

El Esclator

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Lubbock, TX USA

U.S. Legislative Committe to Investigate of Women in Juarez

Por Juanita Dórame

In view of the null results registered from the investigation of the more than 320 homicides of women in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, Hispanic legislators in the United States launched an initiative to get the follow up investigations of these cases of extreme violence to conform part of the working agenda for both countries.

The bill initiative, which would make way for the matter to be included on the bilateral agenda, was introduced at the end of November passed by Hispanic Representatives led by Ciró Rodríguez of Texas, chairman of the Hispanic Congressional Committee, and by Hilda Solís, Representative from California and vice-president of the Commission for Women's Issues in the North American legislature.

On a previous visit to Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, in Mexico, the congress

members interviewed Mexican judicial officials and members of the families of some of the more than 320 women tortured, raped and murdered in this region since 1993.

In the face of the slow progress of justice apparent in these cases, initiative HR 466 was submitted by this group of legislators, with the collaboration of other members, Democrats Silvestre Reyes from El Paso, Texas and Louise M. Slaughter, as well as Republicans Shelley Moore and Jim Ramstad.

The general idea is for the United States government to support the attempts being made by the Mexican government to shed some light on the homicides and cases of missing women in Ciudad Juárez, since this situation of extreme violence against the feminine gender has started to spread to other border locations such as Nogales and Mexicali, among others.

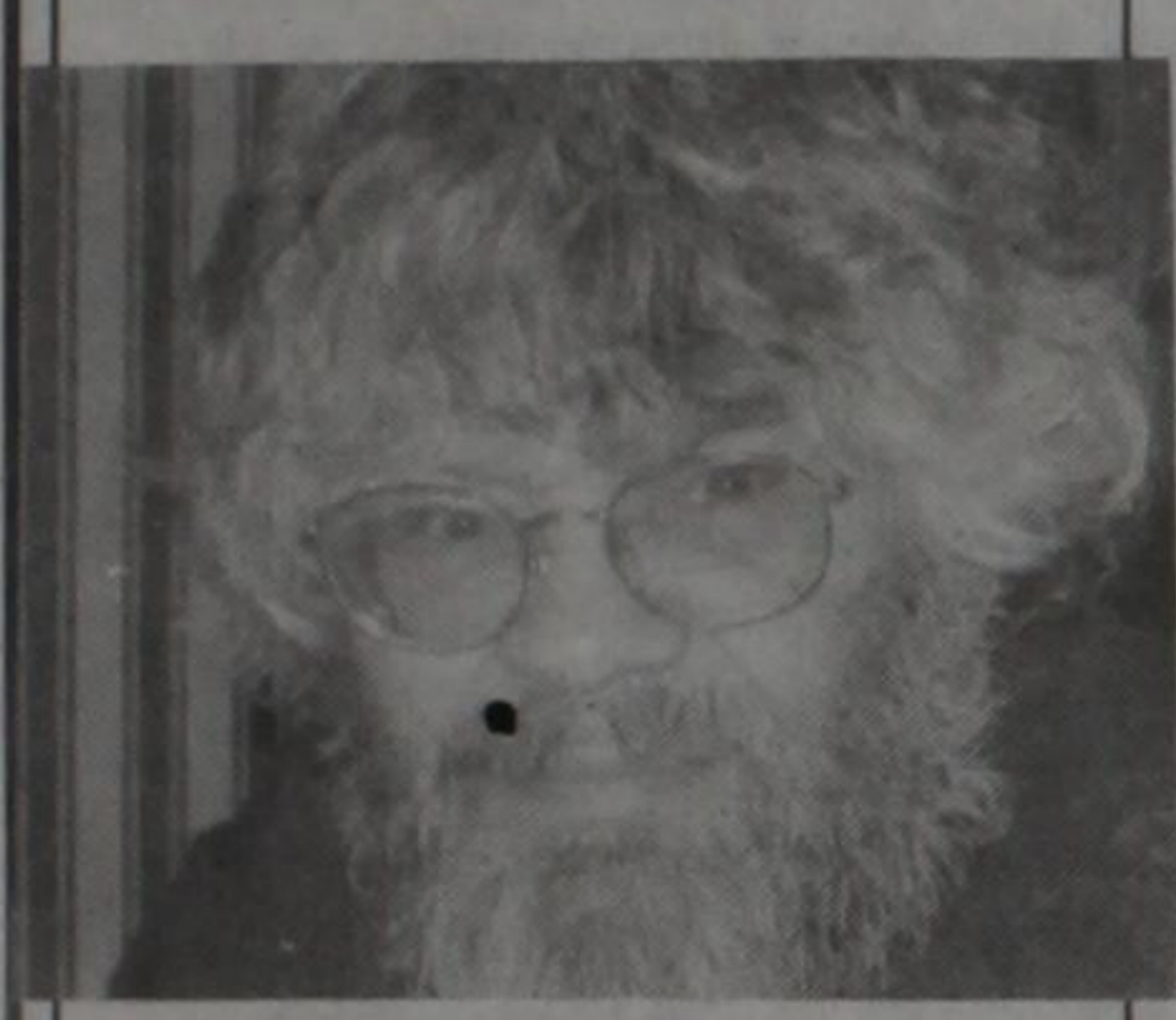
Democrat representative Hilda Solís pointed out that the bill initiative was submitted with the intention of getting the Union to collaborate on these cases, due to the fact that the homicides perpetrated in Juárez are considered a part of international human rights matters.

According to the information revealed and generated surrounding the initiative, the project condemns the abductions and murders of women in Ciudad Juárez, requesting the president of the United States and the State Department express their concern for said crimes and demand that the efforts



Representantes de el Congreso de los Estados Unidos pasaron una iniciativa que pide que esta nación trabaje con México en investigar las muertes de mujeres en Juarez y areas circumbecinas. Desde hace tiempo las inexplicables muertes de una gran cantidad de mujeres se ha protestado por residentes de Juarez. Las muertes incluyen varias jovencitas menores de edad.

