

el Esalador

"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"

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Lic Benito Juarez

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Once again, it's G.I. José to the rescue.

Military Recruiters Can't Help But Salivate Over Latino Youth

By Edward Barrios Acevedo
It should be no surprise that Latinos are being called - albeit, very quietly - to do what most U.S. residents wouldn't want their children to consider: enlist in the U.S. military.

With President Bush recently stating that the United States will never set a timetable for a military pullout in Iraq, the Defense Department has no choice but to use everything in its arsenal to bring up its anemic monthly recruitment numbers - a feat that may be too difficult without the disproportionate help of Latinos.

And they are not waiting.

While the Army National Guard is on track to miss its 10th straight monthly recruitment goal, the Pentagon recently confessed to developing a super database to track high school students as young as 16 years old to beef up its recruitment efforts. Calling on the assistance of the East Coast-based BeNow, Inc., the military will collect information ranging from ethnicity to the types of classes each student is taking.

Nowhere is this creating more anxiety than in the Latino community,



¡Orale
Bato,
Entrale
No te
rajes!

where Hispanics were disproportionately killed during the initial phase of the Iraq war, according to researchers at the University of California.

The Defense Department denies going after any particular ethnic group, but why then has the information compiled and distributed among

recruiters done exactly that?

Approximately 11 percent of the U.S. military is Hispanic, representing nearly 18 percent of the front lines, according to the DOD. With these numbers, it's not surprising that 40 of the first 100 soldiers and Marines from Texas killed in Iraq were Hispanic.

(Continued Page 6)

Se Les Cae La Baba A Los Reclutadores Militares Por la Juventud Latina

Edward Barrios Acevedo

De nuevo, G.I. José al rescate.

No es de sorprenderse que se convoque a los latinos - sigilosamente - a hacer lo que no quisiera la mayoría de los estadounidenses que siquiera consideraran sus hijos - alistarse en la fuerza militar de los Estados Unidos.

Con la reciente declaración del presidente Bush que los Estados Unidos nunca pondrá un límite de tiempo a la salida de las fuerzas armadas de Irak, el Departamento de Defensa no tiene más opción que la de armarse con todo su arsenal para elevar los números anémicos mensuales de reclutas - hazaña harta difícil sin la ayuda desproporcionada de los latinos.

Y no se quedan de brazos cruzados.

Mientras que la Guardia Nacional del Ejército está por cumplir el décimo mes consecutivo de fracaso en cuanto a su meta de reclutamiento, el Pentágono hace poco confesó haber desarrollado una super base de datos para seguir a los estudiantes de secundaria tan jóvenes como de 16 años con el fin de mejorar sus esfuerzos de reclutamiento. Pidiendo asistencia de BeNow, Inc., con base en la costa este estadounidense, los militares recogerán información que va desde la etnicidad hasta el tipo de clase que lleva cada estudiante.

No hay lugar donde este esfuerzo cobra mayor ansiedad que en la comunidad latina, de la que los hispanos fueron muertos de manera desproporcionada en la fase inicial de la guerra en Irak, según investigadores de la Universidad de California.

El Departamento de Defensa niega haber ido detrás de ningún grupo étnico, pero entonces, ¿por qué ha hecho precisamente eso la información que se recogió y se distribuyó a los reclutadores?

Aproximadamente 11 por ciento de la fuerza militar de los Estados Unidos es hispano, lo cual representa casi el 18 por ciento de la línea de fuego, según el Departamento de Defensa. Dadas estas cifras, no sorprenderá que 40 de los primeros 100 soldados y marines de Texas en morir en Irak eran hispanos.

Aún así, puede haber razón de pensar que se emocionan con sus prospectos los reclutadores que operan entre las comunidades latinas.

Primeramente, los meros números de jóvenes latinos saltan a la vista. Desde que los latinos sobrepasaron a los afro-americanos como el grupo minoritario más numeroso en los Estados Unidos hace cinco años, uno de cada siete muchachos de 18 años es de origen hispano, según el Censo del 2000.

Al ser casi el 14 por ciento de la población de los Estados Unidos, con el tercio menor de 18 años, hay muchos posibles reclutas latinos.

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Latino Groups Very Disappointed but Judiciously Hopeful

Sonia Meléndez

Latino leaders say they are "disillusioned" but "not surprised" by President Bush's nomination of John Roberts Jr. to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

The president himself had talked about his commitment to appointing a Latino to the Supreme Court. "This was a historic opportunity to seize the day and it didn't happen," said Larry González, Washington director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. "It is very fair to be disappointed."

González added that there were many Latinos that the president could have picked. One of them was Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, who was attacked by conservatives as "too moderate."

Roberts is viewed as appealing to the conservative base, which is why others say his selection should not be a surprise to Latino groups.

Columbia University's Rodolfo de la Garza, called Bush's choice "predictable," and questioned why Latino groups should be disappointed.

"You were going to get a very conservative person anyway. Why would you care if you got a very conservative Latino over a very conservative something else?" de la Garza added. "What you want is somebody on the bench who will be open and thoughtful, even if he's not a Latino."

Sens. Mel Martínez (R-Fla.) and Ken Salazar (D-Colo.) will be the first two Hispanics since 1975 to take part in Supreme Court confirmation hearings.

Martínez has already said Roberts is "an exceptionally well-qualified nominee."

While Salazar said in a statement, "I will judge the nominee on three basic principles: fairness, impartiality and a proven record of upholding the law."

As expected, Latino Republicans say

that the president has not disappointed anyone. There are many other ways of paying attention to the Latino community, says Luis Fortuño, Puerto Rico's representative in Congress and vice chair of the Hispanic Congressional Conference. Fortuño adds that there is nothing to indicate that Judge Roberts will be bad for the community.

"President Bush has named more Latinos than any other president to Cabinet positions and high-ranking positions. He has demonstrated in more than one way that he is truly close to our community. Certainly, I'm honored that Latino candidates were considered, but what we want is someone like Judge Roberts who will work with dexterity, because he is eminently qualified for the position like no one else, and he will actually provide justice to all Americans, including Hispanic Americans," Fortuño said.

Meanwhile, groups like NALEO, the League of United Latin American Citizens and Hispanics for a Fair Judiciary have begun examining Roberts' record on

key issues, including redistricting, affirmative action, and voting rights.

For now, some experts agree that if another seat becomes vacant on the Supreme Court as is expected, Bush has a greater chance of selecting a Latino

"Now that (Bush) has taken care of the major constituency, and the people who opposed Gonzales should be satisfied with the guy they are getting now, their opposition should be moderated," de la Garza added.

The hearings are scheduled to start in September after the congressional recess.

Capitol Hill Editor Patricia Guadalupe contributed to this story.

(Sonia Meléndez is editor of Hispanic Link Weekly Report. She can be reached at soniam@hispaniclink.org) (c) 2005, Hispanic Link News Service

LULAC Urges Congress to Support Bipartisan Immigration Plan

The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act addresses immigration reform as law enforcement, human rights, economic and national security issue

Washington, DC-The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is urging Congress to support a bipartisan immigration reform bill that will revamp the current system and offer a multi-tiered conduit to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, sponsored by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) and Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), is a realistic approach that addresses immigration reform as a law enforcement, human rights, economic and national security issue.

The proposed law would allow undocumented immigrants to apply for temporary work permits that could last for six years. They would have to clear criminal background checks, pass an English language test and pay a \$2,000 fee to qualify. In addition, at the end of the six years, they and their families could apply for permanent residency, and five years later for citizenship.

"This bill is a pragmatic and responsible approach to immigration reform. As the oldest civil rights organization in the country, we have examined numerous immigration reform policies, and the Kennedy-McCain bill is by far one of the best we have seen," said LULAC National President Hector M. Flores.

(Continued on Page 5)

Avanza plan de repatriación de inmigrantes de EU a México

Un total de siete mil 859 inmigrantes mexicanos han sido trasladados desde Arizona a la Ciudad de México en un lapso de 40 días, gracias a un programa de repatriación voluntaria, indicó la Patrulla Fronteriza.

