

Hispanics Reshape Civil-Rights Agenda

By Jeff Kuerth and Sherri M. Owens

On the national stage and in the local arena, blacks and Hispanics are engaged in a subtle, elaborate courtship that could change minority relations in this country for years to come.

Two of the nation's high-profile black leaders, the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, have turned the Navy's use of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, for a bombing-practice range into a civil-rights issue.

And in Osceola County, the local NAACP chapter has picked a Hispanic as its vice president.

As the Hispanic population surpasses the black population in Florida and the nation, civil-rights issues in America are taking on a Spanish accent.

"The new demographics just forces the issue that we have to abandon the narrow way of looking at things in a black-and-white framework," said Raul Yzaguirre, president of the National Council of La Raza in Washington, D.C. "Civil rights needs to grow beyond the old paradigm and become more diverse and inclusive."

Noting the 58 percent increase in the nation's Hispanic population in the 1990s, predominately black organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National

Urban League are increasing their efforts to recruit Hispanic members by addressing issues of importance to them.

Finding common ground

In many instances, leaders from those groups say, the issues are the same.

"There are major issues that confront our communities -- education, discrimination, unemployment," said Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, based in New York with affiliates in more than 100 cities including Orlando. "We will move faster if we coalesce."

June Jack, a stylist at Euro Designs in Eatonville, says he has seen up close the discrimination some Hispanics face. Jack, who is black, graduated in 1989 from Oak Ridge High School, where he estimates the student population was equal parts black and Hispanic.

"I see them getting harassed," said Jack, 29. "They have police issues. They get profiled. They get low-wage jobs. I'm for anything that will make a positive difference for everybody."

Making life better for all is the goal of the NAACP in its efforts to include more Hispanics, said Gerald Bell, president of the Orange County branch: "We are reaching out to Hispanics because we have some of the same issues. If we don't form some kind of

unity, neither of us will get anywhere."

Diversity in the NAACP

In Osceola, where the Hispanic population grew 294 percent in the 1990s, the strategy is working. Whites and Hispanics comprise a third of the NAACP's membership.

The two minority groups, each of which now represents about 12.5 percent of the overall U.S. population, come together often to deal with common issues such as discrimination, affirmative action, and voting rights.

"We participate very closely with the Rainbow Coalition and the NAACP and Urban League on issues across the board," said Brent A. Wilkes, executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens, a Mexican-American civil-rights organization in Washington. "Yes, Hispanics are surpassing blacks in population, but that just means more allies for blacks, not more enemies."

Demographic sea change

Blacks and Hispanics have a history of working together, but in the past Hispanics have always been the junior partner. That changed with the 2000 census, which declared Hispanics the nation's largest minority, outnumbering blacks by 650,000.

In Florida, Hispanics

outnumbered blacks by 400,000. Hispanics represent 16.8 percent of the state's population; blacks constitute 14.6 percent.

With a younger population, higher birth rate, and large numbers of new arrivals from the Caribbean and Latin America, Hispanics will continue to widen their margin over blacks in the future.

Worries from blacks

Some people worry the growth of the Hispanic population could weaken the influence that blacks have fought to build.

Angela Anderson of Orlando fears that as blacks lose the numbers game, they will also lose access to opportunities earned from decades of hard work during the civil-rights movement.

Hispanics, said Anderson, don't face the same level of discrimination as blacks.

"A lot of Hispanics don't even consider themselves a minority. They consider themselves white," said Anderson, 30, an insurance-agency representative who thinks black civil-rights groups should continue to focus primarily on the needs of African Americans.

Price said services of the National Urban League have always been available to anyone of any background. The group's mission statement, however, still shows a focus on blacks: "The mission of

the Urban League movement is to enable African Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity and power and civil rights."

As civil-rights groups, recognizing the shift in numbers, have ratcheted their efforts to make Hispanics feel welcomed, efforts by Jackson and Sharpton to embrace the hot-button issue of Vieques strikes some Hispanics more as political grandstanding than a genuine concern for Hispanic interests.

"It's a high-profile issue, and that's how those two do things. One Puerto Rican was killed in a bombing accident two years ago, but at the same time 400 people die on the Mexican border," Wilkes said. "I don't see Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton down there."

United but separate?

Rafael Greaux, a Puerto Rican jeweler in Orlando, said he doesn't think the efforts by leaders such as Jackson and Sharpton will do much to unify blacks and Hispanics.

"They are creating it to be a racial issue when it doesn't have anything to do with race," said Greaux, 36, who grew up on the island of St. Thomas near Vieques. "I don't see Latin people and blacks having a lot in common."

Rather than have Hispanics folded into groups that historically have focused on blacks, some think it might be more beneficial to both

groups if they each have their own organizations. The organizations could come together to deal with common causes but would remain separate so they could focus on other issues, too.

"If the idea is that the NAACP says they speak for Latinos, that is absurd and counterproductive. If it means they want to work with us as equal partners, we can get some good business done," Yzaguirre said.

Black organizations often have different civil-rights priorities than Hispanic groups. Immigration and bilingual education, for example, are big issues for many Hispanics, but neither is a high priority for blacks. African Americans, in fact, often see immigration as a threat to jobs held by blacks and tend to side with whites in opposition to bilingual education.

But as the number of Hispanics continues to grow, their concerns are expected to reshape the American civil-rights debate. In exchange for Hispanic support on issues of importance to blacks, African Americans will need to back programs and policies dear to Hispanics, said former State Rep. Anthony Suarez, the first Hispanic elected to the Florida Legislature from Central Florida.

"Immigration is extremely important to all Hispanics, even

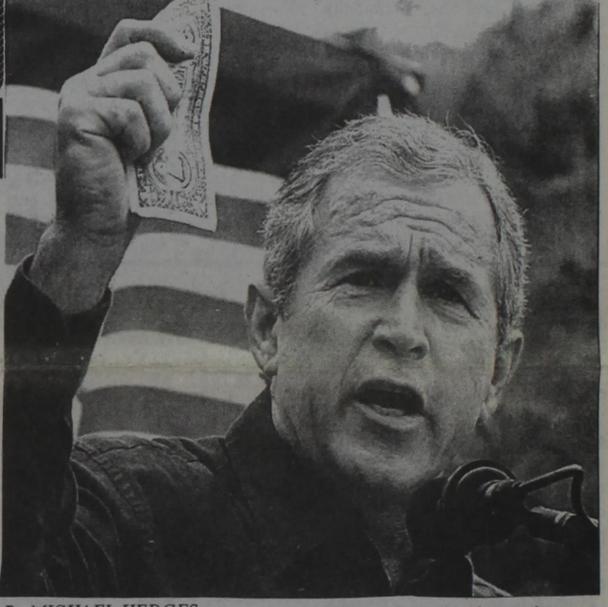
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*"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."
"Respect for the Rights of Others Is Peace"
Lic. Benito Juarez*

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President Wants Vote on Mexican Vehicles Reversed



By MICHAEL HEDGES

WASHINGTON -- A surprised and embarrassed President Bush vowed Wednesday to overturn a House vote that would keep Mexican trucks off American highways, thwarting the president's free-trade goals.

"The president thinks the action was wrong, and he's going to work to reverse it," said spokesman Ari Fleischer.

The Bush White House was caught flatfooted late Tuesday when several Republicans joined Democrats in approving 285-143 a measure that prevents the Transportation Department from giving permission to Mexican trucks to operate throughout the United States.

