

Gore or Bush?

With Tuesday's presidential election still too close to call, Vice President Al Gore and Gov. George W. Bush of Texas deployed their surrogates Wednesday to the contested state of Florida for a crucial recount of votes promised by late Thursday afternoon.

Bush's younger brother, Jeb, who is governor of Florida, said he would recuse himself from serving on the commission that certifies the recount, as is customary, to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.

Appearing at a news conference with the state's attorney general, Bob

Butterworth, the Florida governor said the recount, which was mandatory under state law because of the razor-thin margin, would be performed with "the utmost diligence and professionalism."

Jeb Bush said that he and Butterworth were "firmly committed to protecting the integrity of Florida's election process."

George W. Bush insisted that the final count showed that he and his running mate, Dick Cheney, have already carried Florida.

"If that result is confirmed in an automatic recount, as we expect it to

be, then we have won the election," Bush said, speaking outside the governor's mansion in Austin, Texas.

His press secretary, Karen Hughes, told reporters that the Texas governor had carried the state by more than 1,700 votes. Florida voters cast more than 5.7 million ballots.

The Florida tally has been challenged by Gore, who first conceded the race to Bush early Wednesday and then retracted his concession as Bush's evaporated. Thousands of absentee ballots from overseas also remain to be counted.

Gore said at a news conference in

Nashville, "We now need to resolve this election in a way that is fair and forthright and fully consistent with our Constitution and our laws. 'What is at issue is the fundamental fairness of the process as a whole because of what is at stake,' the vice president continued. 'This matter must be resolved expeditiously but deliberately, and without any rush to judgment.'"

Florida has become the key battleground of the 2000 presidential election because its 25 electoral votes would put either candidate over the minimum of 270 electoral votes needed to attain the White House. With

Washington state falling behind Gore Wednesday, the vice president has 260 electoral votes to 246 for Bush.

Gore, after initially trailing Bush in the popular vote, appeared to be leading by fewer than 98,000 votes out of 97 million cast nationwide, making the election one of the tightest, if not the tightest, in the country's history.

"Despite the fact that Joe

Lieberman and I won the popular vote," Gore said, "under our Constitution it is the winner of the Electoral College who will be the next president. Our Constitution is the whole foundation of our freedom and it must be followed faithfully toward the true result ordained by the American people with their votes in our respective states."

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

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Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

After the election.

First I want to extend my congratulations to Gilbert Flores for winning the County Commissioner's race this past Tuesday. I should also extend my congratulations to Frank Gutierrez for running a good race. The only suggestion I would have to Frank would be to run democrat next time. The idea to write this column came to me after having a beer during happy hour and one of my friends asking me if I was going to apologize. I didn't really get a chance to answer him since my turn to play a pool game came up. We all realize priorities from time to time.

My friend left before the game was over and I didn't get a chance to answer his question. As I sat down to write today's column I thought it might be interesting to share my answers with my readers since I can imagine that many have the same question.

As I stated, I do offer my congratulations to Gilbert, but do I really have to apologize? It really didn't take very long for me to come to the conclusion that no I shouldn't. I mean...WHY? I didn't ever say anything bad about anyone, I didn't curse anybody, I didn't call anybody names and I didn't even carry a broom around. So why should I apologize? I won't. So, should I tell Gilbert as I told Pancho, that he ran a good race?

Now this is something I really need to think about.

The week that I made my endorsements, I mentioned a few reasons why I endorsed Pancho. Among them and most prominent is the law enforcement issue. The fact that the jail population is inequitable when considering population of minorities.

Frank had said that he would strive toward jail personnel have a working knowledge of Spanish. This should be the minimal change that should be advocated by Flores. Other efforts should include the investigating of racial profiling in both the sheriff's and D.A.'s office. I would surmise that the immediate answer for not doing this is that the Sheriff's and D.A.'s offices are not within the Commissioner's jurisdiction. Why not? What is the difference in the commissioners investigation by way of an audit the county clerk's office. A third effort would be to work toward establishing a public defender program for those people unable to afford a lawyer.

The list is innumerable of possible solutions for the inconsistencies that presently exist at the county level, that if investigated, improved or simply changed would allow better service and access to the public and especially to the disenfranchised are abundant.

Gilbert will be our main representative at the County level. He will be this for the next four year. He must realize that he is a powerful person. He has said that there is no reason to make change when things are working.

Are they really?

At Press Time!

	Pop. Vote	% of Vote	States	Elect. Vote
Al Gore	48,976,148	49	20	260
George W. Bush	48,783,510	48	29	246

¿Quien Sera El Nuevo Presidente?

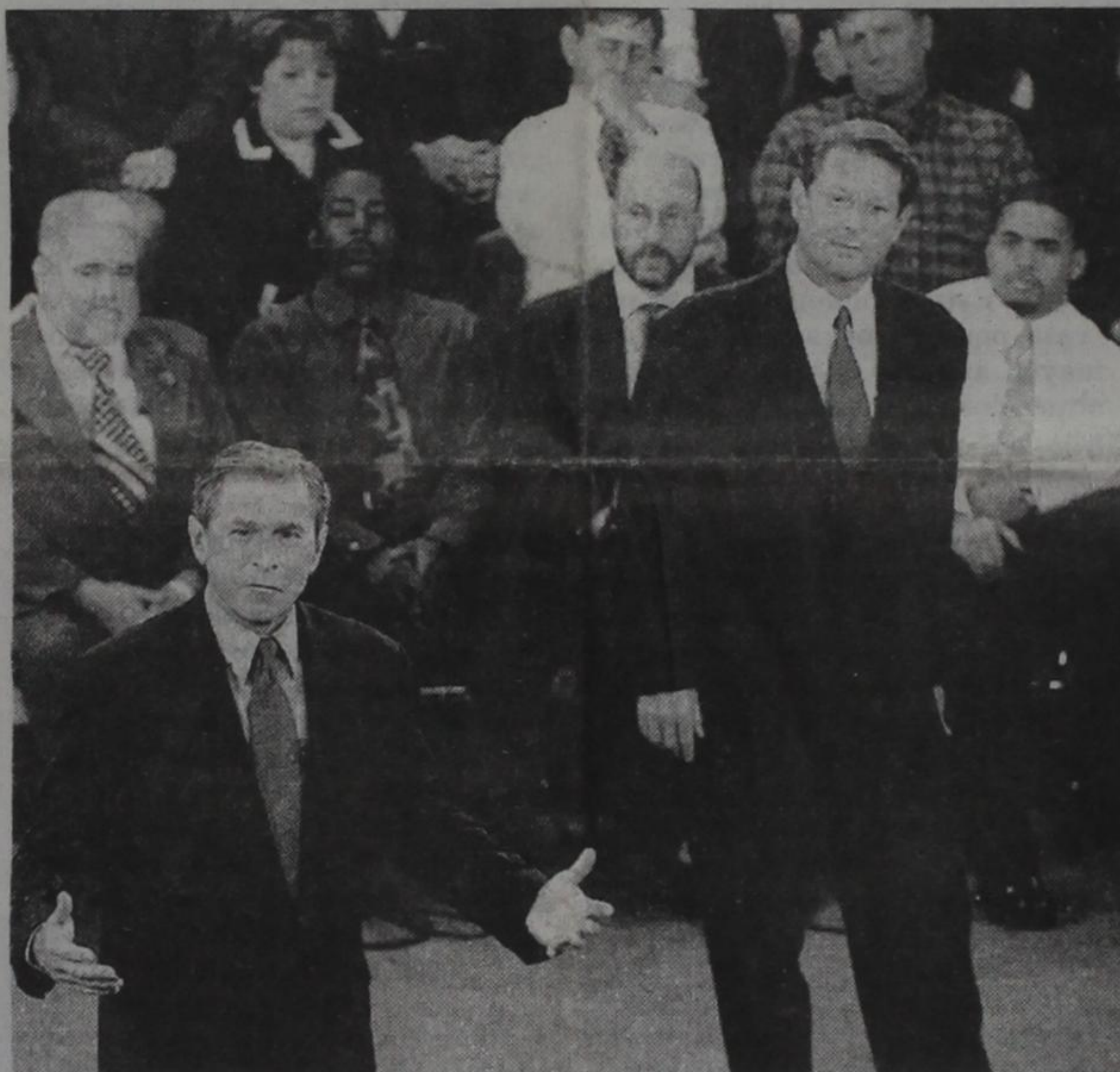
Al terminar este periodo para ponerlo en la prensa, el Vice Presidente Gore se encuentra con mas voto popular que su contrincante el Gobernador George W. Bush.

Aun que se habia anunciado que la decision final de el voto en Florida seria a las 5 de la tarde. A este momento - las 3:20 de la tarde, 5:20 en Florida - todavia no hay reporte en el resultado.

Ultimas noticias dicen que Bush lleva menos de 450 votos mas que Bush en la reconta.

Los Republicanos al momento estan pronosticando que ellos seran victoriosos y los Demócratas estan diciendo que se necesita hacer una decision firma para que los derechos civiles de toda la gente en los Estados Unidos sea complacida.

Solo falta esperar!



At the Debate Now Waiting

Zedillo Culmina Gestion Con Mas Pobres

por Diego Cevallos

MEXICO, - Ernesto Zedillo llegó a la Presidencia de México en 1994 con el lema "bienestar para la familia". Hoy, al término de su mandato, la pobreza ha aumentado y los avances se limitan a las cifras macroeconómicas. En los últimos seis años, la pobreza creció 10 por ciento, hasta abarcar 75 por ciento de los 100 millones de habitantes del país, y la desigualdad social se acentuó, señala el investigador Julio Boltvinik, del prestigioso Colegio de México.

En contraste, en el mismo lapso el país aumentó sus exportaciones, controló la inflación, fortaleció su moneda, logró reservas internacionales récord, pagó millonarias deudas y llegó a tasas de crecimiento superiores a cinco por ciento anual.

Además, cosechó los aplausos de los organismos financieros internacionales, y descartó cualquier posibilidad de que se registre una crisis económica en el tramo final de la gestión de Zedillo, según las autoridades gubernamentales.

La pregunta clave es, entonces, por qué mejoró la economía, pero no se abatió la pobreza.

La crisis de fines de 1994 limitó los logros en materia social y obligó a reanudar el camino, responden las autoridades, tanto la oposición estima que hubo fallas en el proyecto "neoliberal".

Los expertos consideran que se trata de factores combinados: el modelo de desarrollo, los re-

trasos históricos, la composición demográfica, la política y el entorno internacional.

El 1 de diciembre, por primera vez en 71 años, un presidente miembro del Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) entregará el poder a un opositor, Vicente Fox, ex directivo de la empresa Coca-Cola.

El mandatario electo, cuya oferta de campaña fue trabajar sin descanso para abatir la pobreza, recibirá un país que desde 1995 bajó del peldaño 55 al 53 en el índice de desarrollo humano del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD).

De los 75 millones de pobres que hoy existen en México, 54 millones son indigentes, señaló Boltvinik, en base a estudios locales, gubernamentales y privados, y de organismos internacionales.

Durante la gestión de Zedillo se logró una estabilidad económica que no llegó a la población, según el experto, quien investiga la pobreza en México desde hace 20 años y asesora a Fox en el diseño de futuras políticas sociales.

La estabilidad benefició sólo a 25 por ciento de la población más rica, el resto siguió empobreciéndose, coincidió en indicar Jonathan Heath, consultor en temas sociales y económicos.

México es "un país marcado por la desigualdad social y económica, étnica y de género (...) los extremos de pobreza y opu-

lencia se observan y contrastan cotidianamente", reconoció el estatal Consejo Nacional de Población, en su último informe.

