

El Editor

"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"

Lic Benito Juarez

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Advocates Press Congress for Immigration Bill this Season

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

Congressional members and pro-immigrant groups are stepping up their efforts to pass legislation that could legalize millions of undocumented immigrants, at least temporarily, before the end of the first session of the 109th Congress this fall.

National advocacy groups and members of immigrant, labor and religious groups from 29 states joined elected officials Sept. 20 in Washington, D.C., to kick off a series of rallies to press Congress on the issue. The groups followed with a day of lobbying Sept. 21.

"It's one of thousands of rallies and demonstrations we have to have all over America if we're going to win," Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) told Hispanic Link News Service.

A week earlier, the Bush administration had expressed to some members of Congress its interest in pushing through a guest-worker program that would allow undocumented immigrants to gain temporary legal status, according to The Hill, a Washington political publication.

McCain and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), are sponsoring a bill that would allow undocumented immigrants to stay in the country for up to six years as temporary workers. It would also allow them to begin proceedings toward permanent residency.

A companion bill in the House is sponsored by Reps. Luis Gutiérrez (D-Ill.), Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) and Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.).

Flake, who met with administration officials two weeks ago, confirmed to Hispanic Link, "The White House wants (immigration reform), and many of us in the House do so as well."

Flake conceded that Hurricane Katrina-related relief efforts and Supreme Court nominations could delay the process, but added, "We in the House have plenty of time between now and Thanksgiving to do it."

John Keeley, communications director for the conservative Center for Immigration Studies, projected to Hispanic Link there will be "high profile" hearings in the House and Senate, but no legislative action.

Angela Kelley, deputy director of the pro-

immigrant group National Immigration Forum, agreed there might not be a vote this year, but added, "Because this is the first year of the 109th Congress, any action on bills just picks right up in January."

"People know that the 11 million undocumented folks in this country have to be dealt with," she said.

However, predicted John Keeley, the McCain/Kennedy bill does not have much of a chance to pass, even if the White House has expressed interest in pushing through a guest-worker program that includes undocumented immigrants.

"(Bush's) position with immigration is at odds with his own party," he said. "The House of Representatives isn't going to pass an amnesty for illegal aliens."

Supporters of the bill have insisted it offers "earned legalization" because undocumented immigrants would have to pay fines in order to be eligible for legal status.

Kolbe said, "Any realistic guest-worker program must include provisions for those who are already in this country regardless of how they arrived here."

A competing bill, sponsored by Sens. John Cornyn (R-Texas) and Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), would require undocumented immigrants to leave the country within five years in order to be allowed to re-enter as guest workers. It places larger emphasis on enforcement of immigration law than does the McCain/Kennedy bill.

"(The McCain/Kennedy bill) has nothing about hiring interior agents," Keeley said.

But opponents of the Cornyn/Kyl bill claim it is unrealistic to expect undocumented immigrants to report to authorities to leave the country.

Michele Waslin, immigration policy research director for the National Council of La Raza, expressed concern that the bill "says nothing about family immigration, nothing about reuniting families. It's very enforcement heavy, and we think that we cannot enforce our current laws without truly reforming the system in a meaningful way."

Kolbe added, "This past decade ought to teach us a lesson. Yes, we made it harder to get across, but it hasn't stopped the flow of people coming into the United States."

Hispanics, conservatives push court picks

By Alexander Bolton

President Bush is receiving conflict ing pressure from conservative and Hispanic constituencies, two groups crucial to his 2004 election victory, over whom to nominate to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Bush is expected to name O'Connor's Supreme Court successor as soon as tomorrow, after the Senate has confirmed Judge John Roberts as chief justice.

Having previously given only general guidance, conservative leaders are now making more specific demands about which jurists Bush should consider. They also demand that Bush ignore sex and

ethnicity and make the nominee's record and qualifications the only criteria.

Hispanic leaders, however, are pressing the White House to nominate a Hispanic, and they are naming candidates they like. One is Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, whom conservatives say is unacceptable.

Both religious conservatives, for whom the federal judiciary is a top issue because of its implications for the legality of abortion, and Hispanic leaders claim credit for reelecting Bush.

Seventy-eight percent of self-identified evangelical or born-again Christians voted for Bush, as did 64 percent of voters who attend church more than once a week.

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Inmigrantes Aislados por Katrina Necesitan Estado Temporal de Protección

Randy Jurado Ertill

Durante la década de los 90, miles de inmigrantes llegaron de Centroamérica y México para trabajar en Nueva Orleans y otros destinos estadounidenses que ahora se encuentran devastados por el huracán Katrina. Con o sin nuestro consentimiento, llegaron.

Es irónico que miles de hondureños y otros centroamericanos se dirigieron al área en 1998 huyendo de los estragos en su tierra natal causados por el huracán Mitch. A muchos de ellos, Estados Unidos les otorgó el Estado

Temporal de Protección (TPS por sus siglas en inglés) por el desastre natural acontecido en tierra extranjera.

Ahora algunas organizaciones comunitarias latinas le piden al presidente Bush que otorgue Estado Temporal de Protección (TPS) o Deferred Enforced Departure (DED - salida obligatoria diferida) a los inmigrantes indocumentados sin posibilidad de salir por causa del huracán Katrina.

Esto les permitiría, al igual que otras víctimas de Katrina, conseguir permiso de trabajo y ser elegibles a recibir

asistencia proveniente de la Agencia Federal de Administración de Emergencias (FEMA por sus siglas en inglés).

La propuesta tiene una lógica sencilla. Los ayudamos en otro momento. ¿Por qué negarles porque están aquí, dispuestos a hacer el trabajo y a aceptar el salario que los demás despreciamos?

Según cálculos de las embajadas latinoamericanas, este grupo de víctimas llega a las decenas de miles. Sin embargo, no se les ve por ninguna parte en la cobertura de la tragedia human que vemos realizarse en nuestras pantallas de televisión.

¿A dónde fueron? ¿Qué pasó con ellos? ¿Qué les pasó a sus hijos, nacidos en los Estados Unidos?

Estas preguntas me remontan al terremoto de Northridge, California, en 1998, y a las familias que perdieron sus hogares y toda posesión terrena. Miles se quedaron sin techo y la FEMA sí respondió bajo el liderazgo del presidente Bill Clinton. Pero las víctimas sin documentos de inmigración no eran elegibles a recibir asistencia federal. No la buscaron, aunque el terremoto afectó a sus hijos, ciudadanos estadounidenses por nacimiento.

Algo similar ocurre ahora en Luisiana, Misisipi y Alabama. Los inmigrantes indocumentados no buscan ningún tipo de asistencia. Temen que se les pedirá su estado migratorio y que serán deportados.

(Sigue a la pagina 5)

Barrio Reunion Tells stories often forgotten

by Bidal Agüero

Visions of "el barrio nuevo" and "el jueso" and "el barrio viejo" kept being mentioned as people related their experiences in the Lubbock of old as they gathered to celebrate what many called a "barrio reunion" that took place this past weekend.

Some 300 persons coming from throughout the United States attended the celebration that invited barrio residents from the 50's and 60's. Visualized and organized by Mr. & Mrs. Andy Garcia and by Mr. And Mrs. Ramiro Lopez, the Barrio Reunion featured dining and dancing and more than anything, "platicas" of old times in the Barrio.

Most people say that the Barrio was more than just a part of town. People that lived in the Barrio were all bound together with the common bonds of being Chicano, being poor, and living day to day as they worked in common labor jobs. "There was nothing in Lubbock except for dishwashing jobs, working in the fields or joining the military," said Mr. Garcia. "There was so much discrimination against Hispanics."

Mr. Garcia chose to join the military in 1957, left Lubbock and later settled in California. He didn't return until recently.

According to the U.S. Census in 1950 Hispanics numbered 3,193 out of a population of 110,000. The number of Hispanics would have probably doubled if what were then named "wetbacks" had been counted. Mr. Garcia recounts much of the discrimination from the average citizen of Lubbock had stemmed from the presence of "braceros". "Braceros" were workers of the fields who had been contracted by farmers to do the most painstaking jobs including picking and hoeing cotton.

"I remember that Broadway was full of people that were mostly braceros coming into town to shop," said Blas Mojica of the 1950's. Mr. Mojica father, Blas Mojica Sr., was a marketer at "La Tienda del Gallo" a store given to Leftwich Stored located in downtown Lubbock. "People in Lubbock didn't know the difference between a Mexican and a native of the U.S. To them we were all "meskins and wetbacks," said Mojica.

According to documents Mexicans were often the most discriminated people in the mid 1940's and 50's. Between 1940 and 1950 up to 500,000 Mexican braceros were allowed into Texas.



From a report by Raul Michel, Mexican General Consul in the State of Texas, December 9, 1942, El Paso, Texas, to the Foreign Ministry of Mexico.

An article in the El Paso Times reported that , professor Pauline R. Kibbe wrote the following about Lubbock:

"This is an average picture of what happened in 1944. On one Saturday afternoon in October of that year, 496 migratory labor trucks were counted on the streets of Lubbock, the "capital" of the cotton-raising Plains area. Lubbock



is a city of between 40,000 to 50,000 inhabitants. Each truck carried an average fifteen migrants, of all ages, which meant an estimated total of 7,440 migrants who had come to Lubbock to spend the weekend, seek new opportunities for employment, purchase their groceries and other supplies for the following week, and find a little recreation.