Afirmó que un promedio de 196 inmigrantes que se acogieron por decisión propia a la iniciativa han sido repatriados a la capital mexicana en dos vuelos diarios de Aeroméxico desde que reinició el programa aludido el pasado 10 de junio y hasta el miércoles pasado.

Según cifras de la dependencia federal, de los siete mil 859 inmigrantes mexicanos repatriados en esa aerolínea durante el periodo señalado, cinco mil 911 fueron varones adultos, 891 mujeres y mil 57 menores de edad de ambos sexos.

Bajo el programa suscrito entre ambos países, hasta 300 inmigrantes mexicanos



detenidos en Arizona que acepten participar en el programa de forma voluntaria podrán ser repatriados al Distrito Federal en dos vuelos diarios hasta el próximo 30 de septiembre.

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Comentarios de Bidal Agüero



What Ever Happened To?

* The Gateway Arch that was supposed to go across University Avenue to welcome people to "Our side of town"?

We somewhat remember that thousands of dollars were dedicated to it by the City Council and a series of drawing were submitted and approved. They were even featured on the front page of the AJ and El Editor

* The efforts by many of the local Hispanic organization to register people to vote? I guess these are not considered important when there aren't any elections coming up but wouldn't it be wise to have these going on all year round in order to stress voter participation?

* The Adelita program and for that matter "las cananas"

The new Cultural Center might be a good place to put the "Cananas" as part of our local history.

• The Hispanic Agenda? Again there is nothing really controversial going on right now but I'm sure there are still many issues that need attention.

• To the Bidal Agüero that would get out there in the streets and shout about it instead of must writing about it?

Write Me! eleditor@sbcglobal.net

The Gonzalez Debacle & the Limits of Nationalism

Roberto Rodriguez

When Clarence Thomas was up for consideration to the U.S. Supreme Court, many African Americans found themselves in a bind: Should they support his candidacy and maintain a Black on the court, or fight against him and possibly end up "unrepresented"?

The dilemma stemmed from his extreme hostility toward civil rights. Some chose to be silent or actually supported his nomination. Others demurred, holding on to the belief that Thomas would eventually come around. The "wait" continues.

With the nomination of 50-year-old judge John Roberts to replace Sandra Day O'Connor, a showdown is lurking over Roe v. Wade. A Roberts confirmation would also surrender government and the environment to the war-industrial complex.

At the same time, with the possibility of another court vacancy (William Rehnquist), we may again find ourselves with a Thomas-like situation with the potential nomination of U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. Some Latino/Hispanic civil rights groups are giddy at the prospect that if confirmed, he would become the "first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice."

When Gonzales was up for attorney general, it was several Hispanic/Latino organizations that ran interference for the president in support of his candidacy. Principle lost out to blind ethnic loyalty.

Apparently, they turned two blind eyes to the fact that it was Gonzales who wrote the memos that, in effect, authorized torture by U.S. forces worldwide and put forth the notion that the Geneva Conventions on war are obsolete (particularly in regards to "The War on Terror"). In fact, his memos served as guidelines on how the administration could artfully avoid international treaties and conventions against torture, while avoiding prosecution.

In one sense the conundrum that these Hispanic/Latino groups find themselves in is that they have to weigh the balance between domestic vs. foreign policy. Domestically, these groups claim that Gonzales - as well as the president - has a moderate agenda in regards to immigration and prison sentencing reform. That was why they supported him.

Five years into this administration, and the only thing that the president has managed to do on the immigration front is to funnel all the nation's 911 and "war on terror" fears into the jingoistic belief that the solution lies in closing the Mexican (not the Canadian) border. (Under his

watch, anti-immigrant fervor has reached a crescendo).

Of course, Gonzales has been in office but several months, thus, too early to pass judgment on his effect at the Justice Department. Too early for that, yet apparently not too early to catapult him to a lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court. (This would also ensure a complete right-wing stranglehold at the court for the next 20 years - even though he's not trusted by extremists within his own party).

Giving Gonzales a pass because he would become the first Hispanic on the court demonstrates the absurdity of what the right wing has long-termed: the racial spoils system (they actually play it better than the Democrats).

There was a time when a judge was considered to be a person of wisdom. On this count alone (the attorney general is not yet 50), he cannot be considered wise even though admittedly, age alone does not confer wisdom. With Gonzales, however, his age and lack of experience, tell us that on those counts alone he should be disqualified.

Yet, the short record that he has - as a torture enabler and a rubber stamp on death penalty cases for then Gov. Bush in Texas - sends a quite troubling and disqualifying message.

The message is one regarding loyalty and cronyism. Couple that with that blind ethnic support and it becomes even more troubling. (These groups, have no problem denouncing the Memín Pinguin Mexican stamp -- for its harmful effects on race relations -- yet they are seemingly unable to see the incredible harm the torture memos have wrought upon the cause of human rights worldwide).

There are respected human rights groups that consider the entire Bush administration (including Gonzales) to be guilty of foisting an illegal war upon the world based on false intelligence. For Hispanic/Latino groups to act as though that is a minor matter proves the absurdity of what is permissible when one is guided by a skewed allegiance to that form of ethnic nationalism.

Perhaps, like Thomas, he will become some sort of role model... but at what cost? Hey... let's not discount right-wing pundit Linda Chavez as the next nominee... and on the affirmative action scale, she'd be a two-fer.

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Texas House Leadership Melts Down

Yesterday was a day of strange and surprising events. Who could have predicted that HB 2 would have failed to pass the House in the way that it did and that the author of HB 3 would vote against his own bill? The Hochberg amendment to HB 2, which had failed three other times in earlier sessions, in an effort to alter the leadership's attempt to ram an unpopular school bill through the House. This time the outcome was different.

The Speaker could not threaten and intimidate enough votes to get the bill through. It appears that the school people of the state, school board members, parents and other citizens interested in good public policy finally got the message through to House members: HB 2 is bad public policy and is harmful to schools--enough is enough! Hopefully this is a beginning to a change in the House and not a temporary victory for good government.

After the votes on HB 2 and HB 3 Speaker Craddick was quoted as saying, "I'm willing to look at anything at this point, but members are tired; they do not know where they are going. The school superintendents beat people up on this. It makes it hard to vote. I think the people of Texas lost on school finance today." It

seems to me that the Speaker learned the wrong lesson from the vote. Here is the message the Speaker and House members need to learn:

-Legislation needs to be an open process. Public hearings are intended to be more than a process to fulfill a requirement. They need to listen to the suggestions provided by school finance experts to improve the bill.

When superintendents and organizations appear before the committees, the intent is to improve education. They are not there as some members believe to simply whine.

-Members should be allowed to vote their district and not have to strictly follow the party line. Hopefully, yesterday was an indication that members are not going to be intimidated any longer.

-The tax policy must include a broad based business tax. Texas needs a tax base which reflects the "new Texas economy" and grows with the economy.

It is going to take courage to take this step due to the intense pressure from the business lobby. It must be done!

My advice to TACS members is to keep communicating with your legislators.

Offer your assistance to resolve the school finance dilemma. Know the issues and offer constructive suggestions within the fiscal bounds provided by the legislature. Work to expand those bounds by supporting tax reform.

You have done a good job and I thank you. Keep up the good work!

Grupos Latinos Supremamente Decepcionados Pero Juiciosamente Esperanzados

Por Sonia Meléndez

Los dirigentes latinos dicen que están "decepcionados", sin estar sorprendidos, con la nominación del presidente Bush de John Roberts como reemplazo de la jueza del Tribunal Supremo, Sandra Day O'Connor.

El mismo presidente había hablado de su compromiso por nombrar a un latino al Tribunal Supremo. "Esta era una oportunidad histórica y no ocurrió", dijo Larry González, director en Washington de la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Elegidos y Nombrados. "Es muy justo estar decepcionado".

González agregó que había muchos latinos a quienes el presidente hubiera podido escoger. Uno de ellos es el fiscal de la nación, Alberto Gonzales, a quien los conservadores atacaban por ser "demasiado moderado". A Roberts se le percibe como atractivo a la base conservadora, razón por la cual otros dicen que su selección no debería sorprender a los grupos latinos.

