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Savvy or Pandering?

Politicos Work to Shift Allegiance of Hispanic Voters

Listen to Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martinez spin his Horatio Alger tale about fleeing Cuba to become a naturalized citizen and realize his dream of freedom. Hear the president's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, pronounce her last name ("Arroz") in Spanish. See Bush Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill hobnob with Bono of the rock band U2 about debt relief in Latin America. And for all those college kids worried about too much wonkishness, there's a spicy musical soundtrack ranging from Tejana to Salsa.

Yet the creator of "Abriendo Caminos" isn't a major network, or CNN, or PBS. This half-hour "news" magazine is produced inside the plush studios of GOP-TV in Washington.

It is paid political programming broadcast once a month in Spanish to television stations that reach potentially millions of Hispanic viewers in select cities. Debuting in May, the half-hour program is part of an ambitious \$1 million bid by the Republican National Committee (Comite Nacional Republicano) to woo ambivalent Hispanic Democrats and appeal to unregistered voters.

It represents the rise of a new kind of political programming. Yet behind the initiative lies an enduring question about messages targeted at specific ethnic groups: Will it be viewed as effective communication or a form of pandering?

The new voting bloc



El Presidente Bush durante uno de los programas de "Abriendo Caminos" producido por el Partido Republicano en un esfuerzo para convencer a la población Hispana que deben votar por ellos. El programa es uno de los muchos esperados programas que empiesaran dirigidos especialmente a los hispanos de los Estados Unidos.

Certainly, Republicans have good reason to try something new. Americans of Latino heritage represent the nation's fastest-growing voting bloc. Estimates put the number of voting-age Latinos at 23 million nationwide.

But Hispanics traditionally have voted overwhelmingly Democratic, with the exception of Cuban-Americans, who are concentrated largely in Florida.

President Bush has made inroads into the Hispanic community. Al-

though he garnered barely 1 in 3 Latino votes in the 2000 election, that represented the most Hispanic support of any GOP president in history. Moreover, recent polls show the president now drawing virtually even with Al Gore among Latino voters, though Democrats still outpoll Republicans by substantial margins in congressional races.

"There's an increasing realization in the Republican party that demographics is destiny - and that unless they are successful at reaching out to Hispanics they will be a minority party in the near future," says Marshall Wittmann of the Hudson Institute in Washington.

"Abriendo Caminos" (Forging New Paths) is a mix of news, consumer updates, and interviews with administration officials. So far, target cities include Denver, Albuquerque, N.M., Fresno, Calif., Las Vegas, Miami, and Orlando, Fla.

"This kind of programming is a first for a major political party," says Sharon Castillo, the show's anchor and a former Spanish TV reporter. "We believe we have a historic opportunity to make inroads with the Latino community by using a powerful communications vehicle in the language of viewers' first preference."

The campaign was conceived to tap into a wide melting-pot demographic, though foremost the strategy is directed toward people like Felipe Duran. He is an influential

business entrepreneur who has rapidly amassed a small empire of Mexican restaurants in metropolitan Denver.

Mr. Duran casts himself as "undecided" politically. But he's impressed by the effort the GOP is making to reach Hispanic voters - and the show's themes of less government and lower taxes, and its portrayals of Hispanics as role models.

"I'm not one to wear my political beliefs on my sleeve because I don't want to alienate customers," says Duran, a father of two, sitting in the first "Villa del Sol" restaurant he opened. "I am not an activist, but I am willing to support a political party that recognizes the challenges confronting small business people."

When Duran first crossed the border into the US from Mexico decades ago, he couldn't speak English. Eventually, he learned the language, worked his way through college, and took an accounting job. He reverses what it means to be upwardly mobile, though he's confused about which party represents his interests.

"Education is the key to success in this country and if 'Abriendo Caminos' helps to educate people, then it's a good thing," says Duran.

Democrats, not surprisingly, ridicule the GOP move. Democratic National Committee chair Terence McAuliffe has characterized the programming as nothing more than "political infomercials." He decries

the show as an attempt to mislead voters in regions where Republican candidates have struggled with issues ranging from immigration policy to labor regulations.

Democrats are watching. Yet Democrats are clearly closely watching. Reports indicate they're considering a TV "news magazine" of their own, and the party is sending staffers around the country to work with Latino politicians and voters in states with key congressional races.

"Whenever a Democrat does something good for the Hispanic community it's considered thoughtful, but when Republicans do something similar, it's condemned... as pandering," Castillo says. "Latino voters are savvy, and they're issue driven."

Castillo contends that little gestures matter to Hispanics, such as when President Bush opened talks with Mexico President Vicente Fox by peppering his introduction with salutations in Spanish.

Although launched as an experimental departure from the usual array of partisan political ads, the show has garnered enough positive response that the GOP is considering expanding it into larger markets such as Los Angeles and New York.

In the end, though, what's important will be the substance of the shows.

"This business of trying to speak Spanish is fine, but it's what is actually said that's just as important," says Christine Sierra, a political scientist at the University of New Mexico.

El Papa Proclama:

Los Jóvenes Son La Luz Del Mundo

A los pocos minutos de aterrizar el avión papal en Toronto, Juan Pablo II no cumplió el programa de bajar como a escondidas de la nave por la puerta trasera y, pese a sus 82 años de edad y achaques múltiples, salió saludando por la puerta delantera y descendió los escalones sin más apoyo que la mano de un ayudante.

Ya en tierra, subió a una pequeña plataforma móvil que lo trasladó a un hangar acomodado para las ceremonias del caso, donde cerca de 500 políticos, fieles, religiosos, jóvenes, discapacitados y niños le dieron la bienvenida.

Luego de que una banda marcial interpretó los himnos del Vaticano y de Canadá, el Sumo Pontífice agradeció la calurosa bienvenida y en un breve pero profundo discurso se dirigió a los canadienses y a la juventud del mundo.

Los jóvenes, "con sus regalos de inteligencia y corazón, representan el futuro del mundo, pero también llevan las marcas de una humanidad que con demasiada frecuencia no conoce la paz, o la justicia", añadió en un breve discurso, por momentos ininteligible, donde alternó el inglés y el francés.

De sus anfitriones dijo que "los canadienses son herederos de un humanismo extraordinariamente rico".

El Papa, pese a las nueve horas de vuelo desde Roma y a los males que padece, se mostró visiblemente respetuoso y con buen semblante.

En su discurso de bienvenida, el máximo líder de los católicos agregó que "en un mundo de grandes tensiones sociales y éticas y confusión sobre el sentido de la vida, los canadienses tienen un tesoro incomparable".

Canadá es un "campeón de los derechos humanos y de la dignidad humana", señaló el Papa, tras recordar su pasado viaje a este país.

"Queridos canadienses, guardo un recuerdo muy vivo de mi primer viaje apostólico en 1984 y de la breve visita realizada en 1987 a los pueblos indígenas en la tierra de Denendeh. Esta vez debo contentarme con quedarme solamente en Toronto", explicó Juan Pablo II, quien pronunciará menos discursos de los que acostumbra en giras internacionales debido a su delicado estado de salud.

Con los jóvenes
El papa Juan Pablo II presidirá la decimoséptima Jornada Mundial de la Juventud (JMJ), que reúne aquí a cerca de 200 mil jóvenes católicos de 173 países y donde oficiará tres ceremonias religiosas.
"Hago mis oraciones para que el



lema de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, 'la sal de la Tierra y la luz del mundo', encuentro eco a través de esta tierra, recordando a todos los cristianos que sean la sal de la Tierra y la luz del mundo", dijo el Papa.

A través de las enormes pantallas instaladas en Exhibition Place, donde encabezará las jornadas católicas, miles de jóvenes observaron la transmisión directa del arribo del Papa.

"Los jóvenes son quienes van a cambiar el mundo. Ellos, con sus dones de inteligencia y corazón. Ellos representan el futuro", expresó el Papa en su breve discurso.

El Sumo Pontífice agregó que "los jóvenes también llevan las marcas de una humanidad que con demasiada frecuencia no conoce la paz, ni la justicia".

Con voz pausada y deteniéndose por momentos su cabeza con la palma de su mano derecha, Juan Pablo II dijo que "demasiadas vidas comienzan y terminan sin alegría, sin esperanza", y pidió que esta JMJ ayude a revertir ese destino.

Al referirse a las jornadas católicas, donde se realizarán catequesis y pláticas espirituales, el Papa señaló que "los jóvenes se están reuniendo para comprometerse en la fuerza de la paz y la solidaridad humana".

"Soldado de la paz"
Por su parte, el primer ministro Jean Chrétien dio la bienvenida al Santo Padre en nombre de todos los canadienses y expresó: "En Toronto y en Canadá usted tendrá maravillosos escenarios donde podrá transmitir su mensaje de armonía y paz".

Hasta hace unos meses el primer ministro no tenía considerado recibir al Papa a su llegada a Canadá, debido a que no se trata de una visita de Estado, pero ante las presiones de la jerarquía católica canadiense, Chrétien tuvo que hacer ajustes en su agenda.

Al encabezarse la breve ceremonia de bienvenida al Sumo Pontífice en el hangar del aeropuerto internacional Lester B. Pearson, de Toronto, Chrétien afirmó que en Canadá, "como pocas naciones, hemos visto que grandes cosas pueden llevarse a cabo por una amplia diversidad de personas en una sociedad dedicada a impulsar la libertad, la tolerancia y la paz social. Nos sentimos orgullosos de que usted se encuentre entre nosotros".