La situación no es nueva para México y los organismos internacionales la han señalado en forma constante en los últimos 30 años.

Pero ya en siglo XIX, el cronista alemán Alexander von Humboldt escribió: "México es el país de la desigualdad. Acaso en ninguna parte la hay más espantosa en la distribución de las fortunas".

Estadísticas oficiales indican que el 55 por ciento del circulante pertenece al 20 por ciento de las familias, mientras el restante 45 por ciento se distribuye entre el 80 por ciento más pobre.

Zedillo sostuvo que sólo la estabilidad económica lograda en los últimos años garantiza que en el futuro se acabe con la pobreza.

México podría resolver el problema de la pobreza entre 2039 y 2059, siempre que no sufra crisis, continúe en crecimiento y mantenga sus programas de asistencia social, vaticinó en 1999 Nora Lustig, jefa de la unidad asesora sobre Pobreza y Desigualdad del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo.

Fox aseguró que durante su gestión, que terminará en diciembre del 2006, México dará un salto de desarrollo de tal magnitud que abatirá gran parte de la pobreza.

News Briefs The Lady in Red

by Michael O. Collazo

Popular Democratic Party's Sila Calderon became the first woman to become governor of Puerto Rico Tuesday.

Puerto Rico's Popular Democratic Party also gained the resident commissioner's seat with the victory of Anibal Acevedo Vila, who defeated the incumbent Carlos Romero Barcelo, of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party. Resident commissioner is Puerto Rico's non-voting member of Congress.

New Progressive Party candidate Carlos Pesquera led all polls going into the final campaign week. On Monday, hundreds of thousands in a sea of red and white, the party's official colors, attended a PDP rally in support of Sila Calderon. By about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, she was projected the winner, garnering 49 percent of the vote.

Pending corruption charges connecting Pesquera to misused funds helped give Calderon a late surge. Many analysts also say pro-independence voters, energized by the issue surrounding the U.S. Navy presence in Vieques island but concerned about the Pesquera's statehood party controlling office, helped sway the election towards Calderon.

Carlos Pesquera won 46 percent of the vote. Ruben Berrios Martinez, of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, received the remaining 5 percent of the vote.

Calderon becomes the second woman in Latin America to hold her government's highest office. Minerva Moscoso of Panama has served as president since September of 1999.

Statue of Liberty Used to Protest Navy in Vieques

Protestors against the presence of the U.S. Navy on Vieques island, Puerto Rico staged a quite visible protest involving the Statue of Liberty.

At about 10 a.m. Sunday, five women and six men climbed to the top of the Statue of Liberty. While some in the group blocked the top entrance, one of the protestors broke one of windows located at the statue's crown. Then a protestor was hoisted out through that window to fly both the Puerto Rican flag and the flag of Vieques. The protestor also flew a banner that apparently said "Peace for Vieques."

After two and a half hours, the unidentified protestors were arrested.

Two-thirds of Vieques island has been occupied by the U.S. Navy since the 1940s. In 1998, David Sanes Rodriguez was killed when an errant bomb struck the security post where he was stationed.

Most indications from President Bill Clinton say the residents of Vieques will vote, possibly this spring, to decide the status of the U.S. navy's presence on the island municipality.

About 20 years ago, a similar tactic as used Sunday was used to call for the release of over a dozen so-called Puerto Rican political prisoners. These prisoners were in jail unjustly, say supporters, because of their involvement in the Puerto Rico pro-independence movement. Eleven of these prisoners were pardoned by President Bill Clinton in 1999.

Republicans cried foul because they thought the release was a dangerous political ploy to gain votes for Hillary Clinton's New York Senatorial run. Some analysts consider the Latino vote as an important component in Clinton's or Republican candidate Rick Lazio's election victory Tuesday.

Study Recommends Lifting U.S. Embargo Against Cuba

By Jim Burns, CNSNews.com Senior Staff Writer

The Cato Institute, a Washington-based Libertarian think tank, Thursday released a study saying that U.S. interests would be better served if the United States went a few steps further in lifting its trade embargo against Cuba.

Congress passed legislation last month allowing food and medicine exports to the communist nation, but since the bill prohibits Cuba from obtaining U.S. funding to buy U.S. food and medicine, the Castro government calls the deal a "sham."

Philip Peters, a former State Department official in the Reagan and Bush administrations did the study for the Cato Institute. He believes Cuba has collapsed as a U.S. security threat, and thus Washington should reconsider its economic embargo.

"U.S. policies designed to bring Fidel Castro down have backfired. Those policies place him in the world political limelight, renew his claim to victimhood, reinforce many of his favorite nationalist arguments, and miss opportunities to influence Cuba's future by blocking free interaction with American society," Peters writes.

Peters admits socialism persists in Cuba but he argues that limited change is taking place.

"Some private enterprise has been allowed, and many Cubans are learning firsthand the advantages of a capitalist system. But while trade, travel and investment from other countries are improving Cubans' living standards and exposing them to capitalism, an end to the U.S. embargo would have the same effects but on a greater scale because of our nation's size and proximity," Peters writes.

Peters says American engagement would expand Cuba's incipient private sector and add to its growth.

Peters disagrees with the provisions in the legislation that would not allow Americans to travel to Cuba, saying such "sanctions violate the rights of the American people to trade and travel." He would like to see the U.S. travel embargo on Cuba lifted.

In another unrelated development, reports out of Cuba indicate that long-standing, chronic electricity outages appear to be ending. A Cuban radio station reported, "Cuba's power-generating capacity is above national demand, aided by the modernization of our power plants and the country's energy conservation program."

A Cuban government spokesman noted the progress but added that top government officials remain "cautious" about the power supply. The "modernization" does not mean that power cuts might not take place in some areas because of technical difficulties and other unexpected developments, according to the spokesman.

Last Monday, Cuban Leader Fidel Castro signed a deal with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to provide the communist nation with up to 53,000 barrels per day of crude oil. Cuba will be paying for it through long-term credits.

Cuba has been starving for oil since being cut off from oil exports after the former Soviet Union collapsed during the 1990s.

The Strange Concept Of Staying On Message

By Patricia Guadalupe

I have a solution to the apathy that has enveloped our political process here in the United States: Spend some time in Puerto Rico during an electoral campaign.

Baseball is called the island's passion, but politics is its most earnest hobby. More than 80 percent of the voting population regularly and enthusiastically cast ballots.

On a recent trip to the island where I grew up, I relived the mania that overtakes it every four years and saw the contrast. Imagine watching a heavyweight boxing match. Then imagine watching a sewing circle championship.

You get my drift.

Picture these comments:

I was going to watch the debate last night but I had to get up early for school. Child did the candidates say? I'm so annoyed I couldn't see it."

Or this one: "If I could vote for president, I'd vote for Gore because I like what he has to say about gun control."

Comments from high students studying government? Hardly.

They came from the 5-year-old daughter of an island cousin and my 5-year-old nephew. These kindergartners are smart, but not unusual on the politically crazed island.

In Puerto Rico, seemingly every man, woman and child participates in politics with a fervor

unsurpassed anywhere. This year the candidates for governor are in a tight race right up to Nov. 7, just as is happening in the States. But that's where the similarities end.

Weeks before the election, whenever the candidates for governor debated, drive-in-movie-sized television screens were set up near downtown San Juan and across from the TV station that was airing the debate, and the party started.

Thousands upon thousands of politically engaged people, including many children, showed up with the requisite placards and flags. They also brought the timbales, claves and other accouterments necessary for those instant parties Puerto Ricans are famous for. There were fireworks after the debates. Local newscasts cautioned against driving around San Juan that day, as many streets would be closed to make way for the crowds.

On D-day, the papers published a map with parking suggestions. And in the hours leading up to the debate, the TV newscasts analyzed the issues for hours. Afterward, one station spent three hours picking apart the statements and inviting comments from the viewing public. People jammed the phone lines, not to complain that their favorite programming had been preempted, but to join in the gabfest.

Watching all this, I remembered those heated discussions on my school bus during election years when I was growing up. We would all huddle in the middle seats and talk about candidates X, Y and Z, and even sing the catchy campaign songs that each party came out with.

To this day, I am convinced that a "vote for me" to a salsa tune will get more attention than the somber ads we see in the states.

I remember the puzzled looks from the norteamericano kids who sat with us on the bus. Occasionally, one of them would come over and get in on the discussion. I'd like to think that those who moved back to the States picked up some of the island's passion in the process.

Too many people in the States are actually proud that they are not going to vote; they say the candidates don't speak to their issues. But practically, if people don't vote, why should the candidates care about them? It's a vicious cycle.

Recently, The Washington Post focused on a few of those nonvoting people, publishing their names and photos. I couldn't begin to imagine what would happen if that kind of article were published on the island.

First, try and find someone who says he isn't voting. If he exists, he would be far too em-

barrassed to say so.

Occasionally, Washington political analysts travel to Puerto Rico to study the phenomenon so they can replicate it. They end up scratching their heads. They can't seem to figure it out.

Here, the major party candidates, particularly of late, have been moving to the center/right, spending enormous amounts of time and money tailoring their message to the audience du jour. This confuses and alienates those who care to pay attention.

What is candidate X really for?

Major party candidates on the island seldom veer far from their positions. The statehood party, not surprisingly, works to make Puerto Rico the 51st state. The pro-commonwealth party pretty much wants things to stay the same. And the independence party, well, you see what I mean.

When voters in Puerto Rico go to the polls, they know what they're getting and they know who they're voting for. Here, that's the fundamental problem. They don't.

(Patricia Guadalupe is Capitol Hill editor of Hispanic Link Weekly Report and acting national news director for Pacifica Network News in Washington, D.C.)

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US Considers Financing Rebels to Halt Kidnappings

By Yadira Ferrer

Bogota, - Members of the Colombian business community and a high-level official from the United States reopened the debate Thursday on the possibility of financing the Colombia's guerrilla groups as a means to halting the rebels' kidnapping of civilians for exorbitant ransom payments.

Phillip Chicola, head of the US State Department's Office of Andean Affairs, said his government would be willing to support an international program to finance the guerrillas if it would lead to a serious and definitive peace process, as occurred in Central America.

Chicola, who ended a two-day visit to Colombia on Thursday, said that - until peace agreements are signed - international financial contributions, similar to those made in Central America in ending civil wars there, could help ensure that leftist guerrilla groups abandon the practice of kidnapping as a source of income.

Without knowing what direction the process is headed, we

cannot say whether the United States would support the proposal, said Chicola, but he added that when there is a clear agreement on where the process is going and what the final objective is, then the answer would be "yes."

Colombian security forces reported that rebel groups took in some 269 million dollars in 1999 from ransom payments, other types of extortion and drug trafficking activities.

On average, guerrillas, paramilitaries or common criminals kidnap 700 people each year in this country.

The United States has pledged 1.3 billion dollars for the anti-drug efforts under 'Plan Colombia,' President Andrés Pastrana's strategy to fight the drug trade and foment development. The rebels have charged that the plan will lead to an escalation of the decades-long civil war.

Business community representatives taking part in a Colombian civil society conference

Continued Page 4

El Extraño Síndrome De Mantenerse En Mensaje

Por Patricia Guadalupe

Tengo una solución para la apatía que ha envuelto el proceso político aquí en Estados Unidos. Pasen un tiempo en Puerto Rico durante una campaña electoral.