Rodolfo de la Garza, de la Universidad de Columbia, llamó "predecible" la selección de Bush, y preguntó por qué habían que estar decepcionados los grupos latinos.

"Igual tocaría una persona muy conservadora. ¿Qué importaría si fuera un latino muy conservador o un otra cosa muy conservador?" De la Garza añadió, "Lo que quieres es alguien en el tribunal que sea abierto y considerado, así no sea latino".

Los senadores Mel Martínez (repblicano por Florida) y Ken Salazar (demócrata por Colorado) serán los primeros dos hispanos desde 1975 en formar parte de las audiencias de confirmación para el Tribunal Supremo.

Martínez ya ha indicado que Roberts es "un nombramiento excepcionalmente bien calificado". Mientras que Salazar emitió una declaración que incluyó, "Juzgaré al nominado en base a tres principios: justicia, imparcialidad y un expediente probado de haber protegido la ley".

Como se anticipaba, los latinos republicanos dicen que el presidente no ha decepcionado a nadie. Hay muchas otras formas de prestarle atención a la comunidad latina, dice Luis Fortuño, representante de Puerto Rico en el Congreso y vicepresidente de la Conferencia Congressional Hispana. Fortuño agrega que no hay nada que indique que el juez Roberts será perjudicial para la comunidad.

"El presidente Bush ha nombrado a más latinos que cualquier otro presidente a posiciones de gabinete y de alto nivel. Ha demostrado en más de una manera que está bien unido a nuestra comunidad. De hecho, me honra que se haya considerado a candidatos latinos, pero lo que queremos es a alguien como el juez Roberts, quien obrará con dexteridad, porque es eminentemente calificado para la posición como nadie más, y proveerá la justicia a todos los estadounidenses, incluyendo a los hispano-americanos", dijo Fortuño.

Mientras tanto, grupos como NALEO, la Liga de Ciudadanos Unidos Latino Americanos y Hispanics for a Fair Judiciary han comenzado a examinar el expediente de Roberts referente a temas claves, como la redistribución de distritos electorales, la acción afirmativa y el derecho al voto.

Por ahora, algunos expertos concuerdan en que si se abre otra posición en el Tribunal Supremo, como se anticipa, Bush tiene mayores posibilidades de seleccionar a un latino. "Ahora que (Bush) ha apaciguado al grupo mayoritario, y que los que se oponían a Gonzales deben estar contentos con el tipo que tienen ahora, su oposición se moderará", añadió de la Garza.

Las audiencias tendrán lugar en septiembre, después del receso del Congreso.

Editora del sector del Capitolio, Patricia Guadalupe, contribuyó a esta nota.

(Sonia Meléndez es editora de Hispanic Link Weekly Report. Comuníquese con ella por correo electrónico soniam@hispaniclink.org.)

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No Mas!

By Abel Cruz

Based on news reports it seems that the "first family" of Lubbock, otherwise known as the McDougal's, has decided they no longer want to play the game, they've picked up their marbles, sounded the retreat and were last seen circling the wagons! No Mas! Said the patriarch Delbert, and sons Mike and our honorable mayor Marc quickly followed suit.

Apparently the McDougal's got tired of all the accusations of favorable treatment because of son Marc's position and decided that they would teach us a lesson by cutting back on their civic involvement and monetary donations. Of course our honorable mayor quickly pointed out that that just wasn't the case and reminded us all that the properties acquired in North Overton were acquired without the use of eminent domain. He also pointed out that he had recused (not voted) on issues that had come before the city council that could directly or indirectly have an effect on the families businesses interests.

If that's the case, he'll probably go down in history as the mayor who voted the least amount of times while serving as mayor of Lubbock, "in the giant side of Texas"!

But as with everything else, I strongly suspect that there is more to this story than meets the eye.

This past Monday the 25th, County Commissioners decided that they would rather not take on the deep pockets of the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and voted to remove the victim's monument that they had approved to be placed on county property; the grounds of the courthouse lawn.

Guess the old adage about money talking and BS walking proves true once again.

In the scary news department, Republican Senator Tom Tancredo from Colorado, who has been called a bigot by some, recently suggested "nuking Muslim holy sites". Even scarier is that Tancredo is threatening to run for president in 2008 on an anti immigration platform. He believes that the US border with Mexico should be patrolled by the US military and that all undocumented immigrants should be rounded up and returned to where they came from "mas pronto que quick"! He praises the efforts of groups such as the Minutemen and other right wing organizations that feel their majority status threatened and will go to any lengths and say anything to spread their hate messages.

Yes, entry into this country illegally is a serious problem and against our immigration laws. The issue deserves some serious debate and solutions should lead to immigration reform. But that's not what drives idiots like Tancredo and other right wing nuts. They would rather go around screaming like Chicken Little that the sky is falling, and appeal to people's hatred, intolerance and ignorance.

Although the number could change at any minute, the number of American soldiers that have died in Iraq since March of 2003, has reached 1775. That's a lot of human lives lost for a goal that they thought they were fighting for but will never be reached. In a clear indication of that, the newly formed Iraqi government charged with drafting Iraq's new constitution, announced this week that the civil law section of the constitution which covers the rights and duties of citizens and public and private freedoms, would be based on Islamic law. What happened to the goal of bringing freedom and democracy to the people of Iraq?

We all realize that if we want our youth to have access to economic, political and social opportunities that we must constantly encourage them to continue on an educational path that will lead to economic success and prosperity. But, our responsibility does not stop there.

Part of our responsibility is to make sure that we also educate and inform ourselves about the decisions that are made daily that affect us as a community and let our elected representatives know how we stand on certain issues.

Otherwise, what we end up with is 4 million bucks worth of softball fields in SW Lubbock (courtesy of councilman Tom Martin) paid for with bond money, while folks in the "little side of Texas", also known as the east side, have to settle for the worn out fields at McKenzie Park. Or you end up with a new housing development in NE Lubbock with a county jail as a backyard. Or you end up waiting 8 years for a plaza to be built at the canyon lakes; which by the way still had not been completed last time I checked.

I could go on and on, but you get the picture...

On a personal note:

I welcome reader's feedback and strongly encourage you to send suggestions, questions or comments (pro or con) to my email address below or by mail to: A Cruz at EL Editor, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401. Let me know what issues are important to you and what areas of concern you have. You the reader are the most important part of this weekly process and your input and readership is greatly appreciated. Email: acruzts@aol.com

EL EDITOR'S QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What do you think about Councilman Tom Martin's proposal to spend 4 million dollars to build new softball fields in SW Lubbock?

Respond by email to: acruzts@aol.com or editor@sbcglobal.net

Or you can send your responses by mail to: El Editor 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, Texas 79401

Responses received prior to next week's publishing deadline will be considered for publication in next week's edition of El Editor

Dear Friend of Head Start:

The National Head Start Association would like to thank you for your support in helping us save Head Start over the past several years! You have joined over 170,000 people in sending an e-mail to Congress from our activist web site www.saveheadstart.org and telling them that Head Start works and it should be left alone! Because of you, efforts to dismantle Head Start through state controlled block grants have been stopped and will hopefully not re-appear during floor action in the coming weeks.

Head Start reauthorization is moving again and we need your help once more. While the discussions in the House and Senate on Head Start have been more productive than the past few years, there are still 3 major issues that are troublesome:

1. The House bill and Senate bill would diminish parental authority in Head Start. Both bills relegate Parent Policy Councils to full of an advisory capacity than that of shared governance with the Board of Directors. We believe that full authority should be restored to the National Reporting Councils in Head Start.
2. We all want highly qualified teachers in Head Start classrooms, but we need to pay them comparable salaries. We believe that if we are going to require more of our teachers, we should make the investment to get them and keep them in the classroom. Head Start teachers are paid about half their peers in public schools. Without new money for teacher salaries, increased credentialing requirements should not be mandatory.
3. The GAO (General Accountability Office) recently found that the National Reporting System -- the SAT-like test being given to Head Start children -- is both unreliable and invalid. We ask Congress to halt the testing of Head Start children until an appropriate assessment tool can be developed by experts.

Finally, we know that some members of Congress may introduce an amendment on the House floor that would allow religious discrimination in Head Start employment practices. We believe that such a provision is wrong and ask that you join us in fighting this amendment.