Además, Chrétien calificó a Juan Pablo II de "soldado de la paz" y destacó que "su apasionada confianza en la libertad y los derechos humanos contribuyeron a liberar su propia tierra natal [Polonia] y todo el mundo".
"Como soldado de paz ha desafiado los falsos profetas de la violencia", continuó Chrétien. "¿Cuántas veces nos ha dicho que el mundo, incluso aquellos que intentaron matarle, merecen ser perdonados?"

Emotivos momentos
La fuerza de la fe católica que encarna el papa Juan Pablo II se sintió cuando, tras los discursos y los aplausos, parte de los asistentes hicieron una fila para estrechar y besar la mano del Papa.

Luego de saludar a los representantes del gobierno canadiense, de la jerarquía católica y de la Jornada Mun-

dial de la Juventud, se acercó al Papa una pequeña de 10 años de edad, Georgina Giddings, a quien el Santo Padre quiso abrazar, pero la niña se sorprendió y comenzó a llorar, para luego correr al lado de su madre.

Juan Pablo II, quien padece mal de Parkinson, dedicó unos minutos a saludar a dos jóvenes discapacitados. Uno de ellos, Anthony Ramuscak, se

acercó lentamente, caminando con dificultad y ayudado por sus familiares, mientras que el otro, sentado en una silla de ruedas no pudo contener el llanto de la emoción de estrechar la mano del Sumo Pontífice.

Una vez terminada la ceremonia de bienvenida, que duró cerca de una hora, en una temperatura ambiente de 24 grados centígrados y con vientos

de 27 kilómetros por hora, el Papa transitó por la alfombra roja montado en la pequeña plataforma móvil.

Tras saludar al público, subió al helicóptero que lo trasladó a la isla Strawberry, un pequeño territorio de 744 kilómetros cuadrados que se encuentra en medio del lago Simcoe, donde descansará del largo viaje.

Miami Beach Convention Celebrating All Things Hispanic

Standing beneath a 22-foot-high blow-up of a U.S. Marine, Capt. Ismael Cardenas proudly pointed to a sign listing the names of Hispanic Marines who have won the Medal of Honor, dating back to a rebellion in China a century ago.

"A lot of people don't realize that Hispanics have been such an integral part of the armed forces," said the 29-year-old Marine officer, his uniform pressed, badges shined, posture straight. "We're here to get that message out -- as part of our Latino recruiting."

From the U.S. military to corporate America, the Republican National Committee to Hispanic political groups, it's been a busy week in Miami Beach at the Latin Expo USA, billed as the largest trade show for the country's 38 million-plus Hispanics.

Some 200 exhibitors are taking part in the expo tied to the annual convention for Hispanic rights group National Council of La Raza.

They're courting a group that has surpassed African-Americans as the largest minority in the country, a fast-growing and diverse community with buying power estimated to top \$428 billion this year, according to Miami-based Strategy Research Corp.

Employees from Goya Foods Inc., the top U.S. Hispanic food company, kept busy on Tuesday handing out samples of rice and beans, cheese-filled corn arepas and guava fruit juice, and also, spinning a wheel for expo-goers to win a chance for a \$50 U.S. savings bond.

"We're here, because we believe in the goals of La Raza -- to develop the U.S. Hispanic community," said Goya spokesman Rafael Toro. "And that includes stressing the importance of savings," through an outreach program promoting U.S. savings bonds, he said.

Many big corporations were eager



RAUL YZAGUIRRE

to lure Latino talent, so their staffs would look more like the U.S. population and customer base.

Unilever, the British-Dutch consumer products giant with \$50 billion in sales a year, was seeking Hispanic managers for its U.S. foods and personal-care divisions based in New Jersey and Connecticut, said Roger Jimenez, a human resources manager. It also sought to build consumer awareness for its varied brands at the expo, displaying a range of goods from Lipton tea to Ragu pasta sauce and handing out bags full of Q-Tips, Dove soap and other items.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest company by sales, touted its record with Latinos to recruit even more. The Bentonville, Ark.-based retailer said it already ranks as the top private employer for U.S. Hispanics, with more than 97,000, and features two Latinos on its board of directors, including La Raza's national chairman.

"We're very focused on emerging markets: Hispanics, African-Americans, pan-Asian-Americans, native Americans, women and the disabled," noted Jose R. Gomez, senior manager for corporate affairs.

Wal-Mart lured expo participants to its booth with live shows by Latina pop artist Nayer, a Britney Spears-

style singer who performed with young dancers to the delight of teenagers attending the show.

At the booth for Ford Motor Co., meanwhile, employees handed out brochures in Spanish and English for a host of programs aimed at Latinos: scholarships for high school students, training for dealership managers and Web sites to help minority-owned firms sell to Ford.

The Greyhound bus line took a different tack, enlisting art students from Miami to produce a mural, part of a program that provides Greyhound terminals as canvases for artists to promote the diversity of Latinos.

Political groups also courted the Hispanics, considered a swing vote in Florida as well as other states. At the National Republican Committee booth, volunteer Daisy Jimenez, a 64-year-old Cuban-American living in Miami, sat comfortably among posters of President Bush and Gov. Jeb Bush, urging support for a party she said "gives opportunities to Hispanics and to all who believe in freedom and human rights."

Government agencies offered public service campaigns too, including Spanish-language videos that instruct children how to be safe in cars, crossing streets and riding bicycles.

Milling around on Tuesday morning, holding bags with samples and brochures, Argentina-born Silvana Americo, 44, and her daughter Sofia, 14, of Miami Beach were pleased with the expo.

"I don't feel out of place here. They speak my language and are trying to reach out to Hispanics," Americo said proudly in Spanish. "I think I'll bring the rest of my family back later."

The National Council of La Raza convention concludes today at the Miami Beach Convention Center, with an awards dinner featuring El Salvador President Francisco Flores.

Los Medios de Comunicacion Le Ponen El Sello de "Pandilla" a los Latinos Y a los Negros, Pero No a los Blancos

Por Raúl Tovares
Los teledivertidos que siguen las historias en las noticias locales sobre las pandillas de jóvenes mexicano-americanos nunca sospecharían que sólo un 4 a un 10 por ciento, como mucho, de estos adolescentes pobres de las ciudades formarían alguna vez parte de una pandilla.

Este es el porcentaje de membresía en los barrios problemáticos urbanos que atribuyen algunos expertos y sociólogos latinos, quienes han estudiado el fenómeno a través de los años.

Ellos afirman que muchos de los tan nombrados "miembros de las pandillas" se parecen a otros adolescentes estadounidenses y adultos jóvenes.

El sello de 'pandilla' que la prensa le acuña a la juventud latina y a la negra se ha convertido en un símbolo poderoso. Mientras tiene diferentes significados para diferentes personas, el mismo provoca reacciones instintivas en los periodistas y en sus fuentes sobre la necesidad de los campos de entrenamiento al estilo militar, los programas de intolerancia absoluta y el aumento de la vigilancia en las escuelas.

Estas reacciones simplistas ocultan problemas fundamentales como el desempleo, las escuelas abandonadas por el sistema, y la creciente desigualdad de ingresos, con los cuales se enfrentan estos jóvenes. En vez de contribuir a una discusión racional sobre los problemas que afectan a muchos jóvenes mexicano-americanos, tales historias agravan sus problemas sociales y económicos.

Una de las primeras cosas que aprendí mientras realizaba la investigación para mi libro "Manufacturing the Gang" fue, que

el término nunca se ha definido de manera satisfactoria. Lo que constituye una pandilla en una ciudad, quizás no sea el criterio utilizado para identificarla en otra. El informe del fiscal general de Texas en 1992, sobre los "problemas de las pandillas" en ese estado, encontró que El Paso tiene más pandillas y más miembros de pandillas que Dallas, ciudad que tiene más del doble de habitantes que El Paso. El informe concluyó que la falta de una definición estándar de las pandillas era la causa principal de las otras diferencias inexplicables, tanto en la cantidad de pandillas como en la cantidad de los miembros en las ciudades de Texas.

La falta de una definición clara ha ocasionado lo que sólo se puede describir como reacciones histéricas por parte de un público mal informado. En artículos y en informes difundidos sobre la juventud latina, oficiales de la policía, directores de escuelas y otras autoridades, a menudo, identifican los estilos de ropa y los colores como indicadores de actividad de pandillas. En la década de 1990, se identificaban los cordones azules en los zapatos, las gorras usadas hacia atrás y las camisetas con estampados del ratón Mickey como símbolos de la participación en pandillas. En algunas comunidades, se les prohibía a la juventud latina entrar a los centros comerciales o a los cines si usaban las gorras hacia atrás.

Muchos departamentos de la policía compartieron los indicadores de la participación en pandillas con los medios de comunicación. Un consejero de jóvenes de Austin explicaba que, cualquiera que usara un estilo de tenis en particular y una gorra de los Bulls de Chicago era miembro de una pandilla. Entonces, mi esposo encaja en esos

criterios. El escritor Mike Males, investigador principal en el Justice Policy Institute (instituto de políticas judiciales) en San Francisco, señala que hoy día, de manera regular, los medios de comunicación presentan a las pandillas de jóvenes como un fenómeno de minorías.

