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"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"

Lic Benito Juarez

Lubbock, TX USA

Residentes desafían órdenes de desalojo

Miles de residentes de New Orleans juran que se quedarán en la devastada ciudad, aferrados a sus pertenencias y desafiando la amenaza del alcalde de desalojarlos por la fuerza.

El alcalde C. Ray Nagin emitió una firme advertencia a los 10 mil residentes que, según se afirma, todavía se encuentran atrapados en esta ciudad en ruinas: "Máchense voluntariamente o se arriesgan a ser desalojados por la fuerza".

A medida que las aguas de las inundaciones comenzaban a bajar, tras la entrada en funcionamiento de los primeros equipos de bombeo, el alcalde Nagin autorizó en la noche del martes a las autoridades y a los militares a que desalojasen por la fuerza a todos los residentes a hacerlo voluntariamente.

El alcalde advirtió que las aguas fétidas podrían ocasionar enfermedades y que había filtraciones de gas en toda la ciudad.

El capitán de la policía Marlon Delfillo dijo, empero, que no se había comenzado a desalojar a la gente. "Es absolutamente el último recurso", agregó.

La directiva de Nagin —que remplazó a una orden de evacuación más moderada, emitida antes de que el huracán llegase a tierra el 29 de agosto— fue promulgada después de que los rescatistas hallaron a centenares de personas en la ciudad que habían hecho caso omiso de la orden anterior.

Entre ellos figuró Dennis Rizzuto, de 38 años, que dijo tener cantidad de agua y alimentos para vivir un mes en su casa, y un generador que le suministraba electricidad. Cuando se le ofreció un viaje en lancha hasta un lugar a salvo, el individuo declinó la oferta.

"Van a tener que sacarme a rastras", dijo Rizzuto.

Rizzuto al parecer no es el único que piensa en esos términos.

"Un montón de gente no desea marcharse. Tienen perros y desean quedarse en sus casas. Dicen que van a quedarse hasta que bajen las aguas", dijo el capitán Scott Powell, que trató de evacuar en vano a numerosos vecinos.

Entretanto, los rescatistas trataban de hallar y contar los cadáveres dispersos por la ciudad, bajo temperaturas que han llegado hasta los 32 grados centígrados. El alcalde ha calculado que el total de víctimas del huracán podría llegar a los 10 mil muertos.

Por otra parte, en la zona de St. Bernard Parish, en las afueras de New Orleans, se descubrieron entre 25 y 30 cadáveres de ancianos en un asilo, informó ayer la cadena de televisión CNN, que cita fuentes oficiales sin dar más detalles.

El corresponsal del diario The New

Consulado está activo

El Consulado General de México en Dallas trabaja a toda su capacidad para atender a los mexicanos afectados por el huracán Katrina que han llegado a esta ciudad en busca de albergue.

Las autoridades de esta sede diplomática han pedido a sus connacionales, que independientemente de su estatus migratorio, se comuniquen para poder brindar la ayuda necesaria, informó el cónsul alterno Hugo Juárez.

El funcionario informó que al momento se han reportado solamente 40 connacionales, quienes han ido hasta el consulado a pedir asistencia jurídica.

Agregó que en los refugios instalados en la ciudad y el área metropolitana únicamente han localizado a tres personas que han declarado ser de nacionalidad mexicana.

Los mexicanos damnificados que necesitan un documento de identidad, pueden presentarse en el consulado mexicano en donde se les extenderá un certificado de presunción de nacionalidad. Juárez dijo que a estos damnificados se les está apoyando también económicamente. Asimismo se les está ayudando a conseguir un empleo por medio de la Cámara de Comercio Hispana de Dallas y de la Asociación de Contratistas Hispanos. El funcionario indicó que el consulado mexicano tiene abierta una bolsa de trabajo para dar seguimiento a las peticiones de empleo de los damnificados de origen mexicano.

Los damnificados mexicanos que deseen solicitar la asesoría y ayuda del consulado mexicano pueden llamar al 214-252-9250 ext. 105, 107 y 112.

York Times en Louisiana, señaló, a su vez, que se trata de 32 muertos de un total de 60 residentes del asilo de ancianos St. Rita.

El diario citó fuentes oficiales del lugar quienes indicaron que después de flotar en las aguas durante más de una semana, 14 de los cuerpos están tan hinchados que son irreconocibles.

Ante la proximidad del huracán Katrina que arrasó los estados de Louisiana, Mississippi y Alabama, los ancianos parece que se encerraron en el lugar como medida de precaución.

Pusieron una mesa contra una de las ventanas y otra mesa sobre una silla de ruedas contra una puerta, señaló.

Este asilo de ancianos se encontraba en una de las zonas más afectadas por las inundaciones.

Hasta este momento el número de muertes en New Orleans confirmadas por las autoridades asciende a 71, pero se teme que los cadáveres se cuenten por miles cuando termine la limpieza de la ciudad.

Ayer mismo, el diario Times Picayune de New Orleans, que desde la tragedia de Katrina opera sólo por internet, informaba de que se habían localizado "decenas de cadáveres" almacenados en un refrigerador sin corriente eléctrica en el Centro de Convenciones de la ciudad, donde estuvieron refugiados durante días miles de personas.



Alrededor de 10 mil personas insisten en quedarse en New Orleans. Evacuación forzosa. Un grupo de policías obliga a dejar su casa a una anciana en New Orleans.

America's National Disgrace The Flood That Finally Washed Away Our Government's Soul

By Abel Cruz

Words to adequately describe the scenes of the suffering humanity in New Orleans and the rest of the Mississippi Gulf Coast have yet to be invented. We use words like catastrophic, apocalyptic, human misery, human devastation and destruction of biblical proportions. But, somehow they do not do enough justice to the situation that was created due to an unprepared people's government; one that was either too busy fighting a dishonest war, attending a political fundraiser out West, or lining their corporate pockets to worry about such trivial things as the potential threat to a people they have longed treated as second class Americans.

Considering that most of the victims in last week's natural disaster, or better put, national disgrace, are black and poor,



it is easy to see why a large majority of the national media and national audience, conservatives and liberals, were angry and embarrassed at how the federal government of the richest country in the world responded. Within a few short days, an entire black population went from being referred to as American citizens to being refugees.

Already stripped of their homes and material belongings, and in many cases their lives, they now would be stripped of their dignity.

Agregó que en los refugios instalados en la ciudad y el área metropolitana únicamente han localizado a tres personas que han declarado ser de nacionalidad mexicana.

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The Raping of the Environment in the Calm before the Storm

I was not personally aware of this, but for years, scientists and environmentalists and even journalists have been reporting on the potential for a storm and aftermath like the one that is unfolding before our eyes. The city that was New Orleans was built in what one could describe as a city existing in a water sandwich; surrounded by three separate bodies of water. As early as the 1990's scientists and environmentalist have



been writing about the impending disaster that had been lurking around the Gulf coast and in particular New Orleans. The scenario that had been predicted finally came true. The levees broke and the water rushed in as fast as Mardi Gras beads drop from the balcony to the revelers down on the street during that city's yearly celebration.

Unfortunately, it seems our countries priorities are placed on raping and stripping this earth of the last drop of oil without concern for the environmental damage that it has caused. The wetlands surrounding New Orleans that had been protected by previous administrations and were such an important element of the Mississippi Gulf Coast's natural eco system were opened up to developers who proceeded to destroy the protective barriers with their constant drilling for oil.

One important fact: in 2003 the Bush administration was responsible for reversing the wetland policy that had been in place since the first Bush presidency.

You see, when you're a different skin color, and if you are honest with yourself, you have a sixth sense that kicks in. It kicks in and whispers in your ear what we sometimes don't want to hear. It reminds us that no matter how much people talk about color blindness and equality, those words more often than not used to cover up the very subject that they do not want to talk about.

The Evacuation Order

As early as Saturday night on August 27, the mayor and governor of the state were calling for people to evacuate. As usual it came down to those that could do and those that couldn't, well they didn't. If you don't own a car and depend on public transportation, how do you evacuate? Do you hitch a ride with someone who already has a car full of people or who doesn't trust you because of your skin color? Even if you have money, how do you get out if the airlines have stopped all outgoing flights because they are more interested in moving their aircraft to a safer place than evacuating people? What of the ill and the elderly, what would we have them do?

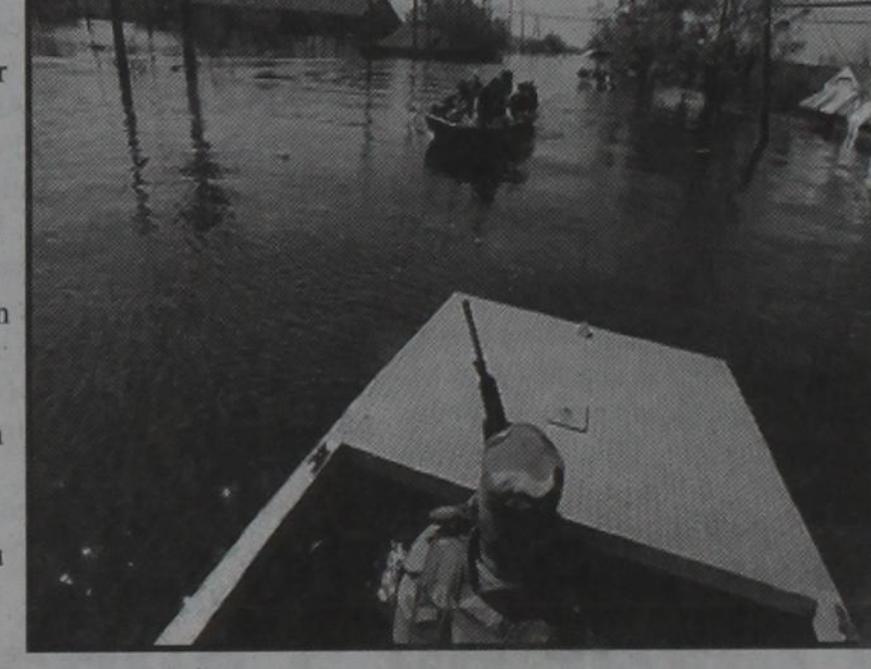
Race and Class

As much as we like to think that we have come a long way towards accepting people who happen to be lumped into a minority status because of skin color or economic status, we have not come very far at all. All you have to do is witness the black faces on your television screen to see what race and class of people were disappearing into the murky waters into the gulf of nothingness; right before your eyes.

