

# el Esalitor

Vol. XXVII No. 16

Week of January 15 thru January 22, 2004

Lubbock, TX USA

## No More Tripas? Oh No! ¡Se Salen!

No tripas? It would be comparable to not having hot dogs at baseball games. No bagels at barmitzvahs. No chittlings at Juneteeth and countless other ethnic foods that delight the ballets of persons enjoying holidays, birthdays and just plain ole celebration enjoyed everyday in our different communities.

Vivian Ybarra's meat order Monday at the Southwest Side Thrif-T-Mart was long. From the glass-fronted display cases, the butcher offered many of her family's staples, from whole chickens to long strips of brisket.

Then, in a cardboard box came Ybarra's favorite: 30 pounds of tripas for \$20.75.

Ybarra, 36, felt compelled to buy such a large order when she heard a U.S. Department of Agriculture ban on production of the delicacy went into effect Monday.

"I think it's bad," she said of the ban. "It's our food — us Mexicans, we like to eat it."

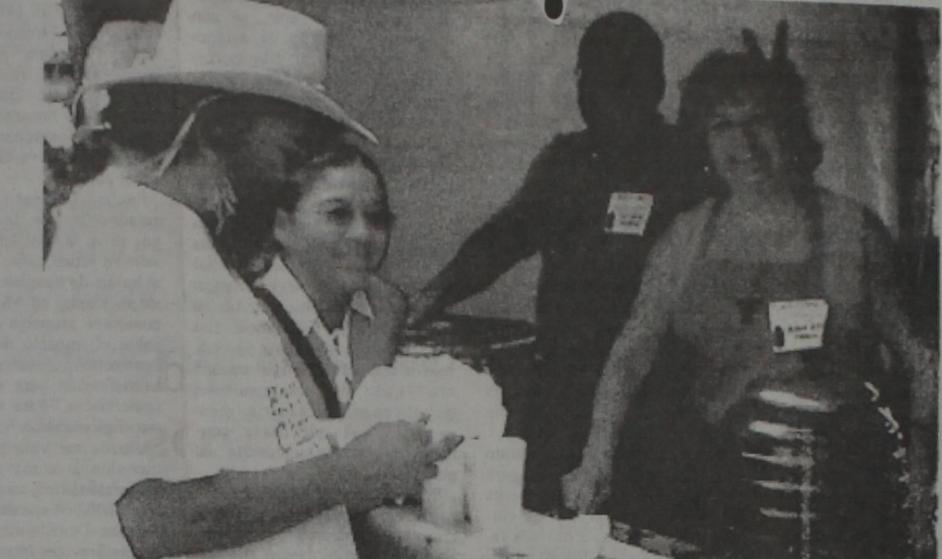
"I eat them once a week. I boil them then fry them," said Ybarra, who had two young daughters in tow. "The taste, the greasiness. Mmm. I like everything with fat."

Ybarra and countless other South Texans will have to find a new craving when the USDA's ban is fully felt.

While slaughterhouses no longer could process the small intestines of cows as of Monday, surplus meat remained with beef sellers. Once their supply runs out — which some people estimate may take as long as a couple of months — there will be no more.

The USDA announced the ban late last month and expected it would take several weeks before it went into effect. But the process was speeded up, published Friday in the Federal Register and enacted Monday.

"This was on a fast track. We're dealing with high-risk material," said



Matt Baun, a spokesman for the USDA. "Our time frame all along was as soon as possible."

Though the news was expected, it still disturbed tripas lovers across the city.

Noe Esparza sat down to a late lunch of tripas tacos at Carmelita's Mexican Restaurant on Broadway.

Esparza, a salesman from Houston,

said he thinks the ban will be especially felt at traditional Mexican cookouts.

"It's very common at Mexican-style barbecues. The first memory I have of eating tripas, I couldn't have been more than 5 or 6 years old," he said. "Like any other culture, food is an integral part of who we are. The ban will take away

from the gatherings we have."

Tripas, which are sold as a plate and as tacos, are popular at Carmelita's, where dozens of orders are sold daily.

Customer Raymond Barrera said he will turn to alternate sources to feed his tripas habit.

(Continued Page 5)

### Comentarios by Bidal Agüero



#### Un poquito de todo

Victor said on the radio that our newspaper was "perhaps wishfully thinking" when we said he was heard saying he was not going to seek re-election. Well maybe we just didn't get the story right. Maybe he said he wasn't going to seek re-election for the same office. My neighbor says he is "cutting and runnin" from what happened at the City Council mainly because questions were not answered concerning the Tommy Gonzalez affair. Of course Victor could say that he did answer many of the questions to the Hispanic Agenda and LULAC...all forty of them...Many questions from the community still remain unanswered. We invite him to submit them to this newspaper for publication....Or is it too close to election time?

Frank Morrison was also heard saying on the TV news that "It was a multitude of things that lead me to the conclusion that he (Tommy) was not the best person for the job. And I believe it would have been a disservice to the Hispanic community to have hired him and then he not be successful."

Did he hear a single word that all those people that addressed the City Council said last week? What are these "things"?

Frank seems to be one of the main persons behind all the going-on at City Hall. Abel Cruz points out some thoughts about him on page. Check him out. By the way, aren't people still passing around a petition to re-call Morrison?

Little has been heard about elections here in Lubbock this year. In north Lubbock only one campaign will probably draw any attention. That's the race for County Commissioner Pct. 3. We look forward to some forums being organized by the Chamber, LULAC or Hispanic Agenda. They need to start soon.

At the latest Hispanic Agenda meeting, Tommy Gonzalez spoke. He said to leave him out of the Racism debate. Then Victor Hernandez spoke. He is firm in his position that City Council hung Tommy out to dry. About 40 Hispanics attended. They came up with the following ideas in response to City Council:

1. Irma Guerrero will try to recruit four candidates to run against the Mayor and the three other council members.
2. There will be a voter registration drive and a GOTV effort for the May City Council election.
3. Tayita Dorow, Josh Ortiz, and Christi Martinez will lead the effort to end Media misrepresentation of the Tommy issue.
4. There will be a weekly meeting of Hispanic Leaders so that the issue does not fade into obscurity.
5. There will be a call to show the video of Thursday's Citizens Comments on TV Channel 2
6. Hispanic Leaders (one or two at a time) will attend each City Council meeting.

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## Fox convoca a la solidaridad continental



The President of Mexico Vicente Fox, gives an award during a ceremony at the presidential residence Los Pinos, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2004. Opponents accuse Fox of pandering to U.S. policies and weakening Mexico's own sovereignty to please President Bush (news - web sites) at the just-concluded Summit of the Americas in Monterrey.

En la clausura de la Cumbre Extraordinaria de las Américas, el presidente Vicente Fox convocó a fortalecer la cooperación entre los gobiernos del continente para garantizar el desarrollo económico, el empleo y la equidad social de los pueblos.

Consideró que el crecimiento de la economía en la región hemisférica es "indispensable para alcanzar el desarrollo", pero advirtió que "su sola existencia no garantiza el bienestar de la sociedad".

Por lo anterior, enfatizó que el objetivo final debe estar en coincidir que el empleo y los ingresos salariales "son elementos esenciales de una política social incluyente, que evite la desigualdad de oportunidades y la marginación".

Fox reiteró que en este sentido tal prioridad es de tanta importancia que se requiere con urgencia "atacar las causas del desempleo y crear un mayor número de puestos de trabajo".

Con este llamado a los 34 jefes de Estado y gobierno, el presidente de México dio por clausurada la convención que, en esta industriosa ciudad, se desarrolló

durante los últimos dos días.

Ante sus colegas, congregados en la Pinoteca del Centro de Artes, el mandatario mexicano afirmó que "ha llegado el momento de hacer acopio de los atributos que en la historia de los países permitieron forjar lo que somos", y subrayó que "el futuro depende de lo que hagamos hoy responsablemente".

Del mismo modo, se declaró en favor de afianzar el proceso democrático en el continente, sobrentendiéndose que ello depende de la fuerza con la que los pueblos procedan. Indicó que el "fortalecimiento de la gobernabilidad depende de la consolidación de una cultura democrática entre los integrantes de nuestras sociedades".

El Presidente resaltó la trascendencia de recurrir a cuanto instrumento esté al alcance para garantizar el buen gobierno, incluso la transparencia, la honestidad, eficacia y rendición de cuentas.

En el caso concreto de México, dijo estar dispuesto a impulsar con decisión y sin reserva los mecanismos de cooperación existentes en la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA).

(Continúa en la Pagina 5)

## Bush, Fox Setting Aside Past Differences

After deep differences over the Iraq war, President Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox insist they have put the bad times behind them as they prepare to meet on Monday in Mexico.

Fox angered Bush by refusing to vote in favor of a U.S.-backed resolution in the U.N. Security Council last March that would have given international backing for the use of force against Iraq.

