

# El Editor

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## Bush promete mano dura en la frontera

El presidente George W. Bush le aseguró ayer a la base conservadora de su Partido Republicano dentro y fuera del Congreso que no deben dudar de que "protegeremos la frontera" de los cruces ilegales y sus secuelas, al tiempo que abogó por un plan de trabajadores temporales "que le quitará presión a la frontera, sacará a los trabajadores de las sombras, y rechazará la amnistía".

Bush dijo que desea promulgar en 2006 una reforma de inmigración "amplia" y que apoya incrementar la cifra anual de tarjetas verdes, pero que no firmará un proyecto de ley que incluya una amnistía.

"La gente involucrada en este debate debe reconocer que no podemos hacer cumplir de manera efectiva nuestras leyes de inmigración hasta que no creemos un programa de trabajadores temporales. El programa que propongo no proveerá una amnistía, yo me opongo a la amnistía", afirmó Bush.

"En contraste, un programa de trabajadores temporales le quitará presión a la frontera... apoyo incrementar la cifra anual de tarjetas verdes que pueden llevar a la ciudadanía, pero, por la seguridad fronteriza, no promulgaré un proyecto de inmigración que incluya una amnistía", reiteró Bush.

Con su discurso en estados fronterizos, ayer en la base Davis-Monthan de la Fuerza Aérea en Tucson, Arizona, y hoy martes en El Paso, Texas, Bush pretende ganarse el apoyo de la base conservadora republicana que considera que su plan de trabajadores huéspedes equivale a una amnistía.

Michele Waslin, analista de política migratoria del Consejo Nacional de La

Raza (NCLR), dijo a La Opinión que la postura anti-amnistía de Bush no es nada nuevo y ha sido una constante en sus mensajes. "Pero nos complace que haya reafirmado que una reforma migratoria integral es necesaria y que debe incluir un plan de

control de la frontera y a eso dedicó Bush la mayor parte de su discurso y en un tono más enérgico.

Empero, no satisfizo a grupos como la Federación Estadounidense por la Reforma Migratoria (FAIR), cuyo presidente, Dan

pedes que la Administración esbozó en pasadas semanas y según los cuales los indocumentados obtendrían visados que totalizan seis años y al término deben retornar a sus países de origen. El tiempo de duración de los visados sería algo negociado en el Congreso.

Por su parte, Angela Kelley, subdirectora del Foro Nacional de Inmigración, indicó a La Opinión que resulta "decepcionante" que a casi dos años de su famoso discurso de enero de 2004, cuando habló de la necesidad de una reforma migratoria, todavía Bush se vea en la necesidad de seguir complaciendo al ala republicana más radical de la Cámara Baja con promesas de intensificación de la seguridad fronteriza.

Y más allá de mencionar que desea un plan de trabajadores temporales, "ya se a va a cumplir el segundo aniversario de su gran discurso y seguimos sin ver propuestas concretas en torno a los 11 millones de indocumentados que viven en Estados Unidos".

"Resulta muy decepcionante que el Presidente opte por unirse a las voces radicales de la Cámara Baja, en lugar de unirse a la discusión más constructiva que se está dando en el Senado, aun entre integrantes de su propio Partido Republicano", declaró Kelley.

"La inmigración indocumentada es un reto serio y nuestra responsabilidad es clara: vamos a proteger la frontera", declaró Bush en un discurso tras su reunión con funcionarios de aduanas y de la Patrulla Fronteriza en un estado que declaró una emergencia por el problema de la inmigración indocumentada.

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trabajadores temporales. Claro está, quisiéramos conocer más detalles. El discurso no ofreció nada nuevo", declaró Waslin.

Para avanzar algún tipo de reforma integral, como desea la Casa Blanca, primero hay que garantizarle al sector más conservador que en realidad se está asumiendo el

Stein, catalogó el discurso como un acto desesperado por parte de Bush de asegurar que no está ofreciendo amnistías cuando eso es lo que está haciendo.

"El plan del Presidente no es nada más que una amnistía masiva con un retraso de seis años", declaró al referirse a los lineamientos del plan de trabajadores hués-

## White Hat, Black Tales

### A Texas scholar digs into the dark truths about the role of the Texas Rangers in early-20th-century border wars

KATHERINE S. MANGAN

Whether he gallops across TV screens on a steed named Silver or kickboxes drug dealers and other contemporary miscreants, the Texas Ranger is an iconic figure in American culture. But it has fallen to a Texas-based scholar named Benjamin H. Johnson, a 33-year-old assistant professor of history at Southern Methodist University, to help turn the popular images of the Lone Ranger and of Walker, Texas Ranger, upside down.

Mr. Johnson's 2003 book, *Revolution in Texas: How a Forgotten Rebellion and Its Bloody Suppression Turned Mexicans Into Americans* (Yale University Press), portrays the Texas Rangers as bad guys who terrorized and murdered hundreds -- and perhaps thousands -- of Mexican-born Texans living along the border nearly a century ago.

The book -- and a 2004 documentary based on an incident in the same period -- has now led a Texas lawmaker to introduce legislation this year honoring the Tejano rebels who died at the hands of the Rangers and vigilante groups in the failed uprising in 1915.

"Ben's book was a confirmation of what we've been talking about around barbecue pits and campfires for years," says Texas Sen. Aaron Peña, a Democrat from the border city of Edinburg, Tex., who ordered a stack of the books and has handed them out to his colleagues and constituents.

Specifically, the author examines a 1915 rebellion in South Texas called the Plan de San Diego, in which Tejanos, or Texans of Mexican descent, sought to forcibly reclaim the American Southwest for Mexico in a plot that included killing all Anglo males over age 16. The unsuccessful uprising, which included a series of raids on ranches and railroads, provoked a bloody counterinsurgency in which Texas Rangers, federal soldiers, and vigilante groups indiscriminately killed anywhere between 300 and 3,000 Tejanos, depending on whose estimates you believe.

Hispanic scholars have written about the bloody border wars for decades, but it has taken a work written by a young Anglo historian writing for Yale University Press to bring the matter to mainstream audiences. Mr. Johnson has given standing-room-only talks in South Texas, and received dozens of calls and e-mail messages from Mexican-Americans who say his book confirmed accounts they had heard from their parents and grandparents, but never read about in their textbooks.

Mr. Johnson says he did not set out to write a book about, much less trash, the image of the Texas Rangers, now an elite unit of 118 officers, along with nearly two dozen crime analysts and other personnel, in the Texas Department of Public Safety. He was more interested in the effect that the violence that started in 1915 had on

race relations along the border and on the development of a Mexican-American identity. But in a state whose unofficial motto is "Don't Mess With Texas," the book stirred up conflicting emotions.

On the Paper Trail

Mr. Johnson's fascination with this era of Texas history began when he was in the library at Yale University, trying to zero in on a topic for his doctoral dissertation that related to his interest in border studies.

"I came across a mention of the rebellion and bloodshed, and it seemed really big," he says. "The language people were using was terribly similar to what I was hearing when I turned on the news and listened to reports about ethnic cleansing -- at that point in the Balkans. They were using words like 'evaporated'" to describe the widespread killings of Tejanos.

"I thought 'why am I -- a 24-year-old lifelong Texan and historian -- just hearing about this?'"

He proceeded with his research. Mr. Johnson found that while he and many Texans -- Anglos in particular -- were learning about the Rangers' unsavory past for the first time, Hispanic authors had written about such abuses for years. In 1958, for instance, Américo Paredes, the noted Mexican-American author who taught at the University of Texas at Austin and died in 1999, wrote about the border's violent history in his book *With His Pistol in His Hand: A Border Ballad and Its Hero* (University of Texas Press).

Mr. Johnson credits those authors, as well as contemporary historians who write about the border, and he is careful not to imply that he is the first historian to turn the image of the Texas Ranger on its head. Asked about the publicity his book has received, and the flurry of attention now being paid to racial tensions along the border, he says the huge growth in the nation's Hispanic population and the interest in immigration and globalization have made border studies a hot topic.

For his own book, Mr. Johnson tracked down documents in Texas and Mexico City. The Mexican National Archives are housed in a former federal prison, which created a haunting setting for many long hours of reading. "They actually have the documents in the old prison cells, and the guy gets a ring of thick keys and walks to the cells and opens them," he says. "There's still graffiti in this place from people who were there under considerably less happy circumstances."

He also listened to oral histories recorded over the past few decades by students at the University of Texas-Pan American and Texas A&M University at Kingsville.

Chance encounters led to visits with the grandson of the sheriff who arrested a Tejano carrying a document outlining the Plan de San Diego, as well as the great-grandson of one of the leaders of the 1915 uprising, Luis de la Rosa.

As the true history of the bloody border wars unfolded, the scholar also formed theories about why it had been largely forgotten. For one thing, Mr. Johnson contends, the State of Texas actively suppressed information about the violence. In 1919 the state legislature held hearings that revealed evidence of widespread killings by Texas Rangers, but lawmakers voted not to publish the transcript. (A copy was later unearthed by historians.)

Families that were traumatized by the violence didn't want to talk about it. And until recently, academic historians generally regarded what happened along the Texas-Mexico border a regional matter of little interest to the rest of the nation.

But Mr. Johnson believes the episode reverberated far beyond the disputed border. He argues that the rebellion and suppression that began in 1915, rather than turning Tejanos against Americans, prompted them to claim their rights as U.S. citizens and led to the creation, in 1929, of the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, the first nationwide Mexican-American civil-rights organization.