When one's ancestral heritage or ethnicity defines how you will be received by society, you better understand that indeed race and class has much to do with how society and government treats you. In this case, whether intentional or not, the inadequate response was a true reflection of how minorities are treated in this country. Much too often, people of a different race and lower class than the ruling majority, are the ones who are more vulnerable to situations like this because society talks a good game about equality but rarely practices what it preaches.

You see, when you're a different skin color, and if you are honest with yourself, you have a sixth sense that kicks in. It kicks in and whispers in your ear what we sometimes don't want to hear. It reminds us that no matter how much people talk about color blindness and equality, those words more often than not used to cover up the very subject that they do not want to talk about.

Real life, if we listen, tells us all along that people of a different race and class are the most vulnerable in society; just like the poor and black Americans that



were at risk in New Orleans. Somehow that fact never enters into the conversation because to do so would be politically incorrect. And if people of color or people of lower economic status are treated unequally in life under normal circumstances; like they don't matter or don't count, do we really think that they will suddenly become important enough to save during a natural disaster such as this?

It is a real shame to hear individuals who have never suffered the indignities of racism or poverty to blame the victims in New Orleans for their own plight. I suppose they hope that by blaming the victims, it will somehow free them of sharing in any guilt that might be placed upon them by the rest of society; they prefer to continue to wrap themselves in a false veil of self righteousness, arrogance, and self importance.

If we are honest with ourselves, for those of us born with a darker shade of pale seeing the truth is not difficult at all. That is if we haven't yet forgotten where we came from; or worse yet, been fooled into believing, by those that some people desperately want to fit in with, that color and class don't matter. The brutal truth is this: that while their suntan will eventually fade, ours is permanent.

The Aftermath

In the days and months to come, the President and other federal government officials will stand before the TV cameras and tell us how it was the other guys fault, surely not there's. They'll continue to say that they want to focus on the future and not the past in a futile attempt to try and save what's left of their souls. They'll continue to tell us how great a job they are all doing and continue to make stupid comments like "Brownie, you're doing a great job", while at the same time secretly thanking God that they weren't born black and poor in New Orleans!

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Prominent Hispanic Groups Call For Appointment of Hispanic Justice to Supreme Court

The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) strongly urges President George W. Bush to appoint a qualified Hispanic to the U.S. Supreme Court to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist.

On June 6, 2005, the HNBA presented President Bush with a list of eight Hispanic candidates for appointment to the Supreme Court.

"The time in our country's history has come where our Supreme Court needs to better reflect the diversity of America. President Bush bypassed the estimated 41.3 million Hispanic Americans with the nomination of Judge John Roberts, but the President again has an opportunity to appoint the first Hispanic American to the Supreme Court," said HNBA President Alan Varela.

The HNBA is a non-profit, national association that represents the interests of over 27,000 Hispanic American attorneys, judges, law professors, law students and legal professionals. Its continuing mission is: To improve the study, practice and administration of justice for all Americans by ensuring the meaningful participation of Hispanic American Legal Professionals.

A Civics Lesson Outlined by Mother Nature

By Marisa Treviño

The stench of human waste in New Orleans' Superdome was said to have been so overpowering that rescuers arriving to evacuate the last of the stranded had to wear air masks just to breathe.

Waiting to be validated by the outside world, thousands of the city's young and old alike waited for days to be rescued while barely existing amid the subhuman squalor. Stranded in the wake of Katrina, the overwhelming majority of tear-stained, black faces we saw on our television screens day-in and day-out didn't represent tourists trapped in the national calamity. They were the city's poor with no means to escape.

Their faces, by virtue of their race, have put this disaster into very black-and-white, rich-and-poor terms.

That's the crux of the problem of what happened in New Orleans and what can happen in any other city or town in this

nation that at a moment's notice can experience a catastrophe.

Within each of our communities are large chunks of the population whom the U.S. Census counts as living below the poverty line. Call it like it is: they're the underclass, the men, women and children blamed for rising unemployment numbers, dragging down school test scores, serving as the breeding ground for gangs, drug dealers and every other negative stereotype in society.

The poor of New Orleans aren't any different than the poor of any other city, but because of what happened to them, they have put a human face on what is another calamity on our country's horizon. And it can be attributed to inequality.

A recent "Current Populations" report released by the U.S. Census Bureau, "Income, Poverty, Health Insurance Coverage in the U.S.: 2004," told us that 37 million people

lived in poverty last year. The figure was up 1.1 million from 2003.

Hispanic families recorded a decline in median income of 2.6 percent between 2002 and 2003. The number of Latinos in poverty increased from 8.6 million to 9.1 million in that 12-month period.

Another government tally, "We the People: Blacks in the United States,"

reported the percentage of blacks in poverty as twice that of the total population.

What the New Orleans disaster has shown those of us who hadn't already figured it out is that where inequality exists, those most paralyzed by it are persons of color.

This country has to reevaluate all of its towns and cities and take measures to ensure that every resident feels equally a son or daughter of the larger community, rather than a stepchild, or worse - an orphan.

At all levels, government has

to do a better job of equalizing communities: providing identical high-quality public schools throughout every city, striving to guarantee the same response time and attention to crime victims, public service requests and health emergencies, the same access to health care and public transportation, opportunities across the board for new community development and jobs and access to government for all.

Poverty may never be fully eradicated, but every individual in this multiracial land deserves an equal chance to survive in life.

Mother Nature doesn't discriminate. Why must we continue to do so?

(Marisa Treviño, of Rowlett, Texas, is a contributing columnist with Hispanic Link News Service and author of the blog LatinaLista found at <http://latinalista.blogspot.com>. She may be contacted by email at mtrevino@airmail.net.)

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Statement about Hurricane Katrina

We watched with horror as Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on the Gulf Coast. The images and stories are heartbreaking. Our sympathy and prayers go out to the individuals, families, and communities Hurricane Katrina has so tragically affected.

We admire those who have stepped forward to help their neighbors. We are also proud of the federal, state, and local public servants who have sprung into action to protect and serve.

Katrina reminds us of the power of forces greater than the individual. In America today, there is much talk about how those who are affluent have earned their wealth and those who are poor have simply been unproductive. Yet, Katrina was so powerful that it has altered the lives of even the richest, teaching us anew about forces greater than ourselves, and confronting us again with how much more vulnerable are the poor. Seeing the poor of New Orleans, with no resources to escape Katrina or deal with the aftermath, illuminates just how vulnerable. Powerful images of the poor also drive home again that so many are minorities, elderly, or disabled.

Katrina also reminds us of the importance of government, both as it has leaped to respond and as stories have begun to emerge about its failure to prepare. We were disturbed to read that the federal government cut flood control spending for southeastern Louisiana from \$69 million in 2001 to \$36.5 million in 2005, and cut the Army Corps of Engineers' budget for protection from Lake Pontchartrain from \$14.5 million in 2002 to \$5.7 million this year. According to The Times-Picayune, the Army Corps of Engineers stopped major work in 2004 on the levee system that protected New Orleans (for the first time in thirty-seven years). These spending cuts for critical government work came during the same period that the federal government cut taxes with troops at war, benefiting primarily the richest Americans. Ironically, Congress has scheduled the vote to permanently repeal the estate tax on the very wealthiest for later this month.

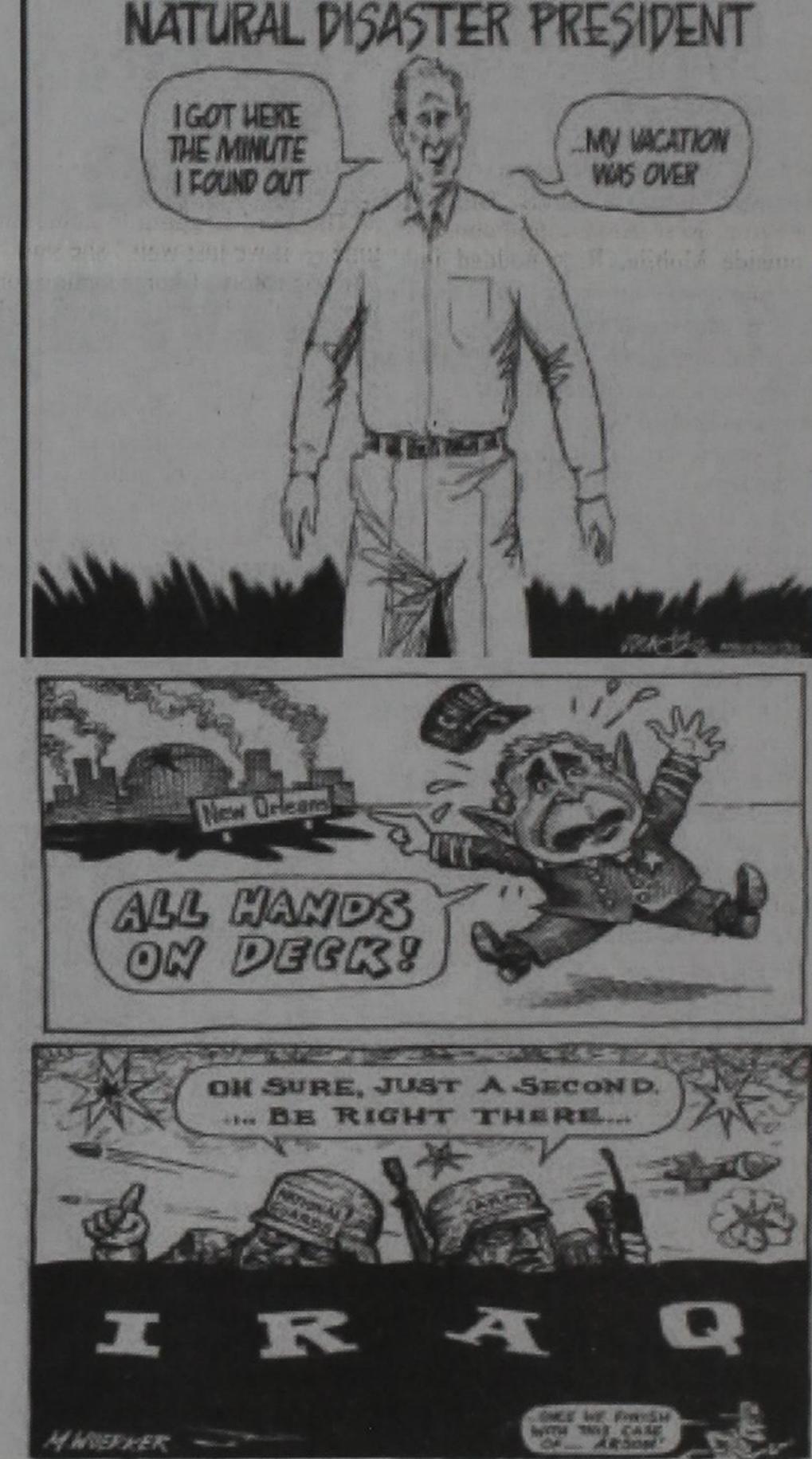
(To learn more about federal tax cuts, we urge you to go to <http://www.ccpp.org/pubs/fedtax.htm> <http://lists.ccpp.org/lt_t_go.php?i=107&e=MTM5ODQ=&l=http://www.ccpp.org/pubs/fedtax.htm>.)

