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Lubbock, TX USA

Education Crisis in America

By Mathew Gentile

etween 2000-2010, jobs asso ciated with at least an associate or bachelor's degree will grow y 23% -- nearly twice the growth of all other jobs.

On average, college graduates will earn \$900,000 more than high school graduates over the course of their careers.

While 29% of all Americans in their late twenties have a bachelor's degree, the same is true for only 18% of African Americans and 11% of Hispanics.

This year, 220,000 young people were priced out of college by record increases in tuition.

Less than one-third of American students are "proficient" in math and science.

American colleges graduate 60,000 engineers a year, one-tenth as many as are being graduated in India and China.

Today, fewer than 30% of scientists and engineers are female, black, or Hispanic.

THIS SHOULD AT THE VERY LEAST CONCERN YOU DEEPLY. IT ANGERS ME!

Instead of slinging dirt and treating voters like they are ignorant beasts to led around by the noses, consider this as a way to bring the U.S. back on track at cultivating our number one resource...OUR OWN CHILDREN!

Here is John Kerry's Plan to bolster our country's worrisome educational picture:

Offer summer institutes and mentors to 50,000 K-12 math and science teachers and \$5,000 bonuses for teachers entering these fields.

Provide \$300 million in innovation grants to encourage 1 million girls and minorities to pursue math and science.

Increase the number of undergraduate majors in math and science by fully funding the "Tech Talent" challenge grant program and increasing support for math/science programs at colleges



serving a high share of disadvantaged students.

Double National Science Foundation graduate scholarships for math and science.

Require colleges to report and share

with parents and students annual dataon the number of low-income, middle-income, and minority students,

both enrolling and graduating. Create a \$100 million college completion fund to reward colleges based on their success in increasing the number of Pell Grant students they graduate.

Making 4 Years of College Affordable and Attainable for All Americans.

Offer \$10 billion in fiscal relief for states to fund higher education provided they commit to keeping tuition increases no greater than the rate of inflation.

Modernize financial aid rules to benefit working adults who want to take advantage of online educational opportunities.

Partner with community colleges to develop state-of-the-art online course offerings. Support new community college/business collaborations to train workers in key areas of high technology job growth.

SOME COMMON SENSE AND POSITIVE SOLUTIONS TO A **GROWING PROBLEM IN OUR** COUNTRY. LISTEN TO A CON-CRETE PLAN, NOT SOME MORE **EMPTY RHETORIC WITH A** TEXAN DRAWL.

by Bidal Agüero

When I was growing up I always wanted to be a baseball player. It was during the days of Roger Maris, Mickey Mantle, Willy Mays, Yogi Bear and countless other legends that filled our televisions at lease once per week. I played most of my ball with my hermanos del Barrio Nuevo.

There were about 10 of us, enough to put five players on each team. We played with only one base at the North Avenue U elementary school playground. The defense was a pitcher, a catcher, a baseman and two outfielders. The object was to hit the ball as hard as one could, try and get to the base and back to home plate without being tagged. It was enough fun to keep us occupied and out of trouble, although during our breaks we did manage to sneak over, to the Mission Bottling Company a steal a pop off the trucks.

We played every day. That was when we were seven and eight and still a little to young to go work in the fields.

Sometimes I wonder if kids still play at playgrounds. From my personal experience, I know that most kids are to preoccupied by Super Nientendo and by Xbox to bother with playing ball. Nowadays most ball playing is at the Little League park. Unfortunately it costs most families, after entry fee and equipment, at lease \$100 per child to play.

In recent years many young persons, from 16 through mid twenties and sometimes older, have taken to playing softball. I would better describe it as big baseball because you can believe that there isn't anything soft about it.

This weekend El Editor will celebrate it annual Menudazo Festival that features a softball tournament, which this year will involve almost 1000 persons actively playing, and you can bet another 2000 persons watching and enjoying the game.

We invite everyone to come by and join us. Come by have a burrito, a cold drink and most of all, a good time. Bring the family. Perhaps our kids will get a little encouraged to get away from the TV and start being a little more physical. Contact Bidal at eleditor@llano.net

Nace una coalición para la reforma migratoria justa

na coalición de organizaciones de todo el país inició ayer el Movimiento para una Reforma Migratoria Justa (FIRM) con el fin expreso de educar a los electores sobre la negativa de la administración de George W. Bush de avanzar medidas migratorias reales y para registrar votantes de aquí a los comicios de noviembre.

Los grupos, apoyados por legisladores demócratas, convergieron en una rueda de prensa en el Congreso para anunciar que iniciarán una serie de anuncios televisivos en inglés y en español comenzando en cuatro estados: Arizona, Illinois, Nevada y Nuevo México donde exponer lo que, en su opinión, es la negativa de Bush a progresar por el camino de la reforma de las leyes migratorias.

Los anuncios de la coalición hablan de cómo la Casa Blanca y el Congreso republicano no han hecho realidad la promesa que formuló Bush el pasado 7 de enero cuando aseguró que propondría una reforma migratoria auténtica.

Por el contrario, dicen los grupos, la Casa Blanca ha intensificado su presión para que no progresen en el Congreso incluso medidas que contaban con el apoyo bipartidista.

Hace dos semanas, los líderes republicanos del Senado prefirieron retirar un proyecto de ley que querían aprobar porque contenía una enmienda denominada AgJobs, que pretendía regularizar la situación migratoria de medio millón de trabajadores agricolas que ya viven aqui, y mejorar sus condiciones laborales. La medida bipartidista tiene más de 60 coauspiciadores.

Por su parte, la Casa Blanca dijo la semana pasada a La Opinión que "AgJobs es consistente en algunas formas con los principios esbozados por el presidente Bush pero inconsistente en otros".

"En el Congreso están circulando diversas ideas y estamos trabajando con el Congreso para tratar de llegar a una medida que sea consistente con los principios esbozados por el Presidente", sostuvo la vocero de la Casa Blanca, Maria Tamburri

El líder de la mayoría republicana del Sénado, Bill Frist, afirmó que la falta de "tiempo" para el tipo de debate que generaría AgJobs fue lo que motivó la oposición a la enmienda.

"Han pasado (la Casa Blanca) del silencio a acciones agresivas (en contra del avance de medias migratorias)", dijo a La Opinión Cecília Muñoz, vicepresidenta del Consejo Nacional de la Raza (NCLR).

(Sigüe en la Pagina 3)

Labor Dept., Mexico vow to improve safety of Hispanic workers in U.S.

he Labor Department signed agreements Wednesday with Mexico pledging to improve compliance with U.S. labor laws and increase safety for Hispanic workers in the United States.

The declaration did not include additional funding or an increase in inspections and enforcement.

Department and Mexican government officials said they will build on existing initiatives aimed at reaching out to employers and Spanish-speaking workers to educate them about their rights and obligations.

The agreement and a Hispanic safety and health conference Thursday in Orlando, Fla., follow reports by The Associated Press that the death toll for Mexican-born workers has soared, with one death every day on average in the United States, based on federal statistics.

In the mid-1990s, Mexicans working in the United States were about 30 percent more likely to die than U.S.-born workers; in 2002, about 80 percent were more likely. Experts

say the population is hard to reach, and they often take the most hazardous jobs with the least safety training and equipment.

"This administration is committed to ensuring that (Mexican workers) are safe on the job and fully and fairly compensated for their work," said Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, who signed the agreement with Mexico's foreign affairs secretary, Luis Ernesto Derbez. "These agreements will build on this administration's unprecedented joint outreach program with the Mexican Embassy and its consulates in the United States."

The department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Wage and Hour Division will develop safety training programs targeting industries with a large number of Hispanic workers. If funds are available, the department will develop new safety public service announcements and create videos and posters, and will publicize and distribute existing materials and resources.

Kerry Leads Among Hispanics

ispanic voters strongly favor Democratic presidential L candidate John Kerry over President Bush (news, a poll released on Wednesday said.

Asked who they would vote for if the November presidential election were held today, 60 percent said they would choose Kerry and 30 percent said Bush, according to the poll.

The July 6-16 survey of 1,605 Hispanics was conducted by The Washington Post, the Univision Spanish language television network and the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute.

Fifty-four percent said they disapprove of the way the Republican president is doing his job, and 62 percent reject Bush's handling of the war in Iraq .

Sixty percent said they did not approve of the way Bush was handling the economy.

When asked who they trusted more to do a better job handling the situation in Iraq, Hispanic voters favored Kerry over Bush 45 percent to 34 percent.

Fifty-three percent said they trust Kerry to do a better job handling the economy. But 54 percent said Bush was doing a good job handling terrorism, and six in 10 said they thought Bush was a "strong leader."

Sixty-three percent said the war in Iraq was not worth fighting and nearly half said they did not think it had contributed to the long-term security of the United States.

Among Hispanic voters, the economy ranked as the single most important issue, followed by education, the war in Iraq and terrorism.

Bush and Kerry have actively courted the Hispanic vote, which could be crucial in key states like Arizona and Florida in a tight race. Around 6 million Latinos voted in the 2000 presidential elections, 35 percent of them for Bush.

About 40 million Latinos live in the United States, of whom two-thirds are of Mexican origin, according to the U.S. Census Bureau (news - web sites).

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Texas universities report low Hispanic enrollment

ispanic students. ArchiveDallas, Texas, U.S.A., July 16, 2004 (Notimex) - The Texas Board for Coordinating Higher Education __ reported low

enrollment of Hispanic students in Texas Universities in spite of the fact that this ethnic group is the largest and the fastest growing in the state.