Just like before, we are asking that you take one easy action step! Go to our activist web site at www.saveheadstart.org and send an e-mail letter to your member of Congress and two Senators.

Sincerely,
The National Head Start Association

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EL EDITOR

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Publisher Bidal Aguero

A New Homebuying Resource for Hispanic Consumers is Launched

Because of its rapid growth, the U.S. Hispanic community is expected to become a key factor in household growth over the next decade. The result will be that more Latinos will become first-time homebuyers than any other ethnic group.

Now, there is a new online resource available in Spanish to help homebuyers sort out the myriad details that can make buying a home confusing and intimidating.

The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) today announced the launch of its new consumer website for U.S. Spanish speakers, Centrohipotecas.com, that provides information in a simple, easy format to help consumers understand all aspects of homebuying and homeownership. Topics include basics of homebuying, the importance of credit records, finding the right home, finding a mortgage lender and identifying which type of loan best fits consumers' financial situation.

"The Mortgage Bankers Association wants to help all Americans realize the dream of homeownership," said Cheryl Crispin, senior vice president of communications and marketing at MBA. "This new online resource will give Spanish-speaking people who are interested in buying a home the knowledge they need to confidently begin planning the purchase and financing of their

new home." A study conducted last year by the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, University of Southern California, indicates that Latinos often lack sufficient information about buying a home. However, the same study also found that while only 10 to 13 percent of Hispanics are actively engaged in buying a house, approximately 44 percent are planning to buy a home within the next five years.

"It appears as if some of the discomfort with the homebuying process is the result of inexperience," states the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute study report. "Outreach programs can take the fear out of the process and encourage prospective buyers to make that leap of faith and start down the path to homeownership." The website, Centrohipotecas.com, is designed to do just that. Enabling Spanish-speaking Americans to learn the homebuying process in the privacy of their own home will make them more knowledgeable, more confident consumers.

Developed by MBA's team of industry and consumer experts, Centrohipotecas.com will provide Latino consumers with information on the mortgage process; statistics on specific neighborhoods; an explanation of credit scores and how to improve them; finding a lender; and laws that protect consumer rights.

Media urges to prevent CAFTA defeat NOTIMEX

Today, the media stated that a possible reject from the House of Representatives to the Dominican Republic and Central America Free Trade Agreement will have bigger political consequences, rather than commercial.

A The Washington Post editorial stated that the agreement would not only be good for the poor, and would contribute to create about 300 thousand new jobs in the Central America textile sector, but would also improve the labor conditions in that region's countries.

However, it warned that a vote against it would send negative signals to the World Trade Organization (WTO), and would make the Venezuelan efforts to promote its anti-American policy easier.

"A defeat of the agreement would not only help the movement to fight poverty, but also the anti-American demagoguery, starting with Mr. (Venezuela's president) Hugo Chavez", said the morning paper.

According to the paper, for Chavez and his sympathizers "a US retreat in its society with Central America would be a huge victory."

"While the US has been focus-

ing on terrorism, a new challenge is developing in its own hemisphere. Congressmen must consider this challenge before voting for closing the door for the pro-American leaders in Central America", in pointed out.

The newspaper considered that a vote for it would also help to revert the image that the US has lost interest in Central America, as a consequence of the Cold War end.

Especially, it qualified as "curious" that the democratic majority in the Low Chamber has rejected the agreement, pointing out that from the commercial point of view, the agreement would be more beneficial for US exporters.

Nowadays, 80 percent of the Central American products that come in the US, is free from duties, and the agreement would mean, above all, widen its benefits, including sugar and textiles. For the US, the trade agreement with Central America and the Dominican Republic would represent the immediate elimination of duties in 80 percent of their products.

The conservative The Washington Times stated that, according to the US Agricultural Office, the



agreement's approval would allow that the US exports to Central America and Dominican will raise in 1.5 billion dollars a year.

"In the Geopolitical front it is irrefutable that helping the agreement nations and their neighbors to economically develop in the XXI century, would help to avoid the political, military, and economic problems that were present in the XX century's second

half", in stated. The Washington Times said that the agreement is more meaningful that what Central America and Dominican Republic represent in terms of trading with the US. "The agreement opposition knows that with their reject, they would have given a death punch to the WTO's wider negotiations, and the effect of a huge failure", it warned.

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Un parto en la frontera

Del lado mexicano de la frontera, a escasos centímetros de Estados Unidos, una adolescente de 16 años sufre contracciones de parto. Grita pidiendo que la ayuden a cruzar. Es su primer hijo.

Un hombre del lado mexicano explica que ya no la quiere de vuelta, que a la chica se le rompió la fuente y hay que llevarla a un hospital estadounidense, porque el más cercano en Tecate, México, está demasiado lejos, a 20, 30 millas de caminos de tierra.

De este lado, cerca de Jacumba, California, se confrontan en torno a la joven miembros del Proyecto The Minuteman y activistas latinos. Los primeros quieren impedir la inmigración indocumentada de México; los otros defienden los derechos de los inmigrantes. Para los primeros esto es sólo una escena de teatro montada para la prensa. Para los segundos, se trata de un caso de vida o muerte. Ambos tienen campamento en la localidad de Campo, una hora al este de San Diego.

Ella dijo que era de Texas, afirma quien la trajo: él y sus compañeros la cargaron y la trajeron a la barda, que aquí tiene una altura de cuatro o cinco pies.

Quien cuenta este incidente sucedido el viernes 22 de julio a medianoche es Jesse Díaz, un catédrico de sociología de UC Riverside y activista.

Díaz relata que sostuvo en brazos a la muchacha, una menor de edad a quien llamaremos "Alicia" para proteger su privacidad. Ella estaba en el aire: es el aire de Estados Unidos. Un agente de la Patrulla Fronteriza le prohíbe ponerla en la tierra, so pena de ser acusado de contrabandista de indocumentados, cuenta él.

"La agarré en mis brazos. Ella sufría mucho dolor. [Los de] la "Migra" me pucharon de atrás para que la tire de vuelta. Pero el hombre del otro lado del cerco ya se había distanciado".

Según Díaz, fue amenazado por las autoridades de que si dejaba a Alicia en el piso, sería acusado y podría ser multado con cinco mil dólares y condenado hasta con cinco años de prisión por contrabando de indocumentados. Un rato después, la muchacha está otra vez en el suelo mexicano.

Como en la culminación de una tragedia griega, están aquí presentes todos los actores del drama de la frontera. La Patrulla Fronteriza. Siete automóviles con miembros del Proyecto The Minuteman, uno o dos en cada carro. Nueve activistas de San Diego y Los Angeles. Unos ciudadanos mexicanos del otro lado cuya función en el drama no es clara. Como ángeles de la guarda, los paramédicos de la unidad Medic 86 del Servicio Forestal de California.

Y entre todos ellos, una niña de 16 años, a punto de dar a luz y fluctuando brutalmente entre dos países.

Rafael Hernández, quien opera una ambulancia para asistir a indocumentados bajo el nombre Angeles del Desierto, ruega a las autoridades que le permitan llevar a Alicia al hospital. "Puede morir el bebé", les dice.

Casi inmediatamente llegaron los paramédicos de Jacumba, pero según Díaz no pudieron cruzar al otro lado. "Si cruzan, van a tener que regresar por Tecate, donde está el puerto de entrada al país", les dice un agente de la Patrulla Fronteriza, cuenta él.

Finalmente, el supervisor de los paramédicos tomó la decisión y dio la orden a su equipo que cargaran a la joven en la ambulancia y la llevaran a un aeropuerto abandonado, desde donde la recogería un helicóptero del hospital universitario de San Diego.

"Ella lanzó un grito de goce, de victoria, que todos oyeron. No era dolor, era alegría", dice Díaz.

Esta historia es como el Rashomón de la frontera. Tiene casi tantas versiones como participantes.

Para los activistas de inmigrantes allí presentes, ayudarla a cruzar para llevarla al hospital y salvar su vida y la de su hijo era imperativo.