Large crews have been known to spend as much as \$100.00 in one day, just in the purchase of groceries, during the peak of the season. But to make a very conservative estimate, let us suppose that each of the 496 crews in Lubbock that weekend spent an average of \$25.00. That is a total of \$12,400.00 income to business places of all kinds in one weekend.

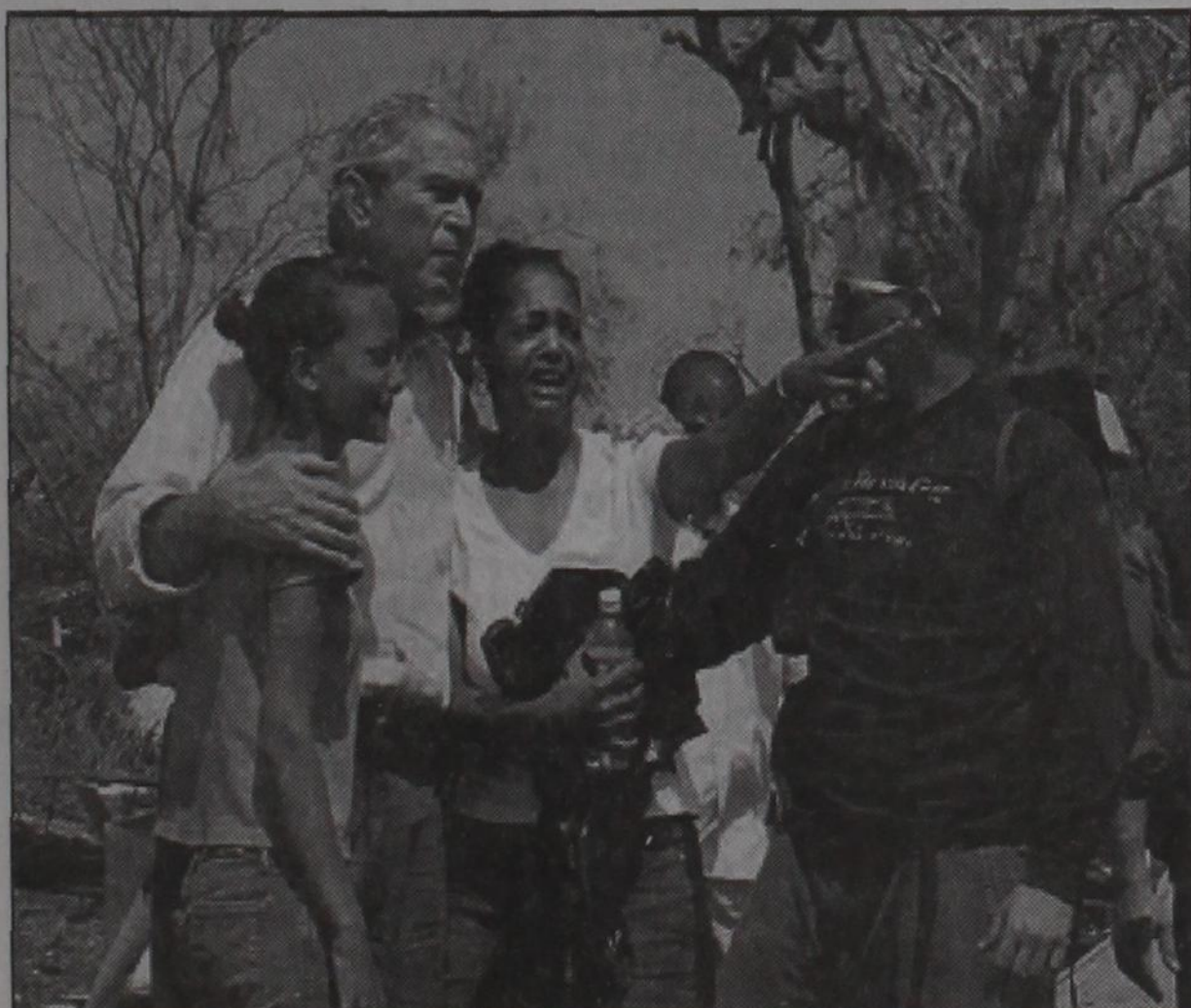
Yet Lubbock has made no provision whatever for taking care of this influx of people, which occurs regularly every fall, and every weekend during each fall. There was no place where they might park their trucks, take a bath, change their clothes, even go to the toilet.

The discrimination continued in Lubbock throughout the 50's and into the 60's. It was during these times when organizations such as the American GI Forum and LULAC started to protest against the treatment. These organizations were lead in Lubbock by businessmen who served the community, including Dr. Armando Duran, Felipe Castro - a barber and Agustine Estrada - a TV repairman.

It was these people during the 50's who lead the fight to make people realize the difference between Mexican and what was then proudly determined to be "Mexican-American."

It was these stories and more that were told by people that attended the "Barrio Reunion". Stories that have been left out by many historians that tell the times past of Lubbock. Stories that don't include what happened to people on "the other side of town - el barrio."

write to Bidal at eleditor@sbcglobal.net



HAPPY BIRTHDAY EL EDITOR
CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF PUBLISHING

Can we shoot them? Well, if no one is watching!

By Patrick Osio, Jr.

HispanicVista.com

"Can we shoot them?" Was the question posed to Chris Simcox, founder of Civil Homeland Defense, following a training session for volunteer border-watchers in Houston. Simcox and his would be Minutemen volunteers are attempting to put their best foot forward and trying awfully hard to come across as God fearing, law abiding, patriots only interested in securing the nation from the menace of illegal immigrants. The training sessions are to (wink, wink) teach volunteers to not break laws, to not use force, to not physically hold anyone – in other words carry bats, machetes and concealed weapons (with permit) but be nice.

So the can-we-shoot-them question after such a training session with Simcox knowing there were members of the national press in attendance, was a double-gulp time and disconcerting to his attempts at selling his being Mr. Nice Guy and his cause patriotic in nature. Particularly because Simcox himself has a conviction for carrying a concealed weapon on federal land while immigrant-hunting and lying to federal officers about it.

Simcox joins a number of other immigrant-hunters leaders and

volunteers running afoul of the law.

Casey Nethercott, an Arizona rancher and member of Jack Foote's Ranch Rescue, was arrested in Arizona, extradited to Texas where he will go on trial accused of pistol whipping two illegal immigrants there. Foote was himself detained, but released on making a fictional confession.

Soon after Ranch Rescue began operations in Arizona, a number of illegal immigrant's bodies began appearing shot. Local authorities announced that in their opinion the killings were attributed to human smugglers killing off competition. This made little sense to local human rights activists since the logic behind such statements made little sense. Smugglers would not kill the "cargo" what good would that do? And it struck many that the killings began after the presence of Ranch Rescue members. The further suggestion is that there is a culture of "looking the other way" concerning illegal-immigrants.

Such seems to be the case regarding Roger Barnett, a Douglas, Arizona rancher who first made headlines announcing and inviting citizens to join him in the "hunt" for illegal immigrants on his ranch land. Charges were filed against him for kicking a woman while he held her at gunpoint. The

local prosecutor claiming there was insufficient evidence as he could not determine whether Barnett actually kicked or simply pointed with his foot at the woman.

A case against Barnett still pending involves US citizens, two men and three children, who have accused Barnett of chambering a round and pointing his AR-15 at them, while yelling to get off his land. The group was in state land leased by Barnett. In keeping with accusations of "looking the other way" the case has been "under investigation" since October of 2004.

Another convicted criminal, Glen Spencer, who while preaching the gospel of "we are a nation of laws and law abiding citizens" was convicted of discharging a rifle in a neighborhood. After a bout of drinking at home, he heard noises outside, and went out firing at the alcohol induced phantom intruders. Fortunately, other than a neighbor's garage door, no one was hurt, but it got Spencer arrested and convicted. The neighbors launched a successful campaign to get Spencer evicted. Additionally, in California, Spencer's native state and home for his call to fame, Voice of Citizens Together, a.k.a. Border Patrol, listed as a hate-group organization by the Southern Poverty Law Center, is under

investigation for possible tax evasion as a for-profit corporation.

There are a number of other cases some pending and others concluded some with convictions, such as the case in Yuma, AZ where two men were convicted of illegally hunting down illegal immigrants along the border. Paul Hoffman, 23, of Yuma, and David Dumas, 26, of Big Bear, CA each got a jail term.

It certainly seems that many prosecutors, particularly in Arizona, who "look the other way," do so because they too belong to the culture of the old west where such ranchers held the "the only good Indian is a dead one" mentality. They don't see their mentality as being wrong, or racist; they are under the impression that just like their great grandfathers won the "old" West, they are now being called on to do the same. Though many claim to be disturbed by the influx of known racists and bigots as border-watchers, they take no action since to do so in their mind would be going against their "own kind."

As to the question posed to Simcox, "can we shoot them" his answer is unimportant, the real problem for Americans is - why was it asked?

Patrick Osio, Jr. is the Editor of HispanicVista.com (www.hispanicvista.com). Contact at: Posiojr@hispanic.sdoxmail.com

And Justice for All

By Ysidro Gutierrez

"...and Justice for all" is the phrase in the Pledge of Allegiance that assures Americans of the fairness of our judicial system. It implicitly guarantees a fair trial where facts and evidence and witnesses can be heard by the accused. It implies first and foremost that the accused is innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt when it is a criminal case. And it implies the accused have the right to a defend themselves.

