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Latinos also divided over immigrant rights

By Franco Ordoñez
As the immigration debate heats up across the country, a new study shows Latinos in Charlotte-Mecklenburg are as divided over immigration reform as any other group — and possibly more so.

The Crossroads Social Capital study, which measured social ties in the community, found almost six out of 10 Latinos (58 percent) in Charlotte-Mecklenburg feel immigrants are "too demanding in their push for equal rights."

"I'm upset at some of the demands I hear some parts of the illegal community making," said Ricardo Mata, a Venezuelan native who has lived in the country for two decades. "Sometimes, I get fed up at the double standards I see." Mata, a Charlotte businessman who was not interviewed in the study, said he's frustrated by what he sees as increasing demands by some immigrants and fewer examples of how the undocumented will contribute to society if legalized. He supports legalizing some undocumented immigrants but feels less than half have demonstrated they really want to be part of America.

Critics of the study's findings say they reflect only a small segment of the community and not the majority of Latinos who do support immigration reform.

"I think the people who were surveyed were mostly established Latinos who are not having to face this issue," said Angeles Ortega-Moore, executive director of the Latin-American Coalition.

One hundred seven people who identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino participated in the Crossroads study. The full study's margin of error was plus or minus 3.24 percentage points.

While the findings don't appear to track national trends, they do seem to follow economic and generational lines. The longer and more successful Latinos have been in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, the more likely they are to think newly arrived immigrants are too pushy.

The study also shows that Latinos are not monolithic thinkers and that some disagree with parts of the immigrant rights movement.

Latinos are diverse. For most of the 20th century, there were few Latinos in Charlotte. By 1990, about 7,000 lived here.

Today, it is the fastest growing minority community in the state. Latinos make up 10 percent of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg population.

7 percent of the state's. Nearly half of the country's 80,000 Latinos have Mexican roots, but thousands come from all over Central and South America.

Victor Guzman, a business owner and television producer from Puerto Rico, said it's sometimes a fight to clarify that not all Latinos are from Mexico and poor.

Many are businesspeople, doctors and lawyers from Argentina, Colombia and Venezuela. Some have multiple degrees — and money.

They are Democrats, Republicans and Independents with wide-ranging views and backgrounds.

"It's not all the same mindset," Guzman said. "It's like going to the end of Charlotte to Ballantyne and asking questions and then going to West Boulevard and asking the same questions. You're going to get

different answers." Even in one household, opinions can vary dramatically.

Maria Petrea, whose family is from Panama, doesn't think immigrants are asking too much, but her mother does.

In his 2009 study on Latino views on immigration reform, Latino studies professor Louis DeSipio of University of California, Irvine found opinions depended on several socioeconomic factors.

Support was strongest among im-

migrants, poor Latinos and Mexican descendants while conservatives, long-term residents, and U.S.-born Latinos were more likely to back restrictions.

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"My mother is now 88," said Petrea, who is principal of the Collinswood Language Academy, which is 60 percent Latino.

"She came to the country when she was 22. She feels immigrants are too demanding. She would tell you they need to become Americanized and at the same time value their own culture. But don't expect people everywhere to speak for them or interpret for them."

Eric Caratso, a research specialist at the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute who authored the Crossroads survey, said about half of the Latinos surveyed were longtime residents.

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Reviving Latino Workforce Key to Rebuilding America

by James Parks
The recession has hurt all America's workers, especially Latino workers. Despite their growing political power, Latinos are still at the bottom of the economic ladder.

Until the nation enacts policies that help lift Latinos and other communities of color, the economy cannot fully recover, according to a new report.

"Reviving the Latino Workforce: Complex Problems Demand Comprehensive Solutions," released June 17 by the AFL-CIO constituents of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), points out the interconnections fueling this economic hardship, and the need for comprehensive solutions.

For example, the unemployment rate for all Latinos has been steadily increasing since the beginning of the recession in December 2007. Latino joblessness reached 12.7 percent in May, almost three percentage points higher than the national average. Also, Latinos are paid low wages—Latino households earn just over 50 cents for every dollar earned by a white household, the report says.

It is clear that simply creating new jobs will not be enough to save the Latino workforce, says Gabriela Lemus, LCLAA's executive director.

An economic stimulus plan alone will not suffice. It is also important to engage in progressive policy reform in the areas of health care and immigration, and to target adult workforce retraining and efforts such as the Employee Free Choice Act so as to better empower the community in its social, economic and political aspirations.

The nation cannot afford to ignore the needs of the Latino workers, the report says. Not only are Latinos the fastest growing segment of the workforce, they are younger than most Americans with an average age of 25.8 years. The Latino population is expected to reach 47.8 million by 2010. Already, Latinos make up more than 14 percent of the nation's labor force. Yet Latinos generally are clustered in low-wage jobs and lack access to quality health care and benefits. Employers often exploit the immigrant workers and use them as pawns to lower wages for all workers.

For the United States to remain competitive in the global economy, it must engage all its workers in rebuilding the economy, the report adds. That cannot happen if a large segment of workers are denied the basic necessities, the report adds.

Specifically, the report calls for:
* Spending federal stimulus funds where they are most needed, providing jobs for low-income workers and communities.
* Passing comprehensive health care reform to provide care to those currently uninsured or unable to get quality care because of low income, which include primarily people of color.
* Enacting a realistic immigration policy that meets the country's economic needs. LCLAA recommends using the framework developed by former Labor Secretary Ray Marshall and adopted by the AFL-CIO to begin discussions on a fair immigration plan.
* Enforcing workers' rights provisions in trade agreements to help raise wages in other countries to lower the need for workers to migrate to the United States to seek a better life.
* Restoring the freedom to join unions by passing the Employee

Free Choice Act and educating all workers, especially Latinos, about their rights under the law.

Lemus says now is the time to make the changes needed to help Latinos to become fully integrated into the U.S. economy. She points out that two-thirds of the nearly 12 million Latino voters backed Barack Obama, allowing him to carry key states such as California, Colorado, Florida, Nevada and New Mexico.

Latinos contribute much to the United States. They are part of the engine that drives the economy. They are trying to adapt to the changed economy, but they are so disadvantaged relative to other cultural groups that more comprehensive assistance is needed in order for them to better and more fully participate.