For his part, Fox was disappointed by Bush's refusal to move more quickly on his biggest priority, immigration reform to allow Mexicans to cross into the United States for work without being deemed illegal. The plan fell victim to terrorism concerns in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Ahead of talks at a Summit of the Americas in Monterrey in northern Mexico, both sides said they are looking to the future.

"Well, it has ups and downs, any relationship. But we have never weakened our relationship or our friendship and our convictions. We keep on working with the same passion," Fox told the "Fox News Sunday" program.

U.S. national security adviser Condoleezza Rice told reporters that "we're well past" the strains over Iraq and immigration.

"Obviously, we went through a difficult time about Iraq, but the relationship with Mexico is one of our most important, one of our closest," she said.

Bush is held in suspicion across much of Latin America. Many feel the region has been neglected by a president who came to office vowing to strengthen North-South ties.

#### JOBS PLAN

But Bush helped assure himself a warm welcome from Fox by proposing last week an immigration reform plan that would allow millions of Mexicans and other illegals working in the United States a chance to gain legal status for at least three years under a temporary worker program.

The plan must be approved by a skeptical the U.S. Congress. Some critics said the proposal was an attempt by Bush to enlist Hispanics in the United States behind his re-election campaign. Democrats largely consider Hispanics part of their political base.

Fox said ultimately he would like to see completely open borders between Mexico, the United States and Canada but that Bush's proposal is a good start and one he would welcome.

"I think that in life you have to get what is real and what you have at hand and not keep on dreaming all the time. And what he is proposing is real, it's interesting," he said.

During two days in Monterrey, Bush will talk about traditional



topics for a U.S. leader in Latin America: free trade, free elections and fighting corruption.

He will hold his first face-to-face meeting on Tuesday with new Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin against a backdrop of concerns in both countries over mad cow disease.

Canada imposed a partial ban on imports of U.S. cattle and beef products after a cow in Washington state was discovered with mad cow disease. The United States has similar restrictions on Canadian beef

products over mad cow concerns.

Bush had uneasy relations with Martin's predecessor, Jean Chretien, who strongly opposed the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

On the sidelines of the summit Bush will also meet Chilean President Ricardo Lagos, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Argentine President Nestor Kirchner and Bolivian President Carlos Mesa.

**LÉA EL EDITOR PRMERO**

El Camino Hispano al Cargo de Embajador:

Cuidado Con Los Baches

Por Frestia Rodri+guez Cadavid

La participaci+on de los latinos en la pol+i+ca exterior de los Estados Unidos no fluye, merced al marco gubernamental tripartita por el que se conducen los candidatos a embajador: el Departamento de Estado, la U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID por sus siglas en ingl+e+s) y el nombramiento pol+i+co.

El doctor Raymond Gonzales, director de los programas de e+x+ito acad+emico en la Universidad de California-Monterey Bay, entro+ al Departamento de Estado durante la administraci+on de Carter tras ser reclutado a un programa especial de profesionales a mediados de su carrera, para ser diplom+atico. Habi+a sido legislador de California y profesor de estudios chicanos y latinoamericanos del sistema estatal universitario de California antes de ser reclutado.

Hoy Gonzales se apresura por indicar que el Departamento de Estado guarda una cultura empresarial que no lleva ni al reclutamiento, retenci+on o promoci+on de diplom+aticos de ascendencia hispana. Despu+e+s de servir al Departamento de Estado durante una de+cada, no obstante haber recibido brillantes evaluaciones, no recibio+ ni una promoci+on por lo que entreg+o su carta de dimisi+on en 1989, dando voz a su frustraci+on por la falta de oportunidades de promoci+on para los hispanos dentro del servicio diplom+atico.

El doctor Gonzales sen+ala el primer obst+aculo que algunos encuentran: el examen de los

postulantes al servicio diplom+atico. Miles de postulantes dan el examen cada a+no, sin embargo, so+lo existen varios cientos de vacantes. El mayor problema para los hispanos es el formato mismo del examen. Segun+ indica Gonzales, quien fue Agregado para Asuntos Laborales y dignatario pol+i+co en Bruselas, Guatemala y Barbados, el examen contiene un prejuicio contra las personas de color. Como muchas otras pruebas estandarizadas, el examen cubre lo que una persona blanca, bien preparada y de clase media, sabri+a de cuestiones estadounidenses, explica.

Una vez aceptados al servicio diplom+atico, la promoci+on puede resultar difi+cil para los hispanos. Un estudio realizado en el 2001 por el Instituto de Pol+i+ticas Tom+as Rivera revel+o que a pesar de ser ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos, a los profesionales diplom+aticos de pol+i+ca extranjera se les sospecha muchas veces de guardar vestigios de lealtad hacia la tierra de origen de sus antepasados, lo que se supone compromete su efectividad en promover los intereses de los Estados Unidos en el extranjero. El Instituto sugiere que la sospecha ha causado la categorizaci+on de los funcionarios latinos de pol+i+ca exterior como aptos a destinos con poca importancia diplom+atica.

Se ha designado el t+ermino "el circuito cucaracha" para sen+alar la pr+cticamente autom+atica asignaci+on de embajadores hispanos a pa+i+s latinoamericanos. De los 40 emba-

jadores destinados al extranjero que investig+o Hispanic Link, so+lo seis contaban con destinos que no incluyeran un pa+i+s latinoamericano. Tales destinos no suelen llevar a otros de mayor perfil y lucro.

El u+nico colombiano que ha servido como embajador estadounidense, Manuel Rocha, completo+ su gira como embajador a Bolivia el a+no pasado. Admite que "el circuito cucaracha" sigue vivito y coleando. "En parte es resultado del Departamento del Estado que envi+a a los que se supone hablan algo de espan+ol a los lugares que necesitan hispano-hablantes", dice.

Carmen Lomelli+n, directora ejecutiva de la Comisi+on Inter-Americana de Mujeres, ve con optimismo ese tipo de asignaci+on diplom+atica. "Hay ciertas cosas en las que puedes confiar intuitivamente gracias a tu cultura", comenta.

La gran mayori+a de posiciones diplom+aticas en el extranjero requieren de un t+i+tulo de pos-graduado - lejos del alcance de la mayori+a de hispanos. So+lo seis por ciento de los hispanos completaron un t+i+tulo universitario en el 2000, segun+ informaci+on proveniente del American Council on Education. Los aspectos econ+omicos son de mayor influencia aun, al considerar que los nombramientos pol+i+cos de embajador se reservan para los que ma+s contribuyen econ+omicamente al partido.

Si bien la experiencia de Gonzales fue menos que favorable con el Departamento de Estado, otros han tenido e+x+ito al nave-

gar el sistema.

Maura Harty, ex-embajadora a Paraguay y actual subsecretaria para Asuntos Consulares, es la u+nica latina diplom+atica por profesi+on en llegar al nivel de embajadora y la u+nica mujer subsecretaria hispana bajo el secretario de estado Colin Powell. "Si trabajas duro y haces tu tarea y tus cosas, no tienes l+i+mites. A mi me ha tratado (la carrera diplom+atica) muy bien en ese sentido", explica.

Harty entro+ al Departamento de Estado en 1981 al recibirse de la Universidad de Georgetown.

A Carmen Marti+nez tambie+n le ha tocado el e+x+ito al ascender en las filas diplom+aticas. Desde que entro+ al servicio diplom+atico en 1980, sus destinos le han llevado a Mozambique, Colombia, Brasil y Tailandia. Hoy se encuentra en la Repu+blica de Burma, donde ejerce como encargada de negocios, la funcionaria estadounidense de ma+s alto cargo en aquel pa+i+s.

Rocha tambie+n se siente agradecido por la experiencia que tuvo, la cual aplica a su posici+on actual como consultor en el bufete de abogados Steel, Hector & Davis, en Miami. En esta posici+on aconseja a los clientes sobre el impacto de asuntos de desarrollo extranjero y hemisf+erico para sus intereses comerciales. "Para mi+ el servicio diplom+atico ha sido la esencia de mi vida profesional - una vida de lo ma+s gratificante y emocionante", comenta.

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I'm Outraged that you're Outraged, Mr. Morrison, How Dare You!

By Abel Cruz

"How dare you...?" "I am outraged...?"

Councilman Frank Morrison

Am I outraged, no? Surprised, no! I am rather amused though at some people's reactions at last Thursday's city council meeting. By the looks of things and the news reports, you would have thought that a bunch of Hispanics had "stormed" city hall just like at The Alamo! After all, election to the city council comes with a temporary seat, not ownership, and certainly not a permanent seat at the table in the "people's house" while conducting the people's business. Winning an election to represent a district on the city council does not give a person the right to choose which group of citizens get a voice and which group doesn't.

But, with these two phrases, city councilman Morrison tried to rebuke citizens, mostly Hispanic, who attended the city council meeting on Thursday, December 7. They were there to ask questions surrounding the non selection of Tommy Gonzalez for the City Manager's position. Based on conversations I've had with people that were there, and on news reports that I watched, the citizens that attended left with the same things they arrived there with. Questions!