La pelota es la pasión de la isla, pero la política es su más ferroz pasatiempo. Más del 80% de registrados salen a votar en la isla, entusiasmados por su candidato particular. Durante un reciente viaje a Puerto Rico, tuve la oportunidad de revivir la manía que agarra la isla cada cuatro años, a diferencia de lo que pasa aquí. Imaginen ver boxeo de peso pesado. Compárenlo con un campeonato de costura. Esa es la diferencia a que mereciera.

He aquí este comentario: "Viste el debate anoche? Yo lo iba a ver, pero tenía que levantarme temprano para ir a la escuela. Estoy bien molesta que no lo pude ver".

Y esta: "Si yo pudiera votar por presidente, votara por Gore porque me gusta su postura sobre el control de armas".

Pensar que son los comentarios de estudiantes de escuela superior que siguen las campañas. Pero uno es de la hija de 5 años de mi prima y otro es de mi sobrino de igual edad. Aunque estos alumnos de kinder son inteligentes, estos tipos de comentarios en niños, no son raros en la isla con tanta política. En Puerto Rico, virtualmente cada hombre, mujer y niño participa en política con un fervor jamás

visto en ningún sitio.

Cada vez que los candidatos para gobernar debatan, gigantescas pantallas de televisión fueron colocadas cerca del centro de San Juan y al cruzar la calle de la estación de televisión que pasaba el debate al aire. Y la fiesta comenzaba. Miles y miles de personas entusiasmadas, incluyendo muchos niños, llegaron con pancartas y banderas. También trajeron timbales, claves y otros instrumentos necesarios para tener sus famosas fiestas instantáneas. Incluso hubo fuegos artificiales al concluir los debates.

En los días antes del debate, los noticieros locales advirtieron contra guardar en San Juan ese día, por la cantidad de calles cerradas al tránsito para acomodar al gentío. El mismo día del debate, los periódicos publicaron un mapa con sugerencias de estacionamiento para los que iban a ver el debate en las gigantescas pantallas.

Y al terminar el debate, la cobertura de un canal de televisión incluyó tres horas de análisis donde invitaban a los televidentes a llamar con sus opiniones. Según me dicen, fueron tantas las llamadas que por poco se tumbó el sistema, y ninguna llamada fue para quejarse de la falta de programación no relacionada con el debate.

Además de todo eso, cada candidato tenía como parte de su campaña un sinnúmero de camiones con altavoces que recor-

ren los vecindarios con anuncios políticos, y no caben más pancartas en los postes de luz.

Me estaba fijando en todo esto y acordándome de esos años electorales en mi niñez en Puerto Rico, participando en las discusiones en la guagua escolar. Hablábamos de las plataformas de cada candidato, e incluso cantábamos las canciones de campaña que cada candidato sacaba sin fallar. Estoy convencida que un "vota por mí" con salsa agarraría mayor atención que los anuncios aburridos sin música que abundan aquí. Me acuerdo de las miradas confundidas de los americanos que nos veían hablando en la guagua.

De vez en cuando uno de ellos se acercaba para participar en la tertulia. Me gustaba pensar que los que regresaron a Estados Unidos se fueron de la isla con un mayor interés en el proceso político.

Un reciente reportaje en el Washington Post hablaba de esta gente que no va a votar, publicando sus fotos y nombres. No me imagino que pasara si publicaran semejante cosa en Puerto Rico. Primero, traten que encontrar a una persona que diga que no va a votar. Si existe, les aseguro que estarán muy avergonzados.

Analistas estadounidenses de vez en cuando viajan a la isla para estudiar el fenómeno de la gran cantidad de gente que

vota. Tratan de duplicarlo, sin éxito, en sus estados natales, y se preguntan cómo es que pasa allí y aquí no.

No se dan cuenta que tienen la respuesta a sus narices. Aquí en Estados Unidos, los candidatos particularmente hoy en día giran su política al centro/derecha y gastan enormes cantidades de fondos y tiempo cambiando sus mensajes según la audiencia. Esto ha confundido a muchos y ha hecho que muchos se alejen de proceso electoral. Por otra parte, los candidatos en la isla mayormente no se han alejado de sus principales mensajes. El partido de la estadidad trabaja para conseguir que Puerto Rico sea el estado 51 de la nación, partido que aboga por el Estado Libre Asociado quiere mayormente mantener el estatus actual, y el partido independentista, bueno, ya saben a que me refiero.

Cuando los residentes votan en Puerto Rico, saben lo que van a conseguir y saben por quién y por qué están votando. Aquí no. Y ese es el problema fundamental.

(Patricia Guadalupe es la corresponsal de asuntos congresionales para Hispanic Link Weekly Report y es la directora interina de noticias para Pacifica Network News en Washington, D.C.)

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Hispanics Are Sharing & Shaping A New Century Of Cities

By Saúl N. Ramírez Jr.

When President Clinton and Vice President Gore took office nearly eight years ago, the country was emerging from a period when the future of our cities was in question. Less than a decade later, we are seeing a markedly different situation. This administration has engineered an amazing economic turnaround, and a significant number in the Latino community have benefited greatly.

The biggest winners in the new economy have been our country's cities. They are experiencing a robust renewal, in large part, because they have harnessed the power of diversity and put it to work. In October 1999, President Clinton described this nation to the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Conference as the most diverse in its history -- and growing increasingly so:

"In a global economy, in a global society, our diversity can be a godsend if we make the most of it, if we enjoy it, if we honor it, and if we believe that the common humanity that unites us is more important than all the differences among us."

From our very inception, we have been a nation of immigrants. Yet the demography that we see now is more multigenerational, multiracial and multiethnic. And this diversity is driving the current economic prosperity.

Between 1980 and 1998, the population of central city residents of color rose from 35 per-

cent to 47 percent. In a recent survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, nine out of 10 cities responded that immigrants and non-white residents are participating actively in their new job markets. They are becoming involved in their communities as never before.

Hispanics have provided the sweat and soul of much of this revitalization effort. They are the backbone of an economic growth that reaches from Wall Street through the Midwest into California's Silicon Valley, helping reverse decades of decline in our cities.

The rollover of a calendar year allows for a period of reflection. Today we are not only in a position to look back at progress made; we are able to raise the bar for the century ahead and set new goals.

Since 1993, the first year of the Clinton-Gore administration, 4.6 million city residents gained employment, a direct result of the 8.5 percent growth rate in jobs and the 4.4 percent growth rate in new businesses. Between 1998 and 1999, median income for Latino households increased by 6.1 percent, from \$28,956 to \$30,735, and poverty rates among Hispanic families declined from 25.6 percent to 22.8 percent. The number of businesses owned by Hispanic women increased 206 percent between 1987 and 1996. While these facts leave me optimistic about our prospects, the reality

is that the light of economic prosperity has not shone on all.

Our nation is experiencing the highest homeownership rates in history. Yet homeownership remains unattainable for many Latinos. The gap between white non-Hispanic homeowners (74 percent) and Latino homeowners (45.5 percent) still remains far too wide.

While the Hispanic community has taken tremendous strides in recent years in making up for decades of being left behind, our people are still disproportionately affected by poverty, unemployment and violence. Thirty percent of Hispanic youth will drop out of college after the first year, compared to only 18 percent of non-Hispanic white youth. And 30 percent of Hispanic children remain without health care coverage. Although shrinking, the gaps still exist.

As the fastest growing ethnic group in the country, we will continue to make tremendous

strides. But this new place at the national table brings with it heightened responsibility. A single voice is often unheard, but together we cannot be ignored. We need to become even more involved.

For the last eight years we have been led by an administration that looks like America, not one that simply preaches the illusion of inclusion. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have appointed the highest number of Hispanics and others drawn from long-underutilized racial and ethnic pools to their administration.

Snapshots of local, state and federal governments are beginning to exhibit our diverse reality. In our cities, with their new multicultural energy, the excitement is becoming contagious.

(Saúl N. Ramírez Jr. is Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.)

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Fox Pondra Política Exterior Al Servicio De La Economía

por Diego Cevallos

MEXICO, - La política exterior del presidente electo de México, Vicente Fox, apuntará al pragmatismo y al trabajo basado sobre objetivos. Así, la diplomacia operará al servicio de la economía y de los buenos negocios.

La idea central de Fox es lograr buenos resultados internos de los contactos externos, dijo a IPS Adolfo Aguilar, coordinador del área internacional del equipo de transición al gobierno que asumirá en diciembre y a quien los observadores señalan como posible futuro canciller.

En el pasado, la diplomacia estuvo en función de ciertos intereses "jurídico-políticos". Ahora, la política exterior será "detonadora de actividades económicas", declaró Aguilar.

La política exterior del primer gobierno ajeno al Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) en 71 años estará dirigida a apoyar la construcción de un proyecto económico interno viable, que genere empleo y reduzca la brecha de ingresos, indicó.

Eso será lo central, pero también se destacará el interés de sumar a América Latina a los beneficios y privilegios de la sociedad comercial que México mantiene con Estados Unidos, Europa y otros países industrializados, apuntó Aguilar.

México es campeón latinoamericano en materia de tratados de libre comercio, con nueve vigentes y varios en negociación, pero también lo es en materia de inequidad social y la pobreza.

El principal de esos acuerdos, el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte (TLCAN), suscripto con Canadá y Estados Unidos, data de inicios de 1994. El último y segundo en importancia, es el vigente desde julio con la Unión Europea.

Gracias a esos tratados, este país logró, en parte, proyectarse durante la década del 90 como líder mundial en cuanto a crecimiento de exportaciones, con un 14.4 por ciento anual, informó en mayo la Organización Mundial de Comercio.

En materia de tratados comerciales, el gobierno saliente del PRI, en el poder desde su fundación en 1929, dejó un legado importante "y muy valioso, pues nosotros le vamos a dar un contenido estratégico", dijo Aguilar.

Con Fox, México negociará nuevos acuerdos pensando que es parte de sociedades poderosas a las que pueden sumarse otros y que deben generar beneficios internos.

Así, México le dice al Sur: "Ya nos hicimos socios del más rico de la cuadra. Ahora vengan

para que todos compartamos esa sociedad", manifestó.

Desde julio a la fecha, Fox recorrió 19 países de América y Europa y se reunió con 23 jefes de Estado y de gobierno. En cada uno de sus viajes propuso impulsar la integración y hacer buenos negocios.

Horas después de que asuma la Presidencia, en una ceremonia que será proporcional a su importancia histórica, según aseguró Aguilar, los contactos para negociar un acuerdo comercial con el Mercosur serán oficializados, igual que el apoyo de México a un proyecto de desarrollo con América Central.

También iniciará un trabajo de acercamiento con Estados Unidos, para proponer que se "monten" sobre el TLCAN todos los otros acuerdos bilaterales vigentes sobre migración, problemas laborales, ambientales y otros, con el fin de sellar un "TLCAN Plus", explicó Aguilar.

Antes, México quería firmar tratados, pero no sabía bien para qué, agregó. Ahora, que este país ya está dentro del mundo global, el futuro gobierno pretende crear un sistema de agrupamientos regionales y potenciar a México como socio del TLCAN, de la UE, del Mercosur, expresó el colaborador de Fox.

Sobre los principios que regirán las posiciones diplomáticas de México, Aguilar apuntó cinco.

"Los derechos humanos son un concepto internacional, no local", y en ese sentido el gobierno de Fox vinculará derechos humanos con autodeterminación. Por lo tanto, país que no tenga lo primero no tendrá lo segundo y se lo señalará, advirtió.

El segundo principio indica que "si no existen derechos políticos no hay soberanía". Y "el combate al narcotráfico, al crimen organizado y al terrorismo es responsabilidad internacional y sólo puede ser exitoso si se afronta a ese nivel", reza el tercero.