In a report the Board pointed out that in the fall of 2003 only 291 thousand 959 Hispanic students were enrolled in the state's universities, a number lower than the goal set by state officials for the ethnic group.

Officials in Texas had set as their goal to enroll at least 340 thousand Hispanic students by 2005.

A demographer for the University of Texas, Steve Murdock, pointed out that in the state's universities is a

increasing Hispanic enrollment priority issue since this minority

is the largest and the fastest growing in the state.

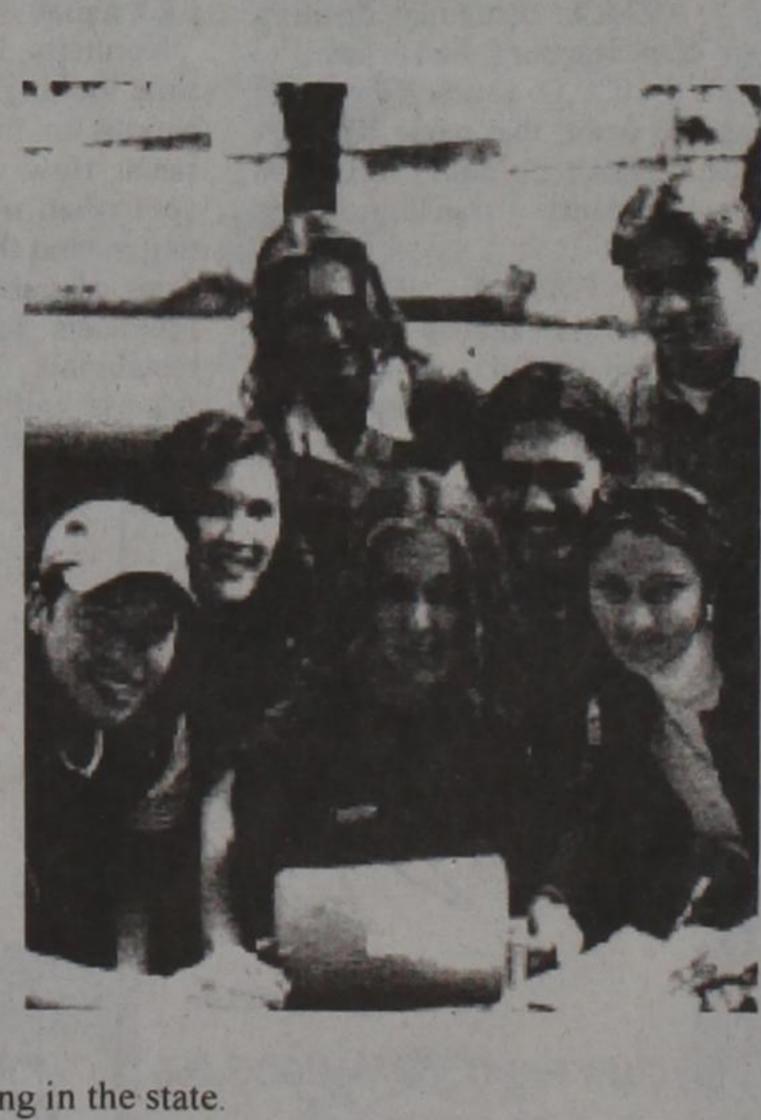
In 2000 the state government set five, 10, and 15-year plans with enrollment goals for Hispanic, Afro-American, and Anglo students for the universities

around the state. According to the Texas Board for Coordinating Higher Education, the fiveyear goal for Anglos and Afro-Americans has already been reached.

In the fall of 2003 there were 626 thousand 201 Anglo and 132 thousand 211 Afro American students registered in Texas' universities, when the goal for the fall of 2005 was 591 thousand for Anglos and 130 thousand for Afro-Americans, both groups exceeded the goal by two years.

Recently, the Board has conducted several campaigns to increase university enrollment, consequently registration of students from all ethnic groups has gone up, only registration of Hispanic students has not kept pace with the group?s overall growth.

In the 2000 Census, Hispanics made up 32 per cent of the entire population of the state of Texas and 23 per cent of the students registered in universities.



Los Hispanos Democratas y Republicanos Tienen Metas en Comun

Por Sonia Meienaez

Los activistas de los partidos republicano y demócrata puede que no concuerden en cuanto a cuál de los partidos sea mejor capacitado y comprometido para enfrentar los temas de mayor envergadura para los hispanos, pero eso si, hay dos temas sobre los que están firmamente de acuerdo:

Que definitivamente existen temas de mayor envergadura que enfrentar este año.

Que los hispanos definitivamente serán un factor decisivo durante los comicios en noviem-

En un tramo de 20 días, 1,300 activistas comunitarios latinos provenientes de toda la nación se reunieron en el Hyatt Regency del Capitolio en Washington, D.C.

El 13 de julio, unos 300 activistas republicanos participaron alli en una cumbre de liderazgo hispano. Sólo días antes, los mismos salones los ocuparon casi 1,000 invitados, predominantemente demócratas, durante la conferencia anual de la National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Este último grupo lo comprenden mayormente comerciantes y lideres de los sectores sin fines de lucro y académicos. Escucharon a expertos y altos funcionarios de la administración de Bush, tal como el consejero al

presidente, Alberto Gonzales, administrador de pequeñas empresas, Héctor Barreto, y nominados políticos para la educación María Hernández Ferrier y Adam Chavarria.

Dirigida por la senadora republicana de Texas, Kay Bailey Hutchison, la cumbre incluyó presentaciones sobre la salud, la educación, la economía y empleos, además de poner al público al día de temas de relevancia para los hispanos bajo consideración actualmente en el Congreso y la Casa Blanca.

La representante republicana de Florida, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, marcó el tono:

Podemos hablar de muchas cosas que nos dividen (como hispanos), sin embargo debemos hablar sobre lo que nos une". Esto es esencial, dijo, "para poder ofrecer cuidados médicos de calidad a nuestros mayores de edad...barrios libres crimen...y mejores oportunidades de empleo".

Kevin Schweers vocero de la senadora Hutchinson, le explicó a Hispanic Link que debido al alto interés en y gran concurrencia de la conferencia, existen planes para hacer de la cumbre de liderazgo nacional un evento

El senador republicano de Utah, Orrin Hatch, lider en la promoción de temas de importancia a la comunidad hispana

en el Senado, que no cuenta con ningún miembro latino, instó a los participantes a que presionaran a sus legisladores para aprobar el acta DREAM. Este proyecto de ley, que cuenta con el apoyo de más demócratas que republicanos, les abre el camino a algunos estudiantes sobresalientes pero indocumentados a que asistan a universidades estatales pagando cuotas a nivel de los residentes del estado.

"Esto no es una amnistía. Es una manera de ayudar a estos jóvenes a ganarse el derecho a una educación", dijo Hatch.

Administrador de la administración de pequeñas empresas, Héctor Barreto, enfatizó que el número de pequeñas empresas en manos de propietarios de color ha aumentado durante la administración de Bush.

"El año pasado los hispanos recibieron un 45% más en préstamos – casi mil millones de dólares dirigidos específicamente a las pequeñas empresas de hispanos", dijo.

Cecilia Pozo Fileti, presidenta de Latino Health Communications, con base en Ann Arbor, Mich., indicó durante una sesión que por primera vez en 100 años la expectativa vital de los niños es menor que la de sus padres como resultado de la obesidad. Su proyección fue que de los níños latinos nacidos en el 2000, la mitad contraerá la diabetes.

El presidente Elías Antonio Saca de El Salvador fue el ponente principal invitado a la cumbre. Enfocó las contribuciones que hacen sus compatriotas a este país.

"Los más de dos millones de salvadoreños que actualmente residen en los Estados Unidos...no sólo han contribuido a fortalecer la economía de los EEUU, sino que también, mediante sus remesas, han jugado un rol crítico en mantener

nuestra propia economia". Durante su comentario central. Lynne Cheney, esposa del vicepresidente Dick Cheney, presentó un vistazo general de la guerra en Irak, la economía y la educación.

Participante Marciano Morales, presidente de Caprock Home Health Services en Lubbock, Texas, enfatizó a Hispanic Link que "El ámbito político es el elemento que nos vincula a todos nosotros", mientras que el doctor Albert Pacheco, director ejecutivo del Idaho Migrant Council, dijo que el mensaje que lleva a su estado es que todos los latinos promueven las mismas metas. Durante este año electoral, dijo con claridad, los funcionarios elegidos están prestando atención a los temas de importancia para los latinos por lo que precisan del voto hispano.

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lighted the contributions his

countrymen make to this coun-

Salvadorans who now live in the

United States...have not only

contributed to strengthening of

the American economy but also,

through remittances, have played

a critical role in maintaining our

In her keynote remarks, Lynne

Cheney, wife of Vice President

Dick Cheney, presented a general

overview on the war in Iraq, the

Participant Marciano Morales,

president of Caprock Home

own economy," he said.

economy and education.

The more than two million

In the Absence of Leadership

By Abel Cruz

A few years back, I saw a movie in which Michael Douglas portrayed the President of the United States. During the movie, he is accused of failing to forcefully lead his staff in a reelection fight against his opponent who was clearly getting the voter's attention.

His response to Michael J. Fox's character, berating him for his inaction, was to tell him that even people dieing of thirst in the desert will drink sand in the absence of water. His point being that people are so thirsty for water, that they will believe anything that someone tells them; in this case his opponent, that the sand will quench their thirst.

Unfortunately, as a voting constituency, Hispanics are always viewed as a group that is easily politically influenced and that we tend to believes a lot of the political rhetoric and doublespeak employed by politicians.

