

# el Saltillo

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## Derechos Humanos: ser indio en México es un insulto

Una comisión de derechos humanos acusó de racista a la sociedad mexicana y lanzó una campaña contra el racismo. México - En Ciudad de México, cuna de la cultura azteca y centro de monumentos prehispánicos, "para muchos sectores decir indio es un insulto", dijo Emilio Álvarez Icaza, presidente de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal (CDHDF), quien inició una intensa campaña contra la discriminación.

"Tenemos nombres indígenas, prácticas indígenas, raíces indígenas, pero en esta ciudad para muchos sectores decir indio es un insulto. Es muy despectivo, eso es parte de un asunto que no tenemos resuelto", señaló Álvarez Icaza al agregar que la sociedad capitalina no reconoce que es "muy racista".

La campaña radial tiene como lema principal "Yo no discrimino" y ha impactado favorablemente a una población para la que (paradójicamente) discriminar es algo normal.

Ciudad de México, habitada por 22 millones de personas, es una de las entidades del país que tiene más población india, con cerca de 200.000 personas que hablan una lengua indígena, dijo Álvarez Icaza.

En esta urbe se erigen importantes centros ceremoniales prehispánicos, entre ellos el Templo Mayor, en el corazón de la capital y un enorme museo de Antropología que es un culto a las civilizaciones indígenas.

Pero en la calle, a los indios se les discrimina.

Para la sociedad "si es indio referido a piedras, es tradición



gloriosa; si es indio en vida, es un pinche naco (pobre con mal gusto)" dijo el experto.

En todo el país hay unos 12 millones de indígenas, cientos de ellos están levantados en armas desde 1994 en Chiapas, bajo el lema "Ya basta".

Álvarez Icaza contó la historia de una familia mixte que fue detenida por la policía por el supuesto delito de inducir a sus hijos a la mendicidad cuando sólo estaban vendiendo chicles.

Mientras se aclaraba su situación, porque en la estación policial no había quien hablara la lengua mixte, los hijos fueron enviados a un albergue y entregados a sus padres sólo una semana después, ya que éstos fueron obligados a viajar a Oaxaca (450 km. al sur de la capital) para obtener documentación que demostrara su paternidad.

Es un caso paradójico "porque tenemos policías que hablan inglés

para atender a los turistas, pero no tenemos la infraestructura legal para atender a la gente de este país en su propio idioma. En otro país eso se llama discriminación, aquí ni siquiera eso".

En ocho años la CDHDF ha recibido sólo 67 quejas por discriminación, lo que refleja que es un tema que no "se asume como una violación a los derechos humanos. Se trata de un asunto invisible, que en la Comisión queremos hacer visible".

Estudios de la CDHDF mostraron que en materia de percepción, "la gente ubica que a quienes más se le viola los derechos humanos es a los niños de la calle y a los indígenas".

La ciudad de México es "tal vez la única entidad del país donde la discriminación (racial, económica, religiosa y sexual entre otras) está tipificada como delito", agregó el especialista al explicar que por esa falta un servidor público puede ser sancionado con tres años de cárcel.

Aseguró que la de México "es una ciudad bien (muy) discriminadora" donde "hay un sinfín de prácticas que tienden a discriminar" a mujeres, ancianos y jóvenes.

Por otro lado Porfirio Encino, secretario de Pueblos Indios del gobierno chiapaneco, dijo que siete de las doce lenguas indígenas que se hablan en Chiapas están en peligro de desaparecer por la "discriminación y el racismo".

Encino, de origen tzeltal, dijo que las lenguas que están en peligro son chuj, canjobal, catchikel, mochó, mam, jacalteco y lacandón, que hablan unos 100.000 indígenas.

"Cada lengua que muere se lleva siglos de sabiduría y el pueblo que la pierde deja su identidad y su historia en el olvido. La clave para preservar las lenguas está en la educación y en la concientización de los propios indígenas acerca de la importancia de no perder la cultura", dijo.

**Read El Editor First in News**

### Buenas o Malas Noticias?

## La Nueva Clase Política Latina

Por Angelo Falcón

Olga Méndez, senadora por el estado de Nueva York y por años militante del partido demócrata, se afilió recientemente al partido republicano.

George Pataki, gobernador del estado de Nueva York, fue reelecto el año pasado con el endoso de la gobernadora de Puerto Rico, Sila Calderón, el líder obrero Dennis Rivera y los diarios en español más importantes de la ciudad. Durante el 2001, el republicano Mike Bloomberg se convirtió en el alcalde de Nueva York con el apoyo tácito de muchos demócratas latinos que boicotearon las elecciones en protesta de la forma en

que el liderazgo del partido demócrata trató a Fernando Ferrer.

Ese mismo año, se organizó una coalición de latinos negros para apoyar a Ferrer. El año siguiente, no se organizó una coalición para respaldar a Carl McCall, primer candidato africano-americano en postularse para gobernador de Nueva York.

Si piensa que toda esta situación es confusa, únase al resto de los votantes latinos. En un momento en que la comunidad cree haber obtenido la atención de candidatos de ambos partidos, el voto latino parece estar descentralizado. No parece haber una agenda latina clara ni un liderazgo latino emergente que cuente con el respeto de la comunidad.

En vez de utilizar la atención

política para unificar nuestra comunidad como un faro que nos guíe hacia el poder político, nos estamos dispersando bajo su resplandor. Da la impresión que el nivel de cinismo político entre los latinos está en ascenso.

¿Cómo llegamos a este punto? Hasta la década de 1980, el poder político latino en Nueva York era pequeño y se le tildaba de intruso. Nuestra comunidad se encontraba en lo que yo llamo "la fase de acceso" de nuestra política, durante la cual sólo intentábamos plantar nuestra bandera colectiva sobre los cuerpos legislativos y otras sillas electivas.

A partir de las luchas por la redistribución de los distritos durante principios de la década de 1990, el

número de oficiales latinos electos ha crecido dramáticamente hasta el punto que en muchos lugares ya no podemos decir que carecemos de representación.

Como resultado, se ha desarrollado una nueva clase política latina que ha impulsado sus intereses personales, los que cada vez se distancian más de las necesidades de las comunidades de clase obrera y trabajadora que los eligieron. En el transcurso, no hemos avanzado en otros sectores (el empresarial, el eclesiástico, el laboral), haciendo así que la clase política latina esté notablemente desproporcionada al momento de representar los diversos intereses de la comunidad si se compara con otros grupos étnico-raciales, los que cuentan con una amplia variedad de líderes (empresarios, religiosos, activistas civiles, entre otros).

Sin embargo, esta clase política latina aún tiene que justificar su existencia utilizando la vieja retórica de autodeterminación. Como resultado, los votantes latinos terminan recibiendo señales mixtas y hasta contradictorias de parte de sus líderes políticos. Durante las elecciones municipales del 2001, líderes políticos como el ex asambleísta del estado de Nueva York Roberto Ramírez y el empresario político Luis Miranda anunciaron a la comunidad latina que el partido demócrata nos había traicionado. Luego, en el 2002, encabezaron la campaña del candidato demócrata para la gobernación Carl McCall y aumentaron su participación con el Comité Demócrata Nacional.

Si los demócratas traicionaron a los latinos en el 2001, ¿qué cambió en el 2002?

Estoy confundido.

## New Latino Political Class - Good News or Bad?

By Angelo Falcón

New York State Sen. Olga Méndez, a lifelong Democrat, recently switched to the Republican Party. New York Gov. George Pataki got reelected this past year with the endorsement of Puerto Rico Gov. Sila Calderón, labor leader Dennis Rivera and the major Spanish-language dailies.

In 2001, Mike Bloomberg, a Republican, became New York City mayor with the tacit support of many major Latino Democrats who sat out the election in protest to the treatment that Fernando Ferrer received from the leadership of the Democratic Party.

That same year, there was a Black-Latino coalition supporting Ferrer; the following year that coalition did not come together behind the first major African-American candidate for New York governor, Carl McCall.

If you find this confusing, get in line and join the rest of the Latino voters. At a time when the community appears to be getting some attention from political leaders of both major parties, the Latino vote seems to be all over the place. There doesn't seem to be much of a Latino agenda, nor does there seem to be much of a Latino leadership emerging that has the respect of the community.

Instead of using the political spotlight that is focusing on our community as a lighthouse pointing us to political power, we're scattering under its glare. The level of political cynicism among Latinos appears to be on the rise.

How did we get to this state of affairs? Up through the 1980s, the Latino political leadership in New York was small

and considered outsiders. Our community was still in what I call the "access stage" of our politics where we were just trying to get our collective foot in the doors of legislative bodies and other elective offices.

Since the redistricting battles of the early 1990s, the number of Latino elected officials has grown dramatically to the point that, in many places, we can no longer talk about Latino under-representation.

There has been, as a result, the development of a new Latino political class that has been developing self-interests that are less and less connected to the needs of the poor and working-class communities who elected them. Meanwhile, we have not made such advances in other sectors -- business, the church, labor etc. -- making the Latino political class disproportionately important in representing the interests of the Latino community when compared to other racial-ethnic groups that have a greater variety of leaders (business, religious, civic leaders etc.).

However, this Latino political class still has to justify its existence with the old empowerment rhetoric. The result is that the Latino voter winds up getting extremely mixed and usually contradictory signals from its political leaders. During the 2001 mayoral election, political leaders like former New York State Assemblyman Roberto Ramírez and political entrepreneur Luis Miranda were telling the Latino community that the Democratic Party betrayed us. Then in 2002, they led the Latino campaign of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Carl McCall and increased their involvement with the Democratic National Committee.

(Continued Page 6)



El Papa, de 82 años, hizo su apelación durante su audiencia pública general de los miércoles, que marcó el inicio de la Cuaresma.

"Todo el mundo tiene que asumir conscientemente su responsabilidad y hacer un esfuerzo común para salvar a la humanidad de otro conflicto dramático", expresó Juan Pablo II.