Saying they would fight to keep the North American Free Trade Agreement on track, Bush aides suggested Wednesday that the vote was discriminatory against Mexicans and would not protect Americans.

"The House action had nothing to do with safety. It has to do with banning trucks because they happen to be operated by our friends to the south. And the president thinks that's wrong," Fleischer said.

The battleground on the measure, part of the House transportation appropriations bill, now shifts to the Senate, which has not voted on its version of the bill.

Proponents of the House amendment said it protected the jobs of American truck drivers, and would keep Mexican trucks that don't undergo the same level of safety inspections of American trucks off U.S. highways.

But the Bush administration and businesses that back NAFTA said the move threatens free trade between the United States and Mexico, and could violate some conditions of the NAFTA agreement signed in 1993.

Mexico reacted to the vote

Wednesday by threatening to retaliate against American products headed there if Mexican trucks were not cleared to enter the United States.

"Under NAFTA, Mexico has the right to suspend benefits to trading partners in equal amounts to those lost to Mexico by measures like this," said Javier Mancera, minister for trade affairs in the Mexican embassy in Washington.

Mancera said Mexico was America's second-largest trading partner, buying more U.S. goods than Great Britain, Germany and France combined. He called the House vote unwarranted and urged Congress to reconsider.

The White House and backers of NAFTA in Congress and industry were outmaneuvered by a well-organized effort by the Teamsters and other NAFTA foes, both sides said Wednesday.

"We held rallies across the country, we had members across the country calling members of Congress, and writing letters to editors, and we had our government affairs staff in congressional offices pushing this," said Teamster spokesman Rob Black.

The 1.4 million member International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which backed Al Gore in the 2000 campaign, strongly opposes NAFTA.

Rep. Harold Rogers, R-Ky., chairman of the House transportation appropriations subcommittee, admitted Wednesday that the White House and GOP legislators were caught off guard.

"I certainly didn't anticipate the level of lobbying (against Mexican trucks in the U.S.) that was taking place, and the Bush administration didn't either," Rogers said.

The provision blocking Mexican truck permits arose Tuesday night as the House was in the final stages of passing a \$59.1 billion

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Riesgos De Seguros:

Donde El Sol Todavía No Brilla

Por Gregory D. Squires

"Muy honestamente, me parece que suscriben a demasiados negros. ... Tienes que vender a gente blanca, buena, sólida que pague sus primas". Así le dijo el gerente de ventas de una importante compañía de seguros inmuebles a un agente que grabó la conversación hace 12 años.

En una investigación más reciente de una compañía de seguros del área de Chicago, a una latina suburbana que solicitaba un seguro se le preguntó el nombre de su sociedad hipotecaria. El agente le dijo, "La razón, señora, es porque es como la diferencia que hay entre un Escort y un Cadillac. La sociedad hipotecaria nos puede decir cómo es la casa". A los blancos que solicitaron seguros no se les pidió esta información.

Esta práctica de negar seguros por parte de los aseguradores de inmuebles ha sido por mucho tiempo un tema contencioso. El seguro es esencial, porque sin él, ningún banco proveerá una hipoteca, y sin la financiación de un banco, comprar una casa es imposible para la mayoría de las familias. Pero, a diferencia de aseguradores de hipotecas, quienes revelan públicamente en cuáles vecindades llevan a cabo sus negocios, se dispone de muy poca información en cuanto a los lugares en que los aseguradores de inmuebles hacen negocios. En este caso, tanto los consumidores como

los aseguradores pierden.

Hace veinticinco años, cuando las prácticas discriminatorias abundaban en el mercado de préstamos hipotecarios, el gobierno federal respondió y pasó un acta de revelación de hipotecas, la Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) que requería que la mayoría de los prestamistas revelaran las zonas del censo en las que otorgaban préstamos. Dos años más tarde se decretó el acta de reinversión en la comunidad, Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), que prohíbe la práctica discriminatoria de negar seguros a ciertas personas.

La coalición de reinversión en la comunidad, National Community Reinvestment Coalition, acredita a HMDA y CRA por generar más de un billón de dólares en nuevos préstamos en vecindades urbanas viejas por todo el país. A pesar de que la discriminación y negación de seguros han permeado por mucho tiempo los mercados de seguros inmuebles, el gobierno federal no ha exigido ni siquiera requerimientos mínimos de revelación de esta industria.

Se evidencia la práctica de negar seguros a pesar de la ausencia de una revelación pública, continúa y sistemática de donde se suscriben y no las pólizas. Grupos pro consumidores han resuelto querrelas de discriminación contra varios aseguradores de inmuebles

importantes, incluyendo State Farm, Allstate, Nationwide, Liberty y American Family.

La Asociación Nacional de Directores de Seguros, una organización de oficiales de estados que regula la industria, examinó recientemente la distribución de pólizas de seguro inmueble en 33 áreas metropolitanas. Los investigadores encontraron que el número y el costo de las pólizas se asocia significativamente con la composición racial de las vecindades, aun cuando se toman en cuenta la exposición al riesgo y la experiencia de pérdidas.

Grupos pro justicia en la vivienda por todo el país han llevado a cabo auditorías de prueba con parejas (en las que parejas igualmente calificadas de probadores negros y blancos o latinos y blancos solicitan seguros de los mismos agentes) y encontraron tratos discriminatorios en 50 por ciento de las pruebas. Los agentes muchas veces ofrecen pólizas con menos cobertura pero mayores precios al probador de color, y remiten su solicitud a la sede aunque le ofrecen cobertura inmediata al probador blanco. Además, rehusan asegurar casas más viejas o de menor valor.

El gobierno estatal es el que regula la industria de seguros, pero el alivio ha llegado más que nada por medio de las cortes, las acciones administrativas del

Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD) bajo el acta federal de justicia en la vivienda, Federal Fair Housing Act, o por medio de las negociaciones directas con los aseguradores. Los reguladores estatales simplemente no han regulado esta área. Lo más frustrante son los datos revelatorios de los que se dispone en comparación con lo que el gobierno federal requiere bajo HMDA.

Bajo HMDA, se obliga a los prestamistas a revelar información sobre la raza, el género y la renta de todos los que solicitan hipotecas, se apruebe o no la solicitud; el tipo (e.g., convencional, asegurado por el gobierno) y el propósito (e.g., compra de una casa, rehabilitación) del préstamo; y toda la información se hace disponible a nivel del área del censo. Mucha de la información está disponible gratis en el internet y por precios mínimos en discos compactos o impresa. La Junta de Reservas Federales, Federal Reserve Board, está considerando nuevas reglamentaciones que requerirían la revelación del porcentaje de la tasa anual de todos los préstamos.

Para el seguro inmueble, es muy diferente. Sólo ocho estados recopilan información de seguros, y en cada caso se recopila a nivel del código postal y no a nivel del área

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Backing Immigrants Groups Take on Battle Over Farmingville's Day Laborers

by Bart Jones

In a major mobilization seldom seen on Long Island since the civil rights days of the 1960s, a coalition of national pro-immigrant and Latino rights groups are to arrive today to take on the battle over Latino day laborers in Farmingville.

Moving the conflict in the community from the local to the national level, leaders of the groups describe the two-day gathering as an unprecedented effort to combat what they call a growing national anti-immigrant hate movement that has targeted the Suffolk County community as one of its focal points.

"This is really the first time that

[pro-immigrant] groups are systematically addressing the hate groups and their impact on this debate," said Cecilia Muñoz of the National Council of Washington, D.C.-based La Raza, the nation's largest Latino rights organization.

