

el Espectador

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"El respeto al derecho
ajeno es la paz"
Lic. Benito Juarez

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Matan Palestinos Por Supuesto Colaboracionismo:

Arafat Sigue Cercado en Ramalá

Por lo menos 11 palestinos, sospechosos de colaborar con Israel, fueron asesinados ayer por la mañana por unos enmascarados palestinos.

Por su parte, Israel, desoyendo las protestas mundiales, extendió sus operaciones en Cisjordania y reforzó el aislamiento del presidente palestino Yaser Arafat.

Por otro lado, en la noche del lunes se produjo otro ataque suicida en Jerusalén oeste, en el cual murió su autor y al menos tres personas quedaron heridas.

Según la policía, el asaltante, que circulaba en coche, "llevaba un cinturón o una bolsa llena de explosivos con miras a cometer un atentado suicida. Fue detenido en un puesto de control y hubo una explosión terrible".

Este atentado, reivindicado por las Brigadas de los Mártires de Al Aqsa, grupo vinculado al movimiento Fatah, de Arafat, ocurrió al día siguiente de otro sangriento atentado suicida en Haifa, en el norte de Israel, que costó la vida a 16 israelíes, además de su autor.

En muchas partes del mundo continuaron las protestas y las llamadas a la moderación a ambas partes, aunque Estados Unidos siguió su costumbre, un tanto modificada, de exigir más a Arafat que a Israel.

El presidente George W. Bush retomó su discurso habitual sobre Medio Oriente, estimando que Arafat debía denunciar el recurso al terrorismo y hacer aplicar el plan Tenet sobre un cese de fuego. También pidió al primer ministro israelí, Ariel Sharon, que "mantenga abierta la vía de la paz".

Por su parte, Philip Reeker, portavoz del Departamento de Estado, reconoció que "estamos muy preocupados por la violencia", pero volvió a cargar la responsabilidad en la Autoridad Nacional Palestina, que "debe actuar ahora", dijo, en detener los ataques terroristas.

La Casa Blanca también tuvo que dar explicaciones sobre la aparentemente vacilante política de EU, que por una parte apoyó la Resolución 1402 del Consejo de Seguridad de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU), que pidió la retirada de las tropas de Israel, pero a la vez insiste en que este país "tiene derecho a defenderse" de

los terroristas.

Colaboracionismo.

En Tulkarem, dos enmascarados sacaron a ocho presos acusados de colaborar con Israel de la prisión de la Inteligencia Militar Palestina en la que estaban detenidos, los acibillaron y arrojaron sus cuerpos a la calle, ante los gritos de aprobación del público. En Qalquilya y en Belén fueron hallados los cadáveres de otros tres palestinos, muertos en circunstancias similares.

Mientras tanto, las fuerzas israelíes continúan buscando fugitivos, armas y explosivos en la ciudad de Qalquilya, que invadió con tanques y numerosas fuerzas de Infantería la noche del domingo al lunes.

Las Fuerzas Armadas de Israel han movilizado a 31 mil reservistas, de los que 20 mil ya han sido preparados para participar en la actual operación en los territorios palestinos, denominada Muro de Defensa.

La operación israelí fue lanzada en la madrugada del viernes con la ocupación de Ramalá, capital administrativa de Cisjordania, pero sólo ayer el primer ministro, Ariel Sharon, anunciaba su "guerra sin cuartel contra el terrorismo" y contra Arafat, a quien calificó de "enemigo de Israel y del mundo libre".

Aumentan las víctimas

Ocho soldados israelíes resultaron heridos allí, uno de ellos de gravedad en una explosión, mientras las fuerzas conducían búsquedas casa por casa.

Los blindados israelíes tomaron posiciones en Belén y en una localidad próxima a esa ciudad, El Jadir.

Por la noche, largas columnas de tanques y soldados esperaban frente a una de las entradas a la ciudad de Jenín, al norte de la Franja Occidental.

Por la tarde decían los palestinos que una columna de tanques y una excavadora se habían aproximado a la ciudad de Tulkarem. La entrada israelí a esa ciudad se confirmó en las primeras horas de la noche.

Además, el Ejército continúa sus operativos en Ramalá. Allí, ocho soldados israelíes resultaron heridos en un intercambio de fuego con palestinos.

Otro israelí murió en un atentado en el barrio Har Jomá, construido

en tierras reclamadas por los palestinos, al sur de Jerusalén.

Fuentes israelíes dicen que más acciones militares similares a las vistas hasta ahora se llevarán a cabo durante los próximos días.

Danny Ayalon, el asesor de política exterior del primer ministro Ariel Sharon, dijo que el operativo tenía por objeto sólo los nidos del terrorismo y su infraestructura y no era contra el pueblo palestino. "Estamos allí para erradicar el terror", dijo el asesor de Sharon.

Al caer la tarde cayeron heridos siete presuntos activistas pacifistas en la localidad de Beit Jallah, próxima a Belén. Dos de los activistas, que portaban carteles "queremos la paz, no la guerra", eran palestinos y los otros cinco extranjeros. En el incidente resultó herido también un fotógrafo de la agencia Associated Press.

Ayer fueron enterradas algunas de las 14 víctimas mortales israelíes del atentado del domingo en Haifa, entre ellos tres miembros de una misma familia. Una de las víctimas mortales, el ingeniero Carlos Wagman, había inmigrado a Israel de la Argentina en los años 70.

En Ramalá, continuaba el asedio al despacho de Arafat, que aparentemente va a ser prolongado.

Fuentes palestinas decían que en el predio había electricidad pero no agua corriente.

El domingo, Arafat fue visitado por una delegación de pacifistas, aunque esa sería quizá la última visita que reciba. En una reunión

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Candidates Must bridge Racial Divide in Texas Democratic Primary

By Flynn McRoberts

The son of the first African-American to work in Austin's post office, Ron Kirk remembers growing up with white classmates who called him ethnic slurs and black neighbors who called him Uncle Tom.

No one needs to explain the often-volatile issue of race to Kirk, who stepped down as the well-regarded mayor of Dallas last fall to run for the U.S. Senate. But even he must find some irony in the challenge he faces in Tuesday's Democratic primary.

Kirk's chances may hinge more on persuading Latinos, not Anglos, to look beyond his skin color.

The reason for that is something that has shaped recent big-city elections across the country and has become one of the Democratic Party's most vexing issues: the jockeying for political power of two of its most loyal constituencies, as Latinos now rival African Americans as the nation's largest minority group.

While Latinos so far have not turned out in similar numbers at the polls, political experts and sociologists agree that their heightened expectations have led to a palpable impatience, so much so that some Hispanic voters appear to ignore vast ideological differences to support candidates who share their ethnic background.

Some black voters and political leaders, in turn, have sought alliances with white politicians partly to blunt what they see as the Latino challenge.

There is much at stake in this campaign for the seat of Republican Sen. Phil Gramm, who is retiring after three terms. Kirk's major opponents are Victor Morales, who ran a strong race against Gramm in 1996, and U.S. Rep. Ken Bentsen, the nephew of former Sen. Lloyd Bentsen.

"The three most interesting races in the country in the last 24 months have been the mayors' races in Los Angeles, New York and Houston," Kirk said, "because in every case



you've seen to some degree a playout of the tension—the anxiety, I would say particularly among African-American voters over the explosive Hispanic population.

"The question is whether those interests can be aligned for the common good. And in those three cases, they weren't," added Kirk, 47, who as Dallas' first black mayor won reelection in 1999 with 74 percent of the vote.

Kirk must bridge the racial divide to reach the likely April 9 Democratic runoff, let alone the general election against Texas' Republican attorney general, John Cornyn, who is expected to win the GOP primary.

The most vivid example of how hard that can be in today's Texas came last December in Houston, when Hispanics turned out in record numbers for the mayoral election. Lee Brown, the African-American incumbent, barely held off a challenge from City Councilman Orlando Sanchez in a contest that drew heavy support from both national parties.

Vowing to cut taxes and hire more firefighters, Sanchez pushed a conservative platform largely opposed to the traditional concerns of many of the city's Mexican-Americans, such as improving public schools and boosting the

minimum wage.

"And yet Hispanics overwhelmingly (nearly 75 percent of them) voted for this Cuban Republican instead of the black mayor," said Stephen Klineberg, a Rice University sociology professor and longtime director of the Houston Area Survey, the major annual snapshot of local attitudes and values. "It isn't so much antagonism toward African-Americans, but impatience to have 'one of our own' finally move into meaningful political office."