Testimony heard in Lubbock this week in the cases of Alberto Sifuentes and Jesus Ramirez, two Mexican nationals convicted of a 1996 murder in Littlefield Texas if true would indicate their conviction is this side of "Reasonable" and casts a long shadow of doubt over Justice.

The murder of an innocent woman in Littlefield is painful to the victims family. The heart of the community and its prayers go out to them for God alone can assuage the grief of the loss.

In 1998 Ramirez and Sifuetes were tried for the murder of Evangelina Cruz and in separate trails both were sentenced to life in prison.

The convictions were upheld on appeal and are only now being reconsidered at the request of the Mexican consulate who became aware of the facts in the case and asked Haynesboone, a law firm from Dallas to take the case. Haynesboone agreed to do so "Pro Bono". Their goal is to either get the convictions overturned or get new trials.

While sitting in the courtroom listening to the testimony, many witnesses told me of their utter surprise at the convictions in 1998.

This week having heard the testimony myself, I too must wonder about the adequacy of the defense and the motivation of the prosecutors, and the fairness of the trail.

Here, is some of the testimony I heard in the Lubbock County Court.

* Alberto Sifuentes and Jesus Ramirez were in Lubbock at 2 a.m. on the night of the murder. This testimony places them 35 miles away from the scene of the crime. A female friend of the accused was with them in Lubbock at the time of the murder and was known by prosecutors was never called as a witness.

* The murdered woman, Evangelina Cruz, who was shot nine times managed to call 911 and tell police two Hispanic men

between the ages of 18 and 20 driving a gold-color car were the ones who shot her.

* Alberto Sifuentes 26 and Jesus Ramirez 48 at the time of the murder were driving home to Muleshoe from Lubbock at 2:50 a.m. in a gold-color car. They were stopped, questioned, and released. The police searched their car. They found no physical evidence to connect them to the crime. No gun, no blood, no DNA evidence, no tennis shoes - Nothing in the car tied the two men to the crime. This is why the police did not detain them at that time.

* A witness testified that she had seen Ramirez and Sifuentes at the scene of the crime at 2 a.m. but the store video camera showed she was there at 12:30 a.m. (e.g. 90 minutes earlier). The same camera never showed Ramirez and Sifuentes. When asked to pick the two men from a "Line-Up" she could not identify them. When shown pictures she again could not identify them. The testimony heard in Lubbock showed, prosecutors knew this witness was unreliable.

* A shoe print left on the counter at the store showed one of the killers was wearing tennis shoes. Both Ramirez and Sifuentes were wearing boots.

* During the initial trial two jailhouse snitches testified that Ramirez and Sifuentes had bragged about committing the crime. But both, one a child sex offender, got favorable treatment from the prosecutors for their testimony.

* The most alarming testimony came from a document which indicated that the Texas Ranger in charge of the investigation "Lied" to the prosecutor in order to get him to file the case.

Two witnesses testified about who the "Real Killers" may be.

* The girlfriend of one of the probable killers testified that she sat in the car and had a long conversation with the two men sometime after midnight in Littlefield a few blocks away from the scene of the crime. She testified that she saw the gun in the car, and both men were wearing tennis shoes and both were Hispanic and they were between the ages of 18 and 20 and the car was gold-color. The two killers had asked her and two other females at the time for money to buy gas, but all refused. This testimony indicated that robbery was the probable motive for the crime.

* A jailhouse trustee, who had no favors to gain from the prosecutor, testified that these two men, the probable real killers, talked freely about committing the murder and laughed about it.

The testimony heard in Lubbock Texas casts a "Reasonable Doubt" on the guilt of Ramirez and Sifuentes. If this is so and if the testimony is correct, then the Texas Justice System failed to both protect the innocent and prosecute the guilty.

The hearing resumes on October 12, 2005 in Lubbock.

Hispanic incur heavy student loan debt

By Laura Bohorquez

According to a study published by The State of Public Interest Research Group's Higher Education Project (March 2004), fifty-eight percent of Hispanic students graduate with unmanageable debt compared to thirty-seven percent of non-Hispanic, white students. The largest portion of the money owed comes from student loans, which often creates a heavy burden for Hispanic college graduates since

many are more likely to come from low-income backgrounds. Twenty-three percent of Hispanic dependent students come from families with a household income of less than \$20,000 annually. While student loans are the main source of post-college debt, forty-one percent of students also graduate with considerable credit card debt; often falling prey to inviting offers from credit card companies in order to cover

expenses without considering the long-term effects of the high-interest rate they come with. "Mounting credit card and student loan debt can jeopardize a Hispanic student's dream of completing college because of being forced to drop out early. We believe students need to develop a strong financial knowledge base while in college so they can make positive choices," said Rafael Gutierrez, Director of Multicultural Markets, Hispanic

Division, at Allianz Life.

Having financial knowledge prior to entering college can be beneficial for staying of debt. A research by Consolidated Credit Counseling Services, Inc, indicates that only fifteen percent of high-school students take a personal finance class. In addition, the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, a non-profit organization which promotes financial literacy at the K-12 level, has found that parents are not talking to their children about the responsibility that goes along with using a credit card.

Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America (Allianz Life ®) has just released the Financial Survival Tips for College Students to be found in English http://www.allianzlife.com/PressCenter/PressHHYA_eng.aspx and Spanish http://www.allianzlife.com/PressCenter/PressHHYA_spa.aspx on the Allianz Life Web site. Financial Survival Tips for College Students was developed to educate students and parents about the potential pitfalls of taking on debt. The tips also provide important information about financing an education, using credit responsibly, and investing for the long-term - all intended to help students gain a realistic perspective on spending and saving.

Laura Bohorquez is an Account executive at WingLatino, New York. Contact at: lbohорquez@winglatino.com

Commentary People, Political Power Plays, War Profits and Poverty

By Abel Cruz

A quick search of the web reveals numerous events planned in cities all over this country in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. They range from traditional fiestas to black tie events, all designed to promote Hispanic culture.

It seems that in the blink of an eye, large Hispanic populations have sprung up in the least likely of places. It's no longer only Texas, Florida and California, today Hispanics are migrating to cities such as York, Pennsylvania to Wichita, Kansas, Little Rock, Arkansas, east to Atlanta, Georgia, and west to Seattle, Washington. Here are some interesting facts from the U S Census Bureau (unless otherwise noted) which illustrate the tremendous growth, both real and potentially, of Hispanics in this country:

- * 40.4 million - Current Hispanic U S population(2004) Source: Pew Hispanic Center
- * 102.6 million - Projected Hispanic population by the year 2050
- * 24% - Percent of U S Hispanic population in 2050 if above estimate is right
- * 67% - The percentage of Hispanics of Mexican origin living in the U S
- * 50% - Percentage of Hispanic population in Texas and California alone

Whether we as a country are prepared or not for such a large population growth and shift, is a question that needs to start being addressed and fully examined. Judging from our past results, that is very unlikely to happen. Questions on how we educate and prepare to integrate people of a different culture into the social, political, and economic fabric of this country are not things that this country handles very well. The political and economic engines that run this country are rather more consumed with minutemen projects, closing borders, declaring state emergencies(case in point: New Mexico and Arizona), building walls, and circling the wagons: all in an attempt to keep ourselves insulated from the inevitable reality.

Whether we want to admit it or not, we live in a global society brought even closer together by technological advances. We would be better prepared if we expended our energy on how to deal with such a large influx of immigrants, be they legal or illegal, and the natural population growth that is expected to occur.

"Power Corrupts... Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely"

If you've been following the news of the past few days, by now you know that House Majority Leader Tom DeLay has been indicted on conspiring to violate political fundraising laws. Calling Democratic prosecutor Ronnie Earle of Austin, a "fanatic", DeLay maintained his innocence and will continue to do so...hopefully until those cell doors clang shut behind him.

On the other side of the senate, Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist is being investigated for selling stock in his family's business holdings in Hospital Corporation of America, HCA Inc., a few weeks before the stock price fell, thereby avoiding huge losses; giving the impression that he had insider information. But unlike Martha Stewart, Frist will probably manage to buy his way out of this arrogant power play.

Since both of these men are so fond of espousing their conservative Christian values and trying to impose them on others, they would both do well to review Proverbs 28:13:

"He who conceals his sins shall not prosper: but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy".

The Rich get Richer While the Death Toll Rises

According to news reports, the stock price in Halliburton Corporation has tripled since the beginning of Bush's personal war with Iraq. In the past 52 week period alone, the stock price rose from \$33.05 a share to \$67.44.

Sadly, as of this writing, 1924 American military personnel have died in Iraq.

Poverty, What Poverty?

If people can agree on anything it's this: that the people who lived at the bottom of the economic barrel were the ones who were most dramatically affected during hurricane Katrina and to a certain extent hurricane Rita. If so, when will we see politicians and other appointed government officials begin to discuss the crisis of poverty that exists in this country?

While deep pocket corporations and well connected political donors reap enormous economic rewards in the storm's aftermath, the poor and neglected people continue to wander and wonder how to rebuild their lives. Lives that in many cases, had been held together by public assistance and government welfare.

Based on this country's historical treatment of people with limited economic and political clout, I seriously doubt that this conversation will ever take place.

Sadly, poverty is an issue that has tried to be addressed using temporary band aids and symbolic programs. How long do you suppose that those \$2,000 vouchers will last? How many months of rent will it pay for? How many gallons of overpriced gas will it buy?