At first, that idea seemed counterintuitive. "Why would a prolonged episode of savage racial violence prompt people to claim the same nationality as their victimizers?" He concludes that the Tejanos sought refuge in

U.S. citizenship, having realized the futility of trying to achieve their goals through force, and the dangers of being without a state.

"Mexican nationalism and the promise of the revolution had failed them," Mr. Johnson says. "The uprising had been a disastrous miscalculation, and the Mexican government wasn't interested in advancing the well-being of Mexican-descent people of Texas."

Praise and Disdain

Hector M. Flores, Lulac's current national president, agrees with that conclusion.

"Dr. Johnson chronicles a period in history that a lot of Texans are still in denial about," he says. "A war was won, and the Mexicans were the conquered people. The hired guns were the Texas Rangers."

Raised by his grandparents in the tiny South Texas town of Dilly, Mr. Flores recalls challenging his seventh-grade history teacher for her portrayal of events that his grandparents described differently. "All the teachers talked about were the murdering, thieving Mexicans who overran the heroes of the Alamo." His grandparents, on the other hand, warned him that the real bad guys were the Anglo law-enforcement officers who harassed and even killed Tejanos like themselves.

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## Immigration policy crafted to lure Hispanic voters

Insiders say President Bush's decision to stick with his controversial guest-worker program for illegal immigrants in his toughened border security proposal is a bow to Hispanic voters worried over other GOP efforts to deal harshly with such immigrants. Officials said the president and his senior staff were concerned that if he turned too far right with his dusted-off proposal it would anger Hispanics and reverse four years of outreach to legal immigrants and newly minted Americans from Central and South America. In his plan outlined early this week, Bush vowed to strengthen the border while maintaining his guest-worker program for foreign workers.

Conservatives like Rep. Tom Tancredo disagree with that approach, saying the program rewards illegal immigrants. But GOP officials today said that they want to avoid Tancredo's tougher proposals because they would ruin the party's bid to woo more Hispanics to the party based on Bush's agenda of "compassionate conservatism."

The officials said they think the latest Bush plan would eliminate the concerns among Hispanics and win more conservatives to his side with his tougher talk against amnesty and broader efforts to secure the border.

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## Community Voices

By Abel Cruz

During the September 8, 2005 Lubbock city council meeting, a citizen appeared before the council to speak during the citizens comment session. At issue was the increase in garbage and sewer fees, decrease in tax rates, etc., which would be imposed on residents. The speaker happened to be Ms. Johnnie Jones, Chairman of the Lubbock County Democratic Party.

What was interesting was that the last part of Ms. Jones remarks caused a clearly perturbed Mayor McDougal to respond. Here's the exchange:

Ms. Jones: "Please explain to me how you can ask a family living in a \$40,000 house to pay more for their city services and at the same time tell the family in the million dollar home they get an extra \$114 each year, \$114 paid for by those who can least afford it. You have a chance today to correct the mistake you made (by voting for the new tax rate) with your past vote. Vote to keep the tax rate unchanged and decline the increase in garbage fees. Do what is best for most of Lubbock. I hope your past vote was made because you didn't know. Not because you didn't care."

Mayor McDougal: "Oh I knew how I voted, make no mistake about that."

Is this an example of the "outlandish accusations" that Mayor McDougal referred to during the council's November 18, meeting when he changed his vote and decided to vote for the new resolution affecting citizen's comments during future council meetings?

Just this past week I contacted Ms. Jones to get her take on the council's latest decision on November 18 to require a 7 day written notice and that a specific topic be stated before a resident of this city is allowed to speak at a council meeting. Here's her response:

"The agenda for these meetings does not have to be posted until 72 hours before the meeting. I tried to request permission to speak on "any and all agenda items" but was denied because the City Council requires "specific topics."

I sat through the Council meeting and heard Council members whine about not being able to correct a citizen because of open records laws. Please. These laws have always allowed the Council to address an agenda item. So explain to me -- someone why I don't have the option of speaking about "any and all agenda items".

This is an attempt by Mayor McDougal and Council members Boren, Gilbreath and Martin to squelch all citizen comments regarding agenda items.

To make matters worse, the City will not disclose the text of a resolution before it is voted on. Yes, I have a certified letter to prove this insanity is indeed reality in Lubbock, Texas.

A quick rundown of what the City Council wants: They want me (Johnnie Jones) to file a letter requesting to speak before I know the Council's agenda; and they won't let me see the full text of a resolution that is going to be voted on UNTIL IT IS VOTED ON!

I applaud Council members DeLeon and Price for making the sensible vote to let the citizens voice their opinions to their elected officials. (Council member Jones was absent from the meeting, but I hope that her vote would have been one of common sense.)

If you think this is nonsense, tell your neighbors. Tell the media. But don't bother to tell City Council. They are not listening."

So the "beat" goes on. As for whether this situation involves partisan politics or not, I'll let you be the judge. One thing is for certain though; things such as these will not change unless residents of this city do not get engaged in the political process by letting their elected council representative know how they feel about a particular issue.

We close this week with the words from one this country's wisest and greatest leaders, Abraham Lincoln who said:

"No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent"

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OPINIONS -COMENTARIOS - LETTERS

EDITORIAL

This week President Bush urged Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation to help secure the U.S. border from illegal immigrants and called for a temporary worker program that would allow some immigrants to work openly in the United States for a fixed period of time.

Bush said the United States "has always been a compassionate nation that values the newcomer and takes great pride in our immigrant heritage," but he said illegal immigrants were violating U.S. law.

Here in Lubbock it was unfortunate that 3 undocumented workers were allegedly involved in a stabbing that occurred in a Lubbock nightclub and

resulted in the death of a young man. In reporting both stories, it was disturbing that TV station Channel 28 linked Bush's statements and the violent incident.

In the words of the reporter, "and today President Bush proposed legislation that would keep illegal aliens such as the Ayala brothers (the alleged perpetrators) out of the United States"

We can see where this type of reporting and statements can create unwanted and unneeded friction between races here in Lubbock. We would think that in the future Channel 28 and any reporting agency will forgo unfair and subjective reporting of this type with will label people of a certain ethnic group..

A Day Without Undocumented Workers

By Luis Padilla MS

Technology and capital increasingly know no borders, but a framework for the international movement of labor is even less clear. A division runs from high-tech to low-tech stakeholders as to what to do about immigration. However, most agree that current policies and migratory frameworks are out of step with contemporary economic and security realities. Already, voices have been raised warning that tightening borders in the absence of a new and streamlined mechanism for managing cross-border labor is keeping "creative capital" away from U.S. universities and corporate labs. At the same time, increasing affluence and demographic trends in the U.S. indicate a growing demand for less skilled immigrant labor in home services, health care, food service, and farming.

In agriculture, these needs have historically been resolved through a marriage of convenience. On the one hand, employers took their chances and got affordable willing workers; on the other, workers got a job, were able to enroll their children in school, and could even dream about joining the middle-class, or advancing their professional career. Today, this arrangement is in trouble because a large, underground labor market, rife with fake documents and violent smugglers, makes it increasingly unsatisfactory to both parties. After 9/11, mutual economic self-interest remains but security and

humanitarian considerations can no longer be ignored. The situation has become most critical in U.S. agriculture where 60% to 75% of the workforce is estimated to be illegal.

A clear solution as to what to do is yet to emerge. However, zero immigration groups have gotten some traction in advancing a "reform package" that includes mass deportation, sealing up the border, and denying public services. A difficulty with this approach is that deporting the estimated 8 - 12 million undocumented workers, many of whom have citizen children, would take years, disrupt the labor force, jeopardize civil liberties, and divert considerable law-enforcement resources away from homeland security. Furthermore, it fails to recognize that these measures amount to a self-imposed embargo on labor. Recent NFAPP analysis hints at the economic impact that such proposals could have on US agriculture.

Screening the illegal workforce from U.S. farms without a mechanism to replace it with a legal one, could translate into \$8.8 billion per year in additional labor expenditures for US farmers, assuming no retraining costs. Virtually every farmer would be affected. Labor-intensive crops would bear 70% of the increased cost, while livestock operations 30%. Accordingly, the Pacific region is expected to bear 38% of additional

hiring costs, followed by the Northeast, Southeast, and Great Lakes regions. Together, these four regions will bear 65% of the impact since most U.S. horticultural operations are located there.

Survey data indicates that fruit, vegetable and nursery growers (FV&N) will be the most negatively affected. FV&N growers will bear 50% of the cost increase and incur an additional \$3.95 billion in labor expenditures or \$31,347 per farm. Consequently, FV&N farmers may see their total expenses rise by 15.4%. These are averages and, thus, labor cost increases may be lower for mechanized crops and higher for crops, such as strawberries where the labor component accounts for 60% of the total bill. The impact on net income is less certain.

If FV&N growers can pass the cost downstream, net income may not immediately suffer. However, FV&N growers, who are largely price takers, may experience net income declines of 56% if they are unable to pass the cost onto consumers. The ability to pass a labor cost increase may depend on the extent of seasonal foreign imports, substitute product availability and the reaction of retailers and wholesalers. For instance, open-field tomato, strawberry, broccoli, and stone fruit grower, among others, could be the most affected, while almond growers may be in a better position to raise prices.

Thus, greater labor costs would

place the U.S. horticultural sector at a disadvantage relative to foreign growers that enjoy lower labor cost and, sometimes, large subsidies. In turn, outsourcing food production will make it more costly and difficult to monitor food safety. Domestically, FV&N farmers may view program crops more attractive enterprises. At the same time, higher labor costs are going to discourage some former program crop producers (i.e. tobacco) from moving into fruit and vegetable commodities.