Kirk's two main opponents dismiss the question of ethnic politics.

Early polls indicated the front-runner in the race is Morales, the geography teacher from Crandall who gave Gramm a stiff challenge six years ago with little but a white pickup to drive his campaign. Like last time, Morales says his main message is campaign finance reform and that it appeals to people regardless of ethnic background.

"There is some tension" between blacks and Hispanics, "but it's mostly between the upper echelon of the establishment," said Morales, 52, whose campaign office is a corner of his living room. "They're the ones fighting over who gets the piece of the pie, who's in charge. Among the regular people, I don't see it."

Added Mark Daley, Bentsen's spokesman: "We don't think that race is going to be an issue in the election."

Both Kirk and Bentsen have lined up endorsements they hope demonstrate their appeal across racial boundaries.

Bentsen, 42, has the support of most Democrats in the Texas congressional delegation. Kirk touts the backing of Henry Cisneros, the former San Antonio mayor and housing secretary under President Bill Clinton, and many politicians in the heavily Hispanic Rio Grande Valley.

But Morales dismisses such support. "Cisneros is behind Kirk. So what? It doesn't mean anything to me," he said. "The people I

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México Urge La Reforma Migratoria:

Sostiene que un Fallo de la Suprema Corte Puede Perjudicar a los Indocumentados

La embajada de México en Washington expresó su "seria preocupación" por el fallo de la Suprema Corte que limita los derechos de los indocumentados, y urgíó soluciones bilaterales en materia migratoria con Estados Unidos.

Aun reconociendo el derecho de cada país a tomar sus propias decisiones, la embajada emitió ayer un comunicado de prensa en el que expresó que la decisión puede originar "situaciones de abuso, explotación, marginación e indefensión de un gran número de trabajadores indocumentados mexicanos".

La Suprema Corte de EU dictaminó el miércoles pasado que el mexicano José Castro, despedido ilegalmente por participar en la organización de un sindicato, no debía recibir cerca de 67 mil dólares en salarios atrasados, porque consiguió el trabajo en violación de las leyes de inmigración.

Castro, ex empleado de Hoffman Plastic Compounds en Paramount, California, utilizó la partida de nacimiento de un amigo de Texas para obtener dicho trabajo y, luego de ser despedido, la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales (NLRB) demandó a su empleador por pagos atrasados.

La embajada de México enfatizó, además, que "es urgente avanzar en las negociaciones bilaterales en materia migratoria que ambos países iniciaron en abril de 2001 y evitar cualquier forma de abuso en contra de los trabajadores mexicanos".

La decisión de la Suprema Corte ha generado críticas de sindicatos y organizaciones defensoras de los inmigrantes.

Debido al fallo judicial "las compañías grandes y pequeñas no tendrán barreras en contratar mano de obra indocumentada porque los trabajadores no tendrán formas de protegerse", señaló el presidente de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC), Rick Dovalina.

"El derecho básico de un trabajador de unirse a un sindicato... ha sido reducido a un gesto simbólico, porque [ese derecho] no tiene colmillos. La responsabilidad legal de las corporaciones ha sido eliminada", señaló el dirigente.

Dovalina dijo que mientras a las corporaciones que contratan a indocumentados "se les da un golpecito en la mano", los empleados "pierden sus medios de subsistencia".

"¿Quién es más culpable? ¿La persona que trata de sostener a su familia o la corporación que contrata inmigrantes indocumentados sabiendo que la compañía sufrirá poco o ningún castigo por hacerlo?", indica el presidente de LULAC.

El presidente del Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas (UFW), Arturo Rodríguez, afirmó la semana pasada que el fallo de la Suprema Corte "creará una subclase de trabajadores semiesclavos fáciles de explotar".

El Editor

To the conservatives who dread the consequences of the Hispanic population boom now sweeping America, no group has become more fearsome than MEChA, a Chicano student organization that has called for the creation of a sort of homeland for people of color stretching from California to Texas.

The Republican Party of Texas denounces them as a Chicano separatist group trying to return the southwestern United States to Mexico.

Pat Buchanan, in his latest book, calls them "unabashedly racist and anti-American."

To the conservatives who dread the consequences of the Hispanic population boom now sweeping America, no group has become more fearsome than MEChA, a Chicano student organization that has called for the creation of a sort of homeland for people of color stretching from California to Texas.

Yet the hundreds of members of MEChA (a Spanish-language acronym for Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan), who marched in downtown Houston on Friday, dismissed their growing notoriety and said the purpose of the group has been misunderstood.

"We're not trying to take over," said Jose Galvan, a representative of MEChA from the University of California at Berkeley. "We just want to help people of color get an education."

Galvan said about 600 members nationwide had come to the University of Houston for MEChA's national conference, which concludes today. MEChA leaders refused a reporter's request to attend their organizational sessions, which they say are secret - even members are not allowed to record them.

Perhaps 300 or 400 members held

a march Friday officially supporting the Zapatistas, a revolutionary movement demanding autonomy for the indigenous people of southern Mexico. In addition to outlining the problems of Indians in Chiapas, the march was meant to accentuate the problems of Chicanos in America, leaders said.

Like the Zapatistas, the leaders who formed MEChA also sought a sort of autonomy. In 1969, at a time when African-Americans also were pushing for increased power, Mexican-American student leaders

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Accion Tomada Por La Corte Suprema Resulta En Creacion De Fuerza Labora Esclava

Por Dick Meister
Pongamos que el patrón se niegue a pagar a sus empleados por trabajo entregado o pagarles menos del mínimo legalmente establecido. Pongamos que no haga caso de las leyes de seguridad laboral diseñada para protegerlos. Pongamos que los despidan por intentar sindicalizarse o de otra forma exigir derechos laborales básicos.

Gracias a una decisión tomada por la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos, los patrones ahora tienen la libertad de infringir los derechos laborales -- siempre y cuando los trabajadores vengan de entre los siete millones de inmigrantes indocumentados que realizan tanto de la labor doméstica estadounidense.

Se llegaría a la conclusión -- sea por sentido común o simplemente por un sentido de lo decente -- que los trabajadores deben recibir lo ganado y ser protegidos del abuso sea cual fuere su estado migratorio. No obstante, el fallo 5-4 de la corte el 27 de marzo dijo efectivamente que las leyes contra la inmigración ilegal ampliamente infringidas tienen precedencia sobre las leyes laborales diseñadas a proteger a los trabajadores de la explotación que comúnmente sufren los indocumentados.

Las leyes dice, por ejemplo, que los trabajadores despedidos por entrar en actividades sindicales deben recuperar sus puestos o el sueldo perdido. Es por esto que la junta nacional de relaciones laborales, Nation Labor Relations

Board, mandó que un manufacturero de plásticos del sur de California pagara \$67,000 a Joe Castro. Es lo que hubiera ganado en los tres años y medio entre ser despedido por el manufacturero por repartir literatura del sindicato y el momento que la compañía descubrió que Castro, que había presentado un certificado de nacimiento estadounidense falso cuando fue contratado, fuera en realidad ciudadano de México.

La junta laboral y cortes menores dijeron que la compañía tenía que pagar a Castro a pesar de lo discutido. Sin embargo, la mayoría de la Corte Suprema dijo que no -- porque había conseguido el puesto mediante "fraude criminal". Para la mayoría, entonces, los inmigrantes pobres que no han podido conseguir los documentos adecuados de la residencia estadounidense son criminales por intentarse ganarse la vida, mientras que los patrones que les niegan los derechos básicos al usarlos para fines de ganancia, no tienen culpa alguna.

El juez Stephen Breyer, autor de la opinión opositora, tenía razón: Los patrones de Castro eran culpables de una violación "ruda y obvia" de la ley laboral. Como señaló Breyer, la decisión de la corte sin duda llevará a incrementar la inmigración ilegal al permitir que los patrones contraten sólo a trabajadores indocumentados, a sabiendas de que no acarrea ninguna consecuencia si se les niega los

derechos prometidos a los ciudadanos norteamericanos. Los inmigrantes desesperadamente pobres de seguro no se quejarán ante las autoridades, ya que aquello los llevaría a la deportación. Incluso la administración Bush, normalmente en contra de los sindicatos, dijo que todas las leyes laborales tendrían que aplicarse a los inmigrantes ilegales para protegerlos de las infracciones del patrón.