Comentarios by Bidal Agüero



'Pulling up oneself up by their bootstraps' has been an ardent phrase when describing young people who have worked to gain a worthy position that they have struggled to obtain.

The phrase has also been used as an argument to repudiate affirmative action in an effort to prove that anyone can accomplish his or her goals regardless of obstacles.

So the question is, how can our City Fathers continue to ignore the hard work of Tommy Gonzalez to pull himself up by his bootstraps and get the job as City Manager.

As I write this column on Thursday morning our City Fathers continue to keep Tommy and the citizens of Lubbock waiting for their decision

So what is taking so long? Popular opinion in the Hispanic community is that the "Council just doesn't want to give the job to a Mexican" This phrase has a long history that comes from years of discrimination experienced by many Hispanics in West Texas. It comes from the negative attitudes of many of the 'power that be' that have been felt by many Hispanics as they try to work toward a better life. It comes from many Hispanic bring turned down for jobs regardless of their qualifications.

The phrase will continue to exist and be true in the minds of Hispanics until those 'powers that be' prove it wrong. A good step will be to give Tommy the job.

Pancho Clos is coming to town. ¡Orale! Don't forget to take all you chavalitos to Maggie Trejo Park this Sunday at 2 pm. Our congratulations to the American G.I. Forum for their 31 years of hard work.


Los Red Raiders van a Houston. Get your ¡Orale Raiders - Knockout Navy! airt from El Editor for only \$12 - call 763-3841 or come by our office 1502 Ave. M, starting Monday afternoon.

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of investigation and prevention be a part of the bilateral agenda between the White House and Los Pinos.

Likewise its sets forth the need for both governments to join efforts in putting into operation a DNA bank to which the families of the missing women can go to try to identify the remains of the victims; in addition to making a formal demand through proper channels requesting an explanation for the countless irregularities in the investigations, denounced by the families of the deceased.

Yo Creo En

 Pancho Clos
El y Santa son primos. Pancho tiene luminos omnes de venados y no dico ho, ho, ho pero gita A-Jual

Ya Viene
 Pancho Clos
 ¡Orale!
 Don't Miss
 Him Sunday
 at 2 pm at
 Maggie Trejo
 Center

Denuncian discriminación en nuevo mapa electoral de Texas

DALLAS, Texas — Legisladores demócratas de Texas acusaron al Partido Republicano de remover a más de cien mil votantes latinos del distrito del representante Henry Bonilla (R-San Antonio) para mantenerlo en el Congreso de Estados Unidos.

El profesor de historia y ciencias sociales del Instituto de Tecnología de California, J. Morgan Kousser, dijo el martes a un panel de tres jueces federales que la remoción de estos votantes representa la mayor evidencia que el nuevo mapa electoral presentado por los republicanos está basado sobre directrices de corte racial.

Morgan Kousser indicó que Bonilla se vio en problemas cuando en su distrito se registró un acelerado crecimiento de la población hispana y que la mejor forma de mantener su puesto fue cambiar los límites del distrito, algo completamente basado en preferencias raciales.

Los argumentos planteados el martes se enfocaron en el distrito electoral número 23 que representa Bonilla desde hace más de 10 años, donde se encuentra el condado de Webb, cuya población hispana representa más del 92%, el mayor porcentaje en condado alguno en EU.

A pesar de que Bonilla es hispano, y el único méxico-americano del Partido Republicano en el Congreso, no es el preferido de la comunidad hispana del distrito, según el profesor de ciencias políticas de la Universidad de Saint Mary's Henry Flores.

El profesor agregó que Bonilla gana las elecciones debido a una fuerte afluencia de votantes anglosajones provenientes del condado de Bexar.

El Partido Demócrata y grupos a favor de las minorías demandaron recientemente al estado de Texas para tratar de evitar que se implemente el nuevo mapa electoral.

Los demandantes intentan persuadir a la corte federal de que la mayoría legislativa republicana de Texas, sabía lo que hacía y deliberadamente agrupó distritos electorales donde las minorías fuesen mayoría o donde la influencia del voto minoritario pudiese definir el resultado electoral.

Dicha práctica sería en consecuencia una violación de las leyes federales.

State Department's 'Complete Hispanic Became hostage Crisis Hero

By Fresia Rodriguez Cadavid

"Initially the M19 guerrillas took pleasure in pushing me into a doorway or window space and using my generous frame as a shield while they fired at Colombian soldiers outside the Dominican Embassy.

Then my friend Geraldo do Nascimento Silva, the ambassador from Brazil, counseled them, 'Don't be foolish. Not the American ambassador! He's your trump card!'

Sixteen urban terrorists had stormed the Dominican Embassy in Bogota+ on Feb. 27, 1980 during a national day celebration and taken Diego Asencio, the United States Ambassador to Colombia, along with 15 fellow ambassadors and some 46 others, mostly embassy personnel, as hostage. One guerrilla and a student bystander were shot to death in the assault.

Asencio had been serving as U.S.

Ambassador to Colombia for more than two years when his 61-day ordeal as a captive of the Colombian guerrilla force began. Upon his release, he gave Hispanic Link an exclusive account of how his own heritage proved instrumental in a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Asencio immigrated to the United States from Spain as an infant with his working-class parents. Raised in a "United Nations-type" neighborhood in Newark, N.J., he recalls how his father provided him with after-school language tutors "to ensure that I would learn his native Spanish."

Studying other cultures became a professional passion as he attended Georgetown University's Foreign Service School and law school and embarked in 1957 on a State Department career that took him to Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Brazil and Portugal prior to his Colombia assignment.

While serving as U.S. Ambassador to Colombia, one of his major concerns was

drug trafficking and he frequently visited the marijuana-producing domain of the Guajira Indians. He came to know and understand its people.

His cultural and legal knowledge came into play when the Colombian government decided to negotiate with the rebels. "There is no question that knowing Colombia, the language and Latin America was extremely important," says Asencio.