As soon as the country has met the immediate needs of the people and communities on the Gulf Coast, Americans should turn their attention to figuring out what happened. We hope that the President will appoint a national commission modeled on the 9/11 Commission to address why the Gulf Coast was inadequately protected from the storm, why the government was unable to respond more effectively to the tragedy, and what we can do in the future to protect America. We must be ready to look honestly at whether our choices about spending and taxes for both federal and state governments played a role in these tragic events. In addition, when we talk about rebuilding New Orleans, we should not talk merely about the structure of levees to hold back the water, but the structure of society to raise up the people.

Like Abraham Lincoln, we believe Americans should have a government of the People, by the People, and for the People. We believe Americans must adequately support their government, which is after all merely the agent of our democracy. Those who oppose all tax increases on "principle" and call for tax cut after tax cut are disservice our country.

In America today there are highly influential anti-government, anti-tax groups working to benefit the few at the expense of the many. One leading proponent of tax cuts has remarked that he wants government to be so small that he can drown it in a bathtub. As the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina teaches us, however, when government is so small that we can drown it in a bathtub, it is not government that drowns, it is us.

The Center for Public Policy Priorities
Austin, Texas



Jim Hightower

THE PRICE OF WAR

"There is no enthusiasm for this war," says a member of congress about Bush's Iraq adventure. "Nobody is happy about it. It certainly is not going to help Republican candidates, I can tell you that much."

This is not some anti-war liberal speaking – but John Duncan, a Tennessee Republican who originally signed on to George W's Iraq attack, but has since turned against it. Despite the effort of right-wing media blowhards to paint all opponents of Bush's war as leftie coddlers of terrorism, realists in the president's own party now acknowledge that "a lot of Republicans" are grousing. "I have been to a lot of funerals," says one unhappy congressman from Maryland.

Imagine how unhappy these congress critters would be if any of those funerals involved the burial of their own kin – or even the burial of the kin of their campaign contributors! But, of course, the moneyed and the powerful have been kept out of the carnage, which is why Bush's immoral war of lies has been allowed to go on as long as it has.

Iraq might not pinch them personally, but it is definitely pinching them politically, as public support for the war and Bush's integrity is now sinking fast. Still, such Bushite boneheads as Rep. Tom Reynolds slogs on, cluelessly insisting that you and I don't give a damn about the deaths, the maimings, or the lies. "I'm not concerned," says Reynolds, a New York Republican who is head of GOP fundraising for next year's house elections. The 2006 elections, says Reynolds, will be decided not by the war, but "the important issues of what's going on in the district."

This is Jim Hightower saying... Hello, Tommy... if your loved ones were dying in the war that you so enthusiastically – and distantly – embrace, even you might consider that an "important" issue. Reynold's boneheadedness is why the loved ones of the privileged must be put on the front lines. If Bush's war is not worth their lives – why is it worth anyone's life?

Una Lección Cívica Esbozada Por la Madre Naturaleza

Marisa Treviño

El aire, hediondo a excremento humano, en el Superdome de Nueva Orleans se dice haber sido tan abrumador que los equipos de rescate que llegaban a evacuar a los últimos desamparados tenían que ponerte máscaras para poder respirar.

Esperando validación del resto del mundo, miles de jóvenes y viejos de la ciudad esperaron días ser rescatados, mientras que apenas existían entre la miseria infráhumana. Desamparados a la zaga de Katrina, la gran mayoría de las caras negras, manchadas de lágrimas que vimos por televisión día y noche no representaba a turistas atrapados por la calamidad nacional. Eran los pobres de la ciudad sin modo de escape.

Sus rostros, por su raza, han puesto a este desastre en términos muy blanco-y-negros, ricos-y-pobres.

Esa es la coyuntura del problema de lo que ocurrió en Nueva Orleans y lo que puede pasar en cualquier otra ciudad de esta nación, que sin aviso alguno puede sufrir una

catástrofe.

Dentro de cada una de nuestras comunidades vive grandes sectores de la población a los que el Censo de los EEUU cuenta como quienes viven por debajo del nivel de la pobreza. Llamémosle lo que es: son la plebe, los hombres, las mujeres y los niños a los que se señala como culpables del alza en los números del desempleo, de la caída de calificaciones escolares, campo de cultivo de pandillas, narcotraficantes y todo estereotipo negativo de la sociedad.

Los pobres de Nueva Orleans no son nada diferentes de los pobres de cualquier otra ciudad, pero por lo que les sucedió, le han puesto un rostro humano a lo que representa otra calamidad en el horizonte de nuestro país. Y se puede atribuir a la iniquidad.

Un reciente informe - Current Populations- (poblaciones actuales) que emitió el Negociado del Censo de EEUU, titulado "Income, Poverty, Health Insurance Coverage in the U.S.: 2004" (Ingresos, pobreza, cobertura médica en los EEUU:2004) nos indicó que

vivieron 37 millones de personas en la pobreza el año pasado. La cifra había subido 1.1 millón desde 2003.

Las familias hispanas marcaron una reducción en el ingreso medio de 2.6 por ciento entre el 2002 y el 2003. El número de latinos que vive en la pobreza aumentó de 8.6 millones a 9.1 millones en el mismo periodo.

Otra suma del gobierno, "We the People: Blacks in the United States" (Nosotros el pueblo: Los negros en los EEUU) reportó el porcentaje de negros pobres como dos veces el de la población en total.

Lo que nos ha mostrado el desastre de Nueva Orleans a los que entre nosotros no lo sabíamos ya, es que donde existe la desigualdad, a los que más paraliza es a las personas de color.

Este país tiene que volver a evaluar todos sus pueblos y ciudades y tomar medidas para asegurar que cada residente sienta que es hijo o hija de la comunidad general por igual, y no que es hijastro, o peor, huérfano.

En todo nivel el gobierno tiene

que obrar mejor para igualar las comunidades: ofrecer escuelas secundarias públicas de la misma calidad por todas las ciudades, garantizar la misma respuesta y atención a las víctimas del crimen, a los que buscan servicios públicos y los que tienen emergencias médicas, el mismo acceso a cuidados médicos y transporte público, oportunidades para todos de desarrollo de comunidades y empleo y acceso al gobierno para todos.

Es posible que nunca erradicaremos la pobreza, pero cada individuo en esta tierra multicultural se merece la misma oportunidad de sobrevivir.

La madre naturaleza no discrimina. ¿Por qué hemos de continuar haciéndolo nosotros?

(Marisa Treviño, de Rowlett, Texas, es columnista con Hispanic Link News Service y autora del blog LatinaLista que se encuentra en <http://latinalista.blogspot.com>. Comuníquese con ella por correo electrónico a: mtrevino@airmail.net.)

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An Invitation to Europeans to Join the Hyphen Club

By Ricardo Chavira

Living on the hyphen, a term first floated by author Gustavo Pérez in his book about life as a Cuban-American, neatly encapsulates the joys and challenges of being something other than a plain American.

The myth, of course, is that all of us born here or naturalized are Americans plain and simple.

In truth, those of us who are of non-Northern European ancestry get a hyphen along with our American identity. It designates us as OTA's, Other Than Americans.

The hyphen officially designates us as having roots in the third world or

southern European. Canadians and immigrants from Down Under, however, also get a pass. I can't recall anyone being called a Canadian-American or Australian-American.

Some find being tagged with a hyphen discriminatory. But I greatly enjoy being a bilingual, bicultural Mexican-American, so much so that about a year ago I concluded that Americans whose roots are in the United Kingdom, Germany or Scandinavia were being short-changed.

Where was their hyphen, their ancestral designator?

Officialdom long ago had

mislabelled them as Anglos - a word that leaves out millions of whites of Germanic or Irish stock, for example.

But we all know that there are millions of white Latin Americans, and white is a color, not a nationality.

Thus began my one-man campaign to give my compatriots of European descent the richness of their ancestry. I started referring to so-called white Americans as European-Americans.

The reaction of European-Americans ranged from hostility and confusion to outright denial. When I casually slipped the term into conversations with pale compatriots, the

response typically went something like this: "What the hell is that, European-American?"

It was an anthropologically correct description of ethnicity, I said.

"I'm just a regular American," came the often-heated reply.

Then I would inquire where the person's forefathers came from.

England or Scotland or some such was the answer.

"So you are no different than African-Americans, who also trace their roots to the other side of the Atlantic." True, Africans were kidnapped and enslaved, but the migratory pattern was identical.

More often than not, my European-American interlocutors sputtered that their family had been here three or four generations, making them regular Americans, period.

I pressed on, pointing out that only Native Americans could accurately claim such a thing.

"Well, my great grandmother was Cherokee."

This always makes me laugh. So many European-Americans claim Cherokee - a tribe noted for its fair skin - ancestry that there must have been 20 million or so in the tribe.

Even conceding the Cherokee great granny, that still left a preponderance of European blood. Sadly, I sensed that these Americans resented being placed in the category of dusky hordes from places like Bolivia or India.

In the spirit of inclusiveness, I will continue to champion the cause of European-Americans. We live in the ultimate multicultural society in which everyone from Armenians to Zambians carry around with them a bit of the old country. It's well past time that our European countrymen and women embrace the hyphen and reclaim their lost ancestry.

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Letter by a superintendent

reform."

Public schools take all students who enter our doors regardless of their abilities. We offer programs to accelerate instruction for students who have special learning needs and offer courses for college credit. We teach foreign language to English speakers and the English language to foreigners. We drive, feed, exercise, remediate and accelerate any and all students. There is accountability, technology, ESL, LEPs, ARDs, IEPs, AEPs, ISS,

SROs, drugs, drug dogs, drug testing, guns, gangs, steroids and, unfortunately, consternation from the lawmakers and rule-makers who should be supportive of what we do but instead tell us we're not good enough as they push through more and more unfunded mandates.

The governor enjoys the jingle, "We don't need more money for education, we need more education for our money." If that's the case, then let teachers teach, let principals oversee their campuses and stop asking public educators to correct all of society's ills. If the Legislature worked as hard upholding its promise of increasing teachers' salaries to the national average as it has cutting property taxes, then we would have more college-bound students choosing education as their profession and less of a need for emergency certified teachers.

