

el Esclator

Vol. XXV No. 36

Week of June 6 thru June 12, 2002

Lubbock, TX USA

Resegregation Threatens U.S. Latinos

By Arlene Martínez

You've heard the fear voiced that Hispanics won't dissolve into this nation's melting pot. Too often, such chicken-little shouts are expressed by spokespersons for xenophobic groups who prefer living in an all-white society.

But this month, the warning comes from a more credible source - The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University.

Co-directed by Gary Orfield, the top national authority on school segregation matters for decades, the Harvard-based group has come out with a report, "Race, Place and Segregation," that projects a return of pre-civil-rights-era ethnic and racial isolation, with Hispanics becoming the most isolated of all groups.

The Civil Rights Project studied three major U.S. cities: Boston, Chicago and San Diego. All of them, it concluded, are becoming more divided along racial and ethnic lines.

Latinos in all three communities are moving into the suburbs in growing numbers, but, the report notes, they're settling in neighborhoods that are increasingly segregated. One of the most important things to consider, Orfield and his colleagues stress, are the educational consequences segregation is having on children.

For policymakers in these cities, the challenges are multiple. Ensuring racial segregation does not re-

peat the past and lead to unequal educational, housing and professional opportunities based on race and ethnicity is a must, it says,

employment opportunities must also be taken into account by the communities to ensure that integration occurs in these cities.

Latino concentrations; in 2000, they made up 45 percent. Children constitute about half the suburban population.

Latinos, Asians and blacks make up 50 percent of the city's population, and two out of three of the children living there.

Latinos in Chicago continue their two-decade trend of moving to the suburbs. Whites still represent 74 percent of the suburban population, but the white population has dropped to 55 percent in specific areas where Latinos are settling.

Gary Stuart, of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, says Chicago is poised to segregate its student

population in a manner similar to what occurred at the start of the 20th century.

Strong public policy, Stuart says, is essential. "The people most damaged are children who are separated from their peers of different races and ethnicities by school district boundaries and whose educational experience is stunted as a result," he says.

Boston has the third-largest white population of any U.S. metropolitan city. Its population is largely driven by immigration. Latinos comprise 2.5 percent of its suburban population, but live in neighborhoods that are 9.6 percent Latino, compared to 6.8 percent in 1990.

Data consistently show that students attending segregated schools perform more poorly in testing. Orfield is concerned that 75 percent of the child population in the city of Boston itself is non-white. Latino children now account for 27 percent of the total; Latino adults 14 percent.

Just as the struggles following the landmark rulings of the 1950s underscore the difficulties of creating a desegregated society, the report's authors conclude that even under the best circumstances, today's numbers are as discouraging as those faced nearly 50 years ago.

The nation's leadership would do well to heed Orfield's latest warnings.



La Resegregación Amenaza a Latinos de los Estados Unidos

Por Arlene Martínez

Todos hemos escuchado el temor sonoro de que los hispanos no se mezclan en el crisol de la nación. A menudo, portavoces de grupos xenófobos que prefieren vivir en una sociedad de blancos lo expresan a gritos como si el cielo se cayera.

Pero este mes los avisos provienen de una fuente más creíble, el Proyecto de los Derechos Civiles de la Universidad de Harvard.

El grupo, con base en Harvard, codirigido por Gary Orfield, por décadas la máxima autoridad nacional en asuntos de la segregación escolar, dio a conocer un reporte "Race, Place and Segregation" (Raza, ubicación y segregación) que podría pronosticar un regreso al aislamiento étnico y racial de la era pre-derechos civiles, con los hispanos convirtiéndose en el más aislado de todos los grupos.

El Proyecto de los Derechos Civiles estudió a tres grandes ciudades en los Estados Unidos: Boston, Chicago y San Diego. Según concluyó el reporte, todas estas ciudades se están dividiendo más en filas raciales y étnicas.

Los latinos se están mudando a los suburbios en números cada vez mayores en las tres comunidades, pero, el reporte señala, que se están estableciendo en comunidades cada vez más segregadas. Orfield y sus colegas enfatizan en que una de las cosas más importantes a considerar son las consecuencias educativas que la segregación tiene en los niños.

Los desafíos son múltiples para los organismos que formulan las políticas en estas ciudades. Es imprescindible garantizar que la segregación racial no se repita y

lleve a una desigualdad educativa, de vivienda y profesional basada en raza y origen étnico. El reporte advierte que la subvención de vivienda estatal y federal y las regulaciones de préstamos tienen que cumplirse al pie de la letra.

Los gobiernos locales deben intervenir en contra del desplazamiento de residentes y del aumento abrupto de los costos de vivienda, dos factores que a menudo fomentan la segregación. También las comunidades deben tomar en consideración el transporte y las oportunidades de empleo para asegurar que la integración tenga lugar en estas ciudades.

Durante esta década el crecimiento de la población de San Diego provino de manera exclusiva de grupos no blancos. La segregación aumentó para los latinos en la medida en que el número de blancos disminuyó por 50,000 en la ciudad y por 25,000 en los suburbios.

En 1990, los blancos constituían un 58 por ciento de los suburbios en áreas con alta concentración de latinos; en el 2000, constituían un 45 por ciento. Los niños comprenden cerca de la mitad de la población suburbana.

Los latinos, los asiáticos y los negros constituyen un 50 por ciento de la población de la ciudad, y dos de cada tres niños que viven ahí.

Los latinos en Chicago continúan con la tendencia de mudarse a los suburbios. Todavía los blancos representan un 73 por ciento de la población suburbana, pero la población blanca ha disminuido a un 55 por ciento en áreas específicas donde los latinos se están estableciendo. Gary Stuart

de la Escuela de Gobierno John F. Kennedy en Harvard, afirma que Chicago está preparado para segregar a la población estudiantil de manera similar a como ocurrió al comienzo del siglo XX.

Stuart sostiene que una política pública fuerte es esencial. "Los más perjudicados son los niños que son separados de sus coetáneos de diferentes razas y orígenes étnicos por los límites de los distritos escolares, y como resultado se atrofia la experiencia educativa", dice.

Boston tiene la tercera población blanca más grande de cualquier ciudad metropolitana de los Estados Unidos. La inmigración impulsa en gran parte a la población. Los latinos constituyen un 2.5 por ciento de la población suburbana, pero viven en vecindarios que son un 9.6 por ciento latinos, comparado con un 6.8 por ciento en el año 1990.

De forma consistente los datos muestran que los estudiantes que asisten a escuelas segregadas tienen un mal desempeño en los exámenes. Orfield está preocupado de que en Boston un 75 por ciento de la población infantil no es blanco. Los niños latinos ahora suman un 27 por ciento del total; y los adultos latinos un 14 por ciento.

Así como las luchas que siguieron a las monumentales resoluciones de la década del 1950 recalcaron las dificultades de crear una sociedad desegregada, el reporte del autor concluye que aun bajo las mejores circunstancias, los números actuales son casi tan desalentadores como aquellos 50 años atrás.

El liderazgo de la nación haría bien en prestar atención a los nuevos avisos de Orfield.

U.S. to Track Visitors Deemed a Security Risk - Washington Post



By TED BRIDIS, WASHINGTON - The Justice Department (news - web sites) expects to identify as potential threats to the United States roughly 100,000 foreign visitors each year and will require them to provide fingerprints, photographs and details about their plans here.

The government said it would keep secret most its new criteria for identifying risky immigrants. Under the new rules, already the subject of intense debate, such visitors also must report annually to register with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The regulations, expected to take effect this fall, also will affect fewer than 100,000 foreigners already in the United States. Those foreigners also will be instructed to report to the INS for registration, fingerprints and photographs and to visit immigration offices every 12 months until they leave.

In announcing the rules Wednesday, Attorney General John Ashcroft (news - web sites) declined to disclose the criteria the government will use to identify which of the 35 million foreign visitors who enter each year might be deemed threatening. He said nearly all visitors from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Sudan and Syria - except some diplomats - will face the new scrutiny.

Visitors from other countries, especially Muslim and Middle Eastern nations, could be identified

as potential threats depending on other factors, such as age or gender and whether they remain in the United States longer than 30 days. Some visitors, but not all, will be told they were deemed potential threats before traveling here, senior Justice officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"No country is totally exempt," Ashcroft said. The changes update existing regulations - which are not enforced by the INS - requiring the registration of foreigners from some nations.

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee (news - web sites), Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., called the rules "a reasonable first step in regaining control over illegal immigration in the United States, which is currently out of control." But he also pledged his committee will conduct "all necessary oversight" to prevent abuses.

The new rules will compare visitors' fingerprints with those of suspected terrorists. Ashcroft and others at the Justice Department said the collection of terrorist fingerprints was "sizable" - largely due to efforts by U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan (news - web sites). But they declined to say how many fingerprints it contained.

"We will be able to stop terrorists from entering the country," Ashcroft said. "Fingerprints don't lie."

The new rules will be open for

public comment until the fall before the Justice Department formally enacts them.

Congress may weigh in on this latest immigration crackdown by the Bush administration. While some top lawmakers expressed support for the plan, others complained of possible racial and ethnic profiling. One senior Justice official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said foreign visitors will not be asked about their religious or political affiliations.

"It is as though the equal protection clause had no meaning or context whatsoever to the authors of this Orwellian proposal," said Rep. John Conyers (news, bio, voting record) of Michigan, top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee. "We have long fought repressive and totalitarian regimes that sought to register their people, ban them from public places and eventually incarcerate them based solely on their race or religion."

Rep. George Gekas (news, bio, voting record), R-Pa., a member of the immigration subcommittee, expressing support for the plan, said, "It is a sad fact that only cursory information is gathered on most aliens entering at our borders. It is also a fact that the INS cannot account for all the aliens that are currently in the United States."

Sen. Edward Kennedy (news, bio, voting record), D-Mass., said the changes "will give U.S. government officials unfettered discretion to use secret criteria to decide who should be registered in a database we usually reserve for terrorists and criminals." The rules "will further stigmatize innocent Arab and Muslim visitors... who have committed no crimes and pose no danger to us."

The plan asks state and local police to arrest foreign visitors who fail to report to immigration officials. To help find them, the Justice Department will provide the visitors' names and fingerprints. However, Ashcroft promised to make no more requests of those departments to enforce federal immigration laws. Police departments and immigration rights groups have criticized recent proposals to involve police in such matters.