Un escrito presentado por abogados en representación de media docena de estados advirtió que el permitir que los patrones escapen ileso por maltratar a trabajadores indocumentados "perjudicará severamente la habilidad estatal de hacer cumplir las leyes que garantizan de manera general los derechos de los trabajadores."

El presidente del Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos, Arturo Rodríguez señaló que, por ejemplo, la decisión de la corte socava seriamente la ley pionera de California que penaliza económicamente a los patrones que despiden a trabajadores agrícolas, muchos indocumentados, por participar en actividades sindicales y a los que se niegan a entrar en negociaciones con los representantes sindicales.

Es imposible decir demasiado sobre las implicaciones de la decisión. Fue en realidad lo que Rodríguez llamó "un ataque devastador" para los trabajadores

indocumentados y latinos, quienes son la gran mayoría de los inmigrantes ilegales.

Como advirtieron los fiscales de estados a la corte, podría de hecho llevar a la creación de una subclase permanente de trabajadores semi-esclavos.

No cabe duda que desacelerará el impulso que han cobrado los sindicatos nacionales como la AFL-CIO y sus filiales en los últimos años al organizar a los trabajadores indocumentados. Por otro lado, debería llevar a mayores esfuerzos por ganar la aprobación del congreso por proyectos de ley de amnistía auspiciados por los sindicatos que otorgarían estatus legal a millones de trabajadores indocumentados y sus familias, como ocurrió en 1986.

Habría un impulso importante también para crear legislación que desarme el fallo de la corte al declarar con claridad que las leyes laborales que garantizan el trato justo deben aplicarse por igual a todos los trabajadores.

Que se aprueben los proyectos de ley no será fácil y tal vez sea imposible, considerando el auge en sentimiento anti-inmigrantes desde el 11 de septiembre.

No obstante, la justicia exige que protejamos a los millones de trabajadores que se enfrentan ahora con la amenaza de perder sus derechos humanos vitales.

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President Bush Is A Good Neighbor

By Raymond Rodriguez
President George W. Bush's interest in Mexico and Latin America is unprecedented.

However, rather than being praised for his travels to reach out to our neighbors, he is being severely criticized by both Republicans and Democrats, albeit for different reasons. His actions and motives will be questioned, whether or not he can claim any visible accomplishments.

President Bush deserves better. No president in recent memory has been as interested in and supportive of developing improved relations with our southern neighbors. Bush recognizes the plain fact that in today's world, the United States cannot stand alone, even with its current economic and military superiority. We need all the friends we can get.

There is a Spanish adage that says, *Una mano lava a la otra, y juntas lavan la cara.* "One hand washes the other; both hands wash the face."

That simple truth applies to international relations, as well. If Bush's efforts to encourage economic development and democratic progress in Latin America bear fruit, we will all be the better off for it. It will create a safer and more prosperous environment.

Yes, there is suspicion, and in some quarters fear that the United States is motivated by its own selfish needs. But what nation doesn't act from the desire to protect its own interests?

Another proverb states, *No hay amor sin interés.* "Love doesn't happen without interest."

Nonetheless, it is encouraging to have the president of the United States make a public commitment to work with our neighbors in jointly addressing problems that plague our hemisphere. It is better to acknowledge their existence and any threat they pose than to ignore them, as we have so often done in the past. New times call for new measures.

Although it was a whirlwind trip, while in Peru, Bush met not only with President Alejandro Toledo, but with the presidents of Bolivia and Colombia and the vice president of Ecuador. Before returning home, in El Salvador he also met with delegates from Belize, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua. Trade and economic development are high-priority items, but Bush also hopes to establish the kind of rapport he enjoys with Mexico's president, Vicente Fox.

Hopefully, the president's trip will begin the process of developing a climate of mutual trust and respect so we can deal

with problems as equals. U.S. gunboat diplomacy is a thing of the past.

Latinos are a proud and sensitive people. They will not tolerate being looked down upon or being talked down to. Any hemispheric changes that are contemplated will come to fruition only if they are implemented by equals.

President Bush recognizes that despite all our efforts to safeguard our southern border, the United States cannot accomplish it alone. We must work in cooperation with Mexico and countries in Central America to stem undocumented migration.

Reducing poverty where it exists and creating hope for a better livelihood are essential to any plan designed to reduce the northward flow of people into the United States. It is encouraging to note the level at which the immigration topic is being discussed. Bush and President Fox are discussing several positive steps. Among them is a proposal to allow eligible individuals who missed the previous deadline or were denied an opportunity to request amnesty because they were out of the country, to apply after paying a \$1,000 fine. The measure passed in the Republican-dominated House of Representatives but is bogged down in the Senate, controlled by Democrats.

Such legislation should be passed expeditiously so that families can be reunited, individuals can reside here legally and begin the process of becoming U.S. citizens if they so desire. However, in pursuing his enlightened policy, President Bush must reach out to all of our neighbors, not just those with whom we agree or feel a kinship. It is interesting to note that former President Jimmy Carter has accepted an invitation to visit Cuba. That could be a major step in normalizing relations with the island nation. If we can establish relations with China, Vietnam, Russia and other communist regimes, there is no justifiable reason for not dealing with Cuba. Fidel Castro is not going to live forever!

In spite of petty political sniping in Washington, President Bush's hemispheric visits are certain to continue. He has a vision for the Americas. And every time he heads south, he will push our Yankee mind-set a little further from an arrogant yesterday into a tomorrow that will bring rewards, both to ourselves and our long-scorned neighbors.

(Raymond Rodriguez, of Long Beach, Calif., is a retired university professor. He may be contacted by e-mail at rayrodriguez(AT)SIGN@earthlink.com)

El Editor Newspapers Lo mejor en Noticias que Importan

Supreme Court Action Creates Slave-Labor Force

By Dick Meister

Suppose an employer refuses to pay employees for work they've done or pays them less than the legal minimum. Suppose he ignores the job safety laws meant to protect them. Suppose he fires them for trying to unionize or otherwise assert basic workplace rights.

Thanks to a U.S. Supreme Court decision, employers are now pretty much free to commit such outrages -- as long as the workers are among the estimated 7 million undocumented immigrants who do so much of the nation's work.

Common sense -- and common decency -- would lead you to conclude that workers should get what they've earned and be protected from abuse, regardless of their immigration status. But the court's 5-4 ruling on March 27 said, in effect, that the widely violated laws against illegal immigration have precedence over the labor laws designed to protect workers from the exploitation that the undocumented commonly suffer.

The laws say, for example, that workers fired for engaging in union activity must be rehired or paid lost wages. Which is why the National Labor Relations Board ordered a

Southern California plastic manufacturer to pay \$67,000 to Joe Castro. That's what he would have earned in the 3 1/2 years between his firing by the manufacturer for passing out union literature and the company's discovery that Castro, who had presented a bogus U.S. birth certificate when hired, was actually a Mexican national.

The labor board and lower courts said the company had to pay Castro, regardless of that. But the Supreme Court majority said no -- because he'd obtained his job "by a criminal fraud."

In the majority's view, then, poor immigrants who've failed to secure the proper documents for U.S. residence are criminals for trying to eke out a living, but employers who deny them basic rights while using them for their profit-seeking ventures are blameless.

Justice Stephen Breyer, who wrote the dissenting opinion, was correct: Castro's employers were guilty of "a crude and obvious" violation of labor law. As Breyer noted, the decision undoubtedly will increase illegal immigration by encouraging employers to hire only undocumented workers, knowing they face no serious consequences if they deny them the rights promised

U.S. citizens. The desperately poor immigrants surely aren't likely to complain to authorities, since that could subject them to deportation.

Even the usually anti-labor Bush administration argued that all the labor laws should apply to illegal immigrants in order to protect them from employer wrongdoing.

A brief from lawyers representing a half-dozen states warned that allowing the employers to escape penalty for mistreating undocumented workers will "severely jeopardize the ability of states to enforce" their laws guaranteeing the rights of workers generally.

President Arturo Rodriguez of the United Farm Workers union noted, for instance, that the court's decision seriously undercuts the pioneering California law that financially penalizes employers who fire farm workers, many of them undocumented, for union activities or who refuse to bargain with their union representatives.

It would be hard to overstate the implications of the decision. It was indeed what the UFW's Rodriguez called "a devastating attack" on undocumented workers and Latinos, who make up the vast majority of illegal immigrants.