En su mayoría, los jóvenes que presentan las historias noticiosas como miembros de una pandilla son latinos o africano-americanos. Tales representaciones promueven una asociación poderosa que ha hecho casi imposible pensar en las pandillas fuera del contexto de los negros y de los hispanos. Las vagas definiciones y las marcadas asociaciones con jóvenes de color, además de la selección del material más sensacionalista que cubren los medios noticiosos perpetúan el estereotipo.

Los hallazgos de varios científicos sociales de que los supuestos "miembros de las pandillas" latinos no tienen tendencias a la violencia se han pasado por alto. Ellos han encontrado que el consumo de drogas entre los jóvenes mexicano-americanos, que dicen formar parte de una pandilla, se compara al consumo de drogas entre los jóvenes pobres urbanos en general, y que los miembros de las pandillas muestran un alto grado de conformidad hacia las reglas y los reglamentos de la sociedad.

Por ejemplo, los científicos sociales, Joan Moore y James Diego Vigil informaron que los miembros de las pandillas mexicano-americanas no consideran el consumo de drogas en fiestas algo fuera de lo normal, y señalaron que, "al mantener esta opinión, ellos están lejos de ser únicos entre los adolescentes estadounidenses". También Vigil señaló que muchos de los miem-

bros de las pandillas no participan en conductas antisociales fuera de la norma.

El término "actividad de pandilla", como se entiende, conlleva imágenes de algún tipo de intento criminal organizado. Sin embargo, muchas de las tal llamadas "pandillas" no son más que asociaciones de adolescentes varones poco organizadas.

La imagen de que las pandillas de jóvenes mexicano-americanos son redes muy organizadas de traficantes de drogas y de armas es otra distorsión. Mientras algunas ciudades grandes pueden tener pandillas que encajan con este estereotipo, el informe del fiscal general de Texas, antes citado, encontró que, "Existe poco apoyo que sustente las imágenes sensacionalistas de que las pandillas tienen muchas armas y son redes muy organizadas de distribución de narcóticos".

Los términos tales como "violencia de pandillas" y "relacionado con pandillas" utilizados en las historias noticiosas, hacen poco para tratar la situación social y económica de los jóvenes mexicano-americanos. Por el contrario, estos términos refuerzan los estereotipos de que los jóvenes están fuera de las normas establecidas y de que se merecen un trato más severo por parte del sistema legal.

Este es precisamente el tipo de reacción que puede llevar a los jóvenes a desarrollar un sentido de injusticia y de cinismo. Dado el continuo crecimiento de la población joven mexicano-americana, no podemos darnos el lujo de tener esta reacción.

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Media Stick "Gang" Label On Latinos, Blacks, But Not Whites

By Raúl Tovares
Viewers of local television news stories about Mexican-American youth gangs would never suspect that just 4 percent to 10 percent, at most, of poor, urban Mexican-American teenagers will ever join a gang.

That's the range of membership in troubled city neighborhoods ascribed by some Latino scholars and sociologists who have studied the phenomenon over the years.

Most so-called "gangbangers" are similar to other U.S. teenagers and young adults, they say.

The "gang" label that the press attaches to Latino and black youth has become a powerful symbol. While it has different meanings for different persons, it elicits knee-jerk responses from reporters and their sources about the need for boot camps, zero-tolerance programs and increased surveillance at schools.

These simplistic reactions obscure fundamental problems such as unemployment, neglected schools and a widening income gap faced by these youths. Instead of contributing to a rational discussion about problems facing many Mexican-American youths, such stories exacerbate their social and economic problems.

One of the first things I learned while doing research for my book "Manufacturing the Gang" is that the word itself has never been satisfactorily defined. What constitutes a gang in one city may not be the criterion used to identify a gang in another. A 1992 Texas attorney general's report on that state's "gang problems" found that El Paso had more gangs and gang members than Dallas, home to about twice as many inhabitants as El Paso. The report concluded that the lack of a standardized definition of gangs

was a major source of the otherwise inexplicable discrepancies both in the number of gangs and gang members in cities across Texas.

This lack of a clear definition has resulted in what can only be described as hysterical reactions on the part of a misinformed public. In articles and broadcast reports on Latin youth, police officers, school administrators and other authorities often identify clothing styles and colors as indicative of gang activity. In the '90s, blue shoelaces, caps worn backward and Mickey Mouse T-shirts were accepted symbols of gang involvement. In some communities, Latino youth wearing their hats backward were not allowed to enter malls or movie theaters.

Many police departments shared with the media their indicators of gang involvement. One youth counselor in Austin explains, "Anyone who wore certain tennis shoes and a baseball cap that said 'Chicago Bulls' on it was a gang member. Well, my husband fits that criteria."

Author Mike Males, senior researcher at the Justice Policy Institute in San Francisco, points out that youth gangs today are regularly portrayed by the media as a minority phenomenon.

Overwhelmingly, young people presented in news stories as gang members are either Latino or African American. Such depictions promote a powerful association that has made it almost impossible to think of gangs outside the context of blacks or Hispanics. Vague definitions and strong associations with young people of color, plus the news media's selection of the most sensational material for coverage, perpetuate the stereotype.

Ignored are the findings of several social scientists who have reported

that most so-called Latino "gang members" are not prone to violence. They have found that drug use among Mexican-American youths who claim to belong to a gang is comparable to drug use among the young urban poor in general, and that gang members demonstrate a high degree of conformity to societal rules and regulations.

For example, social scientists Joan Moore and James Diego Vigil report that drug use in party situations is not considered deviant by Mexican-American gang members, pointing out that "in holding this opinion, they are far from unique among American adolescents." Vigil has also noted that most gang members do not participate in deviant, antisocial behaviors.

The term "gang activity" understandably connotes images of some type of organized, criminal endeavor. However, most of what are called "gangs" are nothing more than loose associations of adolescent boys.

The image of Mexican-American

For Abel, Education Is a Still-Missing Link to Empowerment

By Lizette Jemess Olmos
Behind the podium stood the strapping young man, an erect 5-foot-10, the 100-degree midday sun soaking into his uncomfortable dark suit and jet black hair as he spoke.

On the open veranda of one of the capital's three buildings occupied by members of the U.S. House of Representatives, he addressed 200 other students. Most of them, like himself, had come hundreds of miles to deliver their uniform message. Several other persons --

youth gangs as a highly organized network of drug importers and gun dealers is another distortion. While some large cities may have gangs that fit this stereotype, the Texas attorney general's report cited earlier found, "There is little support for sensational images of gangs as heavily armed and highly organized narcotics distribution networks."

Terms such as "gang violence" and "gang-related" in news stories accomplish little to address the social and economic situation of young Mexican-Americans. Instead, the terms reinforce stereotypes about them as outside the mainstream and deserving of harsher treatment by the legal system. This is exactly the type of reaction that can lead to a sense of injustice and cynicism among young people. With the continued growth of the youthful Mexican-American population, this is a reaction we cannot afford.

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elected representatives, their aides, reporters, and Latino and immigrant activists among them -- endured the heat to listen as half a dozen TV cameras captured the event.

The young man, one of a few chosen speakers, was introduced only by his first name, Abel. His first words revealed his farm-worker heritage.

"¡Si se puede!" he said. Yes, you can!

He talked a bit about himself -- into the microphone and, later, to me. He moved from Guanajuato, Mexico, to Salem, Oregon, with his undocumented farm-worker family when he was 3 years old. Two of his four siblings were born in the United States, giving his parents -- but not him -- access to legal residency.

In school, Abel excelled. He took honors courses. His favorite subject was math. His dream: to attend college, go on to law school, and someday become one of the best attorneys in the state of Oregon. Civil rights law in particular interested him, he said.

Initially, he was a shy boy in school. He never questioned what teachers told him. That is, until his high school counselor explained

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I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO MY BEAUTIFUL THIRD-GRADE TEACHER

By Victor Landa

How much time was spent in recent days arguing the sanctity of the pledge of allegiance?

How many politicians did we see line up in front of the television cameras, rendering their maudlin indignation at the California judges who decided that the mention of God in the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional?

How many times do you think God in heaven clicked the divine television remote control, completely disgusted with our pettiness?

If those California Appellate Court Judges are guilty of anything, it would have to be dramatically bad timing. The plot to this story could rival the best Latin American *Telenovelas*. There's a tense moment in all soap operas when a question or a statement or an act of imprudence is delivered at the worst possible moment: the mistress walks into her lover's funeral in a slinky dress, the illegitimate son appears unannounced at his father's wedding. There's a gasp, a weighty pause in the dialogue, close-ups of the characters' pain-laden faces. Then someone raises a fist and yells "¡Desgraciado!"

All good *novelas* have that scene, that word, that tension. To be honest, this uproar over God in the pledge is nothing more than that. But in the wake of the attacks of Sept. 11 the notion of pledging allegiance to a Godless country is heresy.

¡Desgraciados! Really, really bad timing.

Take this same decision, place it in time three years before this date and the result would have been very different. Three years ago the United States was prosperous, confident and strong -- albeit with the help of slick accounting shenanigans in some of the nation's largest and most prestigious companies. But that's fodder for another discussion.

