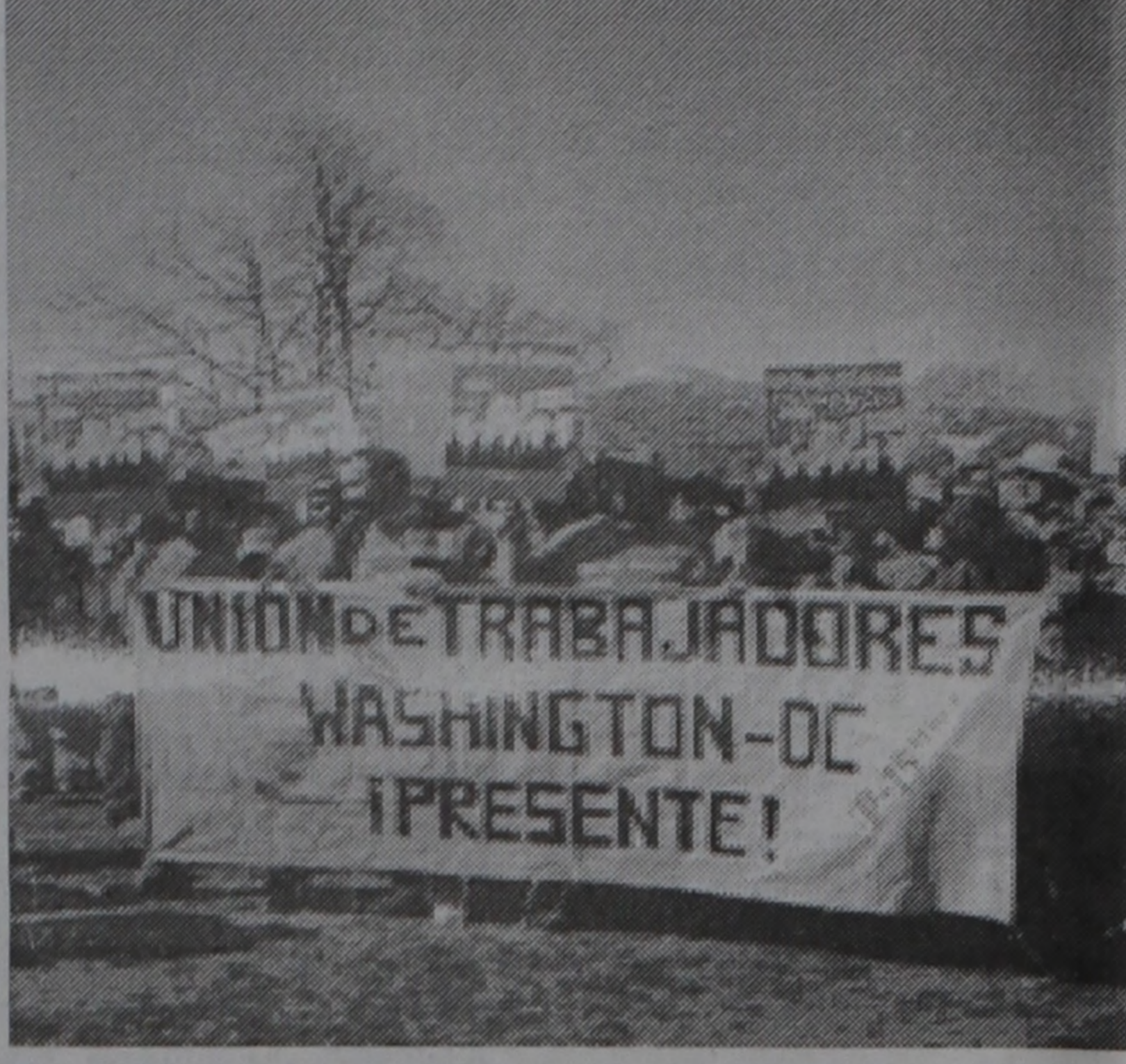
A companion story, originating from Los Angeles by J. Jaime Hernández, observed that Catholic Archbishop Roger Mahoney, Muslim imams, Jewish rabbis

and Buddhist monks had marched arm-in-arm.