"El ambiente es un tema de responsabilidad global", señala el cuarto principio. El quinto sostiene que "el desarrollo económico es una responsabilidad internacional".

Con esos principios, ideas y objetivos, México ocupará una posición de liderazgo, pero sobre todo procurará beneficios económicos internos, enfatizó Aguilar.

Con Fox, México será además un libro abierto al escrutinio internacional en materia de ambiente y de derechos humanos, y trabajará estrechamente con organizaciones no gubernamentales para definir posiciones y políticas en esas materias, concluyó.

EEUU Prevé Financiar A Guerrilla Para Frenar Secuestros

por Yadira Ferrer

Santafe De Bogota, 20 oct (IPS) -- Empresarios colombianos y un alto funcionario de Estados Unidos manifesaron hoy su disposición a concretar un posible financiamiento a grupos guerrilleros para frenar los secuestros extorsivos de civiles.

El jefe de la Oficina de Asuntos Andinos del Departamento de Estado (cancillería) de Estados Unidos, Phillip Chicola, dijo que su gobierno estaría dispuesto a apoyar un programa internacional de financiación para las guerrillas si se llegara a un proceso de paz serio y definitivo, como ocurrió en América Central.

Chicola, quien concluyó este jueves una visita de dos días a Colombia, dijo que un aporte financiero internacional parecido al efectuado en América Central aseguraría el abandono por parte de los guerrilleros de la práctica del secuestro con fines económicos hasta la firma de los acuerdos.

"Sin saber a dónde va el proceso" no se puede decir si Estados Unidos apoyaría o no esa propuesta, pero aseguró que "cuando haya un acuerdo claro de hacia dónde se va y cuál es el objetivo final, la respuesta es sí", agregó el funcionario.

Organismos de seguridad informaron que la subversión recibió en 1999 unos 269 millones de dólares por secuestros, otro tipo de extorsiones y actividades relacionadas con narcotráfico.

Unas 700 personas son secuestradas en Colombia cada año por guerrilleros, paramilitares y delincuentes comunes.

Estados Unidos aportará 1.300 millones de dólares a los programas de lucha contra el narcotráfico del Plan Colombia propuesto por el presidente Andrés Pastrana. Los rebeldes consideran que esa ayuda contribuirá a una escalada de la guerra.

Los representantes del empresariado en una reunión de la sociedad civil colombiana que concluyó el miércoles en Costa Rica propusieron buscar mecanismos para financiar a la guerrilla bajo un cese del fuego. Los secuestros son la principal fuente de ingresos de los rebeldes en la actualidad.

Los mayores empresarios colombianos dijeron en la capital de Costa Rica estar dispuestos a participar en un proyecto de financiación de la guerrilla, siempre que haya "un cese de secuestros y hostilidades medible y verificable en el tiempo".

Luis Villegas, presidente de la Asociación Nacional de Industriales que reúne a cerca de 30

organizaciones del sector privado, manifestó su apoyo a esa propuesta.

Villegas indicó que el empresariado está dispuesto a financiar la desmovilización de la insurgencia "siempre y cuando la entrega de estos recursos se conviertan en un instrumento para la paz y no para la guerra".

El monto de los aportes de los industriales y el mecanismo que se defina para ese proceso debe ser definido por el Estado y los países amigos del proceso de paz, agregó.

La propuesta de buscar un mecanismo de financiamiento temporal a la guerrilla a cambio de una suspensión de los secuestros y extorsiones se suma a la introducida el 22 de septiembre representantes de la Iglesia Católica en un foro por la pacificación del país en Bogotá.

El presidente de la Conferencia Episcopal, monseñor Alberto Giraldo, propuso entonces que el Estado financie la guerrilla "mientras se logra consolidar un proceso de paz".

El Alto Comisionado para la Paz, Camilo Gómez, admitió la posibilidad de que el gobierno estudie un plan para financiar a la guerrilla, "bajo condiciones apropiadas".

Pero en el estado en que se encuentra la relación entre el gobierno y los rebeldes, la posibilidad de buscar un mecanismo de financiamiento alternativo al de los secuestros es bastante lejana, dijo a IPS Luis Valencia, profesor de la estatal Universidad Nacional.

Valencia sostuvo que la propuesta sólo podría ser tenida en cuenta cuando exista un compromiso "serio por parte de los grupos armados en cuanto al cese de los secuestros".

A corto plazo no hay posibilidades de acuerdo, dado el estancamiento del diálogo entre el gobierno y las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), por un lado, y con el Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), por el otro.

Las negociaciones con las FARC, principal grupo guerrillero, están congeladas por la negativa de los rebeldes a entregar a las autoridades un guerrillero prófugo de la justicia.

Así mismo, el incipiente acercamiento con el ELN, segunda organización guerrillera en importancia, tampoco avanzó, porque el gobierno no concretó la desmilitarización de una zona del norte colombiano para que ese grupo se reúna con representantes de la sociedad civil para definir una agenda de negociación.

HEALTH NEWS

Keep Stress Level Low During Pregnancy

LUBBOCK - Pregnancy is one of the more special times in a woman's life. But sometimes balancing a career, a family and pregnancy can be overwhelming for any mother.

"Many women come to see me when they are experiencing stress because of their concern that their stress is affecting their baby," said Joseph Killeen, M.D., an obstetrician/ gynecologist on staff at Covenant Health System. "Ironically, their concern is actually adding more stress.

"When it comes to emotional stress, the one to worry about is the mom. Stress doesn't actually affect the baby. The baby is protected inside the womb and will not feel stress the mother feels."

However, women who are reacting to stress by using cigarettes, alcohol or illicit drugs that are linked with low birth weight, may be increasing the risk of birth defects.

"If the mother's stress causes her to eat poorly or have unhealthy habits like alcohol consumption, then the baby can be greatly affected," Dr. Killeen said.

The March of Dimes suggests several ways for pregnant women to relax and "de-stress" themselves:

- * Allow sufficient time to relax each day;

- * Get comfortable in a room without phones or other distractions;

- * Focus on breathing from your belly, not your chest;

- * Learn to recognize tension in the muscle groups of your body and release the tension;

- * Imagine yourself in your favorite restful place; and

- * Relax at least once a day for 20 to 30 minutes throughout pregnancy.

"Half of all pregnant women are stressed before they become pregnant," Dr. Killeen said.

"They are working at a job, they have kids and they are being a mom on top of being pregnant. My advice for all women is to have things diffused by the time the baby is born. That's when the mother will need to be at her best. That's when a mother's stress will affect a child the most."

Proper Foot Care Helps Keep Life Running Smoothly

LUBBOCK - At one time or another, everyone has experienced problems with his feet. Whether it is a blister, athlete's foot or something more serious, our feet can determine a lot about the way we feel from day to day.

Podiatrists, people who specialize in foot care, say that most problems that affect the feet are more irritating than they are serious. However, self-

Controlling Cholesterol May Reduce Chance for Heart Disease

LUBBOCK - According to the American Heart Association, high cholesterol is the leading risk factor for heart disease. Excess cholesterol in the blood stream can cause plaque buildup along artery walls. The buildup slows blood flow and can lead to chest pain, angina and heart attacks.

Although high levels of cholesterol may cause many health risks, not all cholesterol is harmful to the body.

"There are two types of cholesterol," said Charles Wilkins, M.D., cardiologist on staff at Covenant Health System. "Low density lipoprotein (LDL) is the bad cholesterol. It does damage to the blood vessel walls. High density lipoprotein (HDL) is the good cholesterol. It transports and removes fat from the vessel walls."

According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, large reductions in LDL levels over five years substantially

treatment can often turn a minor problem into a major one. You should see a podiatric physician when problems persist for more than a few days.

The American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), says 75 percent of all Americans will experience foot problems at least once during their lifetime. The APMA suggests that walking is the best exercise for your feet. It also contributes to your general health by improving circulation, controlling your weight and promoting all around well being.

Paul Schwarzentraub, D.P.M., a local podiatrist, has been in the foot care business for more than 30 years. He says the best way to avoid further problems is to wear shoes that accommodate your feet.

"Women who wear high-heeled shoes tend to have big problems with their feet," Dr. Schwarzentraub said. "If you wear comfortable shoes, you'll be much better off in the long run."

The most common foot problems are corns, calluses, hammer toes (a joint deformity) and heel

"It is safe to say that taking care of your feet can have a dramatic effect on your overall well-being," Dr. Schwarzentraub said. "Your feet are your foundation, and taking good care of them should be a top priority."

tially reduce the chance of having a heart attack or dying from heart disease.

Dr. Wilkins recommends four easy ways to reduce LDL levels and maintain a healthy lifestyle:

- * Limit intake of saturated fat (animal fat);

- * Do not smoke. It lowers your HDL;

- * Get moderate exercise. For example, walk 30 minutes four to five times per week. Exercise can raise your HDL and lower your LDL; and

- * Know your exact cholesterol

numbers. Don't accept "it's OK" from your doctor.

"Certain groups should especially be aware of their cholesterol levels," Dr. Wilkins said.

"Diabetics, smokers, hypertensive patients and those with prior cardiac events are at high risk for heart disease.

"But, everyone should be concerned with his or her cholesterol. Even if cholesterol levels are normal and a person has no risk factors, everyone should have it checked every five years."

¿Qué tienen en común un salvavidas y una vacuna contra la gripe?

Si tiene diabetes, pregúntele a su médico.

La probabilidad de morir, debido a la gripe, es más alta si usted tiene diabetes. Si lo duda, sólo tiene que hablar con las familias de las 30.000 personas con diabetes que murieron por complicaciones causadas por una gripe o pulmonía.

Pregúntele a su médico sobre la vacuna contra la gripe para usted y los suyos. Pídale que le explique sobre los riesgos que usted corre cuando vive con diabetes. Porque, con diabetes, *prevención es control*. Y con control, la vida continúa.

Un mensaje de  y de su Departamento de Salud.



It's time to talk to your kids about tobacco.

If you have school-age children, it's not too early (or too late) to talk to them about tobacco and its effects. This seminar is for parents and students interested in tobacco use and its consequences. Both tobacco users and non-users are welcome.

Tobacco Awareness Seminar
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Speakers:
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The Man Without a Face
Janice Marchildon, RNC, OCN
Oncology Nurse Educator
P.J. Mann, RN, BSN
Smoking Cessation Counselor

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La Childbirth Network es un programa de apoyo a las madres y los bebés, patrocinado por el Centro Médico Highland, el Centro de Manejo de Pacientes Externos de Diabetes de West Texas (The Diabetes Outpatient Management Center of West Texas) y el March of Dimes. Nosotros ofrecemos información de todo, desde cuidados durante el embarazo hasta medidas de seguridad para tu bebé, y cualquier persona puede participar.

Fox's Foreign Policy - At The Service of Economy

By Diego Cevallos

MEXICO CITY, - The foreign policy of Mexican President-elect Vicente Fox will focus on achieving solid results on the domestic front, based on strong external contacts and Mexico's multiple free trade deals, said one of Fox's closest associates.

Fox's foreign policy will be based on pragmatism and clear targets, and diplomatic efforts will be at the service of the economy and good business, said Adolfo Aguilar, the coordinator of international affairs of Fox's transition team, who observers point to as the possible secretary of foreign affairs in the new government set to take office in December.

In the past, diplomacy has served certain "legal-political interests," while under Fox it will become the "catalyst for economic activities," Aguilar stated in an interview with IPS.