In addressing this issue, if they ever do, politicians would be well served to remember the old Chinese Proverb that says:

"Give a man a fish, and he'll eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he'll eat forever".

Email: acruzsc@aol.com

Jim Hightower THE NEW POLL TAX

Anyone younger than 40 will not remember that many Americans – mostly in the South – used to have to pay to vote. It was called the "poll tax," and the unvarnished purpose of this \$1.50 assessment was to price poor people (especially poor African-Americans) out of the voting booth.

But the Supreme Court struck down this ugly economic barrier to the ballot box in 1966, so that was that, right? Wrong! Never underestimate the creativity of the right-wingers and selfish money powers who're determined to keep poor folks down in order to keep themselves on top.

Georgia know has taken the lead in this modern-day race to the political bottom. Led by a know-nothing piece of nastiness, Gov. Sonny Perdue, the Republican Majority in the legislature has pushed through a new law taxing poor people who want to vote. Their law requires that anyone without a drivers license must pay \$20 for a state ID card in order to get into a voting booth. Guess which groups in Georgia are least likely to have drivers licenses? The poor, the Black, and the elderly – or all of the above.

Well, says Governor Sonny, this is all about the sanctity of the vote – stopping ineligible people from getting into the booth. Yet, Georgia's top election official says she can find not even one case of such fraud in recent years. Instead, most voter fraud involves absentee ballots, which tend to be cast by Republicans. Guess what? Absentee voters are not covered by the new ID requirement.

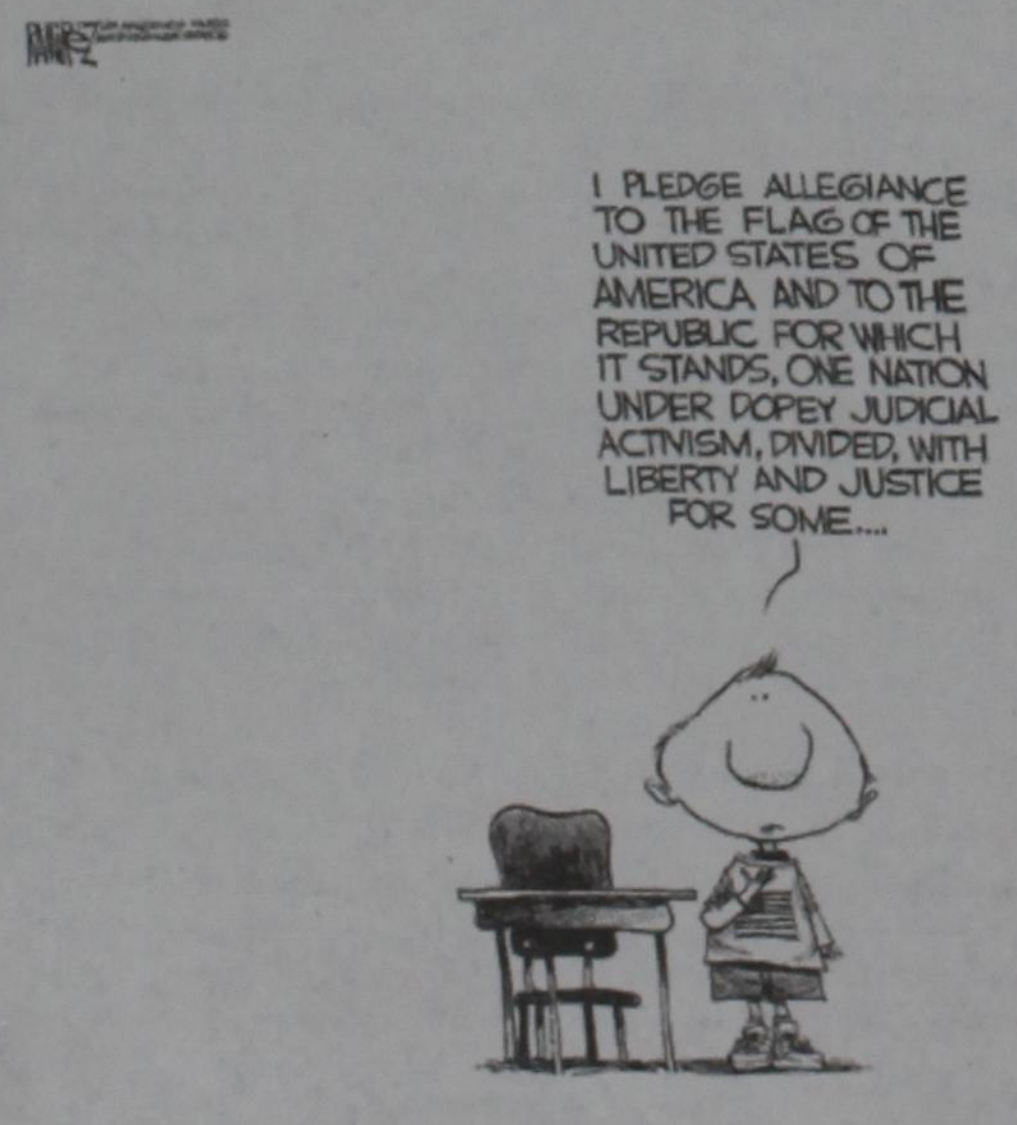
Even uglier, the state is not selling its voter ID cards in areas where poor, Black, and elderly folks mostly live – so they would have to travel out-of-county to buy one. The city of Atlanta, for example, has no location selling the cards!

This Jim Hightower saying... Georgia's ID law is a disgraceful, un-American act of voter exclusion. If it stands, you can expect this revived poll tax to come to your state. To fight it, call the ACLU: 1-888-567-ACLU.

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Racial Gap In Loans Is High In State

A racial disparity in mortgage lending rates appears to be sharper in Los Angeles and other California metropolitan areas than the rest of the country, according to an analysis of federal data to be released today.

The study by the Assn. of Community Organizations for Reform Now, an advocacy group for the poor, looked at the percentage of higher-cost loans issued in minority communities compared with nonminority neighborhoods in the same metropolitan area.

Residents of predominantly minority districts in the Los Angeles metro area were more than nine times more likely to get high-cost loans to refinance their homes than residents of predominantly white communities — the largest gap, proportionally, in all of the 125 metropolitan areas studied.

Nationally, residents of minority communities were 1.7 times more likely to have such loans than borrowers in nearby white neighborhoods.

The metro areas surrounding

Oakland and Santa Ana followed Los Angeles in the disparity ratio, with San Francisco at No. 5 and San Jose at No. 6.

California's high housing costs are probably one reason behind the findings, said Raphael W. Bostic, a former economist for the Federal Reserve now at USC, who was not involved in the study.

Mortgage lenders use a variety of factors to determine whether borrowers must take out so-called sub-prime loans, which charge higher interest than cheaper prime loans. Among those factors are the borrower's income compared with the amount of debt — a gulf that can be wide in regions such as Los Angeles and the Bay Area, where housing prices, and thus loan amounts, have risen much faster than incomes.

"If you have lower income, you don't necessarily qualify for the prime mortgage," Bostic said.

To compile the report, the advocacy group analyzed lending statistics reported this year under

the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. Researchers defined minority communities as census tracts where at least 50% of the population was nonwhite, and white communities as areas where the minority population was under 20%.

The Federal Reserve, in its own study of the disclosure data released this month, determined that African Americans and Hispanics were far more likely to get sub-prime loans than whites and said the gap could not be fully explained by factors such as income.

Valerie Coffin, ACORN's director of fair housing and author of the report, didn't rule out the possibility that housing costs were a factor in the disparity found by her group's analysis. But Coffin said the wide gap in the frequency of sub-prime loans within the same metropolitan areas also might be evidence that sub-prime lenders were targeting minority communities in their marketing pushes.

An industry spokesman

defended lenders' conduct in the expensive housing markets of California, a state that is home to some of the nation's largest providers of sub-prime mortgages.

"If they're trying to prove that there's discrimination going on, we reject that on its face," said Dustin Hobbs, a spokesman for the California Mortgage Bankers Assn.

The federal loan data do not include information about borrowers' creditworthiness and other basic factors that would provide a more complete picture of the lending process, Hobbs said.

The nation's two largest sub-prime mortgage companies operate nationally but are based in Orange County, and their financial reports indicate they do an outsized share of their business in the state.

The largest sub-prime lender, Ameriquest Capital Corp. in

Orange, said California loans made up 27% of its total home lending in 2004, up from 24% in 2002. No other state represented more than 10%. The company's subsidiaries include Ameriquest Mortgage Co. and Argent Mortgage Co.

The second-largest sub-prime lender, New Century Financial Corp. in Irvine, made 40% of its loans in California last year.

In responding to charges of predatory lending practices, the industry has often described the emergence of the higher-cost loan market as a boon to individuals who once would have been forced to stand on the sidelines with no credit at all.

"The industry is working its tail off to make sure that everyone gets that dream of home ownership," Hobbs said Wednesday.

ACORN, however, said its study raised concerns that

minority group members might be paying unfairly high interest rates and thousands of dollars in extra upfront costs by being pushed into refinancing their homes in the sub-prime market. Refinance loans make up a dominant share of the market for high-cost loans — 75% in Los Angeles, according to ACORN.

"To strengthen our communities, we need equal access to fairly priced loans," Helen Coleman, an ACORN official in Los Angeles, said in a statement. "Increases in home ownership can help stabilize families and communities, but not if home equity is drained away by unfair loans."