Lacking a mechanism to replace illegal workers with legal ones will then depress farmer's net income, make the U.S. more dependent on foreign sources, and negatively affect U.S. consumers' preference for and confidence in produce.

Fortunately, policy proposals which seek to balance the economic, social, and moral aspects of immigration, have been advanced. These initiatives enjoy bi-partisan support because they are based on reasoned ideas developed through a consensus of employers, unions, community groups, and migrants themselves. That such an extraordinary convergence can be achieved may be due to a growing realization that the "smart" approach is a vast improvement over the "get tough" approach. Luis Padilla : Faculty Research Associate Luis joined NFAPP (at Arizona State University) in April 1999. He received a M.Sc. Degree in Agribusiness Management from ASU in 1998.

Latino Education Problem Rooted in Many Issues

By Manuel Hernandez

There is a problem in Latino education-a problem rooted not from parent involvement or lack of, violence, domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, dysfunctional families, cultural and language barriers, discrimination and social injustice. It is a problem of generational clashes that come into conflict because of lack of knowledge, neglect and overlook. There is no doubt that Latinos believe that the improvement of the American school system is the highest priority right now, but the 2005

school environment in America is reigned by outdated views and policies which were designed for students with a different set of experiences than the recently arrived Latino student of the 21st century.

Whether we decide to confront the problem or not is not the issue rather how, when and where the consequences of our indecision and inaction will affect us all. It took a tragic moment in history to make us aware that homeland security cannot be taken for granted. When I worked as an English as a Second Language High School teacher at James Monroe High School in the Bronx, New York from 1988-1991, the recently arrived immigrant teen was immediately received by a culturally aware assistant principal who made every human effort possible to make the

first school experience in America a welcomed one. Students were interviewed, tested, evaluated and placed in ESL levels where well-prepared and trained teachers polished and assessed language skills on a daily basis. By their junior year, many of these kids were already reading and writing at their grade level requirements. In 2005, the great majority of these programs are non-existent and the transition to mainstream English courses is sudden and forceful.

Latinos are aware that the social, financial and educational development of their community is unequivocally related to their struggles to achieve economic, social and political justice in the United States of America. However, Latino children continue to struggle academically and do not meet the academic demands of city, state and national testing requirements. Although the demographics and ethnicities of the 21st century Latino immigrant have

changed, the periods of adjustment, identity collision and culture shock stages are the same now as was in 1988. With the Latino population growing at a quiet yet giant pace, how much time do we have to continue to neglect and overlook Latino education?

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, a college graduate will earn more and have more career opportunities over a lifetime period than a high school graduate. If Latinos are less likely to graduate from high school but continue to grow in population, America has an economic situation that needs immediate attention and hands-on intervention. The Latino people have great potential to make an impact and change the course of American history, but the current neglect and overlook has clouded a vision for the American Latino population.

Latino education is the current core issue that will ultimately set the stage for the Latino contribution to the United States of America. America has taught us to dream and believe in ourselves. That dream which is "deeply rooted in the American dream"(Martin Luther King) demands an education. There are new free tickets to watch the show. Latino education is the ticket that will open the doors to a whole new world of opportunities. Let us not continue to neglect and overlook that which will benefit our generations and us as well.

Manuel Hernandez:

Born and raised in Sleepy Hollow, New York in 1963. At eleven years of age, Manuel Hernandez' family moved to Puerto Rico. He finished grade school in Puerto Rico. He received his B.A. in English; secondary education at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus in 1986 and completed his M. A. in English at Herbert H. Lehman College in the Bronx, New York in 1994.

Hernandez has presented workshops, coordinated symposiums, conducted television interviews and moderated panels on the literature written by United States based Latino writers in Puerto Rico, the United States and Mexico. He also writes commentary on education for several websites and newspapers in Puerto Rico and The United States. He recently published a textbook titled, Latino/a Literature in The English Classroom (Editorial Plaza Mayor, 2003). The book was nominated for Latino Book of The Year 2004. He teaches full-time in the public schools in Puerto Rico.

"CRUZZING"

By Abel Cruz

With my apologies to the great R&B singer Smokey Robinson, this week I invite you to "Cruz with me baby", with an occasional stop along the way!

First Stop: City Hall

Based on what we see this week in the local broadcast media, in particular the local Fox channel, the questions still linger on whether a member of the Lubbock city council can or cannot respond to a citizens comments during the citizen comment session. I for one still stand by my opinion stated here last week that the council has essentially wiped out "citizen meetings" as they are defined by state open meetings laws.

But, as Fox34 reporter Mario Roldan reported, there seems to be a precedent in Texas state law that the city council could have referred to before making its final decision. Apparently the majority on the council who voted for this new 7 day requirement forgot to do some homework..

If the majority on this city council who voted for this resolution would agree to revisit this issue, it just might go a long way toward beginning to repair the damage done to whatever amount of trust a large segment of this city's community still held in city government; up until November 18 that is.

Second Stop: The County DA's Office

Acting District Attorney Matt Powell should probably brush up on his knowledge of Texas campaign laws since he will be seeking the vacant Lubbock District Attorney position. Seems like Mr. Powell sent out a couple of hundred emails from his office email address, using state equipment, to friends and supporters inviting them to attend his official announcement that he would run for Lubbock County District Attorney, essentially a campaign event.

The problem: a candidate running for public office cannot use state property to promote political campaigns. One would think that a person charged with upholding and enforcing the laws would at least be familiar with them.

Third Stop: Who Knows?

Rumors, rumors everywhere! True? Only time will tell. Seems that Lubbock city council member Linda DeLeon is rumored to be thinking of running for the Texas state legislature. If that decision is made, I can think of at least 3 if not 4 people in this city who would be ecstatic with her decision to leave the city council! Three guesses as to who those 3 or 4 people could be and the first 2 guesses don't count. If you need a hint, you have not been following city politics!

Fourth Stop: No Mas!

It is extremely disturbing and disheartening that we continue to see violent crimes committed in "nuestra comunidad". Sadly, it seems that most of the recent violence is coming from "nuestra gente"; those who share a common heritage with the rest of us who still respect life.

The killing of 25 year old Gabriel Hernandez this past week in a local nightclub was both heartless and cold-blooded. Hopefully the leadership in our community, Hispanic organizations, Hispanic media, and yes even our local churches; perhaps our local Catholic Bishop will take note and begin to speak out against this violent behavior.

Sadly, these types of violent crimes have been all too common and too frequent lately and we should all be troubled by this disgraceful behavior.

Final Stop: Federal Prison

If you follow national politics, you probably heard about U.S. Representative Duke Cunningham, (R-CA) who was forced to resign from Congress for accepting bribes and admitting guilt to conspiracy and federal tax evasion charges.

"The truth is I broke the law, concealed my conduct and disgraced my high office", said Mr. Cunningham in announcing his resignation.

Rep. Tom DeLay, (R-TX) who has also been charged with a couple of federal crimes of his own, said this about Cunningham just 5 short months ago in June 2005.

"Duke Cunningham is a hero. He is an honorable man of high integrity."

As you know, birds of a feather flock together; in this case that applies to political vultures as well.

Email: acruzts@aol.com

Jim Hightower

"SENATORIAL BEGGING"

The results are in and we have a winner! The Emmy Award for the most pathetic performance on live television goes to Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the senate finance committee, for his role in the the recent hearing on price gouging by Big Oil.

He was ably aided by the CEOs of ExxonMobil, ChevronTexaco, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and BP who sat before Grassley's committee like toads on a log, refusing to budge when prodded about some \$100 billion in windfall profits they've run up in the past few months. "We do not see this as a windfall," said the honcho of ConocoPhillips - even though his company siphoned off nearly \$4 billion in profits in three summer months alone, a 90 percent jump over the previous year.

Did Grassley gavel these arrogant toads into silence and assert his senatorial responsibility to protect the public - maybe by pushing a windfall profits tax to recoup some of what the oil giants have ripped out of our wallets? Oh, dear, no. That would be... well, senatorial.

Instead, Grassley begged. In essence, this powerful U.S. senator shook a tin cup at the CEOs, asking them to make a charitable contribution to help poor people pay their heating bills this winter. "You have a responsibility to help less fortunate Americans cope with the high cost of heating fuels," he pleaded, asking them to donate "a mere 10 percent" of their third quarter profits. The toads declined to give.

Excuse me, Chuck, but making sure that vulnerable, very low-income Americans have heat in winter is not a matter of charitable corporate whim, but of public responsibility. Instead of groveling pathetically, either require that the incomparably rich oil giants provide such essential fuel for free, or tax their windfall profits to fully-fund the \$3 billion shortfall in the government's low-income heating program.

This is Jim Hightower saying... Government has a duty to serve the public

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# La Promesa de un estudiante a Nueva Orleans: Volveremos a Hacerla aun Mejor

**Enrique Quevedo**  
Pareciera que fuera ayer que me mudaba a mi habitación en la residencia para estudiantes de primer año en la Loyola University de

Nueva Orleans, conociendo al que sería mi compañero de cuarto, estudiando, comprometiendome a una fraternidad y - sin lugar a dudas - de fiesta en fiesta.

¿Pero no fue también sólo ayer que me mudaba a mi apartamento de segundo año de universidad? ¿Paso tan rápido el año?

¿O fue sólo ayer que mi compañero me despertó, gritando que el huracán Katrina azotaba la ciudad y que había que desalojar?

En realidad, han pasado tres meses desde que huimos de Nueva Orleans. El tener que salvarnos la vida me ha llevado a considerar la transformación que experimenté viviendo allí, y cómo la ciudad y su gente me ayudaron a trazar ese camino.