Most of the 62 hostages were from Latin America. Although their captors, whom he described as a mix of students, adventurers and trained revolutionaries, initially threatened his life, they came to trust him and enlisted his assistance and experience. The hostages had chosen Asencio, along with the ambassadors from Mexico and Brazil to serve as intermediaries with the rebels. In this role, he gained the guerrillas' trust to convince them to modify their demands and negotiate with the Colombian government.

Initially the rebels wanted \$50 million

and the release of 311 prisoners charged with crimes such as murder and robbery.

"The issue was not whether they were political prisoners but their trials at the hands of military-controlled special courts where confessions had been obtained through coercion," he says. He helped persuade the guerrillas to ask only for fair trials, with the Inter-American Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States having the right to observe, propose policy recommendations and investigate human rights allegations. The commission agreed and representatives came to meet with them at the embassy.

All hostages were released alive. He and most of the other ambassadors were, by agreement, flown to Fidel Castro's Cuba, where they parted ways with their captors

Colombia awarded Asencio its top medal, the Grand Cross of the Order Boyaca and the Grand Cross of the Order of Democracy.

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'Hispano Completo' se Volvio Heroe de Crisis de Rehenes

Por Fresia Rodriguez Cadavid

"En un principio la guerrilla del M-19 se complacía en empujarme al umbral de una puerta o ventana para utilizar mi corpulencia como proteccin mientras disparaba a los soldados colombianos al exterior de la embajada dominicana. Entonces mi amigo Geraldo do Nascimento Silva, embajador de Brasil, les aconsejó, 'No sean tontos. ¡El embajador americano no! Si él es su carta de triunfo!'

Dieciséis terroristas urbanos habían asaltado la embajada dominicana en Bogotá el 27 de febrero de 1980 durante un día de celebración nacional y prendieron a Diego Asencio, embajador estadounidense

a Colombia, con 15 embajadores más y otras 46 personas, la mayoría personal de embajadas. Un guerrillero y un estudiante inocente murieron disparados en el asalto.

Asencio había estado sirviendo como embajador de los EEUU a Colombia por más de dos años cuando comenzó su cautiverio de 61 días a manos de la fuerza guerrillera de Colombia. Al ser liberado, narró exclusivamente para Hispanic Link cómo su propia herencia hispana había resultado crítica para la resolución pacífica de la crisis.

Asencio inmigró a los Estados Unidos de España con sus padres obreros cuando era bebé+. Criado en un barrio "tipo Naciones Unidas" en Newark, Nuevo Jersey, recuerda cómo su padre le consiguió tutores para después de la escuela "para asegurar que aprendería su español nativo".

Se convirtió en una pasión el estudio de otras culturas para Asencio al asistir a la escuela de diplomacia y la escuela de derecho de la Universidad de Georgetown,

para despue+s embarcarse en una carrera con el Departamento de Estado que le llevó a México, Panamá, Venezuela, Brasil y Portugal antes de ser nombrado a Colombia.

Como embajador a Colombia, una de sus mayores preocupaciones era el narcotra+fico y con frecuencia visitaba el dominio productor de marihuana de los indios guajira. Llegó a conocer y comprender este pueblo.

Le fue útil el conocimiento cultural y legal cuando el gobierno colombiano opto+ por negociar con los rebeldes. "Sin duda que fue de extrema importancia conocer Colombia, el idioma y América Latina", explica Asencio.

La mayoría de los 62 rehene+ provenia de América Latina. A pesar de que sus aprensores, quienes Asencio describió como una mezcla de estudiantes, aventureros y revolucionarios con experiencia, le amenazaron la vida en un comienzo, llegaron a confiar en él, en su experiencia y le pidieron ayuda. Los

rehenes habían seleccionado a Asencio, con los embajadores de Me+xico y Brasil, como intermediarios con los rebeldes. Fue desempeñando este papel que se ganó la confianza de los guerrilleros y les convencio+ que modificaran sus demandas y negociaran con el gobierno colombiano.

Inicialmente los rebeldes pedían \$50 millones y la liberación de 311 encarcelados acusados de delitos como asesinato y robo. "El problema no era si eran prisioneros políticos sino que sus juicios a manos de los tribunales especiales controlados por los militares provenían de confesiones que habían sido obtenidas mediante la intimidación", cuenta. Asencio ayudó a persuadir a los guerrilleros que exigieran sólo juicios justos, dando el derecho a la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos a observar, a proponer recomendaciones de política y a investigar alegaciones de derechos humanos. La comisión concordó y llegaron a reunirse con ellos representantes a la embajada.

(Continúa en la Pagina 2)

Los Latinos ya Muestran su Desconfianza en Schwarzenegger

Por Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid y Kevin Eaton

Arnold Schwarzenegger juramentó como el trigésimo octavo gobernador de California apenas hace un mes y ya los latinos de dicho estado expresan sus principales preocupaciones con respecto a las actuaciones del nuevo gobernador.

Una huelga que duró todo un día capturó la atención de la prensa nacional el 12 de diciembre, día en que se conmemora la fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Debido a la huelga, miles de hispanos no fueron a sus trabajos y se quedaron en sus casas, lo que ocasionó que muchos establecimientos cerraran debido a la escasez de empleados y que otros miles de estudiantes no fueran a la escuela. En muchas ciudades los huelguistas organizaron marchas pacíficas en las calles.

La amplia demostración manifestó un creciente antagonismo de parte de los principales líderes de organizaciones hispanas de California.

"Los líderes latinos están sumamente alarmados con el camino que lleva el gobernador, aunque no están sorprendidos", dijo Antonio González, presidente del Proyecto de Educación para el Registro de Electores del Suroeste a Hispanic Link. "Las cosas que él propone son muy malas para los latinos".

Una tercera parte de los 11.9 millones de habitantes del estado es hispana. Los estimados indican que dos millones de ellos son indocumentados.