Para la gente de la Patrulla Fronteriza, dice la portavoz en San Diego Dora Doyle, es un asunto humanitario. Ni siquiera acepta que hubo cruce ilegal. "No podemos afirmar que se trate de una indocumentada", explica a La Opinión, "por la emergencia médica".

Para los activistas antiinmigrantes, esto no es más que un intento de atraer atención y el caso de una inmigrante que da a luz a un bebé de este lado, para que sea ciudadano estadounidense.

de The Minuteman no odian a los hispanos, recalca que en su organización "hay 30 ó 40 latinos".

Chase acepta que, dadas las circunstancias, fue justificado permitir el ingreso de "Alicia" al país. Para él, fue más dramático lo que sucedió muy cerca de Jacumba, cuando varios de los miembros de su grupo fueron, dice, objeto de un tiroteo por parte de traficantes de drogas del lado mexicano, dos de los cuales, cuenta, portaban fusiles ametralladora AK-47.

¿Qué sucedió con "Alicia"? ¿Nació sano y salvo su bebé? Una portavoz del hospital universitario de nombre Rebbeca no puede dar mayor información a este redactor. La Patrulla Fronteriza dice ya no saber cuál fue el destino de la joven, quien está protegida por ser menor de edad. Posiblemente esté en un refugio instaurado precisamente para hijos de indocumentados nacidos aquí. Quizá regresó a Texas.

Mientras tanto, en la frontera, los protagonistas se preparan para otra jornada de choque. Unos, para alertar a la Patrulla Fronteriza del cruce de indocumentados. Otros, para impedirlo. "Nos están hostigando", se queja Chase.

La Patrulla Fronteriza describe que no tuvo otra alternativa que dejar pasar a "Alicia". "Nuestro oficial de enlace con México trató de que se la llevaran a un hospital del otro lado, porque estaba del lado mexicano", afirma Doyle. "Pero ello no fue posible". "A esta misma mujer la vimos el día anterior buscando posibles países de la frontera. En todo momento la podían llevar al hospital", dice en cambio a este rotativo Jim Chase, líder del grupo The Minuteman de California. Un miembro de The Minuteman del estado de Georgia explica a este redactor que los integrantes de su grupo no intervinieron. "Fue todo un teatro montado para los medios de México", afirma. "Estábamos allí, sin interferir, a 20 pies de distancia", explica, y agrega: "yo no soy racista; al contrario, he trabajado para la Fuerza Aérea en Perú y me casé con una peruana". Chase, ansioso por demostrar que los miembros

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Selig upholds 20-game suspension for Rangers' Rogers

Kenny Rogers' appeal of his 20-game suspension for shoving two cameramen was rejected Wednesday by commissioner Bud Selig, who deemed the behavior of the Texas Rangers' pitcher to be "wholly unacceptable."

The players association said it will pursue a grievance before an arbitrator to overturn the penalty.

The commissioner, who heard Rogers' appeal in Milwaukee last Friday, said the suspension would begin with Wednesday night's game at the Baltimore Orioles. Rogers declined comment.

"We'll see what the next few days bring," Rangers manager Buck Showalter said. "We knew this was going to happen at some point, and we know we need a starter for Sunday."

Under baseball's rules, Selig decided the original penalty and also ruled on the appeal.

Kenny Rogers must also pay a \$50,000 fine imposed by Bud Selig for his tirade. (AP)

"Kenny Rogers' behavior towards the two cameramen who were present at the ballpark and doing their job on June 29th, was wholly unacceptable," Selig said in a statement.

"I have always placed a special emphasis on the social responsibility that each of us has in Major League Baseball given its proper place in American history and culture as a social institution. The media is entitled to perform its important role without fear of physical intimidation or contact from our players or other participants. While I listened carefully

to Kenny Rogers' sincere explanation last week, I heard nothing that would warrant either eliminating or reducing the discipline imposed."

Selig imposed the suspension and a \$50,000 fine for a June 29 videotaped tirade in which Rogers, a three-time All-Star, shoved two cameramen when he came onto the field for pregame stretching.

The players association filed a grievance on July 8, and arbitrator Shyam Das scheduled an Aug. 8 hearing after Selig made his decision Wednesday. Das turned down the union's request to stay the suspension pending the new hearing, saying he didn't think he had the authority, union general counsel Michael Weiner said.

The union contends that Bob Watson, baseball's vice president in charge of discipline, should have made the initial decision, not Selig.

"We think the decision is both unfair and inconsistent with the basic agreement," Weiner said. "We don't think commissioner Selig had the authority in the first place to issue discipline. We also think 20 games and a \$50,000 fine wholly disregards industry precedent with respect to conduct of this type. We look forward to seeking appropriate relief for both Kenny and his Texas teammates before the arbitrator."

Rogers, 40, is the ace of the Texas pitching staff. His 11 wins are more than a fifth of the entire team total, and his 2.77 ERA over 20 starts is significantly lower than the 4.95 team mark through



Tuesday. His loss comes at a time when the Rangers lost six of seven to sink below .500.

"Anytime you lose your No. 1 starter, it doesn't matter how you're playing as a team, you still want him. We're going to miss him, no matter what," Rangers first baseman Mark Teixeira said.

"It's unfortunate, but we really can't worry about it," Teixeira said. "We'll miss Kenny, but we have to move on. Injuries happen.

trades happen. We have to play with the team on the field."

That team will now have 24 active players instead of the customary 25.

"We've got some options. None of them are going to be as good as Kenny," Showalter said. "But that's the cards that we're dealt, and it looks like we'll be playing with 24 players for a while. It puts a lot of emphasis on nobody getting kicked out of a game, that's for sure."

Brown becomes Knicks' new Coach - Finally

A month of drama for Larry Brown ended with him landing his "dream job."

At an age when many people are pondering retirement, Brown moved ahead into yet another chapter of his itinerant coaching career Wednesday when his agent finalized a contract with the New York Knicks.

Brown will sit alongside team president Isiah Thomas when the Knicks introduce the 22nd coach in franchise history at a news

conference Thursday at Madison Square Garden, where the buzz could be coming back after nearly a half-decade of mediocrity and malaise.

Brown's agent worked out the final details of contract language with team executives Wednesday, clearing the way for the Knicks to introduce Brown as the 22nd head coach in franchise history.

Less than 10 days after his divorce from the Detroit Pistons was finalized, Brown will be trad-

ing down in talent but up in salary and sentiment.

The Knicks were Brown's favorite team when he was growing up in Brooklyn, and the eighth stop on his NBA coaching carousel will truly be a "dream job" -- just what Brown called it earlier this year.

He'll join a long list of distinguished coaches -- including Joe Lapchick, Red Holzman, Pat Riley and Lenny Wilkens -- who have guided one of the NBA's charter

franchises.

"We have it just about done. There are a couple of things to tidy up," agent Joe Glass said early Wednesday evening. Less than an hour later, everything was in place -- except Brown's signature, which was due Thursday.

In 22 seasons as a professional coach, Brown has compiled a 987-741 record. The title he won with the Detroit Pistons in 2004 was the only NBA championship of his career.

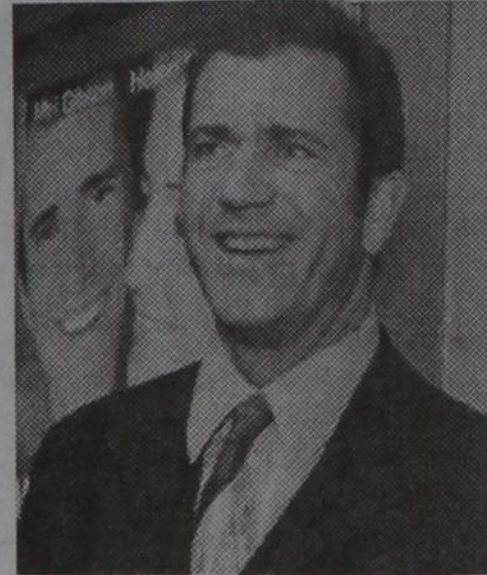
Mel Gibson will go to Mexico to shoot 'Apocalypto'

The American actor and director Mel Gibson will go to Mexico to start shooting the movie "Apocalypto", which will be spoken in Mayan, informed the president of the National Filming Committee (Conafilm), Sergio Molina.