We must elect officials who value public education and recognize that public education is the cornerstone of our American democratic way of life. We do not need public education executives as our legislative leaders. We need legislative leaders who will execute legislation that is positive for all Texans and positive for public education. We didn't create the \$1.50 cap on school funding, but we're told to run the schools regardless of increased costs. We didn't create the deficit in the Teacher Retirement System by reducing the state's contribution in 1995, but now we're mandated to put more of our salary into the system and accept a cut in benefits.

It is shocking that the Legislature would cut teachers' pensions and then propose to increase their own pension by raising the pay for judges and hiding their individual votes from the public through a voice vote. If raising the salaries of judges is the right thing to do, then make the vote a part of the public record.

We, the public and public educators, must change our message and the leadership in the Legislature. The current Legislature has done the talk. After the elections in this

Tormenta Política por Katrina

Los líderes republicanos del Senado y de la Cámara Baja anunciaron ayer la integración de una comisión bipartidista que investigará la respuesta a Katrina a todos los niveles, mientras el

Congreso (CBO).

En tanto, crece la presión para una pesquisa independiente, los líderes republicanos del Congreso dijeron que la comisión bipartidista integrada por legisla-

humano de Katrina sino el costo económico y potencialmente político del desastre.

Según la CBO, el costo para el gobierno federal podría superar los 100,000 millones de dólares,

eral entregará tarjetas de débito de dos mil dólares a los adultos desplazados por Katrina, pero el anuncio no se había oficializado.

Katrina no sólo alteró el paisaje de los estados costeros del Golfo de México y las vidas de los supervivientes del desastre sino que tiene el potencial de alterar los pronósticos económicos para la nación.

Sin embargo, la CBO aseguró que a largo plazo los efectos económicos de Katrina, aunque significativos, no serán "abrumadores" ya que las labores de reconstrucción ciertamente generarán empleos.

En general, dice el reporte, el crecimiento económico puede reducirse hasta en un punto porcentual cuando se había pronosticado que crecería entre 3% y 4%.

Pero el reporte agrega que "el crecimiento económico y los niveles de empleo resurgirán en la primera mitad de 2006" según se aceleran los esfuerzos de reconstrucción.

En el Congreso, Katrina alteró la agenda al grado de que las audiencias de confirmación de John Roberts como juez presidente del Supremo Tribunal han sido opacadas pese a tratarse de

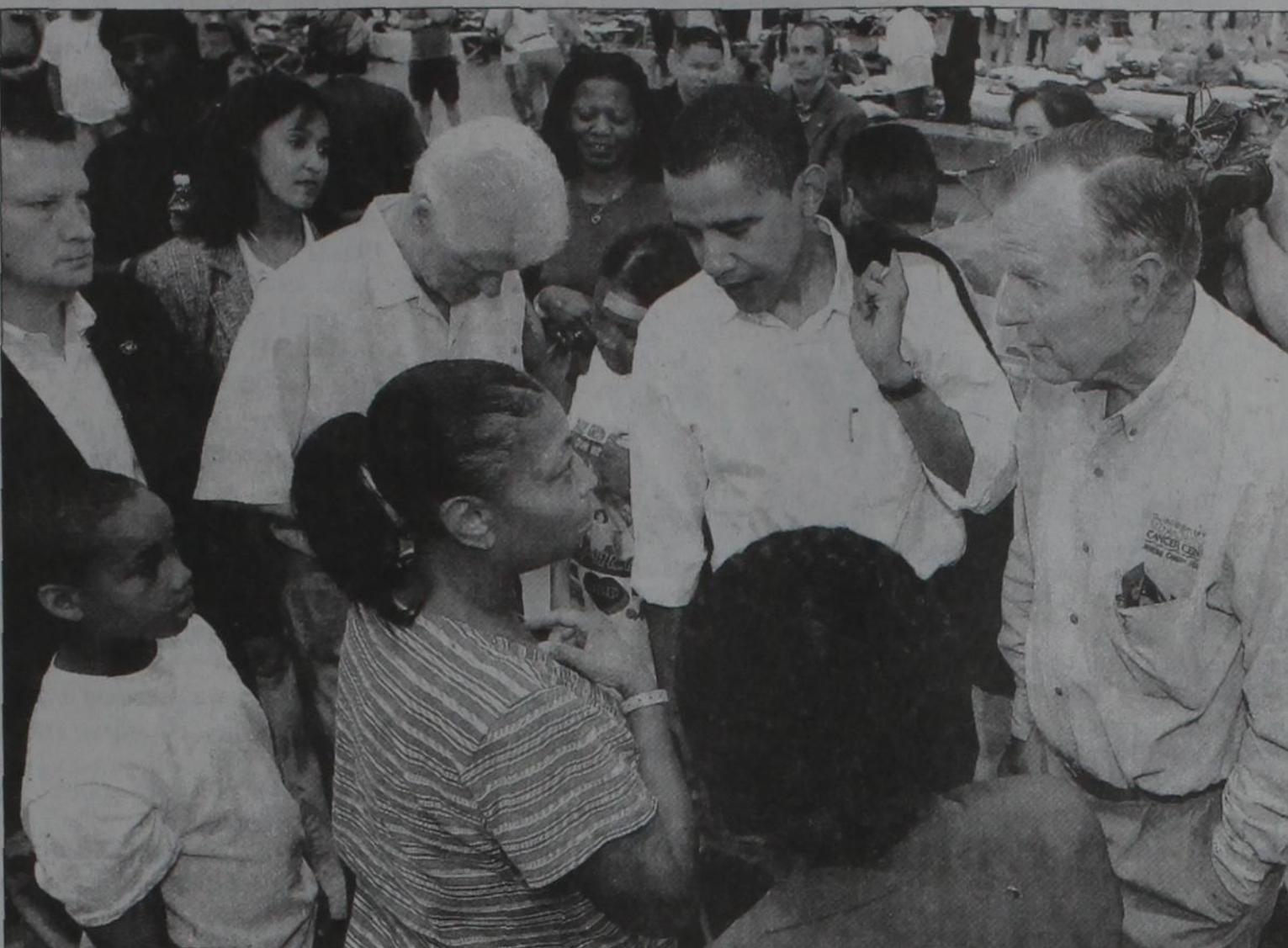
ribos del huracán y pese al horror que se estaba desatando les dio dos días para que llegaran a las zonas devastadas. Con todo, la semana pasada Bush felicitó a "Brownie", como le dice al director de FEMA, por estar haciendo "una extraordinaria labor".

La líder de la minoría demócrata en la Cámara Baja, Nancy Pelosi, de California, acusó a Bush de estar en un peligroso estado de negación cuando en una reunión el martes ella le pidió que despidiera a Brown por la incompetencia que evidenció en el manejo de la respuesta a Katrina.

Más tarde anunciaría junto a Dennis Hastert, presidente de la Cámara Baja, la integración de la comisión bipartidista que investigaría la respuesta a Katrina.

Los demócratas también solicitaron la suspensión "indefinida" de la conciliación de la resolución presupuestal que recomendó 35,000 millones de dólares en recortes de gastos antes del 16 de septiembre. "Si se le permite proceder, este proyecto de ley podría recortar programas de los cuales muchas víctimas del huracán Katrina dependerán, incluyendo Medicaid, vales de comida, y préstamos para estudiantes. Claramente, no tiene sentido considerar un proyecto de ley como éste en un momento en el que las necesidades masivas de aquellos afectados por el huracán Katrina aún se están evaluando", escribieron los líderes demócratas.

Por su parte, la senadora demócrata de California, Bárbara Boxer, le pidió al presidente Bush que someta el plan de respuesta de FEMA ante un potencial desastre en California provocado



desastre comienza a repercutir en la economía de los estados afectados y de la nación. Se anticipan la pérdida de 400 mil empleos, alzas en los precios del combustible, y un freno al crecimiento económico anticipado —al menos a corto plazo—, así como a los esfuerzos de reducir el déficit federal o de hacer permanentes las reducciones tributarias, entre otras cosas, según un reporte de la Oficina de Presupuesto del

dores de mayor antigüedad deberán presentar su reporte antes del 15 de febrero de 2006. "Los estadounidenses merecen respuestas. Debemos hacer lo posible para aprender de esta tragedia, mejorar el sistema y proteger a todos nuestros ciudadanos", dijo el líder de la mayoría republicana del Senado, Bill Frist, de Tennessee.

Pero según ceden las aguas en la ciudad de New Orleans, queda al descubierto no sólo el costo

casi cinco veces los 21,000 millones destinados a la ciudad de Nueva York tras el 9/11, y podría llegar hasta 200,000 millones según el líder Frist.

La Casa Blanca solicitó ayer una nueva ronda de fondos de asistencia de 51,800 millones que se suman a los 10,500 millones autorizados la semana pasada. Se calcula que el costo de la asistencia es de 700 millones a 1,000 millones diarios.

Se reportó que el gobierno fed-

Rice Defends Bush Against Racism Charges

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice defended President Bush on Sunday against charges that the government's sluggish response to Hurricane Katrina showed racial insensitivity.

"Nobody, especially the president, would have left people unattended on the basis of race," the administration's highest-ranking black said as she toured damaged parts of her native Alabama.

Later, during a service at the Pilgrim Rest AME Zion church outside Mobile, Rice nodded in

agreement as the Rev. Malone Smith Jr. advised the congregation, "Wait for the Lord."

"There are some things the president can do; there are some things the government can do," Smith told about 300 worshippers during a rollicking two-hour service. "But God can do all things. I want you to know he's never late. He's always on time."

Rice later echoed the call for patience.

"The Lord is going to come on time — if we just wait," she said.

It was a sort of homecoming for Rice, an Alabama native and granddaughter of a Presbyterian minister.

Her visit came as some black leaders, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, have complained bitterly about the slow response to the disaster, whose victims have been disproportionately black and poor. They have said racial injustice was a factor in the government's slow relief effort.

"How can that be the case? Americans don't want to see Americans suffer," Rice said. "Nobody, especially the president, would have left people unattended on the basis of race."

Since Katrina struck, an estimated 70 nations, from Azerbaijan to Venezuela, have offered hundreds of millions in cash donations to the federal government to relay to the American Red Cross, Rice said. Many countries have also donated supplies, ranging from helicopters and medical aid to food and blankets.

Among the largest contributions was Kuwait's \$400 million worth of petroleum product plus \$100 million in cash intended for relief efforts. Among the small-

t: \$25,000 in cash from Sri Lanka, a poor nation still recovering from last December's tsunami.