One of the greatest things about living in this country is that it allows us to speak our minds and to question our elected officials when we feel that they have made decisions we don't agree with. People do it all the time. If you watch Cable Channel 2, you'll see the city council conducting business and there is a specified time set aside for citizen comments. I guess it's ok to appear before the council so long as you agree with their decisions and don't dare question their positions on certain issues?

But don't you dare go in there and represent a difference of opinion, otherwise you will be made to feel less than a complete citizen. Perhaps it would have been better had the councilman thanked people for taking the time to show up and get involved in the political process and explained how he and the rest of the council had arrived at their decision. And by the way, just saying that it wasn't a decision based on race is not an answer. An answer would consist of answering at least two of the questions that beg an answer. Why was Mr. Gonzalez strung along and led to believe that he had a chance at the position if councilmen had already made up their mind? And if the reason for him not getting the job was due to the Chowning decision, why wasn't he terminated back in October when the EEOC report first came out? These are just 2, there are plenty more.

One of the positive things to come out of this situation is that it can be viewed as a learning experience and decide what needs to be done to try and make sure that this is not repeated.

The first thing is a need for a more proactive versus a reactive response. In other words, act before they make their final decision, not after. Even though the search process was started in April of 2003, there was not much heard from any community organization or individuals. There were a couple of occasions where the LULAC organization wrote an open letter, printed in the Hispanic media, to the council stating their support for Mr. Gonzalez. There was also one individual, Ysidro Gutierrez, who is running for County Commissioner in Precinct 3 that went before the council to voice his support for Tommy Gonzalez. I don't know of any other activity that took place in a proactive sense. The city web site also gave citizens an opportunity to send comments and suggestions by way of the search committee. I don't have any information as to how many people actually sent comments in support of Gonzalez. Perhaps in this case it wouldn't have made a difference, but maybe if the response had been greater, they would have thought twice about their decision. Although I doubt it.

One of the biggest lessons here though is that the Hispanic community in Lubbock is still treated as a group that is only needed at election time or when no one else is found to do the dirty work. Another is that institutional racism is alive and well in this city. The Hispanic community is continuously treated as though it does not matter. This was clearly evident by the actions of the council and their reaction to the outcry from the Hispanic community. Believe me, Mr. Morrison wasn't the only person asking "how dare you"?

On a final note, I would like to take up a little space to send something along to Mr. Morrison just to remind him that a citizen's rights in this great country do not stop at the Lubbock city limits. It is an excerpt from the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It reads something like this:

Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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US appeals court rules in favor of medical marijuana patients

Por Ann Harrison

San Francisco, U.S., December 17, 2003 (AFP) - A U.S. appeals court has handed a landmark victory to patients who use marijuana to ease their pain by ruling that the U.S. government could not prosecute two women who grew it, advocates said Wednesday.

Proponents of medical marijuana hailed the decision made late Tuesday by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, saying it could set a precedent on the thorny issue of medical use of the drug.

Some U.S. states have found themselves at loggerheads with the federal government over the issue of growing and using marijuana for medical reasons, with liberal states such as California and Washington passing laws allowing the practice in defiance of federal laws that strictly outlaw it.

"I am totally ecstatic about what this decision will do not only for me, but for hundreds of thousands of patients across the country," said medical marijuana patient Angel McClary who brought the successful lawsuit.

"Not too many people get to come up against someone who is

as evil as (U.S. Attorney General) John Ashcroft and actually win and that feels very good," she said.

U.S. government prosecutors have long argued that California's 1996 law allowing the use of marijuana for medical purposes was superseded by the U.S. laws which ban the use or cultivation of marijuana for any purpose.

But the court panel ruled 2-1 that prosecuting medical marijuana users under a 1970 federal law is unconstitutional if the marijuana is not sold, transported across state lines or used for non-medical purposes.

The ruling covers seven western states that have passed medical marijuana laws -- Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

Another three states with medical marijuana laws lie outside the court's jurisdiction.

But legal analysts warned that while the ruling represented a victory for marijuana advocates, an appeal was likely and that rulings of the liberal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals are frequently overturned by the Supreme Court.

The Hispanic Road to Ambassador:

Watch Out For the Potholes

By Frestia Rodri+guez Cadavid

Latino participation in U.S. foreign affairs is not fluid, given the framework for the government's three ambassadorial pipelines: the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development and political appointment.

Dr. Raymond Gonzales, Director of Academic Skills Achievement Programs at the University of California-Monterey Bay, entered the State Department during the Carter Administration after being recruited into a special mid-level career program to become a Foreign Service Officer. He had been a California legislator and Chicano and Latin American Studies professor in the California State University system before then.

Today Gonzales is quick to point out that the State Department harbors a corporate culture not conducive to the recruitment, retention or advancement of Hispanic Foreign Service Officers. After a decade-long career with glowing evaluations, yet no promotion, he submitted his letter of resignation in 1989, voicing his frustration at the lack of advancement opportunity for Hispanics within the Foreign Service.

He makes note of the first hurdle some encounter: the Foreign Service Officer exam. Thousands take the exam each year, but only a few hundred spots are available. The big problem for Hispanics, however, is the makeup of the exam itself. According to Gonzales, who served as a Labor Attache+ and Political Officer in Brussels, Guatemala and Barbados, the exam is biased against persons of color. Like many other standardized tests, it covers what a well-educated, middle-class white person would know about Americana, he says.

Once in the Foreign Service, advancement for Hispanics can be difficult. A 2001 Tom+as Rivera Policy Institute study revealed that despite their U.S.

citizenship, Hispanic foreign policy professionals are often suspected of harboring lingering loyalties to their families' lands of origin, compromising their effectiveness in promoting U.S. interests abroad. TRPI suggests this suspicion has pigeonholed Latino foreign policy officials into assignments with minimal diplomatic importance.

The term "la cucaracha circuit" has come to epitomize the almost knee-jerk assignment of Hispanic ambassadors to Latin American countries. Of the 40 geographic ambassadors researched by Hispanic Link, only six had tours that did not include a Latin American post. These posts often do not lead to higher profile, lucrative positions.

The only Colombian to serve as a U.S. ambassador, Manuel Rocha completed his tour as Ambassador in Bolivia last year. He admits that the "cucaracha circuit" is alive and well. "It's partly the State Department sending people who supposedly have some Spanish where there is a need for Spanish-speakers," he says.

Carmen Lomelli+n, executive director of the Inter-American Commission of Women, views such assignments positively. "There are certain things you intuitively trust because of your culture," she says.

The vast majority of foreign policy positions require a post-graduate education - a far reach for most Hispanics. Only six percent achieved a B.A. in 2000, according to American Council on Education. Economics influences the dynamic even more, considering that political ambassadorial appointments are virtually all handed out to major party contributors.

While Gonzales' experience within the State Department was less than favorable, others have enjoyed success navigating the system.

Maura Harty, former Ambassa-

dor to Paraguay and currently Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, is the only Latina career Foreign Service Officer to reach the rank of Ambassador and the only Latina Assistant Secretary under Secretary of State Colin Powell. "If you work hard and you do your homework and you do your stuff, the sky's the limit. It's been very good to me that way," she says. Harty entered the State Department in 1981 after graduating from Georgetown University.

Carmen Marti+nez has also had success moving up the ranks. Since she joined the Foreign Service in 1980, her postings have taken her to Mozambique, Colombia, Brazil and

Thailand. Currently in the Republic of Burma, she is the Charge d'Affaires, the highest-ranking U.S. official in that country.

Rocha is also thankful for his experience, which he applies to his current position as consultant at Steel Hector & Davis, a Miami-based law firm. He advises clients on how foreign and hemispheric developments can influence their business interests. "To me the Foreign Service has been the essence of my professional life -- one that has been extremely rewarding and extremely exciting," he says.

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A Border Riddle

By Marisa Treviño

How do we keep people from risking their lives to cross our southern border illegally?

The question has become our country's version of the Riddle of the Sphinx. Like the legendary beast that racked up a body count of those who answered her riddle incorrectly, our southern border claims more bodies because this riddle has yet to be solved.

It's not as if our government isn't trying.

In its latest effort to put meaning to senselessness, the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims held a hearing titled "The Deadly Consequences of Illegal Alien Smuggling." At itlawmakers heard testimony advocating everything from stricter enforcement to easing the legal immigration process. Several lawmakers proposed

their own plans to draft legislation dealing harsher penalties to smugglers or setting up a guest-worker program with Mexico.

A casual listener to the proceedings might believe that these measures would surely solve this complex problem.

But would they? We've already seen that in spite of more border agents and more high-tech gadgetry, men, women and children continue to come to meet untimely deaths in the back of 18-wheelers, unventilated railroad cars, on scorching deserts or in rushing rivers. Their presence ignites an anti-immigrant backlash from California to the Carolinas.