This would be fine I guess, except that even though we are viewed as a voting bloc that can influence the outcome in an election(and I believe that we can) we rarely make sure that what we are told is in the cup is really in the cup!

In politics, deals are brokered everyday. Not that that makes it right, but it is a fact that we live in a "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" type of political world. It is no coincidence that interest groups and industries consistently donate huge amounts of money to both political parties. They do it, not out of generosity, but because they want to influence legislation that will affect their particular industry in a positive way and more than likely benefit them economically.

My question is, are we getting a bang for our buck? And most importantly; who or what group brokers our deals for us?

For example, doctors have the American Medical Association, trial lawyers have the Trial Lawyers Association, African Americans have the NAACP, and even the Christian right has Jerry Fallwel and company. Whom do we have?

Well let's see, we have LULAC, we have the National Council of La Raza, MALDEF, the US Hispanic Chamber, and a countless number of other Hispanic organizations but not one that stands out as the one that will lead us through the proverbial desert. Perhaps we have become too diverse and no one organization can serve as a one size fits all?

But until we do find that leadership, we will continue to be left waiting at the altar.

The Hispanic organization known as the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, NALEO, estimates that close to 7 million Hispanic/Latino voters will cast a vote in this year's presidential election. Texas voters will represent about 1.5 million of that total. That represents close to 21% of the total votes that will be cast in Texas.

Yet, organizations like LULAC still have trouble getting President Bush to address their national convention in person. Instead the "leadership" has to settle for a satellite address by the President. Yet the question posed to White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan in the July 9 presidential briefing, was why the President had turned down an opportunity to speak at the NAACP Convention, not why would he not be speaking at the LULAC Convention!

Talk about always a bridesmaid and never a bride!

Hispanic leadership or the lack thereof is one of our most pressing issues. It is an issue at the national, regional and local level. And until we decide to define it, to define ourselves as a voting power bloc and sell that to our Hispanic brethren, we will continue to be left at the "voting altar", always there to catch the bouquet...or the garter belt!

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Democrat, Republican Hispanics have Some Common Goals

By Sonia Melendez

Latino Republican and Democratic Party activists may disagree on which party is most capable and committed to address major Hispanic issues, but on two things they firmly agree:

There are major Hispanic issues to address this year.

Hispanics will be a decisive

factor in the November elections. In the space of 20 days, 1,300 Latino community movers and shakers convened from throughout the nation at the Hyatt Regency on Washington's Capitol

On July 13, some 300 invited GOP activists participated in a Hispanic Leadership Summit there. Just days before, the same rooms were occupied by nearly 1,000 predominantly Democrats at the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials annual conference.

The latest group was made up mainly of business owners and leaders in the non-profit and academic sectors. They heard experts and high-ranking Bush Administration officials such as the president's counsel Alberto Gonzales, Small Business Administrator Héctor Barreto, and

education appointees Maria Hernández Ferrier and Adam Chavarria.

Hosted by U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-Texas), the summit included presentations on health care, education, the economy and jobs, plus updates on Hispanic-related issues under consideration by Congress and the White House.

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) set the tone:

"We can talk about a lot of things that divide us (as Hispanics), but we must talk about what unites us." This is essential, she said, "so we can provide quality health care our seniors,...neighborhoods free of crime,...and better employment opportunities."

Hutchinson spokesperson Kevin Schweers told Hispanic Link that because of the conference's high interest and attendance, there are plans to make the National Leadership Summit an annual event.

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), a leader in promulgating Hispanic issues in the Senate, which has no Latino members, urged attendees to press their legislators to support passage of the

DREAM Act. The bill, which has support from more Democrats than Republicans, paves the way for some outstanding undocumented students to attend state colleges paying in-state tuition

"It's not amnesty. It is a way of helping these young people to earn their rights to an education," Hatch said.

SBA Administrator Héctor Barreto emphasized that the number of small businesses owned by groups of color has increased under the Bush Administration.

"Last year 45 percent more loans went to Hispanics -- almost a billion dollars specifically to Hispanic small businesses," he

Cecilia Pozo Fileti, president of Latino Health Communications, based in Ann Arbor, Mich. , pointed out in a panel session that children are facing a shorter life span than their parents for the first time in 100 years as a result of childhood obesity. She projected that of all the Latino children who were born in 2000, half will develop diabetes.

President Elías Antonio Saca of El Salvador was the summit's invited guest speaker. He highHealth Services in Lubbock, Texas, emphasized to Hispanic Link, "The political arena is the bonding element for all of us," while Dr. Albert Pacheco, executive director of the Idaho Migrant Council, said that the message he is taking home is that all Latinos are promoting the same goals. In this election year, he made clear, elected officials are paying attention to Latino issues because they need the Hispanic

vote. C Hispanic Link News Service, 2004. Distributed by Tribune Media Services International.

Switching to Spanish Doesn't Sanitize a Vulgar English Word

By Bessy Reyna

A few months ago I lamented the lack of taste and the vulgarity shown by the owner of a trio of Mexican restaurants in Connecticut named "C.O. Jones." One town stopped the owners from displaying this name on the street side of the business. Another allowed it because "no one complained." I still get angry when I walk by the storefront in Mansfield, Conn., and read the sign.

Here's what happened.

A Mexican restaurant opening in West Hartford, had wanted to call itself C.O. Jones. When read as one word, that name becomes the Spanish cojones, for which the closest translation is "testicles."

Hartford, an upper middle-class suburb that has been successful in attracting many fancy restaurants, also prides itself on being an oasis for families. The town's business development office considered that C.O. Jones was inappropriate for such an elegant, familyfriendly community.

Bob Potter, the restaurants' owner, has another restaurant in New Haven with the same name. He claims that people in that city have not complained. Then Potter decided to open yet another restaurant, this one in Mansfield. where the University of Connecticut is located. To him the name is just a clever marketing tool, a play on words.

Normally, I don't spend a lot of time looking at the social implications of the names of restaurants. However, I have a weak spot when it comes to trying to understand the cultural ramifications of names chosen by non-Mexicans for their "Mexican" restaurants. Why would anyone want to call a restaurant a crude version of the word "testicles"?

The Mansfield restaurant is located directly across from E.O. Smith High School. I have visions of teens in Beavis and Butt-head fashion pointing, giggling and making jokes. All at the expense of Latinos.

I decided to research the use of the Spanish word, starting with an Internet search.

Aside from a plethora of pornographic sites, I found, much to my surprise, that there is a video game coming out soon called "Indiana CoJones." Miller Lite has sponsored a Cojones Grande sweepstakes to pick the winner of a football championship.

The Web site Ociojoven.com has a lengthy article in Spanish about the use of the word depending on the context. Radicalboard.com includes the word in relation to surfing and extreme sports. Even time.com in July 2001 had a column about NBC getting cojones because of its reality TV programming.

Internet magazine theregister.co.uk praises a Mr. Katalov's cojones(because he stood by his company's employee Dmitry Sklyarov, a Russian computer programmer, who was charged with trafficking in equipment to circumvent copyrighted materials. I also discovered the "Just for Fun Test" offered by QueenDom.Com. in which I happened to score in the major cojones category.

It seems that when events call for high levels of testosterone, "cojones" (is becoming the descriptive word of choice in the English-language media. It is now the supposedly sanitized version of the equivalent English vulgarity.

As the "Chicago" song says: "Everybody you watches got his brains in his crotch. What a

shame. What became of class?" C Hispanic Link News Service, 2004. Distributed by Tribune









By Harry Caicedo Alina Rubio is a metaphor.

For those who haven't met her, Alina Rubio is a fictional figure in my newly published novel, Conflicting Loyalties. She's unique but easily could be any Latina or Latino journalist working in the mainstream media. Her sharp reporting skills lead her to a hell of a story that morphs into a life-defining situation.

That's the crux of the novel's plot.

The pivotal figure in a multilayered tale, Rubio works for a Miami newspaper. Her probing of a suspected terrorist act — the mysterious sinking of a Coast Guard cutter off the coast of Cuba — erupts into an experience that challenges her professional ethics and personal loyalties. The Cuban-American Rubio could just as well be a reporter of Mexican origin working in Los Angeles or an Iraqi American covering a beat in Detroit.

Rubio's ties to her Cuban family and community lend a special edge to her dilemma. As she unravels her story's many threads, questions of loyalty, honesty and patriotism quickly spiral into a life-or-death situation — for her and potentially for thousands of others.

Such questions have become increasingly fuzzy in a complex world where easy definitions of right and wrong don't always fit the facts. This is particularly true for journalists, who are trained to doubt, to question, to see through the verbal fog designed to cloud their judgment.

The terrorism threat that now darkens our lives tends to warp interpretation of the fundamental values of our society. People with black-or-white mindsets try to draw lines in the sand: we're the good guys and if you disagree with our thinking and methods, you're with the bad

Resisting such enormous pressure to conform, even if fortified our Constitution's First

Amendment rights to free speech and opinion and to dissent, requires great courage. And democratic institutions become imperiled when people succumb to herd mentality.

How do such societal pressures direct our actions as individuals? Alina Rubio became my guinea pig to explore some options. I drop her into a fictional Miami situation not too far removed from reality. It's a setting rich in topical issues of diversity framed by Cuban exile tensions and the enduring Washington-Havana discord.