Nueva Orleans se convirtió en mi hogar lejos de casa. Todo parecía irme bien. A diferencia de Miami, donde me crié, a nadie en Nueva Orleans le importaba tanto su aspecto físico, su auto, o sus "conexiones" en el último y supuestamente mejor club nocturno

de South Beach.

Por lo contrario, me consoló su honestidad y franqueza, su capacidad de relacionarse a otras personas con respeto y ser más responsables y maduros.

Desde que salí de Nueva Orleans, he observado noticias sin fin por CNN de la otrora ciudad vivaz transformándose en el lago más grande de la nación.

¿Es cierto, como argumentan los comentaristas, que todo lo que llegue a amar de mi nueva ciudad puede desaparecer para siempre?

Tal vez el futuro de la ciudad no pende por un hilo como piensan. Yo volveré a vivir allí en enero, y junto con todos los demás que regresan a casa, prestaremos nuestras manos a la obra de rescatar a Nueva Orleans y hacerla aun mejor.

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## A Student's Promise to New Orleans

**By Enrique Quevedo**  
It seems like yesterday that I was moving into my freshman-year dorm at Loyola University in New Orleans, meeting my roommate for the first time, studying, pledging for a fraternity and - you can be sure - partying.

But wasn't it just yesterday that I also was moving into my sophomore year apartment?

Or was it just yesterday that my roommate was waking me, shouting that Hurricane Katrina was hitting the city hard and we had to evacuate?

In fact, it has been three months since we fled New Orleans. Having to run for our lives caused me to look back on how I changed while living there, and how the city and its people helped me along that path.

New Orleans became my home away from home. Everything seemed to fall into place for me.

Unlike Miami where I grew up, no one in New Orleans was so concerned about their looks, their car, or their "connections" at the latest and supposedly greatest South Beach Club.

Instead, I found great comfort in their honesty and straightforwardness, their capacity to interact with others with respect and be more responsible and mature.

Since leaving New Orleans, I have seen unending CNN footage of a once-alive city becoming the nation's newest large lake.

Is it true, as news commentators argued, that every thing I had come to love in my new city might disappear forever?

Perhaps the city's future is not so in doubt as they think. I will move back in January, and together with everyone else coming home, we'll lend the needed helping hand to pull New Orleans back and make it even better.

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## Cuando Vientos Hostiles Azotan una Isla Sufrida, existe una diferencia

**Ricardo Chavira**

El 12 de agosto de 2004, se sintió como un día sofocante normal en la Habana - con una excepción. Un huracán categoría dos con vientos de 110 mph iba camino a la capital cubana. Se predijo que recorrería a través de la isla y hacia la Habana en aproximadamente 10 horas.

Los habaneros estarían llenos de pánico, y yo me dispuse a confirmarlo.

Sin embargo, al vagar por el pueblo lo encontré todo casi normal. Las personas continuaron con sus rutinas, se detenían en ocasiones para hablar de la tormenta, pero sin ninguna preocupación particular hacia el inminente azote que recibirían sus casas.

Esta normalidad tan inusual contrastaba con la escena a unas 90 millas al norte. Allí, la tormenta instó a los nerviosos floridenses en una histeria de compras. Los reportajes en la televisión proyectaban a la región como a punto de sufrir una calamidad de dimensiones inimaginables.

Los cubanos, adentrados en su segunda década de crisis económica extenuante, tranquilamente compraban lo que estuviese disponible - agua extra, o quizás otro pan de reserva.

De hecho, los reportajes de la televisión se mantenían al tanto del progreso de la tormenta: los presentadores noticieros lacónicamente reportaban que de seguro la tormenta destruiría e inundaría una gran parte del oeste de Cuba. Los funcionarios de la defensa civil advertían que de ninguna manera las personas deberían salir a los vientos ciclónicos ya que serían amenazados por techos y árboles volando y marcas altas que podían ser letales.

Lo que yo llegaría a entender durante los próximos 15 meses es que los cubanos y su gobierno ejercen preparaciones y respuestas para huracanes como una rutina normal.

La ejecución de los Estados Unidos y la de otras naciones regionales ponen las acciones de Cuba en una perspectiva distinta. La falta de preparación abismal y la lentísima reacción de estos otros países a 36 huracanes y tormentas desde junio del año pasado contribuyeron a las muertes de al menos 6,000 personas, con daños que estimaron \$112 mil millones.

Esto no significa que no hayan muerto personas en Cuba en las 36 tormentas durante los pasados 17 meses. Pero porque el gobierno impone evacuaciones obligatorias y en masa, se movieron millones de personas fuera del paso letal de los huracanes. El resultado: se cree que menos de 200 cubanos han muerto. Centenas de miles de per-

sonas fueron evacuadas para Charley y dos millones antes de la llegada de Iván, la tormenta que le siguió unas semanas después.

Cuando Charley llegó estrepitosa a la Habana un poco antes de media noche, me levanté al escuchar el sonido de un viento siseante y alto, lluvias fuertes y el movimiento de los techos. Salí a la terraza cubierta de la casa de huéspedes donde me quedaba.

Varios turistas italianos me acompañaron. Vimos los árboles batirse con el viento como algas en una ráfaga. Escombros en el aire se precipitaban como si fuesen impulsados por un jet. El aguacero, que ahora sonaba como piedras cayendo sobre acero, caía horizontalmente, mojando a todos debajo del techo.

Charley mató a cuatro personas y destruyó cerca de 70,000 casas y edificios en la isla. El ciclón también destruyó una gran parte de la cosecha de tabaco cubana, una gran fuente del comercio exterior. Este escenario definitivamente significaría una pérdida de millones de dólares muy necesitados. Entre todo, según funcionarios cubanos, la tormenta infligió alrededor de mil millones de dólares en daños por toda la isla.

Cuando amaneció, el huracán ya estaba en el mar. Los habaneros inspeccionaron con leve asombro los techos destruidos, cientos de árboles caídos y las calles inundadas.

Luego, como si por instinto, se dedicaron a amontonar a los lados de las calles toda la cantidad de escombros que se encontraba allí. El hecho de no haber luz ni agua no causó ninguna angustia particular, sólo otra encogida de hombros. Los servicios gubernamentales son tan modestos que los ciudadanos están acostumbrados a hacer todo por ellos mismos.

Como un reportero que ha visitado la Cuba de Castro docenas de veces en las últimas décadas, acepté la limpieza espontánea como una respuesta esperada, como parte de la cultura moderna de Cuba. Hasta hace poco, la sociedad revolucionaria de Cuba era bastante eficiente en inculcar el valor de la acción colectiva para tales cosas como recogido de sembrados, registro de votación y la educación médica masiva.

¿Tendrá Fidel una lección para nosotros aquí?

Basado en su ferocidad, fácilmente clasificamos el carácter de huracanes en categorías numéricas, uno, dos, tres, cuatro y cinco. El mérito relativo de las respuestas humanas hacia su ataque violento no es tan fácil de categorizar.

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An Iraqi soldier searched a civilian Monday at a checkpoint in Baghdad. Sweeps also targeted areas west of the capital.

# Recortes afectarán a alumnos necesitados

Los recortes al presupuesto aprobados en la Cámara de Representantes representan nuevos obstáculos para los estudiantes más necesitados que desean ir a la universidad.

El Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR), expresó "consternación" al tiempo que denunció que la Cámara, al aprobar el Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Ley 4241) "rechaza e ignora las prioridades de los latinos en Estados Unidos".

"Esta ley de reconciliación presupuestaria es grave para los hispanos y para Estados Unidos en general", dijo Janet Murguía, presidenta del NCLR, en un comunicado.

Señaló, además, que "esta ley ignora por completo la realidad a la cual se enfrentan millones de familias cada día al luchar para dar a sus hijos una educación de calidad, acceso a seguro médico y comida en la mesa".

Con esta medida se recortarán aproximadamente 50,000 millones de dólares de programas federales para finales de la dé-

cada, y más de un tercio de las reducciones (14,300 millones) ocurrirán en programas de préstamos estudiantiles del gobierno.

Grupos pro estudiantes, que infructuosamente habían realizado sus propias campañas para frustrar la iniciativa, manifestaron su descontento con los líderes de la Cámara por adelantar un proyecto que "aumentará el costo de los préstamos estudiantiles".

Según el más reciente informe divulgado por la Oficina de Investigación del Congreso, más conocida como GAO, los recortes al presupuesto impondrían a estudiantes y sus familiares aproximadamente 7,800 millones de dólares en nuevos cargos.

El resto de los recortes a préstamos estudiantiles, se indica, se obtendría mayormente de reducciones en subsidios que el gobierno otorga a prestatarios privados y agencias que garantizan los préstamos estudiantiles.

"Las prioridades de este Congreso están en el lugar equivocado", indicó a la revista The Chronicle of Higher Educa-

## Confusión amenaza a cobertura de medicinas de Medicare

Es la hora del almuerzo en Villa Esperanza, un edificio de viviendas para personas mayores en el centro de Los Angeles, y la confusión sobre el nuevo programa de medicinas de Medicare es el plato principal en el menú del día.

**FECHAS IMPORTANTES**  
Octubre de 2005: en ese mes debe haber recibido el manual Medicare y Usted con información sobre el nuevo programa y cómo inscribirse y las cartas del gobierno informándole sobre los cambios que se avecinan.

15 de noviembre de 2005: se inicia el plazo para la inscripción en un plan de cobertura de recetas médicas de MEDICARE.

1 de enero de 2006: entra en vigor la ley de Cobertura de Medicinas por Receta de Medicare.