Three years ago, the unconstitutionality of mentioning God in the Pledge of Allegiance would have generated measured and typical responses from the usual suspects. And life would have gone on.

Today? You'd think Osama Bin Laden himself were hiding out in a judge's robe in a California Appellate Court. Sensitivities are on edge, tension is suffocating, lives are being lost in the fight against evil, plus God is on our side. Could timing be any worse?

To make up my mind on this issue, I would have to place it in two separate contexts. One would be my own, the other would have to be God's.

As for me, I've been reciting the pledge for a very long time. My earliest recollection of the pledge of allegiance is Mrs. González's third-grade class in Height's Elementary School in Laredo, Texas. It would have been 1969.

The class singsonged the pledge every morning before beginning the day's work. We held our hands to our hearts and spoke loudly.

In the third grade the diligence with which one recites the pledge is very important. My diligence was noteworthy, heartfelt. The flag was posted in a top corner of the chalkboard that dominated the length of a side wall of the classroom. Every morning we'd stand facing the corner of the chalkboard, place our hands over our hearts and say the pledge.

I made sure that my voice was heard over the rest of the students, that I pronounced every syllable of every word with exceptional clarity. I wanted my voice to stand out from among my third-grade peers. What I felt was not so much patriotism as it was admiration. I had a severe crush on Mrs. González.

That year she didn't come back after Christmas break. Over the holidays she had a baby. I was devastated. No part of third grade was ever to be the same, especially not the pledge.

To this day I can't say it without images of that class popping up from my memory. For some reason I can't remember Mrs. González very well, but I remember the classroom, the chalkboard and the flag.

Does it matter to me whether God is mentioned or not? I figure I'll mind if God minds. But I'm pretty sure God doesn't concern herself with such minutia.

If you think about it, all of the recent indignation over the pledge is man-made. If I feel indignation at anything, it's toward those who would reduce God to the size of their petty dramas. My guess is that God is more concerned over whether we live as a nation guided by basic principles of brotherhood and compassion.

It's not so much what we say, it's what we do.

Racism—the cancer among us

By Raoul Lowery Contreras

There are people around us who just don't get it. No matter how many commentators write about the deep-rooted cancer of racism, there are those who simply refuse to accept that such exists and that it undermines the very essence of 21st Century America.

Case in point: The incident in Inglewood, California, where a white police officer was videotaped assaulting a 16-year-old black boy. The officer was indicted by a Los Angeles County Grand Jury for assaulting the teenager under the color of authority.

The specifics of the incident were that the 16-year-old was seen handcuffed and face down on the ground. The large officer picked up the boy by the belt and slammed him face down on the trunk of a car. Moments later the officer slugs the boy in the face. These are videotaped facts. What happened before this tape was made is not seen, but is recorded on a security tape of the gas station where the incident took place. The security tape was certainly seen by the Grand Jury.

The indicted officer's attorney says the officer slugged the boy in the face because the handcuffed boy grabbed the officer by the "testicles." The videotape does not substantiate that allegation in any way. The officer is not seen wincing or grimacing in pain, nor simply stepping back from the boy's hands. The officer is not telling the truth. His partner was indicted for filing a false report.

The question is: Did this incident occur because the officer is white and the boy is black? What we have is a police officer assaulting a handcuffed arrestee, and that's against the law, no matter the races involved.

Concurrently, in San Diego a white young man is shot and killed at the beach at 2:30 a.m. by a black suspect and whites spill their guts in public decrying the attention devoted to the white Inglewood cop and the little attention being paid to the black suspected murderer.

Example: Letter to the Editor, San Diego Union—"It's a sign of the times: When a white cop in Inglewood bops an unruly black kid on the head a couple of times on camera, it's all over the news for weeks. Certainly it wasn't the right thing for the cop to do, but the kid wasn't badly hurt. Yet all we hear about is the white cop and the black kid. Activists fly in from all over the country decrying the incident.

In contrast, a couple of weeks later, when a suspected black gang member shoots and kills a completely innocent white college kid whose bike he has stolen, your story is relegated to the B-section. Only near the end of your story is the race of the perpetrator briefly mentioned. The next day, your follow-up report, also in the B-section, reference to the race of the suspected perpetrator is omitted entirely. What's going on here? Is it OK to talk about race when it's white on black, but not when it's black on white? You can't have it both ways. TODD STRIBLE, San Marcos

The trouble with this simpleton letter is that it reflects so many whites around us.

They simply don't get it. A police officer who assaults a handcuffed prisoner is a criminal. If the officer is of one color and the prisoner another, there is a high likelihood that race may be involved, but race doesn't matter as the act itself is criminal.

If a gun-carrying criminal shoots someone while committing a crime, race usually has little to do with this crime. To assume a gun toting criminal is a "gang member" because he or she is black is also racist and deserves short shrift. That would be like assuming the indicted Inglewood white cop is a Ku Klux Klan leader because he is white and he assaulted a black kid. Or, better yet, to assume that all whites are Ku Klux Klan's people because Ku Klux Klansmen are all white.

E-mail: sdracoul@att.net



El Editor

South Plains College, City of Lubbock Teaming Up to Offer Basic Fire Academy

LUBBOCK Applications are being accepted to the South Plains College Basic Fire Academy starting August 26. The Basic Fire Academy training course will teach students how to become firefighters, said Lubbock Fire Department District Chief and SPC Fire Academy Coordinator Chris Angerer. The academy will be able to give them the things they need to pass the state test and become a firefighter anywhere in the state of Texas.

The City of Lubbock and South Plains College are teaming up to offer the academy to meet the need for more firefighters in the South Plains area and Lubbock fire departments.

Putting the training aspect of the fire academy with a community college has been proven to be a better situation for the fire department and the community college, Angerer said. "Other fire departments in Texas have teamed up with local community colleges, and it has many advantages."

With a new law requiring four firefighters present at the scene of a building fire before two can enter, and retirements across the department, the Lubbock Fire Department is projecting a need to hire approximately 12 new firefighters each year for the next three to four years. Currently there are 237 firefighters in the Lubbock Fire Department.

The partnership between South Plains College and the City of Lubbock will help meet the projected workforce need for the South Plains College service area, including the City of Lubbock, said Jamie Biggers, dean of technical education at SPC.

SPC will also offer options for students to receive a fire technology associate degree, a fire inspector certificate, a fire and arson investigator certificate and a fire officer I and II certificate.

Mexican Director Takes on Third 'Potter' Picture

Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuaron will direct "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," the third movie in the Harry Potter series. Production is scheduled to begin in England in the first quarter of 2003, with release set for the summer of 2004.

Cuaron is best known for directing the racy and critically acclaimed "Y tu mamá también," as well as the much-admired 1995 children's classic "A Little Princess."

In addition to reuniting the principal cast from both "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and the upcoming "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" will introduce new characters to the world of the Hogwarts School.

Chris Columbus, the director of the first two Warner Bros. films, will serve as a producer, along with David Heyman and Mark Radcliffe. "As I've made the decision to step into the role of producer for the third film, I am thrilled that we have found someone as talented and inspired as Alfonso to take over the reins as director," said Columbus.

Cuaron made his directing debut in 1991 with "Love in the Time of Hysteria." He also directed the 1998 picture "Great Expectations."

Academy, graduates will be eligible to take the state firefighter certification test and be employable by fire departments throughout the South Plains and Texas, said Angerer, who was recently named Firefighter of the Year by the Lubbock Fire Department.

With the new academy format, the Lubbock Fire Department will also have more flexibility in offering continuing education and advanced training for current firefighters.

After making application to the academy, potential students will participate in a skills assessment test July 15 or 27 and a physical

ability test. Applicants who pass the skills assessment test, physical ability test and a criminal background check will be scheduled for an oral interview. Twenty-five students will be admitted into the first South Plains College Fire Academy.

The academy begins August 26 and will end May 16, 2003, following the SPC calendar. Class will meet from 6-10 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and from 8 a.m. 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Class will be taught at the Lubbock Fire Training Academy at 1515 E. Ursuline St.

Financial aid is available for qualified applicants. For more information or to apply, call Angerer at 747-0576, ext. 4912.

Local Group to Push for Hispanic History in Textbooks

Dina Guerra says something's been missing from her history books at school.

Now a college student, Guerra notes she didn't learn about the importance of Hispanic historical figures like Cesar Chavez or Pancho Villa when she was younger.

Instead, her middle and high school textbooks taught her about Abraham Lincoln, Paul Revere and Martin Luther King Jr. — certainly important lessons, but not the whole picture, she said.

"(The textbooks) really don't recognize what Mexican Americans have achieved," she said.

Guerra, a staff member and part-time student at the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, hopes a change can be made.

Together with 50 students and staff members from UTB-TSC, she will travel to Austin today to address the Texas State Board of Education when it meets to conduct a history textbook review.

At the review, the public is given a chance to voice concerns about proposed public school textbooks. The group will press the board to include the contributions of Hispanics in American history taught in Texas schools.

UTB professor Manuel Medrano helped organize the trip. Each of nine scheduled speakers from the group was given a proposed history textbook to review and each will have three minutes to speak about any desired additions or corrections, Medrano said.

Mary Helen Berlanga, Corpus Christi attorney and member of the State Board of Education, approached Medrano a few months ago about assembling a group for the review.

She said it's important to include information about minorities specifically Mexican Americans in textbooks to make the material students study more complete.