Ashcroft declined to say whether he believed the new system would have detected the plans of any of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers.

"Sleeping Giant" Could Sway Mexico's Politics

Like most Mexicans who left home for a better life in the United States, 46-year old Jorge Mujica says he misses a lot of things.

Like old Star Trek episodes dubbed into Spanish. Or his mother's oven-baked Huachinango fish. But the thing he craves most is something the law here says he cannot have: the right to vote in Mexico's elections from his adopted U.S. home.

So Mujica, who wears a ponytail sprouting from the back of his black leather baseball cap, recently led a group of immigrants back to the home he left more than 19 years ago to fight for a voice in Mexico's quickly changing future.

He is not alone. More and more immigrants from California to Illinois to Texas are lobbying Mexican lawmakers for a law that would allow them to cast ballots in Mexico's next presidential election in 2006.

Long ignored despite their vital role in Mexico's economy, many hope to harness their growing political power in the United States to force the politicians back home to finally listen to them.

"Up there we're already electing mayors and governors, but here we

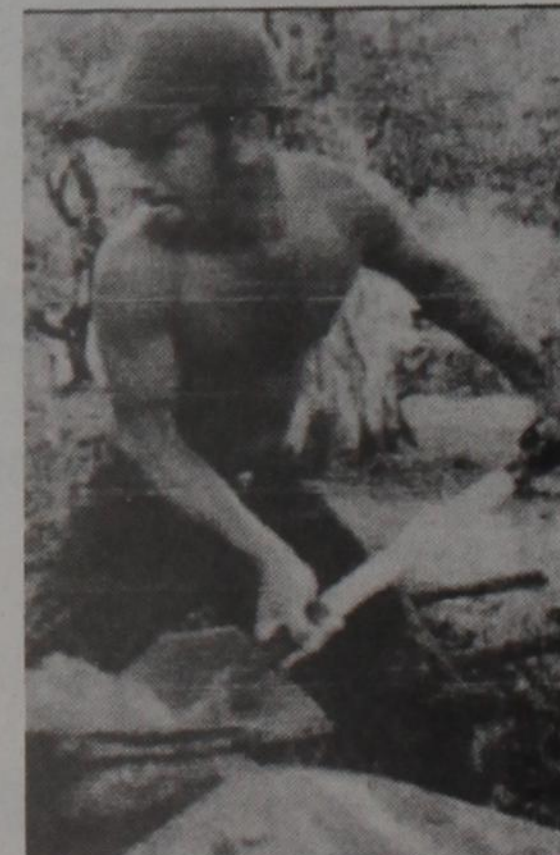
can't even vote," said Mujica, a Chicago resident with dual American and Mexican citizenship. "It's crazy."

Forty-three countries allow their citizens to vote from abroad, but none with a potential electorate the size of the estimated 23 million Mexicans and Mexican-Americans living in the United States.

Officials say that about 11 million of them would be eligible to vote today - more than a quarter of all the Mexicans who cast ballots in the 2000 presidential election, more than enough to swing a presidential election.

"We're like a sleeping giant," California immigrant activist Guadalupe Zamora told lawmakers here recently. "But what's going to happen when this sleeping giant wakes up?"

Ask immigrants why they deserve to be counted, and many would give 9 billion reasons, one for each dollar the government says they wire home to their families each year. The money has surpassed tourism as Mexico's third-largest source of income, after oil and manufacturing. It paves roads, builds homes and puts food on the tables of Mexico's poorest states,



long neglected by past governments led by the former ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

"We haven't just left Mexico," says one immigrant, "we're sustaining it." Such sentiments underscore a deeper motive to participate, that of a desire for a reckoning. Many immigrants blame crooked PRI politicians for making them leave in the first place, and would like nothing more than to cast the deciding ballot that sends all of them packing. They say that despite leaving for the United States, their hearts remain in Mexico, not to mention a big chunk of their paychecks.

continued on page 3

La Opinion De Un Aficionado Sobre El Deporte 1 Del Mundo

Por Víctor Landa

En poco menos de un mes un estimado de dos mil millones de personas alrededor del mundo estarán pegados a sus televisores por tres horas, mirando el estreno de todos los eventos deportivos, y no será en los Estados Unidos.

No se llamará nada de "Super", Kobe y Shaq no estarán cerca de las cámaras de televisión y los fanáticos no ovacionarán otro jonrón de Barry Bonds. No obstante, se discutirá en voz alta y de manera ferviente cada rebote de la bola, cada matiz de la ofensiva y de la defensiva.

Del otro lado del mundo, un partido que verdaderamente puede llamarse un Campeonato Mundial atraerá más atención que cualquier otro evento deportivo conocido. Y del cual estarán ajenos totalmente casi todos los fanáticos deportivos estadounidenses.

Mi primer recuerdo de la Copa Mundial de fútbol se remonta a cuando tenía nueve años. Ese año los juegos fueron en México, y los nombres en la punta de la lengua de todos eran los de los mejores jugadores de fútbol en el mundo: Pelé de Brasil, Franz Beckenbauer de Alemania, Michel Platini de Francia. Durante cuatro semanas mi imaginación estuvo llena de festines de gloria y de destrezas atléticas.

En la imaginación me veía en el campo del Estadio Azteca anotando el gol ganador del juego de campeonato; con una 'chilena', las piernas cortando como una tijera el aire sobre mi cabeza, pateando la bola de manera precisa en la esquina izquierda superior. La multitud rugía y mi nombre vivía glorificado por siempre.

Treinta años después todavía sigo fascinado por el evento. Todavía sigo de cerca los partidos, todavía me arraigo a mi equipo favorito de manera ferviente. Estoy ansioso de ver las variaciones y los estilos, la personalidad que cada nación trae al juego; la rapidez inglesa, la precisión alemana, el inventivo y fluido estilo 'samba' de Brasil, la legendaria Machina Naranja de Holanda, abriéndose camino por el campo.

Para los que no están iniciados, la mejor manera de seguir un partido de fútbol es imaginárselo como un juego de baloncesto jugado con los pies. En el mundo se le conoce al fútbol como balompié, precisamente porque se patea la bola, en oposición al fútbol estadounidense en el cual se tira la bola o se lleva en las manos.

Hay diferencias marcadas entre el fútbol y el baloncesto, pero ambos utilizan casi las mismas estrategia y lógica.

De hecho, mucho antes que Phil Jackson "inventara" el triángulo ofensivo en Chicago, éste era la base de las Xs y Os del fútbol.

En años recientes el fútbol ha ganado popularidad en los Estados Unidos. El triunfo del equipo de los Estados Unidos en la Copa Mundial Femenina le dio un gran empuje al deporte, particularmente entre las chicas.

En la política, el deporte ayudó a clasificar a un segmento de los votantes. Se decía que las mamás de los jugadores de fútbol que guiaban 'Minivans' tenían sujetas elecciones claves. Pero aún este deporte tiene que ganar legitimidad en este país. Algunos dicen que el fútbol no es popular en los Estados Unidos porque no lo entendemos. (Una vez escuché a un columnista de deportes llamar al fútbol un deporte del tercer mundo, pero pronto perdoné la diatriba de una mente de tercera categoría).

Como yo lo veo, el problema con el fútbol en este país tiene dos aspectos y es sencillo. Los Estados Unidos todavía no han producido un equipo de fútbol masculino excepcional y la Avenida Madison aún no ha encontrado la manera de vender el deporte. El juego se divide en dos tiempos, cada uno de 45 minutos, sin tiempo pedido y sin pausas comerciales salvo por los 15

minutos del intermedio, no hay espacio para poner comerciales.

Sin embargo, el resto del mundo parece tener muy pocos problemas con esto. En efecto, la fiebre de la Copa Mundial puede rayar en lo ridículo. En Irlanda estaban debatiendo si cambiaban la hora oficial este año, para permitir que los fanáticos irlandeses pudieran ver la transmisión en vivo de su equipo. Se llevarán a cabo los juegos en Corea, por lo que tendrían que cambiar las 12:00 del mediodía a la oscuridad de la noche para poder ver a su equipo jugar en vivo. Hablaban en serio al respecto.

Como cualquier buen periodista con una audiencia fija, me sentí obligado a compartir mis predicciones a nivel local antes que el torneo comenzara. Escogí a Francia repitiendo la defensa del campeonato, seguido en orden por Argentina, Inglaterra y Brasil. De inmediato, Francia perdió frente a Senegal.

De ahora en adelante, en vez de proclamar cualquier pericia en particular o acceso a información interna, me sentaré cómodo como las otras dos mil millones de personas y disfrutaré de la competición como un aficionado.

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Bush pays lip service to Hispanics

By MYRIAM MARQUEZ

By political design and out of pragmatic necessity, President Bush is making inroads into the Hispanic community, talking up issues important to Cubans, Mexicans and Puerto Ricans - the nation's three largest Latino voting blocs.

The frustration for poll-watching Democrats is that, for all the president's big talk recently - tough on 'tyrant' Fidel, warm and fuzzy on Vicente Fox - the Bush administration has made no sweeping changes, no bold moves. Just a lot of disjointed baby steps.

And in the case of courting Puerto Rican voters, Bush has offered that predominantly Democratic voting group nothing of substance at all. The flap over U.S. military exercises in Vieques continues, even as Bush has pledged no more exercises after 2003.

Meanwhile, in Jeb Country, the president placates his brother's strongest supporters, Cuban-American voters who also turned out in force to support W in 2000. Bush missed an opportunity last week in Miami, when he unveiled his "new" Cuba policy, to call Fidel Castro's bluff and take a bold stand. For four decades, Castro has used the embargo to blame the United States for his failed, state-controlled economic policies and his communist regime's military buildup, which serves to quash internal dissent in the name of battling the "Yankee imperialists."

Bush would have shown spunk had he called for opening travel to Cuba. He could have offered a creative caveat - allow a trial period of six months. That would have shown he's willing to think outside the box of exile politics but also won't fall into line with the greedy agricultural and business interests, backed by several Republican members of Congress, that would love to sell grain and machinery to Cuba backed by U.S. taxpayer-financed credit.

Send plane loads of church groups, union workers and CEOs. Use the millions of dollars now wasted on TV Martí - its programming lost in space without an audience because of the Cuban government's jamming - to advertise instead the homes that rent rooms to tourists throughout the island. Push the people-to-people contacts.