The president of the Conafilm, said that Gibson, winner of the Oscar for the direction of "Braveheart" (1995), among other international awards, will start shooting the film in October in still-to-be-confirmed locations.

According to the American magazine Variety, "Apocalypto's" story, which before was named "The Mayas", takes place in Central America, three thousand years ago in an ancient civilization.

The movie, which does not have religious connotations, will be starred by new actors in the seventh art, just as Gibson's most recent films (Paparazzi, 2004 and The Passion of the Christ, 2004), he will not have acting participation in the movie.



The producer, who caused controversy with the quoted film "The Passion of the Christ", is planning to premiere this project in summer 2006; being distributed by Walt Disney Studios, which previous collaborations with Gibson include movies such as "Signs" and "Ransom".

The script of "Apocalypto", which means "A new beginning", is being kept in secret: so no information is leaked, as happened with "The Passion of the Christ".

No sólo es horror lo de Rob Zombie

En el universo filmico de Rob Zombie, las escenas de violencia y los sonidos del rock se funden para crear un producto audiovisual que sólo encuentra su equivalente en películas a las que ahora se considera clásicos del cine de terror, como The Night of the Living Dead, The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, The Evil Dead y Dead Alive.

De ese gusto que siente por contar historias llenas de pasión y muerte —como las que se produjeron en Hollywood durante los años 70—, el ex líder fundador de la banda de rock White Zombie se inspiró para escribir y dirigir una segunda película luego de haber realizado la controverial House of 1000 Corpses en 2003. La cinta en cuestión es The Devil's Rejects, con la que una vez más convocó el interés de quienes lo consideran el nuevo genio del cine de horror.

"No fue nada difícil llevar adelante un proyecto como éste", dijo Zombie via telefónica con respecto de la película. "Después de pasar por las pesadillas que sufrí con House of 1000 Corpses, filme que estuvo a punto de ser vetado para siempre por los estudios Universal, siento que puedo superar cualquier problema. En The Devil's Rejects recibí todo el apoyo de parte de la compañía productora y no tuve problemas con utilizar libremente los delirantes sueños que me interesa poner en mis películas".

Sorprendido todavía con la respuesta que los espectadores tuvieron con House of 1000 Corpses, la cual obtuvo en taquilla más de 10 millones de dólares, Zombie considera que con The Devil's Rejects los resultados podrán ser todavía mejores. "Me parece que se trata de una

cinta que llamará la atención de un público más amplio, no únicamente de aquellos que están familiarizados con mi música y los videos que he dirigido", aseguró. "Con esa intención escribí el argumento dentro de un estilo parecido al de los westerns clásicos, en el que los sanguinarios miembros del clan Firefly son perseguidos por un grupo de violentos agentes del Sheriff, motivo por el cual se enfrentan continuamente a balazos con ellos".

"Pero", quiso aclarar, "aunque hay decenas de muertos creo que sería difícil asegurar que The Devil's Rejects es una película exclusivamente de horror. El concepto que utilicé para hacerla va más allá de una definición genérica tan simple".

Según lo dicho por Zombie, en su filme hay elementos con los que cualquier persona puede sentirse identificada. Los más importantes son "el sentido de lealtad y el espíritu de sacrificio" que hay entre los integrantes de la familia Firefly: el capitán Spaulding (Sid Haig), Baby (Sheri Moon Zombie) y Otis (Bill Moseley).

Señaló que aunque se trata de un grupo de criminales que van dejando un rastro de sangre y destrucción por dondequiera que pasan, los Firefly tratan todo el tiempo de protegerse mutuamente.

"Me parece que eso los hace individuos con grandes posibilidades de alcanzar un cierto nivel de redención, aunque sea muy pequeño, frente a la sociedad establecida", aventuró.

"Pienso que los Firefly no son criminales por gusto propio sino más bien producto de las circunstancias dentro de las que hacen lo que pueden por sobrevivir. Por

continúa en la página 5



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Robert Rodriguez, sin of a director who wanted to draw comics

Robert Rodriguez (San Antonio, Texas, 1968) is a clear example of what the industry can do, as it overvalues talents and sells them as geniuses, when the only thing they do is prove, at any step they take, they are only skillful artisans with some funny occurrences.

"El Mariachi" (1992), a cheap filming exercise, catapulted this Mexican origins Texan man. The story -if it is real or not, that is not relevant- that would result profitable for Rodriguez, who financed this film's production by renting himself to prove a cholesterol reduction medicine in his body.

At the beginning, the idea was that this vengeful gunman dressed up as mariachi's story was directly sent to video format, but thanks to some talent scout producers, "El Mariachi" was a picturesque surprise which gave the director the chance to keep filming, having a more comfortable budget.

So, "Desperado" (1995) is born, a modern mariachi in English, characterized by Antonio Banderas, and the unknown-at-the-time Mexican actress Salma Hayek. The formula works, and moves a captivated Hispanic audience that is happy to see in the big screen the romantic and colorful idea that Rodriguez has of a postcard Mexico.

"From dusk till dawn" (1996) is the result of his friendship with Quentin Tarantino, with whom he shares the taste of ludicrous stories, and the generic fusion. Here, he redesigns western, he mixes it with horror and black comedy, having a first-class cast led by George Clooney and Harvey Keitel, completed by Dany Trejo, and a special appearance of Salma Hayek, dancing semi-naked with a boa hanging on her neck.

In 1998, he shoots "The Faculty", horror movie with uneven results, but he recovers with the beginning of the children's franchise, inspired in videogames and fantasy, "Spy Kids" (2000).

Not having enough of his mariachis, in 2003 he opens "Once upon a time in Mexico", a topsy-turvy self-tribute with a violence, pursuit and blood overdose, seasoned with laughable dialogues, and the refreshing participation of Johnny Depp, stealing Antonio Banderas' leading role.

With "Sin City" (2005), Robert Rodriguez does not do anything but proving his frustrated dream of being a cartoonist. The graphic stories of the brilliant cartoonist Frank Miller (working as co-director and scriptwriter) inspire this work, and show this young director's biggest defects.

Rodriguez persuaded Miller to take his graphic novels to the big screen by showing him a short film of "The Costumer is Always Right" with Josh Harnett and Marley Shelton. The amazing results convinced Miller, and the project was set, awkwardly translating (the director himself recognizes that this is a translation, not an adaptation) from the graphic to the movies language.

The irony here is that the first close up the movie starts with is the most successful one, but its dramatic precision and innovative visuals gets slowly corrupted as the other stories develop, stared by Bruce Willis.

Zombie

viene de la pagina 4

eso es que a mi, en terminos personales, me resulta dificil poder juzgarlos negativamente", dijo el ganador de varios discos de platino como integrante del grupo de rock White Zombie.

Admirador de directores como Francis Ford Coppola (The Godfather), Martin Scorsese (Taxi Driver), Arthur Penn (Bonnie and Clyde) y Alan J. Pakula (The Parallax View), entre otros grandes cineastas que surgieron en Hollywood hace más de tres décadas, Zombie, de 39 años, considero que podía ser divertido e interesante ubicar los incidentes de The Devil's Rejects en los años 70. Por eso decidió filmar cámara en mano y en formato de 16 milímetros, cada escena de este largometraje.

"Eso me permitió darle a mi película la apariencia 'imperfecta' que yo deseaba que tuviera", explicó Zombie. "Hay quienes consideran que soy un tipo nostálgico y sentimental cuando hablo de los filmes que me gustan, pero no es verdad. Lo que sucede es que el cine se ha vuelto en los últimos tiempos demasiado bonito, perfecto y artificial para mi gusto. La mayor parte de las cintas que hoy se producen en Hollywood han perdido el poder y el sentido de realidad que las caracterizaba. Yo no tengo ningún interés en escribir y dirigir películas inofensivas y triviales", dijo.

Para él, el cine debe ser una experiencia catártica y transformadora.

Zombie es el ex líder y fundador de la banda de rock White Zombie.



Jessica Alba, Mickey Rourke, Jaime King, Clive Owen, Rosario Dawson, Benicio del Toro, Britany Murphy, and Elijah Wood, among others.