Exasperated with the Border Patrol's futile efforts to stem the procession of immigrants trespassing, littering and dying on their lands, some ranchers continued on page 5



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# The Beleaguered Mexican Farmer - 2004

Now again, as at the start of 2003, the Mexican small farmers are making themselves heard on their plight concerning the continuing trends affecting the small farmers here in México. Last year the situation was more imminent when tariffs on imported agricultural goods were reduced under the terms of NAFTA in the beginning of 2003. Their call then was for a re-negotiation of the NAFTA treaty, which of course, did not happen. Now, they are thinking ahead to 2008 when tariffs would go to zero across the board.

Most of their fury is directed toward the NAFTA treaty, which does have some hidden traps that México fell into (like the sugar "side agreement"), but in general, México has benefited from the treaty. And that includes the overall agricultural area. We also know the benefit has not been even. The larger producers have indeed come out ahead, but the small producers have, in fact, fallen behind badly. As a country, México has increased their farm product exports by around 15% under NAFTA. And that is one of the big reasons that even with lip service from the government to re-negotiate NAFTA, there was no chance that any real effort would be made.

There are some interesting comments from Heladio Ramirez Lopez, president of the National Farmers Confederation (CNC), this year. "The situation on the Mexican farm, already backward, has been aggravated by NAFTA due to the

enormous structural differences between us and the US and Canada", said Ramirez. And here, in fact, Ramirez is quite correct.

The only problem is that too much emphasis is being placed on fighting NAFTA as the sole cause. The problem is, to use Ramirez' words, aggravated by NAFTA. But with or without NAFTA, the problem would still be here; it was only speeded up by NAFTA. And although our leaders have known of the problem for a long time, they act if this were something that just happened. At least the CNC is trying to look ahead a bit here.

Last year, the present administration put a "priority" on funding for improvement of the farm sector. But no one was honest enough to say that the existence of the two or three acre farm is past. To make the overall farm sector more competitive requires not just a dole or a prop up, but training in more modern farm technology, help in providing means of investment for better equipment, and down to the rural infrastructure. And this means a cultural change in our farming system, and at the same time creating meaningful jobs for our displaced farmers. And government platitudes telling us that we will preserve our existing system forever is not only foolish, but is a lie to our people.

Specifically, training is taking place at some state level universities, like Aguascalientes, for the farmers themselves to learn modern farming techniques and to understand ex-

port requirements. A federal effort is needed. To upgrade beyond the burro level of farming requires a system of financing for farmers to be able to obtain reasonable loans at reasonable interest rates on a federal level that works for the average farmer. And when we get into infrastructure, this means not only reasonable energy rates, but also roads that produce can be shipped efficiently. But the bottom line is that we may have created a bureaucracy for some of this, but as yet it is a long way from filtering down to the farmers.

Ramirez is in doubt that the government will comply with its pledge of last year to do these very things. And so far, I have to agree with him. In fact, to do the necessary things here will provide a level of courage and innovation that our government has yet to demonstrate.

The US went through the same changes in farming in the 1930s that we are talking about

here. And, I might point out, during much of this time, that country was in a severe depression. Much more severe than what México has been suffering with. To help make the social changes more humane, there was federal "relief" (called welfare today). In fact, some of this still exists today in their farm subsidy system, long overdue for overhaul, but the point is that to do this at that time involved running a federal deficit to "invest in the future" of the country. The increased efficiency more than made up for the temporary deficit.

That last, I borrow from Carlos Slim, México's leading business magnate. For our present administration to put a 0.3% federal deficit limit in times like these is simply ill advised. Let's listen to him here.

In the meantime, I hope that we don't have farmers riding on horseback up and down the aisles of Congress again this year. But time is running out.



# The Bush Proposal

President Bush announced a sweeping new immigration reform proposal this week that could become a hot-button issue in the November election. For months, insiders have hinted that the president would propose a new guest worker program aimed at allowing more foreign workers into the country on a temporary basis. Widely favored by the American business community, a guest worker program would allow employers to fill jobs in industries that routinely experience shortages of workers willing to do the often difficult, dangerous jobs Americans shun -- at least at wages that allow employers to remain in business.

country, and even if we could, we would do more harm than good.

The American economy depends on these workers, who, along with legal immigrants, contributed significantly to the economic boon of the 1990s. If FAIR could wave a magic wand and make these illegal aliens disappear overnight, the rest of us would suffer by having to pay more for everything from the food we put on the table to the houses in which we live. Our office buildings wouldn't get cleaned, our crops wouldn't get picked, our meat wouldn't get processed, nor our tables cleaned when we go out to eat.

Sure, we could double wages to attract American-born workers to some of these jobs, but at even twice the salary it would be difficult to fill the nastiest of these tasks, like processing poultry. But why would we want American workers, who we've spent trillions of dollars educating for 13 or 14 years, on average, to perform jobs that require only the most minimal skills? Even if we got rid of all illegal aliens in the U.S., these jobs would likely go to foreign workers, like it or not.

What sense does it make to insist that we get rid of the very people doing these jobs now in order to make way for other foreign workers to take them under a new guest worker plan? It makes a lot more sense to figure out how to get those illegal aliens already employed at these jobs to come in from the shadows and become part of the legal system. They should pay a penalty for having broken the law in the first place by sneaking into the country or overstaying their visas, but it is better for all of us if they earn their way toward legal status than remain in the illegal underworld where they now hide.

El Editor Newspapers is a weekly bilingual publication that is published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806: 763-3841. Subscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers. Editor/Publisher: Bidal Agüero; Business Manager: Olga Riojas-Aguero; Articles: Amalia Agüero; Subscriptions: In House Crew; Distribution: Gilbert Acuña, Joe Adam & Jimmy Riojas

## College Dream Act - Fulfilment or Rude Awakening?

By James A. Ferg-Cadima

Whether we realize it or not, the work of the Senate Judiciary Committee shapes the lives of all Latinos in the United States, including the undocumented in our community. This committee, after all, is charged with writing our immigration laws.

Over the last few years, one particular proposal before the committee has drawn a great deal of attention from our community and in the press. The DREAM Act, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senators Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Richard Durbin (D-Illinois) aims at paving a pathway to citizenship, college and, for some, military service, for this country's undocumented high school graduates and GED holders.

The Urban Institute estimate, 65,000 undocumented youth complete high school every year, and of that number, 52 percent are Latino.

Hispanics have spoken up about the lack of reasonable avenues for undocumented immigrants from our community to gain legal immigration status. Many elected officials have responded by supporting the DREAM Act.

Yet over the past few months, some members of the Judiciary Committee have placed its passage at risk. Very few people are aware of this.

On Oct. 16, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) and others tried to gut the DREAM Act by offering harmful amendments. They stalled committee passage by a week. Then, on Oct. 23, Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) attempted to preempt Sessions' mean-spirited efforts by offering a compromise version of the act.

The price of its passage out of committee onto the Senate floor, by a 16-to-3 vote, came at (1) loss of DREAM Act student eligibility for federal education assistance moneys such as Pell grants; (2) the elimination of a community service option to obtain a green card; and (3) an added requirement that eligible students be tracked under the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a Department of Homeland Security database.

When the dust settled, the impact of the Feinstein/Grassley Amendment became clear. The DREAM Act is premised on getting many of the best and brightest in our community who

happen to be undocumented into college. Yet the Feinstein/Grassley Amendment places college out of reach for such exemplary students and life-long taxpayers. Many know no other life. They were brought to this country as toddlers. Some never even learned of their status until they tried to apply for college.

College grants are essential to make higher education affordable for the neediest students. Undocumented students tend to fall into that category. Additionally, not every college campus is in compliance with SEVIS requirements.

### Which colleges are not?

The answer: many of the smaller, more affordable, local community colleges. By making DREAM Act students participate in SEVIS, the bill diminishes campus choice.

What's left when college costs are too expensive and community service is no longer an option to earn legal residency?

The answer: military service. The Feinstein/Grassley Amendment has the effect of being a draft card for those lower-income youth who lack other options.

Or, the worst scenario, should the bill not become law -- from class valedictorian to deportee.

A rumor has been circulated that Senator Hatch will be stepping down as chairman of the judiciary committee because of term limits. Whether he does so in 2004 or 2005, it underscores the need for passage of this bill now.

The DREAM Act has been introduced and sent out of committee twice over the last three years because of the leadership of Chairman Hatch. It needs his leadership. Without him or the hard work of Senator Durbin, we will see the dream of college disappear.

As a New Year's resolution, we need to champion the DREAM Act as originally envisioned -- an act that makes college affordable and the cap and gown attainable. The longer we wait, the less likely the final product will be true to its original intent.

The hopes of thousands of Latino students to earn an education that allows them to reach their productive potential depend on the DREAM Act becoming law in 2004.

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## Enron: Ex-Director Financiero Andrew Fastow se declaró culpable

Andrew Fastow, ex director financiero de Enron y personaje clave del escándalo contable que llevó a la quiebra del grupo energético, se declaró culpable este miércoles de conspiración y fraude tras un acuerdo con la justicia que le impondrá 10 años en la cárcel.