El Pontífice llamó a todos los católicos del mundo a observar un día especial de oraciones y abstenerse de ingerir ciertos alimentos, con la esperanza de evitar una guerra en Iraq.

Entretanto, el presidente de Estados Unidos, George W. Bush se reunirá el miércoles con el cardenal Pio Laghi, otrora nuncio apostólico en Estados Unidos, quien llevará el mensaje del Papa contra la guerra.

**Léa El Editor Primero Infórmese**

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# Let's Replace INS fear with Optimism of Citizenship

By Larry Gonzales

"In the life of an immigrant, citizenship is a defining event. In the life of our nation, new citizens bring renewal. By taking an oath, as you have done today, immigrants affirm a belief in the American creed." (These remarks were made by President Bush At INS naturalization ceremony at Ellis Island, N.Y., in July 2001) From the corridos of Los Tigres del Norte to the rancheras of Vicente Fernandez, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, "la migra" has represented fear and heartache for many in the Latino community over the past century.

The death on March 1 of the INS gives way to three new bureaus within the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS). One of these new agencies, the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), may become the phoenix that rises from the ashes of the INS.

Maybe it will inspire Latino musicians and singers to sing a different song: songs about new arrivals being greeted with openness and courtesy, not with suspicion and resentment.

I know what you're thinking, my friend -- whatever it is you have been drinking, let me have some.

But why should we not dream of an agency that focuses on U.S. citizenship, on promoting its value, and of an agency that truly serves those seeking the American Dream?

For those keeping score at home, the new DHS has separate bureaus for the enforcement and service functions of the INS. The new BCIS will manage such functions as naturalization applications, asylum claims and family visa and employment petitions submitted by employers, legal immigrants and U.S. citizens.

Throughout the history of my organization, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, U.S. citizenship has been the cornerstone of our mission for one simple reason: It is the key to political participation. That is why we plan to make the mission of the new BCIS our top priority.

There are a few other reasons for our focus:

First, Latinos continue to constitute an increasing share of our nation's new citizens. For example, in fiscal year 2000 Latinos comprised 37 percent of persons naturalized, compared to 21 percent in 1991.

Second, in recent years, Latino naturalized citizens have had higher voter turnout rates than native-born Latinos, indicating an eagerness to participate in our nation's electoral process.

For nearly a decade, the NALEO Educational Fund has been at the forefront of advocating for a restructuring of the INS. In fact, during the creation of the BCIS, Congress

adopted some of our ideas, as well as those of other immigrant advocate groups, for improvements to immigration services.

In some ways, Congress and the Administration finally seemed to "get it."

They get that we need to have a service bureau that makes U.S. citizenship promotion a top priority. A bureau focused on backlog reduction and quality customer service. And we need a mechanism like the newly created ombudsman system, which helps newcomers resolve problems with the services they receive.

Our optimism aside, we share the concerns of other advocates about the structure of DHS and its impact on services.

We are concerned about whether the voice and needs of the BCIS will be drowned out by the needs of enforcement and security. This can be rectified by giving the director of the BCIS enough clout within the agency with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to ensure a fair balance between services and enforcement.

Finally, Congress and the Bush administration must also address what is perhaps the biggest hurdle in the obstacle course immigrants face when they pursue U.S. citizenship -- the exorbitant application fees.

The only way to fix this problem is to reform the cur-

ration services. This system should be a partnership between the federal government and immigrants who are paying the fees. Throughout the history of the INS, Congress performed a clumsy dance, leaving newcomers with rising costs, long lines and processing delays. Applicants' fees should not remain the sole source of funds for application adjudications. Congress must ensure that the fees are used solely for the processing of applications and not diverted to unrelated purposes.

Our view remains that improvement of the nation's immigration system is integral to our nation's quest for increased security. Everyone involved in making this new bureau run right must believe that the contributions of newcomers strengthen our economy and our democracy.

The new BCIS must have the tools it needs to make naturalization promotion and quality customer service a top priority within the DHS.

After all, greater naturalization is in the best interest of our nation. Latinos who embrace U.S. citizenship are motivated by a desire to demonstrate their commitment to this country. With the challenges our nation faces, naturalized citizens can enrich and reinvigorate our civic life.

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# Sustituyamos Los Temores del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización con Optimismo de Ciudadana

Por Larry González

"En la vida de un inmigrante, la ciudadanía es un evento definitivo. En la vida de nuestra nación, los nuevos ciudadanos traen renovación. Al juramentar, como ustedes lo han hecho hoy, los inmigrantes afirman la creencia en el credo estadounidense". (Comentarios hechos por el presidente Bush en la ceremonia de nacionalización del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS por sus siglas en inglés) en Ellis Island, julio de 2001).

Desde los corridos de Los Tigres del Norte hasta las rancheras de Vicente Fernández, el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización, "la migra" ha representado temor y penas para muchos en la comunidad latina durante el siglo pasado.

La desaparición en marzo 1 del INS da paso a tres nuevas oficinas dentro del nuevo Departamento para la Seguridad Nacional (DHS por sus siglas en inglés). Una de estas agencias nuevas, la Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (la oficina de servicios de ciudadanía e inmigración, BCIS por sus siglas en inglés), se podría convertir en el fénix que surge de las cenizas del INS.

Quizás inspirará a los músicos y cantantes latinos a interpretar una canción diferente: canciones que hablen sobre que los recién llegados son recibidos con transparencia y cortesía, no con sospecha y resentimiento.

¿Sé lo que estás pensando, mi amigo, lo que sea que has estado bebiendo, dame un poco. ¿Pero por qué no deberíamos soñar con una agencia que se enfoque en la ciudadanía estadounidense, en promover su valor, y en una agencia que verdaderamente ayude a aquellos que están buscando el sueño americano?

Para los que llevan la cuenta desde sus hogares, el nuevo DHS tiene oficinas separadas para el cumplimiento de la ley y para las funciones de servicio del INS. La nueva BCIS dirigirá funciones tales como las solicitudes de nacionalización, las peticiones de asilo, las visas familiares, y las peticiones de trabajo entregadas por los patrones, inmigrantes legales y ciudadanos estadounidenses.

En la historia de mi organización, la National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO por sus siglas en inglés), la ciudadanía estadounidense ha sido la piedra angular de nuestra misión por una sencilla razón: es la clave para la participación política. Es por esta razón que planeamos convertir la misión de la nueva BCIS en nuestra prioridad principal.

Existen otras razones para nuestro enfoque: Primero, los latinos siguen constituyendo un porcentaje creciente de los nuevos ciudadanos en la nación. Por ejemplo, en el año fiscal 2000 los latinos constituyeron un 37 por ciento de las personas nacionalizadas, comparado con un 21 por ciento en 1991.

Segundo, en años recientes, los ciudadanos latinos nacionalizados han tenido unos índices de asistencia de votantes más altos que los latinos nacidos en los Estados Unidos, lo que denota un entusiasmo de participar en el proceso electoral de nuestra nación.

Durante casi una década, el Fondo Educativo de NALEO ha estado al frente abogando por una reestructuración del INS. De hecho, durante la crea-

ción de la BCIS, el Congreso adoptó algunas de nuestras ideas, así como aquellas de los grupos que defienden a los inmigrantes, para mejorar los servicios de inmigración.

De alguna manera, el Congreso y la administración al fin parecen "entender".

Entienden que necesitamos una oficina de servicios que convierta la promoción de la ciudadanía estadounidense en su prioridad principal. Una oficina que se enfoque en la reducción del atraso y en la calidad en el servicio al cliente. Y necesitamos un mecanismo del recién creado sistema de mediación, que ayude a los recién llegados a resolver los problemas con los servicios que reciben.

Dejando el optimismo a un lado, compartimos las preocupaciones de otros abogados sobre la estructura del DHS y su impacto en los servicios.

Nos preocupa si las voces y las necesidades de la BCIS serán ignoradas por las necesidades del cumplimiento de la ley y la seguridad. Esta situación podría rectificarse dándole al director de la BCIS suficiente participación dentro de la agencia con el secretario del Departamento para la Seguridad Nacional Tom Ridge para asegurar un equilibrio justo entre los servicios y el cumplimiento de la ley.

Para concluir, el Congreso y la administración también deben resolver lo que tal vez sea el mayor obstáculo que los inmigrantes enfrentan al buscar la ciudadanía estadounidense, las cuotas exorbitantes para la solicitud.

La única forma de resolver este problema es reformar el sistema actual de financiamiento de los servicios de inmigración. Este sistema debería ser una asociación entre el gobierno federal y los inmigrantes que pagan las cuotas. En la historia del INS, el Congreso ejecutó un baile torpe, dejando a los recién llegados con cuotas crecientes, largas filas y tardanzas en los trámites. Las cuotas de los solicitantes no deberían ser la única fuente de ingreso para la evaluación de las solicitudes. El Congreso debe asegurar que las cuotas sólo se utilicen para procesar las solicitudes y no sean desviadas hacia asuntos no relacionados.

Nuestra opinión sigue siendo que el mejoramiento del sistema de inmigración de la nación es una parte integral en la búsqueda para aumentar la seguridad en nuestra nación. Todos los que están involucrados para que esta nueva oficina tenga éxito deben creer que las contribuciones de los recién llegados refuerzan nuestra economía y nuestra democracia.

La nueva BCIS debe tener las herramientas necesarias para convertir la promoción de la nacionalización y la calidad en el servicio al cliente su prioridad principal dentro del DHS. Después de todo, una mayor nacionalización figura entre los mejores intereses de nuestra nación. Los latinos que adoptan la ciudadanía estadounidense están motivados por el deseo de demostrar su compromiso con este país. Con los retos que nuestra nación enfrenta, los ciudadanos nacionalizados pueden enriquecer y dar nuevo vigor a nuestra vida cívica.

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## From Texas Hospital Association and the Texas Medical Association: THA/TMA Letter on Proposed Medicaid Cuts

Dear Senator Bivins:  
Over the past 10 days, physicians and hospitals have watched anxiously as state health care agencies have steadily announced reductions in Texas' already limited mental health, public health and long-term care services.