But one local group accused La Raza of promoting its own brand of racism, and it said it and other groups should stay out of Farmingville.

"If I were to start a group called The Race, I would be called a white supremacist," said Schem Quality of Life spokesman Ray Wysolmierski.

Besides La Raza, the 17 national groups planning to attend the session include the Washington,

D.C.-based National Immigration Forum and the Center for New Community in Chicago. The Montgomery, Ala.-based Southern Poverty Law Center, a national organization that tracks hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, also plans to attend. Some groups are coming from as far as California.

The national groups said they plan to help plot strategies to counteract the success of anti-immigrant groups in Farmingville and elsewhere on Long Island by working with local organizations.

"National anti-immigrant hate groups have been operating in Farmingville unchecked for about three years," said Darren Sandow of the Long Island Community

Foundation, a Jericho-based nonprofit group that promotes "social, economic and environmental justice" and is a main organizer of the event. "We need to develop a coalition that can unseat their victories and successes." Among the dozen local groups and umbrella organizations attending the meeting are Catholic Charities, Brookhaven Citizens for Peaceful Solutions and the American Jewish Committee.

Ed Hernandez of Brookhaven Citizens, also a main organizer, said, "Long Island has changed over the last 20 years. Latino and Asian immigrants now make up one-seventh of the Island's population.

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Insurance Risks:

Let The Sun Shine In

By Gregory D. Squires

"Very honestly, I think you write too many blacks. ...You got to sell good, solid premium-paying white people."

So said the sales manager of a major property insurance company to an agent who tape-recorded the conversation 12 years ago.

In a more recent investigation of a Chicago-area insurer, a suburban Latina shopper was asked for the name of her mortgage company. The agent told her, "The reason, ma'am, is because it's like the difference between an Escort and a Cadillac. The mortgage company can tell us what the house is like."

White shoppers were not asked for this information. Redlining by property insurers has long been a contentious issue. Insurance is essential because without it no bank will provide a mortgage, and absent such financing, homeownership is impossible for the vast majority of households.

But unlike mortgage lenders who publicly disclose the neighborhoods where they do business, very little information is readily available on where property insurers do business. Consumers and insurers alike lose out.

Twenty-five years ago, when redlining and racial discrimination were widespread in the mortgage lending market, the federal government responded by passing the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) requiring most lenders to reveal the census tracts in which they were making loans. Two years later the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) was passed banning redlining.

HMDA and CRA are credited by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition with generating over \$1 billion in new loans for older urban neighborhoods around the country. Redlining and discrimination have long permeated property insurance

markets, but nothing close even to minimal disclosure requirements has ever been required by the federal government for this industry.

Evidence of insurance redlining has surfaced despite the absence of ongoing, systematic public disclosure of where policies are, and are not, written. Consumer groups have settled discrimination complaints with several major property insurers, including State Farm, Allstate, Nationwide, Liberty and American Family.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners, an organization of state officials who regulate the industry, recently examined the distribution of property insurance policies in 33 metropolitan areas. Researchers found the number of policies and cost of policies were significantly associated with racial composition of neighborhoods, even after taking risk exposure and loss experience into account.

Fair housing groups around the country have conducted paired testing audits (where equally qualified pairs of black and white or Latino and white "testers" shop for insurance from the same agents) and found discriminatory treatment in up to half the tests in many cases. Agents often offer policies with less coverage yet higher prices to the non-white tester, refer his or her application to the home office while providing immediate coverage for the white tester, and refuse to insure older or lower-valued homes.

The insurance industry is regulated by state government, but where relief has been found it has primarily been through the courts, administrative actions at HUD under the Federal Fair Housing Act, or in direct negotiations with insurers. State regulators have simply not regulated in this area. Most discouraging is the disclosure data

that are available compared to what the federal government requires under HMDA.

Under HMDA, lenders are required to disclose information on race, gender and income of all applicants, whether or not the application was approved; the type (e.g., conventional, government insured) and purpose (e.g., home purchase, improvement) of the loan; and all the information is available at the census tract level.

Much of the information is available for free online and for minimal costs on compact disks or in hard copy. The Federal Reserve Board is considering new rules that would require disclosure of the annual percentage rate of all loans.

For property insurance, the picture is quite different. Only eight states collect any insurance disclosure data at all, and in each case they are collected at the ZIP code rather than census tract level. Data on individual insurers are available in just four of these states. Six states provide information on types of policies issued as well as the total number of policies in each ZIP code. Loss information is made available in three states, and cost data in five. No state makes loss and cost data available at the individual company level. And no state provides information on the race or gender of applicants.

Application data are collected in one state, but users have to go to the office to view the information. Six states provide at least some data on line. While some information is available for free, there is generally a cost and it varies widely.

There have been some positive steps in the insurance redlining debate, in addition to the complaint settlements. The National Insurance Task Force of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, which includes most major insurers, has launched loss prevention partnerships with

community-based organizations in six metropolitan areas. The Independent Insurance Agents of America invited the National African American Insurance Association and the Latin American Association of Insurance Agents to participate in its 2000 annual convention and is assisting non-white agents in securing contracts with major insurers.

This year U.S. Reps. Tom Barrett (D-Wis.) and Luis Gutiérrez (D-Ill.) introduced the Community Reinvestment Modernization Act (H.R. 865), calling for HMDA-like disclosure requirements for the property insurance industry. As Gutiérrez stated, "Tom Barrett and I introduced this bill to guarantee that the full range of financial services -- including insurance -- is available to all consumers, regardless of race or geography."

Absent the systematic disclosure of where property insurance policies are being sold, it is difficult to determine how successful various voluntary and law-enforcement initiatives have been, or can be. Such information can assist insurers in finding new market opportunities. Community organizations can more effectively identify potential partners for future collaborative efforts. And regulatory agencies can more effectively target scarce enforcement resources.

Disclosure constitutes a win-win strategy. It is time to let the sunshine in on the property insurance industry.

(Gregory D. Squires is chair of the Department of Sociology at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and co-author of "Color and Money: Politics and Prospects for Community Reinvestment in Urban America," published by SUNY Press in 2001.)
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La Bandera Mexicana No Tiene Lugar En Las Protestas de los Latinos en los EEUU

Por Victor Landa

Si has estado últimamente por la frontera de los Estados Unidos con México, habrás visto la bandera mexicana. Es difícil que se te pase. Pende de astas altísimas en todo el territorio mexicano. No sé exactamente cuales son las dimensiones, pero no exagero al decir que es inmensa, ostentadamente inmensa, exhuberante -- orgullosamente inmensa. Se ve a leguas desde todos los puntos.

Los mexicanos sienten algo diferente por su bandera que nosotros aquí en los Estados Unidos. Engalardonamos los tres colores en cualquier cosa, desde los tatuajes, hasta tazas para el café, camionetas y bikinis. En México, eso no se hace.

En este país usamos las banderas como declaraciones. Las agitamos, las quemamos, nos sentamos sobre ellas, las protegemos y las cargamos de sentidos nunca intencionados originalmente. Se estamos enojados con el gobierno, arrastramos la bandera por el suelo. Si gana nuestro equipo en un evento deportivo internacional, la agitamos locamente. Como todo lo que es "americano", improvisamos su sentido y uso según la necesidad del momento. El problema surge cuando nos avalamos de las mismas libertades con algo que no es nuestro.