After six months, if Castro had not budged on allowing Cubans to vote on the Varela Project referendum, which proposes democratic reforms such as multiparty elections, then the travel ban would be reimposed. And if Castro rejected the offer from the very beginning - as I believe he would - it would expose his true motivations in preserving the status quo. Instead, Bush offered the same old embargo policy dressed up as "new and improved," letting Castro off the hook.

For many Mexican-Americans, immigration remains a critical issue, yet Bush has shied away from any bold moves on that front, too. He had wanted to liberalize immigration policy to help illegal immigrants here gain legal status while also helping agriculture, meat-packing and other industries. After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, though, the Bush administration tabled that proposal. Another opportunity to lead lost.

Nevertheless, Bush is making huge inroads among Hispanic voters, as a new national survey by Bendixen & Associates shows. Bush got one-third of the Latino vote in 2000, but if the election were held now, it likely would be a draw between Bush and Al Gore, the Wall Street Journal reported. The war on terrorism, Bush's push for faith-based initiatives and his attempts to improve relations with Latin America all have served Bush well.

In his mangled Spanish, W pays lip service to Hispanic constituencies, hugs a kid here or there and talks of opportunity. Democrats have yet to counter the Bush charm effectively, despite its obvious shortcomings. They need to wake up and smell the cafecito.

An Aficionado's View of the World's No. 1 Sport

By Víctor Landa

In a little less than a month's time, an estimated 2 billion people across the globe will be glued to their television sets for three hours, watching the premiere of all sporting events, and it won't be in the United States.

It won't be called the "Super" anything; Kobe and Shaq will be nowhere close to the television cameras; and the fans won't be cheering another Barry Bonds home run. And yet every bounce of the ball, every nuance of offense and defense will be loudly argued and passionately discussed.

From the other side of the globe, a match that can be truly called a world championship will attract more attention than any other event known in sports. And through it all, most U.S. sports fans will be oblivious.

My earliest recollection of soccer's World Cup goes back to when I was 9 years old. That year the games were hosted in Mexico and the names on the tips of everyone's tongues were of the greatest soccer players in the world: Pele from Brazil, Franz Beckenbauer from Germany, Michel Platini from France.

For the length of four weeks, my imagination was filled with feats of glory and athletic prowess. In my mind I saw myself on the field of Azteca Stadium scoring the winning goal of the championship game; a backward flip, legs cutting the air above my head like a scissor, kicking the ball precisely into the left top corner of the goal. The crowd would roar and my name would live forever in glory.

Thirty-two years later I'm still mesmerized by the event. I still follow the games closely, still root fervently for my favorite team. I'm anxious to see the variations and the styles, the personality that each nation brings to the game; the English

quickness, the German precision, Brazil's inventive and fluid "samba" style, Holland's legendary Orange Machine, bulldozing its way down the field.

For the uninitiated, the best way to follow a soccer match is to think of it as basketball played with the feet. Soccer is known throughout the world as football precisely because the ball is kicked, as opposed to U.S. football, where the ball is either thrown or carried with the hands.

There are stark differences between soccer and basketball, but the two employ much the same strategy and logic.

In fact, long before Phil Jackson "invented" the triangle offense in Chicago, it was a mainstay of soccer Xs and Os.

In recent years, soccer has gained in popularity in the United States. The triumph of the U.S. team in the Women's World Cup gave the sport a huge lift, especially among girls.

In politics, the sport helped to classify a segment of voters. Minivan-driving soccer Moms were said to hold key elections in their hands.

But the sport has yet to gain legitimacy in this country. Some people say soccer isn't popular in the United States because we don't understand it. (I once heard a sportsactions locally before the tournament started. I picked defending champion France to repeat, followed in order by Argentina, England and Brazil. France immediately lost to Senegal.)

From here on, rather than claim any special expertise or access to inside information, I'll just sit back with 2 billion others and enjoy the competition as an aficionado.

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El Editor Newspapers

is a weekly bilingual publication that is published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806: 763-3841. Suscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers.

Editor/Publisher: Bidal Agüero
Business Manager: Olga Riojas-Aguero
Articles Amalia Agüero
Subscriptions: In House Crew
Distribution: Gilbert Acuña & Joe Adam & Albert Riojas

What Created Ward Connerly

By Raymond Rodriguez

On the last page of his book "Creating Equal: My Fight Against Racial Preferences," Ward Connerly states that as he held his new granddaughter, "I wondered what kind of life she would have, what kind of pressures she would feel to declare herself as a member of one group or another, and which of the silly boxes she would be required to check. But by the time she comes of age, God willing, perhaps all that will be a thing of the past."

Ward Connerly is best known as the spokesperson for the abolition of affirmative action. He came to prominence when, as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of California, he led the fight to abolish the use of racial preferences in the admissions process. On July 20, 1995, the regents overturned, by a 14-10 vote, 30 years of affirmative action in the University of California system.

Then in 1996, he spearheaded the drive to pass Proposition 209, ending affirmative action efforts in education and employment in California.

Next, he succeeded in leading a similarly successful effort in the state of Washington. His goal, of course, is to ban the use of affirmative action in all 50 states.

To most people, Ward Connerly remains an enigma. Many do not even know that he is a black man. He detests the use of the term "African American." He is part African, Indian, Irish and French, he says. Hence the quandary of what to call himself or "which of the silly boxes" he should check.

His critics, and they are legion, claim he is ashamed of his black origins and thinks of himself as white. That is why, they say, he is married to a white woman. Connerly believes that how he views or classifies himself is his own business.

Ward Connerly is a crusader, a man with a mission. He is as dedicated to the abolition of affirmative action as were those who once worked for the abolition of slavery.

One of his grandmothers was born a slave. Paradoxical as it may seem, Connerly believes that he is doing it for the same reason: to free modern-day blacks from the fetters that enslave them and perpetuate their status as second-class citizens. Only when the achievement of blacks and Latinos is based on "merit" will they be completely free, he contends.

Connerly likes to point out that if he can make it, so can anyone else. In his book, he emphasizes the fact that he comes from what today we call a dysfunctional family. His parents were divorced and his mother died when he was 4. He was raised by his grandmother in Louisiana until she sent him to live with her daughter in Sacramento, Calif. His family was on welfare, and he still recalls the shame he felt being dependent on others. He often stresses his firsthand acquaintance with poverty. Those who knew him then claim that his assertions are greatly exaggerated.

After graduating from high school, Connerly attended junior college before transferring to Sacra-

mento State. While there, he was active in ending segregated housing practices in the community. Then he was a Democrat. Shortly after graduating, he went to work for the California Department of Housing and Community Development. While in that position, he and a friend acquired several homes and leased them to the Sacramento Housing Authority. He was charged with a conflict of interest, but the charges were later dismissed.

In 1973, he established Connerly and Associates Inc., a land-use consulting firm. His critics claim that he used his connections in Sacramento to promote his business. They call attention to the fact that 15 percent of the state's housing contracts are set aside for minority-owned businesses. Connerly denies that he benefited from the state's affirmative action program. He also denies he utilized his minority status to obtain a million-dollar contract with the state's Energy Commission.

During this period, Connerly met Assemblyman Pete Wilson, who was chairman of the body's Housing Committee, and his conversion from Democrat to Republican began. Once a staunch advocate of affirmative action, now he became its staunchest opponent. He claims he favored it only as a temporary measure, not a permanent part of civil rights legislation. Connerly's critics claim that, like most converts to any cause, he feels compelled to prove his loyalty and worthiness to his new associates to gain their acceptance.

Always the enigma, Connerly surprised his supporters and opponents by joining the arch enemy, the detested American Civil Liberties Union, in pressing a class action suit against California for failing to enforce the requirement that advanced placement courses be taught in the public schools. He agrees that the playing field, although improved, is not quite level. But he wants people of color to overcome the disparities by hard work and perseverance, the things he asserts that worked for him.

Connerly's blind spot is that not

everyone is as gifted as he is. His meteoric rise to prominence attests to that fact. Consequently, he is attacking the issue of affirmative action from the top down rather than from the bottom up.

To eliminate the need for affirmative action programs on the job or in college, several things must be done to enable non-whites to compete on a playing field Connerly admits is uneven: A recent survey indicates that in predominantly minority schools 25 percent of the teachers are not fully credentialed, as opposed to only 4 percent in the affluent schools. Affluent students are able to afford tutors or take special classes to prepare for the SAT exams. Affluent schools offer more enrichment and advanced classes.

El Editor - Lo Mejor en Noticias Escribanos eleditor@llano.net

2002 Scholarships

The Lubbock Hispanic Chamber and University Medical Center have partnered up once again for their Annual Scholarship Program, this year they are joined by Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School who are interested in a nursing career.

We are soliciting applications based on the following criteria, applications are accepted from May 30, 2002 until July 1, 2002 at 4:00 pm. For more information or to pick up applications please call LHCC office at 762-5059. We are located at 1302 Main, Suite 301 (in the old South Plains College Building).