The data are clear: The gap between rich and poor is widening, and certain communities—including Latinos—have been placed on the margins. If ever there was a time when private interests and social interests can be converged and harmful market forces can be corrected by public policy, this is it.

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Obama reassures Hispanics on immigration

By Sam Youngman
As some Hispanic groups have begun to question President Obama's commitment to passing immigration reform, the president said Friday morning that he remains dedicated to signing such legislation.



Obama, addressing the Hispanic prayer breakfast for Esperanza, told the group he intends to uphold "America's tradition as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants."

"Those things aren't contradictory; they're complementary," Obama said. "That's why I'm committed to passing comprehensive immigration reform as president of the United States."

The president has come under fire from some groups recently for twice postponing a meeting with congressional members on the issue. The White House has explained the two delays as a matter of scheduling conflicts, and the meeting has been rescheduled for later this month.

On Friday, Obama again outlined his vision for reform, arguing, much like his predecessor, that "those who wish to become citizens, we should require them to pay a penalty and pay taxes, learn English, go to the back of the line behind those who played by the rules."

"That is the fair, practical and promising way forward, and that's what I'm committed to passing as president of the United States," Obama said.

Wading into the hot-button issue that fiercely divided the Republican Party in 2006, the president said "the American people believe in immigration, but they also believe that we can't tolerate a situation where people come to the United States in violation of the law, nor."

Following the President's remarks on immigration reform Friday, this Thursday's meeting between Members of Congress and the President will move the immigration debate forward and put the spotlight on Congress to begin crafting comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

With a Congressional debate looming this fall, leaders from faith, Latino, business, labor, progressive, and immigration reform organizations will preview the White House meeting and record the congress immigration reform legislative debate. This on-the-record briefing is hosted by the National Immigration Forum.

"We can't tolerate employers who exploit undocumented workers in order to drive down wages."

"That's why we're taking steps to strengthen border security, and that's what we build on those efforts," Obama said. "We must also clarify the status of millions who are here illegally, many of whom have put down roots."

Highlighting the urgency with which Hispanic leaders view immigration reform, Rev. Jose Eugene Hoyos, who introduced the president, said, "We want to see change in immigration reform, today and not tomorrow."

CHC Stresses Importance of Voting Rights Act Following Supreme Court's Decision

(Washington, DC) The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) applauded the 8-1 decision from the United States Supreme Court this week that recognizes the ongoing need for the Voting Rights Act (VRA) in protecting and ensuring the right of every American to participate in our great democracy. The reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act by the 110th Congress was based on more than 17,000 pages of testimony and evidence. The legislation was enacted by a margin of 390 to 3 in the House and 98 to 0 in the Senate.

"The Voting Rights Act is critical to ensuring fairness and opportunity in our nation's democracy, and I am pleased to see the highest court of the land uphold and affirm it," said Congressman Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY), the Chairwoman of CHC. "Our most recent elections demonstrate that there continue to be attempts to undermine voters' rights. The Voting Rights Act helps ensure every citizen can exercise their right to vote, and provides needed protections to minority communities, including Latinos and naturalized citizens."

"The CHC thanks those organizations, private citizens and public officials that brought instances of voting rights violations to our attention," added Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez, the 1st Vice Chair of the CHC and the Chair of the group's Civil Rights, Veterans and Worker Protections Task Force. "Because there are those that believe that 'violence, intimidation and subterfuge' that required the Voting Rights Act, 'no longer remain,' we ask that those recognizing the need for voting rights protection continue their vigilance and reporting in order for us to meet the ongoing opposition to the VRA. As a reaffirmation of the essential right to vote, the VRA's historic accomplishments are undeniable and remain a vital piece of civil rights legislation that we must continue to uphold."

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Editorial Commentaries

A BORDER GARDEN MAKES SENSE

By Leonel Castillo
Hispanic Link News Service
About ten years ago I began thinking about how to respond to those who believe a border fence, to protect the United States from Mexicans coming to work and live here, is a shield. Instead, the idea of a border garden to bind our neighboring countries together in important new ways took root.

At first I thought only about the southern border, separating Mexico and the U.S. But soon I was thinking about the northern frontier with Canada.

In the southern borderland, a fragrant blooming area, with exotic and useful vegetation, windmills, solar panels, and hydro-turbines for sparkling water is not only possible but the right thing to do. Rivers could irrigate and provide water-driven energy and solar-generated power could also transform how we think about the land and how we use it.

Since the idea first occurred to me, great advancements have been made in solar-panel technology, major improvements in wind energy, and in biofuels from plants. So now the idea of creating a blossoming border garden is no longer far-fetched; the way it might have seemed ten years ago.

In fact, a creative use of non-edible plants, used as fuel, could help us emulate the work being done in other countries. Brazil's use of sugar cane as a fuel source, for instance, is well-known, but what about the development of plants, known in the tropical and subtropical climates of India, Africa and elsewhere, which has tremendous potential as a future biofuel feed source.

Imagine the Southern border as a great wind-farm and solar-panel region. Olman T. Boone Pickens has been making some noise with his idea for huge wind-farming in Texas. I would simply suggest Pickens to move his planning to the Rio Grande border area and also think in North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. And why not a solar-panel industry alongside the Pickens windmills?

The border region would have gardens with healthy plants like aloe vera and cactus, which have been used for decades as a poor man's corn for cobs for food.

The idea is to mix the new energy from the border gardens into a national electric power grid. The extra energy would not be wasted but would be returned into a national or North American electricity grid.

The northern border with Canada, with its seasonally cold climate, invites creative and unique opportunities for water-driven power sources. Its links to the Great Lakes could be a great help in producing the expensive energy and providing new jobs for both the United States and Canada.

At first I thought of using the Alaskan glaciers as a water source, applying the oil pipelines to transport water toward parts of the continental United States, rather than oil. But now I have learned that the same pipelines could be used to move water from the Great Lakes at a lesser cost.

Depending on global climate changes and political realities, the first-order priority would be to move Lake Superior water and later looking into transmitting Alaskan water.

Thinking these ideas out about land, people, resources and new approaches to how to rethink North America's potential to create new ecological solutions to national problems causes me to reconsider the notion of "border," and even erasing, certainly blurring, some aspects of it although by substituting some new arrangement. It's high time to think imaginatively about ourselves as North Americans and how we can form a national, state, and regional relations through resources we can all share.