Hace poco un grupo de protesta demostró frente a un hotel en San Antonio en el que el gobernador de Texas, Rick Perry, se dirigía a un grupo de activistas políticos mexicanoamericanos. Mucho se ha escrito de dicho discurso, su contenido y su contexto. Perry hizo lo que ningún otro gobernador republicano de nuestro estado ha hecho. Entró a la boca del lobo sin conocimiento de su destino.

Perry había vuelto la espalda a un segmento muy grande del público votante al poner el veto a varias partes claves de leyes que contaban con el apoyo de cada grupo y organización política hispanos en el estado. Sabía que le esperaba una multitud menos que acogedora en una noche muy difícil. Y era evidente el disgusto de la gente reunida. No cabe duda que el gobernador entendió que le va a costar muchísimo ganarse el apoyo de este grupo cuando quiera lanzarse a la re-elección.

No hay nada malo en todo esto. En realidad, así funciona en los Estados Unidos el proceso democrático. Incluso cómo recibieron al gobernador frente al hotel fue muy "americano". El grupo de protesta dio a entender muy claramente su ira. Izaron

pancartas pintadas a mano, cantaron y marcharon. Hicieron ejercicio de su derecho a la expresión libre y a reunirse. Pero también obfuscaron su mensaje.

Lo he visto hacer prácticamente cada vez que hay una protesta sobre una causa a la que se suma cualquiera de las muchas organizaciones méxicoamericanas. Entre las pancartas y los que marchan y el canto, habrá alguien adornándose con la bandera mexicana.

Esto nunca lo he entendido. Me parece que algo puede tener que ver con la identidad cultural, o quizás sea un marcador étnico. Pero una bandera política nada tiene que ver ni con la cultura ni con la etnicidad. Por ende, no hay lugar para una bandera mexicana en una protesta en tierra estadounidense que concierne un problema de gobierno estadounidense al menos que el mensaje sea una declaración deliberada de separatismo.

Nos sentiremos ignorados y marginalizados por las fuerzas de nuestro propio país, pero entonces con mayor razón debemos dar voz a nuestras preocupaciones con el emblema de nuestra propia unión política. No la de otro.

Los problemas que enfrentan los latinos en este país son problemas de los Estados Unidos y deben verse apoyados con el emblema de este país. Este derecho se ha ganado con sangre en el campo de batalla y sudor en los campos de la labor diaria. Nuestros desacuerdos, disgustos y protestas de americanos de los Estados Unidos, como lo somos nosotros. Como lo es nuestra bandera. Los problemas de la inmigración y trabajadores extranjeros son problemas domésticos. Hasta los problemas de posesión de la tierra y colonialismo son problemas domésticos.

Durante los 15 segundos de oportunidad fotográfica en las noticias nocturnas, para los motoristas que zumbaron por el hotel, hasta para el mismo Gobernador Perry, el mensaje del grupo de protesta fue a primer vistazo extraño. Y esto anula su propósito.

Cuando viajas al sur, cruzando la frontera no cabe duda a dónde vas. Una bandera inmensa te saluda con una declaración muy grande y muy clara. De este lado de la frontera no debería haber duda tampoco.

(Victor Landa, nacido en San Antonio, Texas, y criado en Nuevo Laredo, México, es director de noticias del afiliado de Telemundo KVDA-TV60 en San Antonio, Texas.)

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del censo. Se dispone de información sobre aseguradores individuales en sólo cuatro de los estados.

Seis estados ofrecen información sobre los tipos de pólizas emitidos además del número total de pólizas en cada código postal. Se hace disponible información sobre pérdidas en tres estados y datos de costo en cinco. Ninguno de los estados hace disponible la información sobre pérdidas y costos al nivel de compañías individuales. Ningún estado provee información sobre la raza o el género de los que solicitan seguros.

Los datos de solicitudes se recopilan en un estado, pero los usuarios deben acercarse a una oficina para ver la información. Seis estados proveen por lo menos algunos datos por internet. Mientras que parte de la información es gratis, generalmente hay un costo que varía mucho entre entidades.

Se han tomado algunos pasos positivos en el debate sobre la discriminación por parte de los aseguradores, además de la resolución de las querrelas. El Taller Nacional de Seguros (National Insurance Task Force) de la Corporación de Reversión en la Vecindad, que incluye a la mayoría de los aseguradores importantes, ha lanzado asociaciones de prevención de pérdidas con organizaciones de base comunitarias en seis áreas metropolitanas. Los Agentes de Seguro Independientes de América han invitado a la Asociación Nacional Africano-Americana de Seguros y a la Asociación Latinoamericana de Agentes de Seguros a que participen en su convención anual 2000 y asiste a los agentes de color en conseguir contratos con aseguradores grandes.

Este año, congresistas Tom Barrett, demócrata de Wisconsin y Luis Gutiérrez, demócrata de Illinois, propusieron el acta de modernización y reinversión en la comunidad, Community Reinvestment Modernization Act (H.R. 865), que exige requerimientos de revelación tipo HMDA a la industria de seguros inmuebles. Como declaró Gutiérrez, "Tom Barrett y yo propusimos este proyecto de ley para garantizar que todos los servicios financieros -- incluyendo el seguro -- estén a la disposición de todos los consumidores, sin tener en cuenta la raza ni la geografía".

Sin revelación sistemática del lugar en que se venden las pólizas de seguro inmueble, es difícil determinar el éxito que hayan tenido, o que puedan tener varias iniciativas voluntarias y de la policía. Tal información puede ayudar a los aseguradores a encontrar nuevas oportunidades de ventas. Las organizaciones comunitarias pueden ser más efectivas al identificar asociaciones potenciales para esfuerzos de colaboración futuros. Y las agencias regulatorias pueden identificar con mayor facilidad recursos escasos de aplicación de la ley.

La revelación de información constituye una estrategia victoriosa para todos. Es hora que el sol brille para la industria de seguros inmuebles. (Gregory D. Squires es jefe del Departamento de Sociología de la universidad de George Washington, en Washington, D.C. Es uno de los autores de "Color and Money: Politics and Prospects for Community Reinvestment in Urban America," editada por SUNY Press en 2001.)

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Backing Immigrants Groups From Page One

Hatred and violence will not drive newcomers out, but they threaten to permanently split communities." Farmingville attracted national attention in September after a brutal beating of two Mexican day laborers by two men posing as contractors, and again in April after the defeat of a proposed hiring site for day laborers.

The attention has helped make the community a ground zero in the national debate over immigration and how America adapts to rapid growth in the Hispanic and Asian populations.

"I absolutely think that what's happening in Farmingville has national implications," Muñoz said. "It is a community where the anti-immigrant hate movement is investing significant resources and road-testing significant strategies." Muñoz identified the main national anti-immigrant groups as Los Angeles-based American Patrol and Washington, D.C.-based Federation for American Immigration Reform. She said both are hate groups whose ultimate goal is ridding communities such as Farmingville of Latinos.

American Patrol and FAIR denied those allegations and said they are merely fighting against illegal immigration and trying to reduce immigration rates that they say are out of control.

"Apparently La Raza doesn't know a hate group when it sees one," said Dan Stein, FAIR's executive director. "Why don't they denounce real racist hate speech in their own movement?" The Schem group, which led the fight against the hiring site in Farmingville and helped close down a similar site in Farmingdale last month, says it works closely with FAIR and American Patrol. Schem says it is a civic group working legally to resolve problems linked to the day laborers such as overcrowded housing and traffic hazards created when they gather on street corners to wait for daily jobs in landscaping and construction.