The foreign policy of the Fox administration -- which will be the first government not in the hands of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in seven decades -- will focus on helping to build a viable internal economic project that will generate jobs and reduce the income gap, he said.

That will be the main aim of foreign policy, said Aguilar. But, he added, another strong element will be Mexico's interest in drawing the rest of Latin America into the benefits and privileges enjoyed by this country as a trading partner of the United States, Europe and other industrialised countries.

Mexico, the world's 14th largest economy, is the Latin American leader in terms of free trade treaties, with nine already in effect and several in the process of negotiation.

But it is also a leader in social inequity and poverty, with the income of the richest 10 percent of the country now 25 times larger than the income of the poorest 40 percent.

The most far-reaching of the trade deals, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), linking Mexico with the United States and Canada, dates to early 1994. The second-most important, and the most recent, is the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement signed with the European Union in July.

Thanks to all the treaties it has signed, Mexico became the world leader in terms of export growth in the 1990s, with 14.4 percent average annual expansion of exports, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) reported in May.

In terms of trade agreements, the outgoing government of Ernesto Zedillo, of the PRI -- which has ruled since its founding in 1929 -- is leaving behind a "valuable and important legacy, to which we will give a strategic content," said Aguilar.

Under Fox -- a former Coca Cola executive and member of the pro-business conservative National Action Party (PAN) -- Mexico will negotiate new trade deals, seeing itself as part of powerful partnerships, which can be expanded to other nations, and which are to generate benefits for the population of Mexico.

Thus, said Aguilar, Mexico is telling the South: "We have already become partners of the richest guy on the block. Now come with us so we can all share in that partnership."

Since July, Fox has toured 19 countries in the Americas and Europe, and met with 23 heads of state and government. And on every one of his visits abroad, he has stressed the need to promote integration and strong commercial ties.

Just hours after he swears in -- at a ceremony designed to reflect the historical significance of the transition to a non-PRI government, according to Aguilar -- the contacts for negotiating a trade deal with the Southern Common Market (Mercosur -- Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) will be made official, as will Mexico's backing of a future development project with Central America.

The new government will also work on forging closer ties with the United States, to propose that all existing bilateral agreements on migration, labour and environmental issues be mounted on NAFTA, in order to put the seal on a sort of "NAFTA Plus" arrangement, said Aguilar.

In the past, Mexico wanted to sign treaties, but it didn't really know why, he told IPS. Now that Mexico has taken its place in the globalised world of today, the future government aims to create a system of regional groupings, and strengthen Mexico as a member of NAFTA and a partner of the EU and Mercosur, Aguilar added.

He also outlined five overlying principles that are to govern Mexico's diplomatic efforts under the new government.

"Human rights are an international, not a local, concept," stressed Aguilar, adding that the Fox administration would tie human rights to self-determination. Thus, any country lacking the former will also lack the latter, and will be called to attention, he pointed out.

The second principle indicates that "if there are no political rights, there is no sovereignty," while the third states that "the fight against drug trafficking, organised crime and terrorism is an international responsibility, and can only be successful if tackled at that level."

The fourth and fifth principles, meanwhile, stipulate that the environment and economic development are questions of global responsibility.

Based on those principles, ideas and objectives, Mexico plans to take on a leadership role. But above all it plans to seek internal economic benefits for its people, said Aguilar.

Under Fox, Mexico will also be open to international scrutiny on questions of the environment and human rights, and will work closely with non-governmental organisations in hammering out positions and policies in those areas, he concluded.

Tribunal Confirmando Condena De Campesinos Ambientalistas

por Danielle Knight

WASHINGTON, 1 nov (IPS) - Un tribunal de apelaciones de México confirmó las condenas a entre seis y diez años de prisión contra dos campesinos ambientalistas de ese país, pero activistas estadounidenses prometieron intensificar su campaña por la liberación de ambos presos.

Los presos, que habían sido condenados el 28 de agosto, son Rodolfo Montiel, fundador y líder del grupo Campesinos Ecológicos de la Sierra de Petatlán y Coyuca de Catalán, y Teodoro Cabrera, miembro de esa organización.

Campesinos Ecológicos se ha opuesto desde 1988 a la tala ilegal de árboles en las montañas al norte del balneario de Acapulco, en el estado meridional mexicano de Guerrero, sobre la costa del Pacífico.

La estatal Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos de México afirmó que los cargos contra ambos activistas por siembra de marihuana y posesión ilegal de armas se basaron en evidencia fraguada por los soldados que los detuvieron en mayo de 1999.

Grupos ambientalistas mexicanos y de otros países aseguran que Cabrera y Montiel fueron detenidos para impedir que continuaran sus actividades de defensa del ambiente.

El fallo del tribunal de apelaciones, dado a conocer esta semana, establece "un peligroso precedente contra los ambientalistas mexicanos", comentó Alejandro Queral, director de campañas humanitarias y ambientalistas de la organización no gubernamental estadounidense (ONG) Sierra Club.

El Sierra Club y la filial estadounidense de la ONG humanitaria Amnistía Internacional, con sede en Londres, consideran que Cabrera y Montiel son presos de conciencia, y cuestionan la imparcialidad del sistema judicial mexicano en el caso.

Ese cuestionamiento se debe en que el tribunal de apelaciones no aceptó que se presentara nueva evidencia producida por un grupo independiente de médicos, para probar que los soldados que detuvieron a ambos campesinos los torturaron para que confesaran.

La ley de México permite que fiscales y abogados defensores presenten nuevas evidencias durante los procesos de apelación.

Cabrera y Montiel prometieron continuar su lucha ambientalista desde la cárcel, en una declaración divulgada por el Sierra Club.

"No debemos cambiar el futuro de nuestros hijos por unas pocas monedas", expresaron.

Montiel comenzó a organizar en 1988 a los campesinos pobres de su región para luchar contra la explotación maderera, que a su juicio provocaba erosión del suelo, afectaba el abastecimiento de agua y causaba la pérdida de cosechas.

El activismo de Montiel nació de la preocupación por sus propios cultivos, cuando la tala de árboles en las montañas de Guerrero comenzó a perjudicar la napa acuífera de las zonas boscosas e hizo disminuir en forma drástica el abastecimiento y la calidad del agua en la región.

El campesino, quien sólo llegó a cursar el primer grado de la escuela primaria, escribió cartas a funcionarios federales para denunciar que las leyes eran violadas por las firmas madereras.

Esas cartas nunca recibieron

respuesta, y Montiel fundó Campesinos Ecológicos, cuyas actividades llevaron a la compañía maderera Boise Cascade, con sede en Estados Unidos, a desistir de las actividades de explotación en Guerrero que había iniciado en 1995.

Poderosos terratenientes locales y militares de una guardería vecina reaccionaron con furia ante las acciones de la organización ambientalista, que la oficina del fiscal general del estado de Guerrero definió como una "ecoguerrilla".

Soldados del 40 Batallón de Infantería del Ejército arrestaron a Montiel y Cabrera en mayo de 1999, y se denunció que los golpearon y torturaron. Durante el arresto, los soldados dispararon contra otro campesino y lo mataron.

Según testimonios de prisioneros difundidos por Amnistía Internacional, Montiel y Cabrera fueron amenazados con armas de fuego para que declararan que poseían armas en forma ilegal y que eran cómplices de la organización guerrillera izquierdista Ejército Popular Revolucionario, que opera en la región.

Médicos forenses que trabajan para la filial danesa de la ONG Médicos por los Derechos

Humanos examinaron a Montiel y Cabrera, y aseguraron que ambos presentaban lesiones y síntomas compatibles por completo con secuelas de las torturas que ambos dijeron haber recibido.

El centro de derechos humanos mexicano Agustín Pro Juárez, una ONG vinculada con la congregación católica de los jesuitas, se hizo cargo de la defensa judicial de Montiel y Cabrera. La organización denunció que sus integrantes han recibido desde entonces numerosas amenazas de muerte.

La coordinadora del programa legal de esa ONG, Digna Ochoa y Plácido, fue secuestrada y maltratada por desconocidos durante varias horas en agosto de 1999.

El 14 de julio, la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos admitió que Montiel y Cabrera habían sido detenidos en forma ilegal y torturados por integrantes del ejército, y negó que ambos activistas portaran armas cuando fueron arrestados, como denunciaron las autoridades.

"Las autoridades mexicanas dirigieron un mensaje paralizante a otros activistas defensores del ambiente en México, al demostrar una vez más que no respetan en absoluto los derechos

humanos de ambos" presos, declaró Diego Zavala, un especialista en asuntos mexicanos que trabaja con Amnistía Internacional.

La Fundación Ambientalista Goldman, con sede en el estado sudoccidental estadounidense de California, otorgó su prestigioso Premio Ambiental anual a Montiel y Cabrera y se sumó a la campaña de denuncia de su situación.

Quienes son objeto de esa distinción reciben 125.000 dólares.

Desde la condena en primera instancia de Cabrera y Montiel, el gobierno mexicano ha recibido miles de cartas de personas que pidieron la liberación de ambos, y unos 40 parlamentarios estadounidenses han ejercido presión con ese objetivo sobre el actual presidente de México, Ernesto Zedillo.

Amnistía Internacional y el Sierra Club comentaron que este caso pondrá a prueba al presidente electo de México, Vicente Fox.

Fox "puede mostrar al pueblo mexicano su compromiso con los derechos humanos y la protección del ambiente, si ordena la inmediata liberación de Cabrera y Montiel cuando asuma la presidencia", apuntó Zavala.

From Page 2

ended Wednesday in Costa Rica proposed seeking mechanisms to finance the guerrilla groups under a ceasefire. Currently, the principal source of income for the insurgents is through ransoms paid for kidnapping victims.

Colombia's top entrepreneurs said in the Costa Rican capital that they are willing to take part in a project to monetarily support the guerrillas, as long as there is "a halt to the kidnappings and hostilities that is measurable and verifiable over time."

Luis Villegas, president of the National Association of Industries, which unites approximately 30 private sector organizations, expressed his support for the proposal.

Villegas said the business community is ready to finance the demobilizing of the insurgency, with the condition that "the resources are converted into an instrument for peace, not for war."

The Colombian government and countries taking part in the peace efforts should determine

the amount of the private sector's contribution and the mechanism for defining the process, he added.

The proposal to seek temporary financing for the guerrillas in exchange for an end to kidnappings comes on the heels of another presented September 22 by representatives of the Catholic Church at a peace and democracy forum in Bogotá.

The president of the Bishops Conference, Monsignor Alberto Giraldo, proposed at the time that the government should finance the guerrilla groups "while achieving consolidation of a peace process."

Colombia's High Commissioner for Peace, Camilo Gómez, admitted that the government might consider such a plan for the guerrillas, "under appropriate conditions."

But in the current state of relations between the government and the rebels, the possibility of establishing a mechanism of financing to replace income from kidnappings is quite remote, said Luis Valencia, a professor at the state-run

National University.

Valencia told IPS that the proposal could only be considered when there is a "serious (commitment) by the armed groups as far as ending the kidnappings."

In the short term, there is no chance at such an accord, given the breakdown in dialogue between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), on the one hand, and with the National Liberation Army (ELN), on the other, he said.

Negotiations with the FARC, the country's largest guerrilla group, have stalled due to the rebels' refusal to hand over a fugitive from justice to the government authorities.