La primera victoria legislativa de Schwarzenegger generó las protestas el 3 de diciembre. Como respuesta a una promesa

de campaña, Schwarzenegger firmó un proyecto de ley que revocó otro que había sido aprobado semanas antes por el depuesto gobernador Gray Davis. El proyecto habría permitido que los residentes del estado solicitaran licencias de conducir sin necesidad de someter evidencia de que son residentes legales en E.E.U.U., a partir de enero 1.

Schwarzenegger evitó llevar a cabo cualquier ceremonia o anuncio público sobre la apresurada aprobación de la ley.

También acarrea problemas para los hispanos el presupuesto sometido por el gobernador. Los cortes incluyeron una reducción de 5 por ciento en los fondos asignados a las personas en CalWORKS, los programas de California para asistencia de empleo. Cuarenta y seis por ciento de los aproximadamente 1.5 millones de participantes del programa entre octubre del 2000 y septiembre del 2001 eran hispanos.

Los programas que lleva a cabo la Universidad de California y la Universidad del Estado de California, los cuales beneficiaban a estudiantes de sectores poco representados, podrían reducirse también.

Además de los cortes presupuestarios que entraron en vigor temprano en el 2003 -- \$33.3 millones dentro del sistema universitario de California y otros \$13 millones que afectan los campus de la Universidad del Estado de California -- Schwarzenegger ha propuesto reducir otros \$24 millones para los programas de comunidad, comenzando en enero, así como reducir todos los fondos estatales para dicho programa en el año 2004-

2005. Uno de los programas destinados a eliminarse por completo es el de preparación universitaria, MESA (Math, Engineering, Science and Achievement). MESA prepara a los estudiantes que asisten a escuelas secundarias e intermedias de bajo rendimiento escolar para asistir a la universidad. De más de 35,000 estudiantes que se beneficiaban de MESA previo a los cortes, 56 por ciento era latino.

"Sin el programa, no se puede llegar a los estudiantes que tienen un alto potencial académico", dice la portavoz de MESA, Teri Lee. "Ellos no han tenido los recursos, y nosotros les damos tutoría y orientación".

Si los hispanos no pueden obtener grados universitarios, entonces no podrán conseguir empleos que paguen altos salarios y pagar más impuestos al gobierno, dice Lee.

Arturo Vargas, director ejecutivo de la National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials añade, "Estos cortes realmente debilitan la seguridad del estado. Interrumpen el acceso de las minorías a la educación".

Schwarzenegger recibió una considerable tercera parte del voto hispano en la contienda por la gobernación contra el vice gobernador Cruz Bustamante, en las elecciones que se llevaron a cabo en noviembre para sacar de su cargo al titular. En su defensa, Lupe Moreno, presidenta de la organización Latino Americans for Immigration Reform, de Santa Ana, California, señala, "Ellos sabían exactamente lo que él planificaba hacer y todo el mundo se ha dado cuenta que es-

tamos en un lío peor de lo que imaginábamos. Necesitamos un líder fuerte".

El columnista conservador, Fernando Oaxaca, de Los Angeles, concuerda con Moreno. "Estas propuestas no son anti-asiáticas, anti-hispanas, ni anti-indias. Son a favor de California. Su propósito es resolver un horrible déficit heredado", dijo.

El 13 de diciembre Schwarzenegger se les arregló para lograr una emisión de bonos de \$15 para sufragar las pérdidas del presupuesto en vigor a través de la legislatura democrata del estado. Sin embargo, el plan debe ser aprobado por voto popular en marzo.

En el equipo de 68 miembros que participaron en la transición del gobernador, tan sólo había seis hispanos.

En sus primeras semanas como gobernador, solamente nombró a un hispano en una posición de importancia en su administración. Nombró a Chon Gutiérrez, experto en resolver problemas, al puesto de director del problemático Departamento de Vehículos Motorizados.

"[El gobernador] no parece haberse rodeado de voces hispanas", dice Arturo Vargas al notar la escasez de latinos que ocuparon puestos importantes en su campaña. "Esa es una pregunta que hay que hacerse".

González dice, "No veo cómo el amarrar las manos de los legisladores, de los cuales habrá más latinos en un estado que cada día es más latino, sea positivo para los latinos".

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Democrats Need to Move Back to The Center After The Primaries? Anyone Know Where The Center Is?

By Joe Rothstein

Where is the political center in 2004?

Even without finding weapons of mass destruction, a good many Americans believe we were entirely justified in our invasion of Iraq. Nearly the same number believe the invasion was a mistake. Where is the political center of that argument?

Many Americans believe, along with Senators John McCain and Hillary Clinton, that we should send more troops to Iraq to protect our people and interests there. A somewhat equal number believe we should get out as soon as possible. Where is the center of that argument?

A lot of Americans are very happy to see the U.S. going it pretty much alone in foreign policy—making our own decisions without feeling the need for consensus.

Others are appalled that we have abandoned long-time relationships with allies with whom we stood shoulder to shoulder in the Cold War and in building the global markets that have emerged in recent decades. Where is the center of that argument?

Much of the political pontificating we hear these days is to the effect that President Bush has the center, Howard Dean has the left and has driven his Democratic rivals, with the exception of Senator Liberman, to the left as well. After the nomination, the theory goes, the Democratic nominee will have to scramble back to the center.

What center? You're either for the Iraqi invasion, or you're against it. You're either for keeping the troops there, or for bringing them home. You either cheer the President's action in blackballing Canadians, French, Germans, Russians and others from rebuilding contracts in Iraq (they got what they deserved) or you believe it drives another wedge between us and other countries we still have to live with on this planet.

A competing view to "the Democrats have to race back to the center" is that the Democrats are already there. It's President Bush who is off center, governing from an ideologically right wing perspective. That argument leans heavily on the President's domestic policies.

But here again we have trouble with definitions. Where's the center of nervousness over the Patriot Act and its enforcement? Where's the center of the tax issue--We cut too much? We cut for the wrong people? We shouldn't have cut at all? We should repeal the tax cuts? We should repeal some of them? Which ones?