As the state attorneys told the court, it could in fact lead to the creation of "a permanent underclass of semi-slave laborers."

It most certainly will slow the major organizing drives among undocumented workers that the AFL-CIO and several of its affiliates have waged in the past few years. But it should lead to intensified efforts to win congressional approval of union-sponsored amnesty bills that would grant legal status to millions of undocumented workers and their families, as was done in 1986.

There'll be a major push, as well, for legislation that would undo the court ruling by spelling out clearly that the labor laws guaranteeing fair treatment should apply equally to all workers.

Getting the measures passed won't be easy and may not even be possible, given the rise of anti-immigrant feelings in the wake of Sept. 11. Simple justice nevertheless demands that we protect the millions of workers who now face the threat of losing vital human rights.

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John Steinbeck Left a Legacy for Chavez & Farmworkers

By Dick Meister

In celebrating author John Steinbeck's centennial this year, we should not forget that he was one of the greatest advocates this nation's perpetually oppressed farm workers have ever had.

He played a vital role in the long history of attempts to bring a decent life to them, which was begun by radical union organizers early in the 20th century and which the United Farm Workers and the successors of UFW founder César Chávez have continued to this day.

Few writers, if any, have better described the miserable conditions endured by so many of those who grow and harvest our food. None have gained them greater public support, sympathy and understanding. Steinbeck stirred up the country to an extent unmatched until the coming of the UFW in the 1960s with its boycotts and other broadly supported actions.

"The Grapes of Wrath," Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of 1939, had the greatest impact. The dramatic, plainly written, stunningly realistic epic of migrants who left their drought-stricken farms in Oklahoma and other Southern and Southwestern states to seek work on California's corporate-controlled farms was a runaway best seller. As successful, popular -- and realistic -- was the film starring Henry Fonda.

The response to the novel by growers and their allies in politics and law enforcement made clear that it was indeed an accurate depiction of the flagrant

mistreatment of migrants. They denounced Steinbeck as a liar and worse, and threatened him with physical harm. His book was banned and burned in several farm communities.

The book's opponents feared, more than anything else, that it would inspire support for granting farm workers the right of unionization.

Much of Steinbeck's earlier work -- short stories and journalism, as well as novels -- also effectively exposed the workers' plight. That included the violent suppression of the several strikes they waged in the early and mid-1930s to demand union rights.

Public concern over their treatment reached a peak after a disastrous flood hit the San Joaquin Valley in 1938. Steinbeck and others told the country of thousands of homeless and starving families and of local officials and growers who fought to keep federal agencies from bringing in food and medical supplies for them, lest it decrease their willingness to take jobs no matter how bad the pay and conditions.

In one of a series of widely circulated articles for The San Francisco News, Steinbeck reported, "The workers are herded about like animals. Every possible method is used to make them feel inferior and insecure. At the slightest possible suspicion that the men are organizing, they are run from the ranch at the point of guns. The large ranch owners know that if organization is ever effected, there

will be the expense of toilets, showers, decent living conditions and a raise in wages."

The articles and others in The Nation magazine and elsewhere led screen actress (and later Congresswoman) Helen Gahagan Douglas to form The John Steinbeck Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization. But grower allies in the state legislature blocked the committee's attempts to get collective bargaining rights for farm workers.

There were hopes that heightened public pressure would bring farm workers under the federal law that had granted union rights to industrial workers a few years earlier. A U.S. Senate committee led by Wisconsin Progressive Robert La Follette Jr. concluded, after a series of well-publicized hearings in California, that the federal act should be extended to agriculture.

But by the time the recommendation was formally issued in 1942, World War II was on. Most of the migrant farm workers were in military service or working in relatively high-paying war plants, and growers were demanding low-paid replacements as essential to the war effort.

They got them through a federal program that provided an unlimited supply of temporary workers from Mexico who were at least as poorly treated as had been the U.S. migrants. Their easy availability raised a barrier to farm unionization that was breached by the UFW only after the program was ended

John Steinbeck Les Dejo Un Legado a Chavez y Los Trabajadores Agrícolas

Por Dick Meister

Para celebrar este año el centenario del natalicio del escritor John Steinbeck, no deberíamos olvidar que él fue uno de los más grandes defensores que ha tenido el trabajador agrícola.

Steinbeck desempeñó un papel esencial dentro de la larga batalla por alcanzar una vida decente para el trabajador agrícola que empezaron organizadores laborales radicales al comienzo del siglo XX y que han continuado hasta el día de hoy la United Farm Workers y los sucesores del fundador de la UFW, César Chávez.

Pocos escritores, si alguno, han descrito mejor las miserables condiciones que soportan tantos de los que cultivan y cosechan nuestra comida. Ninguno ha conseguido para la causa mayor respaldo público, receptividad y comprensión. Steinbeck movilizó al país en un grado sin paralelo hasta la década del 1960 cuando aparecieron la UFW y sus boicots y otras acciones con amplio apoyo.

"The Grapes of Wrath," su novela ganadora del Pulitzer de 1939, tuvo el impacto más importante. De estilo sencillo y asombrosamente realista, la dramática épica fue un tremendo éxito editorial. Trata sobre unos migrantes que abandonan sus granjas devastadas por la sequía en Oklahoma y otros estados del sur y el suroeste del país para buscar trabajo en las plantaciones corporativas de California. La película popular que se basó en el libro y que Henry Fonda protagonizó, fue igual de exitosa.

La reacción a la novela de los agricultores propietarios de plantaciones y sus aliados en la política y en los cuerpos del orden probó que la novela era, de hecho, una descripción certera del maltrato flagrante del que eran víctimas los migrantes. Los agricultores propietarios y sus aliados denunciaron a Steinbeck por mentiroso y, peor aún, amenazaron con hacerle daño físico. En varias comunidades agrícolas, su libro fue prohibido y quemado.

Los que se oponían al libro tenían, sobretodo, que éste produjera apoyo a favor de otorgarles a los trabajadores agrícolas el derecho a la sindicalización.

Buena parte del trabajo anterior de Steinbeck (tanto cuentos y artículos periodísticos como novelas) también exponía con eficiencia las terribles condiciones de los trabajadores. Tratada la represión violenta de varias huelgas que los trabajadores habían organizado a principios y mediados de la década de 1930, para exigir derechos de sindicalización.

La preocupación pública respecto al trato de los agricultores trabajadores llegó al máximo tras una inundación desastrosa que afectó al San Joaquin Valley en 1938. El país supo, a través de los relatos de Steinbeck y otros, sobre las miles de víctimas sin hogar y las familias con hambre, así como sobre los funcionarios locales y los agricultores propietarios, que luchaban por evitar que las agencias federales atendieran la crisis trayendo comida y suministros

médicos por temor a que redujera la disposición de los trabajadores hacia aceptar los empleos independientemente de los malos salarios y condiciones.

En una serie de artículos circulados ampliamente por el San Francisco News, Steinbeck informó, "Los trabajadores son movidos como rebaños. Se usa todo método posible para hacerlos sentir inferiores y amenazados. Ante la más mínima sospecha de que se están organizando, se les saca del rancho a punta de cañón. Los agricultores propietarios de ranchos saben que si en algún momento se logra la organización, tendrán que gastar en inodoros, duchas, condiciones de vivienda decentes y en un aumento de salario."

Estos artículos y otros que publicó la revista The Nation y otros medios inspiraron a la actriz de cine (y posterior representante congresional) Helen Gahagan Douglas a formar el John Steinbeck Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization (comité John Steinbeck para apoyar la organización en la agricultura). No obstante, los aliados de los agricultores propietarios en la legislatura estatal inactivaron los intentos del comité por obtener los derechos de negociación colectiva para los trabajadores agrícolas.

Existía la esperanza de que la creciente presión pública forzara la decisión de aplicar a los trabajadores agrícolas la ley federal que unos años antes había otorgado el derecho a la sindicalización a los trabajadores industriales. Un comité

continua en la pagina 3

Matan Palestinos

Viene de la Primera Pagina

del Gabinete, el primer ministro israelí Ariel Sharon dijo que Arafat no podrá entrevistarse más con periodistas extranjeros y pacifistas, a fin de reforzar su aislamiento.

El día anterior, el Ejército israelí había hallado cerca de la oficina de Arafat cartones con billetes israelíes falsificados, que presuntamente eran usados por la Autoridad Nacional Palestina.