Different from many U.S. accounts that isolated the story into interest groups - unions, community leaders - and the roles played by Spanish-language radio disc jockeys, the countervailing impression from the major Mexican dailies was that of an emerging popular will to gain civil rights and dignity.

The influential Reforma, with a highly respected sister newspaper El Norte in Monterrey, carried a vertical photo the entire top half of page one from the Houston demonstration under the banner, "They Show Their Power". The caption below said three million people had demonstrated during two days.

Inside, on page 10, "Rafael," a Mexican who arrived in New York



## May 1 mobilization to display US Hispanic power

Activist Dolores Huerta affirmed the boycott programmed for next May 1 against those companies supporting anti-immigrants will display the importance of the presence, contribution and consumption of US Hispanics.

"The ideal boycott would be one focusing on companies that have supported anti-immigrants and that have publicly invested their money in campaigns of senators who have proposed anti-immigrant measures", Huerta stated in an interview with Notimex.

The leader, who back in the 1960's was the co-founder, along with the labor leader Cesar Chavez, of the largest farm workers union in the United States (Union of Farm Workers), acknowledged such objective is hard to reach "but we can surely perfect it".

"Cesar always told us marches are the best way to communicate, organize and participate and that's why these marches should move forward and we need to profit from the great response of people", she expressed.

Huerta participated and headed the hunger strikes and boycotts organized by Chavez against the companies that exploited farm workers, most of them undocu-

mented workers, several decades ago especially in California.

"I think Chavez, as he is next to Emiliano Zapata, Benito Juárez, Ruben Salazar - a journalist assassinated in the late 60's during an LA riot - is quite excited to see how people have responded for a fairer immigration reform", she said.

She also stated that "a week before the demonstrations one of our representatives met the Congress leader Bill Frist who said the Kennedy-McCain proposal was dead to him".

However, some weeks after the bill was brought up, which forecasts the concession of temporary visas to workers and the regularization of undocumented people, made it top the see of the Senate and "apparently will be retaken after April 27", she remarked.

At age 76 and with health problems, Huerta works in favor of the poorest workers of the nation just like she did back in the 60's when Chavez and herself organized the grape boycott in support of farm workers.

Huerta, who headed the farm workers union committee, negotiated the first collective contract after the 1966 boycott victory.

Dolores Huerta was born in 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico. When she

started her union work in California back in 1955, she left her job as a teacher despite being a divorced mother of seven children (she had 11 in total).

"When I left the classrooms to fully dedicate to activism many times I thought I was wrong but one day I found a box with food someone left outside my house as a way of thanking my help. That was my inspiration to keep doing what I did", she remembered.

She stated we should not be worried about not having a leader of the height of Cesar Chavez or Martin Luther King. "There is no need to hurry, true leaders will rise from these mobilizations", she forecast.

"We must focus on carrying out sharp boycotts, investigate those companies giving money to anti-immigrants, to Senators like those in Arizona or Texas who stopped the vote at the Senate and work against them to defeat them in the upcoming elections and take people committed with our causes to power", she affirmed.

Huerta also recommended the organizers of the marches to keep them develop in order and peace "because we are in risk of having negative people infiltrated who want to riot around and destroy what we have achieved so far".

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Inside, on page 10, "Rafael," a Mexican who arrived in New York

five years ago and now works at the trendy Colors restaurant, was out in the streets in Manhattan. "Here," he said, "migrants are seen as 'aliens,' (using the English word)."

Foreign Relations Secretary Ernesto Derbez said the act had "a provocative intent" and deplored the "vandalism." The flag-burning was the only reported incident, except for an altercation between an anti-immigrant protester and an adolescent in Portland, Maine.

Milenio, a popular tabloid, tied the demonstration story to a press conference by Larry Rubin, president of the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, proposing European-style infrastructure investments in areas responsible for the most immigration, and formation of a market economy similar to Europe's.

The business tabloid El Financiero plotted 136 demonstrations on a map and compared them to those of Martin Luther King, Jr. and César Chávez. It noted that 53% of U.S. farmworkers are undocumented and restrictions would "break" U.S. agriculture.