El acuerdo, sumado a otro con la esposa de Fastow, Lea, ex tesorera de Enron, ofrece a los fiscales la posibilidad de capturar a los principales ejecutivos de la empresa en quiebra, que se transformó en un símbolo de las malas prácticas corporativas.

Fastow también aceptó pagar unos 23 millones de dólares de multa en otro acuerdo separado con las autoridades regulatorias de la bolsa.

La declaración fue aceptada en un juzgado de Houston, Texas (sur), que emitirá sentencia el 19 de abril.

Los fiscales aceptaron los términos de un acuerdo en el que Fastow se declaró culpable de dos cargos de conspiración para cometer fraude electrónico

y con acciones. Este deberá cooperar, además, en la pesquisa sobre el caso, y si el Gobierno queda satisfecho le archivará otros 98 cargos contenidos en el pliego acusatorio.

Lea Fastow debe declararse culpable también en algún momento este miércoles.

El matrimonio quería asegurar un acuerdo que le permitiera evadir cumplir prisión simultáneamente, para que uno de los dos pudiera cuidar de sus dos hijos.

Andrew Fastow es el más alto ejecutivo de Enron que enfrenta cargos criminales por fraude y se espera que su cooperación sirva para armar casos contra los dos ex directores ejecutivos de la empresa, Kenneth Lay y Jeffrey Skilling.

Se supone que Fastow fue el arquitecto de las complejas transacciones financieras que Enron utilizó para maquillar su contabilidad hasta que se declaró en bancarota en diciembre de 2001, en la quiebra más grande de la historia. AFP

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# Bryant on injured list

Kobe Bryant was placed on the injured list Wednesday and is expected to miss up to three weeks with a sprained right shoulder.

Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson said Bryant won't need surgery.

Bryant was injured in a collision with Cleveland's Kedrick Brown on Monday night.

The NBA's seventh-leading scorer with a 22.0-point average, Bryant was injured late in the first quarter of an 89-79 victory over the Cavaliers when he faked Brown into the air outside the 3-point line and Brown landed on Bryant's shoulder.

In obvious pain, Bryant made three free throws, but left after the period ended and went to the locker room for X-rays. Bryant played a little more than five minutes in the second quarter, but was clearly not himself, running with his right arm hanging at his side.

Bryant had surgery on his shoulder June 12 -- four weeks



gators and averaging 14.7 points, 6.9 rebounds and 1.50 steals in 29.2 minutes.

The Lakers have recently been without Shaquille O'Neal and Karl Malone because of injuries, and Malone's return doesn't appear imminent. The healthy members of their backcourt are Gary Payton, Derek Fisher and Kareem Rush.

"You never imagine it, that's why you have 12 men on your roster," Jackson said of the glut of injuries. "We'll have to change somewhat. Personnel makes a big difference in how we play."

O'Neal strained his right calf Jan. 4 and has missed five games, while Malone sprained a ligament in his right knee Dec. 21 and has sat out nine games.

Rick Fox, a starter for the past three seasons, hasn't played since undergoing surgery on his left foot eight months ago. He figures to start when fully healthy, which the Lakers hope will be soon.

after the Lakers were eliminated from the second round of the playoffs by San Antonio. He had an inflamed bursa removed and a frayed labrum trimmed.

On Wednesday, the Lakers signed guard Ime Udoka to a 10-day contract. He was with the Lakers through training camp and played in six preseason games, averaging 3.7 points, 1.3 rebounds and 0.7 assists in 8.8 minutes.

Udoka has been playing with the NBDL's Charleston Low-

## Elway, Sanders among 15 Hall finalists

John Elway and Barry Sanders were among 15 finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame announced Wednesday.

The Hall's board of selectors selected the finalists from a list of 25 semifinalists.

Two candidates, tackle Bob Brown and wide receiver Bob Hayes, were recommended by the Hall's senior committee. Other finalists: wide receiver Art Monk; defensive ends Richard Dent, Carl Eller, and Jim Marshall; guard Bob Kuechenberg; safety Cliff Harris; cornerback Lester Hayes; tackles Rayfield Wright and Gary Zimmerman.

Linebacker Harry Carson and general manager George Young are automatic finalists because of their high finish in last year's voting.

Team owners Art Modell and Ralph Wilson Jr. did not make the list.

The new class will be elected in Houston on Jan. 31, the day before the Super Bowl.

## Tito Trinidad se Prepara para Retornar este Año

El ex campeón mundial de boxeo Félix "Tito" Trinidad se prepara para retornar al cuadrilátero este mismo año, según publicaron periódicos de Puerto Rico.

Trinidad regresaría en la tercera semana de junio en la Isla del Encanto frente a un peleador del peso mediano cuyo nombre será anunciado próximamente, publicó el diario Primera Hora.

Ese mismo reportaje difunde que la pelea de reaparición de Trinidad será transmitida por la cadena de televisión por cable HBO.

Ese primer encuentro sería preparatorio para un choque millonario a fines de año, entre Trinidad y Oscar de la Hoya.

Entretanto, Félix Trinidad, padre del púgil puertorriqueño, declaró al periódico El Nuevo Día que no está confirmado nada, pero que si su hijo vuelve será para medirse de inmediato a rivales cotizados.

"Ya bastante ha corrido", argumentó el padre del otrora monarca mundial. "No hay necesidad de peleas preparatorias y los careos grandes no se cuadran tan fácil".

El puertorriqueño no combate desde mayo del 2002 cuando noqueó al francés Hacine Cheriñi, en una cartelera en el Coliseo Roberto Clemente en San Juan, y en julio del mismo año el ex campeón anunció su retiro del boxeo.

Previamente, en septiembre del 2001, Trinidad fue derrotado por nocaut técnico en 12 rounds por el estadounidense Bernard Hopkins, en una pelea en Puerto Rico.

A través de su exitosa trayectoria en el boxeo profesional, Trinidad, quien acaba de cumplir 33 años de edad, fue conceptuado como uno de los grandes monarcas latinoamericanos de la historia al estremer los cuadriláteros con su poderosa pegada en varias divisiones.

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## Health:

# Experts Warn Privatization Could Affect Mental Care

A little-noticed privatization change in state law, unless reversed, could unravel mental health safety nets across the state, several mental health experts fear.

"It would be a disaster. There's probably very little question about that," Melanie Gantt, public policy director for the Mental Health Association in Texas, said of the plan many are working to change.

"It's a hastily conceived notion that does not take into account ramifications to the consumer and the public safety net," she added.

Proponents of privatization say it can lead to more patient choice, access to better-quality care and greater administrative efficiency. Opponents fear the opposite could result if privatization is taken statewide and warn it isn't wise to experiment with a vulnerable population.

The main problem, Gantt and others say, is mental patients could be left with no care at all if private providers replace the current system but later decide to bolt when it isn't as profitable as they'd like.

The privatization plan is stirring passions as confusion spreads among public mental health workers about what the Legislature intended to do and whether it will change its mind. So far, the signals are mixed.

REP. TALMADGE HEFLIN, R-Houston, inserted the privatization provision into a mammoth social services overhaul bill, stating that private providers would get preference in serving the mentally ill as well as the mentally retarded.

While several contractors already provide services for the mentally retarded, the idea is far more controversial when applied to the mentally ill, a population with complex needs.

Starting in 2006, patients would be referred to a network of private providers contracted by the state. They could turn to the community centers for health services only as a "provider of last resort."

Rose Childs, who oversees mental health services at the Harris County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority, said she believes officials expect that most of the services would be contracted out under the plan.

"Sometimes when you privatize and people get dissatisfied with the rates, they will drop out of panels," she said, noting state workers meanwhile leave the centers as the clients served disappear. "Then you've kind of destroyed the community mental health system. If you have to take those services back, you have to rebuild the personnel to provide the service."

Texas' only large privatization of community mental health care, the NorthStar program in Dallas and six surrounding counties, began four years ago with two managed care companies.

When the state refused to raise provider rates high enough, one company, Magellan, pulled up stakes after only one year.

However, the remaining company, Value Options, has run the entire program for the past four years and earned high marks in a recent report by the LBJ School of Government at the University of Texas.

Carole Matyas, Value Options vice president for public programs, said privatization does not have to result in dismantling the public safety net. She notes that more than half of the providers in the NorthStar mental health and substance abuse network work at the community mental health centers previously managed by the state.

"Privatization doesn't mean elimination of the public program. I think some people get confused about that," she said.

State officials last month told the community centers they have until March 1 to advertise in newspapers, newsletters, mailings and on the Internet for providers interested in taking over their business.

The providers would have 60 days to respond. At that point, state mental health officials would decide whether to ask the providers for specific proposals, said Don Rogers, spokesman for the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. "They told the community center to put their services up for bid on eBay."