Today, Texas added insult to injury with the announcement of almost \$10 billion in cuts to Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Restricting Medicaid and CHIP eligibility and creating barriers to enrollment will lower caseloads for the state. However, the health care needs of low-income Texans, the elderly and individuals with disabilities do not wax and wane with the state budget. Unable to afford to see a private physician, they will seek health care in our already-overcrowded hospital emergency departments. Hospitals and physicians will provide more uncompensated care, local taxpayers will pay higher taxes and businesses will pay higher health insurance premiums. Texas will lose federal Medicaid funds, which support not only the health care sector, but also vital economic development across the state.

The Governor has stated his strong commitment to children's health. It would be inconsistent with that commitment to reduce funding for those programs that keep children healthy. It is imperative that we all take a close look at the people we are talking about. The reductions an-

nounced today would:  
\* Eliminate at least 200,000 children from the highly successful CHIP program,  
\* Eliminate nursing home care for 41,000 elderly Texans;  
\* Eliminate all adult medication benefits under Medicaid; and  
\* Eliminate services for 13,000 pregnant women and 5,000 medically needy Texans.

Medicaid reimbursement to physicians, hospitals and other health care professionals is notoriously poor. The decisions the Legislature makes on Medicaid and CHIP will have a long-term impact on Texas' health care infrastructure. To consider a 33 percent reduction in provider reimbursement rates essentially would guarantee that access to medical care would drop to unacceptable levels. Faced with a growing number of uninsured/indigent patients, hospitals will eliminate needed services. Our rapidly shrinking pool of physicians who still accept Medicaid patients would shrink even more - and faster.

The consequences of rate reductions would include reduction or elimination of necessary services, like neonatal intensive care and burn units and restrictions on emergency services. Physicians will have a further incentive to reduce services, retire early or move away from Texas. The bottom line is that Medicaid and CHIP funding ultimately will impact every Texan's access to necessary physician and hospital services.

Texas physicians and hospitals share the Governor's vision of a growing, vibrant state. Education and health care are key components to making this vision a reality. As major employers and providers of essential services, hospitals and doctors' offices can help build a prosperous Texas for the future. But, if the health care infrastructure is devastated to meet short-term budgetary policy goals, then the future, looks less promising. Texas will not be a state that attracts industry, nor will it be viewed as a good place to raise a family or grow old. Texas Hospital Association and Texas Medical Association acknowledge the budgetary challenges the Legislature faces, and we want to work with you to address them.

Long-term, Texas needs to address how health care is provided to poor and low-income Texans, the elderly and those with disabilities. For the short-term, eligibility, covered services and provider reimbursement decisions must protect patients as well as the health care infrastructure. We encourage you to make a wise decision for the future of our state, not just for the 2004-05 biennium.

Sincerely,  
Michael D. Snow  
Fred Merian, M.D.  
Chairman  
President THA Board of Trustees  
TMA

**What's a Filibuster?**

By Fresia Rodriguez Casavid  
Words are the Play-Doh of Washington. They are shaped and stretched, distorted and distended to fit the messages being passed along by the political pros to us unwashed masses. Journalists may be the most common victims. Take the simple word "filibuster." Let's start by defining it. According to Black's Law Dictionary, a filibuster is a tactic designed to obstruct and delay legislative action by prolonged and often irrelevant speeches. And according to the Web link ask yahoo.com, to invoke

a filibuster, a senator must have the floor, start talking and keep talking. And talking. This may sound a little exhaustive, but by congressional standards it's a perfectly appropriate way to make law. Or, better, to block law from being made. In Congress, the broad rule permits a legislative issue to be argued for an indefinite amount of time. To most of us, I suspect, the word "filibuster" has negative connotations. But that can depend on whether you're for or against whatever issue or piece of legislation is being filibustered.

*continued on page 6*



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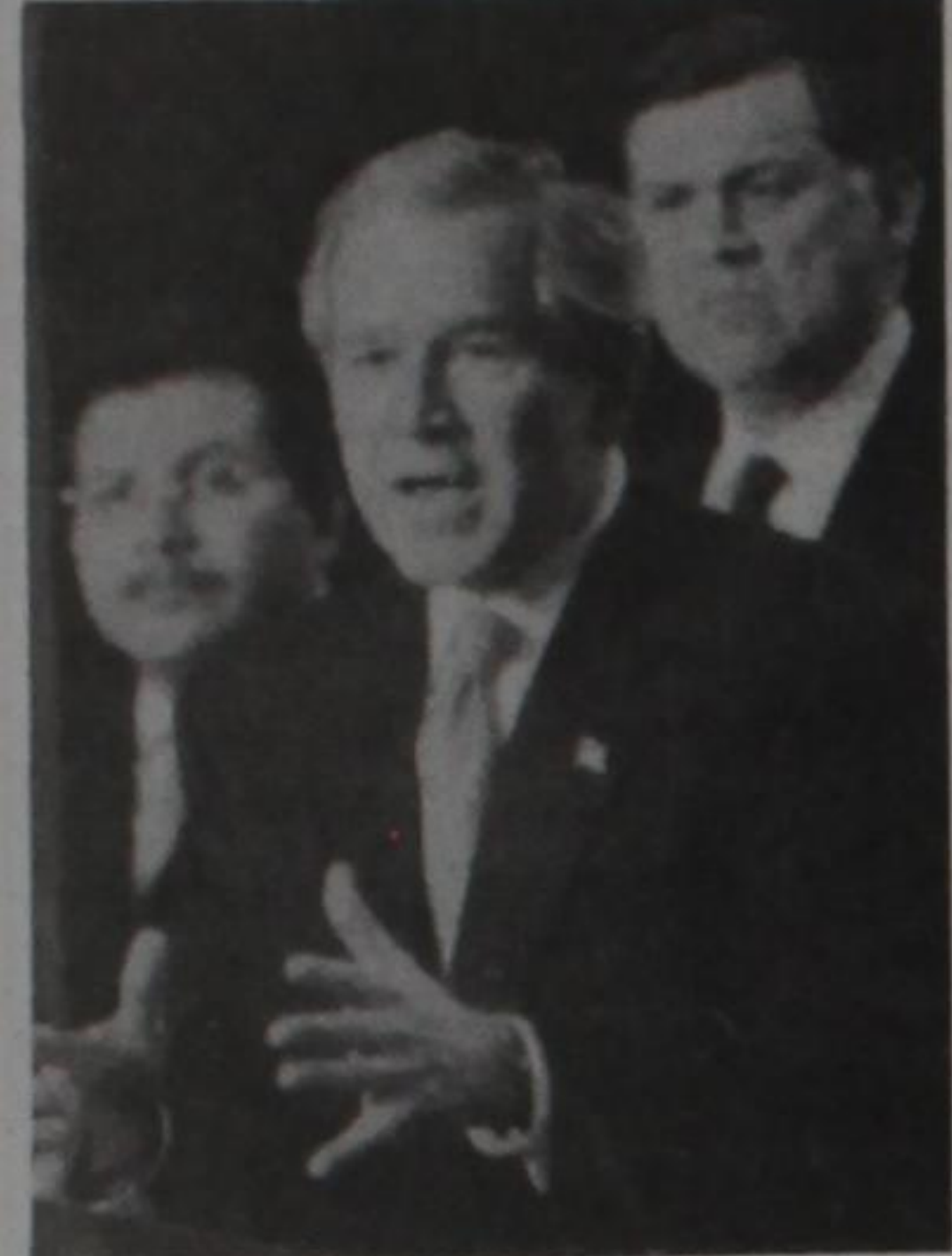
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**Lo mejor en Noticias que Importan**

### Bush Presses Democrats on Confirmation of Judge

President Bush accused U.S. Senate Democrats on Wednesday of "flaunting the intention of the Constitution" as he sought to crank up pressure on them to allow confirmation of Miguel Estrada, a conservative Hispanic attorney, to a federal appeals court.

"They're blocking the vote on this good man for purely political reasons," Bush said as



the Senate remained deadlocked and in a third week of debate on his bid to make Estrada the first Hispanic on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Democrats rejected Bush's charges, saying Republicans had used procedural hurdles to block judicial nominees during the Clinton administration. Republicans planned to try to turn up the heat on Democrats by debating the Estrada nomination through Wednesday night and into the early hours of Thursday.

With no sign of an end to the stalemate, Bush saluted Estrada in a speech before The Latino Coalition, which began airing radio ads on Monday in Florida and a handful of other states in support of the 41-year-old Washington lawyer.

On Tuesday, after being targeted by these ads, Democratic U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida announced he would support Estrada. Democrat Bob Graham, also of Florida, said through a spokesman he had not yet made a decision.

Nelson's action brought to four the number of Senate Democrats who have publicly backed Estrada. Bush needs five more senators to reach the 60 required to force an end to the debate and clear the way for a vote on confirmation.

Democratic foes insisted they

have 44 senators lined up against Estrada, three more than needed to prevent a vote.

Democrats complain Estrada failed to answer a number of questions at his confirmation hearing last year, making him a "stealth candidate."

Critics also charge that Estrada, whose nomination has drawn a split response from the Hispanic community, is part of Bush's effort to pack the court with right-wing ideologues.

The fight is seen as a possible dress rehearsal for Bush's first U.S. Supreme Court nominee, who could be Estrada, if he wins the appeals court seat.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is considered the nation's second most powerful court since it often resolves disputes between the executive and legislative branches of government and rules on the constitutionality of federal laws and regulations.

Bush and fellow Republicans argue that the Honduran-born, Harvard-educated Estrada deserves to be confirmed, noting the American Bar Association gave him its highest rating.

Bush, in addressing The Latino Coalition, said, "By blocking a vote on Miguel Estrada, some Democrats in the Senate are flaunting the intention of the United States Constitution."