El ministro israelí de Interior, el ortodoxo Eli Yshai, afirmó que sus funcionarios y los de los controles en aeropuertos impedirán la entrada de pacifistas en el país.

Protestas

Al mismo tiempo se multiplicaron las manifestaciones contra Israel y Estados Unidos en diversas ciudades del mundo árabe, a menudo reprimidas por la policía, mientras que los ministros de la Organización de la Conferencia Islámica (OCI), reunidos en Kuala Lumpur, acusaron al Estado judío de arrastrar a la región a una "guerra total".

El Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU se reunió para nuevas consultas a puerta cerrada sobre Medio Oriente. Después, el secretario general de la organización, Kofi Amman, reclamó la aplicación de la Resolución 1402 pidiendo un cese de fuego inmediato y la retirada israelí de las localidades cisjordanas.

En la primera señal de disonancia en el gobierno israelí desde el viernes, el jefe de la diplomacia, Shimon Peres, llamó a "aflojar el cerco" de Arafat y criticó la estrategia de Sharon, que calificó el domingo al presidente palestino de "enemigo de Israel y del mundo libre".

"Espero que el Ejército tome todas las medidas para que el aislamiento de Arafat sea total, pero no tenemos intención" de atentar contra su persona, repitió el ministro de Defensa, Binyamin Ben Eliezer.

Por la noche, tres explosiones fuertes e intensos tiroteos de ametralladoras pesadas se escucharon cerca del asediado cuartel general del presidente Arafat en Ramalá, pero según testigos no iban dirigidos contra el cuartel general palestino.

Horas antes, el Ejército había instalado sacos de arena y alambradas de púas en torno al edificio que alberga las oficinas de Arafat, según fuentes palestinas. Las reservas de agua del edificio se han agotado.

Unos 35 militantes pacifistas seguían este lunes en compañía de Arafat, después de haber pasado la noche en su cuartel general asediado, formando un "escudo humano".

El Ejército israelí mató a tres palestinos en Ramalá. En la Franja de Gaza, un palestino de 10 años murió alcanzado por disparos israelíes.

Además, un israelí murió en un ataque del brazo armado del Yihad Islámico en Jerusalén oriental.

Estas muertes elevan a 1,666 el número de personas que perecieron desde el inicio de la Intifada, en septiembre de 2000, entre ellos 1,229 palestinos y 406 israelíes.

Las Brigadas de los Mártires de Al Aqsa llamaron este lunes a los palestinos sumarse a sus filas para enfrentar a Israel y por primera vez presentaron a Maruan Barguezi como su "dirigente".

Barguezi es el secretario general de Fatah en Cisjordania.

La operación militar israelí levantó una ola de indignación en la población árabe, en particular en Jordania, Egipto, Libia y el Líbano, donde miles de palestinos juraron perpetrar ataques en todo el mundo si Israel atentaba contra Arafat.

Gracias a Dios El ministro israelí de Justicia, Meir Sheerit, acusó este lunes a Arafat de dirigir "una banda de terroristas".

"Arafat se queja de estar encerrado en tres habitaciones cuando debería agradecer a Dios por estar todavía vivo", declaró a periodistas el ministro, miembro del Likud (derecha nacionalista), el partido del primer ministro Ariel Sharon.

"¿Creen ustedes que Estados Unidos habría guardado a Osama Ben Laden en tres habitaciones dándole de comer y de beber?", agregó aludiendo al fundamentalista islámico y principal sospechoso de haber instigado los atentados del 11 de septiembre.

Sheerit aseguró que los israelíes eran blanco de "20 ataques promedio diarios desde el inicio de la Intifada" en septiembre de 2000 e indicó que su país desplegará todos los esfuerzos posibles para "detener el terror y proteger a sus ciudadanos".

"Si el precio a pagar es la simpatía del mundo, muchas gracias, pero me las arreglaré sin esa simpatía. Todo lo que quiero es garantizar la seguridad del pueblo de Israel", dijo.

En esta nota se ha usado material de los servicios de La Opinión

Celebra Misa de Resurrección



Celebra Misa de Resurrección

Mas de 500 personas asistieron a La Via Crucis presentadas por la estación KLFB junto con la iglesia Nuestra Señora de la Gracia este pasado día de Pascuas. El Obispo Placido Rodriguez celebro la misa. Fotos por John Cervantez - 744-1654



Aztlan

From Page One

want endorsements from are the postal clerks, the firemen, the teachers."

According to a Dallas Morning News poll released a month ago, likely Democratic primary voters gave Morales 24 percent, Kirk 19 percent and Bentsen 18 percent. Almost a third were undecided.

The poll underscored the racial

divide that has muddled predictions in the three-way Democratic primary. About 44 percent of Hispanics preferred Morales, compared to 8 percent each for Kirk and Bentsen; almost a third were undecided. Kirk understands those numbers as well as anyone, noting that less than 12 percent of Texas' population is African-American. So he started his campaign in the Rio Grande Valley and expected to spend the last weekend of the campaign in the area.

"I may not win that vote, but at least they know I earnestly care about their issues," Kirk said after a recent rally on the Austin campus of his law school alma mater, the University of Texas.

Shifting racial alliances also affected the New York City mayor's race last November, when a significant number of usually loyal Hispanic Democrats defected and voted for Republican Michael Bloomberg, who won the election. Many of them were angered by the tactics Democrat Mark Green had earlier used to beat Fernando Ferrer, who was seeking to become the city's first Puerto

Chavez

From Page Two

del Senado, dirigido por Robert La Follette, Jr., un representante del partido Progresista de Wisconsin, concluyó tras de una serie de audiencias bien promovidas en California que la ley federal debía ser extendida al sector de la agricultura.

No obstante, para cuando las recomendación fue sometida formalmente en 1942, la Segunda Guerra Mundial había comenzado. La mayoría de los trabajadores agrícolas estaba cumpliendo su servicio militar o trabajando en fábricas de guerra en empleos relativamente remunerados, y los agricultores propietarios argían que reemplazos de baja paga les eran esenciales para el esfuerzo de guerra.

Los consiguieron a través de un programa federal que proveía un suministro ilimitado de trabajadores temporales de México, a quienes se les trataba por lo menos igual de mal a como se había tratado a los migrantes nacionales estadounidenses. Su disponibilidad creaba un nuevo obstáculo para la sindicalización de la agricultura que fue superado por la UFW sólo cuando se canceló el programa en 1964.

Además, Steinbeck pasó a atender otros asuntos después del comienzo de la guerra. Sin embargo, había previsto una ayuda invaluable a un grupo clave de defensores que la habían necesitado con urgencia, y había inspirado y ayudado a establecer las pautas para los que siguieron sus pasos.

Rican mayor.

Los Angeles, too, witnessed its own variation on this theme last year when James Hahn defeated Antonio Villaraigosa for mayor. Hahn, who is white, garnered the support of many black Angelenos because his late father was a champion of their community.

But the city's African-American leaders also belie a certain competitiveness, if not resentment, toward L.A.'s burgeoning Latino community.

"The Hispanic population is growing, that's true. But one of the things they fail to understand, in the Hispanic community a lot of people don't vote," said Rev. Frederick Murph, pastor of the 5,000-strong Brookins Community AME Church in L.A. "And that's the mistake a lot of politicians are making around the country. They're putting all their eggs in a basket that doesn't have a bottom yet."



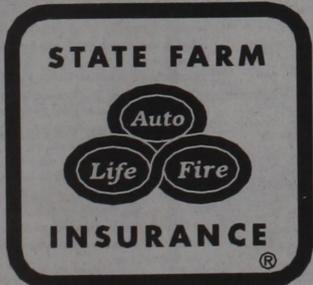
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MEXICO: REPORT

a.) Development Aid: Mexico hosted the UN International Conference on Financing for Development in March 2002, which concluded with 171 nations signing the "Monterrey Consensus," committing them to the goals of doubling development aid to the poor and halving world poverty by 2015. President Bush promised to increase US foreign aid, currently \$10 billion a year, to \$15 billion a year, which is 0.13 percent of US GDP by 2006. However, he said that the US and other rich nations should give foreign aid to poor nations only if they undertake a broad range of political, legal and economic reforms.