Wysolmierski defended the Schem group's links with Glenn Spencer, the leader of American

Mexican Flags Don't Belong in U.S. Latino Protests

By Victor Landa

If you've been to the U.S.-Mexico border recently, you've seen the Mexican flag. It's hard to miss. It hangs from towering flagpoles in every major Mexican border town, just inside Mexican territory. I'm not sure of the exact dimensions, but I don't exaggerate when I say it's huge, ostentatiously huge, exuberant-pride huge. You can see it from miles away in every direction.

Mexicans of their flag differently than we do here in the United States. We'll emblazon the red, white and blue on just about everything, from tattoos to coffee mugs, pickup trucks and bikinis. In Mexico this just isn't done.

In this country, we use flags as statements. We wave them, burn them, sit on them, guard them and burden them with meanings never originally intended. If we're angry with the government, we drag the flag on the ground. If our team wins an international sporting event, we wave it wildly. Just like everything else that is "American," we improvise its meaning and use as needed.

The problem comes when we take those same liberties with something that isn't ours. Recently a group of citizens staged a protest outside a San Antonio hotel where Texas Gov. Rick Perry

was addressing a group of Mexican-American political activists. Much has been written about this particular speech, its content and context. Perry did what no other Republican governor of our state has done. He entered the lion's den knowing what his fate would be.

Perry had turned his back on a very large segment of the voting public by vetoing some key pieces of legislation that were backed by every Hispanic political group and organization in the state. He knew he was facing a less than welcoming crowd on a very difficult night. And the crowd's displeasure was evident. There is no doubt that the governor understood that he is going to have a very hard time winning these people's support when he's up for re-election.

There's really nothing wrong with this. In fact, it's the American way, the process of democracy. Even the reception the governor was given outside the hotel was very "American." Protesters made very clear their anger. They held up hand-painted signs, they chanted and they marched. They exercised their right to free speech and assembly.

But they also muddled their message.

I've seen it done almost every

continued on page 4

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From Page 1

transportation bill for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

A Bush administration request for an additional \$88 million to pay for border inspectors and inspection stations to help certify the safety of Mexican trucks was cut before passage.

The Senate has not begun the debate on its bill.

Bush officials expressed confidence that they could win a battle to have the borders opened to Mexican trucks when House and Senate conferees met to reconcile their bills.

But key GOP senators indicated Wednesday that the Bush team has to assure them that Mexican trucks will be safe before they support the administration's position.

"I basically support what the House did," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson, R-Texas. "I'm very concerned about safety parity. I don't want trucks that don't meet our safety standards on our highways."

On the other hand, Sen. Phil Gramm said NAFTA needed to go forward.

"A deal is a deal. You can't have an agreement with a country and decide you don't like this one part," he said.

From Page 1

Puerto Ricans, and it's not a major emphasis for blacks. But it will be as coalitions are being built -- if you want me to care about your issue, you have to care about mine," Suarez said.

The redistricting debate The first test for Central Florida in how blacks and Hispanics will work together -- or pull in opposite directions -- comes with the redrawing of congressional, legislative and local political districts.

Hispanics have signaled to the power brokers that they intend to be major players in redistricting. But blacks and Hispanics don't always see eye to eye on the issue of creating minority districts.

"I think there are significant differences between minority groups over redistricting," Suarez said. "It appears the black community is fighting for black districts. I don't think that will be the consensus of the Hispanics."

Suarez opposes "ghettoized Hispanic seats" where all the Hispanic voting power is concentrated in one or two districts. He favors districts in which Hispanics represent enough of the electorate to become the key swing voters. That way, Suarez said, all candidates will need to court the Hispanic vote to win.

Not all Hispanics agree with that strategy, however.

"Our experience is that unless it's a Latino, we don't get the attention our numbers would merit," said Yzaguirre, head of La Raza for 25 years.

Politicians going after the Hispanic vote are learning not to view Hispanics as one big monolithic minority, but as a coalition of ethnic groups united by language and the common ancestry of Spanish colonialism. Hispanics tend to think of themselves as Mexican Americans, Cuban Americans, Puerto Ricans, Haitians, Dominicans and the like.

Unity different for Hispanics Blacks may no longer be the nation's largest minority, but they are more homogenous than Hispanics. And to many Hispanics, that makes blacks seem much more unified and influential.

Renee Jackson of Ocoee said that's because the groups that historically have represented blacks have been at it for decades -- the Urban League since 1910 and the NAACP since 1909.

She respects the forward-looking approach of the groups as they try to change with the times and more strongly embrace Hispanics.

"It's to everyone's advantage to come together," said Jackson, 45, who is black. "The power of a larger group carries more weight."

But given the various ethnic groups that fall under the Hispanic umbrella, coming together is not always easy.

"Spanish people don't get together," said Ricardo Castillo, 46, a grocery-store owner from the Dominican Republic. "The Cubans pull their own way. The Puerto Ricans pull their way. The Dominicans, they pull their way. If they ever get together, they would be even stronger."

Gramm predicted the House provision would be reversed in the Senate and removed from the eventual transportation bill.

Rogers and Bush aides said concerns about the safety of Mexican trucks would be alleviated when the Department of Transportation published a rule later this year describing how those trucks were going to be inspected and regulated.

"Under the rules as announced by President Bush's Department of Transportation, all trucks are subject to the same safety requirements," Fleischer said. "By doubling the number of inspectors, it helps guarantee the safety of all trucks traveling on American roads."

Houston-area trucking company owners said they wanted a level playing field before Mexican trucks are allowed into the United States.

"I don't have a problem if they follow the same rules that we do ... If everything were equal and they paid insurance and followed our safety rules, then it would be OK," said Rex Acker, owner of Empire Truck Lines.

The NAFTA agreement called for the United States to remove barriers to open travel across borders with Mexico by commercial vehicles.

Pressured by organized labor, and noting concerns about the safety of Mexican trucks, former President Clinton blocked efforts to open the borders to Mexican trucks after the passage of NAFTA.

In February, an arbitration panel overseeing the implementation of NAFTA ruled that the Clinton administration's efforts violated the treaty.

Bush campaigned on getting the borders opened to Mexican trucks, and had a plan that would have accomplished that by January, Fleischer said.

But that timetable would be blocked if the House measure remained intact.

Under current law, Mexican trucks are only allowed to travel in a zone that ends about 20 miles north of the border, before transferring goods to American trucks.

Fleischer refused to say Wednesday whether Bush would veto a massive transportation appropriations bill if it arrives on his desk with the provision banning Mexican trucks included.

But Bush would work hard to make sure that doesn't happen, his staff said.

For U.S. Latino Authors, It's A Hollow Book Boom

By Maribeth Bandas (Second of two parts)

The 2000 Census numbers have brought an increased awareness to publishers of a largely untapped Latino market for books.

That's the good news for some U.S. Latino authors.

The bad news is that the publishers don't know what to do with what is available in abundance.

"The greatest danger to Latino authors is the mainstream publishing industry's instinct to publish the same thing every time," says Marie Arana, editor of The Washington Post's Book World supplement and author of a memoir on bicultural identity, "American Chica."

She elaborates. "They say, 'OK, these are the things that have worked. We love Isabel Allende, we love Oscar Hijuelos, we want more of those.' As opposed to saying, 'Wow, there's this great proliferation of people with all kinds of interests, backgrounds and histories, and there are lots of stories and ways to tell stories within that community of people.'"