The off narration along the three stories is irritating, boring, and only confirms Rodriguez's generic confusion, so in love with the comic book, that he does not care about it favoring visuals over text.

In a fit of modesty, honoring Frank Miller, Robert Rodriguez does not do anything but make clear the distance between a language and the other, as well as that his work has always been an attempt to move the comic books that are in his teenager imagination. Q

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Local newscasts like "Impulso informativo" from Jalisco, or the poignant stories told on "Me Voy Pa'l Norte," a popular TV program from Guanajuato about its people who emigrated to the United States, will be a regular

Patrullaje. Fuerzas milatres vigilan Nuevo Laredo

El canciller mexicano Luis Ernesto Derbez reconoció que el embajador estadounidense Anthony Garza está en su derecho de alertar a sus conciudadanos sobre la espiral de violencia en la frontera entre los dos países, pero rechazó que la inseguridad en esa zona limitrofe sea responsabilidad sólo de México.

"No, yo creo que la mea culpa a la que usted hace referencia, sería el equivalente de que no estuviéramos trabajando en el tema", declaró el canciller a la prensa en referencia al discurso del embajador.

Resaltó que la Procuraduría General de la Republica, la Secretaría de la Defensa, la Policía Federal Preventiva y otras corporaciones están combatiendo la inseguridad en esa franja limitrofe a través del plan México Seguro, por lo que garantizó que "poco a poco vamos a ir resolviendo el tema".

Apenas el martes, el embajador Garza expresó que "el gobierno de México está comenzando a atender las preocupaciones sobre el nivel inaceptable de violencia en nuestra frontera", y simultánea-

mente reconoció la puesta en marcha de tal operativo.

Sin embargo denunció que pese a ese dispositivo policiaco-militar, "han ocurrido más de cien muertes violentas en la frontera desde junio; 18 policiaos fueron asesinados en Nuevo Laredo este año, incluyendo 8 en julio".

El diplomático estadounidense consideró por tanto que "estos reportes alarmantes dejan en claro que México necesita hacer mucho más para salvaguardar y brindar mayor seguridad a nuestra frontera común".

Las declaraciones de Garza complementan la serie de quejas sobre la excesiva violencia que se registra en este país, que en semanas recientes han venido haciendo, directa o indirectamente, las sedes diplomáticas de otros gobiernos.

Estas expresiones de preocupación surgen en medio de una espiral de asesinatos, secuestros y robos que se producen todos los días, sobre todo en las ciudades más importantes, así como en la franja fronteriza.

Al respecto Garza precisó en un comunicado que "velar por la seguridad y el bienestar de los ciu-

dadanos estadounidenses en el extranjero es la tarea más importante de un embajador", y se declaró "comprometido a asegurar que mis compatriotas tengan acceso a la información necesaria para tomar decisiones respecto de viajar hacia México".

Con esta consigna en mente, informó que ha pedido al Departamento de Estado la emisión de un anuncio público e información actualizada sobre "el incremento de la violencia en el lado mexicano de nuestra frontera común".

Dio a conocer que tales datos ya aparecen en la hoja de información consular de esa dependencia, que "contiene hechos sobre las condiciones que afectan a los viajeros en México". Exhortó a "todos los estadounidenses que

planeen visitar México a que revisen el importante material del documento".

Por su parte Derbez hizo hincapié en que al margen del supuesto avance en la lucha contra el crimen, este es un fenómeno de "responsabilidad compartida" en la que "el Gobierno de México con el Gobierno de Estados Unidos, en la parte fronteriza, tendrán que seguir trabajando para resolverlo".

Sobre la advertencia de los riesgos que corren los estadounidenses que visitan México, reconoció que el embajador Garza está procediendo correctamente porque "todo mundo tiene derecho a hacer su señalamiento en preocupación de sus ciudadanos".

LULAC Urges Congress

continued from page one

Flores added, "We can no longer continue to brush aside the millions of undocumented immigrants who live, work, raise families and establish roots in this country. Instead of alienating them and forcing them to break laws, it's time we embrace responsibility by recognizing their hard-earned value and incorporating them into our great country."

"The Kennedy-McCain bill is the type of legislation that demonstrates our leaders realize that the millions of immigrants living in this country are here for the long term," said LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation Gabriela Lemus. "Now we have the parameters within which we can have progressive talks about immigration reform."

LULAC's push to see this bill pass before Congress follows the introduction of another bill sponsored by two Republican senators - Sen. John Cornyn of Texas and Jon Kyl of Arizona. The Cornyn-Kyl immigration bill calls for a hefty fine and an exodus of undocumented immigrants before becoming eligible

for short-term guest worker visas.

The League of United Latin American Citizens is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

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Repatriados

Viene de la Primera

En ese sentido el Departamento de Seguridad Interna (DHS) estimó que antes de que iniciara el programa hasta 33 mil 900 inmigrantes que se acogieran a la iniciativa de forma voluntaria a lo largo de los 113 días de su duración, podrían ser repatriados a México.

El programa original de repatriación voluntaria a México fue implementado de forma coordinada con Estados Unidos del 12 de julio al 30 de septiembre de 2004 con el objetivo de salvar vidas de inmigrantes que intentan ingresar a territorio estadounidense.

Ese lapso es precisamente la temporada de calor extremo en el desierto de Arizona, entidad fronteriza con México, por lo que la mayoría de los inmigrantes muere al tratar de cruzar la frontera.

En 2004 un total de 14 mil 67 indocumentados mexicanos, o 173 diariamente que se acogieron al programa, fueron repatriados a lo largo de 81 días a la capital mexicana y la ciudad de Guadalajara, Jalisco, en vuelos de la aerolínea Mexicana de Aviación.

Al alejar de la frontera a los inmigrantes se busca disuadirlos para que no intenten reingresar, al menos durante el verano por áreas de alto riesgo del desierto de Arizona, donde ponen en riesgo sus vidas y las de seres queridos que los acompañan.

El costo total del programa este año, estimado en unos 14 millones de dólares, será sufragado por Estados Unidos casi en su totalidad, y será inferior a los más de 15 millones que costó el año anterior, a pesar de haber tenido una duración menor.

La empresa estadounidense CIS Aviation Services Inc., que ganó el contrato de licitación del DHS para el programa de repatriación subcontrató los servicios de Aeroméxico para transportar a los inmigrantes.

Asimismo, CIS negoció con la compañía Viajes Alamo para transportar desde la Ciudad de México en autobuses lo más cerca posible de los poblados de origen en el interior del país latinoamericano a los inmigrantes repatriados.

Los inmigrantes detenidos en Arizona son trasladados a diversas estaciones de la Patrulla Fronteriza en el estado en donde se les muestra

una videocinta en español que explica en qué consiste el programa de repatriación voluntaria.

Los inmigrantes que acepten acogerse al programa son trasladados a un nuevo centro de procesamiento en Nogales, Arizona, donde consules mexicanos corroboran que sus paisanos desean ser repatriados y de ahí se les enviará a abordar los aviones de Aeroméxico en Tucson.

Asimismo, existe otro centro de procesamiento en Yuma, Arizona, que permite a indocumentados que desean acogerse al programa puedan ser enviados directamente a Tucson sin necesidad de pasar por Nogales.

Paramédicos de la Patrulla Fronteriza del grupo Borstar evalúan a inmigrantes detenidos en Arizona para recomendar los casos de alto riesgo que por razones de salud deben ser repatriados a la Ciudad de México y evitar así que se expongan al volver a tratar de cruzar.

Sin embargo, los consules mexicanos tienen la decisión final de enviar a connacionales enfermos que no acepten acogerse al programa de repatriación a hospitales mexicanos en el estado de Sonora, fronterizo con Arizona, para ser atendidos.

Para efectos internos la Patrulla Fronteriza lleva un conteo de eventuales casos de indocumentados enfermos que no hayan querido acogerse al programa de repatriación interior y que mueran al tratar de reintentar ilegalmente durante este verano.

Sólo inmigrantes sin antecedentes penales y que no presenten conducta agresiva pueden beneficiarse del programa y "observadores" de una compañía privada desarmados, pero con capacitación para mantener el orden, viajan en los aviones y vigilan a los inmigrantes.