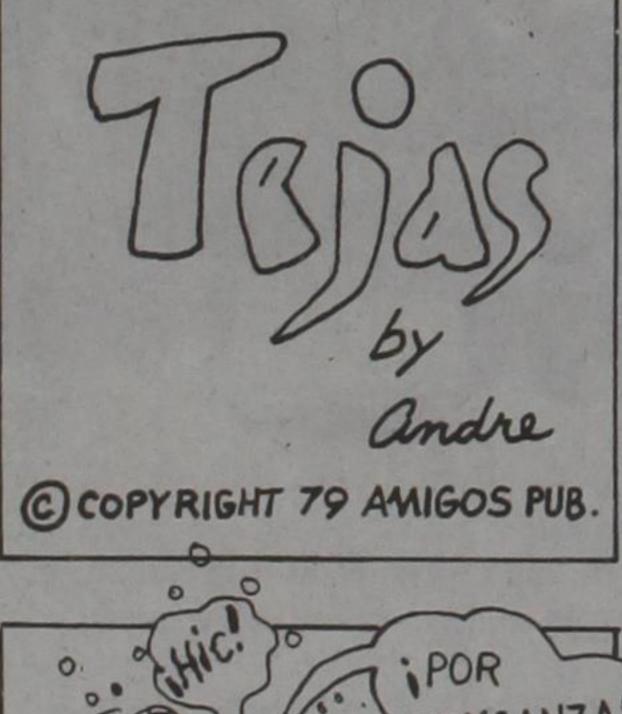
When I was shopping the novel around to traditional publishers, one told me it had no appeal because "it has too many Cubans." The Godfather had lots of Italians, Shindler's List plenty of Jews. By that publisher's reasoning, both novels should have bombed.

Alina Rubio's quandary and how she handles it - intellectually and emotionally - is universal. The circumstances may be vary, but the elements remain constant. Iraqis in their homeland today are having their loyalties defined and tested. Conflict tore at the loyalties in our own colonial times — root for independence or remain faithful to the crown. We all face tough decisions involving loyalties at some point in our lives.

I've been asked if Conflicting Loyalties might be viewed as anti-Cuban. It certainly is not intended to be. The novel's Cuban characters display a range of traits from noble to self-serving. Ultimately, each reader must draw his or her own conclusions, based on a fair assessment of all the factors at play.

I would hope that, besides bringing readers a few hours of suspense and entertainment, the novel will spark spirited discussion about how each of us would act if placed in Alina Rubio's shoes.

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Controversial show offers immigrants legal residence

A television show offering as the top prize legal residency for undocumented immigrants in Los Angeles caused a great deal of controversy among activists here, where it was described as "shameful", "ridiculous", and "revolting".

The show, something akin to "Fear factor" on American TV, challenges participants to eat things like raw animal entrails, even live animals such as worms, or to clean the windows of a building over 20 stories

The spot on Channel 62 called "Gana la verde" promises the winning undocumented immigrant, who might feel like throwing up what he just gulped down, the company will cover the expenses of gaining legal

una lucha interna entre los re-

publicanos que apoyan estas me-

didas migratorias y los que se

Lo peor de todo, dice, es que la

voz cantante en el tema migrato-

rio la llevan en el Congreso leg-

isladores republicanos con pos-

turas antiinmigrantes, como Tom

Tancredo, de Colorado, o Dana

"¿Qué está pasando? ¿Por qué a

ellos sí se les da tiempo en el

pleno para presentar sus enmien-

das, que si bien es cierto que ter-

minan siendo derrotadas, tam-

bién es cierto que se les da el

tiempo para debatirlas?", cues-

La semana pasada otra en-

tionó Muñoz.

Rohrabacher, de California.

oponen.

residency in the United States.

"Even though they eat a live elephant, if U.S. immigration officials say no, it's no," said Angela Zambrano, director of the Central Americans' Refugee Center (Carecen) warning of risks for the company and the undocumented immigrants themselves.

"It's highly questionable for anyone to attain their residency in this way, it is only issued if the requestor qualifies under immigration law, therefore, the risk is that they are toying with a person's dreams," she explained.

In a separate interview, community activist Xavier González pointed out the show "is shameful and a disgrace since it only embarrasses people, even tortures them, to see if they can have a chance at a green card."

"Watching this show is like seeing bread being offered to the famished or when the Romans threw the Christians to the lions for the people's entertainment,

it's unethical," he stressed. Besides, he explained, if a person seeking legal residency hires a good lawyer, once they qualify, the proceeding usually costs between 500 and 10 thousand dollars, therefore the prize is not really as attractive as they make it seem.

Nativo López, leader of Hermandad Mexicana Nacional (HMN) said the show is only ridiculing a human condition to a degree that it plays with people?s needs in a revolting

"The sad part is that shows like these compete with the most revolting American TV has to offer instead of competing at a cultural level people are demeaned, it's incredible," he said.

For his part, Luis Carrillo, an attorney distinguished for his activities in favor of immigrants warned that many people will be unable to attain their residency even if they win shows of this kind, those whom the law considers legally disqualified for example.

This means that false hopes are being generated exploiting the enormous needs and despair of an entire community.

Miguel Vanogian, programming director for Channel 62 would not take any calls asking for his opinion on the show.

Thompson, una de los más fuertes aliadas de la reforma migratoria, prometió que la camen apenas dos años. paña recibirá "nuestro más fuerte

apoyo". "Y vamos a ganar, si no es con este presidente, será con el nuevo que viene", dijo refiriéndose al virtual nominado demócrata a la presidencia, John Kerry.

Por su parte, el congresista demócrata de Illinois, Luis Gutiérrez, coautor del proyecto SOLVE Act, junto al veterano senador demócrata de Massachusetts, Edward Kennedy, dijo que el presidente Bush "rompió la promesa que hizo de componer el sistema (migratorio) y no ha invertido ni una onza de capital político para hacer avanzar este asunto"

Cuando se le preguntó por qué la plataforma de la Convención Nacional Demócrata no habla expresamente de la legalización de indocumentados, pero Gutiérrez sostuvo que el documento es "muy claro en lo que están diciendo" en término de que los inmigrantes obtengan una legalización ganada, se agilice la reunificación familiar, y otros te-

"Es cierto que pudieron ser más claros, pero, si John Kerry es elegido, vamos a tener una oportunidad real de obtener una reforma migratoria", sostuvo Gutiérrez.

Kerry dijo recientemente que, si gana las elecciones, durante los primeros 100 días de su presidencia presentará una amplia reforma migratoria.

Por otro lado, el futuro de las medidas depende de quién controle el Congreso, que ahora está en manos republicanas.

carbohidratos y alrededor de 26 millones llevan una dieta que puede definirse como baja en carbohidratos. La NRA estima que el negocio

dadania.

Health:

Una de las claves del éxito de

una empresa está en la buena

gerencia del negocio. Para ello es

de capital importancia que la di-

rección del negocio esté al tanto

de las tendencias de la industria.

Una de las tendencias más im-

portantes dentro de la industria

de la alimentación es la de-

nominada low carb o comidas

bajas en carbohidratos, ideales

para afrontar el creciente prob-

lema de la obesidad entre la ciu-

Según la Asociación Nacional

de Restaurantes (NRA), en la ac-

tualidad más de 70 millones de

personas ya limitan su ingesta de

de los alimentos low carb alcanza un volumen de 30,000 millones de dólares al año. El número de personas que toman bebidas dietéticas ha aumentado en un 75%

"Las tendencias actuales que apuntan hacia un incremento de los consumidores conscientes de su alimentación motivan a los operadores de restaurantes a añadir cada vez más opciones nutritivas", dijo Steven C. Anderson, presidente y director de la NRA durante la feria que la organización celebró a final de mayo.

En esta tendencia low carb no sólo están involucrados los restaurantes, sino también, y muy directamente, las empresas manufactureras de alimentos.

De hecho, existe la llamada Alianza de Manufactureros de Bajos Carbohidratos (LCMA). La LCMA proporciona investigación, educación y eventos públicos en nombre de los manufactureros establecidos en el país, distribuidores y otro tipo de negocios involucrados en la ali-

Gerencia 'Low Carb'

mentación. La LCMA está diseñando una estrategia de promoción de estilos de vida con pocos carbohidratos, y para ello lanzará la primera Promoción Mensual de Bajos Carbohidratos en enero de 2005. Entre los objetivos figura la distinción entre productos

low carb y productos dietéticos. "El Mes 'Low Carb' es una estupenda plataforma para toda la industria para promover los beneficios de comer menos azúcares refinados, grasas, harinas blancas y maiz, y comer más saludablemente", dijo a PR Newswire Iris Shaffer, directora

ejecutiva de LCMA. ciudadanos dirigiéndose hacia hábitos más saludables", añadió.

Una de las ventajas que ofrece la LCMA está en que la gerencia de las empresas podrá situar sus productos dentro de dicha categoria sin tener necesariamente que anunciar en las etiquetas que se trata de un producto low

Segun Ken Shore, vicepresidente ejecutivo de Blue Chip Health & Wellness, tampoco hará falta emplear grandes sumas de dinero en mercadotecnia, ya que a su debido tiempo los consumidores verán el logotipo de la LMCA en los productos expuestos en los supermercados proveyendo cohesión y unidad a una categoria que ahora mismo está dispersa por todas partes en los mercados y en las mentes de los consumidores".