There is the other power to consider. Just as the sun and wind don't observe political borders, there's no reason to think reciprocity better, like sharing one area's water to the benefit of those who have a scarcity of it. Unless we imagine it, little will happen. A little imagination can spark a lot of energy.

Leonel Castillo served as U.S. Commissioner on Immigration during the Jimmy Carter administration. Now retired and living in Houston, he is credited with bringing about significant reforms in the Border Patrol. Email me at charles@hispaniclink.net

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Tiene Sentido un Jardín Fronterizo

Leonel Castillo
Hace unos diez años, comencé a pensar en cómo responder a aquellos quienes creen que una línea en la frontera, para proteger a los Estados Unidos de los mexicanos que vienen aquí a trabajar y vivir, sirve como un escudo. De lo contrario, la idea de construir un jardín fronterizo para unir a nuestros países vecinos de diferentes e importantes maneras comienza a ganarse.

Al principio pensé sólo de la frontera sur, la que separa a México y a los EE.UU. Pero pronto empecé a pensar también en la frontera al norte, en Canadá.

En el sur, una zona de flores fragantes y plantas saludables como el aloe vera, y frutas como la manzana, el aguacate y el dátil, con molinos de viento, paneles solares y turbinas eólicas para generar agua limpia, así como lo que se debe hacer. Los ríos podrían traer y proveer energía eléctrica, la energía solar también podría transformarse como pensamos de la tierra y la manera de usarla.

En el caso de un río en la frontera norte, la habida tremenda azarosa en la tecnología de las plantas, plantas, grandes ríos como la energía del viento, y la energía derivada de las plantas. Pero, ahora la idea de crear un jardín fronterizo no es tan raro como se podría haber percibido hace diez años.

En realidad, una implementación creativa de las plantas que no se comen, como sirven de combustible, nos ayudaría a emular lo que otros países ya se están haciendo. Se conoce bien sobre el uso de caña de azúcar en Brasil como fuente de combustible, por ejemplo, pero qué abando del desarrollo de plantas, que se comen en los climas tropicales y subtropicales de la India, de África y otras partes, y que tiene tremendas posibilidades como una fuente futura de biocombustible?

Imaginemos a la frontera del este como un gran región de turbinas de viento y paneles solares. Pero, ahora Pickens ha estado dando con su idea de construir una gran zona para turbinas de viento en Texas. Yo le instaría simplemente a Pickens que transfiera su idea a la frontera del Rio Grande y que establezca una línea de paneles solares en Dakota del Norte, Wyoming y Montana. Y, por qué no también una industria de plantas saludables al lado de los molinos de viento de Pickens?

La región del norte de la frontera con Canadá es saludable como el aloe vera, y el cactus, que por décadas han sido la vida del pobre para la diabetes.

La idea es de mezclar la nueva energía de los jardines fronterizos con la red eléctrica nacional. No se desperdiciaría la energía que sobra, sino que se volvería a integrar a la red nacional o continental de electricidad.

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City Once Again Ignores Public's Needs

This week our City Fathers have once again ignored the public needs by setting a meeting to discuss the placing of an animal pound at MacKenzie Park at 9 in the morning instead of an hour which will make it convenient for everyone. We can agree with Eddie Richardson that "A lot of people who would like to be there will be working, but something is better than nothing" But the question that must be asked is "why?". Why must we settle for times that are inconvenient? Why do our City Fathers ignore the needs of the people that elected them to the position?

And why do the representatives, Linda DeLeon and Floyd Price, of the people that are affected most, the north and east side of Lubbock remain silent to what the people are saying?

These are questions that must be answered!

Tweeting From Iran

By José de la Isla
As I write this, the theorists, with their police and Besij goons, are breaking up street demonstrators in Tehran and in other Iranian cities. The government there has stopped international journalists reporting from the street and sending dispatches or broadcasts out. Communications and the Internet have been turned off or tampered with.

You will have learned the fuller context about those news events by the time this commentary reaches you. A broader story in the making is about how the demonstrations, the chaos, fatalities and injuries from confrontations accumulate potentially to change the Middle East power structure.

In an odd way, the current issue of *Literary*, a transnational literary and magazine of Latin American voices (literarymagazine.com) is presenting it. David D. Medina reads Larry McMurtry, author of "Lost Sons and Dove" and 35 books, writer of screenplays (such as "Breakback Mountain"), and who also operates a bookstore in Archer City, Texas. In the interview, McMurtry says he noticed a disconcerting pattern after 20 years: "People come in and will sit on a chair and hold the book and don't read it. They hold the book as if it were a Talmudic object from a past culture."

I think the relevance of good books is derived from a comprehension that they contain more information in a small package than we can readily grasp and we remain in awe of them. But McMurtry says this because he feels that our culture is turning to an end.

We are, after all, human creatures who have witnessed the end of the Industrial and the advent of the Information Age. Now we believe that a summary, a capsule or a factoid can substitute for comprehensive understanding. We defy complexity. We even believe Cliff Notes is like reading an entire book, and "Fast American" means a course of mastery.

It's as if we began expecting books to become field manuals or how-to guides, instead of plucking perspective on why, how, circumstances and consequences. Books can be long and detailed but they serve broad audiences with more than just bullet answers to a question. They can provide background and context.

If we were to dig into the past to find out how our public-information expectations got the way they did, we find the beginnings going back to the first printing press to the New World, brought by Juan Pablos to Mexico City in 1539. The first press to the colonies was introduced to Cambridge, Massachusetts by José Glover in 1639. The Hispanic press played a pivotal role in the development of many territories west of the Mississippi since the time of the Louisiana Purchase. They were the Tweeters and Facebooks of their day.

Yet now that the printed page is giving way to digital ones, the medium is made for brevity, which suppresses our fuller context for a bare essential perspective. The new way can even breed a kind of ignorance that arises from answering how but not why. Understanding can be truncated and we will see only what is in front of us, leaving out the past, disabling a fair comprehension of a possible alternative future.

The same *Literary* philosopher Julian Barnes says that "With any new medium it takes time to sort the wheat from the chaff, and until that has been done, it often looks as though it's all chaff." It is agreed that way until Twitter and Facebook became the new news bureaus in Iran.