After the church service, Rice visited a community center in Bayou La Batre, one of Alabama's hardest hit areas. Flood waters following Katrina reached 11 feet in some places in southern Alabama, while about 718,000 homes and businesses in Mobile were left without power for days, and at least two people died.

Republican Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, escorting Rice through the community, said power had been restored to all but about 50,000 residents and businesses, while up to 2,500 Alabamians were still looking for shelter.

"It was devastating, but in comparison to what they had in southern Mississippi and Louisiana, it kind of pales in comparison," Riley said.

While welcoming Rice, some Alabamians expressed frustration with the administration's response.

"It's so unfortunate that the time it's taken to rescue them is too long," Democratic state Rep. Yvonne Kennedy said at the church service. "Had the response been more timely, I think we could have saved lives. To be so slow in coming, people lose hope."

While touring domestic disasters falls outside her official domain, Rice told Bush that "if there is anything I can do outside of my responsibilities as secretary of state, I'd be happy to do that, too." She was criticized last week for attending a Broadway show and shopping in New York during an abbreviated vacation.

un asunto que tiene el potencial de afectar las vidas de los estadounidenses en las próximas décadas.

Al menos de momento, otros temas, como las reformas de inmigración y del Seguro Social quedan en el tintero mientras los líderes del Congreso se centran en buscar a quién o quiénes culpar por la tardanza de la respuesta federal y el Partido Republicano, en control del gobierno federal, intenta minimizar cualquier repercusión política que pueda tener el huracán.

De momento también se ha desatado un huracán político en la capital con los demócratas demandando que cualquier pesquisa debe ser conducida por una comisión independiente similar a la que investigó los siniestros del 9/11.

El líder de la minoría demócrata del Senado, Harry Reid, de Nevada, quiere que se determine si las vacaciones del presidente George W. Bush entorpecieron de algún modo la celeridad de la respuesta federal.

Los demócratas —y algunos republicanos— piden la cabeza de Michael Brown, director de la Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias (FEMA). La petición se intensificó tras la filtración de un memorando donde Brown le pide a Michael Chertoff, secretario del Departamento de Seguridad Interna (DHS), mil voluntarios un día después del ar-

entiendo que mientras se aproximan las elecciones de medio período, la pobre respuesta federal puede salpicar sus intentos de reelección.

El líder Frist insistió en que primero hay que asistir a los miles de necesitados y luego investigar qué errores se cometieron. "Nuestro papel en el Senado federal sí consistirá en investigar y proveer la supervisión adecuada, pero también en redu-

cado por un terremoto de gran magnitud.

"Habiendo visto lo que ocurrió en los estados del Golfo [de México], me preocupa grandemente que FEMA no está preparada en caso de que California experimente un terremoto de gran intensidad. Le pido que someta el plan de recuperación de desastre que FEMA tiene para responder a un terremoto serio en mi estado", escribió Boxer.

Coalition forces free US hostage held in Iraq

US-led forces on Wednesday freed Roy Hallums, an American contractor kidnapped last year in Iraq, after over 10 months in captivity, a US military statement said.

"At approximately 11:20 am, September 7, coalition forces rescued American Roy Hallums and an Iraqi citizen from captivity in an isolated farm house located 15 miles (25 kilometers) south of Baghdad," the statement said.

"The identity of the other man is being withheld pending notification of his family."

"Hallums is in good condition and is receiving medical care," the statement added.

He was kidnapped at gunpoint from the offices of his employer in Baghdad on November 1 last year.

"Information provided by an Iraqi detainee in coalition custody lead to the breakthrough."

"Coalition Forces immediately planned and executed a raid on the farm house to capitalize on the information before Hallums could be moved to another location," the statement said.

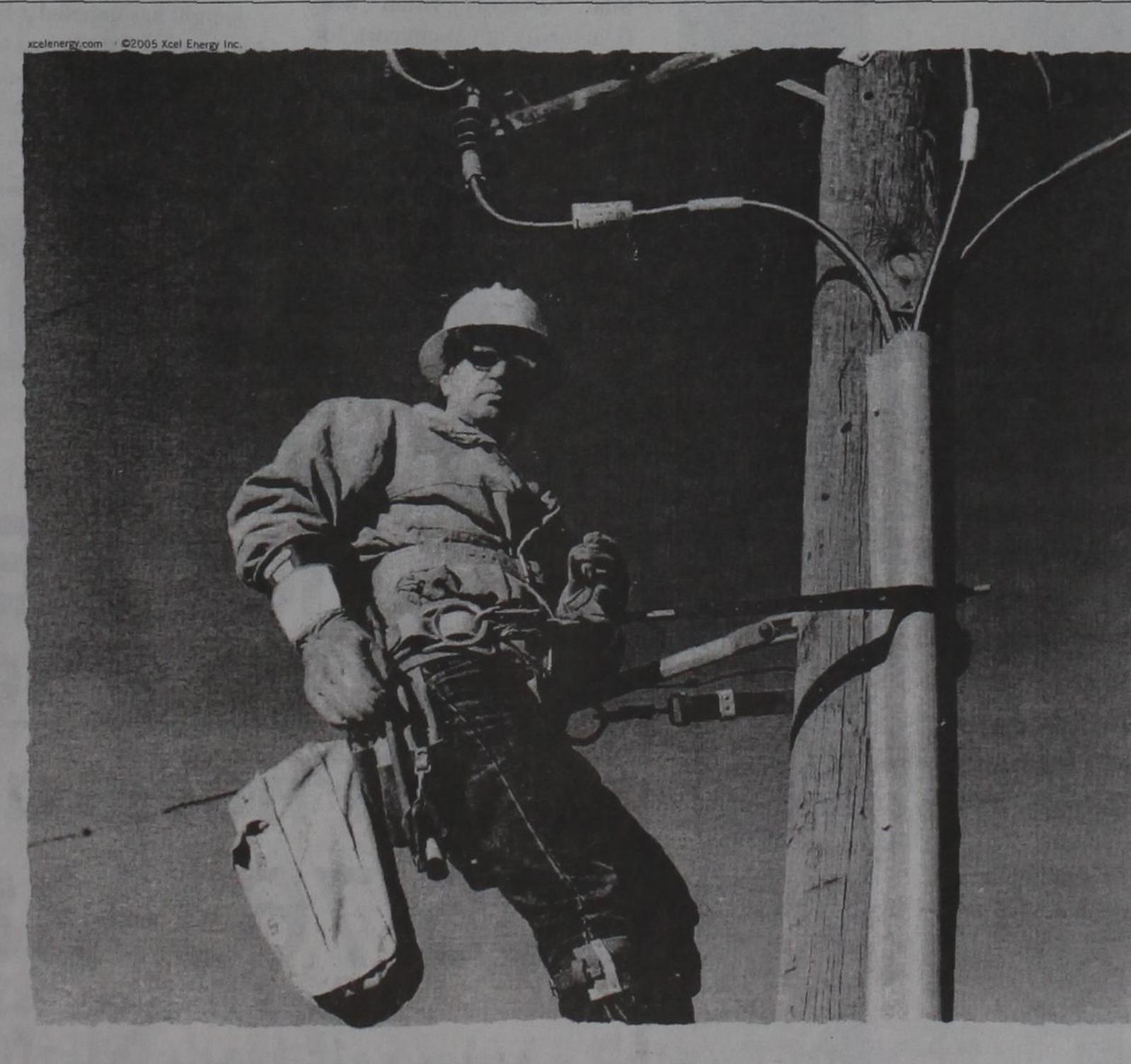
"I want to thank all of those who were involved in my rescue," Hallums said in a statement released by US forces.

"To those who continuously tracked my captors and location, and to those who physically brought me freedom today. To all of you, I will be forever grateful," he said.

"Both of us are in good health and look forward to returning to our respective families. Thank you to all who kept me and my family in their thoughts and prayers," he added. AFP



El Editor
763-3841



¿MI CONSEJO SOBRE LOS CABLES AÉREOS DE ALTO VOLTAJE? NO LOS TOQUE O ESTARÁ ¡QUE HECHA CHISPAS!

No toque los cables de alto voltaje con herramientas, cuerdas o cualquier otro objeto, puede morir. Los cables tirados por vientos fuertes o tormentas son un riesgo porque pueden tocar el suelo o cualquier otra cosa. Si ve un cable suelto o caído, alejese del lugar inmediatamente y llame a la línea de emergencia 1-800-895-1999. En caso de incendio o si se ha lastimado, llame inmediatamente al 911. Como padre de familia le doy un consejo — si sus hijos quieren treparse a un árbol, asegúrese de que el árbol no esté al lado de los cables de alto voltaje. No se arriesgue, manténgase a más de 3 metros de distancia de los cables que esté cerca de su casa o su jardín. Recuerde, ¡alejese! Cuide su vida. Xcel Energy. Usted recibe toda nuestra energía.

Tom, Electricista

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LA Buscará Olimpiadas de 2016

El Comité del Sur de California para los Juegos Olímpicos (SCCOG), acompañado de líderes locales, anunció ayer su intención de ganar la sede de la XXXI Olimpiada, a disputarse en 2016.

"Queremos que los miembros del Comité Olímpico de Estados Unidos sepan que Los Ángeles está lista y ansiosa por participar en el proceso de selección y quiere ser elegida y, luego, ser la selección final del Comité Olímpico Internacional", dijo Barry Sanders, presidente del SCCOG. "Creemos que somos el mejor lugar del mundo para los Juegos Olímpicos de 2016 y esperamos demostrarlo", dijo Sanders.

Líderes políticos respaldaron el anuncio, realizado a la sombra del Coliseo, que fue sede de ambas olimpiadas.

"La historia que se escribirá en los Juegos Olímpicos de 2016 será buena para el mundo pero también será buena para nosotros", dijo el alcalde Antonio Villaraigosa. "Nuestra propuesta de organizar los juegos contará con la creatividad, el optimismo de nuestra gente, gente que viene de cada rincón de la Tierra que está unida a cada equipo deportivo pero cuyo hogar es Los Ángeles", precisó.

Los concejales Bernard Parks y Tom LaBonge, el alcalde de Pasadena Bill Bogaard, los supervisores del Condado Gloria Molina y Michael Antonovich, y los medallistas olímpicos Janet Evans y Rafer Johnson apoyaron la campaña de la ciudad durante el anuncio.

Los líderes que ayer manifestaron su apoyo a traer de nuevo las Olimpiadas citaron como ventajas el clima, la tradición olímpica y los numerosos recintos deportivos como razones para considerar a Los Ángeles.

"Todos sabemos que los Juegos Olímpicos obviamente serán más modernos y tendrán mejores recintos, 2016 serían 32 años desde 1984", dijo la campeona de natación Evans, quien logró cuatro medallas de oro en las Olimpiadas de 1988 y 1992.