Allen Fishbein, director of Housing and Credit Policy at the Consumer Federation of America, said he believed the federal housing data showed that "at the very least, this market is working to the disadvantage of minorities."

Hispanics Responsible for Significant Growth in Consumer Markets

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 /PRNewswire/ -- Hispanics in the United States, the fastest-growing minority group, are increasingly the major driving force behind revenue growth in many consumer product and service markets, according to The U.S. Hispanic Market, a new report from market research publisher Packaged Facts, a division of MarketResearch.com.

Hispanics were responsible for 15.6% of the growth in aggregate consumer expenditures that occurred between 1998 and 2003, the report noted. Total spending by Hispanic households increased by \$140 billion during this period. Looking at specific markets, the report found that, between 1998-2003, Hispanics were responsible for nearly half (48.3%) of the growth in spending on cereals and cereal products and more than one-third (34.6%) of the growth in expenditures for furniture.

Between 1998 and 2003, total expenditures for men's and boys'

apparel grew by only \$141 million, but Hispanic expenditures increased by \$2.2 billion.

Packaged Facts estimates that the buying power of the Hispanic market is currently \$766 billion, and will approach \$1.1 trillion by 2010.

"Although much has been written about the exploding Hispanic population in the U.S., we're only now starting to appreciate the true impact this growth is having in the marketplace," said Don Montuori, publisher of Packaged Facts. "Hispanics will account for one-sixth of the U.S. population by 2010, and no company can afford to overlook these consumers."

Now in its 6th edition, The U.S. Hispanic Market analyzes key characteristics of the Hispanic population and assessing the role of Latinos in the American economy. The report examines the consumer dynamics of Latino families and their kids, provides a comprehensive analysis of the Latino family as a consumer unit, and highlights crucial aspects of consumer behavior on the part of Latino parents and their kids in a range of segments

that include food at home, fashion and personal care, home furnishings, entertainment choices, eating out, and use of technology and the Internet.

Priced at \$3500, this report can be purchased directly from Packaged Facts by clicking <http://www.packagedfacts.com/pub/1079261.html>. It is also available at [MarketResearch.com](http://www.MarketResearch.com).

EAST LUBBOCK RESIDENTS

If you have applied for a loan through a bank and you were denied, or if you thought of applying for a loan through a bank, but haven't for fear of being denied. Please come to a meeting at TJ Patterson Library, on Monday the 10 of October at 7 p.m. By you showing up for this meeting, will determine if East Lubbock has hope of new businesses and jobs in our East Lubbock community.



Bank Benefits Millions of Hispanics by Eliminating Transfer Fees

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 28 /PRNewswire/ -- Bank of America today announced its free nationwide remittance service that is making it easier for millions of Hispanics to send money to Mexico by eliminating transfer fees. Called SafeSend®, the new feature is available to anyone who has a Bank of America personal checking account. Earlier this year, Bank of America became the first major financial institution in the United States to offer free remittances when it introduced the product in Chicago.

"We are proud to help millions of Hispanics send money for free to loved ones in Mexico," said Liam McGee, president of Global Consumer and Small Business Banking. "Adding the free SafeSend feature to our checking accounts is our way of saying that we want to do much more -- we want to be their bank of choice and help Hispanics develop rewarding, long-term financial relationships."

Responding to Hispanic Customers

According to Diane Morais, Consumer and Small Business Deposit & Debit Products executive at Bank of America, feedback from customers propelled the launch of national free SafeSend, as well as the new enhanced capabilities, including cash payments over the counter and greater access via a network of more than 4,500 locations throughout Mexico.

"Our Hispanic customers told us that they wanted lower transfer fees, money to be paid in cash over the counter in Mexico, and a broader distribution network convenient to their family and friends. We listened and we responded with new features to our SafeSend remittance service," Morais said.

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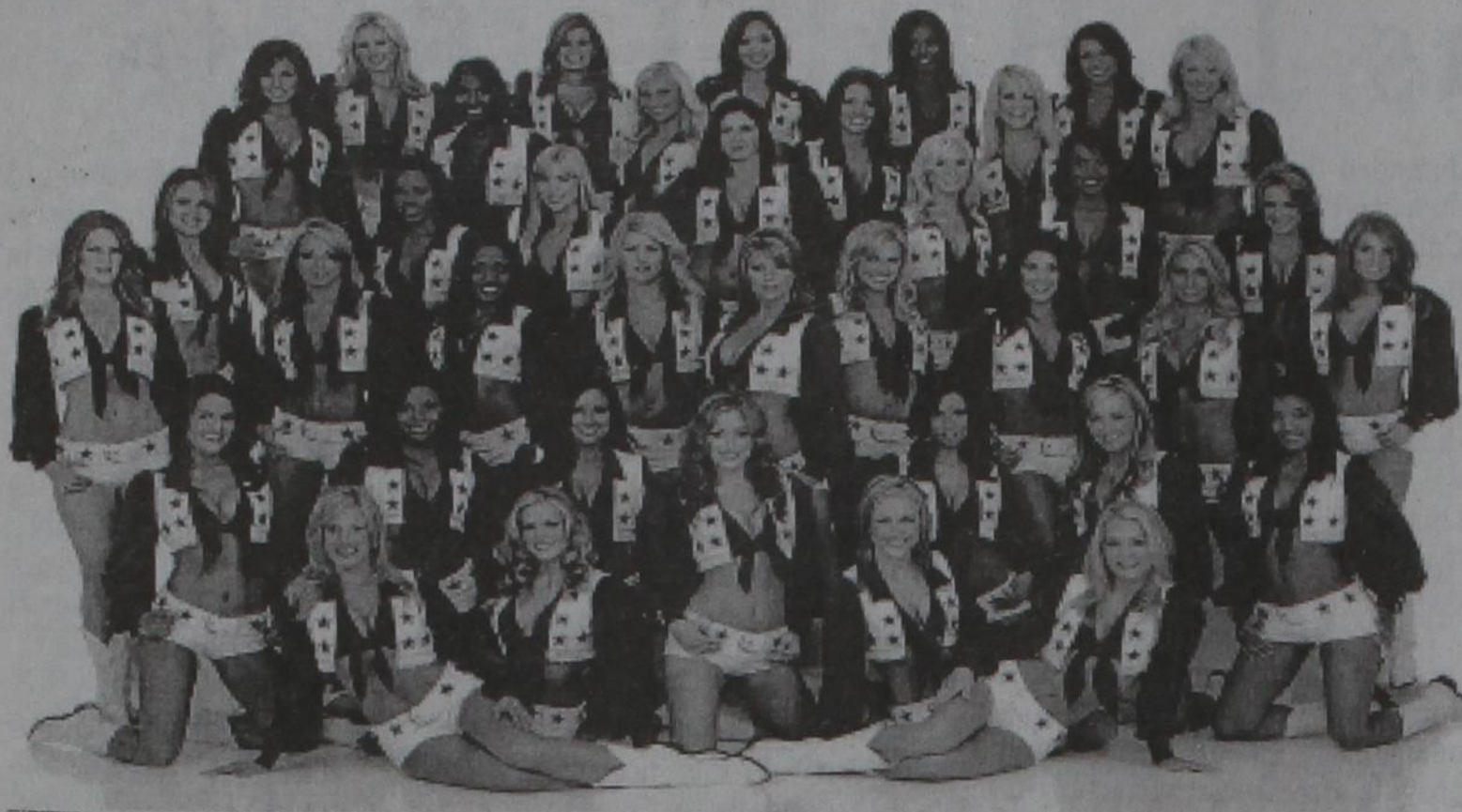
Los estudios indican que, para los niños que reciben sus pagos de manutención a tiempo, hay más probabilidad de que logren mejores calificaciones, que se queden en la escuela, y que vayan a la universidad. Dale a tu niño cada oportunidad de avanzar. No faltes en tus pagos de manutención.

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Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Deploy to Cuba to Entertain Troops on USO Tour

WASHINGTON - The USO will send the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders on their 57th tour to entertain troops stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Sept. 26-Oct. 2. Members of the squad recently participated in a USO Care Package stuffing party, helping to assemble 3,000 packages for troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and those supporting Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Once in Cuba, the troupe will visit as many service members as possible, then perform their 90-minute Broadway revue-style show. For 34 years, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders have

been internationally recognized entertainers, featured in movies, television and special events around the globe. These women also have committed themselves to entertaining America's armed forces. In 1979, the U.S. Department of Defense requested their presence on a USO tour to Korea. Since then, the squad has gone on more USO tours than any other entertainment group. Often called "America's Sweethearts," the Cheerleaders recently visited troops recuperating from injuries at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center. In March,

service members in Germany, Belgium, England and Iceland were treated to shows by the Cheerleaders. Last December, the group spent their 25th Christmas with troops in Korea. They also participated on the USO's first tour to Iraq in 2003. The squad has entertained troops stationed all over the world, including Kosovo, Germany, United Arab Emirates, Bosnia, Italy and Hungary. In 1991, the Cheerleaders were presented with the USO's 50th anniversary award, and, in 1997, the USO recognized their dedication with its most prestigious honor, the "Spirit of Hope" Award.