"Alexander Hamilton wrote that the purpose of a Senate confirmation was to prevent the appointment of unfit characters," Bush said. "No one can possibly call Miguel Estrada unfit."

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat, replied in a paper put out by his office entitled, "President Bush's Credibility Gap: The Nomination of Miguel Estrada."

In it, Daschle's office said more than 50 judicial nominees were never given a vote by the Republican-led Senate during the Clinton administration.

It also quoted Sen. Orrin Hatch, a Utah Republican, as having previously said a vote-blocking filibuster is "one of the few tools that the minority has to protect itself and those the minority represents."

### Bush vows to Fight for Court Nominee Estrada

President Bush and a half dozen Hispanic groups tried to crank up public pressure on Democrats on Wednesday to permit Senate confirmation of Miguel Estrada as the first Hispanic on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Bush appeared on a Spanish-language television network to praise Estrada and hammer Democrats, while Hispanic groups did the same at a Capitol Hill news conference.

"Miguel Estrada is a very good man and I believe he is being treated very unfairly," Bush told Telemundo, which reaches about 90 percent of the nation's Hispanic households that have television.

"Instead of people looking at his qualifications, they are playing shameful politics," Bush said. "I'm going to fight for his nomination."

Democrats have managed to prevent the Republican-led U.S. Senate from approving Bush's attempt to put the Honduran-born, Harvard-educated Estrada on the appeals court. They complain that the conservative attorney failed to answer a number of questions at confirmation hearing last year, making him a "stealth candidate."

This is a high-stakes battle for both sides.

Republicans see the nomination as a chance to reach out to Hispanics, the nation's largest minority group, and undermine Democrats' traditional strong support among them.

But with a number of liberal Hispanic groups opposed to Estrada, Democrats denounce

the nomination as another attempt by Bush to pack the courts with right-wing ideologues and vow to stand in opposition to him.

The Senate returns from a weeklong recess on Monday, scheduled to begin a third week of debate on Estrada.

All 51 Senate Republicans back Estrada. Yet opponents claim at least 44 Democrats are lined up against him, three more than are needed to prevent a vote on confirmation.

C. Boyden Gray, a former counsel to Bush's father, President George Bush, joined Hispanic groups at the news conference on Wednesday to tout Estrada's credentials and to denounce as unfounded the Democratic complaints.

Gray and the groups produced copies of legal briefs, Estrada wrote in 15 U.S. Supreme Court cases while assistant U.S. solicitor general in the first Bush administration and the Clinton administration. They invited Democrats to examine the briefs to get a

continued on page 4

# The Gigante is Here

By Denis O'Leary

The 2000 Census showed that the Latino population has become the nation's largest minority -- but most in this population cannot vote because of age or citizenship status.

The California Latino population is now the clear majority of public instruction -- but only those who are 18 years of age and US citizens can vote. California's public school kindergarten population is now 51 percent Latino -- but many were born outside the US and they cannot vote.

All this has been foreseen and has created a backlash of petition driven laws to deny Latino supported guarantees (i.e. Props. 187, 209, 227) while the votes are still available to beat out the emerging Latino vote.

Now the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture has announced that for the first time since the 1850's the majority of births in California are now of Latino parents -- and they are US citizens, and they will be able to vote.

The question has arisen at each marker: What will this mean in our country's political arena? Will the new representation bode well or ill for the current group of politicians who hold the Latino population off at arm's length? Close, but not too close as to upset the system.

Democrats have as of now, won the ongoing battle for Latino votes, but at the cost of too often taking the Latino population for granted. The Democratic Party will fight for Latino supported issues, but too often they will not if the same upsets the established

non-Latino constituency.

Republicans are often the party proclaiming the support of the emerging minority Latino population. Unfortunately for the GOP "reform" sought by the party has too often been to the benefit of those good American citizens at the cost of what is perceived as the up and coming threat of a large Latino population.

Truth be said, not all Latinos think, dream nor vote the same. Clearly a Cubano has a different set of voting tendencies than a Puerto Riqueño, or a Mexicano. In fact even within each origin nation political theory varies greatly. Racism, classism, xenophobia and down right honest disagreement are not limited to those Americans who don't mind the gardener cutting his grass but not sending his kids to the same neighborhood elementary school.

These differences may be a green light for the political parties to attract the new merging voting population, and in the process the best thing to have happened to the Latino population.

Most striking will be the message and actions of the Republican Party. This institution has wheeled out people of color for many years, in fact for an aspiring person of color to gain attention from any major American party the GOP may be the fast track to the podium. Unfortunately, this spotlight has to date only been for the camera and not for substance.

Latinos were said to have supported California's Prop. 187, later Prop. 209 and then Prop. 227 by their Republican

sponsors. They were said to have supported Ronald Reagan, later George Bush, Bob Dole and then George W. Bush. On local issues to federal issues, the Republican right has salivated over the possibility of capturing the growing Latino voting population, yet the same reform while pleasing to the logic of the Anglo voter has been directed against the empowerment of the Latino family.

Speaking Spanish during campaigns, making stops in Mexican restaurants and claiming that the Democratic Party takes them for granted, Republicans have seemed to be following the same routine. A couple of well placed adds by sympathetic reporters or editors may make it seem that voter registration is turning around. Every two years the stories appear, every four years they hit a fever pitch. Unfortunately for the Republican strategist, the community has a good memory.

Republican Governors Ronald Reagan, and Pete Wilson may have more to do with the polarization of Latino voters in the Democratic Party than any Democratic candidate or issues themselves. Farm worker issues seem to be only addressed for the owner's benefit, schools are constantly molded by conservatives as to either white wash the Latino child (the melting pot argument), or threaten to kick the same child out into the field or low income menial job without academics.

Convincing the Republican voting public that bilingual education holds back the stu-

dent, candidates always forget that 75 percent of non English fluent students were always in English only classes. The cry of local control over education only seems to go as far as the soccer mom who needs another reason to vote for vouchers and the Republican Party. Latino parents seeking legally supported bilingual waivers see first hand the 93 percent failure rate of English only classes. Yet the conservation native English speaking letter writers tell editors of the sponge theory: Children pick up languages like sponges. Republican backed language reform (Prop 227 in California) may be a mountain between the party and the future Latino voters. Celebrated success by xenophobic Republicans in light of overwhelming failure within the Latino community can only divide the two voting populations.

Will Latinos vote in favor of future George W. Bushes, anti immigrant laws and apathy towards Latino issues from the Republican Party? Probably not. It's not that the Republicans haven't tried, or haven't run a good campaign. But the only people impressed with the few words of Spanish the current President speaks are those who don't understand what he is saying. What is at fault is his Party's rhetoric between campaigns that give the Latino community solid reasons to vote Democratic.

## Lea El Editor

### Hispanic Market No Longer a Sleeping Giant

For far too long, only interested demographers and savvy marketers fully appreciated the looming potential of the Hispanic sector as a consumer category to be reckoned with. But the sleeping giant has finally awakened, and every marketer must now come to terms with a buying power that can no longer be ignored.

The raw numbers attest to a juggernaut in the making:

Hispanic-Americans now comprise 13.5 percent of the U.S. population, numbering approximately 39 million in 2002 and projected to grow to 50 million by 2007.

The Hispanic sector is expected to grow at an astonishing 29.1 percent rate during the next five years, eclipsing African-American (7.9 percent) and Asian-American (23 percent) growth rates.

Hispanic-American buying power, currently totaling \$580 billion, is expected to reach almost \$1 trillion in five years.

Currently, the states with the greatest concentration of Hispanic buying power include California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia and New Mexico.

Of more interest, the fastest-growing states in Hispanic buying power are predominantly in the South and include North Carolina, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and South Carolina.

Hispanic-Americans spend on average \$32,735 versus \$38,045 for all American consumers. They spend more than average on groceries, telephone services, furniture and apparel; about the same on restaurants, alcoholic beverages, utilities and fuels, household products and appliances, and electronic equipment; but less on health care, education, insurance, pensions and Social Security, fees and admissions, and tobacco products.

The future is now Ernest Bromley, chairman and CEO of Bromley Communications, a leading Hispanic marketing communications company with clients such as Procter & Gamble,

Burger King and Western Union, contends that most American marketers do not fully comprehend the value and extent of the marketplace. Notes Bromley, "The Fortune 100 companies get it, compa-

nies such as P&G, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Anheuser-Busch. But marketing budgets geared to the Hispanic market always have to be justified more carefully. It's a familiarity thing. continued on page 4

### Hair Designs by Phil

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# Academy Awards 'Historic Moment' for Latino Films, Filmmakers

By Antonio Mejias-Rentas

An unprecedented number of Latino films and filmmakers earned Academy Award nominations this year, including the first Mexican woman to receive an Oscar nomination in nearly half a century and the first to compete for the prestigious best actress award.

Three Spanish-language films -- the most ever -- are in competition for the 75th annual Academy Awards, and a fourth Latino-themed film, "Frida," earned a total of six Oscar nominations.

"This is an historic moment for Latino filmmaking, and especially for Spanish-language films," said Los Angeles critic Jorge Cámara, a past president of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. "Maybe now, (satirist) Dame Edna will take back her remarks about the worthiness of Spanish."

Leading off the nominees for "Frida" is its star and producer, Salma Hayek, up for the best actress award for her portrayal of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.

Hayek is the third Mexican actor ever to receive an Academy Award nomination, and the first since Anthony Quinn's best supporting actor win for "Lust for Life" in 1956. She is also the first Mexican woman nominated since Katie Jurado's best supporting actress nod in 1954, for "Broken Lance." The only other Latina ever nominated for best actress was Brazil's Fernanda Montenegro, who competed in 1998 for her performance in "Central Station." "Frida" also earned nods for a trio of Latino filmmakers, most prominently Mexican art director Felipe Fernández del Paso. He shares a best art direction Oscar nomination with set designer Hennis Robledo. Artists Beatrice del Alba and John Jackson share a nomination for makeup. "Frida" also garnered nominations in the areas of costume design, best score and best original song.