Lack of a necessity of life, citizen journalists in Iran have been getting word out, telling the world the story when professional journalists have been prevented. In our digitalized stories form, for now, a storehouse of knowledge is accumulating.

But the glue that binds the videos and Twitter messages will eventually have to string together a longer, more complex message and meaning. Perhaps demand for a medium — an on-demand documentary video, perhaps a multimedia site with text and cellphone images — is developing along with the events.

The thought crosses our minds that something else, a broader explanation just to the headlines and opinion, is needed. The revolutionary turmoil in Iran presses for a broader context, the purpose that books serve in our past.

José de la Isla's latest book, *Day Night Life Death Hope*, is distributed by The Ford Foundation. He writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service and is author of *The Rise of Hispanic Political Power* (2003). E-mail him at joselaisa@yahoo.com.

TWEETING DESDE TEHRÁN

José de la Isla
Hispanic Link News Service
HOUSTON, Texas — En lo que yo redactaba esta nota, los teóricos, con sus policías y Besij mercenarios bien entrenados, con sus policias mercenarios bien, están dando la cara a las manifestaciones de los ciudadanos iraníes y otros ciudadanos iraníes. El gobierno ha prohibido que periodistas internacionales reporten desde las calles para enviar al exterior sus desahucios con sus emisiones radiales o televisivas. Se han cortado las comunicaciones de las comunicaciones y el Internet.

Para cuando este comentario le haya llegado, ya se habrá enterado del contexto mayor sobre aquellos eventos noticiosos. El contexto más amplio que le llegará con este comentario, cuando este comentario le llegue, será un poco más de información que contienen mis libros, mis películas y mis películas que contienen más información que la que podemos recibir fácilmente y por ende nos quedamos muy desahucios de información que se sargan por el tiempo que la cultura del libro está siendo a su fin.

Somos, después de todo, criaturas humanas quienes hemos visto el final de la era industrial y el advenimiento de la era de la información. Ahora sabemos que en resumen lo que el que pasa por ser un hecho se puede ser sustituido de una comprensión global. No resistimos a la complejidad. Hasta creemos que leer las notas de resumen de la obra literaria o como leer la obra misma, y que un manual "Plato" de *Literary*, una revista transnacional de voces literarias y del arte de América Latina (literarymagazine.com) es presente. En la revista, David D. Medina lee un perfil de Larry McMurtry, autor de "Lost Sons and Dove" y 35 libros más, escritor de guiones como "Breakback Mountain", quien también maneja una librería en Archer City, Texas. En una entrevista, McMurtry dice que no está leyendo desconcertante después del 2001.

Yo pienso que la relevancia de los buenos libros es derivado de una comprensión que ellos contienen más información en un pequeño paquete que nosotros podemos captar fácilmente y por ende nos quedamos muy desahucios de información que se sargan por el tiempo que la cultura del libro está siendo a su fin.

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Editorial Commentaries

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Publisher: Bidal Aguero

Government-Run Health Care

By Yunio Gutiérrez

This week saw revolution in Iran. North Korea is shouting at the UN Council to end a public hearing to discuss the animal shelter, and S.C. Governor Mark Sanford, on a day four try with a woman in Argentina, describing his fancy in this way: "I tried for four days. All I know of her from what the governor tells us is her name, Maria. She must be Bion Bura... like Macarena. I'm glad that we have mandate staff at the Obama Government Health Insurance plan to divert from the raging lead source of the week's news." It is a week's news.

Everybody agrees that our current health care system is in need of reform, but only Democrats believe it must only totally reform the current health care industry in order to reform it.

A recent poll indicates that the American people have strong reservations about the Democrat plan. The Washington Post reported that "Respondents surveyed believe that health care reform will lead to higher costs, lower quality of care, and a budget deficit, diminished insurance coverage and more government bureaucracy."

The American people are right. The Democrat Party plan is bad policy. It will not fix our system — which is ripe for the need for reform, is the best in the world.

Obama claims to believe the current health care will cost less — if you give the Federal Government run health care (it's GM) more efficiently than private industry — have a bridge for sale, call, call, call, call, call. The Obama plan is bad policy. About six in 10 know the nation's \$2.3 trillion health care system will cost less under the Obama plan. It will not fix to establish a program that will lead to higher taxes for everyone — poor and rich alike and place financial burden on future generations. Our children and grandchildren should not have to pay for our health insurance.

Government run health care threatens Doctors, Hospitals, HMO's — everyone who is in anyway involved in the current health care system. So Why Are They Silent About the Coming Disaster? Many medical professionals voted for Obama knowing full well of his plans to dismantle the current system — perhaps they deserve the Government run health care.

I am truly mystified that the British and Canadians who have lived (and died) with Government run health care are sounding a clarion warning — telling us that it is a bad idea. Why not? Why Are They Silent About the Coming Disaster? Many medical professionals voted for Obama knowing full well of his plans to dismantle the current system — perhaps they deserve the Government run health care," say our children and Canadian friends — who do you believe?

Barack Obama would try to convince us that his plan is not Government-run health care but his.

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EI Editor on the net www.eleditor.com

con frecuencia parece que todo fuera pajá". Así parecía hasta que Twitter y Facebook se convirtieron en la agencia de noticias para el mundo en línea.

Como una necesidad vital, los periodistas ciudadanos en fin han estado informando al mundo, confidenciales a historia como las periodistas profesionales han sido desacreditados. En nota por el momento crucial, sin ser verificadas, se está acumulando un almacén de conocimientos.

Pero la gama que a los largos y mensajes que se han convertido en el mundo en línea, y un significado más amplio y más complejo. Quiérase la exigencia de un medio — un video documental al pedío, con una narración que las mensajes de Twitter con los mensajes de los periodistas profesionales.

Se nos ocurre que se necesitan más amplia, algo así como una explicación más amplia que los otros titulares y el medio. Del mundo revolucionario en línea que se produce por un contenido mayor, el propósito que sirven los libros es el pasado.

José de la Isla, cuyo último libro *Day Night Life Death Hope*, lo distribuye la Fundación Ford, es autor de *The Rise of Hispanic Political Power* (2003). Contacte con él a joselaisa@yahoo.com.