De ser elegida sede por el Comité Olímpico Internacional (COI), Los Ángeles se convertiría en la primera ciudad en la historia en ser sede tres veces, y sería 20 años después de los últimos juegos en los Estados Unidos, después de que Atlanta fuera sede del centenario olímpico en 1996.

El Coliseo de Los Ángeles ha escenificado los Juegos Olímpicos en 1932 y 1984, posición

única en este país, ya que ninguna ciudad estadounidense ha sido sede más de una vez.

El haber sido sede dos veces antes pudiera ser una desventaja, especialmente porque el COI eligió este año a Londres como la sede de los juegos del 2012, por segunda vez.

Experiencia y retos

Jack Kyser, vicepresidente y economista principal de la Corporación de Desarrollo Económico del condado de Los Ángeles (LACEDC), dijo que unas Olimpiadas en Los Ángeles tendrían retos como seguridad pública y transporte, pero que cuenta con las ventajas obvias que dos experiencias anteriores implican.

"Lo interesante de Los Ángeles es que los recintos ya existen, y eso es algo que ha agobiado a otras sedes, que han tenido que construir mucho", dijo Kyser. Un ejemplo reciente fueron las Olimpiadas de Atenas el año pasado, que sufrieron retrasos en el proceso de construcción de estadios y localidades, y que al final registró gastos de miles de millones sobre su presupuesto.

Los Juegos Olímpicos de Los Ángeles en 1984 fueron los primeros en ser costeados por el sector privado, logrando una ganancia sin precedentes de más de 230 millones de dólares.

Con sitios deportivos como el Coliseo, que probablemente será remodelado para recibir a un equipo de fútbol americano, así como el Staples Center, el Home Depot Center e instalaciones deportivas en la Universidad del Sur de California, Los Ángeles se ahorrará millones de dólares en infraestructura deportiva, dijo Kyser. "Este es un mercado deportivo muy grande", afirmó.

Lo que sí necesitará es una red eficiente de transporte y seguridad reforzada, agregó el economista.

Durante los Juegos Olímpicos de 1984, la región desarrolló una estrategia innovadora de transporte que incluyó la modificación de horarios de trabajo para que no coincidieran con los eventos olímpicos, durante las dos semanas que duraron los juegos. Asimismo, se crearon 12 centros de transporte y tres villas olímpicas, distribuyendo así las delegaciones de atletas y espectadores.

"Hay muchos más automovilistas ahora", dijo Kyser, "y necesitamos manejar mejor el congestionamiento con transporte masivo, como la Línea Dorada del Metro y la Línea Exposition",

afirmó. La Línea Dorada, de Pasadena al Este de Los Ángeles, será terminada en 2009, mientras que la Línea que correrá por el bulevar Exposition fue aprobada recientemente por la Autoridad Metropolitana de Transporte (MTA).

Se espera que el Comité Olímpico de los Estados Unidos (USOC) elija a la ciudad que representará al país para 2007.

El COI hará su selección en 2009, tras un proceso de candidatura exhaustivo, que incluye la nominación de varias ciudades internacionales, visitas y presentaciones de proyectos olímpicos, y su eliminación por varias rondas de voto, concluyendo con tres finalistas.

La ciudad de Los Ángeles es la primera en anunciar sus intenciones, aunque se espera que Chicago, San Francisco y Washington hagan lo propio. Se espera que Nueva York, que llegó a las últimas rondas de consideración para los Juegos Olímpicos de 2012, no se postule para 2016.

Beijing será sede en 2008 y Londres en 2012.

La mesa directiva del USOC ahora está encabezada por el arquitecto de los juegos de 1984, Peter Ueberroth. El organismo se reunirá el sábado próximo para delinear el proceso de selección para la Olimpiada de 2016.

LeBron, Kobe among NBA stars in Hurricane Relief Game

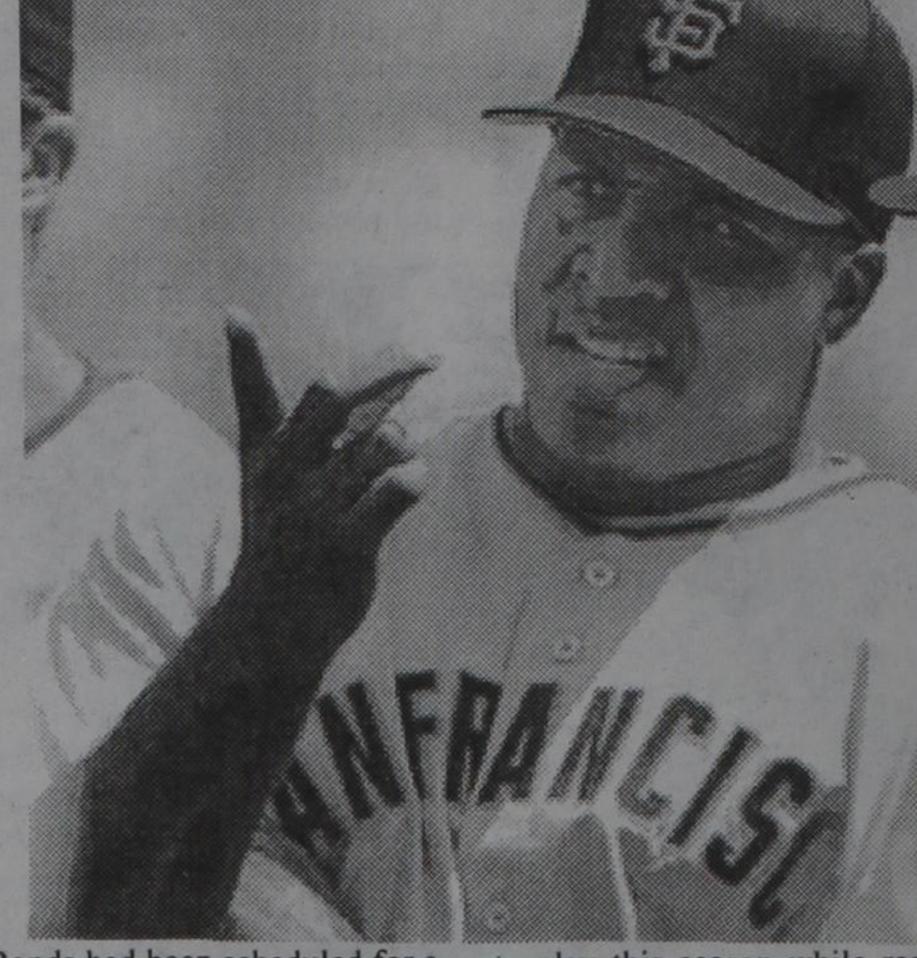
LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Dwyane Wade, Kevin Garnett and other NBA stars will play in a game Sunday in Houston to benefit Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

TNT basketball analyst Kenny Smith organized the game at the Toyota Center. It will start at 5 p.m. EDT.

Organizers said Wednesday that participating players will donate money and supplies valued at more than \$1 million to aid Katrina victims. Players are scheduled to hand out truckloads of supplies to shelters across the city before the game.

Other players set to play include: Steve Francis, Sam Cassell, Jermaine O'Neal, Ron Artest, Stephon Marbury, Chauncey Billups, Paul Pierce, Lindsey Hunter, Alonzo Mourning, Charles Oakley, Antonio McDyess, Amare Stoudemire and Derrick Coleman.

Giants' Bonds says he 'definitely' will return this season



Bonds had been scheduled for a simulated game, but that was canceled because the Los Angeles Dodgers used the outfield for their team picture.

He joined his teammates for batting practice for the third straight day, and during one of his turns hit a ball into left field and ran to first base.

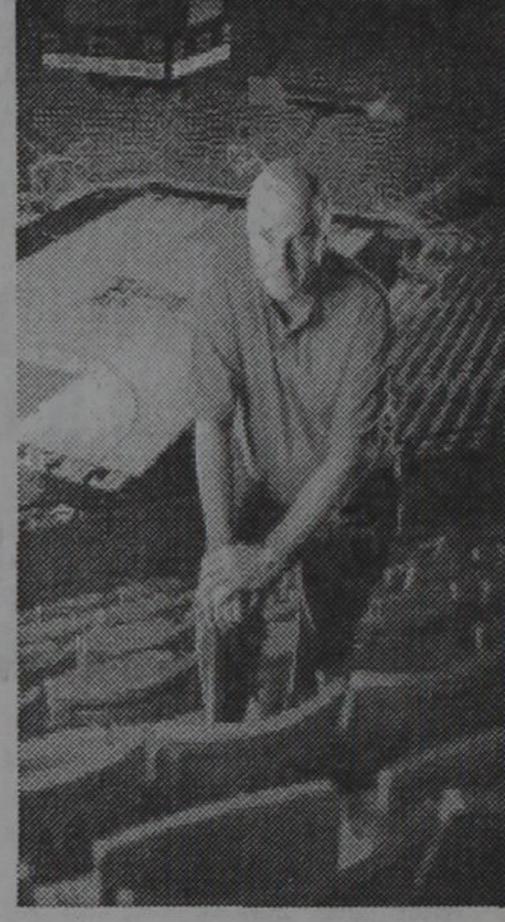
The 41-year-old slugger has yet

to play this season while recovering from three operations on his right knee since Jan. 31.

"I'm very anxious to get on the field," he said. "All I think about is having my name called, playing left field and seeing that little kid in the field cheering. Those are the visions I see."

Earlier Wednesday, Bonds visited the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopedic

Coaches Team Up to Help Rebuild the Gulf Coast



Big 12 tournament (March 9-12). This package will include hotel room (team hotel) for 2 and 2 tickets to the Phillips Big 12 tournament (seat location TBD).

The goal of the organizers is to raise money through an online auction and cash donations. AllCoachNetwork.com will administer the auction in conjunction with Snappy Auctions eBay Drop-Off Stores. SnappyAuctions.com will handle all of the listing and shipping of items for the auction, which will begin on Sept. 14 on eBay.

"We are so pleased to have the opportunity to help raise money for the eventual reconstruction of New Orleans and the entire Gulf coast though Habitat for Humanity. Snappy Auctions' online presence on eBay, combined with the efforts of the coaches and AllCoachNetwork.com, will provide people another way to contribute to this unprecedented initiative."

Coaches can make their contribution to the online auction by going to www.allcoachescare.com and clicking on "Submit Your Item." This website will also act as an information source for all things related to the effort.

All money raised through the auction will go directly to Habitat for Humanity, which will be administered by MissionFish.org, the official non-profit liaison for eBay. Coaches interested in making monetary donations can make checks payable to "Coaches Care / Habitat for Humanity."