1 de enero de 2006: en California, más de un millón de personas que reciben Medicare y Medical al mismo tiempo, dejaron de tener cobertura de medicinas por Medical y serán automáticamente asignadas a un plan privado financiado por Medicare a menos que escojan ellas mismas un seguro de su gusto antes de esa fecha.

15 de mayo de 2006: termina el plazo de inscripción para los beneficiarios actuales de MEDICARE (que no tienen al mismo tiempo MEDICAL). Después de esta fecha se añadirá 1% adicional al precio de la prima mensual por cada mes de retraso. Por ejemplo, una persona mayor que espere tres años, o 36 meses, para inscribirse, pagará 36% más cada mes en primas de seguro.

Si se inscribe a un plan de cobertura de recetas médicas de MEDICARE antes del 31 de diciembre de 2005 su cobertura comenzará el 1 de enero de 2006. Si se inscribe después del 1 de enero, la cobertura empezará el primer día del siguiente mes en que se inscriba.

Carlos García, de 75 años, saca de una bolsa las siete medicinas rece-

tadas que toma cada día y las pone sobre la mesa.

"Tomo para el corazón, para la circulación, para prevenir embolias, para el estrés, para eliminar líquidos del cuerpo, ácido fólico, vitaminas... y no sé que otra cosa", ya enumerando García. "Yo nunca he pagado nada por las medicinas, porque tengo Medicare y Medical. Ya lei las tres cartas que me mandó el gobierno y no entiendo qué es lo que tengo que hacer o qué es lo que tengo para escoger".

Uno tras otro, los ancianos se acercan y comunican sus dudas. Nadie se siente seguro de tener suficiente información.

Ricardo Álvarez, de 71 años, no sabe muy bien a qué atenerse. El no tiene Medical, el programa estatal de cobertura de salud para personas de bajos recursos, sino que está afiliado a un HMO por medio de Medicare. "Gracias a Dios, yo casi no me enfermo y no tomo medicinas", dice. "Pero uno no sabe el día de mañana, tendré que inscribirme en algo que me pueda beneficiar, pero no sé si esto nuevo que puso el gobierno me va a ayudar".

Entretanto, Alejandro Bedoya, de 76 años, afirma tranquilamente que por lo menos él ya se inscribió con un representante de un seguro privado que vino a Villa Esperanza a dar una charla informativa. Bedoya eligió este plan por conveniencia, porque alguna vez en el pasado llegó a utilizarlo, pero no porque haya tenido oportunidad de comparar sus beneficios con los de otros 46 planes que se ofrecen en California.

"Me ofrecieron dos meses gratis en el plan", afirma el anciano. "Eso me beneficia, porque yo tomo como cuatro o cinco medicinas por día".

Y así, una tras otra se tejen las historias. Cada caso es diferente.

continued on page 6

tion, Luke Swarthout, un experto en educación superior que asesora a los grupos de investigación sobre intereses públicos de los estados.

Igualmente, los legisladores demócratas han reiterado que dichos recortes "son malas noticias" para la educación en general, y especialmente, para las escuelas con altas poblaciones de alumnos hispanos.

**Presencia latina**  
Los latinos necesitan mucho más apoyo educativo para salvar la barrera que los convierte en el grupo con menor representación académica de todo Estados Unidos, según concluye una conferencia en la Universidad de Princeton, en New Jersey.

"La situación es urgente. Si no invertimos más en estos jóvenes toda la sociedad va a pagar", dijo Patricia Gándara, profesora de la Universidad de California, du-

rante el evento El logro latino en las ciencias, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas.

Se estima que los hispanos representan el 20% de los estudiantes de primaria y secundaria del país, sin embargo, sólo el 50% obtiene un diploma de secundaria y sólo 1 de cada 10 alcanza la educación superior.

De quienes lo consiguen, el 70% va a un colegio comunitario y sólo 7% logra ir a la universidad, donde la historia se repite: del 7% total únicamente 3.8 completa un doctorado y un 5.1 una maestría.

La disminución de visados a estudiantes extranjeros tras los ataques del 11 de septiembre de 2001 y la pobre preparación que los latinos reciben en las escuelas podrían provocar un empeoramiento del panorama académico del país, coinciden expertos.

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# Essentials: Yeak, it's early-but Spurs-Mavericks is Huge

One game stands above all others on this week's NBA slate, the equivalent of an *Ali-Frazier* bout or the Yanks and Red Sox getting together to open a season. It's mighty early, but it's mighty important.

Devin Harris scored a season-high 22 points when the Mavs beat the Spurs on Nov. 5. (Getty Images) Spurs at Mavericks, American Airlines Center, Thursday night, nationally televised.

First place in the Southwest is at stake, but that's of little consequence this early. For that matter, so is the top spot in the Western Conference. What can't be swept under the rug is what this can do for Dallas, decisively slotted as the top threat to San Antonio's throne.

Should the Mavericks hold court, could it be said that there's a new front-runner? In the season's third game, the Spurs went into Dallas and were promptly told where they can stick their newly received championship rings. The Mavericks blitzed them 103-84, sending a message that the expected re-coronation of San Antonio, fortified with offseason signings Michael Finley and Nick Van Exel, would meet some resistance.

Josh Howard put together the first of several strong outings, scoring 17 points and grabbing 12 boards. Reserve point guard Devin Harris, an afterthought after he lost his starting job early as a rookie, took over the fourth quarter. He hit all eight of his shots, scoring 22 points and abusing Tony Parker. Dallas shot better than 50 percent on the stingy Spurs while holding them to barely over 40. They forced 18 turnovers and held Manu Ginobili to 2-for-11 from the field.

The volume of the message sent can't be ignored, and it certainly won't be forgotten. In this next showdown, San Antonio has to show better, if not win outright. For starters, Ginobili was nursing a strained quad that has improved over the past few weeks. Howard, diagnosed with a moderate ankle sprain after landing on teammate Harris late last week, likely won't play.

Must-see menu: Those developments should tilt things in San Antonio's favor.

even on the road. But "should" is the operative word. The Mavericks have already embarrassed Detroit, knocked off Phoenix and Miami and emerged as a viable contender for this year's championship. And considering Avery Johnson's demanding nature, they won't rest on any of their early accomplishments.

"I don't like where we are," Johnson said following their first home loss against Memphis on Saturday. "I see too many flaws right now. I don't see any consistency. I see inconsistency in our defensive performance, offensively in the way we penetrate and see too many inconsistencies in individual performances."

Dallas also has the difficult task of playing this game as its third in four nights, coming on the heels of stops in Toronto and Milwaukee. The Spurs, meanwhile, will be playing just their second in six days. Everything seems to be in their favor. If the end result isn't, it should raise eyebrows. After all, even the heads of champions can be gotten into.

## Texas Rangers

(from page 1)

"Books like Ben's shatter the myths and help us realize how much we've traveled in the last 100 years," Mr. Flores says. "It's better to know the truth, even if it makes you uncomfortable."

Revolution in Texas is unlikely to be a featured title at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, in Waco, Tex. The museum's Web site describes the Rangers as "one of the most cherished symbols of the Lone Star State, a positive and enduring icon of Texas and America."

Byron A. Johnson, director of the museum, acknowledges that some of the Texas Rangers participated in the killings nearly a century ago, but says Revolution in Texas overstates their involvement by failing to adequately distinguish between the official Texas Rangers and independent vigilante groups that sprang up around the same time. "For a while, anyone riding around with a horse and a gun was considered a Ranger," he says.

"There were outstanding periods of [the Rangers'] history and those that were regrettable," the museum director adds. "We want to be sure that the history is accurate so lessons can be learned from the mistakes."

Mr. Johnson is not alone in making Texans feel uncomfortable about their past these days. Last year, shortly after Mr. Johnson's book was published, the Dallas filmmaker Kirby F. Warnock released a documentary called *Border Bandits*, which told the story of two unarmed Tejano landowners who

were shot in the back by Texas Rangers in 1915. The event, which was supposedly a retaliation for an earlier Mexican bandit raid, had been related to Mr. Warnock by his grandfather, a cowboy who witnessed the killings.

While some Texans complained that these depictions unfairly malign the Rangers, others are angry that such abuses have been covered up for so long. "People find it particularly relevant that an arm of the state was centrally implicated in the violence, and that they continue to be so celebrated," says Mr. Johnson.

Healing the Border  
Texans also worry that calling attention to the historical racial strife along the border could deepen divisions between Hispanics and Anglos in the state today. Newspapers have carried angry letters to the editor from readers like Ramon Estrada, a retired electrical engineer who grew up in El Paso and now lives outside of Denver, Colo. He says he is bitter about the way his ancestors were treated and sometimes questions whether he was right to serve the United States in the Vietnam War.

In an interview, Mr. Estrada says that he read about Mr. Johnson's book in *The Denver Post*, and it brought back memories of stories his now-83-year-old mother told him when he was growing up. "She used to tell us how her father and his friend were killed by Texas Rangers in 1915 for no other reason than being of Mexican descent," said Mr. Estrada. "My cousins and I grew up hating the Rangers, and it used to really bother us when we'd see these TV shows where they were always the good guys."

Even those intent on commemorating the past are moving carefully in doing so.

Mr. Peña, the state senator, talked to both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Warnock at a screening of the documentary in South Texas last year. Afterward, he decided to introduce some sort of commemorative legislation. But he quickly concluded that his initial ideas -- naming a highway or erecting a monument for the victims, or requiring Texas educators to revise their history books -- would prove too divisive.