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Ed McMahon, King of Latenight Sidekicks, Dead at 86

Ed McMahon, 86, who began his half-century television career in Philadelphia before becoming Johnny Carson's sidekick on *The Tonight Show* where his stentorian booming announcement "Here's Johnny!" became his trademark, died this morning.

Publisher Howard Bragman told the Associated Press that McMahon died at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center surrounded by his family.

Bragman didn't give a cause of death, saying only that McMahon had a "multitude of health problems the last few months."

"One of the best times in my career was to substitute host 75 times for Johnny Carson and have Ed McMahon on my right hand side," said comedian David Brenner. "God now has the best sidekick with Him."

"The Tonight Show was power-

ful. It launched the careers of many comedians," said stand-up comic Tom Dreesen, of Los Angeles, who appeared on the show 61 times. "Johnny Carson didn't speak with guests before the show. Ed McMahon would."

"The show had about 15 million viewers and the first time I performed I was obviously nervous. Ed McMahon put his arm around my shoulder and said, 'Have fun and the audience will have fun. I never forget that. I think about that every night before I go on stage to this day. Nobody had more fun than Ed McMahon. He had a hearty, distinctive laugh."

Best known as Johnny Carson's laugh track, Mr. McMahon got his start in television in Philadelphia

in 1949 and he remained on local shows here until 1958, with his career interrupted for several years while he served as a flight instructor in Korea during the war.

Mr. McMahon's first television job was at Channel 10 WCAU shortly after graduating from Catholic University. His first day on the job, Mr. McMahon was writer, producer and co-host of a live three-hour

daily show. There were so few television sets at the time it didn't matter much if he made mistakes on the air.

"Ed sometimes filled in for me as emcee on Fame and Fortune talent show, which included taping the commercials for Erlanger Beer," said longtime WCAU weatherman Gene Crane. "The sponsor made him do the commercial over and over, each time drinking a beer. He was a little bombed when he returned to the show, but with a pro. Ed was fun and worked harder than any of us."

Over the next nine years, Mr. McMahon became a familiar face on 13 different local shows, mostly for Channel 10. He was a clown on Big Top, the nephew on the cooking show Aunt Molly's Den, the host of Cold Cash and Million Dollar Movie and featured visiting celebrities on the first morning show, *Strictly For Girls*. He also hosted McMahon and Company for Channel 3 (then WRVC-TV).

"Ed wore a fake bald head wig over his hair as a clown on Big Top," said John Zacherle, host of WCAU's late-night horror movie. "He started the show by looking into the camera, bowing his head, and BIG TOP was written on his bald spot."

Mr. McMahon's last show at WCAU, *Five Minutes, More*, was a commentary at the end of the 11 p.m. news. "I was the producer and was only 21," said

Jim Hirschfeld, who went on to produce Captain Kangaroo. "Ed and I met everyday for lunch at Cynwyd Lounge on City Avenue and wrote the show over two married and a hamburger."

He also had home in Avalon and when the Tonight Show was in New York, Carson, who died in 2005, would ask Mr. McMahon about his getaways to the Shore.

Even though his schedule was jam packed in Philadelphia, Mr. McMahon had set his sights on New York and network television. He took the train to New York, set up his office in a Manhattan phone booth with a pocketful of nickels and called producers for a gig. He got a short-lived start as host of *Bride and Groom* for NBC, in which couples were married on the air. The show was canceled after six weeks and McMahon acknowledged in later years "it was a terrible show."

Mr. McMahon's big break came when Edward R. Murrow met him while in Philadelphia to interview Dick Clark, teen idol of American Bandstand.

Clark and Mr. McMahon were neighbors in Drexelbrook apartments in Drexel Hill in the 1950s.

"Fifty years ago, Ed and I were next-door neighbors in Philadelphia," Dick Clark said from Los Angeles. "Over the years, our friendship grew while he became one of America's favorite television personalities. We were together for years. Ed was a big man, had big talent and a really big heart. We'll all miss him."

Mr. McMahon emceed an impromptu show at a party Murrow threw for Clark. Among the guests was Chuck Reeves, Clark's producer, whose New York office was in the same building as the young comedian Johnny Carson.

Reeves passed Mr. McMa-

hon's name to Carson in 1958 when he was looking for an announcer for his new game show *Who Do You Trust?* Mr. McMahon won Carson over from their first show.

"Johnny made it a comical situation from the very first day when he set fire to the script. I had read off all the sponsors, but I didn't know all the little referrals. I tried to read as my script turned to charcoal before my eyes. From that moment on, I became his foil... whatever he wanted me to be," Mr. McMahon said in a 1984 *Inquirer* interview.

In 1962, Carson replaced Jack Paar on NBC's *The Tonight Show* and Mr. McMahon came along. The two appeared together weeknights for the next three decades.

Edward Leo Peter McMahon Jr. was born in Detroit on March 6, 1923. Mr. McMahon's father was a professional fund-raiser and salesman whose finances soured and plunged. The family moved 40 times by the time he was 4. "I was in more towns than a pickpocket," Mr. McMahon said in 1984.

In 1936, the family lived in Olney for a year. Mr. McMahon went to Olney High School his sophomore year but did not make many friends, he said. By then he had attended 14 different schools. When his parents moved again, he demanded to live with his grandmother in Lowell, Mass., until he graduated from high school in 1939.

In his grandmother's parlor he practiced being an announcer and disc jockey. He played records ("Let's Dance" by Benny Goodman was his theme song) and did commercials, using a flashlight as his microphone, pitching directly from a magazine.

As a teen, Mr. McMahon hawked vegetable slicers on the Atlantic City Boardwalk and was an announcer at carnivals and bingo games. He added suspense by elongating the numbers. "Unnnderrr the O... it's SIXXTEEE... seven."

"That's probably where 'Heree's Johnny' came from," he said.

Mr. McMahon was trained as a Marine fighter pilot during World War II. When the Korean War broke out he was activated as a flight instructor in Korea until 1953. He was discharged in 1966 as a colonel from the Marine Reserve.

After World War II, Mr. McMahon married his college sweetheart, Alyce Ferrille. He earned a bachelor's in speech and drama in 1949 from Catholic University in Washington. The couple had four children before the marriage ended in divorce in 1976.