Checks should be sent to: AllCoachNetwork.com 129 Cottage Street Norwood, MA 02062 Attn: Coaches Care

Sometime in late September, AllCoachNetwork.com will announce the total amount raised through "Coaches Care" to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

Others on the committee include John Brady (Louisiana State University), Brian Cleary (University of Cincinnati), Joe Dwyer (AllCoachNetwork.com), Orlando Early (University of Louisiana-Monroe), Tim Floyd (USC), Frank Haith

Greenberg is the organizing chairman of the committee, which is made up primarily of college coaches, but the Virginia Tech coach is stressing that all coaches need to be involved.

"I can't stress that point enough. Everyone should be involved. As coaches, we are always rebuilding our own programs. "Coaches Care" was created to help and now we have an opportunity to help rebuild the Gulf Coast of the United States working with the great folks at Habitat for Humanity."

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"I can't stress that point enough. Everyone

Red Raider Football Begins 81st Season



Tech and Florida International meet for first time and Taurean Henderson the Red Raiders take on Florida International at Jones SBC Stadium.

The 2005 season marks the 81st year of Texas Tech Football on the South Plains. Over that span, the program has 465 wins, 375 losses and 32 ties. During those previous 80 years, the Red Raider football team has opened the regular season at home 45 times and boasts a 36-8-1 record in those games, including wins in the last six and eight of the last nine. Overall, the Red Raiders are 59-18-3 in home openers and 293-149-13 in all home games.

Texas Tech opens the 2005 season at home for the fourth time in head coach Mike Leach's six seasons on the South Plains. The Red Raiders host Division I newcomer Florida International at 6 p.m. Sat., Sept. 10, at Jones SBC Stadium. The game is the first

of the season for the Red Raiders and second of the year for FIU, who faced Kansas State in Manhattan last weekend.

LATE START

Saturday's kickoff against Florida International will mark the third time in the last six years that the Red Raiders have not played in the month of August. Prior to the 1996 season, no Tech team had ever played in August. The Red Raiders logged their first August date in the Big 12 Conference inaugural kickoff at Kansas State on Aug. 31, 1996. The Sept. 10 kickoff this year is the latest since opening the 1984 season on Sept. 15 against Texas-Arlington in Lubbock. Tech also is one of the last 13 Division I-A schools nationally to kickoff the 2005 season.

Just like Alondra, other artists like Ariel López Padilla, Luisa Fernanda (former Garibaldi member), Mauricio Islas, Luis José Santander got to Southern Florida with the intention, not only for a job, but also to invest

in the real estate business.

Artists like Lucero and Mijares, Alejandro Fernandez and Adolfo Angel (lead singer for Los Temerarios), are among the new owners of luxurious residences in Miami.

Ernesto Laguardia, Sergio Mayer, Adal Ramones, and Patty Manterola are staying in the "Jade" building at Brickell Bay, the same one in which Luis Miguel stayed last year, and is one of the most luxurious buildings in Miami.

Its luxurious apartments have the latest in technology, and are worth in between half and seven million dollars.

The impressive building has a computerized kitchen, and a light and music system which may be controlled from the parking lot, as well as private elevators and an incomparable view of Miami bay.

Other artists, for example Angelica Maria, prefer the non-less exclusive zone of Brickell Key,

border cities in Arizona and California.

"When we heard that the two governors (of New Mexico and Arizona) had declared an emergency at the border, we thought it was because of the deaths of (undocumented) immigrants at the border, but it wasn't," Garcia said. "We have 380 deaths for the year so far, and we will break the record for this. We have a great human crisis. Neither governor mentioned the deaths, and their statements did not appear to have any connection to border security."

"Instead, we are seeing the authorities crack down on immigrants and police and sheriff officers taking on the role of immigration enforcement," he added.

Camillo Silva, a biochemistry student at Texas Tech, said economic policies focused on free trade have produced more poverty and crime in Juárez and in other Latin American countries with similar trade-based economies. He proposed changing economic policies to enable immigrants to find work in their countries.

El Pasoan Aurelia Roque said the United States wasn't doing enough to end demand for drugs that "is destroying entire families. Mexico is cracking down on the drug traffickers, but when has a major U.S. drug capo ever been arrested?"

Jesus Ochoa, Maria Ramos and Maria Aguirre also spoke up and complained about a growing climate of fear of all law enforcement as tensions over border violence and immigration issues have increased.

Many agreed that patrols by extremists are harmful and that U.S. immigration reform is needed.

Concern Voiced About Local Police Involvement in Immigration

By Diana Washington Valdez

El Paso and Southern New Mexico residents voiced concerns during a town-hall-style meeting Tuesday about local police conducting immigration enforcement, alleged abuses by police and the presence of civil patrols at the border.

The Border Community Alliance for Human Rights, a newly formed collaborative that includes advocacy organizations in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, sponsored the public meeting in Central El Paso.

Nearly 70 people, some of whom came from Vado and Chaparral, Sunland Park Mayor Ruben Segura, and representatives of other elected officials took part. Fernando García, director of the Border Network for Human Rights in El Paso, said similar meetings are planned in other

willing to pay more in taxes to strengthen both core curricula and resources for students in public schools.

"By confirming that overwhelming support exists for high school reform, the poll makes clear that we cannot ignore or neglect any point in the educational pipeline. To put children on a path to educational success, we must begin with expanding preschool to all eligible children. To guarantee that success, we must ensure that our public high schools have the means and the resources to provide a quality education that prepares all students for college and beyond."

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High School Reform strongly supported by Latinos

A new poll by the Alliance for Excellent Education, a Washington-based policy, research, and advocacy organization that works to make every child a graduate, prepared for postsecondary education and success in life, found strong support among Latinos for greater investment in our nation's high schools. Janet Murguia, NCLR President and CEO, spoke today at a news briefing to release the Alliance's National Poll on High Schools, a comprehensive public opinion survey on high schools, held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

The Alliance for Excellent Education poll confirms what we know about the Latino community: that education is its highest priority; that it recognizes that our high schools need a significant overhaul but its faith in the public school system is strong; and finally, that members of the community are more than willing to commit to improving education through their hard-earned dollars," stated Janet Murguia, NCLR President and CEO.

Among the poll's findings:

- Education ranked highest among Latinos of all "concern[s] that worries you the most."

- 47% of Latinos gave the highest grade - an "A" or a "B" - to public high schools nationwide, compared to 36% of African Americans and 23% of Whites.

- 82% of Hispanics believe that it is very or extremely urgent to improve public high schools.

- 83% of Hispanics feel that the President and Congress are not paying enough attention to education.

- Nearly three-quarters of Hispanics were very or extremely

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Mexican artists' exodus to Miami

where she has an apartment since 2002, according to the city's register.

Meanwhile, soap opera producer Carla Estrada, and Jose Jose prefer living in the Cayo Biscayne island. Actress Lucia Mendez lives in the exclusive neighborhood of Coral Gables, and Gaby Rivero in Coconut Grove.

One of the latest buyers is singer Cristian Castro, who got a 1.8 million dollars property in the exclusive neighborhood of Coco Plum, to live with his wife, Argentinean Valeria Liberman, and their daughter, Simone.

Paulina Rubio did not think much about building her own residence in Star Island, while Gloria Trevi is established in Hialeah city, immediately after being out of the jail accused of minor corruption.

The list includes other people who have come and have stayed here permanently because of their job, like Fernando Arau, Luisa Fernanda, Esteban Arce, Mónica Noguera, Ricky Luis, and Fernando del Rincón, among others.

Pedro Fernandez to be awarded at Mariachi Encounter

Today, singer Pedro Fernandez's career will be awarded at a public gala, in which president Vicente Fox and his wife, Marta Sahagún, are expected to attend, within the frame of the International Mariachi Encounter.

It is the "Silvestre Vargas" award, that is given every year within the frame of this encounter in which more than 50 national and international mariachis meet, along with artists and musical groups that have placed Mexican music on top.

At a press conference, Pedro Fernandez described this award as "invaluable", especially for the fact that he got it in Guadalajara, his hometown.

"The feelings I have for this are only of gratitude for the award, for my work's recognition, for my career. The truth is that I'm proud of this", he said.

Pedro Fernandez added that "there's no doubt about that this is also because of the fans' affection and support during this 27 years of work. It's a very important feeling to get this in my own land, got it at such a wonderful place like the Degollado Theater. Get it in my home is very important for me".

The singer said that he has the hope for the present conflict with his record company, which has kept him away from the recording studios, to be over soon in order to launch a new album.

"Unfortunately, we're not only talking about people, we're talk-

In some cases, like Adal Ramones and Juan Soler, it has been speculated that the search of a new house in this city is because the violence in their country, by being victims of assaults or kidnapping threats.

Anyway, the real state investments in Miami have resulted a round business for the stars, according to market specialists.

According to the Century 21 in Miami data, for the last five years the properties' added value in this city has been between the 20 and 30 percent, in part because of the growing foreign investment.

Many of these foreign investors get credits of around 80 percent from US financial institutions, like Bank of America, and which are focusing in investments around 200 thousand and 500 thousand dollars.

According to Fortune International Realty's data, a company representing more than 30 development companies, for the last three years around 800 Mexicans bought 500 million dollars in properties in Miami.

ing about an artist and a company, and then reaching an agreement between the artist and the executive parts in this company, has not been that simple, nor that easy as we thought it would be", he stated.

"The only thing I can say, for not going over ethics, is that this will be solved soon. I'm sure that this will pass soon, it has been a considerable time now, so I think that it won't need more time, this situation must end up soon, really", he added.

Pedro Fernandez added that these two years in which he has not recorded any album have been really worth for his professional and personal growth.

"Somehow this has been useful for me, because I have done many other things, that due to the same working pace you don't have time to do them, and it has also helped to rethink my career", he said.

"Knowing exactly what I want and what I'm going to do from now on, in the moment we have the green light to move forward", he stated.

Pedro Fernandez will get the "Silvestre Vargas" medal on Tuesday at the Degollado Theater during the Mariachi Gala, in which the Jalisco's Philharmonic Orchestra will perform, along with the Vargas from Tecalitlan, America from Jesus Rodriguez de Hija, and Los Camperos from Nati Cano Mariachis.

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Los Niños También Pueden

Las libras de más no sólo son una cuestión de estética. Los niños y niñas gorditos han dejado de ser "bonitos" y bien "sanos", como los catalogaban algunos; ahora son la auténtica epidemia del siglo XXI.

El doctor Arévalo recomienda:

- Que los padres cuiden lo que comen sus hijos.