In the race for best foreign language Oscar, Mexican entry "El crimen del Padre Amaro" is considered a frontrunner among competing films from China, Germany, Finland and the Netherlands. Carlos Carrera's film is the sixth Mexican nominee in the category, which Mexico has never won. The last contender was "Amores perros" in 2001.

The two other Spanish-language Oscar nominees are films that many contended should have vied for the foreign-language nomination, but were not submitted for consideration by their own countries.

It was widely felt that "Y tu mamá también" would have been a top contender for the Oscar last year, had Mexico submitted it for consideration. Because the film opened here commercially last year, it qualified for Oscar nominations in nearly all categories this time -- and earned a nod for screenwriters Alfonso and Carlos Cuarón, for best original screenplay. One of the two Cuarón brothers, Alfonso, directed the film.

Speaking at a press conference in Mexico City, Carrera remarked on the significance of the nominations.

"It's a wonderful year for Mexico, but that is only due to the fact that Mexican cinema went after its own audience first, and then, with the support of big distribution, made the whole world pay attention." He pointed out that recent Mexican nominees were box office blockbusters in Mexico before conquering international audiences.

Nominees for the 75th annual Academy Awards were announced Feb. 11 in Los Angeles. Winners will be revealed March 23.

The other "Frida" nominees were costume designer Julie Weiss and composer Eliot Goldenthal, who earned nods for best score and best original song, for "Burn it Blue." He

# Salma Hayek Es La Primera Latina Nominada Como

## Mejor Actriz



La película Chicago, basada en la obra musical sobre dos mujeres que compiten por la fama, encabezó la lista de nominaciones a los premios Oscar con 13 postulaciones.

Chicago fue nominada como mejor película y recibió cuatro postulaciones para sus actores, según el anuncio hecho el martes.

Sea cual fuere el resultado el próximo 23 de marzo durante la entrega de los Oscar, la lista de nominados representa un triunfo rotundo para el talento hispano.

La actriz mexicana Salma Hayek fue postulada como mejor actriz por su trabajo en Frida, al igual que Nicole Kidman por su caracterización de Virginia Woolf en The Hours. Además, están postuladas en la categoría de mejor actriz Diane Lane por Unfaithful; Julianne Moore por Far from Heaven y Renee Zellweger por Chicago.

En el caso de Salma Hayek, es la primera actriz latina candidata a un Oscar por mejor actriz en la historia de estos premios.

## Sleeping Giant

From Page Three

shares the latter nomination with lyricist Julie Taymor, his wife and "Frida" director.

Pedro Almodovar's "Hable con ella" was passed on by the Spanish committee, which instead submitted Fernando León's "Los lunes al sol" for consideration in the foreign-language category. The latter film did not make it to the finals this year, but "Hable con ella" earned Almodovar his first two personal nominations -- for best directing and best original screenplay.

Two films by Almodovar have previously represented Spain in the foreign language race, including the 1999 winner "Todo sobre mi madre." In Madrid, Almodovar said he cried when he heard of the nominations. "For me, the award is to receive these two important nominations," he said.

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For the small to midsize business contemplating a foray into the Hispanic marketplace, Bromley suggests the following:

Ask the question, who is your customer? Try to quantify the size, dimension and potential of the Hispanic marketplace in your city or region.

Be bilingual in your communications, particularly with in-store signage and merchandising.

If possible, hire a Hispanic agency or consultant for marketing help. This is one instance where expert knowledge counts.

Manuel Bellod, CEO of Terra Networks USA, an Internet portal that provides content for the 14 million Hispanics connected to the Internet, provides a similar perspective. "Never underestimate the potential, size and purchasing

power of the marketplace," he says.

He also suggests the following:

Never patronize the market. Always respect the culture.

Remember that the Latino respect for family is a core belief and fundamental practice.

Loyalty is a big issue with Hispanic consumers. If they're familiar with your brand and trust you, they will buy the product and pay the price even though they are discriminating price shoppers.

Effective communications is more than just translating an English message into Spanish. It requires a communication process that must be built from the ground up.

Bellod sums it up best when he says about the Hispanic-American consumer, "You must earn the right to sell to them."

## Fight for Estrada

from page 3

better understanding of Estrada.

"It will take quit a bit of time ... but I think it is good reading," said Gray, who heads Committee for Justice, a non-profit group backing Bush's judicial nominees.

Democrats said they do not want the briefs. They have unsuccessfully demanded that Estrada answer their questions and that they obtain memos he wrote in preparing the briefs.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, said, "Republicans today have responded to serious concerns about the nomination of Miguel Estrada by producing old, publicly available, Department of Justice briefs on which Mr. Estrada worked."

"These briefs go through vigorous screening processes be-

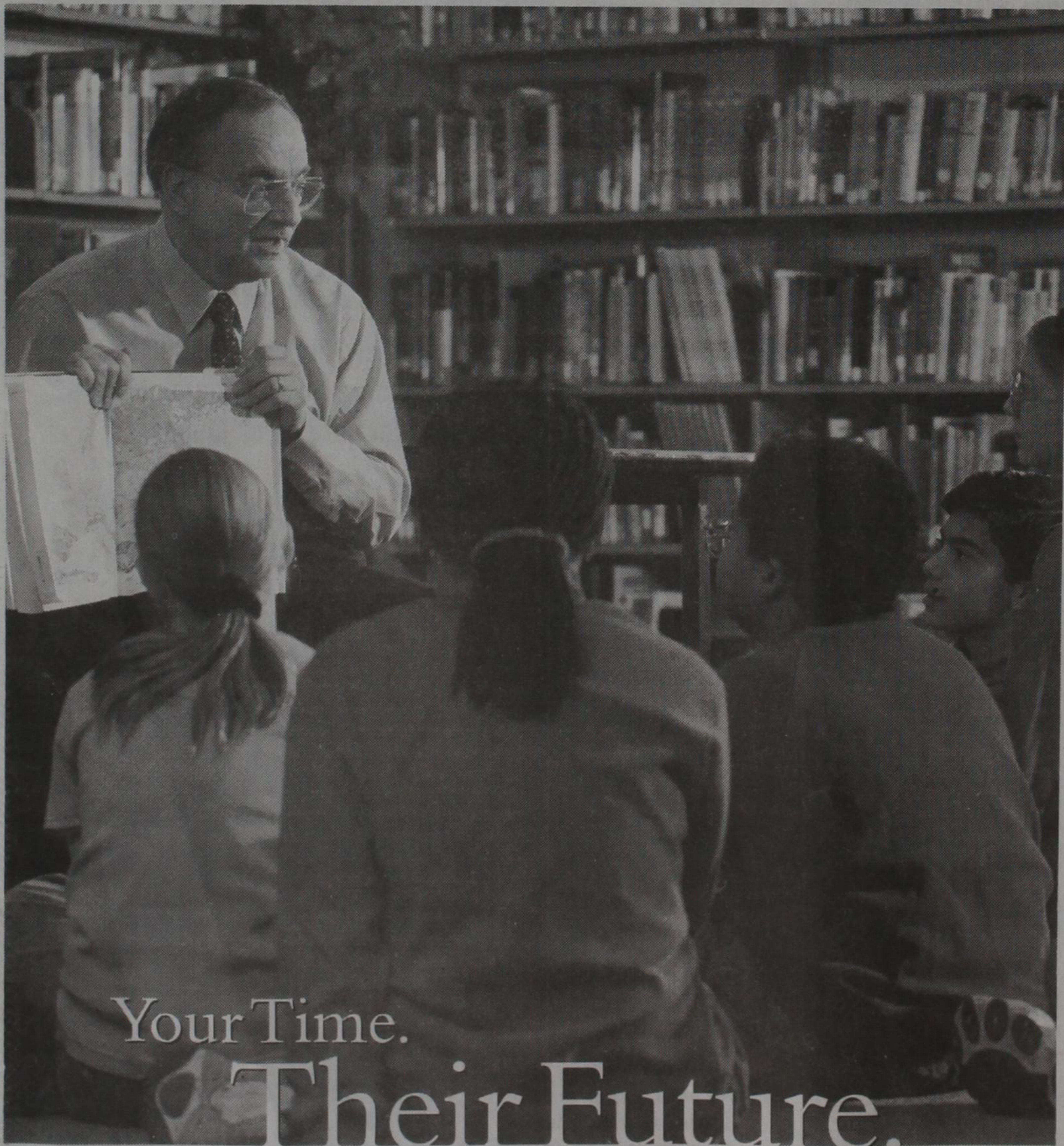
fore being filed, and say little about what kind of jurist Mr. Estrada would be," Kennedy said.

"If the Bush Administration truly wants the Senate to confirm Mr. Estrada, it should stop trying to obscure the important issues at stake in this nomination, and produce documents that will allow the Senate to do its constitutional job of advise and consent," Kennedy said.

A number of organizations are now airing radio and TV ads in selected states, trying to pressure a number of targeted Senate Democrats to flip and support Estrada.

"Hopefully the pressure is building," a Republican strategist said.

"We are standing firm," vowed a senior Democratic aide.



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### Help Your Heart Recipes

This recipe is intended to be part of an overall healthful eating plan. Total fat intake should be less than 30 percent of your total calories for a day -- not for each food or recipe.

#### Lemon-Curried Black-Eyed Pea Salad

<b>Salad</b> 1 15-ounce can black-eyed peas, rinsed and drained 1 11-ounce can no-salt-added whole kernel corn, drained 1/2 cup chopped red onion 1/2 cup thinly sliced celery (1 to 2 stalks) 1 teaspoon finely shredded lemon peel	<b>Dressing</b> 2 tablespoons lemon juice 1 tablespoon water 1 teaspoon olive oil 1 clove garlic, minced, or 1/2 teaspoon bottled minced garlic 1/2 teaspoon curry powder 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard 1/4 teaspoon pepper
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In a medium bowl, combine salad ingredients. Set aside.  
In a jar with a tight-fitting lid, combine dressing ingredients. Cover and shake well. Pour dressing over black-eyed pea mixture. Stir until well coated.  
Cover and refrigerate for 1 to 24 hours, or until serving time.  
Serves 8.