That's what it looks like," said Joe Lovelace, an attorney who volunteers with the Texas chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Lovelace predicts the privatization idea will be withdrawn from the mental health system. He contends that the private mental health system in Texas is failing to meet real needs, and it makes no sense to plunk state money into a failed system.

Heflin, meanwhile, said last week he intended his amendment to House Bill 2292 to give preference to private providers in the mental retardation system, not the mental health system. Others note the language he inserted into law plainly states that it applies to both.

"The legislation speaks for itself. It doesn't make a distinction between mental health and mental retardation. We haven't heard from Representative Heflin," said Don Rogers, spokesman for the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

"We are obligated to implement the law as it is written," he added. "If we delay, we'd be remiss in making a good faith effort in implementing the law."

Rep. ARLENE WOHLGEMUTH, R-Burleson, authored HB 2292 and says a special legislative committee she chairs will take a closer look at the issue before deciding what should be done. She and Heflin said lawmakers

believed they were only addressing a perceived conflict of interest problem in the mental retardation system, which contracts many of its services.

Private providers had complained that the state was prescribing treatment plans for the mentally retarded and "cherry-picking" the easiest patients to serve for the cost. The problem does not exist for the mental health system, where the state has not used contractors.

"I think we legislators need a little more information on how to best direct the implementation of the mental health side and frankly whether or not it needs to be implemented," Wohlgenuth said, noting she remains undecided. "It would be my hope that we start with the mental retardation side and take a little time with the mental health side."

Wohlgenuth said she wants the committee to look at the NorthStar program in particular. Under that agreement, Value Options must spend at least 86 cents of every dollar contracting for direct care, Matyas said, with the rest covering administrative overhead and profit.

"We think NorthStar's a good program and would consider expansion, depending on what the state does and how they want to structure things," Value Options' Matyas said.

Rep. Vicki Truitt, R-Keller, a health care consultant and member of the House Public Health Committee, remains leery.

"I don't want to see our safety net dismantled," Truitt said. "I am of the opinion we should not dramatically change the MHMR center model without open debate and open discussion, and I don't think this has had the benefit of his process."

Rep. John Davis, R-Houston, said he's convinced lawmakers will halt privatization to focus on revaluing the system.

Lawmakers cut services for a host of behavioral syndromes to beef up services for those with a diagnosis of major mental illness: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or clinical depression. He said he envisions the system will be patterned after model state-run programs for disease management and jail diversion.

"On the mental health side, you've got a good infrastructure there. You don't want to do anything to hurt the structure there. It just makes sense to work with what you have," Davis said.

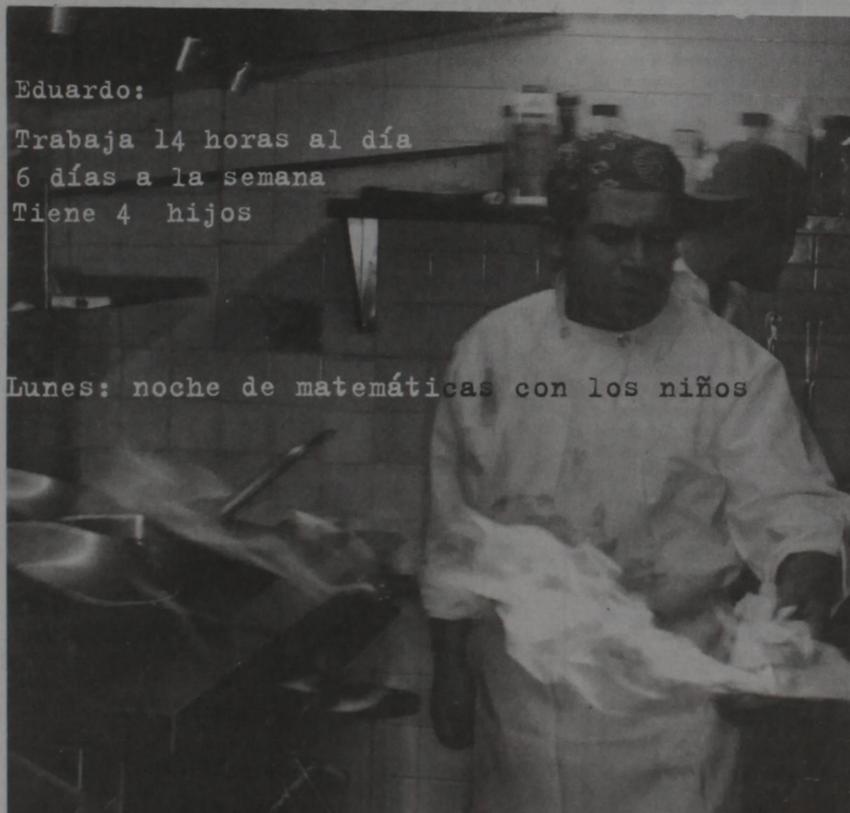
## An alarming number of Hispanic pre-teens have Risk Factor for Cardiovascular disease or Type 2 Diabetes

That's what two University of Southern California (USC) studies say in the January issue of the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism.

One study found three in 10 Hispanic pre-teens have metabolic syndrome, which comprises numerous risk factors for type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The risk factors associated with metabolic syndrome include: high blood pressure; low levels of HDL ("good") cholesterol; central obesity; elevated triglycerides (a fat linked to heart disease); and impaired glucose tolerance (abnormally high blood sugar levels, also called pre-diabetes).

This high rate of metabolic syndrome may be due to the fact that obesity is particularly common among Hispanics, the researchers suggest. They note that 35 percent of young Hispanics are overweight, about twice as many as a decade ago. Obesity is linked with insulin resistance, which is linked to metabolic changes and increased risk of disease.

The second study found that nearly three of 10 Hispanic pre-teens (28 percent) already have impaired glucose tolerance (pre-diabetes), putting them at a heightened risk of developing type 2 diabetes.



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# A Border Riddle

and Native American tribes who hold property along the Arizona and Texas border have taken matters into their own hands. They're contracting with private "border security" companies whose tactics in apprehending and restraining immigrants are questionable.

In the past a good portion of undocumented immigrants would stay here just long enough to do the job and make the money. Now they're settling in for a lifetime, fearful they won't be able to make it back across if starvation stalks their families again.

Southwestern social service agencies report that because of this pressure to remain here and hidden, more are closing bank accounts and declining to report violence against them. As more jurisdictions allow local police to act as immigration enforcers, the undocumented are increasingly fearful of community law enforcement agencies.

Clearly, this Sphinx has yet to hear the right answer.

Maybe it's because our perspective of the problem is skewed. We believe that the undocumented immigrants want to come. The reality is they need to come.

A gentleman bussing tables in a restaurant where I was having lunch described to me the pain of his family separation. He was here because no jobs existed where he lived. The man talked of his wife and children in Guatemala, the survival money he sent home.

What would it take to keep him from leaving his family? How can a guest-worker program that forces men to abandon their families for long periods solve to the mystery?

For years some experts have been suggesting all that's needed is a program to provide these people -- so eager to work -- with skills and opportunities to develop their own communities.

Several Texas businesswomen have joined in the Chiapas Project, a micro-lending program to aid poor women in southern Mexico. The women apply for and receive loans of about \$50 to be used for businesses ranging from planting potatoes to purchasing weaving supplies. They report a repayment rate of 97 percent.

Critics argue that it's not our place to invest in these people. That's the responsibility of their governments.

That's true. But with weak economies and educational infrastructures that historically overlook the poorest of their societies, these countries still aren't in a position to help the very people who risk their lives to take our menial jobs.

So that leaves us with two options.

Create a "Home Bound" program that encompasses an agenda to help undocumented immigrants develop their native communities, or stand idly by and watch our Sphinx get fatter by the day.

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# Fox Convoca a la solidaridad continental

viene de la primera pagina

Concluyó asegurando que esta cumbre extraordinaria "ha servido para vigorizar nuestro compromiso en torno a los elementos que deben integrar una agenda básica y fundamental para el hemisferio".

Compromisos  
Los 34 países participantes se comprometieron, entre otras cosas, a respetar los derechos humanos de los migrantes, reducir los costos del envío de remesas y aprobar el año próximo un tratado continental de libre comercio, el ALCA.

En el documento final, denominado Declaración de Nuevo León, los gobernantes

## Stomach Ban on Tripas

from page one

Customer Raymond Barrera said he will turn to alternate sources to feed his tripas habit.

"I'll go find it on the black market," Barrera said with a straight and serious face. "It's like anything else -- you take it away, they're going to find it."

The tripas ban is part of the USDA's aggressive campaign to combat the lone report of mad cow disease in the United States. The Washington state Holstein was slaughtered Dec. 9.

The small intestines were banned because of their connection with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, a fatal brain wasting disease.

"It's one of the organs that can express the protein that carries BSE," Baun said. "If it was produced before Monday it's OK to have for sale. Anything that's produced from here forward is prohibited."

Other affected cow parts include the spinal cord. In addition, cow brains, tonsils and eyeballs can be used for meat only if the cow was less than 30 months old when slaughtered.