Nace Una Coalición Viene de la primera pagina

Por ejemplo, dijo, mientras el mienda preocupante para los presidente Bush hablaba de la demócratas avanzó en un subgran contribución de los inmicomité de la Cámara de Repregrantes, se desató una ola de resentantes para evitar que el godadas, no en la frontera, sino en bierno federal acepte la matricula ciudades, que han sembrado terconsular como documento de ror entre la población. identidad para abrir una cuenta Incluso las medidas que cuende banco, por ejemplo. Su autor, tan con apoyo bipartidista no el congresista republicano de

avanzan, como el caso de Ag-Texas John Culberson, citó ra-Jobs, o como el Dream Act, que zones de "seguridad nacional". daría a los alumnos indocumen-"Hay una lucha interna y los tados la oportunidad de seguir republicanos quieren cortejar el sus estudios universitarios pavoto latino, pero también gando el mismo costo que un quieren cortejar el voto antiinalumno residente y les da la migrante. Pero no se puede estar oportunidad de regularizar su con los dos, y si escogen el situación migratoria. bando antiinmigrante, que nos Muñoz dijo que sin duda hay avisen", dijo Muñoz.

No obstante, muchos piensan que las medidas bipartidistas aun tienen posibilidades en el Congreso este año electoral si, al llegar septiembre, la Casa Blanca descubre que le conviene que avancen por motivos electorales en vista del 2 de noviembre.

De momento, el movimiento FIRM promete iniciar una campaña de registro de votantes a través del país y, según Deepak Bhargava, director ejecutivo del Centro para Cambio Comunitario, otro de los grupos que integran la coalición, el objetivo es registrar a 200,000 nuevos votantes inmigrantes en diez estados y otros tantos miles votantes

de escasos recursos económicos. Asimismo, conducirán 45 reuniones en diversos puntos del país que involucrarán a 65,000 personas quienes se dedicarán a ir casa por casa en sus respectivas comunidades registrando votantes.

ACCION EN LOS ANGELES

Angélica Salas, directora ejecutiva de Coalición de Los Angeles para los Derechos de los Inmigrantes (CHIRLA) en Los Angeles, dijo a La Opinión que "en Los Angeles estamos trabajando con las organizaciones proinmigrantes para que nos ayuden a registrar votantes y la meta inicial es registrar a 20,000 nuevos votantes inmigrantes".

A la pregunta de por qué esperaron hasta julio para lanzar la campaña de FIRM y no la iniciaron en enero pasado cuando Bush pronunció su discurso a favor de una reforma migratoria, Salas dijo que el evento de ayer es fruto de muchos meses de tra-

"Muchas de las organizaciones comenzaron a trabajar en enero y también ha tomado tiempo educar a las organizaciones, pero este evento de hoy (ayer) es el lanzamiento oficial de la campaña", indicó Salas.

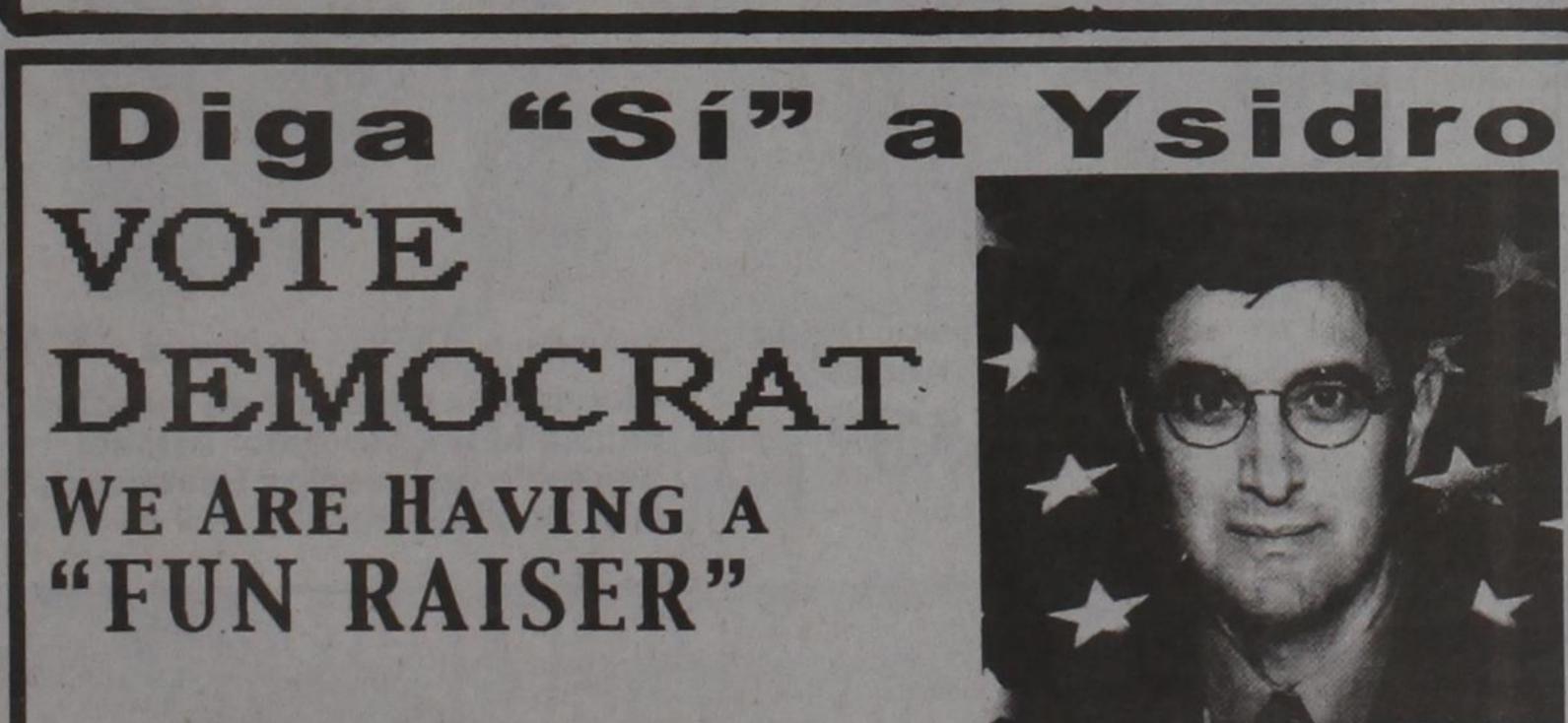
La vicepresidenta de la Central Sindical AFL-CIO, Linda Chávez

El Editor Newspapers

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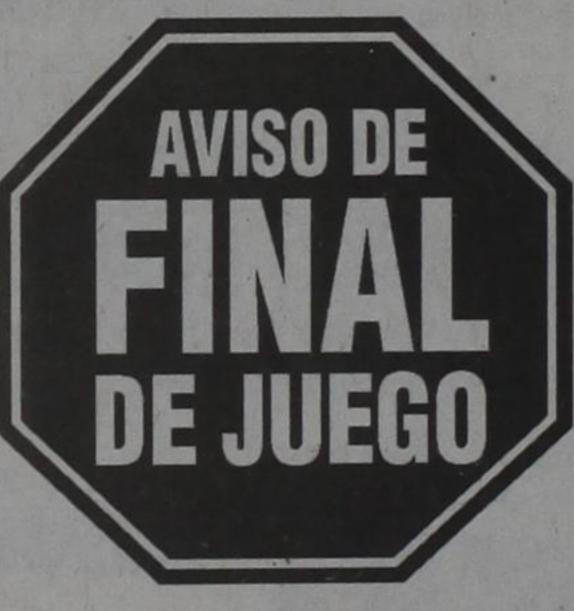
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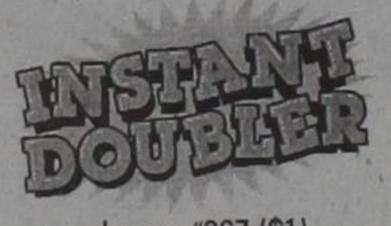
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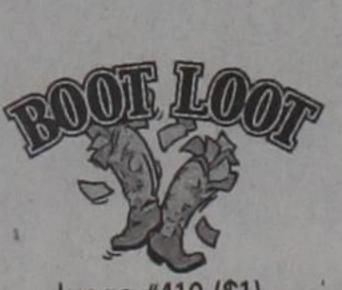
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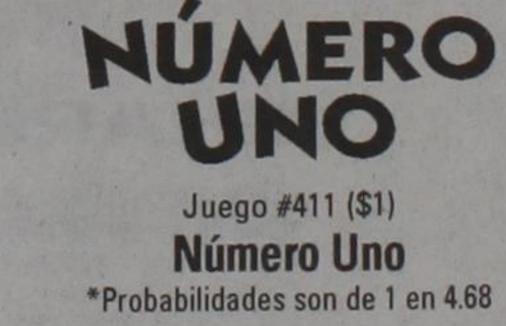
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The Raid: One Family's Ten Years Living in Fear

By Pedro Arroyo

As federal immigrant agents creep up California to probe into long-established communities for families without documents, my memory rolls back to that hot August day 20 years ago as though it were yesterday.

My father and mother came home from work with terror scrawled on their faces. They looked as though they'd had a run-in with the devil.

Wordless at first, they gradually related how that afternoon the Immigration and Naturalization Service raided the garment factory where they worked. In the mid-1980s the

INS routinely invaded factories in the Los Angeles garment district, rounding up and deporting hundreds of Mexican workers like them. They lived in fear of the INS.

The old factory has special meaning to me. It offered my father and mother their first jobs in the United States. It was where they fell in love. It was also the first place where my brother and I worked. It gave us our first real jobs when we were in high school. We labored there for a summer and got to see the sacrifices that our parents were making to provide

The factory's spinning and

weaving machinery looked like the pictures in my history book that discussed the industrial revolution. The machines dated back to the early 1920s. They were dirty and always breaking down. When operating, they created so much noise that it was impossible to be heard.

My mother worked on a spinning machine. My father's job was keeping the old machinery running. During his 15 years there, he brought many ancient machines back to life again. My dad would tell us, Despite the low pay, I will always have work here."