#### Nutrient Analysis per Serving

80 kcal	Calories	0 mg	Cholesterol	0 gm	Saturated Fat
4 gm	Protein	62 mg	Sodium	0 gm	Polyunsaturated Fat
15 gm	Carbohydrate	1 gm	Total Fat	0 gm	Monounsaturated Fat

American Heart Association Low-Fat, Low-Cholesterol Cookbook, Second Edition, ©1997. Reprinted with permission from Times Books, a division of Random House, Inc., New York. Visit our web site at: <http://www.heart.org>

# Simply being a Latino does not make one qualified for a lifetime judicial appointment

President and General Counsel, MALDEF

The most difficult decision for an organization like MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) is when a President nominates a Latino who does not reflect, resonate or associate with the Latino community, and who comes with a predisposition to view claims of racial discrimination and unfair treatment with suspicion and doubt instead of with an open mind. Such is the case of Miguel Estrada, President Bush's nominee to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia – a lifetime appointment. After a thorough review of his record, his confirmation hearing testimony, and his written answers to the U.S. Senate, MALDEF opposed his nomination. We oppose his nomination and that of others that will prevent the courts from serving as the check and balance so desperately needed by the Latino community when it seeks to redress violations of constitutional rights and to balance the actions being taken by the executive and legislative branches.

Senate, Estrada failed to answer Senators' questions and he hid his views from the Senate and the public. In the business world, no prospective employer would ever hire someone who refused to answer questions – especially if it were for a lifetime appointment. With a limited record, Senators looked with anticipation to Estrada's hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. In that hearing, he managed to reveal almost nothing about his legal views on the U.S. Constitution or a variety of civil and labor rights. When asked, Estrada incredibly refused to name a single case in the history of the U.S. judicial system that he disagreed with, even though other judicial candidates have candidly done so. Where his views are known, he has proven himself not just to be a conservative but rather a rigid ideologue who has such strong personal views against recognizing fundamental constitutional and civil rights that he could not serve as a fair and impartial judge.

The decisions made by judges apply to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or

immigrant status. Individuals appointed to the federal bench, a lifetime appointment, must meet basic requirements such as honesty, open-mindedness, integrity, character and temperament. They must also go a step beyond those requirements and affirmatively demonstrate that they will be fair to all who appear before them in court.

The available record of Estrada's legal positions raises grave concerns about how he might rule on constitutional matters affecting Latinos. For example, his work in the area of criminal justice raises serious doubts as to whether he would recognize the 1st Amendment rights of Latino urban youths and day laborers, and it casts serious doubt on whether he would fairly review Latino allegations of racial profiling.

As a government attorney, he argued that police discretion was wide, that officers could execute a search warrant in a felony drug investigation without knocking and announcing who they were. This indicates his disdain for the protections of the 4th Amendment.

In other areas, Estrada has stated that he has never raised

the issue of diversity in any of his workplaces and that he would NOT seek to help Latinos by hiring them as clerks, and he dismissed concerns about the lack of diversity among Supreme Court law clerks. In 2001, in an anti-loitering case, Estrada argued that the NAACP had no standing to represent the interests of African Americans. This indicates he probably would question the right of access to the courts of groups that have historically represented the interests of Latinos.

Our opposition is not partisan. MALDEF has supported President Bush's nominations of well-qualified Latinos who are conservative and will continue to do so. However, when a nominee, like Estrada, is an ideologue who hides his views, we have little choice but to oppose the nomination. The courts and the job of delivering justice are too important.

Founded in 1968, MALDEF, a national nonprofit organization, promotes and protects the rights of Latinos through advocacy, community education and outreach, leadership development, higher education scholarships and when necessary, through the legal system.

# Quedan pocas alternativas para evitar la guerra con Irak

Funcionarios norteamericanos y británicos advirtieron ayer al líder iraquí Saddam Hussein que tenía en sus manos el último chance para evitar una guerra, pero de nuevo surgieron señales conflictivas de Bagdad.

Nuevas alusiones de cooperación iraquí en algunos de los problemas fueron reportadas por los inspectores de armas de la Organización de Naciones Unidas (ONU), incluyendo la revelación iraquí de que habían encontrado dos bombas R-400, una de ellas llenas de un líquido desconocido. Esas bombas pueden contener agentes biológicos o químicos.

Sin embargo, no se materializó ningún progreso sobre lo que se estaba presentando como el problema principal: la destrucción de un número de misiles iraquíes de corto alcance que debe comenzar a no más tardar el sábado.

El inspector de armas de la ONU, Hans Blix manifestó que esos misiles Al Samoud violaban las limitaciones de alcance impuestas por la ONU y debían ser destruidos para esa fecha. Hussein indicó su desafío a esa orden el lunes, aunque los asistentes dijeron ayer que aún estaba bajo consideración.

"Sospecho que tratará de engañar al mundo una vez más", dijo el presidente George W. Bush, refiriéndose a Hussein.

El primer ministro británico, Tony Blair: "Este es un juego que él sabe muy bien".

Por otro lado, más complicaciones surgieron para la administración de Bush cuando el parlamento de Turquía pospuso un voto final sobre una medida que permitiría a 62,000 soldados norteamericanos de infantería formar una fuerza invasora del lado turco de la frontera norte de Irak.

Y del otro lado de la frontera iraquí, los líderes de la semi-autónoma región kurda advirtieron que una incursión militar turca en el área –que muchos sospechan se planea tras la invasión norteamericana– no sería tolerada.

Los funcionarios kurdos y otros líderes de la oposición iraquí dijeron que una incursión turca podría provocar una competencia de influencia regional, provocando que Irak envíe tropas hacia el norte de Irak, aumentando las complicaciones que enfrenta la administración de Bush.

En las Naciones Unidas, ambas partes en el debate de Irak cabildaron para el apoyo de un Consejo de Seguridad profundamente dividido. El panel está considerando una resolución de Estados Unidos, Inglaterra y España que abriría el camino a una guerra, declarando que Irak incumplió al no desarmarse.

Para contrarrestar ese esfuerzo, Francia, Rusia y Alemania circularon proposiciones que fortalecerían y extenderían las inspecciones por cuatro meses.

En medio de todo esto, el secretario de Defensa, Donald Rumsfeld, y Blair, enviaron de nuevo claros mensajes a Hussein: desármese completa y rápidamente o sufrirá las consecuencias.

Al mismo tiempo, el general del ejército norteamericano, Tommy Franks, llegó a la base de Qatar que se usaría como el centro de mando de una invasión a Irak. Franks, que es jefe del Comando Central y dirigirá esa campaña, está en la región para reuniones con líderes militares norteamericanos y británicos.

"El presidente ha dejado claro que Irak tiene que desarmarse", dijo Rumsfeld durante un discurso en la Institución Hoover, un centro de estudios de la Universidad de Stanford de California en Washington.

En cuanto a las alternativas a una guerra que muchos ahora creen es inevitable, Rumsfeld manifestó que Hussein podía irse de Irak. Lo calificó de "una buena idea".

En Londres, el primer ministro Tony Blair dijo a la Cámara de los Comunes que Hussein tiene "un último chance para desarmarse voluntariamente".

Predijo que, para propósitos de relaciones públicas, Hussein destruiría los misiles prohibidos aun cuando Irak insiste en que no violan las prohibiciones de Naciones Unidas.

"En estos momentos dice que no, pero bajo presión lo hará, sosteniendo que eso prueba su cooperación", dijo Blair.

En las Naciones Unidas, donde Blix debe presentar un informe crucial el viernes ante el Consejo de Seguridad, el jefe de inspectores de armamentos señaló que Irak está mostrando señales de cooperación cada vez mayores.

"Hay algunas cosas que son positivas y que necesitan explorarse más", destacó Blix.

## Preventing deaths in the dessert:

### Guest Worker Program would stem flow of illegal immigration

BY LOUIE VILLALOBOS  
Within the next few weeks, Arizona Congressman Jeff Flake plans to introduce legislation aimed at creating a guest worker program he says will all but end the constant flow of illegal immigrants along the border and the deaths that often accompany them.

Critics of the proposed legislation call it a poorly veiled attempt to provide amnesty to the millions currently living in the United States illegally.

Flake, a Republican who represents the 1st District in the U.S. House of Representatives, said he is putting the finishing touches on a proposal that would give every one of the estimated 7 million illegal immigrants currently living in the United States a chance to apply for the program, plus allow for up to 300,000 work visas to be handed out per year to foreigners who want to legally work in the United States.

Coincidentally, officials estimate between 250,000 and 300,000 people illegally enter the United States from Mexico each year. Flake also said he would like to see a worker in the program be allowed to stay for two years.

"If you have the legal framework for people to come north, I think the market does a good job of regulating the flow," he said.

Under Flake's proposal, workers would be able to apply for the program without being restricted to a specific employer or type of job.

That differs from the current visa program where employers apply for a permit through the Immigration and Naturalization Services. After being granted a visa, workers are restricted to a specific industry and employer.

The idea of creating a guest worker program is not a new one. Before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the United States and Mexico had openly

discussed establishing some sort of program.

But after the attacks, Flake said the talks stopped as America began to focus on Homeland Security and the potential for war with Iraq.

Flake said participants in the program would be issued a biometric card that brings with it several security measures such as fingerprints.

The tentative fee for the card in Flake's proposal is set at around \$1,000 which the congressman said is comparable to what many illegal immigrants currently pay to enter the country.

"We hear the cost of hiring a smuggler is about \$1,200," Flake said.

Flake said the fee paid for the card would give the government enough funds to administer the program and create a pool of money that would help local communities deal with illegal immigration.

One example he used was ei-

ther reimbursing hospitals for the millions they lose every year while providing services to illegal immigrants or insuring those in the guest worker program.