Bush said: "Developed nations have a duty to not only share our wealth. We must tie greater aid to political and legal and economic reforms." According to Bush, when a developing nation embraces sound economic policies, every dollar it receives in foreign aid can attract \$2 in private investment. US Secretary of the Treasury Paul H. O'Neill, also in Monterrey, emphasized that trade and investment, not aid, was the key to economic development: "If we are going to have real economic development in the world, most of that will come from capital coming into those countries to create jobs. We are not going to do it with welfare."



The UN's goal is to have rich nations contribute foreign aid equivalent to 0.7 percent of their GDP. Five European nations exceed that level, and the EU pledged to increase aid spending by \$20 billion by 2006, or to 0.4 percent of GDP.

The US is often described as following a "trade, not aid" approach to development; Europeans are said to follow an "aid, not trade" policy. Foreign aid from industrial to poorer countries is about \$50 billion a year; FDI in developing countries is about \$200 billion a year, but fell from \$300 billion in 1997 to \$150 billion in 2001. Remittances to developing countries are about \$65 billion a year.

Critics of the US "trade, not aid" approach to development say billions of dollars in investment in the 1990s have led to more jobs for skilled workers, but not jobs for ex-farmers and others displaced by increased trade. The head of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean said the legacy of 15 years of open markets in the western hemisphere has been "large-scale frustration" instead of jobs and higher living standards. Despite \$400 billion of direct foreign investment, economic growth in Latin America since 1998 averaged only 1.5 percent a year. Many speakers in Monterrey asserted that the vast majority of people living in Africa, Latin America, Central Asia and the Middle East are no better off today than they were in 1989, when the fall of the Berlin Wall allowed capitalism to spread worldwide at a rapid rate.

Other critics emphasized that the industrial democracies continue to protect sectors in which developing countries could trade, such as agriculture. The US, for example, spends about twice as much subsidizing agriculture as it does in foreign aid, and the industrial countries collectively spend about \$300 billion a year on farm subsidies, six times what they provide in foreign aid.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund figured prominently in the discussion of the new attack on world poverty. The IMF said that "There is an unprecedented degree of agreement about what is required to overcome global poverty." However, critics noted that, during the 1960s and 1970s, the World Bank led other donors to invest in large-scale projects like dams and school construction on the theory that poor nations were simply short of the capital they needed to achieve economic "takeoff." In the 1980s, the emphasis was on "structural adjustment," granting loans with long lists of conditions requiring recipients to cut their budget deficits, quell inflation and privatize state-run industries.

Today, the emphasis is on "selectivity," the idea that aid should be restricted to countries that are adopting sound policies and taking steps to improve the rule of law. If this policy is followed, it is not clear what will happen to so-called bad-actor countries.

b.) Voting. Mexico will have presidential elections in 2006, and many groups of Mexicans in the US are pushing the Mexican government for the right to vote by absentee ballot. In 1998, the Mexican Chamber of Deputies passed a law allowing Mexicans outside the country to vote in the 2006 presidential election, but the Senate did not approve the measure; the issue has not been taken up again.

Mexican consulates in the US are issuing identification cards for Mexican citizens living in the US. The ID cards are recognized by a growing number of agencies as a valid form of identification and many banks, city business and police. Called a matricula consular, the card is helpful to undocumented immigrants with no other form of identification.

A new high-tech, more fraud-proof version of the card will be issued in the next few months. The 47 Mexican consulates in the US are promoting the card as part of Fox's push to integrate Mexicans into the society of the US. In fall 2001, Wells Fargo began accepting the card as one of the primary forms of identification required to open accounts at more than 3,000 branches in 23 states. The bank reports that about 15,000 new accounts have been opened using the ID.

c.) Economy. Mexico slipped into recession in September 2000-GDP fell 1.6 percent, and almost 400,000 jobs were lost between Fall 2000 and Fall 2001. Mexico's economy is expected to grow by two percent in 2002. Two-way trade was \$365 billion between the US and Canada in 2001, and \$245 billion with Mexico.

Maquiladora employment peaked at 1.3 million in October 2000, and then fell to 1.1 million, as about 400 of the 3,700 maquiladoras closed in 2001. In 2002, however, maquiladora employment began to rise again. The average Mexican real wages rose 15 percent in 2000 and 12 percent in 2001, bringing them back to 1994 levels.

Remittances, an estimated \$9.3 billion in 2002, are Mexico's third-largest source of income, after oil exports and tourism: in areas of rural Mexico, remittances exceed local and state government budgets. The average monthly payment is \$200, and there have been several suits in the US aimed at getting companies such as Western Union to reduce the fees they charge to send and exchange dollars to pesos, which often amount to 10 percent of the amount remitted. Many US and Mexican banks are teaming up so that Mexicans in the US can deposit money in US accounts, and their family and friends in Mexico can use ATM cards to access the deposited funds for about \$3 a transaction.

Mexican President Fox has boasted that the economic output of some 23 million Mexicans and Mexican-Americans who live in the United States is an estimated \$450 billion, compared to Mexico's GDP of \$600 billion. However, Fox noted that most of the remittances sent to Mexico were used to provide for the day-to-day survival of the poorest families. Fox said: "The families that receive the money use it to buy shoes or beans, clothes or books for their children. Now we want to channel part of that money for production, for projects that generate jobs."

Some 175,000 Mexicans legally immigrated to the United States in 2000.

d.) Sources: August Gribben, "Flow of illegals 'inevitable,'" Washington Times, March 27, 2002. Ginger Thompson, "Big Mexican Breadwinner: The Migrant Worker,"

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Knee Forces Jordan Out For Season

A day after his worst scoring game ever, Michael Jordan woke up with a swollen right knee and decided enough was enough.

Jordan was placed on the injured list Wednesday by the Washington Wizards, and he said he is done for the season.

"I think it is best at this point to rest the knee and let it heal properly," Jordan said in a statement. "I tried to get back and play as soon as possible and, early on, the knee responded well. But after the swelling this morning, I think it's best to give it rest."

Jordan ends his season with a 22.9-point scoring average, the second lowest of his career. He averaged 22.7 in his second season with the Chicago Bulls in 1985-86, when he played just 18 games because of a broken foot.

"He's a great competitor and he demonstrated that he can come back and be a top-10 player," NBA commissioner David Stern said in Toronto. "I hope he's better for next year."

Jordan, 39, also will have played for a non-playoff team for the first time, unless the Wizards overtake Indiana for the last Eastern Conference berth in the final two weeks of the season. The Wizards trailed the Pacers by 11/2 games with eight remaining going into Wednesday night's game at Milwaukee.

Jordan reiterated he plans to play next season if he is able.

"I signed a two-year contract to play," Jordan said. "Obviously, my health will always determine my playing status. But at this time, my plan is to play next season."

Jordan rushed his rehabilitation from the arthroscopic surgery Feb. 27 that repaired torn cartilage in the knee. He missed just 12 games and returned March 20 in Denver. He was a reserve in all seven games after he came back, and his knee bothered him so much that he wasn't able to play unless he pedaled an exercise bicycle in the tunnel during games.

"Michael did absolutely everything to come back as quickly as possible to help this team in our playoff push," general manager Wes

Unsold said. "In doing that, Michael probably pushed a little too hard."

Jordan played a career-low 12 minutes and scored a career-low two points -- all in the first half -- in Tuesday night's 113-93 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers. For the first time in his career, he was a marginal, no-factor player off the bench.

Coach Doug Collins said he didn't play Jordan in the second half because the game was one-sided and he needed the rest. Afterward, Jordan said his knee felt fine, and he gave no indication he wouldn't play again this season.

"I was in no pain," Jordan said. "It was Doug's decision to make sure I don't overdo it."

Jordan traveled to Milwaukee late Tuesday for the game against the Bucks, but he returned to Washington on Wednesday. Bobby Simmons was activated off the injured list for the Milwaukee game.

Jordan battled tendinitis in both knees and his wrist, and he had to overcome back spasms and two broken ribs as he prepared for his second comeback last summer. Nevertheless, he vowed to play all 82 games.