The place was filled with dust from the various fabrics

and garments that were spun and wove, and they often caused respiratory problems for employees, including my mother. The building lacked proper ventilation. It was terribly cold in the winter and a steam bath in the summer.

But that factory offered my folks a place to work, no question asked.

There was a sense of family there. My mother developed her closest friends to this day. Some coworkers came from Michoacán, the same Mexican state where my mom and dad had grown up.

A unique support network developed between people in

les to fellow workers to sup- took place that afternoon. dre sold jewelry on lay-away to when the raid began, my anyone who wanted to buy.

curandera -- folk healer -- who The INS agents entered the old

Despite the familiar environ- the six-story building. ment, my folks worked and lived in dread for our safety. various INS raids taking place through the freight elevators, throughout Los Angeles. They only to discover that they had feared the INS like nothing else been shut off. People hid inin this world.

the factory, mainly with the But nothing could prepare women. My mother sold tama- my parents and us for what

plement her income. Her coma- They were in their work areas mother worked on the third The factory even had its own floor and my dad on the fifth. performed spiritual cleansing building unannounced and be and prescribed remedios on the gan to ask people for documentation, gradually moving up

Workers on the first floor didn't have a chance to escape. Rumors were constant from My mother told how some of friends and neighbors about the her friends tried to get away

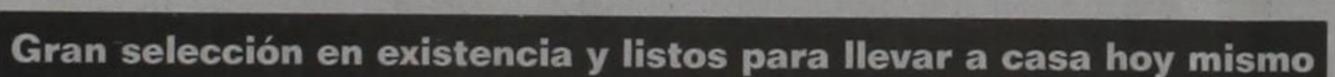
continued on page 5



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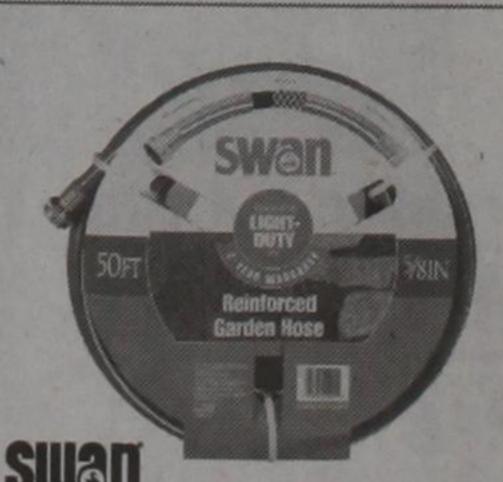
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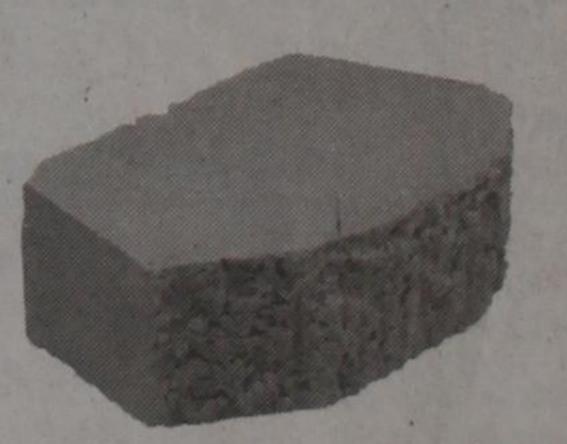
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El Editor - Week of July 22 - July 28, 2004 The Raid From Page Four

side boxes full of garments, behind machines and large garbage cans. Some covered themselves with garments of all colors and styles. Some used the fire escape to avoid capture.

My dad, mom and a few of their friends somehow managed to get to the factory's old attic and hide inside large boxes full f garments. "We covered ourselves with every thing we could find," my dad remembers to this day. "It was hot and sticky and difficult to breathe, but we did it anyway."

The INS entered the dark attic, briefly flashed their lights, made a few comments and left in a minute or so. "But it seemed like the longest time in my life," my father remembers.

Out of the 100 people who

worked at the factory, only a handful managed to escape. The owner sent those who came out of hiding after the raid home. He said there were not enough people to do the work. I doubt if they were in the mood to work, anyway.

Had my parents been caught, it would have meant economic and emotional disaster for us. I was 12 years old at that time, with two younger brothers and a few extended family members in Los Angeles, but not much else. Who would have cared for us had my folks been deported? The thought of it still frightens me 20 years later.

-After the raid, my parents became much more cautious about the places they traveled. It was already a struggle to get

my father to take us places. Those outings to unfamiliar locations became even more rare.

My folks warned my brother and me to watch out for the avocado-green vans with tinted windows. They instructed us to run and hide if one drove by. We knew our surroundings well, we spoke perfect English, and shared the innocent bravado of youth. Our fear wasn't nearly as great as that of our parents.

By custom, the men who worked in the factory met every Friday afternoon to play baseball in Chavez Ravine. The week of the raid, there was no game. The whole team, with the exception of the shortstop -- my father -- and the catcher had been deported.

By the middle of the following week, most of the men had returned to Los Angeles and back at work. The baseball games resumed. The men joked about the raid, but something in their exaggerated laughter told me they were still afraid

Those workers who made their way back to Los Angeles a few days after being deported became my heroes. I saw in them an incredible determination to survive, to give their

children security, to overcome any obstacles no matter how imposing.

In 1986 my parents applied for permanent residency status under the Immigration Reform and Control Act, known as the amnesty program. In 1988 we became legal residents of the United States. Ten years of living in the shadows were

We no longer had to fear the

raids or the avocado-green vans that took so many people away. A green card gave my parents the opportunity to look for better-paying jobs. After almost 15 year at the factory, my dad and mom felt free to leave in search of better opportunities and a better life for their children.

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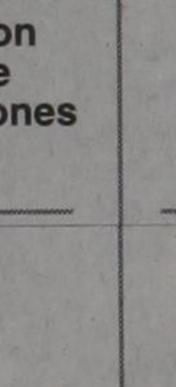
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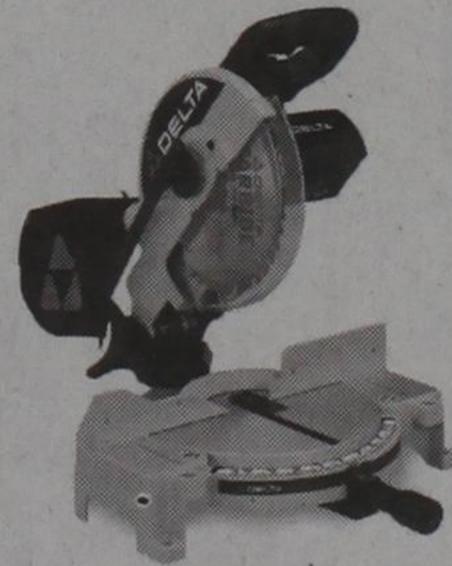
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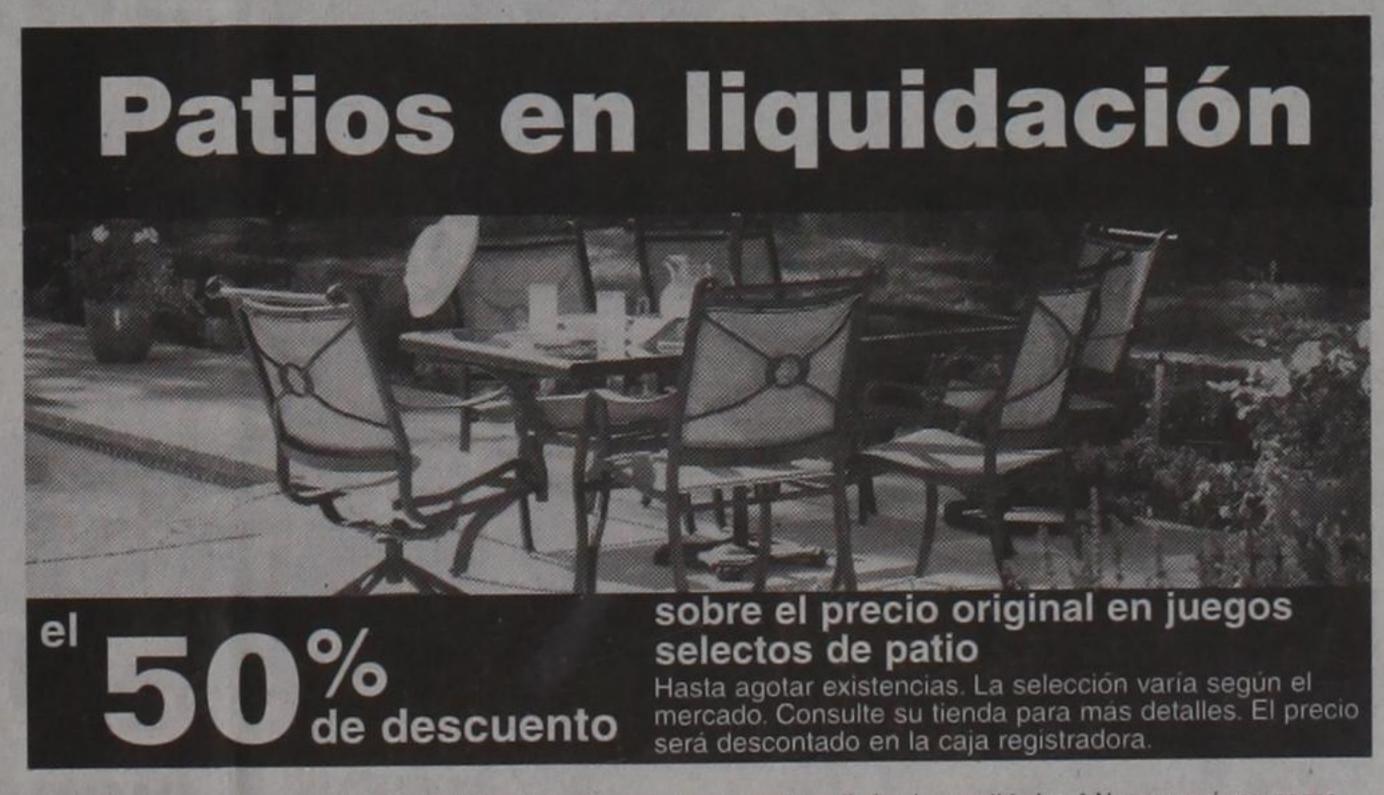


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Santana celebrates his 57th birthday

The first big star in the history of modern music to combine jazz, rock, and blues with Latin rhythms, Carlos Santana, who has also become the star to win the most Grammies for his work in music, celebrates his 57th birthday today.