"That's one of the items we are still looking at," Flake said.

Flake said his program would not address amnesty for illegal immigrants or affect their citizenship status in any way.

But Ira Mehlman, of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, said allowing anyone already in the country illegally to apply for the program is exactly amnesty.

FAIR is a Washington-based nonprofit group that works to curtail immigration.

"If it walks like an amnesty and quacks like an amnesty, it's probably amnesty," said Mehlman, adding his group will most likely lobby against Flake's proposal.

Standing in a city park in San Luis Rio Colorado, Son., recently, Mario Villa, 52, and

continued on page 6

## LEGAL NOTICE

On February 6, 2003, VALOR Telecommunications of Texas, LP (VALOR) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to establish surcharges to recover lost revenues and increased costs associated with seven hundred thirteen (713) Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) routes implemented in and between VALOR's Texas telephone exchanges and in many instances, exchanges of other local telephone companies. The application is filed based on the Commission's Substantive Rule 26.221 titled, "Applications to Establish or Increase Expanded Local Calling Service Surcharges".

ELCS expands a local calling scope to include one or more additional telephone exchanges, if customers in a petitioning exchange approve by ballot, the payment of an ELCS fee in lieu of long distance charges. The costs and lost revenues associated with VALOR's surcharge application are those not recoverable through the ELCS fee.

In the application, VALOR proposes to implement on an interim basis a monthly per line surcharge of \$0.99 for residential customers and \$1.98 for business customers beginning with the April, 2003 bill cycle. This proposed surcharge will apply in addition to any monthly ELCS fees. If rates at or above the level of the interim surcharges are not ultimately approved by the Commission, VALOR will refund all or part of the interim surcharges, as directed by the Commission. Ultimately, VALOR seeks approval of monthly surcharges of \$3.38 for business lines and \$1.69 for residential lines to replace the interim surcharges. Additionally, the application proposes that customers currently billed ELCS fees lower than \$3.50 per residential line and \$7 per business line, will have those fees raised to \$3.50 per residential line and \$7 per business line.

The net annual effect on the revenues of VALOR will be zero since the requested surcharge replaces lost revenues and reimburses VALOR for the increased cost of service associated with ELCS. The estimated total lost revenues and increased costs VALOR seeks to recover through this proceeding is \$7,601,145 annually.

If you have questions about the proposed surcharges or would like further information, please call VALOR at 1-877-520-5220. The Public Utility Commission has assigned Project No. 27363 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas as soon as possible and no later than April 14, 2003, the intervention deadline. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

## AVISO

El 6 de febrero de 2003, VALOR Telecom de Texas, LP (VALOR) sometió una solicitud a La Comisión Pública de Servicios de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas) para establecer sobrecargos para recuperar las ganancias perdidas y los costos incrementados relacionados con siete cientos trece (713) rutas implementadas del Servicio Expandido de Llamadas Locales (Expanded Local Calling Service) entre los despachos centrales de teléfono de VALOR de Texas y en muchas instancias, despachos de otras compañías locales de teléfono. La solicitud se sometió basada en la Regla 26.221 de La Comisión titulada, "Solicitudes para Establecer o Incrementar los Sobrecargos de Servicio Expandido de Llamadas Locales".

ELCS extiende el alcance de llamadas locales para incluir uno o más despachos de teléfono adicionales, si los clientes de un despacho hacen una petición de cambio que es aprobada por voto para pagar un cargo de ELCS en lugar de sobrecargos de larga distancia. Los costos y ganancias perdidas relacionadas con los sobrecargos de la solicitud de VALOR no son recuperables a través de la cuota del ELCS.

En la solicitud, VALOR propone implementar temporalmente un cargo mensual por línea de \$0.99 por cliente residencial y \$1.98 para clientes comerciales empezando con la facturación del ciclo de Abril, 2003. Este cargo propuesto se aplicará en adición a cualquier cargo mensual ELCS. Si las tarifas al o sobre el nivel de los sobrecargos temporarios no son ultimadamente aprobados por la Comisión, VALOR reembolsará todo o parte de los sobrecargos temporales, indicados por La Comisión. Ultimadamente, VALOR busca aprobación de sobrecargos mensuales de \$3.38 por líneas comerciales y \$1.69 por líneas residenciales para reemplazar los sobrecargos temporarios. Adicionalmente, la solicitud propone que los clientes que actualmente son facturados con tarifas ELCS más bajas de \$3.50 por línea residencial y \$7.00 por línea comercial, tendrán un incremento de tarifas a \$3.50 por línea residencial y \$7.00 por línea comercial.

El efecto anual en las ganancias de VALOR serán cero siendo que los sobrecargos solicitados reemplazan las ganancias perdidas y reembolsa a VALOR por incremento en el costo del servicio relacionado con ELCS. El costo estimado total de las ganancias perdidas y el incremento de costos que VALOR tiene como fin recuperar a través de este procedimiento es \$7,601,145 anualmente.

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de los sobrecargos propuestos o si necesita más información, por favor llame a VALOR al 1-877-520-5220.

La Comisión de Servicios Públicos ha asignado el Proyecto No. 27363 a este procedimiento. Las personas que desean intervenir o comentar en o sobre estos procedimientos deben notificar La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas tan pronto como sea posible y no más tarde del día 14 de Abril 2003, fecha límite de la intervención. Para intervenir o para más información, escriba a La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas), 1701 N. Congress Avenue, PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. También puede solicitar más información llamando a La Comisión de Servicios Públicos al (512) 936-7120 o al (888) 782-8477. Personas con impedimentos de hablar o del sentido de oír con teléfonos de textos (TTY) pueden comunicarse con La Comisión al (512) 936-7136.



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Lo Mejor En Comida Mexicana

# Good News or Bad?

From page one

If the Democratic Party betrayed Latinos in 2001, what changed in 2002?

Confusing. On the other hand, while many of these same Democratic politicians railed against the Republican Party, especially in criticizing people like labor leader Dennis Rivera for endorsing Pataki, they forgot to mention that most of them, all Democrats, routinely accept the endorsement of the Republican Party when they run for office. So the Republican Party is bad for the Latino community, but, as Democrats, they accept its endorsement?

Confusing. Then we get the government of Puerto Rico launching a much-needed nonpartisan voter registration campaign in state-side Puerto Rican communities with the theme "Que Nada Nos Detenga." Then Governor Calderón goes out campaigning in these same communities for candidates like the Republican Pataki and Democrat U.S. Senator John Corzine in New Jersey.

## From Page 5

Miguel Pacheco, 27, said they would happily apply for the program if it meant avoiding the 18-hour, all-night, hike through the desert and the cat-and-mouse game they play with Border Patrol agents.

Each said they have illegally crossed the border in the San Luis area several times to do a variety of jobs, from construction in Phoenix to picking lettuce in Yuma County.

The men talked about previous crossing experiences while they waited for the sun to go down, at which time they planned to gather up their bags filled with beans and clothes and head for the United States.

"Obviously we would rather walk through the gate," Villa said, pointing toward the U.S. Port of Entry in San Luis, Ariz.

Before Villa and thousands of others can take one step toward legal migration, though, Flake said he has to get the support of his peers in Congress.

Flake said even the most vocal critics of a guest worker program can't deny that lives are being lost along the border.

According to numbers provided by Flake's office and the Border Patrol, 146 illegal im-

So much for being nonpartisan! To the Latino voter, this may appear just a bit confusing.

When you think about these mixed messages the Latino community gets from its own political leaders, it's no wonder that there is no unifying Latino agenda and that our voters seem to be casting their ballots all over the political spectrum.

It is this lack of principled leadership that is largely behind what looks more like a Latino political de-alignment than anything else. It certainly doesn't make for a more sophisticated Latino electorate. The hope is that, as this continues, the worst of these Latino political leaders will delegitimize themselves, fueling a movement within our community for a more committed and principled leadership.

When this happens, we can start talking about a more politically sophisticated and powerful Latino community.

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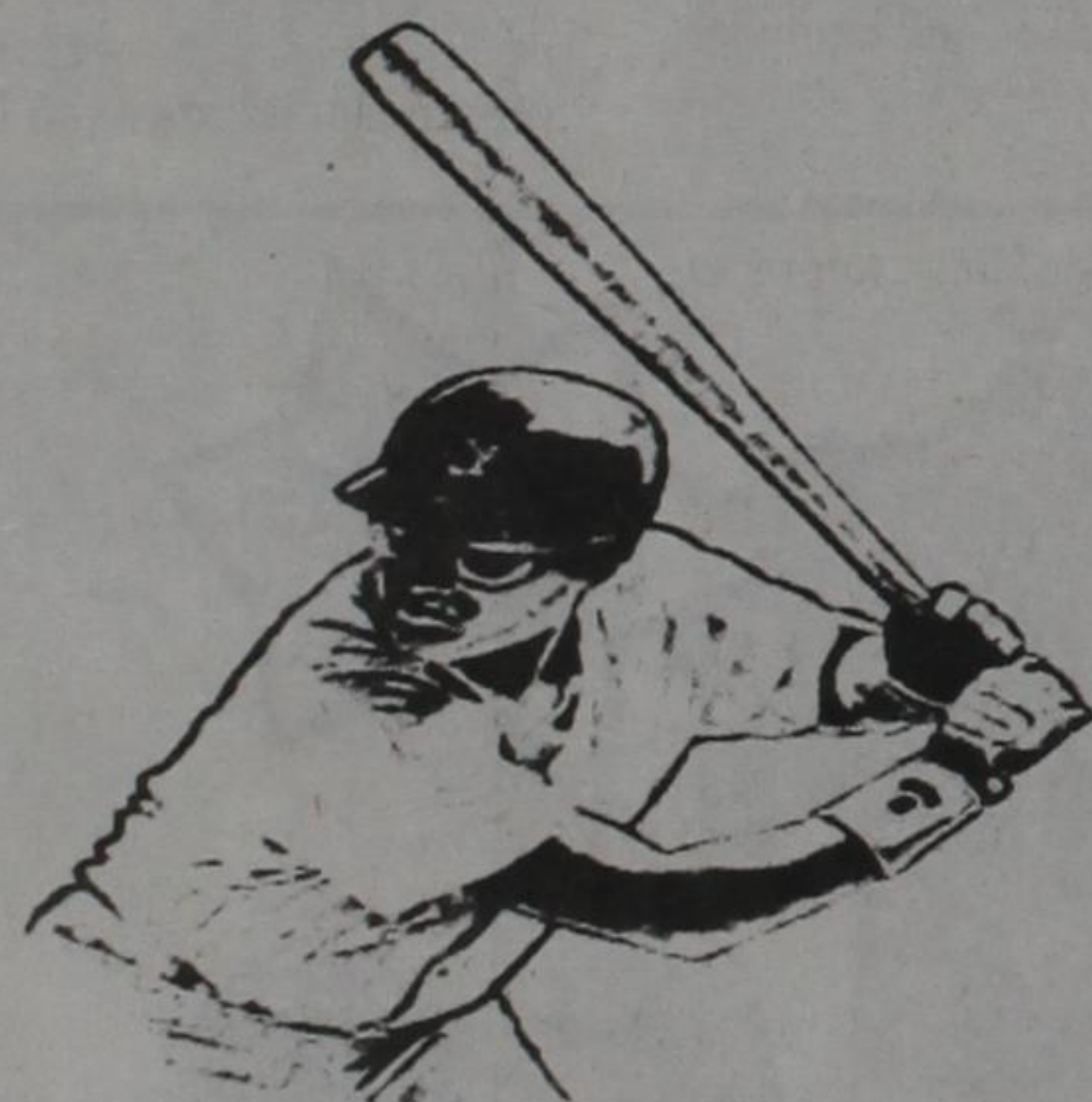
migrants died while crossing the Arizona border in 2002, including 12 in the Yuma Sector of the Border Patrol.