- Evitar que pasen mucho tiempo frente al televisor.

- Ponerlos a hacer alguna actividad física.

- Someterlos a revisión médica constante si están gorditos.

- Revisar su cuello, en la parte de atrás, para detectar si aparece una mancha café (aparente ser mugre en el cuello, pero puede ser una señal de diabetes).

En detalle

Según el Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF), hay más de 2,000 millones de niños y adolescentes en el mundo, y el 35% de esa población infantil tiene problemas de obesidad.

Cifras del Centro de Control de Enfermedades (CDC) señalan que cada año se diagnostica diabetes del tipo 1 a más de 13 mil niños y jóvenes.

La obesidad de los menores ha generado preocupación en las autoridades de salud de todo el mundo, por lo que los gobiernos han implementado medidas que atacan el sobrepeso, el cual es culpable de varias enfermedades, una de ellas la diabetes.

Sin embargo, los esfuerzos de las autoridades y las múltiples campañas que promueven la alimentación sana y el ejercicio no han ayudado a reducir las estadísticas de obesidad infantil. Es que la tarea no es fácil. Si para un adulto resulta difícil someterse a una dieta, para un menor es aún peor. ¿Cómo darle a entender que no debe comerse una hamburguesa con queso, papás fritas y un refresco, en una misma comida?

Sin comprender la preocupación de los gobiernos, ni de que su obesidad es una epidemia mundial y mucho menos de lo que son las dietas, a Victoria Estrada, de 7 años de edad, le afectó más que los niños de su escuela se burlaran de ella por ser gorda.

Marina Herrera, madre de Victoria, cuenta que a los 5 años de edad su hija ingresó al preescolar y un día llegó llorando, afectada porque sus compañeros la llamaban gorda.

Herrera, quien junto con su familia vive en Texas, cuenta que le dolía tanto ver el estado emocional de su hija que decidió llevarla al médico para recibir ayuda.

En la casa de los Herrera nunca les había preocupado el sobrepeso de Victoria. Tienen otros dos hijos que, aunque comían demasiado, no presentaban el mismo problema. Así que comían lo que pedían.

"Jamás nos imaginamos que la obesidad de Victoria fuera un problema de salud", dice Patrick, su padre, "la gente nos decía que se veía curiosa".

De los 100 a los 70

Marina y Patrick decidieron llevar a Victoria con su pediatra para que la ayudara a bajar de peso.

"Como padres nos dolía ver triste a nuestra hija e íbamos a hacer hasta lo imposible para verla siempre feliz", dice Marina.

Con el médico no hubo mucha ayuda, cuenta el matrimonio; su diagnóstico fue que la niña era muy pequeña y que conforme se desarrollara su obesidad desaparecería, que no había de qué preocuparse.

A los 5 años de edad, Victoria pesaba 101.5 libras.

Marina y Patrick no se quedaron satisfechos, así que decidieron llevarla con su médico personal, quien les abrió los ojos a una realidad que no esperaban.

"No sólo nos dijo que la niña necesitaba ponerse a dieta, sino que estaba a un paso de que se le suministrara insulina porque estaba propensa a padecer de diabetes", relata Marina.

Aunque su madre había detectado una mancha muy marcada en el cuello de Victoria, creía que se trataba de mugre, no de uno de los síntomas de la enfermedad.

La diabetes infantil, o del tipo 1, aparece cuando el cuerpo deja de producir insulina, la cual es necesaria para procesar el azúcar que consume el cuerpo.

El día en que recibieron el diagnóstico, comenzó la lucha por acabar con la obesidad de Victoria, pero la dieta en la casa de los Herrera no sólo fue para la niña, sino para toda la familia.

"Cómo impedirle que comiera ciertos alimentos y nosotros consumirlos o ponerlos a su alcance", dice Marina.

Eso no fue todo, también fue a hablar con los directores de la es-

cuela de su hija para que le cambiaron el menú y le ayudaran a controlar el peso de la menor.

Además, Victoria se puso a bailar y a hacer ejercicio.

Unos días después del diagnóstico, cuenta Mariana, fue a un supermercado y ahí le observaron un video de la compañía Kellogg's, el cual promocionaba una serie de ejercicios con sus personajes para motivar la actividad física.

"A la niña le gustó y los hizo parte de su rutina de ejercicios diarios", cuenta su madre.

Luego, Victoria vio por televisión la promoción de un maratón para niños con diabetes y pidió a sus padres que la llevaran porque se trataba de menores que tenían su mismo problema.

En casi dos años ella es otra niña. Su peso se redujo a 78 libras, es de estatura alta y muy atlética; muestra su nuevo rostro y hasta presume su peso con gran triunfo, como lo haría cualquier

adulto que hubiese cumplido una importante meta.

"Me siento muy orgullosa de lo que he logrado", dice Victoria, "tomo mucha agua, hago ejercicio y mi comida es poca".

Entre la tentación y lo saludable

Disciplinar a los padres para que sus hijos coman saludable es la tarea más complicada, porque muchos de ellos no logran tener en casa una alimentación saludable, dice el doctor de medicina familiar Rodolfo Arévalo, con práctica en la clínica médica Arévalo, en Los Ángeles.

El constante bombardeo por televisión de comida "chatarra" y lo accesible —en costo— que suelen ser este tipo de alimentos son obstáculos difíciles de eliminar.

Arévalo dice que las campañas de información sobre obesidad han sido fructíferas porque ahora la población está informada sobre los problemas de salud que genera el sobrepeso.

Incluso, señala, los padres están cada vez más preocupados de que sus hijos realicen actividades físicas. Lo que no han

logrado es balancear la alimentación.

"Comer sano es costoso", expresa el médico.

Marina reconoce que no fue una tarea fácil dejar de comer lo que más le gusta, pero tampoco se trató de alejar a la niña de todos los alimentos que le gustaban.

"La niña come de todo, pero en cantidades pequeñas. Si come hamburguesa, debe ser de pavo, sin papas", dice Patrick, su padre.

El doctor Arévalo señala que la obesidad es un problema grave porque las estadísticas no han disminuido y los padres tampoco han hecho lo suficiente por evitar ese daño en sus hijos. Aunque, aclara, en algunos menores de edad su problema de obesidad se debe a una cuestión genética.

Es importante, dijo el entrevistado, que si su hijo o hija es obeso, acuda a su médico para que lo examine y le proporcione

"No es una exageración llevar a su hijo al médico sólo porque está gordo, sería una exageración esperar y llevarlo cuando ya tiene diabetes".

CHCI Gets a Head Start on Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

Hundreds of thousands of Hispanics, including elected officials, community leaders and celebrities, are gearing up around the country to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month.

Getting a head start on the official Sept. 15-Oct. 15 celebration, the non-partisan Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute will stage three major events in the nation's capital. First will be its annual issues summit Sept. 12-13, followed the second day by its traditional Comedy Night and, on Sept. 14, its 28th annual gala.

With the unifying theme "Leadership for America's Future," they are expected to gather nearly 4,000 guests and raise more than \$3 million, according to institute president Esther Aguilera. The profits will allow it to support its programs "to develop the next generation of leaders," she says. CHCI sponsors dozens of events and internships for high school and college students every year.

Actress Rita Moreno, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and businessman Alonzo Cantú will be honored at the gala. That event alone is expected to draw 2,500 guests at \$500 a head.

The institute's two-day public policy conference, with registration at \$150, is expected to draw 800 participants. It will address

14 issues, with each session

moderated by a Congressional Hispanic Caucus member, of particular importance to the nation's 44 million Latino residents. Included are such perennials as education, health care, immigration and Social Security. For the first time, sessions on foster care and banking will be held.

Comedy Central star Carlos Mencía will be among four comedians performing on Comedy Night.

The recently developed Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute, chaired by Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.), will also stage its own fundraising inaugural dinner Sept. 28. CHLI executive director Octavio Hinojosa projects that the event will gather some 500 national Hispanic leaders. Tickets are going at \$250. The institute was created in January 2004.

Mario López, executive director of the Congressional Hispanic Conference, the GOP counterpart to the all-Democrat Congressional Hispanic Caucus, says that although its members have not announced particular events, they expect to be active throughout the month.

As of now, the White House has made no announcement of hosting any functions.

Shifting from politics to the arts, the Smithsonian Institution

will host more than 50 programs in the capital including Latino film, music and art exhibits. They will range from traditional mariachi performances to screenings of documentaries such as Afroargentinos, which explores race relations in Argentina.

The National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, founded by actors Jimmy Smits, Sonia Braga, Esai Morales, and lawyer Félix Sánchez, will host its ninth annual gala Sept. 13. At \$1,250, its tickets are the month's most expensive.

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation's 2005 Awards will recognize outstanding Hispanics in the arts, education, sports, leadership and vision at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Oct. 24.

This is the first time the event will be held past Hispanic Heritage Month's traditional dates, as proclaimed annually by the President. Organizers cite scheduling conflicts of its award recipients. The foundation will also honor six outstanding Latino high school students from across the country.

The media will be represented by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, with its Noche de Triunfos gala Sept. 15 honoring accomplishments by Hispanic journalists, while rec-

ognizing outstanding coverage of the community and best efforts within the industry to diversify newsrooms. Tickets are \$150 for members, \$250 for non-members.

Several areas which have seen an explosion of the Latino population will join in the national celebration, particularly in the South and Midwest. Des Moines, Iowa, for example, will hold its third annual daylong Latino festival.

In Los Angeles, with its first Hispanic mayor in more than a century, a highlight will be the Mexican Independence Day Parade in East Los Angeles. It is expected to draw some 200,000 spectators.

This will be the third year Florida holds a Hispanic Heritage Month essay writing contest for K-12 students. Three winners will receive a full scholarship to any four-year college or university in the state.

Observed annually since 1989, Hispanic Heritage Month coincides with the independence anniversaries of seven Latin American countries - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on Sept. 15, Mexico on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18 - as well as Dia de la Raza (Columbus Day) Oct. 12.

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More than one-third of U.S. Hispanics Uninsured

about 15% of those lacking health insurance.

White non-Hispanics are 65% of the U.S. population, and make up almost half of the citizenry lacking insurance.

The survey also found:

- Ten per cent of insurance holders have only state-funded public insurance;

- Twelve per cent of American children 18 or younger (8.5 million) were uninsured.

Hispanics make up 15% of the population and accounted for 29% of the uninsured. Of Hispanics who hold insurance, one-quarter have only publicly funded coverage.

For African-Americans, the rate was roughly one in five lacking insurance. Blacks make up 13% of the population and comprise

one-quarter of the uninsured. The survey also found that 15% of those lacking health insurance.

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