"The powerful establishment interests need to keep certain mythologies about Texas pure and clean," he says. "They don't want to hear about abuses by the Texas Rangers."

Instead, he settled on proposing that May 5 -- Cinco de Mayo -- also be designated as a day to reflect on the history and culture of the Tejanos. He plans to resurrect that bill, which died at the end of the session in May, next year and pursue private financing for a monument. "We need to do this slowly and carefully, and with sensitivity to everyone involved," the senator says.

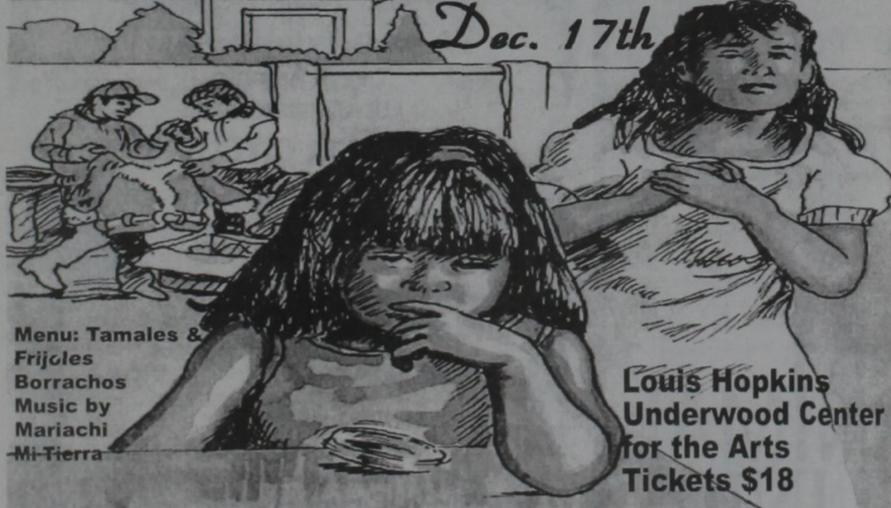
Aside from setting the record straight about a little-understood period of history, Mr. Johnson hopes his book will show that America "is flexible enough to offer people like [Mr. Estrada] the benefits of first-class citizenship. That's what the founders of Lulac concluded, and I think that the remarkable advances of Mexican-Americans in the last 70 years are testimony to the power of their vision."

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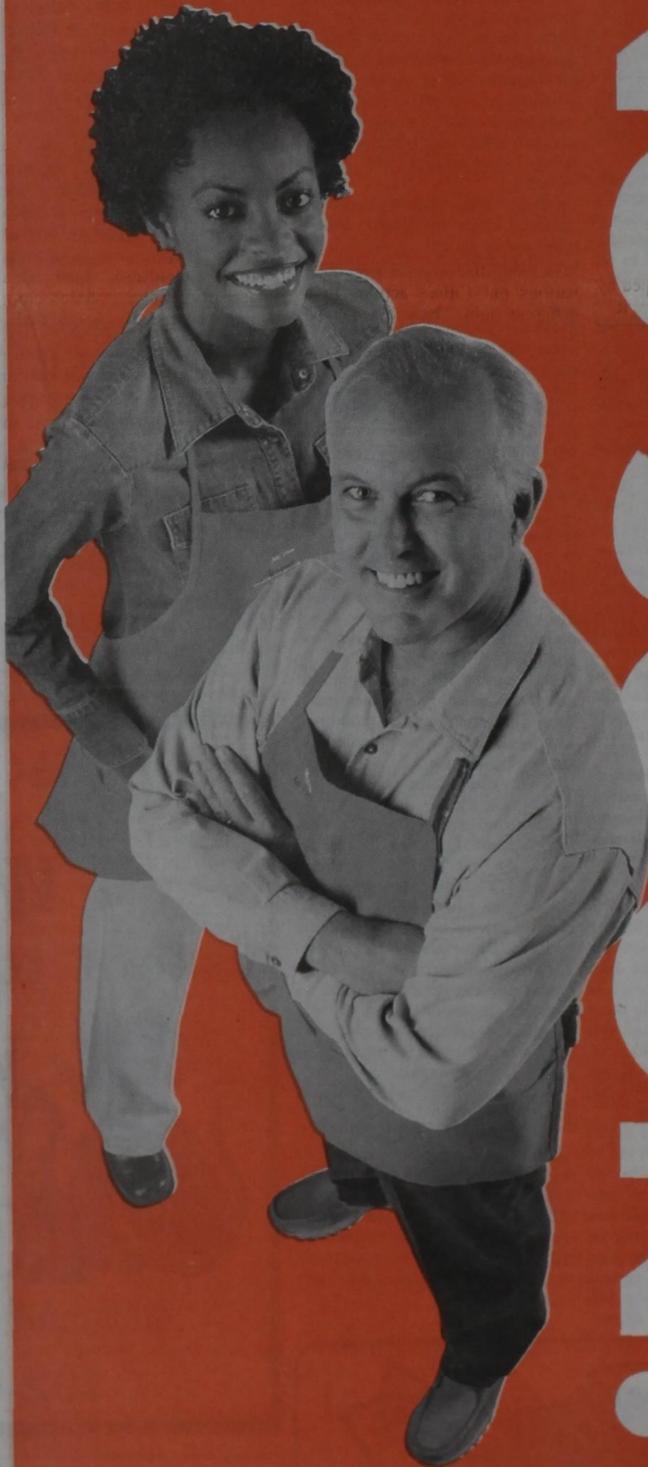
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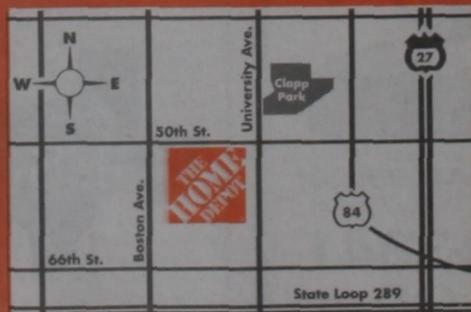
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# Santa & Mrs. Claus to Arrive at Santa Land

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving at Santa Land in Mackenzie Park to listen to the wishes of West Texas children on Saturday, December 10, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. in Mackenzie Park. The opening ceremony begins at 6:00 p.m., and

children from Lubbock and surrounding communities are invited

to help Lubbock City Council members greet the Clauses, light

the 60-foot Christmas tree, and officially open Santa Land. Enter-

tainment is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Cactus Kids from Don Caldwell

Productions/Studio. A new addition to this year's opening night is the PlainsCapital Bank Christmas Glow from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Balloonists inflate their hot-air balloons, which are tethered to the ground. As pilots fire their burners, spectators will watch as the balloons glow with color against the darkness of the night sky.

Santa Land is open December 10-23, 2005 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. nightly. For visits with Santa, parents are encouraged to bring their children early in the evening as the line is stopped on busy nights at approximately 9:30 p.m. The City of Lubbock has hosted Santa Land for the past 49 years, and admission is free. The entrance to Santa Land is from the East Broadway entrance into Mackenzie Park just east of Avenue A and the South Plains Fairgrounds.

More than 28,000 visitors attended Santa Land last year to see the festive holiday village with its 60-foot lighted Christmas tree, animated displays, traditional holiday scenes, and Santa and Mrs. Claus listening to Christmas wishes. Enjoy live entertainment most nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m., and refreshments, including hot chocolate, will be available at the concession stand. Keepsake photos of children visiting with Santa Claus can be purchased for \$5.00 each; however, parents are welcome to bring their own cameras.

The City of Lubbock and the Parks and Recreation Department are grateful to its sponsors for their help in underwriting the costs for Santa Land and for bringing this annual event to the children of Lubbock. This year's sponsors include: PlainsCapital Bank; David Dunn Repair Service; AAA Firewood; Kelly-Moore Paint; 6666 Ranch, News Channel 11; Next Media; KLLL, Mix 100, Rock 101, and Beat 104.9; American State Bank; Abercrombie Lumber; United Supermarkets; Wells Fargo Bank; Vogue Beauty Academy; Felix West Paint; Walmart; Lubbock Police Department; Lubbock Fire Department, and City Solid Waste Services.

## Los Tigres del Norte to perform in Nicaragua

Los Tigres del Norte will perform on December 3 before some 14 thousand Nicaraguans at the soccer stadium in Esteli. The concert will be followed by corridos dance contests.

The show will be part of the 44th anniversary of soccer club Real Esteli celebration. It got to the national tournament as leader, and wants to get the trophy this year.

Fidel Moreno, local deputy and part of the people organizing the event, stated that the Mexican regional northern music and corridos contests will be held in the Esteli park previous to the Los Tigres del Norte's concert.