We used to believe we had a very stable center on national debt. Deficit spending is bad. But most often it was Republicans who preached from that Gospel, accusing the Democrats of fiscal irresponsibility for their unbalanced budgets. Can we say now that the Democrats hold that center? Or has the center moved to where the Republicans are—debt is necessary to stimulate the economy and pay for our post 9/11 obligations?

The thing is, it's easy shorthand for political commentators to say that whoever wins the Democratic presidential nomination will have to work hard to move back to the center, where most non-political activist, general election voters live. Trying to define that center in our politically polarized environment is no small order.

Look at it this way: Howard Dean's bandwagon started rolling when he took an early and uncompromising position against invading Iraq. But Iraq's been invaded. The Iraqi questions and other issues that will shape the 2004 presidential race are a lot more complex. Howard Dean's opponents have not been shy about pointing out inconsistencies in his record as governor of Vermont or his statements during the fight for the nomination. Dean has made some extraordinary gaffs himself that you would have expected to slow his momentum. But he keeps getting stronger.

Dennis Kucinich is the most definably liberal candidate in the race. He's for getting out of NAFTA, a single-payer, government operated health program, and many other positions not shared by Dean or other leading Democratic Party contenders. You probably can equate the Left of American politics as the Kucinich platform. But Kucinich is not gaining strength with that platform, while Dean continues to build.

Maybe what Dean has found is that today's political center doesn't have a lot to do with the familiar debates over foreign policy or tax policy or social policy, or how to manage the economy. Maybe what we are seeing in the Dean campaign is a center that binds a lot of people who just don't like the way they've been governed. In that sense, the Dean of 2004 may be more like the Reagan of 1980 who came to office with the message, "are you better off today than you were four years ago?"

Maybe today's center is a major reaction to non-responsive Congresses, the obvious influence of big institutional money on governmental decisions, the continuing revelations about corruption in some of our most sacred institutions: the church, the accounting industry, mutual funds... the disappearance of jobs to foreign places, the high cost of health care, the chronic under performance of our schools.

Maybe the center is a whole lot of people saying, we've done it your way and listened to your promises and we've been good soldiers—but now maybe it's time to break with the past, clean house in Washington and see if that works any better.

Dean keeps telling his audiences, "this isn't about me. It's about you."

Could that be the center of politics in 2004?

Latinos quickly display their distrust of Schwarzenegger

By Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid and Kevin Eaton

Arnold Schwarzenegger was sworn in as California's 38th governor barely a month ago, and already the state's Latinos are expressing major concerns with his actions.

Catching the attention of the national press was a daylong, statewide huelga -- strike -- on Dec. 12, the feast day of the Virgin of Guadalupe. It saw thousands of Hispanics stay home from their jobs, causing some businesses to close for lack of workers, and additional thousands of students skip school. In many cities, protesters organized peaceful street marches.

The large public displays manifested a building antagonism by California's top Hispanic organizational chiefs.

"Latino leaders are quite alarmed by the governor's path, but not surprised," Antonio González, president of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, told Hispanic Link. "The things he is proposing are quite bad for Latinos." A third of the state's population, 11.9 million, is Hispanic. Estimates place as many as two million of that number as undocumented.

Complete Hispanic from page one

U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale and Acting Assistant Secretary of State Warren Christopher met Ascencio upon his arrival home. He was invited on to the floor of the U.S. Senate, President Jimmy Carter received him and the State Department honored him with its first coined Medal for Valor.

His hostage experience remains one of the most notable instances in U.S. diplomacy of how cultural affinity can diffuse an international crisis.

"Everybody wanted a hero," Ascencio adds, pointing out that the U.S. government needed a counterbalance to the ongoing Tehran crisis. In November 1979,

Iranian students stormed the U.S. Embassy in that country's capital and took more than 70 hostages. Fifty-two remained in captivity for 444 days.

Ascencio moved on to become Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs from 1980 to 1983 and Ambassador to Brazil from 1983 to 1986 until he retired. On retirement, he became executive director of the Una Chapman Cox Foundation, a non-profit whose mission is to advance the quality of the U.S. Foreign Service. He has served on a number of commissions and managed his own international consulting firm. In 1988 he became

the Chairman of the Commission for the Study of International Migration and Cooperative Economic Development, an institution created by the U.S. Congress. The commission issued a seminal report considered in some circles to have been a precursor to the North American Free Trade Agreement. A resident of Florida for the past 13 years, he is now an international consultant to the law firm of Ruden, McClosky, Smith, Schuster & Russell, which has offices throughout Florida.

Ascencio and his wife, Nancy, who immigrated to the United States at age 11, raised five children. Together, they told the

story of his captivity in the book, "Our Man Is Inside." His story was also recounted in a Colombian movie. In his interview with Hispanic Link on his release 23 years ago, Ascencio explained, "By knowing Colombia, I could sense exactly where the guerrillas were coming from. I feel I was able to appraise their thinking and respond at appropriate levels. "If a contest for the 'complete Hispanic' is ever staged, I intend to enter. And I shall submit my experiences as a hostage as proof of my authenticity." (c) 2003 Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Tribune Media Services International.

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We need a strong leader."

Los Angeles-based conservative columnist Fernando Oaxaca concurs.

"These proposals are not anti-Asian, anti-Hispanic, not anti-anybody.

"They're pro-California. They are trying to resolve an inherited and horrendous deficit," he said.

On Dec. 13, Schwarzenegger managed to get a \$15 billion bond issue to pay off present budget shortfalls through the Democratic state legislature. However, the plan must be approved by popular vote in March.

Just six Hispanics served on the governor's 68-member transition team.

In his first weeks in office, he made only one major Latino appointment to his administration. He named "troubleshooter" Chon Gutiérrez as director of the troubled Department of Motor Vehicles.

"He doesn't seem to have surrounded himself with Hispanic voices," Vargas says, noting also the dearth of Latinos who held prominent positions in his campaign. Will their numbers increase? "That remains a question."

González says, "I don't see how tying the hands of legislators, who will be increasingly Latino in a state that will become more Latino, is a good thing for Latinos."