Santana was born July 20, 1947 in the town of Autlan de Navarro, Jalisco. where "traditional music" was introduced into his life from birth by his father, a violinist for a mariachi band, who also taught him the fundamentals of music the-

After moving to Tijuana, at the beginning of the 60's, the Santana family moved to San Francisco, where they settled down.

Carlos loved the traditional music he inherited from his ancestors, but he was also interested in developing those roots of sound along with the spectrum of rock, blues, and jazz.

In 1966 he formed the Santana Blues Band, a group conjured up with singer and keyboard player Greco Rolie, bass player David Brown, drum player Bob Livingstone, later percussionist Marcus Malone joined the pair.

They soon began playing locally at San Francisco clubs and the intensity of the band's live performances was reflected in its 1968 recording "Live at the Fillmore".

In 1969 the group decided to cut their name to Santana; they became a huge success at the "Woodstock Festival" and launched their first long-play, "Santana", an album that quickly made number four of the popularity charts thanks to songs like "Evil ways."

The "Abraxas" (1970) album took Carlos Santana's group and his amalgam of sounds to its peak, reaching the top of popularity charts with new versions of Tito Puente's "Oye como va", "Singing winds", "Crying best", "Mother's daughter", etc., becoming one of the best albums in the band's history.

"Santana III" (1971), for which guitarist Neal Schon joined the group, brought both artistic and commercial stability to the band and again made it number one with songs like "Everybody's Everything", "Batuka", "No one to depen' in", and "Everything's coming our way".

After this success, the drug problems of several of the band members and Carlos' own growing spiritual inclinations broke up the group. Carlos embraced a Bengali guru's, Sri Chinmoy's, beliefs changing his behavior, image, and ways of looking at

Nevertheless, he never stopped producing, all through the seventies, eighties, and nineties he created live and studio recordings, wrote movie music scores, and toured with jazz sax player Wayne Shorter in 1988, until his spectacular comeback "Supernatural" (1999), for which he won nine Grammies.

Santana evolved his own peculiar musical style, a blend unperturbed with the passage of time, into a powerful rock sound with Latino tones, and with sales of over 40 million albums, performances for more than 20 million people, Carlos Santana has turned into the world idol whose music denies the existence of geographical or cultural borders.





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come to learn these advanced techniques. But that will all continue tomorrow, right now he's just being dad. The physicians at Texas Tech Medical Center Teaching, Caring, Healing for Life.



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Fusión da fineza al mariachi

En 1997, a los productores del Festival Internacional del Mariachi de Guadalajara se les ocurrió algo impensable hasta entonces: incluir en el concierto final a una orquesta filarmónica para que tocara junto con los mariachis.

Los que estaban en el teatro Degollado, lleno a toda su capacidad, recibieron a la filarmónica con escepticismo.

Cuando comenzaron a sonar las primeras notas, una rechifla inundó el recinto. A pesar de eso, los músicos no dejaron de tocar y minutos después llegó el Mariachi Vargas para hacer mancuerna con la orquesta.

Esa fue la primera vez en la historia en que una orquesta de música clásica acompañaba a un grupo al que muchos perciben como el emblema de la música mexicana, sobre todo los tapatios, que por ser su estado -Jalisco- la cuna del mariachi no dan tregua a la hora de preservar esa tradición.

Sin embargo, el aparente rechazo no hizo retroceder a los organizadores, y cuando terminó el concierto -aunque todavia muchos no quedaron convencidos- la orquesta y el mariachi fueron ovacionados de pie. A partir de entonces, es una tradición que en cada festival participe la Orquesta Filarmónica de Jalisco.

Retomando esa idea, el próximo sábado se efectuará en el anfiteatro Pacific de Cosa Mesa un concierto en el que participarán varios grupos de mariachi -entre ellos Mariachi Vargas— y la Orquesta Filarmónica de California. Esta será la primera vez que se lleve a cabo un espectáculo de esta naturaleza en Estados Unidos.

"Es una idea que se ha contemplado desde hace años... se va a combinar la música del mariachi con la fineza [de la música] filarmónica", dijo Larry Lam-



baren, director general de Fiesta Mundial del Mariachi, como se denomina el espectáculo, y que es parte de los festejos de la Feria del Condado de Orange.

Esta idea también se atribuye a Antonio Ramos, director general del Mariachi Tlaquepaque, un grupo del condado de Orange que también actuará en el conci-

Lambarén y Ramos coinciden en que este espectáculo es "para traer a esta nación los valores de nuestra cultura".

Sin embargo, éste será el preámbulo para una idea más ambiciosa que los directores traen entre manos. Ellos pretenden que ésta sea la primera Fiesta Mundial del Mariachi, pero que a partir de 2005 Los Angeles sea sede de un festival similar al que se lleva a cabo cada año en Guadalajara.

El plan es que también en este pais se reunan mariachis de todo el mundo y ofrezcan un concierto similar al que se organiza en el teatro Degollado. Este año, la mayoría de los grupos que participarán es del sur de Califor-

nia, pero los organizadores del festival mundial dijeron que va han hablado con más de 50 grupos para invitarlos a venir el año proximo.

Si la idea funciona, los mariachis que acepten se trasladarán de Guadalajara al sur de California a mediados de septiembre para celebrar aqui las fiestas pa-

Así, mariachis de Japón, Australia, El Salvador, Rumania y otros paises del mundo se trasladarian a Estados Unidos cuando termine la conferencia internacional, que cada año se efectúa en Guadalajara la última semana de agosto y las dos primeras de septiembre.

"Hay mariachis en Roma, Venezuela... en muchos países y el plan es que vengan acá para celebrar la fiestas patrias mexicanas.

México celebra el 16 de septiembre el Dia de la Independen-

Mientras tanto, el programa del sábado, que durará cuatro horas, incluye la actuación del mariachi Tlaquepaque, el Divas, formado

unicamente por mujeres, un mariachi de 30 jóvenes de una escuela del Valle de San Fernando y la intérprete de música ranchera Junko, de Japón.

Para Lambarén, la idea de la fusión de la música clásica con la popular de mariachi es cada vez más aceptada, y con ello, la que antes era considerada música del pueblo alcanza un nivel sup

"La finalidad de la fusión es como cuando un artista logra llegar a las masas y después canta en otro idioma. El mariachi es muy popular, pero ahora, combinado con la virtuosidad de la filarmónica, el público va a poder apreciar un estilo distinto", dijo L'ambarén.

Son dos corrientes distintas, pero que al fin y al cabo no están renidas, explicó Lambarén, quien puso como ejemplo el trabajo que ha hecho con bastante éxito el director español Luis Cobos, quien ha grabado varios discos de música popular mexicana interpretada por grandes orquestas europeas.

Entre los temas que incluye programa del sábado está un popurri de canciones románticas * mexicanas, uno de sones jaliscienses y uno de canciones de José Alfredo Jiménez; también hay temas clásicos como Las bodas de Luis Alonso y Violin huapango.

Al final del espectáculo, todos los mariachis, más un grupo de danza regional mexicana, interpretarán una pieza con la filarmónica, con lo que se calcula que habrá unos 120 músicos sobre el escenario tocando al mismo tiempo.

Eso es para Ramos y Lambarén lo más importante, que la tradición del mariachi perdure y que los jóvenes de padres mexicanos que nacieron aqui no se olviden de sus raices.

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Gael reveals he about died from hypothermia

Mexican heartthrob Gael García Bernal revealed on Argentine television that he was about to die from hypothermia in the filming of "Diarios de motocilceta", a film based on Ernesto "Che" Guevara?s younger days.

During a promotional tour in Argentina, García Bernal told the maximum diva of Argentine television, Susana Giménez, that the incident took place during a scene that was filmed in a lake in this country's southern region.

"I couldn't feel anything, not my chest or my legs, I was about to freeze. It was totally a lack of responsibility on my part," recalled the star of "Amores perros".

The actor explained that one of the things that took him most time during the shooting under the direction of Brazilian Walter Salles was adapting to the Argentine accent, which he had to learn in order to interpret the guerrilla, something that took him several months.

In "Diarios de motocicleta", a film that won the XXX Award from the Ecumenical Jury at the recent Cannes Film Festival and which is premiering July 29 in Argentina, Garcia Bernal plays a young Guevara, before he became known as "Che".

The movie tells the story of a

trip Guevara took when he was 23 with his best friend Alberto Granado, touring the countries of Latin America where he began to forge his revolutionary spirit.