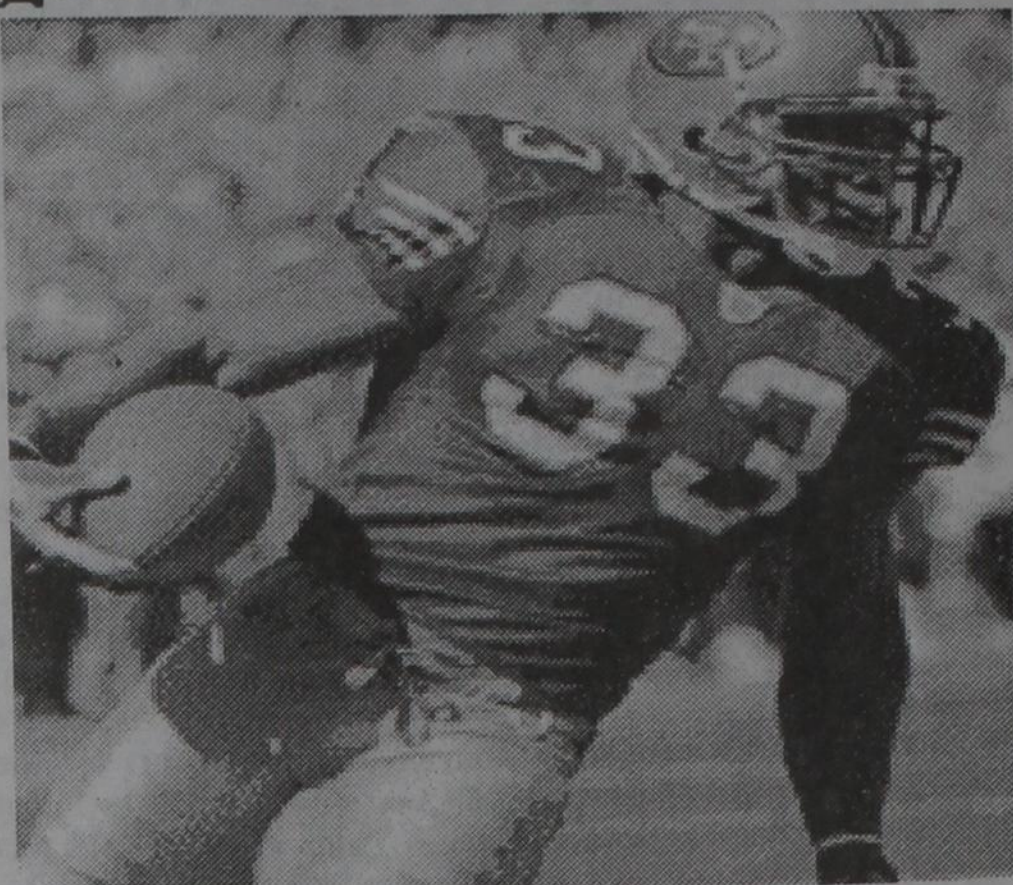
Smith asks for greater concentration for game in Mexico

San Francisco 49's linebacker, Derrek Smith, warned his team partners about the great excitement surrounding this Sunday's game before the Arizona Cardinals, to be played in Mexico, so they must be particularly concentrated on the field.

In his Monday column for the 49's website, the star linebacker from the Californian team says "there will be a great excitement surrounding the match, but we have to concentrate as if it were a regular game."

Even though this will be the first regular season match that the NFL plays outside the US, Smith stated "we have to see it as just another game", especially because it is a key match in their aspiration to win in the National Conference's West Division, both teams belong to it.

On the other hand, the safety Tony Parrish explained in his last Friday's column "our game in Mexico City will be exciting since it is a unique environment, it is hard to believe that is just around the corner".



He said that he is particularly excited for playing before a total different fans from which they know "and being part of history", besides he already wants to feel part of the audience's enthusiasm, "which is present every time we watch soccer in TV".

He admitted that the 100 thousand people which are calculated will be attending the

match at the Azteca Stadium in the Mexican capital "will be the largest crowd I have played before".

"I warned my partners to expect excitement and a bunch of fans, who are well informed about our sport, much better informed than some may think", said the seven-campaign veteran.

Enchilada Dinner Fundraiser

Proceeds from this dinner will go for medical expenses for three year old Mallory Reid. Mallory is the daughter of Kelly and Michelle Reid-granddaughter of Julian & Polly Perez. She suffered from ADEM, a brain disorder which had previously left her paralyzed on the left side. She is recovering very well but will require physical, occupational and speech therapy for about 9 months and yearly trips to Houston for follow-up care. The fundraiser will be at Lala's Restaurant which is located on 2220 Broadway, this Sunday, October 2 starting 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. \$5.00 for adults/\$4.00 for children

Astros keep wild-card lead with win over Cardinals

Rallying against 21-game winner Chris Carpenter, the Houston Astros edged closer to their second straight NL wild-card berth.

Morgan Ensberg had a tiebreaking double in the ninth inning, his fourth hit of the game, and the Houston Astros beat the St. Louis Cardinals 7-6 Wednesday night to maintain a

21-2-game lead over Philadelphia in the NL wild-card race.

"I feel like nothing has changed," said Ensberg, who reached 100 RBI for the first time in his major league career. "We need to win tomorrow and keep on winning. I don't look at it that we somehow did a great thing because of the win. It was

necessary for us."

With the score 6-6, Willy Taveras led off the ninth with his major league-leading 69th infield hit and scored without a play on Ensberg's double into the left-field corner off Jason Isringhausen (1-2).

Houston swept a two-game series against the NL Central champions, finishing the season 5-11 against St. Louis, and will close the regular season with a four-game series at home against the Cubs that starts Thursday. The Astros were 6-3 on their final trip of the season.

"We've still got work to do," manager Phil Garner said. "Tomorrow is our biggest game of the year. Then, the next day will probably be even bigger."

Lance Berkman and Mike Lamb homered in consecutive at-bats off Carpenter as the Astros improved to 87-71, a season-best 16 games above .500. Chad Qualls (6-4) worked a perfect eighth, and Brad Lidge finished for his 40th save in 43 chances.

Philadelphia (85-74) routed the New York Mets 16-6 and is off Thursday. The Phillies finish with three games at Washington.

Reggie Sanders hit his first home runs since early July, connecting on consecutive at-bats for the Cardinals, who got another spotty outing from Carpenter. The Cardinals are 3-8 since clinching the division and



must sweep a season-ending series at home against the Reds to give the franchise consecutive 100-win seasons for the second time, the first since 1942-44.

Sanders' progress was about the only positive for the Cardinals, who have lost three straight at home. He returned to the lineup Sept. 12 after missing 54 games with a broken leg, and has five RBI in his last three games.

"That's two huge hits," manager Tony La Russa said. "That's a good sign for us."

Carpenter has failed in four attempts at getting his 22nd win while reaching a career-high 241 2/3 innings. Carpenter was

shaky from the start, giving up a line-drive single to Craig Biggio on his first pitch. In all, he allowed six runs -- five earned -- and nine hits in six innings.

After his last start, Carpenter said it had been tough maintaining his focus after the Cardinals clinched the NL Central on Sept. 15.

"I'm confident in my stuff, I was confident in my delivery, I was confident in the pitches I made, it was just one of those nights," Carpenter said. "I think guys are eager and ready to get going, and I'm one of them."

Carpenter is 0-1 with a 9.14 ERA since throwing seven scoreless innings against the

Mets on Sept. 8, hiking his overall ERA from 2.21 to 2.83. Against the Astros he was better with the bat, hitting his first two career doubles and scoring twice.

"It was a strange night," Carpenter said. "I put good swings on two balls and hit them hard. It was nice, but it would have been nice to win."

Houston took a 4-2 lead against Carpenter in the fifth on consecutive home runs by Berkman and Lamb, the first leaving the frustrated pitcher barking into his glove at himself. But aside from the long balls, the Astros agreed with the Cardinals' assessment that they won largely with small ball.

"It's probably a deceiving line," Ensberg said. "We ended up basically bleeding him to death."

A four-run fifth highlighted by Sanders' second homer and 20th overall, a two-run shot off Scott Strickland, put the Cardinals ahead 6-4. Carpenter's second double of the game off Houston starter Brandon Backe started a rally that included an RBI single by Jim Edmonds and a sacrifice fly by Larry Walker.

Carpenter, who won 13 straight games from June 14-Sept. 8, couldn't hold a lead for the second straight outing, surrendering a sacrifice fly to Biggio and a tying single by Taveras in the sixth.

Texas Tech Faces Kansas in Conference Opener

Texas Tech (3-0) opens Big 12 Conference play Saturday against the Kansas Jayhawks (3-0) of the Big 12's North Division. The two teams are meeting for the second time in as many years, but will take a two-year hiatus beginning next season as part of the league's divisional rotation. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. CT at Jones SBC Stadium.

GAME BEGINS TRIFECTA AGAINST THE NORTH DIVISION

The Red Raiders' game against the Jayhawks this weekend is the first of three straight against members of the league's North Division. Games against Nebraska and Kansas State follow this weekend's game and marks the

first time since the 2002 season that Tech has faced each of the three North Division members on consecutive weekends. Iowa State, Missouri and Colorado were on Tech's schedule in a three-week span three seasons ago.

TECH CONTINUES CLIMB

Texas Tech enters the week at the No. 13 slot in the coaches poll, while moving up three spots to No. 16 in the Associated Press poll. The No. 13 ranking is the highest for a Tech team since Oct. 15, 1977, when the Red Raiders were ranked 13th in the AP. This is the fifth-straight week the Red Raiders have been in the polls and the longest such run under head coach Mike Leach.