The newspaper tied its page-one photo and capsule to a report, expected in June, from the Alliance for Security and Prosperity of North America, calling for "regional integration" between the United States, Canada and Mexico in light of global, especially Asian, competition.

While major U.S. press may have largely tied coverage of the historic demonstrations into pending legislation and leadership, the Mexican press presented the story in the context of globalization and its impacts on civil, human and domestic rights.

## March en Lubbock from Page 1

There is a different kind of tornado blowing upon the life of the less fortunate — the people who give us their utmost with their sacrifice: immigrants and migrants who sacrifice their life and that of their children so that we may have food, comfort and shelter. They stand a good chance of being labeled and treated as criminals, along with anyone who helps them — be it the church, the good neighbor center or you yourself who may sympathize and choose to give a drink of water to one such unfortunate. It could be your neighbor or the one who makes your life comfortable that is being so persecuted.

We have already had great teachers who have taught us right from wrong when it comes to responsibility — from Christ to Mahatma Gandhi to Cesar Chavez. Besides their love and personal kindness they also taught us that we can not bring about social change by waiting for it to happen — by sitting by the wayside. Change can be brought about only by taking action. They did, and they changed the world. They taught us well. The rest is up to us.

Even one American president, Abraham Lincoln said, "To sin by silence, is to make cowards of men." In times of great troubles in our modern world, when the great Emiliano Zapata was killed by treachery, the campesinos said to themselves, "Ya mataron a Zapata, ahora todos somos Zapatistas." (They have killed Zapata, now we

are all Zapatistas). **When a leader is no more, everyone must become a leader.**

The problem boils down to this: when the table for the feast is laid, will one section of people be denied — because of their language, their color and their race? This is why the people march. They have made the feast possible and yet they have always been denied.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, a day of national boycott is being called for. It is requested that no one show up at work, no one purchase or sell a single item.

And that if you have a business or shop: you do not open or respond to it. Should students decide to stay out of school: that would be their opportunity to make their feelings known. All of it must be done in a spirit of peace. Discussions are underway to see if a march or rally can be planned here in Lubbock: it is up to you, regardless of race, color or religion. Which side of history will Lubbock be on?

What can you do? Join the network. You are the leader. Call your family, your friends, and your acquaintances. Call perfect strangers. Talk to everyone you can think of — and some you can not think of. Don't leave anyone out. This is your city, your community. West Texas has a sense of fair play. Be part of it. Don't leave yourself or your community out.

That is the Lubbock I remember. This is the Lubbock I like to talk about. It is the Lubbock I write about. Lubbock is not out of the current events or history. Lubbock is still writing its own

history. What kind of history will it be?

Lubbock is a sleeping giant no more. Join the economic boycott on May 1. Speak to the rest of this state and country in a language they will understand. Actions sometimes speak louder than words.

The sleeping giant is awake.

**Megamarch**  
 from page 1

Insisting that immigrants must be like the Ellis Island arrivals makes no sense. When did the 19th and 20th century immigrants send a text message to tell folks back home they had arrived?

One thing is sure: the ill-willed, punitive right-wingers who shaped the images before the protest demonstrations (the border fence jumpers, replayed ad nauseam) works only on those who want to be hypnotized.

Now, whenever those images run, a counter-image comes to mind, that of thousands and thousands of people holding up flags and signs, so secure in what they did they had their children with them.

I have personally observed Minuteman, vigilantes and others of that ilk patrolling with guns to protect their view of North America. None pushed baby carriages.

The only "shootings" I had witnessed at the pro-immigrant demonstrations were with digital cameras - keepsakes and group pictures to share with friends and relatives all over the world, recording the baptism of a new time.

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18th and Ave G.

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# Solidarity March

Monday, May 1, 2006  
 Noon  
 ST. JOSEPH CHURCH  
 (1st and Avenue P)

The march will continue to the Lubbock County Courthouse and around the Federal Courthouse. There will be speakers and singers during the protest.

Please wear a white shirt to symbolize peace and solidarity with the national movement in opposition to HB4437 (Immigration Reform bill). Bring American Flags. Bring banners with messages and water and snacks. This is a family event.

*Please join us for a peaceful march and let our voices be heard.*

"Give me your tired, your poor,  
 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"