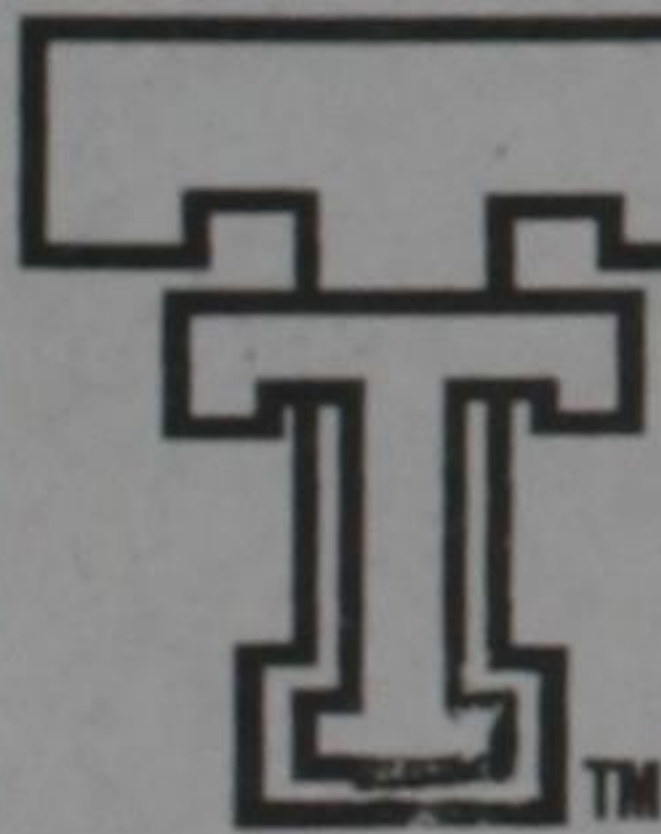
Meanwhile, the nascent attempts to approach the ELN, the second largest rebel force, also failed because the government did not finalize the demilitarization of an area in northern Colombia, which the group demanded in order to meet with civil society representatives to hammer out an agenda for peace talks.



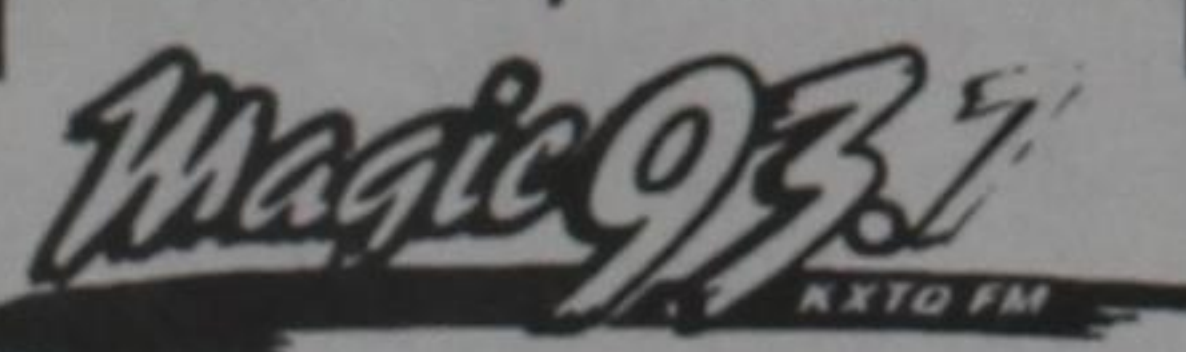
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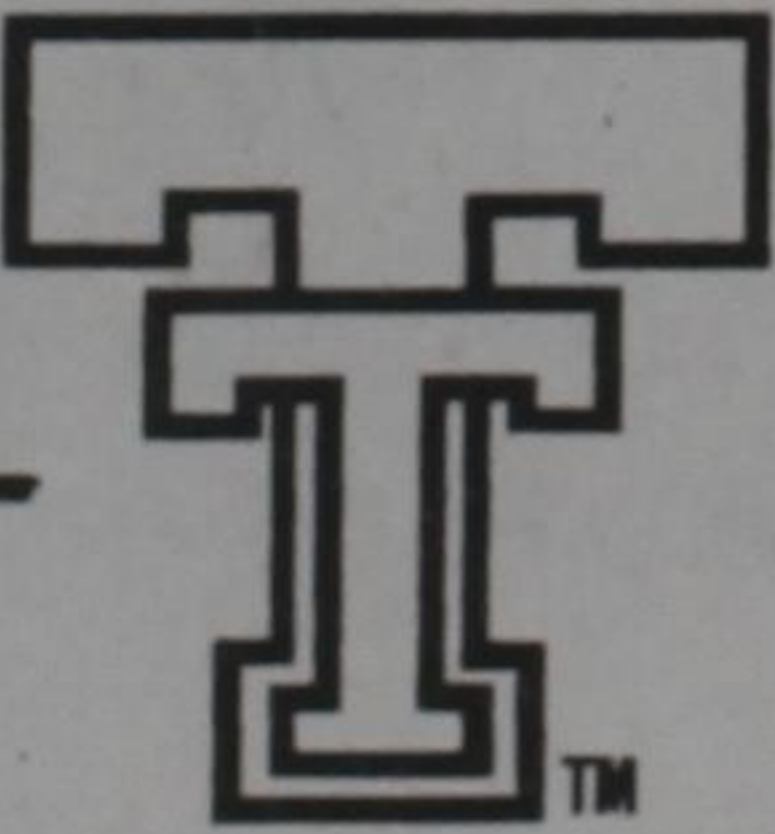
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Southwestern
Public Service

El Editor, Lubbock, Tx. November 9, 2000

Latino Authors, Poets Provide Many Christmas Gift Options

Reviewed by Olivia Muñoz

Just in time for this gift-giving season, books created by several talented Latino authors and illustrators have reached bookstore shelves. From children's books to poetry for young adults, from noted Latin American authors to works focusing on the special traditions of this season, there is something to please everyone.

FICTION

"Noche Buena," edited by Nicolás Kanellos (Oxford, \$32.50, hardcover, pp. 370) *Arte Público* founder Kanellos has put together, in English, a collection of new and old Christmas stories, poems and songs from varied Latino cultures.

"Peel My Love Like an Onion," by Ana Castillo (Anchor Books, \$12, paperback, pp. 212) New to paperback is Castillo's novel of love and flamenco. Her heroine Carmen "La Coja" (the Cripple) Santos relates her adventures through love and work.

"The Magic Lantern: Having a Ball and Christmas Eve," by José Tomás de Cuéllar, translated by Margaret Carson (Oxford, \$30, hardcover, pp. 208) In these two novellas, the Mexican author humorously touches on the modernization of his society.

NONFICTION

"Latino USA: A Cartoon History," by Ilan Stavans, illustrated by Lalo López Alcaraz (Basic Books, \$19.95, hardcover, pp. 170) This rundown of Latino history is presented in comic book form with lots of humor.

"Elegy on the Death of César Chávez," by Rudolfo Anaya, illustrated by Gaspar Enriquez (ITAL/Cinco Puntos/ENDITAL)

Press, \$16.96, hardcover, pp. 32) From acclaimed Chicano author Anaya comes a moving elegy on



the death of civil rights activist César Chávez. Enriquez's beautiful artwork illustrates the story of a man whose death was a loss to us all.

"Latina Beauty," by the editors of Latina Magazine and Belén Aranda-Alvarado (Hyperion, \$29.95, hardcover, pp. 222) From the leading Hispanic women's magazine comes this guide to looking good and understanding our beauty.

Frutas de América, by Clara Inés Olaya Editorial Norma, \$50 plus \$5 shipping, hardcover, pp. 180) This unique and savory book includes 180 beautiful photographs showcasing 26 native fruits of the entire continent. Olaya presents the subject matter in an artistic and cultural way, detailing their uses and cultivation. The book includes a history of their pre-Columbian uses to modern studies by botanists.

POETRY & ESSAYS

"When Living Was a Labor Camp," by Diana García

(University of Arizona Press, \$14.95, paperback, pp. 102) In this collection of poems, García, born in a migrant labor camp, looks back on her life in California's San Joaquín Valley.

"Selected Non-Fictions," by José Luis Borges (Penguin Books, \$17, paperback, pp. 560) This remarkable collection of essays on everything from movies to prejudice will please any Borges enthusiast.

"Itinerary: An Intellectual Journey," by Octavio Paz, translated by Jason Wilson (Harcourt, \$22, hardcover, pp. 144) The final work of one of México's greatest writers is a semi-autobiographical collection of essays on political ideas by the Nobel Prize-winner.

CHILDREN

"My Very Own Room/Mi propio cuartito," by Amanda Irma Pérez, illustrated by Maya Christina González (Children's Book Press, \$15.95, hardcover, pp. 32) This bilingual children's book looks at a Mexican American girl's dream of having her own space among the many family members that inhabit her home.

"Say Hola to Spanish at the Circus," by Susan Middleton Elya, illustrated by Loretta López (Lee & Low Books, \$15.95, hardcover, pp. 32) This children's book introduces children to the Spanish language. Aimed at ages 2 - 5, it also includes a 70-entry glossary.

"The Night the Moon Fell," told by Pat Mora, illustrated by Domi (Groundwood Books, \$16.95, hardcover, pp. 30) Mora retells a Mayan myth set to the bright illustrations of Domi's works. Also available in Spanish.

YOUNG ADULT

"Baseball in April and Other Stories: Tenth Anniversary Edition," by Gary Soto (Harcourt Children's Books, \$6, paperback, pp. 128) In this collection of short stories, Soto explores the important themes in life - love, friendship, failure, coming of age - through the everyday occurrences inspired by his youth.

"My Own True Name: New and Selected Poems for Young Adults," by Pat Mora (Piñata Books, \$11.95, paperback, pp. 82) In this anthology, Mora gathers the best of her poetry and publishes some brand new pieces for teen-age readers. The cactus serves as a metaphor for our existence.

(Olivia Muñoz is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)

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Autores y Poetas Latinos Proporcionan Muchas Alternativas Para Regalos De Navidad

Revisado por Olivia Muñoz

Exactamente a tiempo para esta temporada de hacer regalos, una diversidad de libros redactados por autores e ilustradores latinos han llegado a las repisas de las librerías. Desde libros infantiles hasta poesía para adultos jóvenes, desde autores latinos renombrados hasta obras que se enfocan sobre las tradiciones especiales de esta temporada, hay algo para complacer a cada cual.

FICCION

"Noche Buena," editado por Nicolás Kanellos (Oxford, \$32.50 en pasta, 370 páginas). El fundador de *Arte Público*, Kanellos, ha reunido una colección de relatos de Navidad nuevos y antiguos, poemas y canciones de las diversas culturas latinas.

"Peel My Love Like an Onion," por Ana Castillo (Anchor Books, \$12, cubierta de papel, 212 páginas). Algo nuevo en cubierta de papel es su novela de amor y flamenco. Su heroína, Carmen "La Coja" Santos, relata sus aventuras a través del amor y el trabajo.

"The Magic Lantern: Having a Ball and Christmas Eve," por José Tomás de Cuéllar, traducida por Margaret Carson (Oxford, \$30, en pasta, 208 páginas). En estas dos novelas, el autor mexicano toca humorísticamente sobre la modernización de su sociedad.

NO FICCION

"Latino USA: Una Historia de Caricaturas," por Ilán Stavans, ilustrada por Lalo López Alcaraz (Basic Books, \$19.95, en pasta, 170 páginas). Este recuento de historia latina está presentado en forma de libro de historietas cómicas con mucho buen humor.