"How can we study history and only address one group of people who were affected?" Berlanga asked.

Medrano's first thought was of the students in his Mexican-American history class.

"There's no greater representation of the educational process than the people that are in it," Medrano said.

Roxann Reza took Medrano's class during this year's first summer session that ended July 5. She reviewed the U.S. history book "Call to Freedom."

Reza, a senior at Texas A&M University in College Station who is home for the summer, is eager to take part in the process.

"I'm excited about going (to the review) just because I think it's really important for minorities to have equal representation in textbooks," Reza said.

The State Board of Education will make a decision concerning the textbooks following two more reviews in August and September.

"Following One's Dreams, One Can Achieve Success"



Lubbock, TX.....The seed of Salvador Revilla's dream was planted when he signed up for a wood working class in the eighth grade at O.L. Slaton Jr. High School. He continued to pursue knowledge of woodworking in high school through participating in the distributive-vocational education program. This program allowed Sal to attend school half a day and work the other half of day at a cabinet making shop. Upon Mr. Revilla's graduation, he pursued his dream by seeking a career as a carpenter's helper in a cabinet construction business. After seven years and becoming

carpenter, Mr. Revilla relocated to a new company as a foreman, where he supervised and managed the day to day functions at the various levels of the industry. He has over twenty-two years experience in the carpentry construction industry and is well respected in his craft.

In 1988, Sal started his own company. The business has gone through various stages and business transformations. Sal hired an accounting service and in late 2001 he hired a certified public accountant. He bought computers to be used in the bookkeeping and the archi-

Admissions Steps Outlined at SPC

Entering freshmen planning to enroll this fall at South Plains College in Levelland who have not yet applied for the fall semester should contact the SPC Office of Guidance and Counseling for a new student orientation date.

"Orientation, which is a two-day process, gives students a headstart on college information and allows them to pre-register for fall classes," said Andrea Rangel, dean of admissions.

Orientation is scheduled according to major and begins July 17. Students need to provide SPC with a completed application for

admission, official transcripts from high school or college attended and take a TASP test. The Texas Academic Skills Program is an assessment of basic college skills and is required of all freshmen entering Texas public colleges or universities, unless exempt.

Students can apply on-line at www.southplainscollege.edu or request an application for admission through the mail. SPC's fall registration begins Aug. 21.

For more information on new student orientation, contact the Counseling Center at 806-894-9611, ext. 2366 or 2368.

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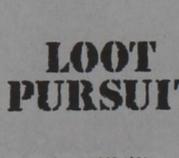
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Escoja Su Camino Hacia La Salud:

Cómo Controlar El Estrés

El estrés afecta a todos de distinta forma. Por ejemplo, ¿se ha dado cuenta que algunas personas se ven muy afectadas por el estrés mientras que otras personas, aunque sufran de estrés, la pasan casi desapercibida?

Para algunas mujeres, es muy simple controlar el estrés, mientras que para otras resulta muy difícil. Cualquiera sea su caso, lo importante es darse cuenta que su cuerpo esta señalando la necesidad de calmarse, o de tomarse un descanso, o de cambiar de ambiente. Cuando interprete las señales que su cuerpo emite, usted podrá tomar pasos sencillos para reducir o controlar el estrés.

El estrés es algo muy real en la vida de la mujer latina por el sin fin de responsabilidades que tiene en su vida. Además, la Asociación Nacional de la Salud Mental considera que el estrés es una emoción negativa y no una emoción positiva.

¿Cuántas veces se ha sentido estresada de tal manera que la tensión la hace sentir fuera de control? ¿Y que ha hecho al respecto para mejorar la situación? Probablemente nada porque no tiene tiempo o porque quizás piensa que se le pasará. Y así continua su vida.

"La persona que sabe lo que es el estrés se da cuenta cuando está estresada", explica Gabriella Castro, quien trabaja de aeromosa y adquire mucho estrés por medio de su trabajo. A veces no se si estoy yendo o viniendo, dice de sus viajes frecuentes.

El estrés se manifiesta de distintas formas en cada persona. Castro dice que ella sabe que está estresada cuando se siente nerviosa, agitada,

o ansiosa. "Te cambia el temperamento y el humor" dice Castro. "Antes se decía que uno estaba histérica pero lo que uno estaba en realidad era estresada".

¿Cómo darse cuenta si está estresada?

"Yo creo que le hago frente al estrés bastante bien", dice Castro. "Cuando comienzo a sentirme nerviosa o agitada, pienso en cosas positivas. Pienso en todas las cosas buenas que tengo en mi vida y no en las cosas que me producen estrés".

Pero para algunas personas el estrés no se manifiesta en síntomas físicos y puede ser que no sea tan fácil de reconocer. Si usted se siente agobiada o descontrolada, es tiempo de analizar su rutina diaria para comenzar a hacer cambios pequeños que la ayuden a reducir el estrés en su vida. Para comenzar puede considerar lo siguiente:

* ¿Cuántas horas está durmiendo? ¿Le parece que es suficiente?

* ¿Es usted la encargada de todas las quehaceres en su hogar? ¿Le parece que es demasiado trabajo para una sola persona?

* ¿Come usted una dieta saludable que incluye muchos vegetales y mucha fruta?

* ¿Está usted pasando por momentos difíciles como son la pérdida de trabajo, la muerte de un ser querido, o alguna enfermedad en su familia?

* ¿Le está generando mucho estrés su trabajo?

Es importante controlar el estrés. La Asociación Nacional de la Salud Mental reporta que demasiado estrés puede causar insomnio, dolores de espalda, dolores de cabeza, y

puede contribuir a enfermedades más serias como la alta presión arterial y enfermedades del corazón.

Como reducir el estrés

Existe mucha información sobre como reducir el estrés y también existen muchas ideas de como hacerlo. Algunas ideas incluyen la meditación y tomar tiempo para estar a solas, etc. Pero lo que funciona mejor es aquella forma que se adapte mejor a su estilo de vida y a su horario y preferencias.

Además de las sugerencias de ejercitarse regularmente, de dormir lo suficiente, de comer comidas saludables, de dedicarse un poco de tiempo a usted misma-actividades que son clave para la buena salud-también hay otras cosas que puede hacer. Primero dedíquese a aprender más sobre lo que es el estrés y como afecta a su cuerpo. No es difícil hacerlo. Simplemente llame al Centro de Información Nacional de la Salud de la Mujer y pídale que le manden información sobre el estrés y como afecta su salud. Llame al 1-800-994-9662 o visite la página en el Internet www.4woman.gov/faq/stress.htm

Mientras tanto, analice su rutina diaria y semanal:

* ¿Tiene demasiadas responsabilidades?

* ¿Que es lo que más le genera tensión, enojo, u otros sentimientos que la hacen sentir mal?

* ¿Hay otras actividades que preferiría hacer pero no tiene tiempo para hacerlas?

* Cuando tenga una lista de su rutina y de los sentimientos que cada una de estas actividades genera, busque formas de reorganizar sus actividades de mejor forma.

* Trate de reorganizar sus ac-

tividad de tal forma que le quede tiempo para hacer por lo menos una actividad que usted disfruta y que no le produce sentimientos de obligación.

* Haga un "date" con su familia y hagan algo que les permita jugar y relajarse y compartir tiempo divirtiéndose juntos.

* Comparta las responsabilidades del hogar con todos en su familia. Manos extras hacen que todo el trabajo se haga rapido.

* Tome un poco de tiempo y dedíquelo a usted misma.

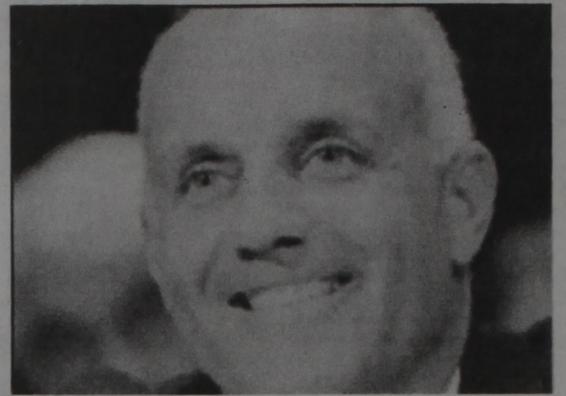
Estas actividades le ayudarán a calmar sus días frenéticos y le pueden permitir aclarar su mente. Hasta le puede sorprender la facilidad con la cual puede reducir el estrés en su vida. El poner atención a los sentimientos que su rutina genera y el hacer cambios gradualmente para reducir la tensión le puede ayudar a vivir una vida más saludable.

El estrés siempre será parte de la vida diaria, pero el reducir o controlar un poco este estrés la llevará sobre un camino a la buena salud.

Escoja Su Camino Hacia La Salud, es una campaña nacional de salud de la Oficina de Salud de la Mujer del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los Estados Unidos. Para mayor información sobre la campaña, llame gratuitamente a la línea bilingüe del Centro de Información Nacional de Salud para la Mujer al 1-800-994-WOMAN o al 1-888-220-5446 para personas sordomudas. También puede visitar la página Internet en www.4woman.gov para recibir un mensaje electrónico semanalmente con detalles para mejorar su salud.