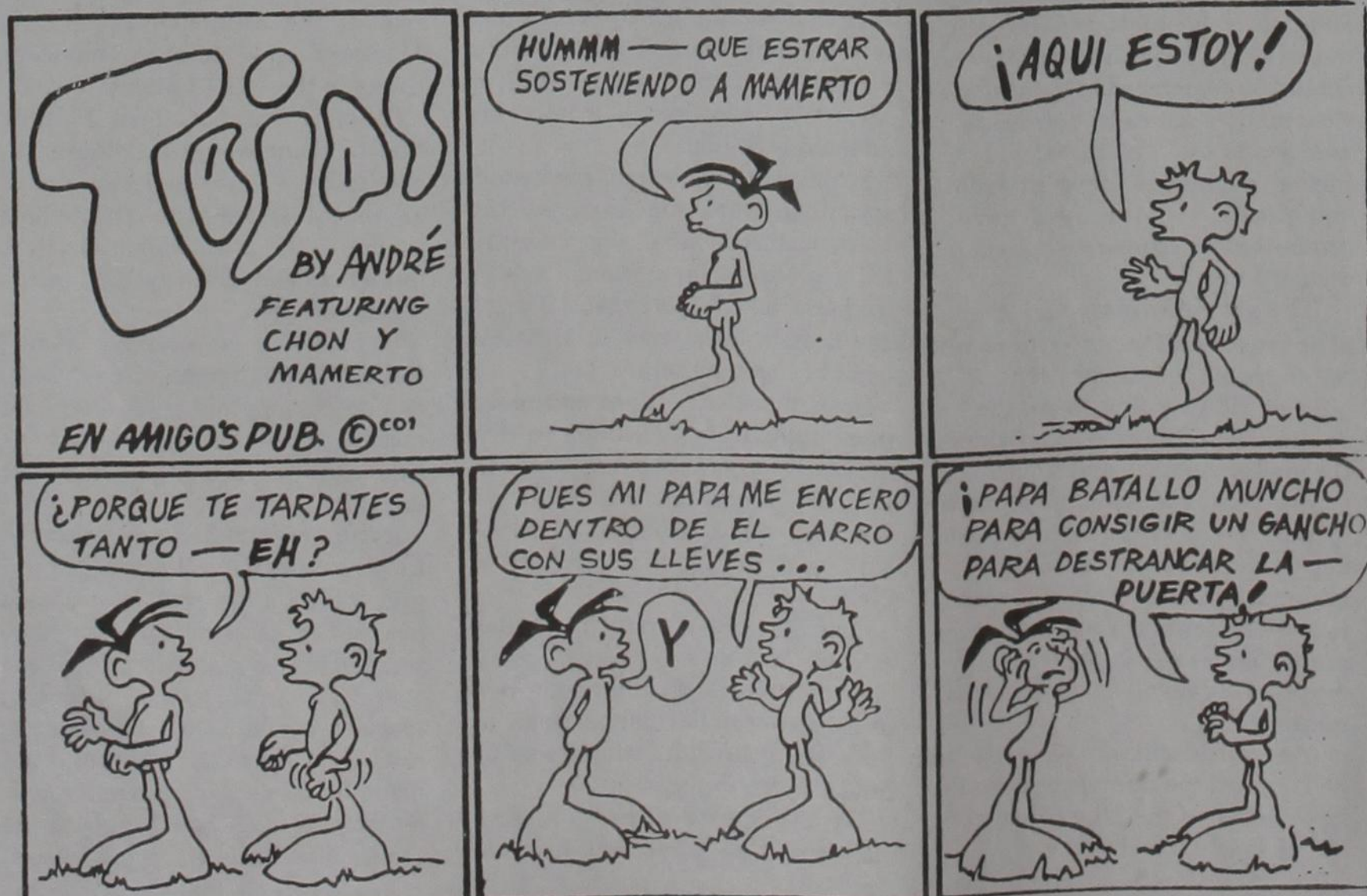
The purpose of scholarship is to assist Hispanic students in completing their higher education in a health care profession or related field. University Medical Center in partnership with the LHCC will make this scholarship available on a competitive basis to undergraduate and graduate students.

The eligibility for the program is student must be a USA citizen; Must have completed 12 units of college prior to submission of their application; Be enrolled in college for the fall of 2002 at a Lubbock area accredited college or university and considered a full time student. (12 hours or more) and applicant must have a GPA of 3.0 or better 3.

LISD Holds Public Hearing

The office of Federal Programs of the Lubbock Independent School District (LISD) will conduct its annual public hearing with regard to the use of federal funding for disadvantaged students, as measured by the number of students on free or reduced-price lunch applications on June 10, 2002 in the Central Administration Building Room 220 East, located at 1620 19th Street. The meeting will begin at 9 am.

All interested individuals, including parents of students receiving Title I services, staff from private schools and staff from facilities for neglected children and youth, are encouraged to attend this meeting. If you have questions or need additional information, please call 766-1196.



Subject: Sanchez:

"We Can Win the Entire Ticket!"

Democratic gubernatorial nominee Tony Sanchez received five standing ovations from one of the state's oldest and largest Hispanic organizations Friday during a speech predicting victory this fall over Republican

stood to applaud as he entered a hotel banquet hall, was introduced and after his speech. But the applause during his speech was most evident when he spoke Spanish.

Meanwhile, LULAC and the



Gov. Rick Perry.

"I've looked at all the numbers, all the maps of Texas, the demographic trends," Sanchez told about 500 members of the Texas League of United Latin American Citizens. "I've looked at the census data. I've looked at the last 10 elections.

"I'M HERE TO TELL YOU WE CAN WIN THE ENTIRE TICKET."

Without naming Perry, Sanchez said he will win because the incumbent is a professional politician who lacks the skills to inspire Texans. The next governor has the opportunity to improve health care, public education and reinvigorate the state economy, Sanchez said.

"It's too important a task to be left to a professional politician who has no vision, no sense of innovation, no sense of creativity, no salesmanship," Sanchez said. "We can do better, but it is going to take independent leadership."

Perry is scheduled to speak to the convention tonight.

Sanchez, a millionaire who made his fortune in oil, banking and investing, is spending heavily from his personal fortune and predicted Friday that his television commercials will run for a long time, to Perry's frustration.

"He might as well get used to my commercials," Sanchez said. Sanchez is the first Hispanic to win a major party's nomination for governor.

The LULAC crowd repeatedly

Texas NAACP announced a voter registration effort in hopes of enhancing minority political clout by combining forces on issues of public welfare and social justice.

"Strength does come in numbers," Texas NAACP President Gary Bledsoe told the convention.

Vincent Ramos, executive director of Texas LULAC, said blacks and Hispanics have shared interests in issues such as health care, social services and education.

The voter registration drive is part of a new push by the two organizations to work together on issues of common interest.

Mary Ramos of Houston said blacks and Hispanics are working together in Harris County to get more minorities onto grand juries. They also are questioning police beatings of minorities arrested on resisting-arrest charges when no original arrest charge is filed, she said.

"The charge is resisting arrest, but what are they being arrested for?" Ramos said.

But Bledsoe said the effort to combine minority forces has not always gone well around Texas.

"I look at Dallas, where you've got the black and brown community at each other's throats, all over elected positions on the school board," Bledsoe said.

Claude Foster, the Texas NAACP voter empowerment coordinator, said the registration drive will use bilingual literature and focus on those who have never voted.



PFC Joe Luis Rios is the son of Remigio and Sylvia Rios. Joe has three brothers, Remy, Eric and Joshua, two sisters in law, Lori and Constance and two beautiful nieces Jasmin and Alecia Rios who along with his aunts, uncles and cousins are eagerly waiting to see him.

Joe graduated from Estacao High School in May 2000. He attended South Plains College in Levelland. Joe married Leslie Ramirez, daughter of Johnny and Vickie Ramirez of Shallowater on June 8. They have a beautiful little girl, Kaitlyn, who Joe loves very much.

Joe joined the Army and left for boot camp on June 11, 2001. He graduated from boot camp on October 5, 2001.

Just five months after Joe joined the Army, he was deployed to Afghanistan. He fought in "Operation Anaconda" in Afghanistan. After a little over six months there, Joe returned to the United States. Joe will be on leave from June 4th through June 24th. He plans to spend those days here in his hometown of Lubbock with his family. The family thanks the Lord everyday for bringing him home safely.

Joe comes from a very large family, but he is the very first one to ever go to combat. The entire family calls him "Our Hero". We Love You Louie!!



Photo by John P. Cervantes. Bishop Placido Rodriguez with St. Patrick's Confirmation class. The confirmation took place on May 24 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Lubbock.

Giant
from page one

During the meeting with the Mexican Congress, the first of its kind here, lawmakers from all three major parties said they supported giving immigrants the vote.

But 17 months after President Vicente Fox galloped into office promising more attention to immigrant affairs, the same lawmakers have yet to vote on a single piece of legislation on the issue.

Those suspicious of the plan range from nationalistic lawmakers, who fear ceding Mexican sovereignty to the north, to a few with a paranoid vision that la migra -- the popular nickname for U.S. Border Patrol -- will simply round up every illegal Mexican in sight on Election Day and ship them home.

Fox, who likes to say he presides not only over the 100 million Mexicans here, but the 23 million north of the border as well, is banking that immigrants will look to his center-right National Action Party, or PAN.

"We're all in agreement this right should be outlined in black and white," Fox told the immigrants gathered during a short meeting in March. "It's time."

But experts say that assigning party loyalty to such a diverse group is a mistake. How, they ask, can one compare the political leanings of a pepper farmer from Oaxaca state with a computer programmer born in Texas who holds dual citizenship?

"It's completely up in the air," says Antonio Ocaranza, an execu-

tive at Public Strategies Inc., an Austin-based public relations firm. "They're going to go with whom-ever best defends their interests."

And those immigrants who do not identify with any candidates may just become one instead. U.S. census figures project that the American Hispanic population will grow to 63 million by 2030, with Mexicans making up the vast majority.

If immigrants can vote in Mexico's elections, what would stop them from running as candidates? It has already happened here last year, when immigrant-turned-millionaire Andres Bermudez won the mayoral race in his hometown of Jerez, a small vegetable farming community in the state of Zacatecas.

Bermudez, dubbed the "tomato-king" after making a fortune selling the fruit in California, was later stripped of his post by an opposition-party official due to technicalities.

But most immigrants say such cases only bode well for their cause, even if the government keeps ignoring them.

Mujica says he and others will simply stop buying Mexican-made products and organize long-distance campaign drives to get family members back home to vote for, or against, the candidates of their liking.

"That's going to be the punishment," says Mujica, his voice full of conviction. "The politicians are going to have to come looking for us to get the votes of our families living here."

"If not, we'll get rid of them all."

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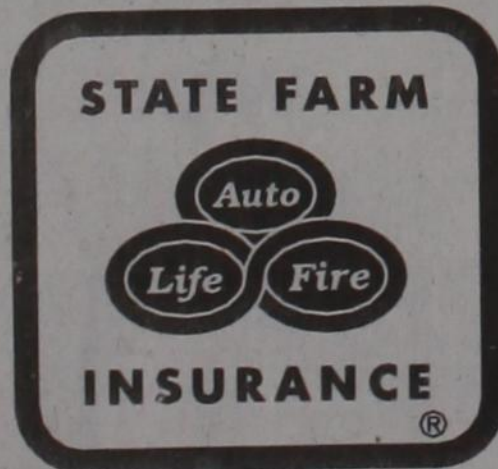
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Vicente Fox's Hurdle Is the Mexican, Not U.S. Border Patrol

By Carlos Conde

Mexico President Vicente Fox's commitment to address the annual convention of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists in the Mexican border city of Tijuana, Baja California, on June 12 may sound a bit odd at first. After all, the convention site for the U.S. Latino journalists' event is in San Diego's Hotel Circle, 16 miles north of the border.