Latino authors of fiction continue to be ignored by the mainstream publishing houses, according to Nicolás Kanellos, founder of Arte Público Press.

"This talk about a boom in U.S. Latino literature is a wish fulfillment rumor," he says. Only a handful of Latino authors have crossed over into the mainstream, such as Hijuelos, who is mainlisted.

"Commercial presses publish 10 Latino authors a year, and all 10 are midlisted, sales of their work geared toward academic textbooks. Publishing houses are not investing in new authors. Even authors who achieve midlist status and some recognition have no access to promotional funds," says Kanellos.

Authors whose books are mainlisted are regularly picked up by booksellers. Midlisted books are geared to independent sellers and generally do not receive much promotion. Some mainstream publishing companies have opened new Latino divisions with Latino editors, but they are taking a "wait and see" stance, he adds. Arte Público receives at least 200 submissions a year for a scant 35 slots it can afford to publish.

"Chain stores are not buying books that reflect our culture, which is stupid because they are throwing away sales by not serving a huge potential market," he says. Kanellos points out that the set-up of the larger stores is also flawed because Latino literature is scattered throughout, and not centrally grouped.

Borders Books, a national bookstore chain, groups different ethnicities according to their sales potential. African-American writers are showcased outside of the mainstream literature because of reader and publisher demand, which the store perceives as their enhanced marketability. Separate space is not allotted to an Asian or Latino author who has not sold

many books.

Borders' reasoning for separate placement alikens bookselling to music sales. Five years ago, Latin music was included in the international music section. Now it has become profitable and can be found in its own section. Latino literature, though, has not yet reached the status of African-American literature.

An Arte Público release is difficult to find in East Coast bookstores, and while Marie Arana's memoir has received copious attention in the mid-Atlantic states, is not at all known in Miami or Chicago. Having worked as in the publishing world for many years, Arana explains publishers' thinking: very few Latino authors will appeal to a large, mainstream audience.

This follows the early pattern for African-American authors, who, it was thought, were read only by African Americans.

Ana Veciana-Suárez, a Miami Herald columnist and prolific author, feels that Latino writers are typecast, although in reality their books reflect universal themes.

Publishers continue to think that documenting the immigrant experience is appealing, or is what Latino authors best know how to write.

Veciana-Suárez, whose novel "Chin Kiss King" was catapulted into mainstream consciousness thanks to an excerpt published in Oprah Winfrey's O Magazine, concurs with this assessment. "Scholastic" approached her to write the Cuban immigrant story.

The solution to this is to educate more people within the publishing industry about the richness of writing being produced by U.S. Latino writers. Kanellos says the industry is paying lip service to Latinos, much as the entertainment

industry is doing. Ironically, once an Arte Público Press release has proven marketable, a mainstream publisher will pick it up.

"The newspaper industry must become a more pervasive influence, adding to the knowledge of Latino culture and art to promote it," Kanellos says. He wants to see producers push for Latino books to become films to reach a wider audience.

The shared view of Latinos long in the business is that for more opportunities to open up, knowledgeable people are needed to work within the publishing industry to educate and entertain mainstream audiences with *lo nuestro*-- what is ours.



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Para Autores Latinos De Los EEUU, El Boom Literario Suena Hueco

Por Maribeth Bandas
Segunda de dos partes

Los números del Censo 2000 han traído a colación mayor concientización a las casas editoriales de un mercado latino sin aprovechar.

Qué buena noticia para algunos autores latinos en los Estados Unidos. La mala noticia es que las editoriales no saben qué hacer con lo que existe en abundancia.

"El mayor peligro para los autores latinos es que el instinto de la industria editora nacional es de publicar lo mismo siempre", dice Marie Arana, editora de Book World, de The Washington Post y autora de sus memorias, que enfatizan la identidad bicultural, "American Chica".

"Dicen, 'Está bien, éstas son las cosas que han funcionado. Nos encanta Isabel Allende, nos encanta Oscar Hijuelos, queremos más así', en vez de decir, 'Wow, hay tremenda proliferación de gente con toda clase de intereses, antecedentes e historias, y hay miles de cuentos y maneras de contar las historias dentro de esta misma comunidad'", añade Arana.

Los autores latinos de ficción continúan sin ser descubiertos por las casas editoriales nacionales, según Nicolás Kanellos, fundador de la prensa Arte Público.

"Que se hable de un boom en la literatura latina de los Estados

Unidos son ganas de hacer realidad un simple deseo", dice. Sólo un puñado de autores latinos han sido adoptados a nivel nacional, como Hijuelos, que recibe preferencia en las listas editoriales.

"Las prensas comerciales publican 10 autores latinos al año, los 10 con preferencia mediana en las listas, orientándose las ventas de sus libros hacia el mercado académico. Las casas editoriales no hacen inversión en los nuevos autores. Incluso aquellos autores que llegan a tener preferencia mediana en las listas y algo de reconocimiento no tienen acceso a fondos para promocionarse", dice Kanellos.

Los autores que reciben preferencia en las listas también disfrutan de la atención de los libreros. Los de preferencia mediana se orientan hacia libreros independientes y por lo general no reciben mucha promoción. Algunas casas editoriales grandes nacionales han abierto nuevas divisiones con editores latinos, pero su posición es de "esperar a ver", añade Kanellos. Arte Público recibe un mínimo de 200 solicitudes de publicación de manuscritos al año pero puede dar abasto a sólo 35 libros.

"Las grandes cadenas de librerías no compran libros que reflejen nuestra cultura, lo cual es tonto porque están desperdiciando ventas al no servir a un mercado

potencialmente inmenso", dice. Kanellos señala que la distribución de libros dentro de las tiendas grandes también falla porque la literatura de latinos en los Estados Unidos está dispersa por toda la tienda y no agrupada en un lugar céntrico.

Borders Books, una cadena nacional de librerías, agrupa a las diferentes etnicidades según las ventas potenciales. Los escritores africano-americanos se colocan preferentemente y no con la literatura general en respuesta a la demanda de los lectores y casas editoriales, lo cual la tienda percibe como su mayor potencial de ventas.

No se colocan en lugares separados a autores asiáticos o latinos que no hayan vendido muchos libros. El razonamiento que da Borders por una colocación aparte hace análoga la venta de libros a la venta de música. Hace cinco años la música latina se encontraba dentro de la sección de música internacional. Hoy vende muy bien y se encuentra en su propia sección. La literatura latina no ha llegado aún al nivel que ha alcanzado la literatura africano-americana.

Un libro publicado por Arte Público difícilmente se encuentra en librerías de la costa este de los Estados Unidos y si bien las memorias de Arana han recibido mucha atención en los estados entre Nueva York y Carolina del

Norte, no se conocen en Miami ni en Chicago. Arana, quien trabajó muchos años en el mundo de las casas editoriales, explica así la perspectiva de las editoriales: que muy pocos autores latinos serán atractivos a un gran público generalizado.

Se pensó de la misma forma en los primeros días de reconocimiento de los autores africano-americanos, a quienes, se decía, sólo los leían los africano-americanos.

Ana Veciana-Suárez, columnista del Miami Herald y autora prolífica, cree que los autores latinos están siendo categorizados por estereotipo, cuando en realidad sus libros son reflejo de temas universales. Las casas editoriales continúan pensando que la documentación de la experiencia del inmigrante es lo que atrae, o que es lo que mejor saben escribir los autores latinos.