"Elegy on the Death of César Chávez," por Rudolfo Anaya, ilustrada por Gaspar Enriquez (Cinco Puntos Press, \$16.96, en pasta, 32 páginas). Del aclamado autor chicano Anaya llega una elegía conmovedora sobre la muerte del activista de los derechos civiles César Chávez. La bella labor artística de Enriquez ilustra la historia de un hombre cuya muerte fue una pérdida para todos nosotros.

"Latina Beauty," por los editores de la revista Latina y Belén Aranda-Alvarado (Hyperion, \$29.95, en pasta, 222 páginas). De la importante revista para mujeres hispanas llega esta guía para lucir bien y comprender nuestra belleza.

"Frutas de América," por Clara Inés Olaya (Editorial Norma, \$50 más \$5 por franqueo, en pasta, 180 páginas). Este libro singular y con sabor incluye 180 bellas fotos que destacan a 26 frutas nativas de todo el continente. Olaya presenta el asunto de modo artístico y cultural, detallando sus usos y cultivos. El libro incluye una historia de sus usos pre-colombinos hasta los estudios modernos de los botánicos.

POESIA Y ENSAYOS

"When Living Was a Labor Camp," por Diana García (University of Arizona Press)

\$14.95, cubierta de papel, 102 páginas). En esta colección de poemas, García, nacida en un campamento de trabajadores migrantes, mira retrospectivamente a su vida en el Valle de San Joaquín, California.

"Selected Non-Fictions," por José Luis Borges (Penguin Books, \$17, cubierta de papel, 560 páginas). Esta notable colección de ensayos sobre todo, desde las películas hasta el prejuicio, complacerá a cualquier entusiasta de las obras de Borges.

"Itinerary: An Intellectual Journey," por Octavio Paz, traducido por Jason Wilson (Harcourt, \$22, en pasta, 144 páginas). La última obra de uno de los mayores escritores de México es una colección semi-autobiográfica de ensayos sobre ideas políticas por el ganador del Premio Nobel.

LIBROS PARA NIÑOS

"My Very Own Room/Mi Propio Cuartito," por Amanda Irma Pérez, ilustrado por Maya Christina González (Children's Book Press, \$15.95, en pasta, 32 páginas). Este libro infantil bilingüe mira al sueño de una niña mexicanoamericana de tener su espacio propio entre los muchos miembros de su familia que habitan en su casa.

"Say 'Hola' to Spanish in the Circus," por Susan Middleton Elya, ilustrado por Loretta López (Lee & Low Books, \$15.95, en pasta, 32 páginas). Este libro para niños presenta a los niños al idioma español. Destinado para las edades de entre 2 y 5 años, incluye también un glosario de introducción con 70 palabras.

"The Night the Moon Fell," relatado por Pat Mora, ilustrado por Domi (Groundwood Books, \$16.95, en pasta, 30 páginas). Mora vuelve a relatar un mito de los mayas, presentado con ilustraciones brillantes de las obras de Domi. Disponible también en español.

PARA ADULTOS JOVENES

"Baseball in April and Other Stories: Tenth Anniversary Edition," por Gary Soto (Harcourt Children's Books, \$6, cubierta de papel, 128 páginas). En esta colección de relatos cortos, Soto explora los temas importantes de la vida - el amor, la amistad, el fracaso, el llegar a la mayoría de edad - a través de las ocurrencias diarias inspiradas por su juventud.

"My Own True Name: New and Selected Poems for Young Adults," por Pat Mora (Piñata Books, \$11.95, cubierta de papel, 82 páginas). En esta antología, Mora reúne lo mejor de su poesía y publica algunas piezas nuevas para los lectores adolescentes. El cacto sirve como una metáfora para nuestra existencia.

(Olivia Muñoz es reportera de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, DC.)

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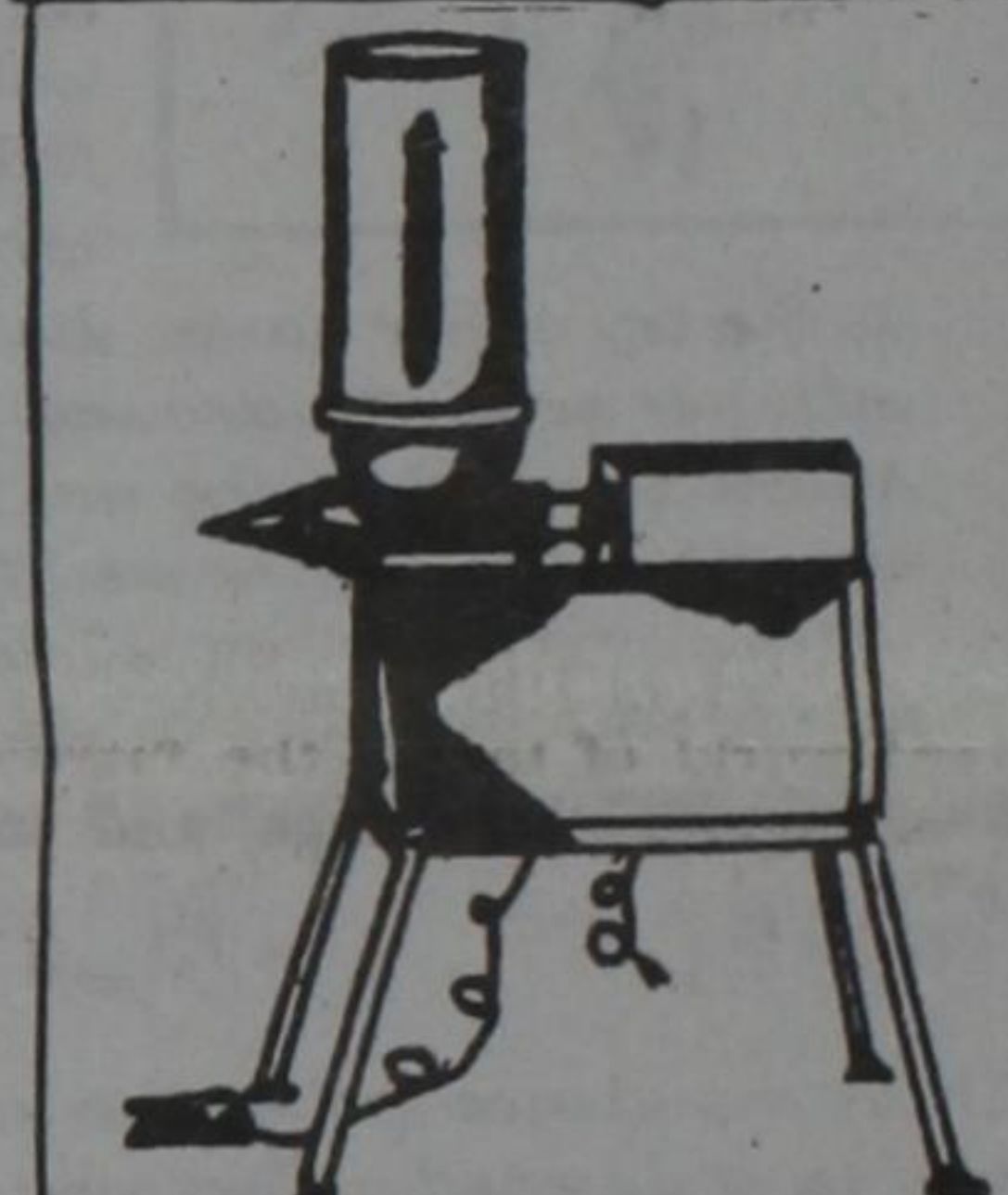
50th Wedding Anniversary

The children and grandchildren of Pete & Mary Solis of Slaton, Tx would like to congratulate them on their 50th Anniversary on Sat., Nov. 11, 2000.

Children of the couple are Ruben & Olivia Solis, David & Sofia Solis, Tom & Linda Solis, F.L. & Orelia Gonzalez and Guadalupe "Frosty" Solis-deceased.

The couple married in 1950 in Slaton and now have 14 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

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Andy Wilkinson to Headline Saturday Night Special

Andy Wilkinson, cowboy poet and singer, will headline the next performance of the South Plains College weekly musical variety show, Saturday Night Special, Nov. 11.

Concert time is 7:30 p.m. in the Tom T. Hall Performance Center in SPC's Creative Arts Building. Cost is \$5 for senior citizens and \$6 general admission.

Proceeds are used for student scholarships.

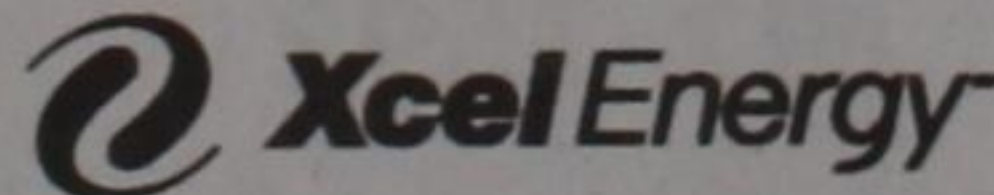
Wilkinson will perform selections from his new Christmas album, "An Ordinary Christmas," which includes original poems and songs written by Wilkinson and several of his poems read by actor Barry Corbin.

The Saturday Night Special ensemble will perform a variety of classic country hits.

For more information on the concert, contact the SPC Creative Arts Department at 806-894-9611, ext. 2281.



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75,000 regalos a repartir en la mitad del Este de los Estados Unidos y otros 75,000 en la Oeste. Por pregunta se premiara a las primeras 939 llamadas con respuesta correcta. El participante tiene que ser residente legal en los Estados Unidos y mayor de 18 años. Las reglas están a su disposición escribiendo a Telemundo "Pasión Millonaria" llamando al (305) 889-7191 o conectándose a www.telemundo.com. Empleados de Telemundo no pueden participar.

Compradores Y Empresarios Latinos Se Reunen En El Taller De Trabajo De Santa Claus En La Internet

Por Olivia Muñoz

Desde atuendos de charro y salsas con marcas mexicanas hasta camisetas de moda y cosméticos con nombres tales como Tamales Calientes y Española, el buscar regalos singulares con sabor latino en esta temporada de días festivos está a sólo un chasquido del ratón de distancia.

Una encuesta de la revista Hispanic Business y Zogby International entre 1,155 adultos de todo el país halló que el 49% de los latinos entrevistados habían hecho una compra por Internet entre diciembre de 1999 y febrero de este año. Muchos empresarios latinos están aprovechándose de esas cifras.

Mexgrocer.com, un nuevo lugar bilingüe de la Red que ofrece más de 1,000 productos de marcas mexicanas como Jumex, Garnes, Doña María y Chocolate Abuelita, estarán vendiendo "Canastas Navideñas" (cestas con regalos). Estas fluctuarán entre \$30 y \$50 y destacarán bebidas, salsas o productos dulces mexicanos.

El lugar también vende piñatas, velas votivas religiosas y jabanos de México.

"Ofrecemos muchas de las marcas con las que crecieron las personas, y los latinos jóvenes quieren conocerlas", dice Ignacio Hernández, fundador y Funcionario Ejecutivo Principal de mexgrocer.com "Lo que queremos vender es nostalgia".

El saber que la comunidad latina tiene vínculos sólidos con la cultura es la clave, dice Elizabeth Bartolo, fundador de "Ella Cosmetics", que ofrece una línea completa de cosméticos, in-

uyendocreyones de labios nombrados Caliente, Chismosa y Guapa; sombras para los ojos nombradas Cinco de Mayo, Mi Tierra y Siesta; y cosméticos en barras con nombres tales como Flan, Dulce y Yuca.

La empresaria cubana-americana radicada en la Florida lanzó ellacosmetics.com en febrero. Una encuesta de 1999 del Departamento Federal de Comercio mostró que el 12.6% de las familias latinas usan la Internet.