**El Editor
Lubbock, Tx.**

Senado Confirma a Designado de Bush Com Director de Salud



El Senado confirmó ayer a viva voz a Richard Carmona como próximo director general de Salud, quien pese a su polémico pasado, afrontó poca resistencia en el órgano legislativo.

El senador demócrata de Massachusetts, Edward Kennedy, afirmó que Carmona "supo responder de forma satisfactoria las preguntas difíciles sobre sus calificaciones profesionales, su historia laboral y sus habilidades".

La semana pasada, durante una audiencia del Comité de Salud, que preside Kennedy, Carmona fue objeto de numerosas críticas sobre su capacidad administrativa, su falta de transparencia en el proceso de certificación como médico y el hecho de que necesitó tres intentos para aprobar el examen de cirugía general.

Carmona, de origen puertorriqueño y quien creció en Harlem, Nueva York, también fue criticado por grupos como Public Citizen que insisten, incluso ahora, en que no es el candidato idóneo para el cargo, debido a su pasado como policía.

Una de las quejas contra Carmona es que el ex policía --quien fue integrante de las fuerzas especiales

SWAT-- ha actuado más como policía que como médico y esto, aseguran sus detractores, representa un conflicto directo con su misión hipocrática de "no hacer daño a nadie".

Al parecer, en 1999 Carmona mató a un sospechoso que le había disparado primero, según una carta de protesta enviada a Kennedy.

Después del incidente se comprobó que el sospechoso había cometido un asesinato ese mismo día.

Kennedy defendió hoy nuevamente a Carmona, designado por el presidente George W. Bush y respaldado por cinco principales asociaciones médicas, por su amplia experiencia en asuntos relacionados con el bioterrorismo y la gestión de servicios de emergencia.

"El doctor Carmona nos ha impresionado con su compromiso hacia la salud preventiva" y contra el consumo de tabaco entre los jóvenes, dijo Kennedy momentos antes de la votación en el pleno del Senado.

El médico es el segundo hispano que ocupa el cargo de director general de Salud. La primera fue la puertorriqueña Antonia Novello.

Caen Propuestas De Ley Sobre Prescripciones Médicas

El Senado federal rechazó ayer dos medidas que proveerían cobertura de medicamentos para miembros de Medicare, una de ellas apoyada por los demócratas y la otra por los republicanos, en una confrontación que indica lo que vendrá en la próxima campaña electoral.

La medida propuesta por los demócratas hubiese creado, con el auspicio del gobierno, un beneficio de medicamentos para los 34 millones de ancianos que están bajo Medicare, con un costo de 594,000 millones de dólares divididos en

varios años. Aunque recibió 52 votos contra 47, requería 60 para ser aprobado.

La legislación promovida por los republicanos, con el apoyo de algunos demócratas y del senador independiente James Jeffords de Vermont, cayó por 48 votos contra 51, 12 menos que los necesarios. Menos oneroso que el primero, hubiera establecido cobertura de medicinas mediante empresas privadas a un costo de 340,000 millones de dólares, con 30,000 millones adicionales para crear una alternativa opcional al tra-

dicional Medicare. La propuesta permitiría a los jubilados enrolarse en un plan de pago que prestaría beneficios adicionales a los prestados hoy por Medicare.

El debate fue abierto y por momentos encendido. El senador Edward Kennedy, demócrata de Massachusetts, dijo que el plan demócrata "no tiene deducibles, no tiene vacíos, no tiene hoyos, los beneficios y el pago están garantizados en la misma ley, y los jubilados de bajos ingresos serían tratados con preferencia".

Education From 2

that he was not "college material." Abel had watched his parents struggle financially to raise their five children. "I wanted to succeed to show them my appreciation and to prove to myself that I could do it. I wanted a better life."

In high school, he joined a chapter of *Latinos Unidos Siempre*, a national student organization that helps adolescents. He developed his

leadership skills by watching other students conduct seminars on the value of learning.

With his determination and credentials, he shouldn't have had any problem obtaining a college education. But his dream, he revealed, was short-lived. After earning his high school diploma with honors, his right to higher education was abruptly challenged.

Abel's appeal to Congress was on behalf of 65,000 students who graduated from U.S. high schools this year and who, like him, came from undocumented families -- most with roots in Mexico and Latin America.

After his speech, he blended back with the 200 other youths who had traveled to the capital from a total of 24 states. Together they walked the halls of Congress, urging its members to support changes that would make higher education more accessible to kids like them.

The youthful lobbyists made the trip thanks to local fund-raising campaigns and support from Hispanic and immigrant rights groups. Nearly all, like Abel, brought exemplary scholarship records. Many held top student offices and had won commendations for community service.

They had one other thing in common. As children who came here with parents lacking immigration documents, they are being denied in-state college tuition rates to pursue their schooling. They are required to pay out-of-state fees prohibitive to them even though they may have lived in those states nearly all their lives and their parents may now be legal residents. In California, for example, resident students pay \$165 to carry 15 units at a community college, while out-of-state students must pay nearly \$2,000.

The students came to Capitol Hill to speak on behalf of two pending bills.

-- The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (S 1291), introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). Passed the Senate Judiciary Committee last month, it would eliminate a federal provision that keeps states from offering in-state tuition.

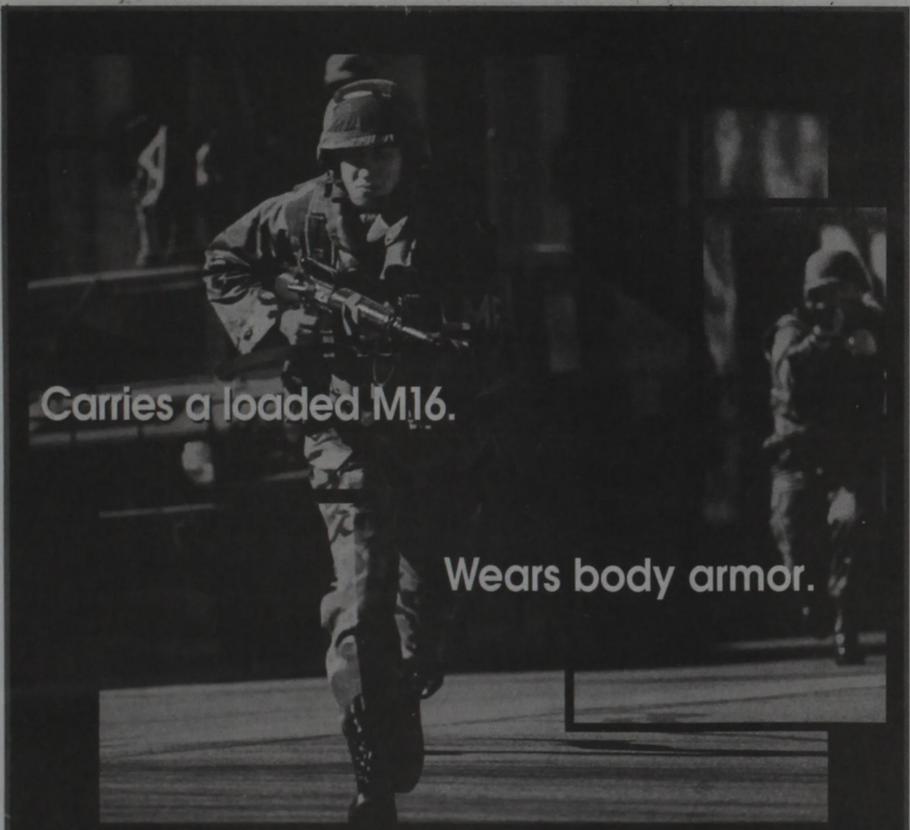
-- A House bill, the Student Adjustment Act (H.R.1918), introduced by U.S. Rep. Chris Cannon (R-Utah). Still in committee, it also would eliminate the federal restriction. Utah, Texas, California and New York have already passed enabling legislation.

Senator Hatch emphasizes that the DREAM Act will not automatically grant in-state tuition to undocumented children. Rather, it will allow states to do so if they choose.

If enacted and signed by President Bush, such bills could permit these graduates, so many of whom came here as infants and did everything right to prepare themselves to contribute to our society, the option that all of their classmates enjoy to attend public colleges and universities in their states at fees they can afford.

Until that happens, they are at best doomed to holding minimum-wage jobs while their life's ambitions, like Abel's, are stuck on hold.

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Rangers' Rogers Effective Against Mariners

A day after turning down a trade to Cincinnati, Kenny Rogers said he still hasn't closed the door on the possibility of going to another team.

Rogers pitched eight effective innings as the Texas Rangers posted a rare victory over the Seattle Mariners 4-3 Wednesday night.

Seattle's Desi Relaford forces out Frank Catalanotto during a double play.