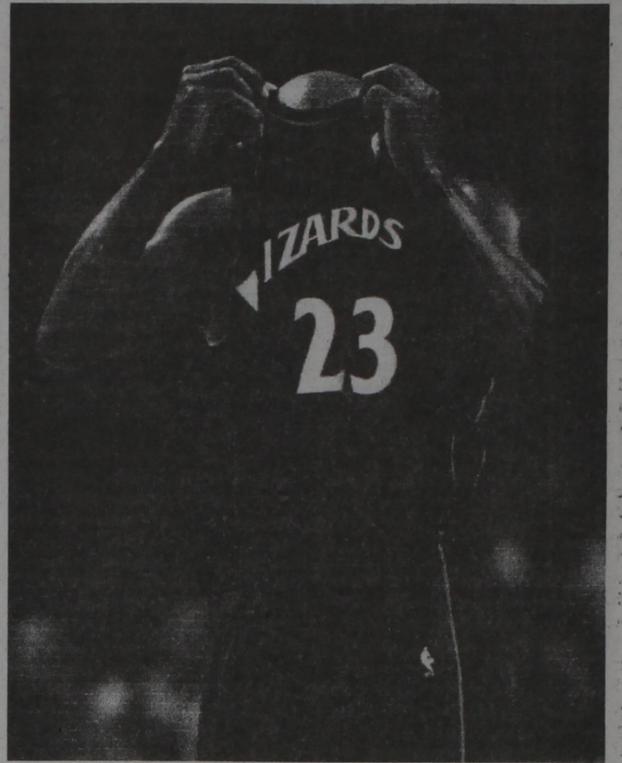
The major blow came when he knocked knees with teammate Etan Thomas in the final game before the All-Star break. Neither Jordan nor the Wizards have been the same since.

Jordan struggled for five games after the break before opting for surgery. The Wizards, who were five games above .500 at the break, are 8-19 since.

After he posted his all-time low numbers Tuesday night, Jordan said he wasn't concerned about statistics. He has maintained throughout his comeback he is playing "for the love of the game," a feeling he addressed a few days earlier.

It has been a frustrating season for Michael Jordan, who is shut down for the season by his knee injury Wednesday.

"As a young kid, you take a lot of things for granted," he said. "You got out and you play because



you're young enough that you can deal with it and do it every single day. As you get older, when you know and you can sense that it's coming to an end, you appreciate every moment.

"So every little thing in the locker room becomes monumental to you. ... I appreciate that a lot more now that I did when I was a young kid and everybody else was putting ice on their knees, and I was questioning them why they need ice."

"And now young kids are asking me why I'm putting so much ice on."

But that desire, which caused him to hurry back from his injury, has brought an anticlimactic finish to a wildly interesting season.

Jordan and the Wizards were in "wc-stink" mode in November as he worked himself into shape. In December, they hit full throttle and

tied the franchise record by winning nine straight.

Jordan scored a then-career-low six in a game in late December at Indiana, and that was at least one case in which the stats did matter to him -- he came back with 51 two nights later against Charlotte, saying, "I can still play this game."

Richard Hamilton's injury contributed to a January slump, but the Wizards won five straight when he returned and were 26-21, cruising toward home-court advantage in the playoffs.

The momentum stopped when Jordan banged his right knee with Thomas.

"We're playing games that count in April," Collins said. "This team is usually done in January. All the things that have gone on here this year, Michael has been responsible for. He's changed the whole mood and tone of this organization."

All-Star Cast Performs at Appollo

Tears mixed with laughter as an all-star cast of black, Hispanic and Asian performers staged a version of "The Vagina Monologues" at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem.

Salma Hayek, Rosie Perez, LisaGay Hamilton, Lynn Whitfield, rapper Eve, and several other artists took part in "V-Day Harlem," a benefit Saturday to raise awareness about violence against women.

"Tonight, we begin to heal the women of Harlem, and all of the women of the world," said Perez, who along with Hamilton, worked to bring the event to Harlem.

The actress read passages from Eve Ensler's hit stage show. The dramatic and comedic performances were interspersed with performances from Eve, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Denyce Graves, the Eddie Torres Latin Dance Company and R&B singer Amel Larrieux.

"I feel so honored that women of color feel my words," said Ensler, who is white, as she embraced Perez and Hamilton.



Among the celebrities in attendance were Cynthia Nixon, of HBO's "Sex and the City (news - Y! TV)," and actor Edward Norton, Hayek's boyfriend.

Proceeds from the evening's performance were to go to several black, Hispanic and Asian women's anti-violence organizations.

The event served as the reopening of the Apollo Theatre, which had closed for several weeks of renovations.

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- If you live in a mobile home, evacuate the structure even if it has a tie-down system.
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- Purchase a NOAA weather radio if possible.

LIGHTNING STORMS

- If you're indoors during a lightning storm, don't handle electrical equipment or phones because lightning can follow the wires. Television sets are particularly dangerous at this time.
- Avoid the bathtub, water faucets and sinks because metal pipes can transmit electricity.
- Try to get into a building or a vehicle if you're outdoors.
- If no structure is available, get to an open space and squat as low to the ground as possible.
- Never stand underneath a single large tree in the open.
- If you feel your hair stand on end (an indication that lightning is about to strike) bend forward, putting your hands on your knees. Don't lie flat on the ground.
- Stay away from tall structures such as towers, trees, fences, phone lines or power lines.
- Stay away from natural lightning rods such as golf clubs, tractors, fishing rods, bicycles, metal bats or camping equipment.
- Avoid rivers, lakes or other bodies of water.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

FOR YOUR FAMILY

March is Project Impact S.A.F.E. at Home month. There are many ways to plan for your family's safety during an emergency, and the following fast facts are easy to clip and refer to as you make sure your family is safe.

FLOODS AND HIGH WATER

- As little as six inches of fast-moving water can knock you off your feet, and a small car can float in just one foot of water.
- Once a car is drowned out, you can be trapped inside if your electric windows and door locks short out when water reaches them.
- Never drive into rising water even if you think you know how deep it is.
- Never drive around a barrier—it's there to protect you. If your car stalls in rapidly rising water, abandon it immediately and move to higher ground.
- If you are home when a flash flood threatens, move your important papers and mementos to the highest point in the house.
- Turn off the power to the house and be prepared to ride out the storm with the items in your Family Emergency Kit.
- Find out if your home is in a Special Flood Hazard Area by calling your insurance agent or the City of Lubbock, 795-3431.
- If you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area, purchase flood insurance and flood-proof your home.
- Seek out ways to flood-proof your home if you live in a flood plain, and plan ahead by buying flood insurance.

IN YOUR HOME

- Make your street address or house numbers easy to see so emergency personnel can find your home quickly.
- Use outdoor lighting at night to make your home visible.
- Prepare a Family Emergency Kit and keep it handy. Stock it with food and water, first aid, emergency tools, personal hygiene items, prescription medicines and eyewear, flashlights, batteries and a battery-powered radio.

IN YOUR WORKPLACE

- Learn about your company's emergency plans. Ask your safety coordinator to arrange a meeting to brief you and your department.
- Practice evacuating your workplace from your area as well as from other work areas. If you're in a meeting in the conference room on the second floor, do you know how to evacuate from there?
- Know the exit routes from the building. Be able to escape in the dark by counting the desks or cubicles between your workstation and the nearest exits.
- Don't forget about the restrooms and break areas. Know the exit routes from these rooms as well.
- Have a designated post-evacuation meeting location where appropriate personnel can take a head count and identify missing workers. Every employee should be aware of this location.
- Make special emergency plans for co-workers who are disabled or may require special assistance during an emergency.
- Know the location of fire extinguishers and first aid kits. Check to see that they are up to date.
- Keep a stash of personal emergency supplies in a desk drawer, including a flashlight, walking shoes, bottled water and nonperishable food.
- If you must evacuate a building with multiple floors, go to the nearest fire- and smoke-free stairwell. Never use an elevator.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.ci.lubbock.tx.us

Mass Honors Chavez Spirit

Immigrants pay homage to a man whose work improved conditions for countless laborers.

The Rev. Ramon Gaitan once toiled as a farm worker to help pay for his studies, learning firsthand about the arduous working conditions of the men and women who put the food on our tables.

Tuesday, Gaitan led a Mass celebrating the life of the man known for his tireless dedication to improving labor conditions for farm workers throughout the United States.

The Mass, one of several events in Orange County timed to coincide with the state holiday commemorating Cesar Chavez's March 31 birthday, attracted immigrants, union organizers and other Chavez admirers.

As parishioners sang "De Colores," a lively song that has been adopted by the United Farm Workers of America union as a theme song, a procession of people walked up and gently placed an oversized black-and-white photo of Chavez at the front of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

"We have a lot to learn from him," Gaitan said.