That same year, he married former stewardess Victoria Valentine, 23 years his junior, and they adopted a daughter. The marriage ended in divorce in 1989.

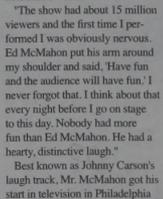
Mr. McMahon, who required only four hours of sleep a night, always added more work to his schedule. In 1983, he became star host of the syndicated talent show *Star Search*. He co-hosted *T.V. Hoopsters & Practical Jokes* with Clark and often appeared on Jerry Lewis' *Muscular Dystrophy Association* telethons.

Millions of viewers knew Mr. McMahon as a commercial pitchman. "You may have already won 10 million dollars!" for the American Family Publishers' sweepstakes; "Budweiser, the only beer that's beehowf-aged;" and "You can't be turned down," for life insurance.

In 2001, Mr. McMahon was awarded a \$7.2 million insurance settlement after he and his wife were sickened by toxic mold in their home, but after he broke his neck in 2007 he stopped television work and fell on his wife. Mr. McMahon and his wife were threatened with foreclosure on their Beverly Hills home in 2008 until his mortgage was anonymously bought out.

His last television commercial was when Mr. McMahon lampooned his financial woes in a *Cash 4 Gold* ad on Super Bowl Sunday this year. He delectably sold his gold cufflinks, gold microphone, gold golf clubs, gold hip replacement and gold toilet.

In addition to his wife, Pamela, Mr. McMahon is survived by daughters Linda Schmeidler, Katherine James and Claudia McMahon; sons, Jeffrey and Alexis; and eight grandchildren. His son, Michael, died of cancer in 1995.



'Los Premios MTV 2009' to Rock Multiple Cities in Latin America and the US

MTV Latin America, a subsidiary of Viacom International Inc., announced today that it will rock multiple cities in Latin America and the US with a revamped version of its annual international award show, *Los Premios MTV Latin America 2009*. Bogota and Los Angeles are the first confirmed cities to host the 8th annual event with other host cities to be announced. The multi-city event will come together live on MTV Latin America and MTV Tr3s in the US on Thursday, October 15th. In addition, the show will air on MTV's around the world and on select broadcast stations throughout Latin America, details to be announced.

"We are thrilled to have Bogota and Los Angeles on board as the first host cities for *Los Premios MTV 2009*," commented Sofia Isamou, Managing Director for MTV Networks Latin America. "Since the show's debut in 2002, we have always strived to be closer to our audience and this year's multi-city format will allow us to expand our reach on the ground unlike any other event in the region. We are certain that this year's show will bring together not only the best regional and international talent, but will provide an innovative and creative platform that will highlight and embrace the diversity of Latin America."

"Executing a new format for this year's show is an exciting challenge and opportunity for us," commented Jose Tillan, Executive Producer of *Los Premios MTV*. "The multi-city approach is a wonderful way to bring together the best established and emerging talent from across the continent. We are certain that this year's show will rock screens AND cities throughout Latin America and the US."

"The designation of Bogota as one of the host cities for *Los Premios MTV 2009* is a well-deserved recognition of our city's as well as our country's status as a cultural epicenter for Latin America," commented Samuel Moreno, Mayor of the City of Bogota. "Being one of the official sites for *Los Premios MTV 2009* is a great platform for our artists and speaks to the development of our cultural industries. This recognition is in addition to other important distinctions the city has achieved, such as Bogota as World Capital of Books 2007, Bogota Ibero-American Cultural Capital 2007, and the Gold Lion Award at the Venice Biennial Architectural Awards in 2006; as well as a solid series of effective initiatives that make the Bogota of today a necessary reference point for the continent and attract foreign investment to our country and city."

"It is gratifying for us to know that part of these internationally prestigious awards will be celebrated in our country," commented

Maria Claudia Lacouture, General Manager of Colombia's PASION. "We are confident that each of our citizens will welcome its visitors with open arms and that Colombia's rhythms and artists will vibrate every corner of Latin America. We hope that the heart of each Colombian is recorded throughout the continent."

In addition to this year's multi-city celebration, viewers across the region will also have the opportunity to interact with the show via multiple online, broadband and mobile options, details to be announced.

Nominees for *Los Premios MTV 2009* are selected by a "Music and Video Academy" comprised of music industry professionals and fans.

Winners for most of the categories are chosen by viewers' votes through MTV Latin America's website <http://www.mtvla.com/>. Last year alone, over 125 million viewers logged on to vote for their favorite artists across all categories, breaking the previous year's record by more than 1 million users.

Los Premios MTV reflects the music and attitude of youth in Latin America today. The show brings together a variety of artists from different genres from Latin America and other parts of the world - making it a truly unique multiplatform music experience.

MTV has a long history of creating exciting music events with 19 locally produced award shows annually around the world in countries such as Australia, Germany, India, Japan and Russia, among others.



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Spurs acquire Bucks' Jefferson in four-player deal

The San Antonio Spurs needed a scorer and they needed to get younger. They got both in one deal.

Milwaukee sent swingman Richard Jefferson to San Antonio on Tuesday for Bruce Bowen, Kurt Thomas and Fabricio Oberto, taking three aging bench players with expiring contracts to unload Jefferson and the \$29.2 million owed in the final two years of his contract.

Milwaukee then dealt Oberto to the Pistons for forward Amir Johnson. The trades give the Bucks more financial flexibility, the Spurs a proven scorer and the Pistons a veteran big man at a lower cost than Johnson.

Jefferson, 29, averaged 19.6 points in his one season with the Bucks. The trade gave both sides what they were after: Milwaukee needed to cut its payroll, and the Spurs needed a young and healthy offensive threat after a long distinction as the NBA's oldest team.

"His age helps us transition our team into a new era," Spurs general manager R.C. Buford said.

Spurs guard Tony Parker welcomed Jefferson into the fold, alongside Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili. San Antonio is

coming off its shortest playoff run since 2000 and faded down the stretch with Duncan, 33, hobbled and Ginobili, 31, sidelined by injury.

Jefferson, in contrast, hasn't missed a game the past two seasons.

"He's a great wing," said Parker, speaking to reporters before the trade for Jefferson became official Tuesday. "It's something we don't have on our team."

Jefferson became the Bucks' best offensive threat after Michael Redd and Andrew Bogut went down with season-ending injuries, but the Bucks' tight financial situation made a move necessary.