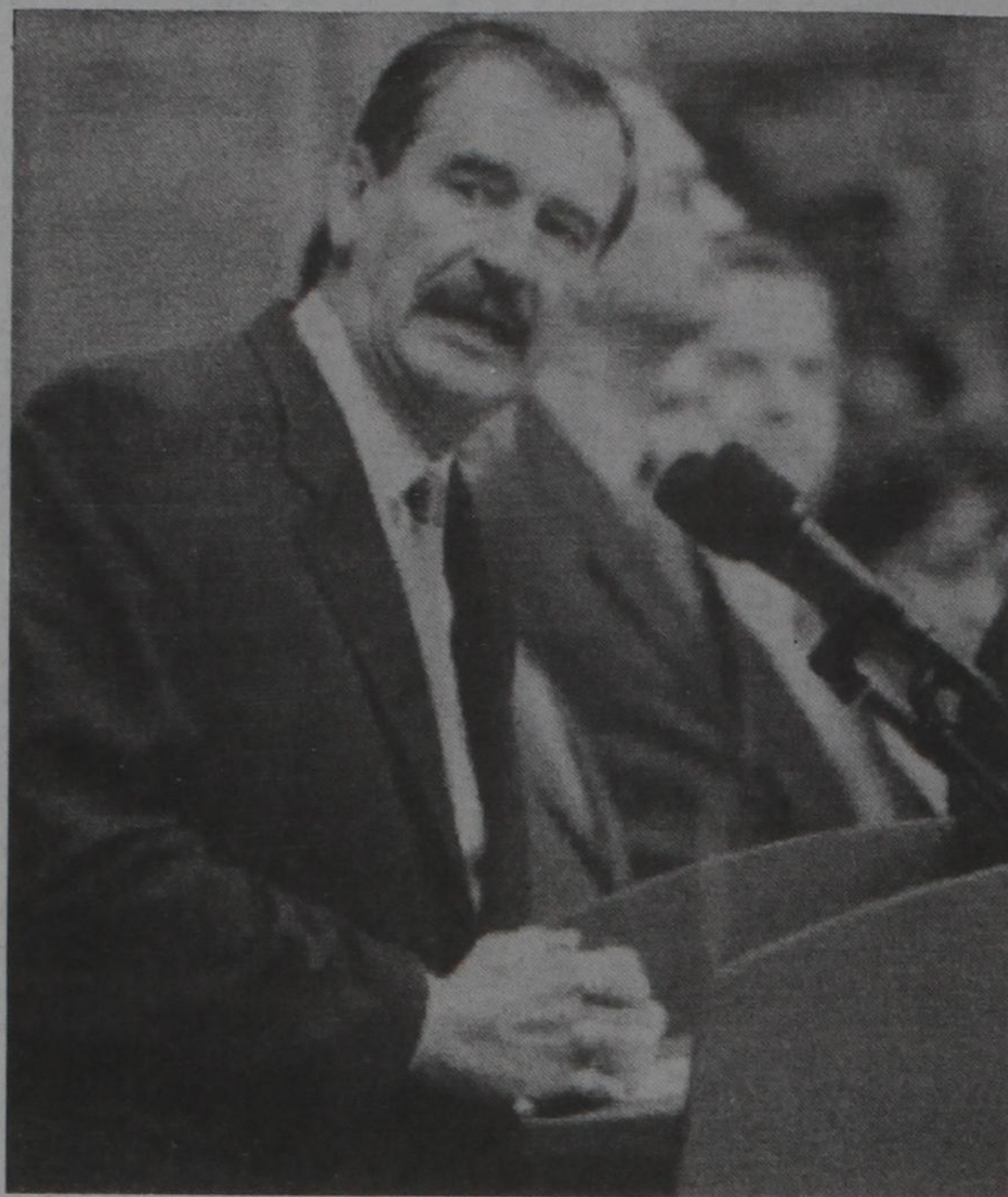
Fox's decision not to cross the border is an outgrowth of his woes with political foes in Mexico City who claim he's getting too cozy with the *gringos*, particularly his *compadre* George W. Bush. Bush's first state dinner in the White House was for the Mexican president.

Unlike its U.S. counterpart, Mexico's Senate has authority to approve all foreign travel for the country's chief executive. In April it blocked his planned visit to several Canadian and U.S. cities, even though the trips were mostly about business, not politics.

Fearing a similar embarrassment, Fox's aides accepted NAHJ's invitation to speak, but scheduled him to do so in Mexican territory. Now the 1,600 Latino journalists will have to travel in chartered buses to Tijuana's Centro Cultural, where Univision news anchor María Elena Salinas will moderate a "conversation" with the Mexican leader.

President Fox likes to travel, particularly north. Had he crossed the border this time, it would have marked his sixth trip to the United States and Canada since taking office. He visited Washington, D.C., after Sept. 11 to offer his nation's condolences and pledge its solidarity with this country. Bush effusively described Fox as his best buddy.

President Bush has hosted him at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, and Fox had hosted Bush at his ranch at San Cristóbal in Guanajuato state. When Bush was governor of Texas and Fox



governor of Guanajuato, the pair got together several times.

The U.S. president knows how to seal a friendship with a Mexican. At San Cristóbal, Bush -- in the Latin style -- gave Fox's mother two beautifully wrapped presents from Texas's posh Neiman-Marcus and delivered them with a peck on her cheek.

A lot of the Fox-Bush relationship, of course, is patent politics. President Bush has 20 million Mexican-American constituents. President Fox, who was previously the chief executive of Mexico's Coca Cola, knows through his business experience the importance of selling the sizzle, as well as the steak, to his country's largest trading partner.

Making nice with the U.S. is important, particularly when you also have to tussle with pesky U.S.-related problems at home like the immigration policy quagmire, drug-interdiction

cooperation, cross-border labor disputes and water-rights arguments.

Mexico's problems, of course, resonate with the Bush administration at home, but U.S. political and economic muscle gives it more wiggle room, much to the consternation and frustration of the Mexicans.

President Fox has the background to hold his own at home on the economic and business side. It's his grasp of big-time politics, and the nasty ways they are sometimes played, that seems to be his biggest liability.

A good political cadre should easily have sniffed the opposition laying in wait to mug him by refusing him a rather innocuous trip. His predecessor, Ernesto Zedillo, once avoided that same ambush through good intelligence.

The senators' reasons to keep Fox at home seem somewhat spurious. The chairwoman of

the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Silvia Hernández, said permission to travel was denied because Fox has not taken a "punctual and stronger defense of the human rights of Mexicans in the United States."

Translation: "Tell your friend Bush to get us a good immigration bill."

Shortly after that, Fox was also taken in by the biggest political snake of all, Fidel Castro, who made the Mexican president look like a political neophyte and a sycophant to President Bush.

Castro taped the conversation when Fox phoned him and asked him to go home early from the recent summit meeting in Monterrey because his good friend Bush didn't want him around when he arrived. Castro played the tape publicly and ridiculed Fox for his stammering defense.

Politics aside, the Fox-Bush friendship appears genuine, driven by common ideals and lifestyles. Fox was schooled in the U.S. enterprise system and appreciates the *gringo* mentality through his business background and experience.

President Bush may be Ivy League-bred and -educated, but he is more a son of Texas, where, like it or not, one can't escape the Mexican environment. A good portion of the Texas population has Mexican origins and maintains its traditions. Bush likes playing Mexican at times, like with his fractured Spanish. He feels comfortable in the culture.

As for Fox, he apparently has not yet mastered, or prefers not to emphasize, the *macho* politics of Mexico when it involves the United States.

Among other things, if he can learn the tricky business of interspersing *abrazos* with kicks in the rear of the *americanos*, he'll be a hero at home. Then they may let him travel to the U.S. any time he wants.

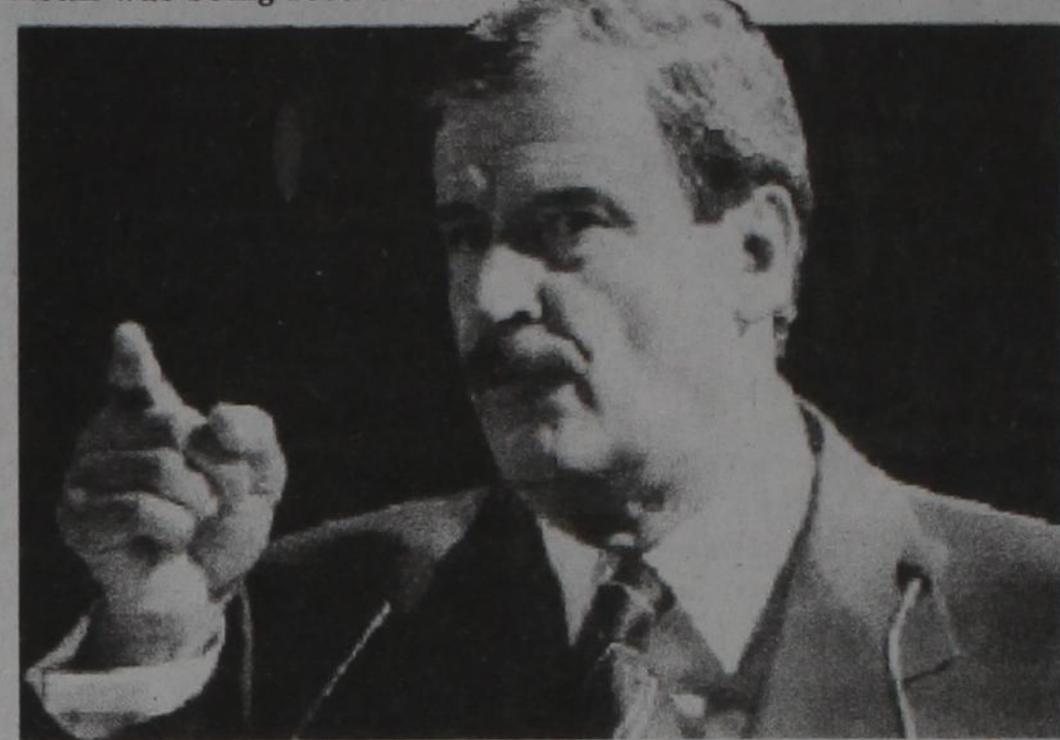
(c) 2002, Hispanic Link News

Water Dispute Cancels Fox's Visit

President Vicente Fox on Friday canceled a scheduled trip this month to Texas because of an acrimonious debate over border water, Mexican diplomats said Friday.