"It's the federal government's duty to secure the border," Flake said. "But nonetheless, anybody with a heart is sickened when they see that happening, and if you have a legal mechanism for people to enter the country you won't have it at the scale you do now."

Mehlman said the idea that a federally sanctioned program will curtail the flow of illegal immigrants is wrong. On the contrary, he said, once people are allowed to obtain a temporary working permit after the enter illegally, the number of people crossing the border will grow.

"That encourages people to go out there and risk their lives," Mehlman said.

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# La Nueva clase Política

## Latina:

### ¿Buenas o Malas Noticias?

Por otro lado, mientras mucho de estos mismos demócratas que marcharon en contra del partido republicano, especialmente para criticar a personas como el líder obrero Dennis Rivera por endosar a Pataki, olvidaron mencionar que gran parte de ellos, todos demócratas, aceptan rutinariamente el endoso del partido republicano cuando postulan a un puesto electivo. ¿Es entonces el partido republicano malo para la comunidad latina, pero los demócratas latinos pueden aceptar su endoso?

Sigo confundido. Luego tenemos al gobierno de Puerto Rico lanzando una campaña independiente y necesaria para inscribir votantes en comunidades puertorriqueñas en los Estados Unidos con el tema "Que nada nos detenga". Sin embargo, la gobernadora Sila Calderón sale a hacer campaña en estas mismas comunidades a favor de candidatos como el republicano Pataki y el senador demócrata John Corzine de Nueva Jersey. Cuando pensamos en las

señales mixtas que recibe la comunidad latina de sus propios líderes políticos, no nos extraña que no exista una agenda latina unificada y que nuestros votantes estén depositando su voto a lo largo y a lo ancho del espectro político.

Esta carencia de un liderazgo con principios es lo que principalmente está detrás de lo que parece más un desalineamiento político que cualquier otra cosa. Ciertamente no ayuda en la creación de un electorado latino sofisticado. La única esperanza es que, a medida que esto continúe, los más terribles de estos líderes políticos latinos se ilegitarán a si mismos, dando pie a un movimiento dentro de nuestra comunidad para encontrar un liderazgo con principios y compromiso.

Cuando esto ocurra, podremos comenzar a hablar de una comunidad latina más poderosa y políticamente sofisticada.

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## From Page 2

Some old Texas liberals might still have fond memories of the word. Back in 1957, young state Sen. Henry B. González -- who went on to become one of the longest-serving Hispanics in the U.S. Congress -- staged the longest filibuster in the history of the Texas legislature. Teaming with colleague Abraham Kazen, he talked for 36 hours straight to ward off some bills that would have set back by eons critical civil rights progress in that state.

The pair succeeded in repelling eight out of 10 bills aimed at circumventing the U.S. Supreme Court's momentous decision in the Brown v. Board of Education school desegregation case.

Not being a Texan, I tend to recoil at the word. To me, it's a reminder of when, that same year, South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurman set the D.C. mark of 24 hours, 18 minutes, while speaking against federal civil rights legislation. He chose to enlighten his colleagues by reading from the Bible.

Or when a mob of Southern senators took the floor and spoke for 82 working days, filling 63,000 pages in the Congressional Record, to defeat the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Filibuster. As debate drags

on over confirmation of Miguel Estrada's appointment by President Bush to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, the word is appearing more regularly in the press.

Republicans, including the president, have been accusing the Democrats for weeks with conducting a filibuster. The Democrats denied it. They were just engaging in debate, they said.

The media have reacted with ambivalence. Or confusion. Terms like "impasse" and "deadlock" appeared regularly, but the descriptive word filibuster has been used inconsistently. Back on Feb. 13, for example, the Washington Post clearly labeled what the Democrats were doing to Estrada as a filibuster. Two weeks later, the same paper described it as "what is effectively a filibuster."

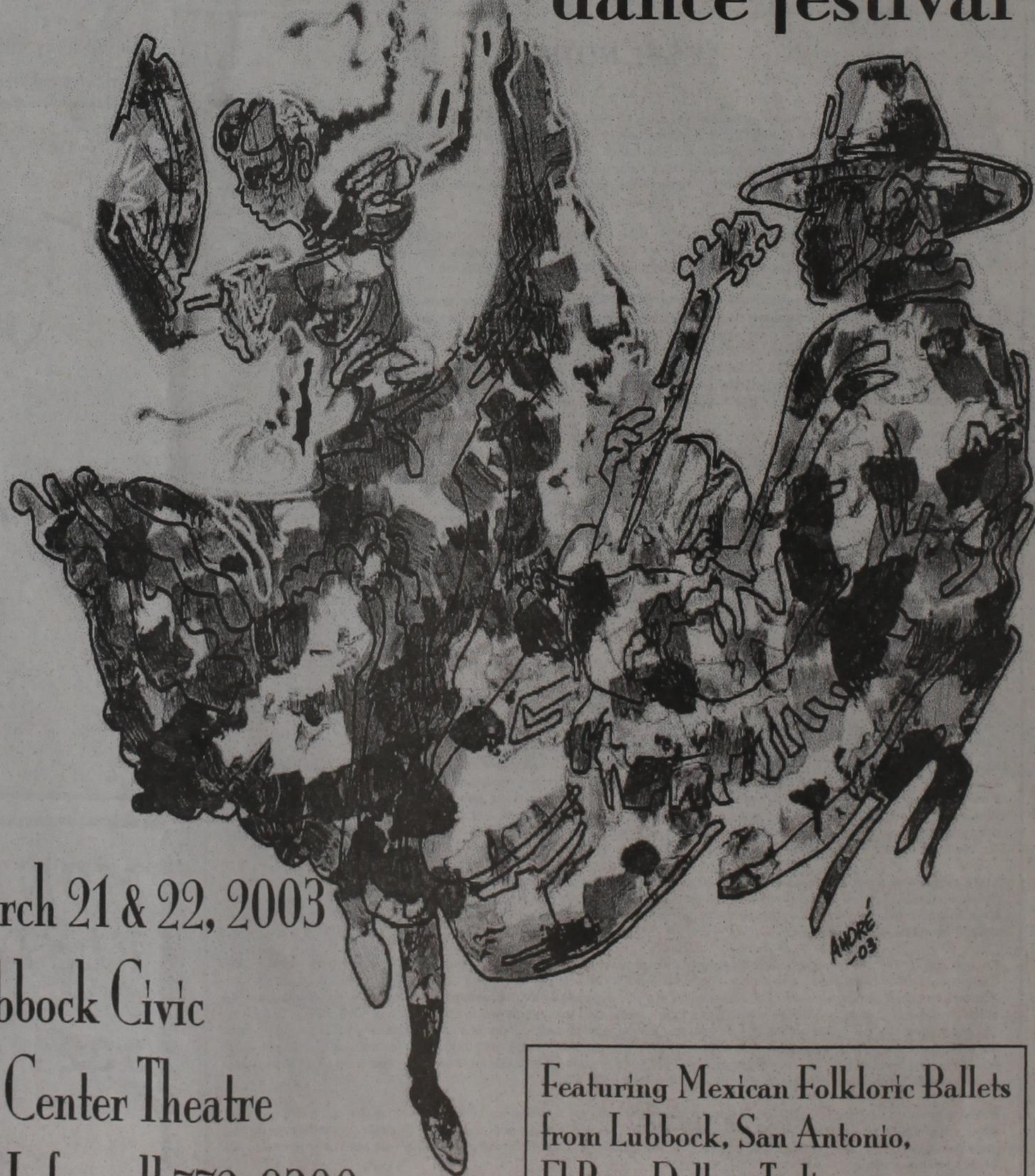
So on Feb. 27, I phoned to ask an impartial Senate staff expert for an official ruling. After a lengthy discussion, I was told that technically what was happening wasn't a filibuster at all because the GOP has not filed a cloture (three-fifths majority) vote. Once that is done, 60 votes would be needed to end debate and force a ye-nay decision by the full Senate on Estrada's nomination.

At last something definitive, I sighed.

Then abruptly, the authority asked me to hold the phone.

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