El programa contempla que los derechos humanos de los indocumentados repatriados en los aviones de Aeroméxico deben ser respetados en todo momento y no pueden ser separadas familias que ingresen ilegalmente juntas ni niños menores de edad.

Los indocumentados no pueden ser esposados cuando suben a los aviones, salvo en situaciones extremas si llegaron con su comportamiento a poner en riesgo a la aeronave u otros pasajeros.

Arizona se convirtió en años recientes en la principal puerta de ingreso a Estados Unidos para indocumentados.

Military Recruiters Can't Help But Salivate Over Latino Youth

Still, there may be good reasons to believe that recruiters operating among Latino communities are excited about their prospects. First, the sheer numbers of Latino youth cannot be overlooked. Since Latinos passed African-Americans as the largest minority group in United States five years ago, one in every seven 18-year-olds are now of Hispanic origin, according to the 2000 Census. Accounting for nearly 14 percent of the U.S. population, with one third of those under the age of 18, means plenty of potential Latino recruits.

Second, military recruiters know that just over half of all Latinos graduate from high school, creating few opportunities for many after exiting the public school system. The military addresses this issue by encouraging new recruits to continue their high school education in the service. Third, Latino youth have one of the nation's highest unemployment figures in the United States, with one in four living in poverty. While getting three square meals a day, free rent, and an opportunity to save for college, carrying a gun in a remote region of

the world doesn't sound half bad. Fourth, dangling the carrot of expedited U.S. citizenship for non-citizens has enticed many young Latino men and women to come forward. Since President Bush signed an executive order in 2002 making it easier and faster for non-citizens to become naturalized, thousands have signed up. Today, more than 35,000 non-citizens, mostly Hispanic, are active in the armed forces. Unfortunately, some of them, like José Gutiérrez, a Guatemala native, will be given their citizenship posthumously.

The fifth reason takes a little more explaining. Signed by President Bush in 2002, the No Child Left Behind Act forces school administrators to give lists containing the names, addresses and phone numbers of students to military recruiters.

The law does allow parents to "opt-out" their children from these lists by completing paperwork given to students at the beginning of the school year. The American Civil Liberties Union recently filed a lawsuit in Albuquerque against the military for failing to give parents the "opt

out" letters until after the recruiters had the list. Some parents are signing the letters while intensifying their fight to have recruiters removed from high school campuses altogether. In comes G.I. José. Many Latino parents, especially recent immigrants, are unable to read English and are likely to be unaware of such legal provisions, leaving them at a disadvantage in protecting their children from military recruiters. Still, many parents might not challenge the government for fear of losing their residency - even if their children are U.S. citizens. And so, Latino children may find themselves over-represented on these lists.

With over 1,750 U.S. troops killed and about 13,000 wounded in Iraq, recruiters have no other choice but to continue looking for Latinos to fill their ranks. (Edward Barrios Acevedo is a counselor, teacher, and freelance writer living in Los Angeles. He can be reached at Edwardfactor@yahoo.com) (c) 2005, Hispanic Link News Service

A Los Reclutadores Militares se les cae la baba por la juventud Latina

Segundo, los reclutadores militares saben que algo más de la mitad de todos los latinos se gradúan de la secundaria, lo cual crea pocas oportunidades para muchos después de egresar del sistema de escuelas públicas. El enfoque de los militares con este problema es de alentar a los nuevos reclutas a continuar sus estudios secundarios en el servicio militar.

léfono de los estudiantes a los reclutadores militares.

La ley permite que los padres opten por no poner la información de sus hijos en las listas con completar una serie de formularios que los estudiantes reciben a comienzos del año escolar. La American Civil Liberties Union recientemente entabló un juicio en Albuquerque contra las fuerzas militares por no dar a los padres las cartas que explican su opción sino después que los reclutadores habían conseguido la lista.

Algunos padres firman las cartas a la vez que intensifican su lucha por sacar a los reclutadores del todo de las escuelas secundarias.

Presentese G.I. José. Muchos padres latinos, en particular inmigrantes recientes, no saben leer inglés y pueden no saber que existen tales provisiones legales. lo cual los deja en desventaja en cuanto a proteger a sus hijos de los reclutadores militares. Aún así, muchos padres tal vez no se opondrían al gobierno por temor a perder su residencia - aun si sus hijos son ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos.

Así se encuentran los jóvenes latinos sobre-representados en aquellas listas. Con más de 1,750 tropas muertas y unas 13,000 heridas en Irak, a los reclutadores no les queda otra opción que seguir buscando a latinos para llenar sus filas.

(Edward Barrios Acevedo es consejero, maestro y escritor independiente que vive en Los Angeles. Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: Edwardfactor@yahoo.com) (c) 2005, Hispanic Link News Service

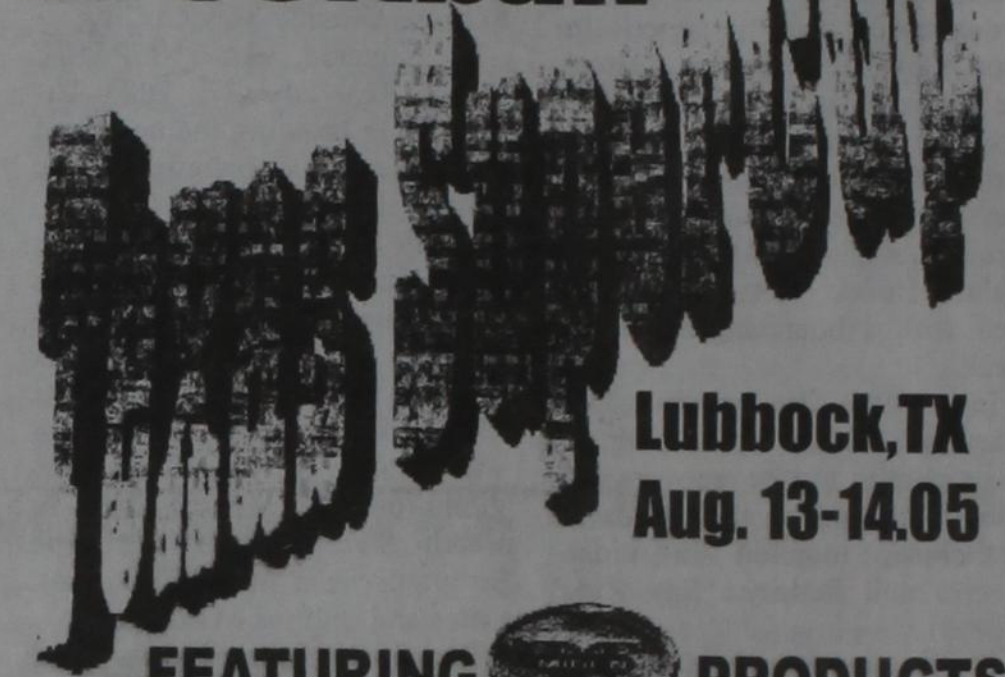
Tercero, los jóvenes latinos tienen una de las cifras más altas de desempleo en los Estados Unidos, donde uno de cada cuatro vive en la pobreza. Con el que reciben tres comidas sólidas al día, no tener que pagar casa, y la oportunidad de ahorrar para ir a la universidad, el tener que cargar con armas en una región remota del mundo no suena del todo mal.

Cuarto, la promesa de ciudadanía estadounidense acelerada para los que no son ciudadanos ha seducido a muchos jóvenes a alistarse. Desde que el presidente Bush firmó una orden ejecutiva en el 2002 haciendo más fácil y más rápido el proceso de naturalización para los que no son ciudadanos, miles se han registrado. Hoy más de 35,000 no ciudadanos, en su mayoría hispanos, están activos en las fuerzas armadas. Desgraciadamente, algunos de ellos, como José Gutiérrez, de Guatemala, recibirán la ciudadanía póstumamente.

La quinta razón requiere de un poco más de explicación.

Con la firma del presidente en el 2002, la ley "Ningún niño se queda atrás" obliga a los administradores de escuelas a proveer listas que contienen los nombres, las direcciones y números de te-

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