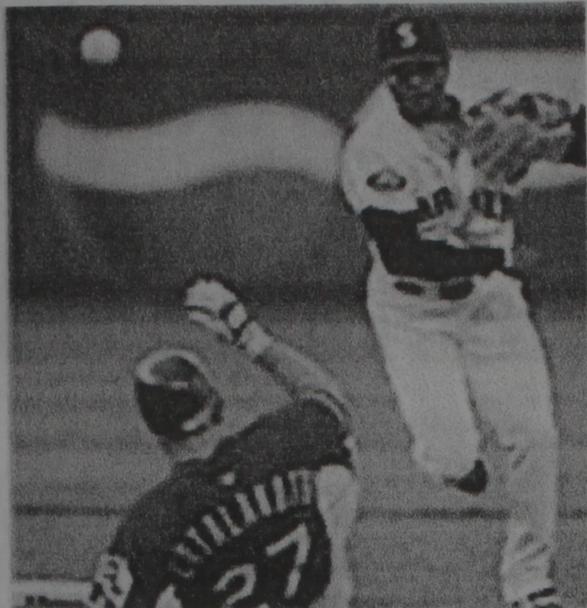
"You never know what's going to happen," he said. "When you pitch well, they want to look at you and add to their chances to go somewhere," he said.

The Rangers were set to send Rogers to the Reds this week for three minor leaguers, but the left-hander cited family concerns and invoked his no-trade clause.

Rogers admitted that his situation wasn't helping the last-place Rangers, though.

"It is a distraction, without a doubt," he said. "It's something that doesn't help matters. I'm not trying to hurt anybody here in what they might be trying to accomplish."

Seattle had shown interest in acquiring Rogers before Texas



worked out the deal with Cincinnati. The Rangers were unwilling to pick up any part of Rogers' salary in a deal with the Mariners, who have said they don't want to go over their \$90 million payroll.

Rogers was asked about the possibility of pitching in a Mariners' uniform this season.

"It occurred to me tonight, yesterday and the last couple of days," he said. "They're a playoff-caliber team. Last year they showed how good they can be. You go out and pitch well against them and it opens eyes."

Rangers manager Jerry Narron said the Mariners weren't the only team with interest in Rogers.

"I think everybody in baseball knows how well he's been pitching this year," Narron said. "He's added a cutter to go along with his other pitches. He's probably pitching right now the best he has in quite awhile."

Mariners manager Lou Piniella loves Rogers' experience.

"He knows how to pitch period," Piniella said. "He's been around for a long time. That's one of the reasons a lot of clubs have been watching Kenny to see if he can add to their starting mix."

Seattle's Bret Boone compared Rogers to Atlanta's Tom Glavine.

"Take a little off, take a little off, take a little more off," Boone said. "That is what he does. Just like Tommy Glavine. The same type of thing. He keeps the ball out of the middle of the plate and gets a lot of ground balls."

Rogers (11-5) won for the second time at Safeco Field in his fourth start against the Mariners this season. He beat them 9-0 with a five-hitter on April 19.

In his four starts against Seattle this season, Rogers is 2-0 with an 1.50 ERA.

Rogers gave up three runs, two of them earned, on seven hits and one

walk. Danny Kolb pitched the ninth for his first major league save.

The Rangers beat the Mariners for the second time in 11 games in 2002. They're 7-24 against Seattle in the past two seasons.

Anaheim beat Oakland 5-1 Wednesday night to cut Seattle's lead to one game in the AL West.

Frank Catalanotto, who was hitting .179 in his previous 15 games, accounted for three of the Rangers' runs. He homered on the second pitch of the game and a two-run single in the fifth inning.

The Rangers made it 2-0 in the third against Freddy Garcia (11-7) on a walk to Kevin Mench, Ruben Rivera's sacrifice and two wild pitches by Garcia while pitching to Catalanotto.

Texas made it 4-0 in the fifth on a single by Herbert Perry, a double by Mench and Catalanotto's ground single into center.

The Mariners scored an unearned run in the bottom of the fifth. Ruben Sierra singled, went to second on Jeff Cirillo's infield single and scored on third baseman Perry's fielding error on Desi Relaford's grounder.

The Mariners cut Texas' lead to 4-3 in the seventh on a two-run homer by Dan Wilson. Wilson hit his fourth homer of the season after a double by Cirillo.

Garcia had his third consecutive poor start since pitching in the All-Star game in Milwaukee July 9. He is 0-2 with a no-decision and an 8.64 ERA in his last three starts.

In 6 1-3 innings, he gave up four runs on six hits, four walks and three wild pitches, with six strikeouts.

"He's not as sharp as he's been," Piniella said. "He's throwing a lot of pitches and his changeup is still a little too hard. But what am I going to be concerned about? He is a good pitcher."

L.A. Latino Film Festival

Maya Zapata as Xochitl in "De La Calle" ("Streeters"), an award-winning drama about the life of street children in Mexico City.

Courtesy of Los Angeles Latino Film Festival Recalling their experience at the Sundance Film Institute's screenwriter workshop in Oaxaca, Mexico, the two collaborators flinch.

Director Gerardo Tort was a wide-eyed newcomer, screenwriter Marina Stavenhagen had several scripts under her belt but was eager to swap notes with respected colleagues. But instead of a warm welcome, they were greeted with a cold reality: No one liked their screenplay.

Argentine screenwriter Martin Salinas ("Un Embrujo") said at the time it was "a catastrophe" and for them to "start all over."

Another experienced screenwriter gave them this bit of advice: "If someone calls you a horse, call them an ... If 10 people call you a horse, put on a saddle and give them a ride." "I was so depressed," recalled Stavenhagen, who has written several feature films in Mexico. "I left there thinking, why am I doing this? I am going to put up a taco stand in the corner instead."

Three years later, they proved their critics wrong. Their film, "De La Calle" ("Streeters"), a gripping drama about the life of street children in Mexico City, swept the Mexican version of the Academy Awards. They even had modest commercial success--grossing \$5 million in two months at the Mexican box office last year--a difficult feat considering the subject matter.

"De La Calle" will have its United States debut at the Los Angeles Latino Film Festival today.

If there is a lesson in their experience at Sundance, it is to stay true to a vision, said Tort.

"We came home devastated," said Tort. "But we recovered and we continued forward. We had to do what we thought was right and put our soul into the project. What they did at Sundance was challenge us and force us to show them what we could do."

"De La Calle" is another in a string of uncompromising independent films from Mexico. Hard-edged films like Alejandro González Iñárritu's "Amores Perros" and Alfonso Cuarón's "Y Tu Mamá También" have shown that making

artistic yet difficult films can be successful at the box office. These films have also demonstrated universal appeal, having been picked up for distribution throughout the world and, in the case of "Amores Perros," being nominated for an Academy Award.

"Nobody thought it would be a commercial film," said "De La Calle" producer Lillian Haugen. "But after 'Amores Perros' we knew that people wanted to see more realistic cinema."

But Haugen had a difficult time raising the \$1.5 million she needed to complete the film. They started their project at least two years before "Amores Perros" was released. Like most independent filmmakers, she began production without having all the financing in place. Little by little, the money trickled in. In the end, the film's financing came from at least half a dozen producers, government agencies and even nonprofit organizations.

Haugen, however, has not seen a return on her investment, considering they spent almost \$1 million on advertising and publicity. It is difficult for films to generate a profit margin if they are released only in Mexico. The international market is crucial. In addition, Mexico's film industry does not have the same financial resources as Hollywood and is only now beginning to see an increase in private investing.

"We need to make alliances with distributors so they can sell abroad," said Haugen. "We still don't recuperate from [releasing] in our own territory. To spark investor interest we need to find international distribution."

Their biggest obstacle at home was convincing financiers that a crew of inexperienced filmmakers could pull off a feature film. Haugen and Tort were in advertising before going into feature filmmaking.

It is perhaps indicative of Mexico's evolution as a democratic society that they were able to make their film at all.

When Luis Buñuel's 1951 classic, surreal drama about street children, "Los Olvidados," was released, it was panned by critics, and audiences shunned it. Mexico's intellectual and governing class pounced on it as being unrealistic and painting an unflattering picture of the country--which at the time was enjoying an unparalleled boom.

Buñuel flipped the romanticized notion of the noble pauper on its head. He maintained that poverty does not induce kindness, rather that it necessitates brutality and merciless survival skills. It was not until the film was recognized at the Cannes Film Festival for its vision and novelist Octavio Paz defended "Los Olvidados" publicly that some in Mexico began to see merit in the film.

Fifty years later, "De La Calle" was rewarded by the nation's filmmaking elite, not only winning 11 Arieles at the Mexican film awards but also best film at the Guadalajara Film Festival. However, Tort said they did face problems with the country's ratings board. Like Cuarón's "Y Tu Mamá También," the film was given a C rating, meaning no one under 18 was allowed to see it. Tort believes that rating shut out the audience he targeted.

continued on page 6

Reportes De Sports

LANCE EN SAN SEBASTIAN

El ciclista estadounidense Lance Armstrong, líder del Tour de Francia, y el asturiano Oscar Freire, campeón mundial, estarán en la línea de salida de la Clásica Internacional San Sebastián-San Sebastián, que se celebrará el 10 de agosto, con salida y llegada en la capital donostiarra.

Como ya es habitual, la prueba reunirá a la élite del pelotón internacional al ser puntuable para la Copa del Mundo, por lo que supondrá la posibilidad de una pequeña revancha de lo que está sucediendo en el Tour de Francia bajo el dominio absoluto de Armstrong.

'SCHUMI' POR MAS TIEMPO

El piloto alemán de Fórmula Uno, Michael Schumacher, quien tiene un contrato con la escudería italiana Ferrarri hasta 2004, podría prolongar su vínculo con ésta según la impresión de personas relacionadas con el deportista y con la firma.