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Hispano Completo viene de la primer pagina

Todos los rehenes fueron liberados con vida. Ascencio y la mayoría de los otros embajadores, por un acuerdo, volaron a Cuba, donde se separaron de sus aprehensores.

Colombia le otorgo+ a Ascencio su medallón más importante, La Gran Cruz del Orden de Boyaca, y la Gran Cruz del Orden de la Democracia.

El vice presidente Walter Mondale y secretario de estado asistente interino Warren Christopher le dieron el encuentro cuando volvio+ a los Estados Unidos. Lo invitaron al Senado de los Estados Unidos, el presidente Jimmy Carter le otorgo+ audiencia y el Departamento de Estado lo honro+ con su primer medallón por coraje.

Su experiencia como rehen queda como una de las instancias más notables de la diplomacia estadounidense, ejemplo de cómo la afinidad cultural puede atenuar una crisis internacional.

"Lo que todos querían era un héroe", an-ade Ascencio, sen-alandó que el gobierno estadounidense necesitaba un contrapeso a la crisis continua en Teheran. En noviembre de 1979, estudiantes iraníes asaltaron la embajada de los Estados Unidos y prendieron más de 70 rehenes, de los cuales 52 estuvieron cautivos durante 444 días.

Ascencio continuo+ su carrera diplomática como secretario de estado asistente para Asuntos Consulares de 1980 a 1983 y embajador a Brasil de 1983 a 1986, cuando se jubiló.

Al jubilarse, asumio+ el cargo de director ejecutivo de la fun-

dación Una Chapman Fox, una organización sin fines de lucro cuya misión es mejorar la calidad del servicio diplomático de los Estados Unidos. Ha servido como miembro de varias comisiones y ha administrado su propia empresa consultora internacional. En 1988 asumio+ el cargo de director de la Comisión for the Study of International Migration and Cooperative Economic Development, una institución creada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos. La comisión emitió un informe primicia que algunos consideran precursor al Tratado de Libre Comercio de Norteamérica. Durante los últimos 13 años ha resido en la Florida, y es ahora un consultor internacional con el bufete de abogados Ruden, McClosky, Smith, Schuster & Russell, con oficinas por todo el estado.

Ascencio y su esposa, Nancy, quien inmigro+ a los Estados Unidos a los once años, criaron a 5 hijos. Juntos narraron la historia de su cautiverio en el libro titulado, "Our Man Is Inside". La historia también fue contada en una película colombiana.

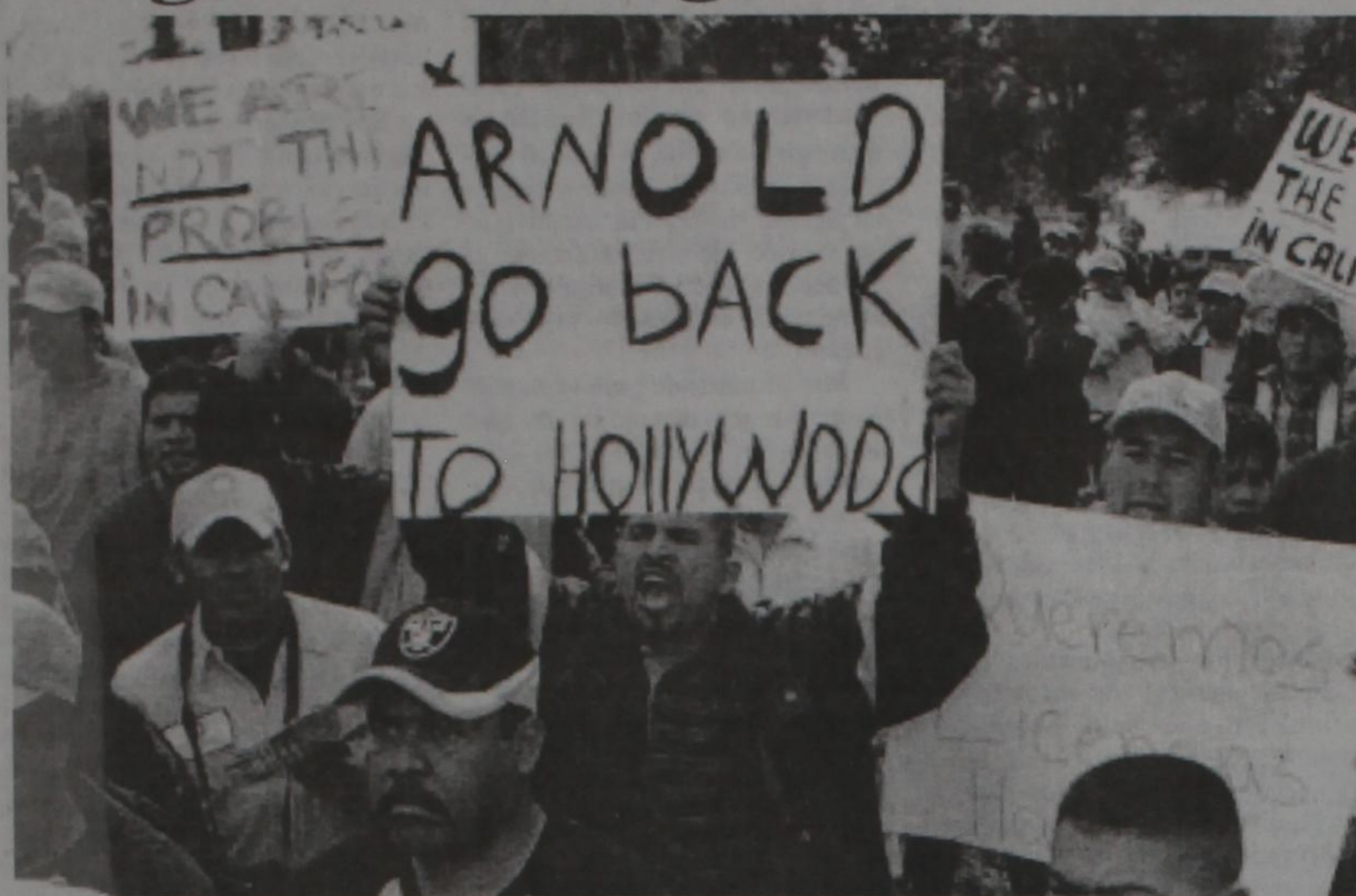
Durante su entrevista con Hispanic Link al ser liberado hace 23 años, Ascencio explicó, "Por conocer Colombia, yo podía entender las motivaciones de las guerrillas. Me parece que pude evaluar su manera de pensar y, por ende, pude responder al nivel apropiado.