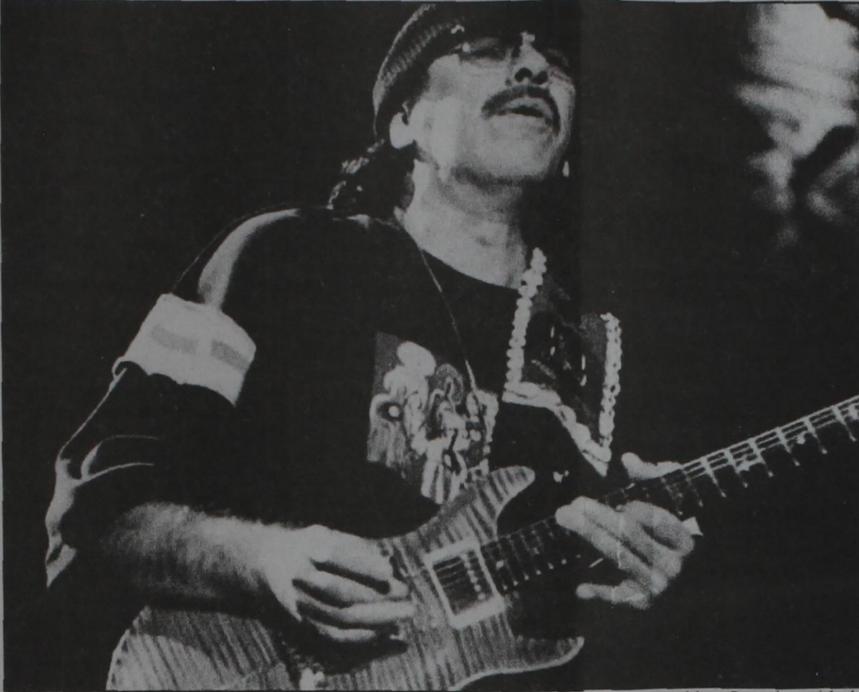
Couples will compete on December 1 and will have the opportunity to know more about the professional history of the Mexican band. They will also wear the traditional charro dresses and will dance before Nicaraguans.

The organizers state that there will be some 300 police officers that will be in charge of security and order during the concert.



The #1 News Station in Lubbock Texas is looking for a dedicated person to assist in the editing photography of daily newscasts. The winning candidate will be primarily responsible for editing video for the five, six, and ten evening newscasts as assistant producer. Will be trained as a photographer and will perform photographer functions if assigned. Some television experience preferred.  
E.O.E.

## Santana to wrap up Christmas Celebration in Brazil



Mexican guitarist Carlos Santana will wrap up the official program at the "Carioca Christmas and Summer Celebration." This event will be held in this city until March 2006.

People from the city hall stated that Santana's concert, which is scheduled for March 18, 2006, will close the four months of artistic, cultural, and popular celebration in Rio de Janeiro.

It stated that the Samba National Day will be celebrated on Friday.

This sets the date to start the rehearsal for the Carnival Special Group 2006 parade.

On December 5, the American band Pearl Jam will give a concert at the Aposteose. Also, a concert called "Papa Noel" will be held by singers Xuxa and Felipe Dilon.

For February 16, 2006 the British band The Rolling Stones will have a concert in Copacabana's beaches.

The "Carioca Christmas and Summer Celebration" official pro-

gram started last Saturday with the presentation of the World's biggest Christmas Tree.

The tree is 82 meters high and weights 450 tons. It is on a floating base in Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon, which is one of the tourist attractions in Rio de Janeiro.

The tree has 2.8 million light bulbs. Tourists will be able to see it until January 6.

The gigantic Christmas tree cost some 1.1 million dollars. It has images of candles, cars, bells, and other Christmas ornaments.

## Hot Air Balloon Glow Comes to Santa Land

The evening sky will be alight with the glow of hot air balloons during the PlainsCapital Bank Christmas Glow on the opening night of Santa Land on Saturday, December 10, 2005 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in Mackenzie Park. The Christmas Glow is sponsored by PlainsCapital Bank, the Southwest Regional Balloon Club, and the City of Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department.

Balloonists will inflate their hot-air balloons in their launch position on the field adjacent to Santa Land, but will not ascend. As the pilots fire their burners, spectators will watch as the balloons light up and glow with color against the darkness of the night sky. With the backdrop of Santa Land and its sixty-foot lighted Christmas tree, these giant luminaries will be a one of a kind experience never before seen in Lubbock! Experience the magic of Santa Land and the unique beauty of the PlainsCapital Bank Christmas Glow!

The 49th Annual Santa Land and the PlainsCapital Bank Christmas Glow (opening night only) are located in Mackenzie Park and can be reached from the East Broadway entrance into the park just east of Avenue A and the South Plains Fairgrounds. Santa Land is open nightly from 6:00-10:00 p.m. from December 10 through December 23.

For further information, contact Nancy Neill at 775-2685.

# When an ill winds strikes an ailing island, there's a difference

By Ricardo Chavira

It felt like a typically stifling day in Havana on August 12, 2004 - except for one thing. A category two hurricane carrying 110 mph winds was barreling down on the Cuban capital. It was projected to sweep across the island and into Havana in about 10 hours.

Habeneros would be gripped by panic, and I set out to confirm it.

Instead, my wanderings around town found near-normalcy. People continued their daily routines, stopping occasionally on the street to chat about the storm, but with no particular concern about the impending pummeling their homes would receive.

This unusual business-as-usual contrasted with the scene some 90 miles to the north. There, the storm spurred jittery South Floridians into frenzied buying. TV reports portrayed the region as about to suffer a calamity of unimaginable dimensions.

Cubans, well into their second decade of withering economic crisis, leisurely purchased what was available - some extra water, perhaps a spare loaf of bread.

TV reports matter-of-factly tracked the storm's progress: anchors laconically noted that it was certain to flatten and flood a vast stretch of Western Cuba. By no means wander out into the cyclonic winds, civil defense officials cautioned, as storm-driven roofs or trees and high surf would

be lethal.

What I would come to understand over the next 15 months is that Cubans and their government have hurricane preparedness and response down to a well-practiced routine.

The performance of the United States and that of several regional nations put Cuba's actions in a different light. These other countries' abysmal lack of readiness and tortoise-like reaction to 36 hurricanes and storms since June of last year contributed to the deaths of at least 6,000 people, with an estimated \$112 billion in damage.

That's not to say Cubans have not been killed in the 36 storms during the last 17 months. But because the government enforces mandatory and mass evacuations, millions were moved out of the hurricanes' deadly paths. The result: fewer than 200 Cubans are believed to have been killed. Several hundred thousand were evacuated for Charley and two million ahead of Ivan, the storm that followed a few weeks later.

When Charley roared into Havana a little before midnight, I woke to the sound of a high-pitched, hissing wind, pelting rain and rattling tin roofs. I stepped onto the covered terrace of a guesthouse where I was staying.

Several Italian tourists joined me. We watched trees whipping in the wind like seaweed in a squall.

Airborne debris hurtled by as if jet-propelled. The downpour, now sounding like gravel landing on iron, was driven horizontally, soaking us under the roof.

Charley killed four people and leveled or mauled about 70,000 homes and buildings on the island. El ciclón also wiped out a large part of Cuba's tobacco crop, a major source of foreign trade. That would certainly mean the loss of millions in badly needed dollars. In all, the storm inflicted about \$1 billion in damages across the island, according to Cuban officials.

By first light, the hurricane had moved back out to sea. Habeneros surveyed with mild wonder the wrecked roofs, hundreds of uprooted trees and flooded streets.

Then, as if by instinct, they set about dragging the tons of debris into carefully arranged heaps on the edge of streets and roads. That there was no water or electricity caused no visible distress, just another shrug. Government services are so modest that citizens are accustomed to doing for them-

selves

As a journalist who has visited Castro's Cuba dozens of times over the last few decades, I accepted the spontaneous clean-up as an expected response, part of modern Cuban culture. Until recently, revolutionary Cuban society was quite effective in inculcating the value of collective action for such things as crop harvests, voter registration and mass health education.

Does Fidel have a lesson for us here?

Based on their ferocity, we readily classify the character of hurricanes into numerical categories, one, two, three, four, five. The relative merit of human responses to their onslaught is not so easy to assign a grade.

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December 3 ~ Holiday Craft Bazaar  
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40<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue B

December 8 ~ Holiday Open House  
3:00-6:00 pm Hodges Community Center  
41<sup>st</sup> Street and University

City of Lubbock Parks and Recreation

## Pancho Clos



December 18 2:00-4:00 pm  
Maggie Trejo Supercenter  
3200 Amherst

Sponsored by American GI Forum  
City of Lubbock Parks and Recreation

# Confusión viene de la pagina 3

pero tambien lo son los 47 planes de seguro privados que a partir del 1 de enero comenzarán a ofrecer cobertura para medicinas recetadas a los beneficiarios de Medicare en California.

El periodo inicial de inscripciones en el nuevo plan comenzó el pasado 15 de noviembre y termina seis meses después, el 15 de mayo. Pero la confusión sobre qué plan escoger parece mucho mayor que la ayuda que el gobierno supuestamente está ofreciendo a los beneficiarios para ayudarlos en su decisión.

A juzgar por la investigación realizada para este reportaje, dicha ayuda parece poco organizada, insuficiente y nada fácil de obtener para el anciano promedio.

Por ejemplo, la mejor y más accesible información sobre todos los aspectos del programa se encuentra en la internet, pero según un reciente sondeo de Kaiser Family Foundation, tres de cada cuatro ancianos dicen que jamás han utilizado el internet. Esta cifra puede ser aún mayor entre los ancianos latinos.

"No lo han puesto fácil", afirma Carmela Lacayo, directora ejecutiva de la Asociación Nacional Pro Personas Mayores (ANPPM), con sede en Los Ángeles. "De hecho, parece estar diseñado para que la gente no lo use, para poner barreras al público y que no pueda tener acceso".

Otros señalan, sin embargo que, con un poco de tiempo y cuidado, el Plan D de Medicare podría ser extremadamente beneficioso para las personas mayores, en particular para las que toman muchas medicinas y para las de más bajos ingresos, que recibirán la mejor cobertura.

El truco es escoger lo que más les conviene. Y ahí está el detalle.

Opciones y complicaciones  
Los expertos coinciden en que escoger el plan adecuado para cada persona es la decisión más importante, ya que no todos los planes cuestan lo mismo, cubren todas las medicinas o se aceptan en todas las farmacias.