Officially, the president's office said the June 25-27 trip to Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin was being rescheduled to

est in a series of setbacks in U.S.-Mexican relations. There is a growing perception in Mexico that Fox has delivered on a series of U.S. concerns, throwing drug traffickers in prison and taking a tougher stand against Cuba, but has gotten little in



later this summer. In Dallas, Mexican Consul-General Ezequiel Padilla noted that the increasingly heated debate between the two nations over water would overshadow any positive announcements.

"President Fox considers his relationship with Texas to be so fundamental and important to his administration that he didn't want to risk taking a trip that was to be anything less than perfect," Padilla said.

Texas farmers and U.S. politicians say Mexico owes them an estimated 435 million gallons of water under a treaty. Some Texas farmers had threatened to protest at Fox events during his trip, even block international bridges as they did a week ago in south Texas.

Mexican lawmakers have said they have until September to start paying back the water.

The water issue is just the lat-

return. Mexico has been particularly interested in legalizing at least some of the illegal Mexican immigrants in the United States, and possibly developing a new guest-worker program.

"At some point, there has to be some concrete action on the part of the United States," said Delal Baer, chair of the Mexico Project at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "Mexicans are getting restless, waiting for something in return."

Two weeks ago, Fox, after a phone conversation with President Bush, promised to deliver a solution to the water crisis within 15 days.

Opposition parties at home accused Fox of selling out poor Mexican farmers along the border, who are losing crops and cattle by the day, in favor of wealthier Texas farmers.

Mexico's President Fox to Send Weekly Radio Messages to U.S. Hispanics

Mexican President Vicente Fox is reaching out by radio to Mexicans living in Miami, New York, Los Angeles, Houston, and Phoenix.

On Saturday, Fox sent the first of what are to be weekly, five-minute live messages to Mexican-Americans living throughout the United States.

The messages, broadcast by radio stations in 14 major cities and by their 27 affiliates elsewhere, are a way "to get closer to the Mexican community" in the United States, said a spokesman for the president's office.

The broadcasts, which will reach 80 percent of the U.S.

Hispanic population, are distributed by Miami-based Radio Unica, the same network U.S. President George W. Bush uses to deliver a weekly message to U.S. Hispanics.

Fox will deliver his message at the end of his weekly Saturday radio show in Mexico, "Fox Live, Fox With You."



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Texas History Gets New Mexican Twist

"Remember the Alamo" is a battle cry that Texans learn early in their formative years.

But the call to remember the Texas revolution of 168 years ago has a new place in Texas history, somewhere in the back of the textbooks. That may now be changing, in part because some fear rampant pride will alienate the growing Mexican student population in their midst.

"We don't want our Hispanic kids, or any kids, to feel like we're teaching a bias approach," said Angela Miller social studies curriculum manager for the Houston Independent School District.

Over 40 percent of Texas' student population is Hispanic, with most of those tracing their her-

itage to Mexico. A new curriculum still teaches Texas independence, but administrators say the traditional "us vs. them" perspective has taken a back seat.

"We are all in this together and we include those Hispanic kids who are now in our district who have a heritage from Mexico," Miller said.

But "purists" are up in arms over the new curriculum, and say the school district is re-writing history.

"There is only one way to teach Texas history and that's Texas history," said Dan Stein, executive director of the Federation for American Immigration Reform. "Now, if you're going to teach Mex history or you're going to teach some other coun-

try's history, that's fine. But Texas history is Texas history."

Stein, whose membership-based organization believes mass immigration to the United States should be curtailed, says the new curriculum implies that Mexico has a moral claim to Texas.

"If you teach young people who have allegiances not only to the United States but to Mexico that Texas is stolen, you could be planting the seeds of a separatist movement 30 years from now or sooner," he said.

Miller denies that the new educational mandate is sewing the seeds of a separatist movement.

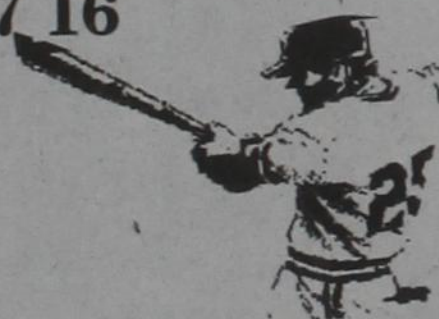
"No, that's a definite no. This is about looking at points of view and frames of reference," she said.

An old adage says that in war, history is written by those who won. But for today's multicultural Texas, some say history is being rewritten for those who lost.

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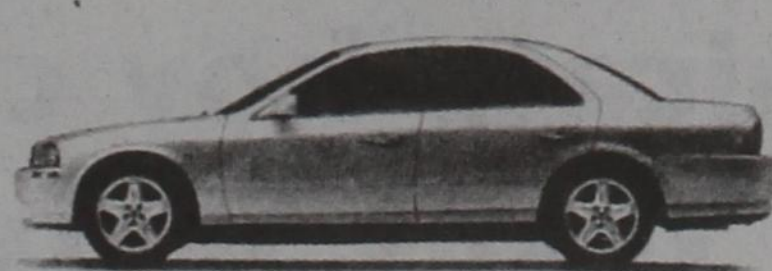


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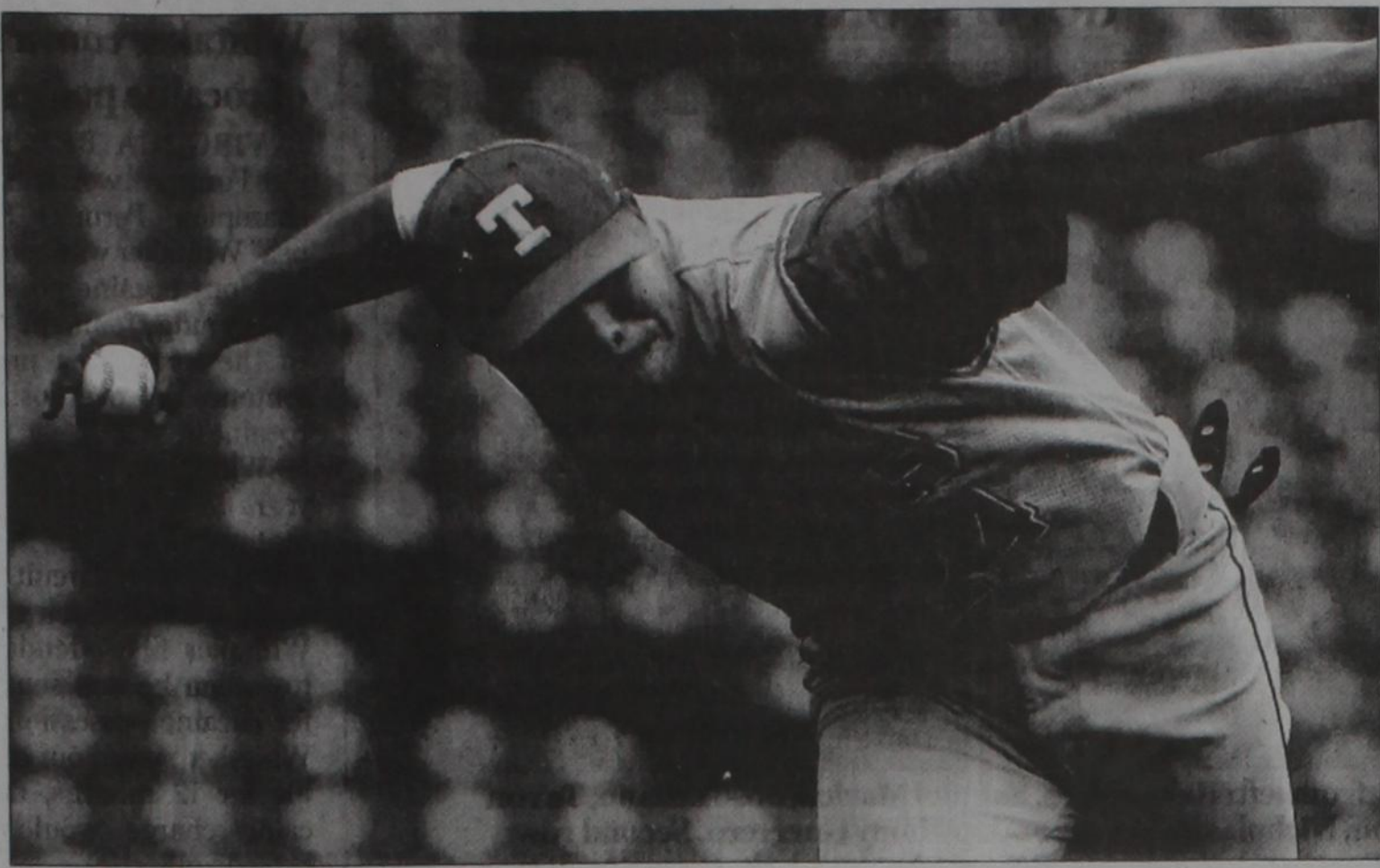
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Omar Quintanilla, who has played shortstop and third base at Texas, overcame a scary injury and an early suspension to post a solid season at bat and in the field this season.

Los Lakers Tratarán de Anotarse el Primer Triunfo Sobre Los Nets

Por un momento, los Lakers harán que sus aficionados latinos se olviden de la Copa del Mundo. Para ser más exactos, por el lapso de un par de horas.

El quinteto angelino recibirá hoy, a partir de las 6:00 p.m. en el Staples Center, a los Nets de New Jersey, en el inicio de las finales de la NBA.

Para los locales hay dos números mágicos en esta serie: cuatro y tres. Cuatro partidos para ganar su campeonato número tres de la liga en forma consecutiva.