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Court Picks

(from page one)
Forty-four percent of Hispanic voters supported Bush, a significant rise over the 35 percent who chose him over former Vice President Al Gore in 2000.

Alice Velazquez, who was president of the Hispanic National Bar Association when Bush ran in 2000, said that if he doesn't nominate a Hispanic "he will miss his golden opportunity and then he will have paid a lot of lip service about advancing the goals of diversity in our institutions."

Mike Barrera, president of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, who said that there are more than 2 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the country, said, "We would like Attorney General Gonzales properly considered."

The Hispanic Chamber's board of directors has strongly urged Bush to nominate Gonzales.

The Hispanic National Bar Association this month pushed Gonzales as "exceedingly qualified" and has asked to meet Bush, Karl Rove, White House deputy chief of staff, and Harriet Miers, White House counsel, to argue in favor of nominating a Hispanic candidate.

Alan Varela, president of the bar association, said Hispanics are "the largest and fastest growing minority group. The continued strength of the justice system will depend on it reflecting the evolving citizenry."

Richard Viguerie, a prominent conservative activist, yesterday released a survey of conservative leaders showing near-unanimous opposition to Gonzales. They are pressing Bush to nominate a jurist with unquestioned conservative credentials. To conservatives' consternation, the president has refused to rule Gonzales out, as he did before nominating Roberts.

At the top of conservatives' list are Judge Janice Rogers Brown of the D.C. Circuit Court and Judges Priscilla Owen and Edith Jones, both of the 5th Circuit.

One conservative operative called Brown "one of those outspoken conservatives that everyone feels very confident in."

"If we want a battle royal, the best person to put forward is Janice Rogers Brown. She's someone they just put through [the Senate] with that compromise" — a reference to the Gang of 14 deal that allowed Owen and Brown a Senate floor vote without a filibuster.

Concerned Women for America (CWA) has a list that includes Owen, Jones and Brown, as well as federal appellate judges Michael McConnell and Michael Luttg. Jan LaRue, CWA's chief counsel, said Bush should select without regard to sex or ethnicity. She has written to the White House stressing that view.

While LaRue said her group pushed specific candidates before Bush nominated Roberts, other conservatives refrained from doing so out of respect for presidential prerogative. Deference has given way to anxiety after Roberts's ameliorative testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Dr. Virginia Armstrong, national chairwoman of Eagle Forum's Court Watch Project, said, "There is a consensus among a lot of conservatives we need much more specificity in the nominee's record."

Armstrong, speaking for herself, said Brown and Jones are at the top of the list of jurists conservatives favor.

Armstrong said conservatives want a nominee who, unlike Roberts, "will not answer questions with meaningless phrases." That is why conservatives are pushing a short list of specific judges.

"People have stepped up their directness, their requests to the White House and the Senate," said Joseph Cella, president of Fidelis, a group that advocates for Catholic values.

"Our position is quite clear," said Dr. John Willke, president of the Life Issues Institute, in Ohio. "Bush won the election. One of the reasons Bush won is the turnout of conservative voters, evangelical and Catholic voters."

"On the abortion issue, there are only three solid votes [against Roe v. Wade] if Roberts is one," he said. "We would much prefer someone who is not a question mark at all. ... We want someone who's been tested in the fire, is solidly pro-life and whom we can depend on."

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Commitment to Financial Empowerment of Hispanic Community

Mexico and United States Hispanic leaders applauded the bank's demonstrated commitment to the Hispanic community. "Free SafeSend's national expansion is another example of Bank of America's commitment to help hard-working Latinos save more of their hard-earned money," said Janet Murguia, executive director and chief executive officer of the National Council of La Raza. "But most important is the significance of helping this community take the first step toward achieving financial empowerment by establishing a relationship with a financial institution."

Almost half of all United States Hispanic immigrants send money regularly to their home country (Pew Hispanic Center). According to information from Mexico's Central Bank (Banco de Mexico), Mexico received \$16.6 billion in remittances in 2004. This figure is expected to grow to almost \$20 billion in 2005.

For Mexico, remittance payments from the United States are second only to cash from oil exports as a source of income. "We applaud the efforts of Bank of America as it delivers this much-needed free remittance service and continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to our community," said Ruben Beltran, the Mexican Consul General, Los Angeles. "Bank of America has recognized the importance of its Hispanic customers for many years and continues to address our needs, including sending money to support our families. We join Bank of America in challenging other financial institutions to follow suit and work toward a lower-priced or free alternative for sending money to Mexico."

Free SafeSend also demonstrates the bank's ongoing commitment to increase the number of Hispanics with checking accounts. According to

a June 9 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) announcement, more than 40 million Hispanics live in the United States, but half of that population - nearly 20 million Hispanics - do not have a basic bank account. Of the 43.5 million Hispanics living in the United States, 67.2 percent are of Mexican descent (Synovate, 2004).

Bank of America Promotes Opportunities
Bank of America proves its leadership in the Hispanic community through employment, entrepreneurship, community investments, charitable giving and more. Steadily building half of its new stores in highly populated Hispanic-dense neighborhoods, Bank of America also continues its efforts to actively recruit bilingual associates. In fact,

during 2004, of all new hires in banking centers, nearly half were bilingual and 80 percent of those were Spanish speakers. Hispanic associates make up 15.5 percent of the domestic workforce at Bank of America, surpassing the national Hispanic labor force share of 13 percent.(1) Serving the needs of its Hispanic customers remains a top priority for Bank of America, which provides Spanish information and services online at www.bankofamerica.com/espano and through voice-guided telephone support at 1-800-688-6086.

In addition, Bank of America is supporting the nationwide launch of free SafeSend with an integrated national mass media campaign including Spanish-language print, outdoor and TV, as well as bilingual materials in its banking centers.

¡Muchas Gracias!
To All the Committee Members that Worked to Organize the Barrio Reunion
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Garcia,
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Narvaiz,
Mr. & Mrs. Freddy Morales,
Mr. & Mrs. Lalo Quirino,
Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Gloria,
Julio and Lupe Moreno,
Mr. & Mrs. Ramiro Lopez,
Thank You Very Much for All Your Work and Dedication
“Viva El Barrio”

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Caring persons needed to provide housekeeping and personal care services in the homes of elderly and adults/children with disabilities in Lubbock, Baily, Cochran, Crosby,Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lynn, Terry, Briscoe, Castro, Hall, Palmer, and Swisher Counties. For an application call Community Action Home Health Provider Services 763-4994 or 1-800-657-8944.

See all job listings for SPCAA and application instructions at www.spcaa.org. SPCAA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and reserves the right to not offer position.

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'Wrap Up' Your Tailgate Menu

Score with saucy wrap sandwiches at tailgate parties.

Friends, food and football draw us to stadium parking lots hours before kick-off. What keeps us coming year after year? For some fans, it's the friendships developed over years of Saturdays or Sundays. More often than not, those friendships grew in gatherings around the barbecue grill.

You might want to give more playing time to a new flavor this autumn - "Hot Wings" Chicken Wraps

Spicy wings with bones obviously can't go on a sandwich, but you can enjoy the same flavor with chicken breasts and a classic wing sauce. Pair it with the usual Buffalo wing sides - blue cheese or ranch dressing with celery, and you're guaranteed to score.

"The barbecue sauce is a friend's family recipe that uses white sauce," said Pioneer Brand home economist Bclinda Ellis. "I simplified it using our gravy mix."

Sauces make the wraps. Make the sauces ahead of time, and you'll have more time to enjoy tailgating, family, friends and football.

For more recipes, visit www.pioneerbrand.com.

'Hot Wings' Chicken Wrap with Blue Cheese Spread

Blue Cheese Spread:
1 ½ cups water, divided
1 package (2.75 ounce) biscuit gravy mix (such as Pioneer Brand)
½ cup blue cheese, crumbled
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
½ teaspoon fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

'Hot Wings' Chicken:
½ cup mayonnaise
½ teaspoon Cajun seasoning
1 ½ pound boneless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch strips
¼ cup hot wings sauce
¼ cup lemon juice
¼ cup honey

1 cup diced celery
To make Blue Cheese Spread: In medium saucepan, heat 1 cup water to a full rolling boil. Meanwhile, dissolve gravy mix in remaining ½ cup cool water; pour gravy mixture



into boiling water. Whisk until thickened. Stir in blue cheese crumbles until melted. Refrigerate until completely cool. Stir in Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, and fresh parsley.

To make Buffalo Chicken: Preheat grill to low heat. Combine mayonnaise and seasoning in small bowl. Coat chicken strips with seasonings. Grill three minutes on each side or until chicken is no longer pink. Combine hot wings sauce, lemon juice, and honey. Toss cooked chicken in sauce.

To assemble wrap: Spoon about ¼ cup of the spread over a flour tortilla. Top with some of the chicken and diced celery. Fold in ends. Roll up from one side to the other.

Makes 10 wraps.

Katrina

(Viene de la Primera)

Después de los atentados del 11 de septiembre, las leyes de inmigración de los EEUU se han vuelto más severas. Como nación, nos hemos vuelto más anti-inmigrante. La mayor parte de esta reacción se dirige a los que vienen de América Latina, quienes son pobres y de tez oscura, que hablarán con acento y sin un arsenal de términos en inglés para defenderse.