That means the holy grail of South Texas weekends -- barbaeo and menudo -- are protected. "All-meat" barbaeo is cheek meat, while menudo comes from the stomach lining. Baun said he hasn't heard either of those parts being targeted by the USDA.

The small intestine is used in other ethnic dishes, including some Vietnamese specialties.

Hien Nguyen, owner of Van's Chinese Seafood Restaurant, said the meat isn't in high demand in San Antonio's Asian restaurants.

"Vietnamese people, they love tripe," said Nguyen, who is from Vietnam. "But in San Antonio, not many people order it."

Back at the Thrif-T-Mart on South Zarzamora Street, which is part gas station, part neighborhood grocery store and part butcher shop, owner Jose Rodriguez said the tripas ban will probably not have a noticeable impact on his business.

"People will ask for it, and they'll probably just do without," Rodriguez predicted, as a long line of regulars lined up in front of the butcher's case. "Everyone seems to think there are more problems than mad cow disease."

plasmaron su compromiso a llevar a cabo una serie de medidas simultáneamente para también combatir la corrupción y desarrollar estrategias contra la creciente pobreza.

A lo largo de los dos últimos días, los mandatarios discutieron los detalles de la serie de pactos que integraron el acuerdo final. Durante los días previos, los equipos técnicos de los gobiernos se encargaron de la discusión en torno a cada tema incluido en la agenda.

El único presidente ausente en el evento, auspiciado por la OEA, fue el cubano Fidel Castro, quien no pertenece a tal organismo regional.

Justo en el espacio referido al desarrollo económico del acuerdo, el texto revela que los jefes de Estado y gobierno firmantes acogen los avances logrados hasta ahora por el establecimiento de un área de Libre Comercio de las Américas, en la que se toma nota de los resultados equilibrados de la VIII Reunión Ministerial realizada en Miami en noviembre de 2003.

En términos concretos, dicen que apoyan "el acuerdo de los ministros sobre la estructura y el calendario adoptado para la conclusión de las negociaciones para el ALCA en los plazos previstos [1 de enero de 2005]".

Con ese mecanismo se busca fomentar "con mayor eficacia, el crecimiento económico, la reducción de la pobreza, el desarrollo y la integración, a través de la liberación del comercio, contribuyendo al logro de los amplios objetivos de la cumbre".

En el primer punto relativo a la migración internacional, los mandatarios reconocen que el envío de remesas es una importante fuente de capital en los países del hemisferio.

Ante esta realidad, se comprometieron a "tomar acciones concretas para promover el establecimiento, lo antes posible, de las condiciones necesarias con miras a alcanzar la meta de reducción de por lo menos la mitad del costo promedio regional de esas transferencias, a más tardar en 2008".

"Adoptaremos, según sea necesario y apropiado, medidas tales como la promoción de la competencia entre los prestadores de estos servicios, la eliminación de obstáculos normativos y otras medidas restrictivas que afectan el costo

de estas transferencias, así como el uso de nuevas tecnologías, manteniendo normas de supervisión financiera efectivas", se lee en el documento.

Sobre los indocumentados, concretamente, destacaron la importancia de la cooperación entre los países de origen, tránsito y destino para "asegurar la plena protección de los derechos humanos de todos los migrantes, incluidos los trabajadores migratorios con sus familias, y la observancia de las leyes laborales aplicables a ellos".

Del mismo modo, acordaron implementar programas de migración ordenada como factor de desarrollo económico y social, y cooperar "en el combate a la trata de personas, que afecta especialmente a mujeres y niños".

Igualmente coincidieron en intensificar sus esfuerzos para "combatir la corrupción y otras prácticas no éticas en los sectores público y privado, fortaleciendo una cultura de transparencia y una gestión pública más eficiente".

En cuanto al crecimiento económico con equidad para reducir la pobreza, resaltaron la importancia en este rubro de la participación del sector privado en el logro de tales objetivos, por lo que anticiparon que apoyarán "a las micro, pequeñas y medianas empresas a través de políticas y programas que faciliten su consolidación y formalización".

Deuda externa  
Consideraron pertinente tomar en cuenta, cuando corresponda, las previsiones sobre alivio de la deuda externa.

Aparece un capítulo en el que anticipan que impulsarán políticas que fortalezcan los sistemas de seguridad social en sus respectivos países. Del mismo modo, se instrumentarán redes de protección social u otras modalidades apropiadas para atender a los sectores más vulnerables de nuestras sociedades.

Para combatir el sida, calificaron de "necesario" realizar mayores esfuerzos de prevención, atención y tratamiento en el hemisferio. "Nuestro liderazgo político es esencial para hacer frente al estigma, la discriminación y el temor que disuaden a las personas de someterse a la prueba y acceder al tratamiento y atención", comentaron.

Llegaron a la conclusión de

que el fortalecimiento y respeto del estado de derecho, la defensa de los derechos humanos y las libertades fundamentales, el progreso económico, el bienestar y la justicia social, la transparencia y la rendición de cuentas en los asuntos públicos, la promoción de diversas formas de participación ciudadana y la generación de oportunidades para todos son "fundamentales para promover y consolidar la democracia representativa".

En uno de los aspectos que tuvo más debate en el encuentro, los presidentes confirmaron

que promoveran la transparencia en los procesos políticos, en la administración de las finanzas públicas, en las transacciones gubernamentales y en los procedimientos de licitaciones y contratos.

Sobre este asunto, acordaron la modernización del Estado como "elemento importante para el fortalecimiento de la gobernabilidad democrática y el buen gobierno".

Finalmente, empeñaron su palabra en tomar todas las medidas necesarias para "prevenir y combatir el terrorismo y su financiación".

## Feds Target Hispanics in New DUI Campaign

For the first time, the government is launching a drunken driving campaign targeting Hispanics, who are at higher risk of death in alcohol-related accidents.

Alcohol-related crashes account for half of all Hispanic traffic deaths, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (news - web sites). In the general population, alcohol-related crashes accounted for 41 percent of traffic deaths in 2002. "States have been clamoring for good-quality Spanish-language materials," agency spokesman Rae Tyson

said Wednesday.

Spanish-language radio and television ads featuring Latin music and rap are being distributed nationally to Hispanic stations. Brochures and posters will be sent to clinics and other groups that serve Hispanics.

The agency developed the materials along with the Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention and has been testing them in North Carolina, New Mexico and Texas.

Tyson said NHTSA doesn't have figures showing how much has been spent on the campaign.



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# Juan Gabriel relucirá en Viña del Mar



que estaba asociado a la cadena mexicana Televisa. Juan Gabriel regresó a los escenarios de Chile en 1996 en Viña del Mar, lugar donde se consagró ante el público chileno como el máximo idolo de la música latinoamericana y sólo una vez debió cancelar su presentación en 1999.

Además de Juan Gabriel, que se presentará el viernes 20 de febrero, estarán en el show de Viña del Mar el mexicano Cristian Castro, la colombiana Soraya, los mexicanos de Molotov, el argentino Fito Páez y el guatemalteco Ricardo Arjona, entre otros. NOTIMEX

## Rodriguez of Mariachi fame will compose music for Tarantino's

### "Kill Bill, Vol. 2"

Filmmaker and burgeoning film composer Robert Rodriguez will compose music for pal Quentin Tarantino's upcoming "Kill Bill - Vol. 2."

The Texas-based filmmaker -- who not only writes and directs his movies but also edits, shoots, creates visual effects and composes them -- made the announcement Wednesday during the first day of the second annual Hollywood Reporter/Billboard Film and TV Music Conference at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel.

"Kill Bill - Vol. 2" is set for a Feb. 20 release via Miramax Films.

For most of his lecture, Rodriguez discussed how he made the leap from filmmaker to composer on such films as "Once Upon a Time in Mexico" and "Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over." But he also talked of how composers need to empower themselves and try to get in earlier in the process.

"These are dangerous times, where people's scores get tossed out at the last second and another composer is brought in two weeks before release," Rodriguez said. "When was the last time you heard an actor was replaced on a movie after he shot his entire performance? For some reason, composers aren't treated the same way as the other collaborators, even though their job is just as important to the emotional content of the movie. And I didn't realize that until I started composing."

"Right now, music is an afterthought," he added. "But it shouldn't be that way."

Rodriguez suggested that composers are sometimes treated as if they are disposable because their work process "seems like voodoo" to directors and producers.

He said composers need to come in much earlier in the moviemaking process, and he advised composers to talk to not only a film's director but also its actors and screenwriters, even going so far as to look at past script drafts for insight.

"Write from a place of character," Rodriguez said. "If you can't feel it, how will your audience feel it?"

El cantante mexicano Juan Gabriel será por quinta vez el "plato fuerte" del Festival Internacional de la Canción de Viña del Mar, certamen que se realizará en ese balneario chileno en febrero próximo.