Antes de celebrar y planear otro desfile por las calles de Los Angeles, los laguneros tendrán que pelear en serio para derrotar a un cuadro que viene inspirado y bajo las órdenes de uno de los mejores entrenadores: Byron Scott.

"De ninguna manera sentimos que ya somos campeones", comentó Robert Horry. "Por algo los Nets fueron el mejor cuadro del Este en la campaña regular", agregó el delantero.

Durante los playoffs, New Jersey ha tenido que probar que su marca de 52-30 en la temporada regular no fue un accidente. Para llegar a la máxima fiesta basquetbolera, los Nets tuvieron que pasar por encima de Indiana, Charlotte y Boston, todos ellos equipos a los que muchos daban como favoritos para vencer a los de Jersey.

Comandados dentro la cancha por el excelente guardia organizador Jason Kidd, el cuadro visitante tiene un estilo de juego rápido que podría traerle varios problemas a los dirigidos por Phil Jackson.

"Jason Kidd es la cabeza de esa quinteta", comentó Derek Fisher, elemento que tendrá a su cargo tratar de detener al guardia.

Kidd viene haciendo de todo para su conjunto, pues además de ser el líder en estadísticas (8.9 asistencias, 8.4 rebotes y 83% en probabilidades de tiro de campo), también sabe anotar con un promedio de 19.3 puntos.

"Es del tipo de jugadores que son imparables", comentó Fisher. "A veces es preferible dejarlo anotar para que no involucre al resto de su cuadro", añadió.

Fisher ha tenido una actuación pobre en estos playoffs. En la serie anterior ante Sacramento fue totalmente superado por Mike Bibby, por lo que Phil Jackson tuvo que recurrir a Kobe Bryant para detenerlo. Ayer, el chico maravilla anticipó que tendrá que defender ante Kidd.

Mana Finishes New Album

Mexican rockers Mana have finished their sixth album, which includes Carlos Santana and Ruben Blades as guest artists and will hit stores in August, recording industry sources said Tuesday.

The CD is called "Revolucion de amor" (Revolution of Love).

Recorded in Los Angeles, the new offering includes reggae, funk, rock and roll and Afro-Cuban rhythms, with most lyrics dealing with affairs of the heart.

AIDS Fight Also Battle On Taboos

Denise Pinkus made a deal with her disease.

"You leave me alone, I'll leave you alone, and we can live together," she said.

For nine years, the bargain has held: Pinkus takes her medication and her virus -- HIV -- has not turned into AIDS.

In that time, the Hollywood pharmacy technician also became the first Hispanic woman to routinely talk publicly about her condition in South Florida, where Latina heterosexuals are increasingly at risk for HIV and AIDS.

"This is a woman who came out and put a face on this disease long before anyone else in our community did. Until today, we have a hard time getting people to step forward," said Luis Penelas, executive director of the Miami AIDS prevention and outreach organization Union Positiva, co-founded by Pinkus five years ago.

A COMMON STORY

Pinkus, 49, of Venezuela, is among 17,138 Hispanics living in Florida with HIV/AIDS, 16.3 percent of whom are women, according to the Florida Department of Health.

She is president of Union Positiva's board of directors and active in AIDS education. She has told her story in support groups, educational videos, panel discussions and conferences nationwide.

"I think the taboo is still in talking about sex, and because HIV is a sexually transmitted disease, they don't want to talk about it, either," she said.

"There's still a lot of rejection in the community, the fear of losing your job."

Pinkus sued for discrimination after she lost her job at a Miami shoe manufacturer when they

Scott Schoeneweis había recibido un día extra de descanso para completar algunos ajustes en su mecánica.

Y al parecer, el lanzador zurdo de los Angels logró corregir lo que estaba haciendo mal.

Schoeneweis y Dave Burba se enfrascaron en un tremendo duelo monticular, del cual salió airoso el primero, para que los Serafines vencieran por blanqueada de 3-0 a los Rangers de Texas.

Schoeneweis, quien niveló su marca a 4-4 al aislar cuatro hits en ocho innings dos tercios, quedó a un out de la que hubiese sido su segunda lechada de su carrera y primera desde el 10 de abril de 2000.

Troy Percival sacó el out número 27 con un corredor en primera para adjudicarse su undécimo juego salvado del año y convertirse en el segundo pitcher de los Serafines con más partidos lanzados (436).

La marca estaba en poder del zurdo Chuck Finley, ahora con los Indios de Cleveland.

Burba (3-3), quien subió a la lomita con récord vitalicio de 6-1 y 1.82 de efectividad ante los Angels, sufrió su tercer revés en las últimas cuatro aperturas.

Los aureolados no dejaron correr mucho a Burba, pues le anotaron la quiniela en la misma primera entrada, después de dos outs.

Troy Glas sacudió la barda del jardín derecho anotándose triple y Garret Anderson lo envió al

plato con sencillo al bosque izquierdo, extendiendo a nueve su cadena de juegos bateando de hit.

Schoeneweis permitió el primer imparible hasta el cuarto inning cuando habían dos outs, mientras que Burba, después del parpadeo del primer inning, mantuvo a raya a los querubines.

Empero, en el séptimo, víctima del cansancio, el veterano der-echo de 35 años tuvo que viajar a las regaderas.

Anderson le sacó su segundo hit de la noche (un doble) antes de anotar impulsado por otro bateazo igual de Tim Salmon.

El boricua Bengie Molina lo remató con hit a la pradera derecha que produjo la tercera y última carrera.

March. To this day, Pinkus does not know how much her husband knew of his ex-girlfriend's condition in Puerto Rico.

The woman's family confirmed she had died of AIDS a month after De Jesus' diagnosis. When he and the woman had lived together in the early 1980s, she would visit the grave of her former boyfriend, who had also died of AIDS, Pinkus said.

Pinkus takes her cocktail of medications three times daily, rests, and eats well. Her only symptoms so far: sinus allergies and several colds a year.

"I learned to respect this virus because I have seen what it can do to you," she said. "Even today, I've seen people go from very healthy to very sick and dying because they do not take their medication."

Pinkus would like to find another life partner, one who is already HIV positive for her "peace of mind," she said.

For now, she wants to help other Hispanic women become assertive and move past the machismo of their culture, where men often refuse to wear condoms, Pinkus said.

"The Hispanic woman is used to leaving all the decisions up to her husband," she said. "They have to learn to take control of their own lives and make their own decisions for themselves."

"He was very handsome," said Pinkus, who had divorced her first husband with whom she has a 21-year-old son.

When the two became intimate, Pinkus wasn't thinking about safe sex.

"He didn't look sick. There is no face for HIV or AIDS," Pinkus said.

Two years later, as De Jesus' ex-girlfriend lay dying of AIDS in a Puerto Rican hospital, he began to tire easily.

"He was one of the thousands of stubborn men who didn't like going to doctors," Pinkus said. Finally, when he developed thrush -- a fungus that causes white eruptions in the mouth and throat -- De Jesus saw a doctor.

The diagnosis was full-blown AIDS

MACHISMO CULTURE

"I went home and we cried together and I told him not to worry, that we're going to fight it," said Pinkus, who was worried she might also be infected.

Pinkus tested positive for HIV six months later, in December 1993. De Jesus died the next

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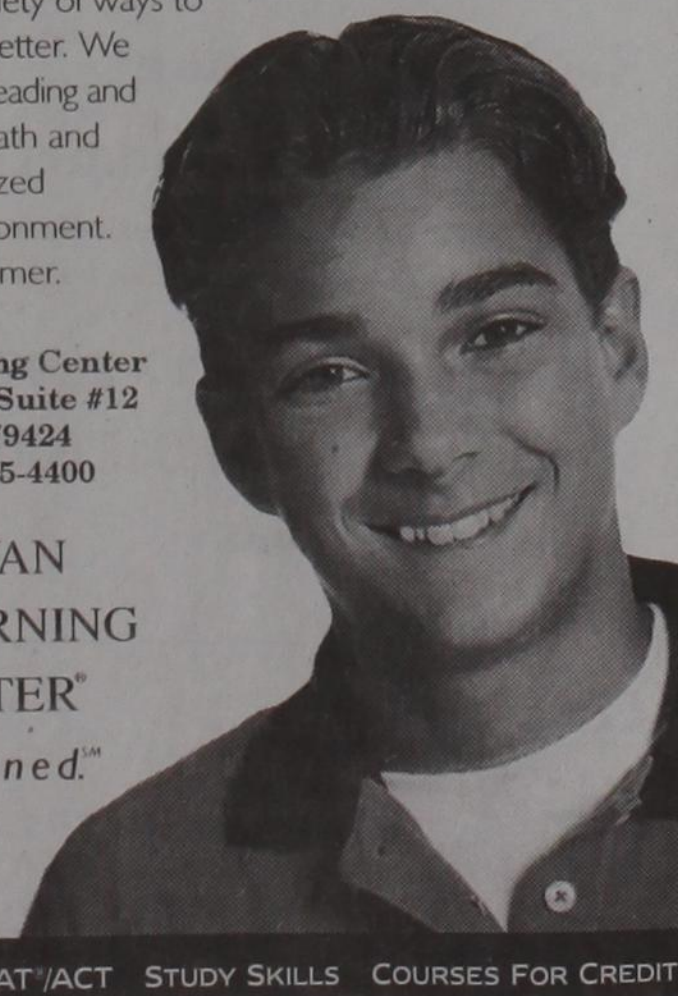


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Bush Admite Fallas del FBI y De La CIA

El día en que comenzaron las audiencias en el Congreso para descubrir las fallas de los servicios de espionaje frente a los ataques terroristas de septiembre, el presidente George W. Bush reconoció que el FBI y la CIA no se comunicaban como era debido y expresó su oposición a que más de un comité del Congreso investigue el asunto.

Bush afirmó ayer que, si bien apoya la pesquisa del Congreso en torno al desempeño de las agencias de espionaje, teme que provoque "distracciones" en los equipos de inteligencia que impidan el adecuado combate al terrorismo.

Hablando ante la prensa que lo acompañó a una visita a las oficinas de la Oficina de Seguridad Nacional (NSA) en Maryland, Bush dijo también que la Agencia Central de Inteligencia (CIA) y la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI) evidentemente no se comunicaron adecuadamente sobre las pistas que poseían respecto a amenazas de ataques terroristas antes del 11 de septiembre.