Recalling how the harshness of the sun would make even a cloudy day seem blistering hot, Gaitan said Chavez was committed to helping farm workers to the point of jeopardizing his own health



En Lubbock mas de 100 personas se juntaron la semana pasada para dar honor a Cesar Chavez. Las actividades incluyeron una marcha desde el Parque Aztlan hasta la iglesia San Jose donde varios oradores, incluyendo a el Dr. Manuel Escamilla de Texas Tech y otros miembros de la comunidad dieron homenaje a Chavez. Durnate la actividad Bidal Agueron fue honrado para recibir el premio Cesar Chavez.. photo arriba por John Cervantez 744-1654



quite an experience to see all those people come from all over the world to pay their respect to a simple and humble man," said Gaitan, looking out into the crowd of about 150 people that almost filled the church.

Westminster resident Maricruz Jacobo said she welcomed the opportunity to honor a man who made such a difference in the Hispanic community.

"Cesar Chavez is someone who supported all the workers everywhere. Today is a special day because we get to celebrate what he did for us," Jacobo said.

Bonifacio Banuelos, standing nearby, nodded in agreement, saying "He worked to eliminate pesticides and other dangers in the working lives of farm workers."

Labor organizer Ada Torres, president of the Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees Union, said she was inspired by the Mass.

"It was wonderful to hear the priest talk about the work done by labor organizers," said Torres, who has been involved in the labor movement for about 10 years.

"It was the first time I had ever heard a priest address this."

"It felt wonderful. It just made me want to be involved more, and it gives me a lot of hope for the future of the unions."

¿QUE PASA?

Los Ruperto, Teatro del Perú en Español en Texas Tech University

La obra *Los Ruperto*, del dramaturgo peruano Juan Rivera Saavedra, será presentada en el Allen Theater -del Centro Universitario de Texas Tech (15th y Akron)-el próximo sábado 27 (7 pm) y domingo 28 (3 pm) de abril. el gupo que tendrá a su cargo la representación del la comedia dramática está formado por alumnos graduados y sub-graduados del Departamento de Lenguas Clásicas y Modernas y Literatura, y dirigido por el profesor Eduardo Cabrera.

En esta cuarta temporada de teatro en español se espera que, como es habitual, el público colme las instalaciones del teatro Allen, ya que asistirán espectadores no sólo de la ciudad de Lubbock sino también de las ciudades circunvecinas.



En *Los Ruperto*, el autor se propone hacer reir al público por medio de parodiar situaciones reales que se conforman con temas de interés para la comunidad latina de Lubbock. La obra tiene como eje central a una pareja muy prolífica, ¡que ha llegado a tener su hijo número 355! Inmersos en una situación de extrema pobreza y falta de trabajo, los personajes debaten sobre la responsabilidad que la Iglesia y el estado pueden tener en la creación de esa realidad desesperante.

Todos los semestres de primavera el profesor Cabrera monta una obra escrita por un dramaturgo latinoamericano de un país distinto. luego de haberse representado obras de Cuba, México y Argentina, este año le toca el turno al Perú, con una obra tan divertida como profunda. De esta manera, no sólo los estudiantes se benefician con la adquisición de un conocimiento más profundo tanto de nuestra lengua como de nuestra cultura, sino que además es una excelente oportunidad para que la gente de la comunidad hispana participe en una interesante actividad organizada en la universidad de Texas Tech.

Se invita a todos los interesados en la cultura latinoamericana a asistir a cualquiera de las dos funciones. la entrea a este espectáculo en español es libre y gratuita. Para más información puede comunicarse con el Dr. Eduardo Cabrera al teléfono 742-3281 o por e-mail: ecabrera@ttu.edu

United Supermarkets, Dr Pepper & Magic 93.7 Sponsor \$1,000 Hispanic Scholarship Contest

United Supermarkets in conjunction with Dr. Pepper and Magic 93.7 is sponsoring the Hispanic Heritage Nominate Your Student Scholarship Event. The deadline for nominations is April 22, 2002.

Any high school senior of Hispanic heritage who will be continuing his or her education in the fall will be eligible for this contest. Nominations forms are available at all Lubbock area United Supermarkets. The seniors complete name, street address, city, state, zip code, phone number and a statement of 100 words or less why this Hispanic student deserves this scholarship should be included on the nomination form. All entries must be deposited in the registration boxes located at participating United Supermarkets in Lubbock and surrounding communities or mailed to Dr Pepper "Hispanic Heritage Awards" 6134 Ash Drive, TX 79404 or Ramar Communications/Magic 93.7 9800 University Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79423.

Three finalist will be selected and contact on Monday, April 29. The presentation of winners will occur during the Cinco de Mayo Celebration on May 4. The grand prize includes a \$1,000 scholarship to be used for expenses related to continuing education and a trip for 3 to the Hispanic Heritage Awards in Washington, D.C. on Friday, September 20, 2002.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic Set for Saturday, April 6

Lubbock Animal Services will host a rabies vaccination clinic on Saturday, April 6, at the Animal Services Training Center, 102 Municipal Drive. Clinic hours are 1 to 5 p.m.

Animal health officials emphasize the importance of keeping pets current on their vaccinations. A bite isn't the only way rabies is transmitted. Anyone who could have come in contact with the saliva of a rabid animal should receive rabies treatments.

Covenant to Offer Class for Women at High risk for Breast Cancer

Covenant Health System's Joe Arrington Cancer Center (JACC) will offer a free class for women with a family history of breast cancer from 5:30-8:30 pm on April 8 at 4101 22nd Place.

The class will offer a multi-modality approach to educating high-risk individuals on the current issues of breast cancer trends, prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Prevention and early detection are the keys to fighting breast cancer. Reservations are required, so please contact 725-7991 or 725-7990 for more information.

Aztlan

From Page One

sat down to define their history and plan their future. They spoke of a land they called "Aztlan," a territory covering Mexico and the southwestern United States.

They called themselves the "Bronze People" and suggested that the land was theirs. "Aztlan belongs to those who plant the seeds, water the fields, and gather the crops, and not to the foreign Europeans," according to their original plan. The plan, a sort of manifesto, spoke of the "Brutal gringo" invasion of our territories," and called for Chicano self-determination.

But Galvan argued that the call for Aztlan is not some literal demand for territory. "It's about finding a place where we can feel

comfortable," he said.

Conservatives claim that's a cover-up.

"There is plenty of evidence that they really believe in the liberation of Aztlan," said Glenn Spencer, the head of the American Patrol, a controversial California group opposed to immigration.

Beyond the uncertainty over the group's purpose, it is unclear how broad the support among Mexican-Americans is for MEChA.

While calling for respect and racial sensitivity, the members of MEChA have been accused of being insensitive. After an incident at UC Berkeley earlier this year, a MEChA leader posted an item on the group's Web site criticizing the UC administration. The article noted that administrators in the UC system are Jewish, and called for their replacement with Latinos.

because he recognized the difficulty of their labor.

Chavez, who formed the United Farm Workers in 1962, led boycotts, marches, hunger strikes and other forms of nonviolent social movements that led to better working and housing conditions for farm workers. When he died in 1993, more than 40,000 people turned out for his funeral, including some members of the Kennedy family and other notables who admired Chavez, Gaitan said.

"That tells you a lot about the respect that he had gotten. It was



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Mobilizing Community Assets

Non-Profit Provides Drug-Prevention Coalition Training

The Lubbock Housing Authority will host a drug prevention coalition training, **Mobilizing Community Assets**, April 23 and April 24 from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"At this time when America is coming together join us to discover ways we can improve our community," says Executive Director Phil Watson.

The training is of no cost to the public. In order for a coalition to be successful parents, students, organizations, businesses, city governments, churches and service providers are needed to represent the concerns and opinions of their communities. Experiential activities and break out groups take place as well as addressing and directing community concerns and issues in the two-day training.

Drug Prevention Resources, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that provides prevention strategies that empower youth and families to flourish within their environment.

Liz Harvey - Outreach Coordinator
972-518-1821 phone or 972-518-2401 fax
lharvey@dpri.com

4th Annual Robert Lugo LULAC Scholarship Tournament

Sun., April 14

Hosted at the Slaton Municipal Golf Course

Featuring a 2 Person Scramble/Flight after round Food, Beverages, Door Prizes

Robert Narvaiz
792-5037 Hm
239-3474 Cell
Daniel Castro
745-4642 Office
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