Los inmigrantes mexicanos y centroamericanos que viven en la región afectada del golfo no saben dónde ir hoy, si quedarse allí o irse a otra parte, donde los inmigrantes latinos se pueden perder entre la multitud.

Los consulados mexicano, salvadoreño, hondureño y otros han buscado e identificado a muchos de sus compatriotas desplazados por el huracán. Algunos intentan volver a establecerse en Texas y California. La mayoría lucha por sobrevivir. El otorgamiento de Estado Temporal de Protección definitivamente les ayudaría a volver a entablar su vida.

El Estado Temporal de Protección no es una amnistía general, ni una invitación a más inmigración ilegal. Es un instrumento humanitario que ayudaría a estas familias a escapar su existencia subterránea para encontrar trabajo productivo, a la vez que fortalecen las economías

locales.

El otorgamiento del TPS reforzaría nuestras leyes de seguridad nacional ya que se identificaría claramente a estos individuos.

Podrán hacerse con tarjetas válidas de Seguro Social y licencias de conducir. Se volverán "inmigrantes documentados".

Los inmigrantes latinos han estado entrando al tejido social, económico y político de los estados del sur durante décadas. Han obrado fuerte en los sectores de restaurantes, limpieza, construcción, agricultura y otros. Son individuos respetuosos de la ley quienes sencillamente quieren proteger a sus hijos nacidos en los Estados Unidos.

El padre del presidente Bush y Bill Clinton jugaron papeles heroicos al liderar esfuerzos por ayudar a los sobrevivientes de los maremotos en Asia y Africa. Ahora están ayudando en casa mediante el Fondo Katrina Bush-Clinton.

Con otorgar el TPS, el presidente Bush podrá demostrar al mundo que los Estados Unidos cree en la promesa inscrita sobre nuestra Estatua de Libertad.

(Randy Jurado Ertll es miembro fundador del Comité de Acción Política Salvadoreño Americano, SAL-PAC por sus siglas en inglés, en Los Angeles. Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: randyertll@yahoo.com).

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El Editor

Once upon a time, there were a dozen eggs.



What's a dozen? a little boy asked his father.

A dozen is twelve, his dad said, count them. The

boy counted: one, two, three, four, five, six,

seven, eight, nine, ten, a lemon, twelve! That's

right! said the dad. And do you know where eggs

come from? he asked. Yes! shouted the boy.

Where? said Dad. The store! Dad laughed and

laughed. He couldn't argue with that one.

Everyday moments can become learning moments. Because learning starts long before school does. So tell stories. Count the groceries. Identify colors. Even a chore with your child will become much more. Find out more at bornlearning.org.



Mexican artisan's soul in every shawl



Made of silk, wool or cotton, they have also been made of artisela, have brocades, fringe or openwork, are the famous Mexican shawls, most of them made in waist loom, in a variety of colors.

There are made of natural colors with bluing, maguey or walnut tree, are embroidered for weeks or even months, in these is the soul of Mexican artisans who have in the shawls their lifestyle, they have been embroidering stories in every shawl, they have lost the sight in every knot.

More than 60 organizations or families from Chiapas, Mexico, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacan, Morelos, Oaxaca, Queretaro, Puebla, San Luis Potosi and Veracruz, are getting together in the Second Sell-Exhibition "Tapame con tu rebozo" (cover me with your shawl) at the Popular Cultures' National Museum, to show that this piece of clothing is an indigenous and popular art textile piece, besides a national identity symbol.

Most of them are women, all artisans, they have left their waist loom in their communities to get to Mexico City offering their shawls made with wool, silk, cotton and artsiela.

In every shawl they put their soul, heart and view of the world, flowers, coyotes, deers and roosters appear in them.

Pedroza, an artisan, 80, has artist's hands and a great smile, he works on the weave that is generated by a stakes system, which is called ---waist loom, this is one of the most complex and antique tools in Mexico, it dates back to colonial times (1521 - 1821).

He has been weaving shawls for 60 years, is the most famous and experienced weaver in

Tenancingo, he is teacher of generations of artisans, the paradoxical things is that none of his children wanted to continue with the tradition, he smiles and prefers to not think that his art will die with him.

There are flowers in every size, brocade and many designs weaves, the prices go from 300 and 400 to five thousand pesos, the artisans talk about the process, they talk about the elaboration time, the tired and lost sight and about the generational heritage.

Sara Salas, a young woman from Zongolica, Veracruz, talks about the process of the dyeing wool shawl, it starts from cutting the wool from the sheep, the wool's washing, the weave and dyeing in which 19 kind of plants are used.

People try the shawls, the artisans show them how to use them, in the wrist, in the back, crossed, over the shoulder or the most traditional way, just a few people think about that the artisan's soul is in it, they are unique pieces and the cost only covers the time and elaboration.

When someone asks for a lower price, they just smile and may think about the work they put on it for months.

One of the artisans asked the buyer how much she earns in two months, it is the time that a shawl may take to be done, however they are happy because they show and sell their work, which almost never goes out of the state.

It is a unique piece done in different colors, they put up to ten hours of work in it daily, it helps them in the family finances, where many of them are the ones in charge, because the men have left town to try luck in the US.

Nopal, holy plant for Mexicans

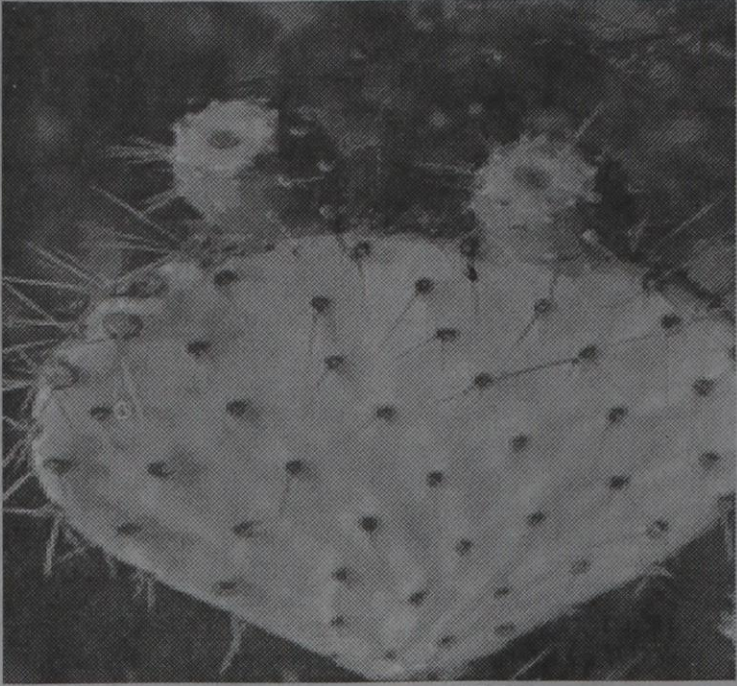
In salads, soups, casseroles and desserts; as auxiliary in diabetes mellitus treatment, for having a good digestive system and even as ingredient for soap elaboration, nopal is a basic product not only in the diet, but in the whole Mexican culture.

Nopal has become from being part of Mexico's landscape to practically a worship product, a holy plant which first was the Tenochtitlan foundation's symbol, later it was in the National Coat of Arms and in Mexico City, recalling its foundation's circumstances.

Having around 60 varieties in the country, many of them not-known, the most handy is the "vegetable-nopal" or just called nopalitos, there are several uses and alchemies for them, which allow to enjoy this fiber-rich food.

Recognizing its value in Mexican culture, Conaculta's Popular Cultures General Management has dedicated one of its issues of indigenous and popular Cookery collection to the " Cookbook of nopal from Milpa Alta, Mexico City and Colima ".

The text, coordinated by Marco Buenrostro and Cristina Barros, details the development of this cultivation from Pre-Hispanic period to the industrialization which nowadays has, especially in the country's central area, where it is sold raw, pickling brined, and



even as crystallized candy.

It highlights how nopals which produce prickly pears are the most valued and cultivated in Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, San Luis Potosi, Guanajuato, Hidalgo and State of Mexico, meanwhile in Oaxaca are those useful in carmine cochineal, non-toxic color used in food and cosmetics.

In San Luis Potosi, the prickly pear's juice is used for producing its famous cheeses, meanwhile in San Martin de las Piramides, the specialty is jam from this nopal's fruit.

In Mexico City, specifically in Xochimilco and Milpa Alta, nopales are crystallized in sugar,

nopales fresh salad, with shopped tomatoes, onion and coriander; in broad beans soup; with spicy pork sausage in parsley sauce; or just scrambled with egg?

How many women have enjoyed nopal consumption's advantages, in recommended shakes to naturally burn fat and lose weight?, how many diabetics have been helped to control sugar levels?

Without a doubt, a great amount of people, in and out of the country, which however can also delight from the many varieties of nopal, its prickly pears and xoconostles, with colorful and tasteful desserts, popular tradition and inheritance, in cakes, pies, tamales, antes, jelly, ice cream, mousses and yogurts, which are one of the delights of Mexican cookery.

In candies, just is needed to chop it, wash it to remove the sticky substance, boil them with little water and sugar for ten minutes, add anise, cinnamon and boil it until it gets the required softness. The kind of candy varies according to the ingredients, it can be beet, carrots' juice or sweet potato.

For jelly, pies, cakes, cookies and mousses, in general, raw nopal is blended with little water, to later add it to the rest of ingredients of the recipe to provide a particular texture, taste and color.

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