Schumacher, de 33 años, obtuvo el pasado domingo su quinto título mundial y sus declaraciones posteriores apuntan a la intención de superar todos los récords posibles en el mundo de la Fórmula Uno.

NUGGETS FIRMAN A UN BRASILEÑO

Nene Hilario, el centro brasileño de 19 años que los Nuggets de Denver seleccionaron en el reclutamiento de jugadores de la NBA, firmó ayer con el equipo.

Hilario, quien también se puede desempeñar como alero, promedió 13.2 puntos y 10 rebotes con Vasco da Gama en el campeonato brasileño en la última temporada. También fue figura en la selección brasileña que ganó la medalla de bronce en los Juegos de la Buena Voluntad el año pasado en Australia.

EN BIEN DEL BOXEADOR

La Organización Mundial de Boxeo (OMB) realizará su XV Convención Mundial en Panamá, del 27 de octubre al 1 de noviembre, para analizar la situación del deporte, la organización boxística y la muerte de boxeadores en el ring, informó ayer su presidente, Francisco Valcárcel.

El dirigente precisó que unos 300 delegados, entre presidentes de comisiones de boxeo, promotores, apoderados y boxeadores, participarán en la convención, cuya asamblea general se realizará el 30 de octubre, en medio de seminarios para árbitros, jueces, oficiales y supervisores de las peleas regentadas por la OMB.

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Ramón Vargas Cantará Ante el Papa



El tenor mexicano interpretará 'Canción de gloria' durante la canonización de Juan Diego en la misma basílica donde comenzó su carrera profesional hace 20 años.

Ramón Vargas comenzó cantando a los 9 años y ahora lo hará ante el Papa.

La canción emblemática de la canonización del indígena Juan Diego, titulada Canción de gloria, compuesta por el padre José de Jesús de Guízar y musicalizada por Víctor Luna, será interpretada ante el papa Juan Pablo II por el tenor mexicano Ramón Vargas.

Vargas, uno de los más reconocidos intérpretes mexicanos, cantará gratuitamente para el Pontífice en la Basílica de Guadalupe el 31 de julio,

Carlos Vives Encabeza Nominaciones Para Grammy Latino

El cantante colombiano Carlos Vives ocupó el primer lugar en las nominaciones para el Grammy latino de este año al acumular seis candidaturas, entre ellas las de mejor álbum, mejor sencillo y mejor canción del año.

Vives, que ganó este año un Grammy regular por su álbum "Déjame entrar" en la categoría de mejor álbum tropical tradicional latino, fue nominado una vez más por ese trabajo, esta vez por la Academia Latina de Artes y Ciencias Discográficas.

También recibió candidaturas por mejor álbum contemporáneo tropical, mejor canción tropical y mejor video tropical.

La "reina de la salsa", Celia Cruz, que ha ganado dos Grammy latinos, se ubicó esta vez en segundo lugar entre los candidatos al acumular cuatro nominaciones: mejor álbum y sencillo del año, mejor álbum de salsa y mejor video musical por "La negra tiene tumbao", su trabajo más reciente para el sello Sony.

Otros álbumes nominados fueron "Serenio", de Miguel Bosé; "Jobiniando", de Iván Lins, y "MTV Unplugged" de Alejandro Sanz. En la categoría de mejor sencillo del año figuran esta vez, entre otros, "Y sólo

cuando éste canonice al indígena Juan Diego, al que según la leyenda se le apareció la Virgen en 1531.

El tenor celebrará, además, el 20 aniversario de su carrera precisamente en el templo donde se inició a los 9 años: la Basílica de Guadalupe.

En la misa de canonización de Juan Diego, el solista será acompañado por un coro monumental de 160 voces, que interpretará canciones contemporáneas compuestas para la celebración del 31 de julio, así como canciones tradicionales.

Victor Luna dijo que conoce bien a Ramón Vargas, como alumno del Instituto Cardenal Miranda y como niño cantor de la Basílica, por lo que no fue difícil pensar en una obra que se acoplara a su estilo vocal.

"[El tema] Se trata de poemas dedicados a la Virgen y a Juan Diego, que tuvieron que ser aprobados por el Vaticano, pero hace cuatro semanas ya tuvimos el visto bueno de que se trataba de un texto litúrgico", indicó el músico.

El estribillo reza: "Tonantzin [nombre de una diosa mexicana], Tonantzin bella, mi morenita florece, Juan Diego es santo ya", y será repetido varias veces por los fieles que asistan a la misa de canonización.

se me ocurre amarte", de Sanz; "Mentira" de La Ley, y "Se me olvidó", de Gian Marco.

La tercera entrega anual de los premios Grammy latinos está señalada para el 18 de septiembre en el Teatro Kodak de Hollywood, y deberá ser transmitida en directo por la cadena televisiva nacional CBS.

Los 4,000 miembros de la Academia Latina agregaron este año dos nuevas categorías a su lista, mejor álbum contemporáneo tropical y mejor álbum de temas cristianos, elevando con ello a 40 el total de rubros.

La ceremonia del año pasado, anunciada para el 11 de septiembre, fue suspendida tras los ataques terroristas de esa fecha. Los premios fueron anunciados más tarde en una pequeña rueda de prensa.

La entrega había sido señalada para Miami, pero fue trasladada abruptamente para Los Angeles menos de un mes antes de la ceremonia.

El cambio de sede ocurrió después de que los académicos y los funcionarios locales no pudieron ponerse de acuerdo sobre si se permitiría a los exiliados cubanos de Miami protestar por la presencia de invitados de la isla en la premiación.

cape their misery. Unhappily, things do not work out as they planned.

And that is where Stavenhagen and Tort faced the fiercest criticism at the Sundance workshop. The ending was too sad--the kids' stories were too morbid, they were told. Why not let the journey end on a more uplifting note? Stavenhagen said she tried to change the ending but that it turned the movie into a sappy melodrama.

"What I loved about this story was the tragedy and not seeing a way out," said Stavenhagen, who is working on a film with David Riker ("The City"). "Working with these street children was what did it for me--there is no way out for these kids. Why am I going to lie?"

Tort and Stavenhagen understand that the movie may be too harsh for American audiences. But they reckon they made a film that was honest, and if it doesn't sell abroad, so be it.

"This criteria of what is commercial and what is not is very relative," said Stavenhagen. "What works are good stories--whether or not they have happy endings."

Film Festival From Page 5

geted. Unlike Cuarón, however, who sued the ratings board, Tort kept quiet.

"I didn't want to make a big stink about it," he said. "I told the [ratings board] my opinion."

While Tort and Stavenhagen had "Los Olvidados" as a frame of reference, they did not want to make comparisons.

"I never intended this film to be a homage to him or to rip ["Los Olvidados"] off," said Stavenhagen. "I wanted to tell yet another story and give it another interpretation for today. There is nothing original today--we all live with references to what already exists."

To maintain authenticity, Tort and Stavenhagen dived into the world of street children. For one year, they met almost daily with groups of kids and social workers throughout Mexico City. They established acting workshops for some of the street children so they could play supporting roles.

They heard horrifying stories of abuse and neglect. Most of the children, said Tort, are on the street by choice.

"The street gives them freedom and certain things they do not have at home," he said. "It is a lifestyle option. If the street is awful, imagine how horrible it must be where they came from. The movie is very light compared to what they go through in real life."

Amnesty International estimates approximately 100 million children worldwide live and work in the streets. These children are targets of organ trafficking schemes, prostitution, abuse and "social cleansing" sweeps that sometimes even have the support of local businesses. The most infamous "cleansing" incident occurred in 1993, when a gang of hooded off-duty policemen in Rio de Janeiro opened fire on more than 50 sleeping street children, according to Amnesty International. Seven children and one adult died.

Even so, Tort did not want to make a documentary. The movie, based on a play by Jesús González Dávila, chronicles the life of two street kids, Rufino and Xochitl. Rufino has to contend with his violent stepfather, a corrupt cop who is dealing drugs on the side. At the same time, Rufino is searching for his real father.

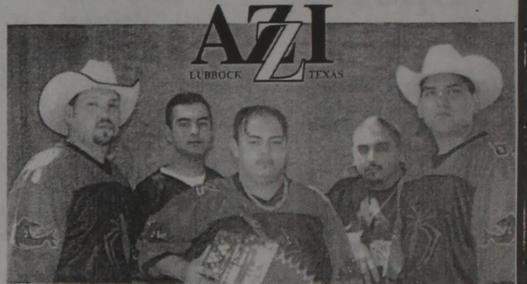
Xochitl is a single mother and former drug addict, who has no visible means of supporting her baby. Together, they hope to flee to Veracruz, a city by the sea, to es-

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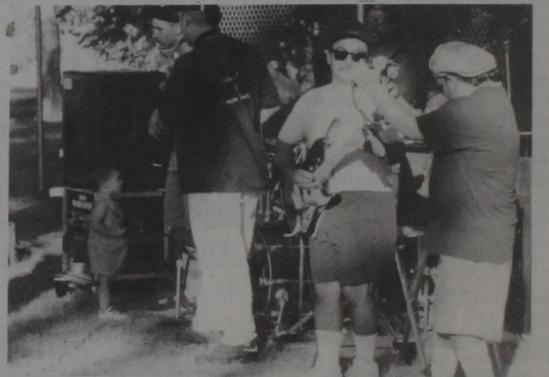


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