Veciana-Suárez, cuya novela, "Chin Kiss King" irrumpió en la conciencia nacional gracias a una selección que se publicó en la revista O Magazine de Oprah Winfrey, está de acuerdo con Arana. No obstante, la casa editorial Scholastic le pidió escribir la historia del inmigrante cubano.

La solución es de educar a más personas que trabajan dentro de la industria de las editoriales en cuanto a la riqueza de lo que

escriben los autores latinos en los Estados Unidos. Kanellos dice que la industria habla de la boca para afuera con lo latino, y lo mismo la industria de entretenimiento. Es irónico que una vez Arte Público haya vendido un libro escrito por un autor latino, una casa editorial grande lo recogerá.

"La industria de la prensa debe convertirse en una influencia más grande que añada al entendimiento de la cultura y arte de la comunidad latina para poder promocionarla", dice Kanellos. Quiere que los productores hagan más esfuerzo por convertir a los libros de autores latinos en películas, y así llegar a un público más extendido.

La perspectiva que comparten los latinos que han trabajado muchos años en la industria es que para que haya más oportunidades, se necesita a más gente que conozca la cultura dentro de la industria de las casas editoriales para educar y entretener al público en general con "lo nuestro". (Maribeth Bandas es candidata al doctorado en la universidad de George Washington, en Washington, D.C. Ha dictado cursos de lengua y literatura. Contáctese con ella por correo electrónico a Maribeth (c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate International.

From Page 2

time there is a protest involving a cause espoused by any one of many Mexican-American organizations. Among the signs and the marchers and the chanting, someone will be draped in a Mexican flag.

I've never understood this. I think it may have something to do with cultural identity, or maybe an ethnic marker. But a political flag has nothing to do with culture or ethnicity. So there is no place for a Mexican flag in a protest on U.S. soil concerning an issue of U.S. governance unless the message is a deliberate statement of separatism.

We may feel ignored and marginalized by the forces of our own country, but this is all the more reason to voice our concern with the emblem of our own political union. Not someone else's.

The issues that concern Latinos in this country are U.S. issues and should be supported with the emblem of this country. That right has been earned with blood in the battlefield and sweat in the fields of daily toil. Our disagreements, displeasures and protests are U.S. American, as we are. As our flag is. The issues of immigration and foreign workers are domestic issues. Even the issues of land possession and colonialism are domestic issues.

For the 15-second photo-op on the nightly news, for the motorists who zipped past the hotel, and even for Gov. Perry, the message of the protesters was at first glance foreign. And this defeats the purpose.

When you are traveling south across the border there is no doubt where you are going. A huge flag greets you with a very big and clear statement. On this side of the border there should be no doubt as well.

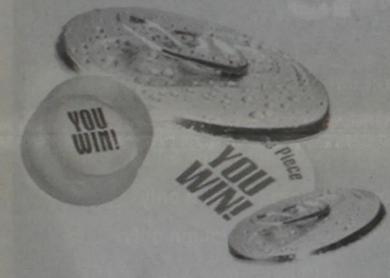
(Victor Landa, born in San Antonio, Texas, and raised in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, is news director with the Telemundo affiliate KVDA-60 in San Antonio. He may be reached at vxlanda

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Seven Yanks? What Other All-Stars Does the AL Have?

By Scott Miller

It took a dramatic bottom-of-the-ninth rally, some timely production and, as we've come to expect, the usual sharp moves from the manager. But Joe Torre and the New York Yankees did it.

They struck back at the last minute, passed the Seattle Mariners and are having the last laugh.

Again.

Following two weeks of controversy during which the general All-Star worthiness of several Mariners players was at issue, the Yankees on Wednesday flexed and seized back the All-Star roster.

Final score: Yankees 7, Mariners 6.

As in total All-Stars. A Yankee Doodle Dandy, indeed.

While you were wolfing down hot dogs and gulping down beverages in frosty mugs on the Fourth of July, the American League manager was announcing that Yankees starting pitchers Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte, closer Mariano Rivera, setup man Mike Stanton, shortstop Derek Jeter, outfielder Bernie Williams and catcher Jorge Posada will be heading to Seattle for Tuesday's 72nd midsummer classic.

Which, of course, trumps the Mariners' half-dozen All-Stars. In addition to first baseman John Olerud, second baseman Bret Boone, right fielder Ichiro Suzuki and designated hitter Edgar Martinez, each of whom was voted into the starting lineup -- with the input, no doubt, of hundreds of thousands of fans in Japan, who were allowed to cast ballots for the first time -- Mariners pitcher Freddy Garcia and closer Kazuhiro Sasaki also were named to the team.

Of course, the debates will last until long after the final fireworks are shot off this weekend.

Should seven Yankees be shuttling off to Seattle? Should four Mariners be starting? Does Cal Ripken Jr. deserve a place in the starting lineup? What about



Roger Clemens and crew dominate the AL roster in Seattle. (AP)

National League manager Bobby Valentine leaving Florida outfielder Cliff Floyd off the roster no doubt because of their feud? And John Burkett instead of Greg Maddux?

There's plenty of grist, and we're not talking the hot dogs that were coming off the grill on Wednesday afternoon.

Seven Yankees does seem awfully extreme, particularly for a team that didn't claw its way to first place until Tuesday. Then again, there are only five American League teams that are even over .500, so it isn't exactly as if the league is overflowing with All-Stars.

Taking a setup man like Stanton is arguable, but his 1.91 ERA, .253 opponents' batting average and 49 strikeouts vs. only 16 walks in 47 innings isn't. Other than one of two more Mariners (Aaron Sele at 9-1, and Jamie Moyer at 9-3) who else would you have picked? Pedro Martinez is hurt. You certainly could make a case for Boston knuckleballer Tim Wakefield, whose 2.61 ERA backs up assessments by several AL hitters that Wakefield's knuckleball is more wicked than ever this year. Then again, he's only 6-2.

Minnesota's Brad Radke has nine

wins, but he has cooled off considerably after a hot start. Besides, two other Minnesota starters -- Eric Milton and Joe Mays -- were chosen. Three closers were picked in Rivera, Sasaki and Anaheim's Troy Percival. There are arguments against others -- the Twins' LaTroy Hawkins has 21 saves but nearly was removed from the closer's role a couple of weeks ago. The White Sox's Keith Foulke? Toronto's Bill Koch? Nah.

Clemens is 12-1. Pettitte is 8-4 with a 2.95 ERA. Williams is batting .324 with 14 homers and 48 RBI. Posada is clipping along at .309 with 13 homers and 61 RBI.

Strange as it sounds, Jeter (.294, seven homers and 39 RBI) is the weakest link of the Yanks' contingent. Oakland shortstop Miguel Tejada (.265, 17 homers and 52 RBI) doesn't have the Broadway appeal of Jeter, but he's probably more deserving.

Of course, the Yankees haven't cornered the market on debates. Oakland's Jason Giambi should be the starting first baseman, not Olerud. And, based on numbers, Anaheim's Troy Glaus should be starting over Ripken. But thankfully, not everything is based on numbers, and if you've got a problem with Ripken (who is batting only .219) going out with one final All-Star start, you probably set traps for the Easter Bunny, too.

In the NL, the absence of the deserving Floyd is no surprise because he and Valentine mix about as well as Sly Stallone and a romantic drama. Add to that the fact that Pittsburgh (Brian Giles) and Montreal (Vladimir Guerrero) are required by rules to contribute one All-Star each, and you could see Floyd (.337, 21 homers, 69 RBI) in the discard pile days ago. Not that it makes it right, of course.