La comisión organizadora del certamen informó este viernes en un comunicado de prensa que con la contratación del cantautor mexicano se cerró la "parrilla" de artistas que se presentarán en el festival, uno de los más importantes de Latinoamérica.

Juan Gabriel actuó con gran éxito en las ediciones del Festival de Viña del Mar de 1996, 1997, 1998 y 2002, certámenes en donde realizó presentaciones de al menos 90 minutos que fueron aclamadas por las 15 mil personas que asisten a la Quinta Vergara.

El intérprete mexicano fue el cantante que más veces participó en el espectáculo del Festival de Viña del Mar en la década de los 90, cuando la producción del certamen estaba a cargo de Megavisión, canal

# Los mitos sobre el corazón de las mujeres

Aquellos que aún conservan la idea de que los males cardiacos son exclusivos del hombre harían bien en analizar las recientes investigaciones del Instituto Nacional del Corazón, Pulmón y Sangre (NHLBI).

En detalle Instituto Nacional del Corazón, Pulmón y Sangre (NHLBI): línea de información sobre la salud del corazón 1 (800) 575-WELL; en internet [www.nhlbi.nih.gov](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov).

Página electrónica de The Heart Truth Pledge: [www.lifewiseonline.com](http://www.lifewiseonline.com).

Página electrónica de la Organización Mundial de la Salud: [www.who.int/cn/](http://www.who.int/cn/).

Las enfermedades cardiovasculares se han convertido en la causa de muerte número uno entre las mujeres, dice la institución, y agrega que una de cada tres mujeres que padece de enfermedades cardiacas muere por sus complicaciones.

Sin embargo, lo peor de todo es que casi dos tercios de estas mujeres no tuvieron síntomas previos.

Por otro lado, la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) advierte que las enfermedades cardiovasculares cobran más vidas que el cáncer y reporta que anualmente 8.6 millones de mujeres mueren a causa de estos males.

Buenas nuevas Desde el mes pasado organizaciones como la Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes (YMCA) y el NHLBI unieron esfuerzos en una campaña dedicada a convencer y alentar a las mujeres a efectuar cambios positivos en su estilo de vida.

La campaña está patrocinada por la compañía LifeWise con una línea de productos para la salud.

Con el lema The Heart Truth Pledge, esta campaña motiva a realizar pequeños cambios cada mes que redunden en el fortalecimiento de la salud de su corazón.

jorar su estado físico, reducir riesgos de padecer enfermedades e integrar prácticas saludables que deberán durar toda la vida.

"Mucha gente todavía cree que este tipo de enfermedades es más común en los hombres, pero desde 1984 más de medio millón de mujeres mueren por males del corazón", dijo la cardióloga Susan Bennet.

"La bucanueva es que la mayoría de los factores de riesgo —como el cigarro, la presión alta, colesterol, inactividad física y obesidad— son controlables."

Las participantes de la campaña podrán reducir el riesgo de padecer una enfermedad cardiaca hasta en un 82%.

Algunas de las medidas que todos deben seguir, pero en especial las damas, son: reducir el consumo de sal, hacer caminatas más frecuentes o tal vez dejar de fumar.

Las participantes recibirán correos electrónicos con consejos para mantener su salud y mensajes llenos de inspiración, pero también pueden conseguir tarjetas con los horarios de actividades de las YMCA participantes y artículos como monitores cardiacos fabricados por LifeWise en las tiendas Radio Shack.

"El público no conoce los peligros de una vida sedentaria o no los toma en serio", comentó Arnold Collins, portavoz de la YMCA.

"Se ha reportado que un 60% de la población de este país no se ejercita. Sólo un 13% de las mujeres realiza la actividad física recomendada. Esta es una oportunidad para que la gente haga ejercicio y se motive de por vida."

EXPO 2004

# Bridal Quinceañera



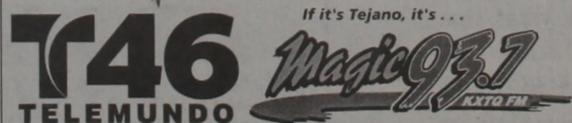
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Bridal Quinceañera EXPO 2004  
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# Salma Hayek defiende los derechos de la mujer

La actriz mexicana Salma Hayek participará junto con otras actrices como Jane Fonda y Glenn Close, en una campaña promovida en Estados Unidos que pretende acabar con la violencia contra las mujeres, informaron los organizadores.

Con esta campaña se realizará un llamado para "unir a hombres y mujeres para que se esfuerzen en acabar, de una vez por todas, con la violencia de género", anunciaron este lunes en un comunicado.

La campaña diseñada, y en la que han colaborado organizaciones no gubernamentales, asociaciones civiles y políticas, además de estrellas de Hollywood y otros populares artistas, se difundirá básicamente por televisión e Internet, y por primera vez en español.

Una de cada tres mujeres en el mundo han sido o serán, en algún momento de sus vidas, víctimas de la violencia, una situación que se puede prevenir, según la televisora Lifetime, que encabeza esta iniciativa mediática con diferentes frentes de acción.

Los organizadores añadieron que a través de la campaña se expondrán las diferentes formas de violencia contra las mujeres que existen y cómo todos los ciudadanos pueden apoyar a las víctimas y ayudar a acabar con este creciente fenómeno en todo

el mundo.

La principal acción de esta campaña será la emisión de un documental, titulado "Hasta que cese la violencia", que identifica las raíces de ese mal y en el que participan Hayek, Jane Fonda, Glenn Close, Rosie Perez, Eve Ensler y Lisa Gay Hamilton.

La cinta se podrá ver en todo el país el próximo 17 de febrero, aunque se estrenará la próxima semana en el Festival de Cine de Sundance (Estados Unidos).

También se emitirán, en marzo, algunos capítulos especiales de la serie "The Division", donde se aborda el abuso sexual contra niñas, además de un reportaje sobre la cantante Missy Elliot, quien reconoció haber sufrido malos tratos.

Los organizadores señalaron que como parte de la misma promoción, se distribuirán en todo el país un millón de folletos en los que se informa sobre este fenómeno y dónde acudir para pedir ayuda y apoyo.

También organizarán actividades y charlas en colegios de Estados Unidos sobre este delito para educar y prevenir su comisión y lanzarán una campaña en Internet a través del sitio Internet de Lifetime.

Esta campaña, que fue galardonada ya con un Premio Emmy por la academia de tele-

visión estadounidense, pretende utilizar el potencial de este medio y de Internet, para hacer frente a este problema.

Lifetime, con sus divisiones en la Red y su revista del mismo nombre, es propiedad del 50 por ciento, del grupo mediático Hearst y Walt Disney, y se centra en temas relacionados y de interés para las mujeres.

Para la presidenta de la Alianza Nacional Latina para la Eliminación de la Violencia Doméstica, Adelita Medina, la televisora es un ejemplo a seguir.

"Lifetime está haciendo un trabajo maravilloso, junto con otras organizaciones asociadas, para terminar con la violencia contra las mujeres, y con campañas como estas mujeres y hombres de todo el país podrán saber qué hacer en estos casos", señaló Medina. NOTIMEX

# EL EDITOR

PREVENGAMOS LA DIABETES...

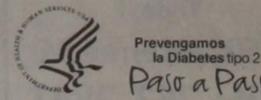
# Paso a Paso

Todos en la familia tenemos problemas de peso. El doctor nos dijo que corríamos el riesgo de desarrollar diabetes tipo 2. Sin embargo, nos tranquilizó. Nos dijo que aunque la diabetes es una enfermedad grave, la podíamos evitar o retardar.

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Un mensaje del Programa Nacional de Educación en Diabetes, un programa conjunto de los Institutos Nacionales de la Salud y los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades.

## Keeping an Eye on Texas

### Bowling For Dollars

Three of the four NCAA Division I bowls held in Texas will pump at least \$55 million into their respective local economies, bowl representatives say. This direct spending includes expenses for tickets, lodging, local travel, food and entertainment.

Estimated direct spending for each bowl:

- Cotton Bowl, Dallas — \$30 million,
- Sun Bowl, El Paso — \$15 million, and
- Alamo Bowl, San Antonio — \$10 million.



Organizers for the inaugural Fort Worth Bowl said they did not have any spending estimates available.

SOURCES: Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn and bowl representatives.

## Observando a Texas

### Los tazones generan dinero

Tres de cuatro tazones de la primera división del NCAA llevados a cabo en Texas traeran por lo menos \$55 millones hacia sus respectivas economías locales, dijeron representantes del tazón. Este gasto directo incluye el costo de los boletos, hotel, viajes locales, comida y entretenimiento.

El gasto directo estimado para cada tazón:

- Tazón del Algodón (Cotton Bowl) — \$30 millones,
- Tazón del Sol (Sun Bowl), El Paso — \$15 millones, y
- Tazón del Alamo (Alamo Bowl) — \$10 millones.



Los organizadores para el Tazón inaugural en Fort Worth dijeron que no tenían disponible el gasto estimado.

Fuentes: Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Contralora de Texas y representantes del tazón.

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