"Si alguna vez se realiza un concurso para el 'hispano completo', yo me apunto. Y presentare+ mis experiencias como rehen como prueba de mi autenticidad."

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Immigrant Schwarzenegger, Against Immigrants



The reason why thousands of Hispanics decided to vote for California governor-elect, Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) remains a mystery, what is clear is that the Hollywood actor's policy to be put into effect on upcoming November 17 goes against undocumented immigrants, proof of which are the statements he

has made lately to the media about the fact that he plans to cancel their drivers licenses.

Even during his campaign Schwarzenegger announced that he wanted to take away the aforementioned licenses, and, far from what people imagined, the Latin vote swayed in his favor, according to Guillermo Martínez, col-

umnist for the New York daily "La Prensa", what is happening is that Hispanic residents in the United States are becoming more and more independent when the time comes to vote, it is not easy to predict their opinions any more, since presently Hispanics take the nation's economic situa-

tion very much into account, or at least that of the state they live in while others do it for the candidate who shows an ideology more akin to their own.

Thus, what has caused quite a stir lately is the news in some media informing that Democrat Gloria Negrete McLeod plans to present a bill proposing the annulment of Law SB60 which grants drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants.

In support of this action is the conservative group "California Republican Assembly" who stated that the "Rescue California" organization (in charge of starting the proposal to recall Governor Gray Davis) has joined their campaign "Save our license" to collect signatures and back the repeal of the mentioned law. In order for the proposed referendum to go through it is necessary to collect 375,000 signatures before December 7.

After having vetoed it on two occasions, Governor Gray Davis himself finally signed Law SB60

on September 5 past outside the Department of Motor Vehicles in Lincoln Heights, a place largely populated by Latino immigrants, said law will go into effect on January 1, 2004.

Another factor which points in the direction of the Austrian actor's policies being directed against undocumented immigrants is that recently a group of Mexican Legislators have considered declaring Arnold Schwarzenegger as "persona non-grata" for his position respecting immigration into the United States.

Respecting this issue, Mexican Legislator Elsa de la Paz Esquivel stated, "it is absurd and reprehensible for the governor to support and promote such racist campaigns against immigrants, above all in California, where 25 per cent of the population is Latino and of that percentage, 75 per cent is of Mexican descent."

However, not only Mexican legislators have voiced their disapproval on this "Terminator" policy, but also

United States legislators in California and Arizona are fighting to reopen talks on regulating migratory movements toward the United States, as stated to the press by California legislator, Denise Moreno Ducheny.

"...there are members of Congress backed by farm workers' organizations and unions who have pushed to reopen discussions, mainly focused towards the agricultural sector," she went on to add that an immigration agreement must contemplate the entire labor market, above all in California.

Now it just remains to be seen how far the enforcement or annulment of Law SB60 goes and how much support Hispanics receive from their homelands as well as from the United States government, so that Schwarzenegger and other political groups do not get away with taking their drivers licenses away, which for many who defend immigrants' rights seems to be only the beginning of a war against immigration in the United States.

Una nueva fractura en el interior del PRI

La ex coordinadora legislativa del Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), Elba Esther Gordillo, y diputados afines formaron una nueva "corriente reformista" dentro de ese instituto político.

La nueva corriente, denominada Fuerza Renovadora e integrada por 61 diputados federales, incluida Gordillo, anunció el desconocimiento del recién nombrado coordinador del PRI en la Cámara de Diputados, Emilio Chuayffet. Con este movimiento, el PRI perdió la mayoría de que gozaba en la Cámara de Diputados.

El grupo es resultado de las divisiones internas del PRI, que cuenta con 222 escaños, en torno a una reforma fiscal que el gobierno federal propuso hace unas semanas y que incluía aplicar un impuesto a productos exentos de gravamen, como alimentos y medicinas.

Legisladores encabezados por Gordillo respaldaron la propuesta gubernamental, mientras que los seguidores de Chuayffet se manifestaron en contra e incluso han comenzado a elaborar un proyecto de reforma fiscal alternativo.

La fractura del PRI contribuyó a que el jueves pasado se rechazara por 251 votos en contra y 233 a favor la reforma fiscal propuesta por el gobierno del presidente Vicente Fox. La Cámara de Diputados cuenta con 500 escaños.

Mientras tanto, el presidente Fox exhortó ayer a sus correligionarios del Partido Acción Nacional (PAN) a no sucumbir ante la derrota parlamentaria de ese

jueves pasado y librar nuevas batallas para sacar al país del atraso. "La del jueves no fue más que el primer round, a esto todavía le quedan una buena cantidad de rounds", expresó Fox al reunir a los diputados panistas en la residencia oficial de Los Pinos. Fox afirmó que se siente "muy fuerte, dispuesto a dar una batalla, cien batallas, mil batallas por México; dispuesto a luchar en este tema hasta el 31 de diciembre a las 12:00 de la noche, y sé que vamos a ganar", agregó.

Por otra parte, Chuayffet fue reconocido como coordinador del PRI en la Cámara Baja la se-

mana pasada por los dirigentes del Congreso, ocho días después de que la mayoría de la fracción de ese partido votó en favor de sustituir a Gordillo.

El reconocimiento de Chuayffet parecía poner fin a una división interna en el PRI, aunque la tarde del lunes, con la creación de la nueva corriente, se puso en evidencia las divergencias aún existentes.