Bartolo dice que ella ha ganado entre \$25,000 y \$30,000 desde entonces y espera llegar a un total bruto de \$200,000 en el año 2001. Ellacosmetics.com destacará estuches para regalos de Navidad con precios que van desde \$7 a \$21.

Las ropas especializadas han llevado también sus negocios a la Internet. Alvarez Enterprises ha estado vendiendo ropas típicas del Oeste y de charro, sombreros y botas durante más de 12 años. Ahora, AlvarezEnterprises.com está ayudando a llevar los negocios más allá de la zona de Los Angeles.

Los Zoot Suits (Trajes de Peimetres) y otros recuerdos de los pachucos están disponibles a través de elpachuco.com, que ofrece las ropas y los accesorios extravagantes así como cheques personalizados, chapas para automóviles, tarjetas de felicitación, impresiones artísticas y, desde luego, la película "Zoot Suit".

Los que buscan una apariencia más moderna pueden conectarse con RazaClothingCo.com para comprar camisetas-T, som-

breros, sweaters y una nueva línea de prendas de mezclilla que el creador Robert Montalvo dice que rivaliza con las principales marcas de diseñadores de la corriente principal.

La firma satírica de la Internet Pocho.com ofrece diseños por el caricaturista de La Cucaracha, Lalo Alcaraz. También está disponible su almanaque de caricaturas para el año 2001.

"Muchas personas no saben el modo de hacerlo bien", dice el presidente de Digital Aztlan, Sal Rojas, de los negocios mediante la Internet. "Las cosas tienen que hacerse de manera fácil de seguir y profesional". Rojas empezó vendiendo música de los artistas latinos del hip-hop en Brownpride.com, con el socio Javier Oseguera.

"La gente de Texas y Chicago estaban pidiendo álbumes de artistas latinos que ellos habían oído en los programas locales de hip-hop," dice Rojas, quien también se propone empezar a vender ropas a fines de noviembre.

El dice que las personas comenzaron a enviar averiguaciones por E-mail a su lugar de la Red, y la demanda lo impulsó a proporcionar música por la línea.

Aunque los negocios en la línea han abierto las puertas a muchos empresarios nuevos, los métodos tradicionales de comprar regalos y ver tiendas se hallan disponibles todavía, aunque muchos han empezado a ofrecer sus artículos por la Internet.

Mezclando el pasado y el presente se halla María Guevara, que empezó su negocio en Hollywood, Florida, hace sólo un año, cuando un amigo le pidió que diseñara una guayabera para un familiar. Guevara lanzó pronto la marca Cuervo, una línea de guayaberas hechas a la orden, camisas con plisados, bordados y que se abotonan. También hay disponibles sombreros de jipijapa (llamados de Panamá), y productos para el cuidado de la piel de los hombres.

La marca Cuervo entró en la línea recientemente con el indicativo Cuervoformen.com, y estará ofreciendo zapatos, billeteras, cinturones y otros productos de cuero dentro de poco tiempo.

"Yo quería hacer regresar a la elegancia del Viejo Mundo", dice Guevara de su mercancía. "Quería promover la fascinación de los estilos del Viejo Mundo que han empezado a ser populares de nuevo".

Jackie Pérez, que junto con su asociada Carole Ann Taylor abrió Little Havana To Go, sabe que los productos que recuerdan a la patria pueden equivaler a utilidades. La tienda, radicada en Miami, vende reproducciones de antiguas marcas de fábrica cubanas y otros recuerdos.

"No vendemos mercancía, vendemos cultura", dice Pérez. Las palabras se han convertido en el lema no oficial de la tienda. "Hay un negocio que hacer y una cultura que conocer".

La tienda abrió a principios de este año. Suministra ejemplares por correo de artículos tan difíciles de encontrar como copias de una guía de teléfonos de La Habana de 1958 y placas que destacan pedazos de antiguos edificios cubanos.

(Olivia Muñoz es reportera de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, DC. Para obtener una lista gratis de 35 tiendas y organizaciones que destacan los regalos con "sabor latino", comuníquense con ella

Latino Shoppers, Entrepreneurs Meet At Santa's Internet Workshop

By Olivia Muñoz

From charro outfits and Mexican-brand salsas to trendy T-shirts and cosmetics with names like Hot Tamale and EspanDola, shopping for unique, Latin-flavored gifts this holiday season is just a click of the mouse away.

A survey by Hispanic Business magazine and Zogby International of 1,155 adults nationwide found that 49 percent of Latinos polled had made an online purchase between December 1999 and February of this year. Many Latino entrepreneurs are taking advantage of those figures.

Mexgrocer.com, a new bilingual Web site offering more than 1,000 Mexican-brand products like Jumex, Gamesa, Doña María and Chocolate Abuelita, will be selling "Canastas Navideñas" gift baskets. They will range from \$30 to \$50 and will feature Mexican beverages, salsas or candy products.

The site also sells piñatas, religious votive candles, and soaps from México.

"We offer a lot of the brands that people grew up with, and young Latinos want to know," says Ignacio Hernández, founder and CEO of Mexgrocer.com. "What we want to sell is nostalgia."

Knowing that the Latino community has strong ties with culture is key, says Elizabeth Bartolo, founder of Ella Cosmetics, which offers a full line of make-up, including lipsticks named Caliente, Chismosa and Guapa; eye shadows named Cinco de Mayo, Mi Tierra and Siesta; and stick make-up with names such as Flan, Dulce and Yuca.

The Florida-based Cuban-American entrepreneur launched ellacosmetics.com in February. A 1999 U.S. Department of Commerce survey showed that 12.6 percent of U.S. Latino households use the Internet.

Bartolo says she has made \$25,000-\$30,000 since then and expects to gross up to \$200,000 in 2001. Ellacosmetics.com will feature gift sets for Christmas with prices ranging from \$7 to \$21.

Specialty clothing has also taken its business online. Alvarez Enterprises has been selling Western and charro cloth-

ing, hats and boots for more than 12 years. Now AlvarezEnterprises.com is helping take business beyond the Los Angeles area.

Zoot suits and other pachuco memorabilia are available at el-pachuco.com, which offers the flashy clothes and accessories as well as personalized checks, license plates, greeting cards, art prints and, of course, the movie "Zoot Suit."

Those looking for a more modern look can log on to RazaClothingCo.com for T-shirts, hats, sweats and a new line of denim wear that creator Robert Montalvo says rivals the leading mainstream designer brands.

The on-line satirical site Pocho.com offers T-shirts featuring designs by "La Cucaracha" cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz. Also available is his 2001 cartoon calendar.

"A lot of people don't know how to do it right," says Digital Aztlan President Sal Rojas of the on-line businesses. "Things have to be done in an easy-to-follow and professional manner."

Rojas started selling music by Latino hip-hop artists on Brownpride.com with partner Javier Oseguera.

"People from Texas and Chicago were asking for albums by Latino artists they heard at local hip-hop shows," says Rojas, who also plans to start selling clothing in late November.

He says people began sending E-mail inquiries to his Web site, and demand prompted him to supply music on-line.

Although on-line businesses have opened the doors to many new entrepreneurs, traditional methods of gift-buying and shopping are still available, even though many have begun to offer their wares on-line.

Mixing past and present is María Guevara, who began her business in Hollywood, Fla., just a year ago when a friend asked her to design a guayabera for a loved one. Guevara soon

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3021 Clovis Rd - 762-3068

launched Cuervo, a line of customized guayaberas, traditional pleated, embroidered button-down shirts. Panama hats and men's skin care products are also available.

Cuervorecently went on-line as Cuervoformen.com and will be offering leather shoes, wallets, belts and other products shortly. "I wanted to bring that old world elegance back," says Guevara of her merchandise. "I wanted to promote the glamour of the old world styles that have started to become popular again."

Jackie Pérez, who along with partner Carole Ann Taylor opened Little Havana To Go, knows that products reminiscent of the motherland can equal profits. The Miami-based store sells reproductions of old Cuban logos and other memorabilia.

"We don't sell merchandise, we sell culture," says Pérez. The words have become the store's unofficial motto. "There's a business to be made and a culture to be known."

The store opened earlier this year. It provides mail-order delivery of such hard-to-find items as copies of a 1958 phone directory from Havana and plaques featuring pieces of old Cuban buildings.

(Olivia Muñoz is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)

SPC Spring 2001 Schedules Available

Spring 2001 class schedules for South Plains College are now available.

SPC has scheduled spring registration Jan. 8-9 at the SPC Reese Center campus, Jan. 10-11 at SPC Lubbock and Jan. 11 at SPC Levelland.

SPC Lubbock registration will include sign-up for courses offered at the downtown location and at the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center in Lubbock.

The schedules also list evening courses and courses offered through the Internet.

SPC's spring schedules are available on-line by contacting www.spc.cc.tx.us and can also be obtained by contacting SPC at 747-0576, ext. 4601 or 894-9611, ext. 2570 or 2375.

INSTRUCTIONAL:
COMPUTER
INFORMATION SYSTEMS
CHEMISTRY
ASSOCIATE DEGREE
NURSING
(Mental Health)
HVAC

PROFESSIONAL:
ACCOUNTING MANAGER
CAMPUS POLICE

Request position description and application packet from South Plains College, Human Resources Office, Maria Chapa, 1401 S. College Ave., Levelland, Texas, 79336, (806) 747-0576, ext. 2177.

Complete employment listings and descriptions are available at our web site www.spc.cc.tx.us under "JOBS" or call our employment line (806) 894-2594

South Plains College reserves the right to extend the search or not offer position advertised. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Educational Institution.

KARLA

A five year old native girl named "KARLA" had not been stricken by the deadly illness and became very helpful to both the colony of visitors and her village people.

KARLA worked continuously providing them with the water until she would fall asleep from exhaustion.

At the cry of her name, she would be up, awake, ready with her arms still around a water vase.

A time came when she was awoken to what she thought was the call of her name. It was really pure silence but silence at its very best is loud. She would turn her head side to side listening to see where the call was coming.

This time silence spoke, the unseen became visible; it dawned on her why it was so silent. She ran from person to person with hopes to find at least one, one person breathing. She knew that people and beast had died. Then came to this youth the devastating thought which gave it's birth to the meaning of being all alone. Her hurt was unbelievable as the nightmare she had awoken to lingered to a monstrous reality. She stood frozen with her arms still around the water vase. The thought of "all alone" kept coming, over and over again. She let go of the water vase and before it reached it's last usefulness, KARLA had left - running, running, and running!

Tired already from before and not really not the running, the tiny body reached it's limit. It could no longer take Little Karla away from the memory she was trying to leave behind. Creeping, in almost slow motion came the end of her struggle as her last footstep continued forward to a downward final finish; Little KARLA had already pasted out to the welcoming ground.

PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

The City of Lubbock, TX (population 196,000) will be accepting applications for Police Officer positions on Nov. 6, 2000 through Dec. 29, 2000 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Applications may be picked up at two locations: the Human Resources Department at 1625 13th Street, in Room 108, Monday - Friday. Or, at the front desk of the Lubbock Police Department, 1015 9th Street, Monday - Friday after 5:00 PM, and all day weekends. Applicants must be 21 to 35 years of age. For more information please call 775-3073 or 1-800-621-0793. The City of Lubbock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Salary: \$15.62 Hourly/\$32,506.24 Annually

For more information about the Lubbock Police Department, visit our web site at www.lubbockpolice.com. For more information about the City of Lubbock, Visit www.ci.lubbock.tx.us

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