Eso hace la decisión más compleja para muchas personas mayores. Pero no sólo para ellas.

"Es uno de los programas más complicados que yo he visto del gobierno federal. Incluso, tengo amigos abogados que han leído el texto de la ley y me dicen que no la entienden", señala Carmela Lacayo.

La Ley de Medicinas Recetadas, Mejoramiento y Modernización de Medicare de 2003 fue firmada por el presidente George W. Bush el 8 de diciembre de ese año, creando un nuevo beneficio voluntario de

medicinas recetadas a través de Medicare (bautizado Medicare Parte D) que comienza a funcionar el 1 de enero próximo.

Para las personas mayores de 65 años, o inhabilitadas, que reciben Medicare, la ley añade a sus beneficios la cobertura de las medicinas por receta que anteriormente no estaban incluidas en el plan federal. Se estima que unos 42 millones de personas podrían verse favorecidas en todo el país.

Pero en vez de recibir la cobertura directamente del gobierno, la ley destina fondos federales para que el beneficio sea ofrecido por compañías privadas de seguro. Docenas de empresas de seguros en todo el país se han alistado a proporcionar la nueva cobertura. Sólo en California hay 47 planes de donde escoger, y el número podría aumentar.

Esto tiene sus pros y contras. Pat Barry, especialista en Medicare de la revista de la Asociación Nacional para Personas Retiradas (AARP), señala que la competencia entre las compañías de seguro por lograr atraer a los clientes a su plan ya ha generado reducciones en el precio de las medicinas.

"Muchas compañías han dado un paso adelante y diseñado un plan para abarcar este gigantesco mercado. Eso ha afectado los precios y están dando mejores ofertas de lo que esperábamos", afirmó Barry. "El problema es que hay tantos planes diferentes, que es difícil para una persona escoger el más adecuado para ella".

Esto puede resultar, a la larga, en mayores costos para los usuarios, si los planes privados se retiran del negocio por falta de clientes, añadió la experta. "Nadie sabe realmente lo que va a pasar, es una gran interrogante".

Por el momento, y según el sondeo de Kaiser Foundation, sólo uno de cada cinco ancianos dice que va a inscribirse en el plan y seis de cada 10 afirman que entienden poco o nada del beneficio que hace dos años fue catalogado por el presidente Bush como el "aumento más importante en cobertura de salud desde el inicio de Medicare en 1965".

Falta información  
Ante la cantidad de opciones que tienen las personas mayores, la gran mayoría necesita la ayuda de otras personas para tomar la decisión. Muchos reportan solicitar la asistencia de sus familiares, el farmacéutico o el doctor de cabecera, pero estos pueden estar tan incapacitados o sin información como ellos para tomar la decisión.

De hecho, y a pesar de que la ley fue aprobada hace casi dos años y desde entonces se sabía que la

fecha del 1 de enero de 2006 sería clave en su implementación, la confusión generalizada que halló el sondeo de Kaiser y que puede comprobarse hablando con cualquier grupo de ancianos, refleja el fracaso de los esfuerzos informativos del gobierno.

"Han mandado cartas diciendo que se inscriba uno, pero no le dicen a dónde", dice Magdalena Contreras, una jubilada de 72 años que actualmente recibe su cobertura de medicinas por medio de Medical, el plan estatal de California para personas de bajos recursos.

Las personas que tienen Medical serán cambiadas automáticamente a un plan privado pagado por Medicare a partir del 1 de enero si es que ellas mismas no escogen su plan antes de esa fecha. Eso preocupa a Contreras.

"¿Y qué tal si uno no va a estar contento con el plan que le dan?", pregunta. La anciana no tiene ni idea de cuáles son sus opciones y de que, si no le gusta el plan que le dan, puede cambiarse antes del 15 de mayo.

Especialmente grave, señalan algunos observadores, es la falta de una estrategia coherente para disseminar la información a los ancianos en general y particularmente a los de minorías lingüísticas y culturales como la comunidad latina.

"Hay una falta total de estrategia para informar a los ancianos y en particular a los latinos", indicó Verónica Montoya, de la Coalición Latina por una California Saludable.

De hecho, el único grupo organizado que parece estar ofreciendo asistencia caso por caso pagada por el gobierno en forma organizada es el Programa de Consejería y Defensa de los Seguros de Salud o HICAP, que tiene una oficina en cada uno de los 58 condados de California.

Sandy Risdon, directora de la oficina de Los Angeles, dijo a La Opinión que su entidad se encuentra "abrumada" por la cantidad de personas que están atendiendo y que "no necesitamos más publicidad".

Risdon indicó que su agencia necesita urgentemente entrenar a más consejeros bilingües para ayudar en la tarea.

Otras organizaciones comunitarias están haciendo foros informativos para ayudar a la gente, pero no tienen presupuesto para atenderlos caso por caso.

"Aparte de no tener una estrategia de información, no estamos convencidos de que el plan tenga suficientes recursos", señala Montoya. "Es posible que la gente no reciba la asistencia que se supone que debe recibir y esto afecte sus posibilidades de aprovechar el programa".



Giant panda cub Tai Shan plays with bamboo inside his area at the National Zoo in Washington. Tuesday was the first day he got outside for public viewing.

## Bush y Inmigración

(viene de la Primera)

Acto seguido, Bush se dedicó a ampliar sobre las diversas medidas que se han tomado o piensan tomarse para tales fines. Todo forma parte, dijo, de un plan de tres pilares: asegurar la frontera; prevenir los cruces ilegales; y fortalecer la aplicación de las leyes de inmigración en la frontera y en el interior del país.

Al mismo tiempo, para quitarle presión a la frontera, se creará un plan de trabajadores huéspedes.

Para cumplir con los objetivos, planifican devolver a sus países de origen a todos los que sean capturados al tratar de ingresar ilegalmente, sin excepciones, ampliando y fortaleciendo las repatriaciones al interior de sus países de origen. La idea, dijo Bush, es "enviarlos a casa y que se queden en casa". Dijo además que se pondrá fin a la práctica de detener y liberar a los indocumentados no mexicanos; se agilizará el programa de deportaciones expeditas, incluyendo la de nacionales cuyos países se niegan a recibirlos. Esos países serán obligados a recibir a sus nacionales.

Se incrementará la cifra de agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza, las camas en los centros de detención; y urgió al Congreso a que ponga fin a la práctica de que los indocumentados puedan apelar una y otra vez sus órdenes de deportación. Se destinarán fondos a barreras físicas en la frontera, se mejorarán los caminos y carreteras de patrullaje, se agregarán barreras para impedir el paso de los vehículos de los traficantes de humanos; y se empleará la tecnología más

avanzada.

Asimismo, se reforzarán las leyes en los centros de trabajo, lo que resultará en más multas para los empleadores que contraten indocumentados y es de esperarse más detenciones de éstos.

Las declaraciones de Bush se dan en momentos en que la Cámara de Representantes, que regresa la semana entrante del receso de Acción de Gracias, quiere avanzar en diciembre un proyecto de seguridad fronteriza estrictamente, sin ningún tipo de concesiones o programas de trabajadores temporales, algo que el liderazgo republicano de la Cámara Baja dijo que hará antes de considerar cualquier programa de trabajadores huéspedes.

Se anticipa, de hecho, que próximamente el presidente del panel Judicial de la Cámara Baja, F. James Sensenbrenner, someta un proyecto de ley basado en esos fines.

En el Senado, por otra parte, el liderazgo republicano ha indicado que a principios de 2006 abordará el tema de manera integral partiendo de la seguridad y ampliando el debate a otras áreas como el programa de trabajadores temporales.

Otras propuestas

Hay diversas propuestas en la Cámara Alta: la de los senadores John McCain, republicano de Arizona, y el demócrata de Massachusetts, Edward Kennedy, que tiene un camino a la legalización sin salir del país para los indocumentados que llenen ciertos requisitos; la de los senadores republicanos John Cornyn, de Texas, y Jon Kyl, de Arizona, que dice que los indocumentados que quieran participar del programa de trabajadores temporales tienen que retornar a su país

de origen; el senador Chuck Hagel, republicano de Nebraska, sometió una medida que dice que los indocumentados pueden legalizarse si pagan una multa de dos mil dólares, han vivido en Estados Unidos por los menos cinco años y cumplen con otros requisitos, como no tener historial criminal, entre otros.

Se espera que el presidente del panel Judicial del Senado, Arlen Specter, de Pennsylvania, someta su propuesta que incluye algunos aspectos que preocupan a los grupos proinmigrantes.

Pero Kelley dijo que por lo menos Specter parece estar tomando ideas de las diversas propuestas que circulan, de manera que el debate esté abierto a los diversos sectores y nadie sienta que sus preocupaciones están siendo desatendidas.

El líder de la minoría demócrata del Senado, Harry Reid, de Nevada, le envió una carta a Bush indicándole que "está claro que el gobierno federal debe trabajar para detener el flujo de inmigración ilegal en nuestras fronteras. Es crucial para nuestra seguridad nacional que lo hagamos. Pero la sola aplicación de la ley no funciona. A menos que atendamos la brecha entre nuestras leyes de inmigración y la realidad, la inmigración ilegal no parará y la situación en la frontera continuará siendo caótica".

Por su parte, la líder de la minoría demócrata de la Cámara Baja, Nancy Pelosi, de California, indicó que "lo que necesitamos no son más oportunidades para una foto, sino verdadero liderazgo. No se puede lograr una seguridad fronteriza real si se hace aisladamente. Tiene que estar acompañada de una reforma bipartidista e integral".

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