Milwaukee does not want to pay the NBA's luxury tax, which last year hit teams dollar-for-dollar once they reach \$71.15 million in total payroll.

Redd, Bogut and Jefferson are scheduled to make more than \$41 million combined this season.

"The trade we made today provides us with much needed options in both the short and long-term planning for our franchise," Bucks general manager John Hammond said in a statement.

The trade was a shock to at

least one Bucks player: Charlie Villanueva posted "RJ traded to Spurs. Wow" on his Twitter account before the trade was official.

Bogut also chimed in, wishing Jefferson the best. "Sad to see RJ go. He was a fun guy to be around and could play. We are building for the future, slow and steady. Patience grasshopper," Bogut posted on Twitter.

The deal actually might allow the Bucks to keep Ramon Sessions or Villanueva, since both are restricted free agents.

Bowen and Thomas give the Bucks a veteran group, and neither is signed beyond the upcoming season.

Johnson, 22, is a young power forward and another option down low for Milwaukee. A second-round draft pick by Detroit in 2005, Johnson started 24 games for the Pistons and averaged 3.5 points and 3.7 rebounds. He is also in the final year of his contract, but makes slightly more than Oberto's \$3.5 million, which is partially guaranteed.

Thomas, 36, is a 14-year veteran who averaged 4.3 points and 5.1 rebounds off the bench last season. Oberto, 34, spent

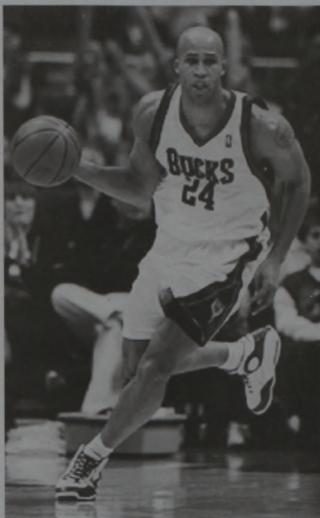
four years in San Antonio and underwent a procedure earlier this month to correct an irregular heartbeat.

Bowen was a key cog in helping the Spurs win three championships, relishing his role as a shutdown defender, assigned to the best player on the floor. But the 38-year-old lost a step and saw his minutes cut significantly. Bowen lost the starting job he held for six seasons and didn't earn a spot on the NBA's all-defensive team for the first time since the 1999-2000 season. Bowen said he still wanted to play but didn't know how many years he had left.

"I'm not looking for any five-year deals," Bowen quipped.

Jefferson gives the Spurs the additional scorer they craved in April, when the Dallas Mavericks ousted San Antonio in the playoffs in five games. The Spurs were little more than a two-man show of Parker and Duncan, and coach Gregg Popovich said afterward that his team simply couldn't match firepower.

"This provides us an opportunity to have a pretty [damn] good three man on our roster," Buford said.



Cuban, Mavericks ready for anything on draft day



Mark Cuban is ready. Ready to make some blockbuster trades on draft day.

Ready to take on some hefty contracts if it means adding a quality player - or two or three - to the Dallas Mavericks.

And, perhaps most of all, he's ready ... to do nothing more than take the best player available with the 22nd pick in Thursday's NBA draft.

"I'm just as curious as anyone else about what will happen," Cuban wrote in an e-mail Tuesday.

Coming off their ninth straight season with 50 wins and a playoff berth, the Mavericks are still seeking the right mix of players around Dirk Nowitzki to win their first championship.

Their offseason needs start with re-signing point guard Jason Kidd or finding a replacement if they lose him, then finding a reliable shooting guard and a low-post scorer. They also could use

"backup everything," according to team president Donnie Nelson. If they stay at No. 22, the Mavericks are likely to only get one of those backups. Then again, the draft hasn't been much of a source during Cuban's tenure.

Dallas has made only three first-round picks in the nine drafts since Cuban bought the club. Among them was getting Josh Howard, a future All-Star, at No. 29; that's why Nelson is "hoping for another Josh Howard moment" in this year's draft.

The 22nd pick worked out well for Orlando last year. The Magic took Courtney Lee, and as a rookie he started for most of their playoff run, including the entire NBA finals.

"We think there's going to be a real good chance that a couple of the guys we're looking at are going to be there," Nelson said. "We don't know whether that's going to be in a 7-foot body or a 5-foot-

10 body." While the draft itself hasn't been building block, draft day has been.

Nelson was part of the franchise-shifting trades for Nowitzki and Steve Nash in 1998. In 2004, Cuban and Nelson sent Antawn Jamison to Washington for the rights to Devin

Harris, Jerry Stackhouse and Christian Laettner.

There's always the chance that it happens again Thursday.

"Because of economic stress, the belt-tightening that everyone is going through now, and just from fielding calls, there's a lot more activity than usual," Nelson said. "That usually translates into more deals being done. Now, all of a sudden, draft day may come and nothing might happen."

Or, as Cuban wrote in a Twitter posting Monday: "Could be a week of lots of talk, no action."

Cuban has been saying for months that the Mavericks will listen to any offers from teams looking to shed payroll. For those teams, it would seem logical to go ahead and do it already, so they can have a better idea of who to take in the draft and which free agents to target.

"But the reality is that people generally hold their cards right up until the draft," he said. "Then it's draft day and there's so much going on that some stuff gets done, some stuff doesn't. ... There are more deals that are walked away from than are consummated."

Stackhouse and Erick Dampier have the kinds of contracts that are good trading chips for Dallas. The Mavericks also might be willing to deal Howard. And, of course, there's always that No. 22 pick. "We're not going to do something for a lateral move," Nelson said. "It's got to be a significant upgrade. All those scenarios are on the little green-back book there."

Some of the names most often linked to Dallas' spot in the draft include point guards like Ty Lawson, Jeff Teague and Darren Colison, or big men B.J. Mullens, James Johnson and Sam Young.

"Our strategy is to be knowledgeable about everything at all times," Nelson said. "We just want to be ready when and if we pull the trigger."

Questions? Comments?

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Latino Teens Happier, Healthier If Families Embrace Biculturalism: Report

"Over the years, research has shown that Latino youth face

perform better academically and adjust more easily socially," Smokowski said.

being—and offers suggestions for primary prevention programs that support minority families.