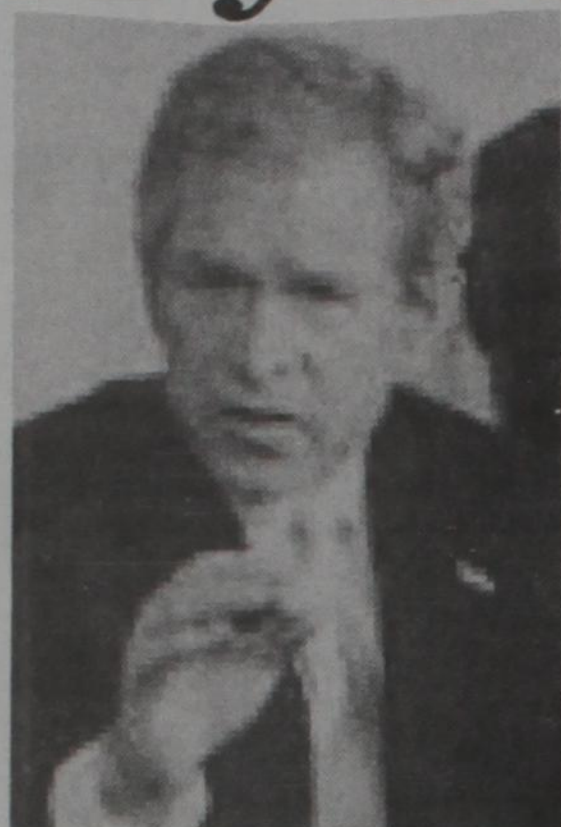
Aún así, recalzó que no ha visto nada que le haga pensar que los ataques pudieron haberse evitado aunque las agencias hubieran colaborado mejor entre sí.

Bush estaba aludiendo a la audiencia a puerta cerrada en un histórico salón del Congreso (a prueba de espionaje) de los comités de Inteligencia del Senado y la Cámara Baja sobre los errores cometidos por los organismos de inteligencia antes de los ataques del 11 de septiembre del año pasado.

"En cuanto a si la CIA y el FBI se comunicaron adecuadamente, creo que es evidente que no lo hicieron y ahora estamos examinando esa cuestión", declaró Bush. "Hasta el presente no tengo prueba alguna de que este país hubiera podido impedir los ataques", añadió.

Kirk & Cornyn Rally Hispanic Vote In Austin

U.S. Senate candidates Ron Kirk and John Cornyn appeared at the annual convention of the League of United Latin American Citizens Saturday in Austin. They want the Hispanic vote. Both called for changes in the nation's immigration laws. Cornyn, a Republican, and Kirk, a Democrat, said in response to prepared questions at a forum at the that the nation was built by immigrants and they should be appreciated. Both candidates said it's especially important to recognize the contributions of immigrants since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which have led to widespread concern about immigration policies. The candidates disagreed when answering a question about their stance on abortion rights. Cornyn said he is against abortion and that policy should focus on parental responsibility. He said he supports services to better prepare



"Sí, me preocupan las distracciones desde esta perspectiva: quiero que el Congreso investigue, pero no quiero que múltiples comités investiguen, porque no quiero paralizar a nuestro equipo cuando estamos combatiendo esta guerra contra el terror. Así que no quiero que nuestra gente esté distraída", insistió Bush.

Las audiencias conjuntas de los comités de Inteligencia continuarán a puerta cerrada hasta el 25 de este mes, cuando se harán públicas y cuando serán llamados a testificar George Tenet y Robert Mueller, director de la CIA y del FBI, respectivamente.

El Presidente comentó la noticia que el presidente egipcio Hosni Mubarak había advertido a Estados Unidos una semana antes del 11 de septiembre de que los agentes de Al Qaida, la organización terrorista de Osama Ben Laden, tenían ya muy avanzados los planes para atacar un objetivo no identificado de Estados Unidos.

El portavoz del Departamento de Estado, Richard Boucher, reconoció que se recibió información creíble, pero no específica, señalando amenazas de Al Qaida contra los intereses de Estados Unidos, de Egipto y de otros.

En la revelación más reciente de pistas pasadas por alto, un funcionario de la CIA dijo que su entidad y el FBI sabían desde enero del 2000 que uno de los eventuales secuestradores del 11 de septiembre, Khalid Almihdar tenía previsto asistir a una reunión de presuntos jefes de Al Qaida.

Mesura investigadora Por otro lado, el mandatario advirtió al Congreso que no se debe exceder en la cifra de pesquisas que desea conducir.

Bush indicó que quiere que un solo comité, el de Inteligencia, investigue el asunto.

Asimismo, mañana jueves, el Comité de Justicia del Senado conducirá una audiencia en la que participarán, entre otros, Coleen Rowley, la agente del FBI de Minneapolis, Minnesota, que acusó a los líderes nacionales del FBI de entorpecer la pesquisa sobre Zacarías Musai, impidiendo obtener, antes del 11 de septiembre, información que lo vinculaba al grupo terrorista que realizó los ataques terroristas que cobraron la vida de más de tres mil personas en Nueva York, Washington y Pennsylvania.

Además, en ambas cámaras del Congreso hay legisladores que apoyan el establecimiento de una comisión independiente que investigue el desempeño del FBI y de la CIA. La Casa Blanca se opone a esta comisión.

Chismes típicos Bush dijo que no le preocupan los chismes y las mutuas acusaciones entre empleados de ambos organismos, FBI y CIA, que tratan de protegerse a sí mismos, "porque eso es típico de Washington D.C."

Pero reiteró que le preocupa comprometer talento y tiempo "y posiblemente poner en peligro fuentes de inteligencia" en las investigaciones múltiples. "Y por eso es que es muy importante que el Congreso investigue, pero que lo haga de manera que no ponga en peligro nuestra capacidad de recabar información de inteligencia", declaró Bush.

De momento, los comités de

Inteligencia continuarán con su pesquisa durante el resto del mes en curso. Ayer 37 legisladores ingresaron al salón S-407 del Capitolio, con aislante acústico, para comenzar a recibir información recabada por 30 asistentes que han leído más de 100 mil documentos y que han entrevistado a más de 200 personas.

El comité conjunto de Inteligencia es copresidido por el senador demócrata de Florida, Bob Graham, y por el congresista republicano de Florida, Porter Goss, quien por 11 años fue agente de la CIA.

Al término del primer día de audiencias, Goss declaró que el comité conjunto se regirá "por hechos y por testigos y no por presiones externas".

Graham, por su parte, recalzó que al no tener un modelo previo que seguir, la primera sesión se dedicó a sentar las bases de cómo conducir el proceso y que a partir de hoy comenzarán a escuchar los reportes de los asistentes sobre áreas específicas de interés.

La pesquisa pretende determinar qué sabían y cuándo supieron los organismos de espionaje de las actividades previas al 11 de septiembre de los 19 terroristas de la red Al Qaida, qué hicieron con esa información y cómo pueden evitarse los mismos errores para que los organismos de espionaje, con un presupuesto de 30,000 millones de dólares al año, puedan prevenir futuros ataques.

Los comités bicamerales de Inteligencia, que recibieron tres millones de dólares para conducir la pesquisa, tienen previsto presentar un informe final con recomendaciones en febrero del 2003.

El congresista republicano de Georgia, Saxby Chambliss, quien participó en la audiencia de ayer, dijo al término que al menos en la información provista hasta el momento, no hay nada que haya sacudido a los legisladores o que pudiera sacudir a la opinión pública.

"Al menos hoy, no hay", indicó Chambliss.

Cuentas en la prensa Por otro lado, es raro el día en que no aparece en la prensa alguna nueva falla de una de los dos grandes organismos de espionaje que se ven obligados a responder al Congreso, confesando sus posibles fracasos ante los sucesos de septiembre.

"Las dos burocracias quieren limitar el desastre. Tratan de preservar su propia imagen y responsabilizar al otro", explica el profesor Charles Pena, del Instituto Cato de Washington, especialista sobre la actuación del FBI y la CIA.

Esta "rivalidad territorial" entre ambas entidades, que se niegan a convertirse en chivo expiatorio de la otra, es tan áspera que el presidente George W. Bush se dedica a tranquilizar a los ciudadanos, dijo el especialista.

En este sentido hay que entender la "confianza" del Presidente, como repitió ayer el portavoz presidencial Ari Fleischer. Bush "mantiene su fe y su confianza en el personal de la CIA, el FBI y la NSA y en otros organismos de inteligencia, y estima que están haciendo el trabajo que deben hacer", manifestó Fleischer.

"Los dos organismos son celosos de sus prerrogativas", explica Laird Anderson, profesor de Comunicaciones de American University, Washington.

"No hay nada nuevo aquí; esto dura ya desde hace muchos años", afirma, "es una rivalidad territorial entre dos burocracias fuertes, ambiciosas, invisibles".

Sin embargo, Anthony Cordesman, especialista en organismos de espionaje del Centro de Estudios Internacionales y Estratégicos (CSIS), dice que la prensa estadounidense no sabe de qué habla en este ámbito extremadamente confidencial.

Según él, "tenemos que tratar con periodistas que no tienen ningún fundamento en materia de espionaje, que hablan con personas que sólo defienden sus propios intereses por una amplia gama de razones políticas y burocráticas".

LISD Opens Door in Library throughout the City

Lubbock Independent School District is opening the library doors in several elementary schools for students to enjoy reading through most of the summer. All schools that are having summer school will have open library hours from 8 a.m. until noon beginning on June 4 through the 28.

This year's theme, "Read Across Texas!" invites children to explore the history, geography, and culture of Texas through the portal of books and their local libraries. The goal of the Texas Reading Club is to encourage the children of Texas to become library users and lifelong readers.

Carol Box, LISD coordinator of Library Media Services, said students participating receive a certificate for every 10 books that they read, along with bookmarks and other small incentives. In addition to the summer school locations, Wester Elementary, 4602 Chicago, library will be open for students.

Karla Hankins, principal at Wester Elementary, said it was important to allow the students an opportunity to read through the summer. "It was real disappointing to me for the students not to be able to utilize the library for three months," she said. Wester's library hours will be open Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. until noon. The library circulation is high through the year and Hankins said she believes this will allow the students to continue reading through the summer, Hankins said.

Libraries will be open at all campuses, elementary and secondary, with summer school programs.

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