It's hard to imagine an NL team without Greg Maddux (9-5, 2.38 ERA) but somebody had to go from Milwaukee, so it might as well have been rookie sensation Ben Sheets.

Besides, John Burkett (6-6, 2.39) doesn't have the winning record Maddux has because his run support has been awful, but he has been the Braves' biggest surprise this summer.

Lewis Likely to Accept Rematch Offer With Rahman

LONDON -- Former world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis is likely to accept an offer from promoter Don King for a rematch with American Hasim Rahman.



Hasim Rahman will put his belts on the line in a rematch with Lennox Lewis. (AP)

"There has been no decision yet but the recommendation is to accept it," Lewis' manager Frank Maloney said Thursday.

On Tuesday, King offered \$12.5 million to the Lewis camp for a rematch and named Oct. 6 as a likely date.

Rahman upset the 35-year-old Briton with a fifth-round knockout in their World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation fight in South Africa on April 22.

Lewis' business manager Adrian Ogun said the offer did not contain any future commitments.

"If the financial guarantees are forthcoming and contracts are signed within two weeks then Don can run this promotion," he said.

Lewis won an important victory in a New York court last month when a judge ruled that a contract agreed with Rahman for a second fight was valid.

"I look forward to this

opportunity of regaining the heavyweight titles of the world," Lewis said. "I have won the first round in court and now I will do it again in the ring when I meet Rahman later this year."

Lewis also said negotiations with former undisputed world champion Mike Tyson for a bout were progressing well.

"I am sure I will meet him after I have regained my titles," he said.

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EL EDITOR - 25 Years
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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY COUNCIL APPROVED PROJECTS FOR FY 2001-2002 For Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG).

On June 26, 2001 the Lubbock City Council held a Public Hearing and voted to recommend to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the following projects for FY 2001-2002. Comments on the plan, and proposals will be accepted through August 1, 2001. Comments may be sent in writing to:

City of Lubbock
Community Development Department
Attn: Todd Steelman
P.O. Box 2000 Lubbock, TX 79457

2001-2002 Proposed Use Of Community Development Resources By Grant

Agency	Project	Amount
Recommended Community Development Block Grant		
Broadway Festivals	Expanded 4th Corps	\$4,180
Black Chamber	Entrepreneur Intervention	\$9,845
Boys & Girls Club	Job Ready Program	\$19,500
Buckner's Childrens	Project ROCK	\$15,000
Buddy Holly Center	SMART	\$20,000
Catholic Family Services	Employment Training	\$45,000
Children's Advocacy Center	Healing For Abused Children	\$20,000
Christian Women's Job Corps	Job Training	\$26,900
City Of Lubbock Health Dept.	Step Up To Health	\$2,500
City Of Lubbock Parks	Computer Learning Labs	\$38,000
City Of Lubbock Parks	Summer Satellite Program	\$40,000
Communities in Schools	Empowerment & Employment	\$45,000
Early Learning Centers	Child Care	\$40,000
Guadalupe Parkway	Summer Blast	\$16,159
Lubbock Area Coalition for Literacy	Literacy Outreach	\$6,000
March of Dimes	Stork's Nest	\$17,000
100 Black Men of West Texas	Rites of Passage Boxing	\$35,431
Prevent Blindness	Glaucoma Screening	\$10,250
SPARC	Dental & Vision Care	\$10,000
YWCA	Child Care	\$40,000
YWCA	Health Initiative	\$6,670
YWCA	Challenger	\$11,665
YWCA	Volunteer Caregiver	\$9,900
City Of Lubbock CD	Barrier Free Program	\$150,000
City Of Lubbock CD	Economic Development	\$181,199
City Of Lubbock CD	Emergency Repair	\$150,000
City Of Lubbock CD	Exterior, Home Improvement	\$100,000
City Of Lubbock CD	Micro-Enterprise Loans	\$50,000
City Of Lubbock CD	Residential Rehab	\$400,000
City Of Lubbock CD	Sidewalk	\$125,000
City Of Lubbock CD	WASAP	\$50,000
City Of Lubbock EIS	Salary Reimbursement	\$165,000
City Of Lubbock Parks	Trees	\$7,500
Guadalupe/Parkway Neigh. Centers	Renovation	\$25,000
Lubbock Housing Finance Corporation	Down Payment & Closing Costs	\$75,000
SORCA	16th & X	\$7,800
South Plains Food Bank	Renovation	\$7,750
YWCA	Renovation	\$110,000
City Of Lubbock CD	Housing Delivery	\$554,997
City Of Lubbock CD	Indirect Costs	\$95,000
City Of Lubbock CD	CDBG Administration	\$516,754
Total CDBG		\$3,260,000
HOME Investment Partnership Program		
City Of Lubbock CD	Reconstruction	\$500,500
City Of Lubbock CD	New Construction	\$300,000
Community Housing Resource Board	Elderly Housing	\$32,475
Community Housing Resource Board	Lease Purchase (CHDO Project)	\$174,750
Community Housing Resource Board	Operations	\$44,875
West Texas Community Impact Corp	Affordable New Homes	\$93,025
West Texas Community Impact Corp	Operation	\$19,875
City Of Lubbock CD	HOME Administration	\$129,500
Total HOME		\$1,295,000
Emergency Shelter Grant		
Alcohol Recovery Center	Operations	\$1,554
ASK House	Operations	\$2,886
Interfaith Hospitality	Operations	\$888
Salvation Army	Operation	\$5,772
Salvation Army	Homeless Prevention	\$33,300
ASK House	Essential Services	\$1,050
Salvation Army	Essential Services	\$24,750
Women's Protective Services	Essential Services	\$7,500
Alcohol Recovery Center	Rehab	\$4,500
Interfaith Hospitality	Rehab	\$6,750
MHMR	Rehab	\$7,000
WPS	Rehab	\$9,500
City Of Lubbock ESG	Administration	\$5,550
Total ESG		\$111,000

On or About August 3, 2001 the City of Lubbock will forward the 2001-2002 Action Plan including these projects to the Housing & Urban Development (HUD) for review.

The More You Know - The More You Save

Energy saving tips from LP&L

Lubbock Power & Light believes that choice and competition has kept Lubbock's electric rates among the lowest in the state. However, the current high cost of fuel to generate power makes it imperative that all of us work to conserve electricity. Here are some tips on how you can keep your energy bill as low as possible as we head into the summer season.

Indoor Tips "Keep the Heat Out, the Cool In"

- Close windows when heating or cooling.
- Install storm or thermal (replacement) windows. These tightly fitting windows give extra protection with double-pane glass.
- Use curtains, shades and blinds to block the sun's rays from directly entering the home.
- Seal off electrical receptacles and switch boxes with foam gaskets or fiberglass insulation. Savings: 1-3% percent of heating/cooling costs.
- Turn off the pilot on your gas furnace during the warm season. This saves gas and the pilot flame adds to the heat the A/C has to remove from the air.

Outdoor Tips "Keep the Heat Out, the Cool In"

- Cook outdoors whenever possible.
- Seal gaps around pipes, fans and vents that go through walls, ceilings and floors, and accesses to unheated spaces.
- When re-roofing, consider using lighter-colored shingles.

Lights "Bright Ways to Save"

- Convert incandescent bulbs to fluorescent lamps with screw-in bases. Fluorescent lights give the same amount and quality of light as incandescent bulbs, yet use one third of the energy and last ten times longer.

Lubbock Power & Light

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