"When we repeated the survey a year later, for every 1-point increase in involvement in their Latino cultures, we saw a 13 percent rise in self-esteem and a 12 to 13 percent decrease in hopelessness, social problems and aggressive behavior.

"Bicultural adolescents tend to do better in school, report higher self-esteem, and experience less anxiety, depression and aggression," said study co-author Maritza Bacallao, Ph.D., an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, whose work is also featured in the special issue. "It is interesting that, in order to obtain these benefits of biculturalism, adolescents and parents often need to do the opposite of what their natural tendencies tell them. Parents who are strongly tied to their native cultures must reach out to learn skills in the new culture. Adolescents who quickly soak up new cultural behaviors should slow down and cultivate the richness in their native cultures."

numerous risk factors when integrating into American culture, including increased rates of alcohol and substance use and higher rates of dropping out of school.

But a new study from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shows adolescents who actively embrace their native culture—and whose parents become more involved in U.S. culture—stand a greater chance of avoiding these risks and developing healthier behaviors overall.

The findings are from a longitudinal study by the UNC-based Latino Acculturation and Health Project, which is supported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and directed by Paul Smokowski, Ph.D., an associate professor at the UNC School of Social Work. Researchers interviewed 281 Latino youths and parents in North Carolina and Arizona, asking questions about a wide range of measures of lifestyle and mental health. Participants answered according to how much they agreed with each question (for example, from "not at all" to "very much"), resulting in scores on a scale for each measure.

"We found teens who maintain strong ties to their Latino cultures

he said, "For every increase in a parent's involvement in United States culture, we saw a 15 to 18 percent decrease in adolescent social problems, aggression and anxiety one year later. Parents who were more involved in U.S. culture were in a better position to proactively help their adolescents with peer relations, forming friendships and staying engaged in school. This decreases the chances of social problems arising."

"Such results suggest that Latino youth and their parents benefit from biculturalism," Smokowski said.

The findings are presented as part of a series of articles featured next month in a special issue of The Journal of Primary Prevention, a collaborative initiative between UNC and the CDC. The special issue presents the latest research on how cultural adaptation influences Latino youth behaviors—including involvement in violence, smoking and substance use, as well as overall emotional well-

Health Commission: Obesity, diabetes are top priorities

The U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission has announced that obesity and diabetes

are its top priorities, said study co-author Maritza Bacallao, Ph.D., an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, whose work is also featured in the special issue. "It is interesting that, in order to obtain these benefits of biculturalism, adolescents and parents often need to do the opposite of what their natural tendencies tell them. Parents who are strongly tied to their native cultures must reach out to learn skills in the new culture. Adolescents who quickly soak up new cultural behaviors should slow down and cultivate the richness in their native cultures."

are needed to reduce the number of obese children? The BHC will continue to explore obesity and diabetes during Border Binational Health Week in October.



are overweight or obese and another 1.2 million have been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes," the BHC wrote in a paper titled "Childhood Obesity and the U.S.-Mexico Border." The paper, made public Monday, was the result of the U.S.-Mexico Border Child and Adolescent Health Forum held in El Paso earlier this year.

according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Diabetes can result in heart disease, strokes, blindness, kidney disease, dental disease, hypertension, and pregnancy complications, according to the BHC.

higher, at 46.8 percent. The BHC said that approaches to diabetes and obesity prevention must be tailored to fit the needs of the border region.

"With the daily migration and general sociocultural parameters of the border region, it cannot be assumed that interventions tested outside the border will necessarily have a similar impact in the border region," the report says. "Evidence-based programs that are tailored to the unique aspect of the border are needed to reduce the number of obese children?"



Childhood obesity is now known to lead to Type 2 diabetes,

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Oferta de programación: requiere participación en una oferta que califica y suscripción a un paquete de programación que califica. Después del período promocional, el cliente tiene que hacer para reafirmar su programación a la tarifa regular aplicable. Cliente. Requiere pago automático con tarjeta de crédito y facturación electrónica. Si el pago automático con tarjeta de crédito o facturación electrónica no funciona, el servicio de Clientes será suspendido. Promociones que califican: Facturación automática. Desembolso de la promoción, una a una en los siguientes condiciones pueden aplicarse: compra por adelantado (BHC mensual), reserva de lugar anual, aprobación de crédito, contrato de 36 meses o compra por adelantado. Compra por reserva de espacio aplicable para un número limitado de reservas basadas en el modelo. Cargos mensuales por reserva por adelantado. Algunos promociones requieren que todos los pagos se hagan por adelantado, incluyendo la programación extendida. Pay Per View (tarifa del evento), reserva de espacio y cualquier otro cargo adicional. Oferta termina el 12/31/09 y está disponible en el continente EE.UU. por clientes nuevos que se suscriben al servicio de programación de Dish Network por primera vez. Todos los precios, promociones y programación están sujetos a cambio de momento. Algunos requisitos de instalación y requisitos. Cliente se requiere, los requisitos por compra de dispositivos de red y programación se aplican por separado. Toda la programación de Dish Network y cualquier otro servicio que sea compatible con el servicio de programación de Dish Network y el Acuerdo de Cliente Dish Network, disponibles en www.dishlatino.com o llama al número de atención al cliente. Los precios de cambio local no aplican desde dispositivos solo para clientes que viven en el área de mercado designada (BHC) por sus datos de registro. La programación de Dish Network y cualquier otro servicio que sea compatible con el servicio de programación de Dish Network y el Acuerdo de Cliente Dish Network, disponibles en www.dishlatino.com o llama al número de atención al cliente. Los precios de cambio local no aplican desde dispositivos solo para clientes que viven en el área de mercado designada (BHC) por sus datos de registro. Los canales locales pueden requerir una antenna satélite adicional de Dish Network, vendida por separado. El contenido de las estaciones locales, al aplicarse a los canales locales. El precio, los términos de compra están sujetos a cambio de momento. El precio de cambio local no aplican desde dispositivos solo para clientes que viven en el área de mercado designada (BHC) por sus datos de registro. Todos los precios de servicios son programados de acuerdo a los estándares de Dish Network. Contenido HD y canales locales que requieren un receptor compatible con canales regionales de Dish Network, Inc. una compañía CBS.