García Bernal won praise from the TV interviewer Monday night on primetime "Hola Susana", one of the shows with the highest audience rating, however, Giménez, a tall, over 50 blonde, more than making questions mainly gave in to singing the Mexican star's praises.

"You have the most spectacular face!", "what lovely eyes!", "you're an incredible actor", the diva went on as the actor only smiled. "I just wanted to tell you, Gael, that I truly admire you" added Susana while Gael shyly thanked the most popular Argentine TV hostess.

"Tell me, who was the first to tell you that your handsome face would look good on the screen, that you had to make movies? Seriously, I've seen all your films and you were great in every one of them," Giménez went on. The interview ended with a

very forward, "I wanted to have you all to myself, to tell you that I admire you profoundly," said the diva, to which Garcia Bernal's only response was yet another shy smile. N

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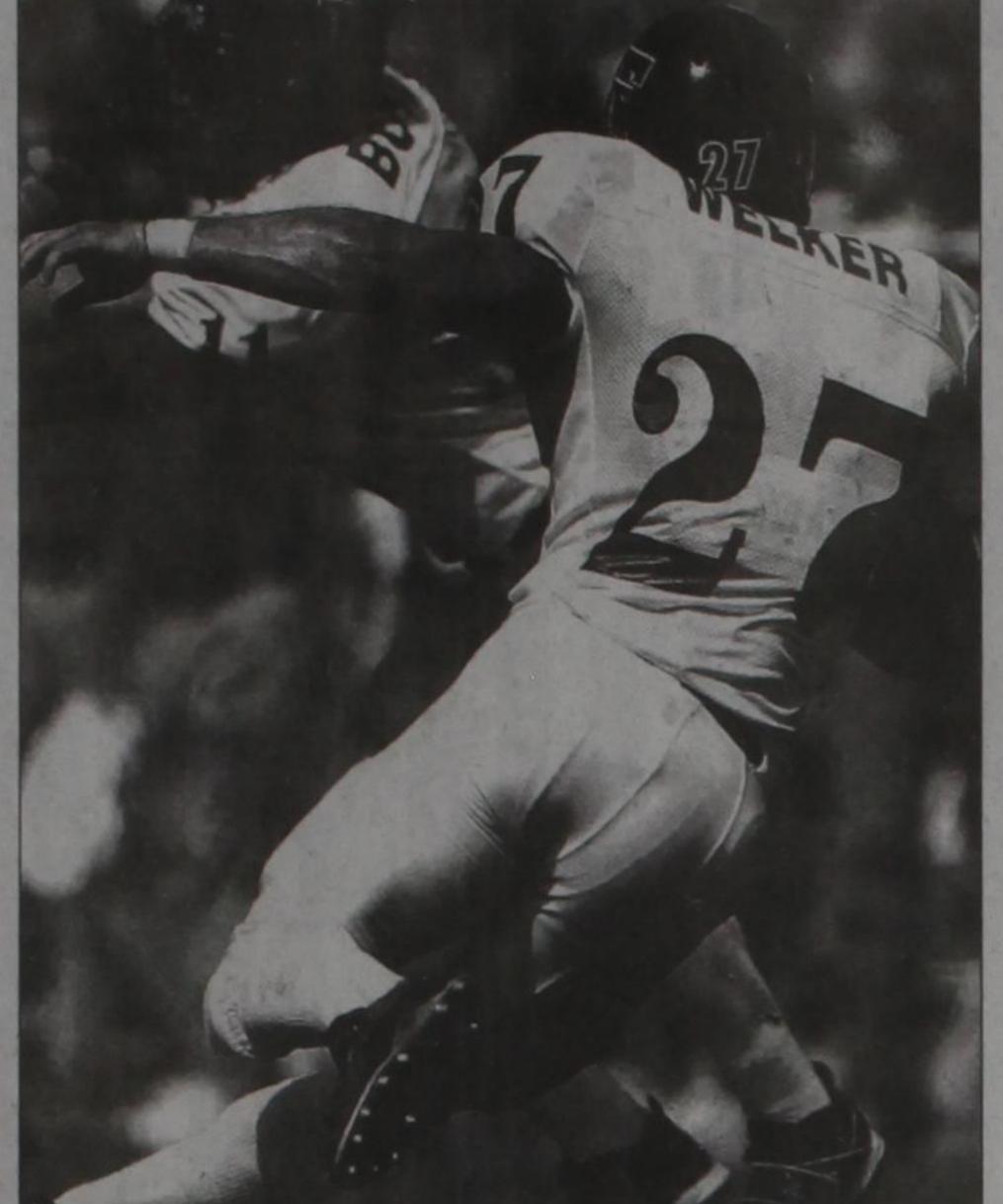
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Big 12 Proposing Dozen Game

Schedule Every Season The Big 12 Conference plans to propose NCAA legislation allowing teams to play 12 regularseason games beginning next year, commissioner Kevin Wei-

berg said Tuesday. Weiberg said adding a 12th game would give schools an opportunity to build more revenue and add flexibility in scheduling. He said the conference thinks the proposal is timely because the postseason format seems relatively settled with no additional games expected to be added the next few years.

The conference has done "limited research" suggesting an additional game would not be a health or safety hazard and student-athletes would support the plan.

"If you talk to athletes, I think they'd probably prefer to see a little less practice and a little more competition," Weiberg said.

Weiberg said NCAA rules requiring every team to have five home games makes scheduling a difficult task.

"It doesn't make a lot of sense to me to jump back and forth between 12- and 11-game seasons,"

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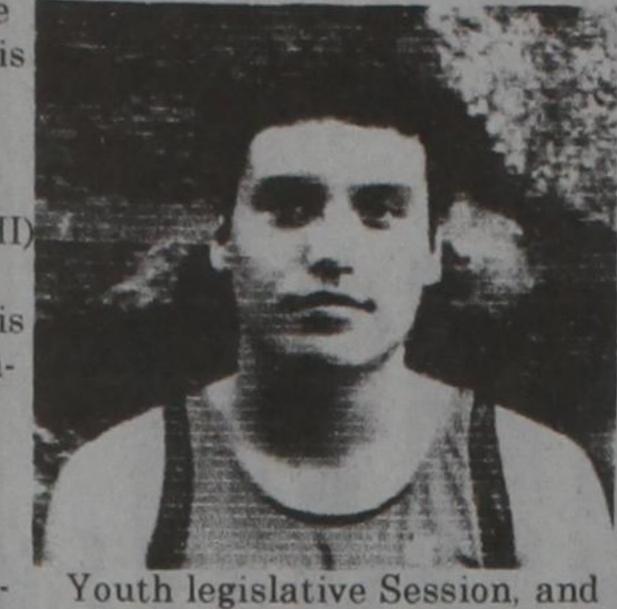
Prado Awarded National Hispanic Fellowship

Javier Prado, a Swarthmore college junior from Lubbock, is the winner of a 2004 John F. Lopez Research and Management Fellowship at the National Hispanic Institute (NHI) in Maxwell, Tex.

Prado, a philosophy major, is using the fellowship this summer to study high-achieving Latino high school students. As an NHI senior counselor, he is also facilitating discussions with college-bound Latino youth from the southwestern U.S. about the risk of disconnecting from the Latino community.

"I'm having a wonderful time relating some of my experiences, especially from Swarthmore, to each of my kids," Prado says. "My service is important because it creates awareness amoung our high-ability Latino youth about the disconnect situation. It also serves as a place to explore my identity as a complex American citizen whose identity not only comes from the place of my birth, but also from the history of my people and the choices I make.

Prado, the son of Maria and Rual Prado, is a 2002 graduate of Lubbock High School. He also attended Friendship High School. Prado is an alumnus of NHI's Young Leaders Conference, the Lorenzo de Zavala



the Collegiate World Series.

Founded 25 years ago in Austin, Tx., NHI provides high-achieving Latino youth in high school and college with key learning experiences that hone their skills as future leaders in the Latino community. Its eight different leadership programs operate both nationally and internationally and serve between 3,200 to 4,000 students a year. Prado's work with NHI is supported by the Swarthmore Foundation. which funds community service projects and fellowships throughout the year.

Located near Philadelphia, Swarthmore is a highly selective liberal arts college whose mission combines academic rigor with social responsibility. Swarthmore, with an enrollment of 1,450 is consistently ranked among the top liberal arts colleges in the country.

Ali stops Eplion with fourth round knockout

Laila Ali had little trouble defending her International Boxing Association super middleweight championship Saturday night, stopping Nikki Eplion at 1:30 of the fourth round.

Ali (17-0, 13 knockouts), the daughter of Muhammad Ali, showed some of the speed and quickness that made her father famous.

She repeatedly cut off the slower Eplion (12-2-2), forcing her to the ropes or into a corner punches.

The damage began taking a toll

in the third round when Ali knocked down the left-handed Eplion twice. Ali knocked her down in the corner with just under 40 seconds left in the round, then did it again with just under 10 seconds left.

Eplion got up before the bell and came out again in the fourth round. But Ali again knocked her down in the corner in the early moments.

Referee Gary Camponeshi stopped it after the fourth

and unloading with flurries of knockdown, midway through the

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Weiberg said. "The complica-

tions of that by a scheduling

standpoint, while that may seem

"I think also the economic

benefits from it are actually

greater to more institutions than

would be simply a tweak of an

Weiberg said he thinks there

needs to at least be a discussion

of adding a 12th game, even if

the legislation is not approved

duced, it would first be consid-

ered by the NCAA in January and

could be voted on for adoption

in April. If approved by the

NCAA board, the rule could take

effect next season.

After the legislation is intro-

trite, are not insignificant.

extra postseason game."

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