Uno de los integrantes de la nueva facción, el diputado Oscar Pimentel, dijo que el nacimiento de esta corriente surgió de la división "provocada por la diri-

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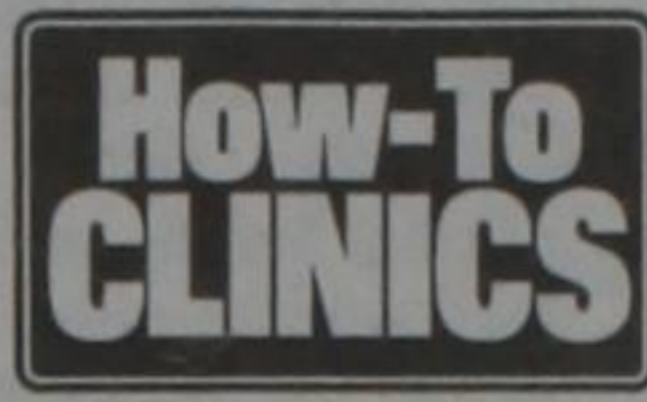
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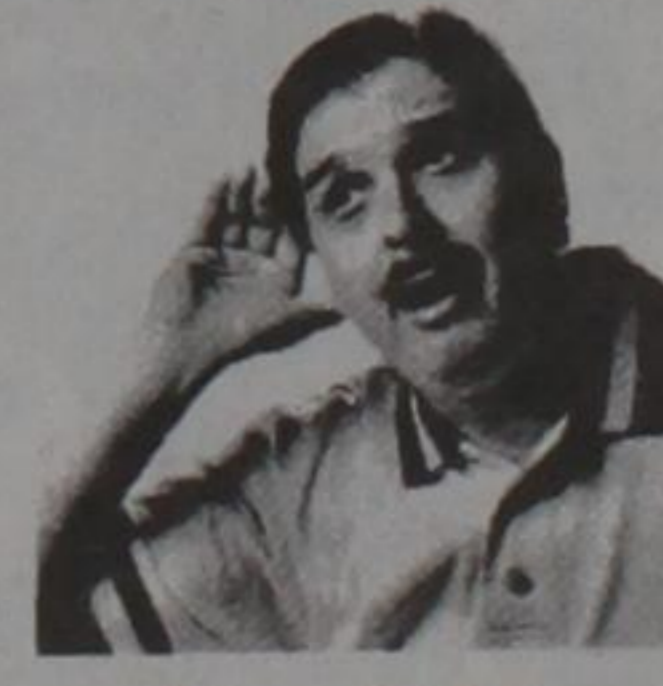
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Players' union gets involved in A-Rod trade talks

The much-discussed, long-awaited trade that would send AL MVP Alex Rodriguez to the Boston Red Sox is moving closer to fruition.

Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein and the Texas Rangers shortstop met with an official from the baseball players' union Tuesday to discuss the blockbuster deal, and Rodriguez's agent, Scott Boras, was planning to join them Wednesday for more talks.

"They're moving and plodding along," Boras said before heading to New York.

Gene Orza, the union's No. 2 official, confirmed that a meeting took place but wouldn't comment on its substance. The union would get involved if there was a renegotiation of the record \$252 million, 10-year contract Rodriguez signed three years ago; any change would have to add some benefit for the player, according to baseball's labor contract.

The Rangers and Red Sox owners have been discussing a swap of Rodriguez for Red Sox outfielder Manny Ramirez, the sport's only \$20 million men. Talks have bogged down over the sheer magnitude of the money involved -- more than \$300 million remaining on the two contracts, including deferred money -- and the Rangers' demand that Boston pay a big chunk of Ramirez's salary in addition to the more than \$179 million due Rodriguez.

"At this time, negotiations are at a sensitive point," Texas owner Tom Hicks said in a statement. "Due to this fact, we will have no further comment on this situation today."

Boston has balked at paying part of Ramirez's salary. Even without it, the Rangers would already save about \$81 million in the deal. Talk has recently focused on whether the Red Sox would include another player in lieu of cash.

Epstein declined to comment on the negotiations, and Boston president Larry Lucchino has said the team was going into

Expos to return to San Juan for 22 games in 2004

The commissioner's office finalized an agreement Wednesday to have the Montreal Expos return to San Juan's Hiram Bithorn Stadium for 22 games next season.

The deal has the Expos playing home games against the New York Mets (April 9-11), Florida (April 13-15), Milwaukee (May 18-20), San Francisco (May 21-23), Toronto (July 2-4), Atlanta (July 5-7) and Pittsburgh (July 8-11).

The Expos were bought by the other 29 teams before the 2002 season, and the commissioner's office pushed for the games in San Juan to increase revenue.

"The clubs' proposal to play again in Puerto Rico was, under all the circumstances, a reasonable one, especially against the backdrop of the warm reception given the players last year in San Juan," union head Donald Fehr said.

Monterrey, Mexico, also had bid for the games.

"There is intense interest in baseball in Monterrey," said commissioner Bud Selig, which called the Mexicans' proposal "formidable."

"We determined that San Juan, being the incumbent, was the most suitable choice to stage these series of games in 2004," Selig said. "We will continue to consider Monterrey should other opportunities arise."

Bidders for a permanent site for the Expos include Northern Virginia; Portland, Ore.; and Washington, D.C. Baseball owners want funding for a new ballpark in place before making a decision.

"radio silence" on the talks until they conclude, one way or the other.

Red Sox owner John Henry hasn't responded to e-mails or calls from the Associated Press. But following a series of skeptical postings about the trade on a Red Sox fan website, a participant identified as "JohnWHenry" said, "Come on now. Don't start to waver on us. It's the holidays. Be of good cheer! It's going to be just a great, exciting season. Hang in there."

The postings came at 4:26 a.m. Henry has confirmed that he uses that screen name for the "Sons of Sam Horn" bulletin board.

Epstein did say before return-

ing to Boston on Monday that he didn't expect any announcements.

"If I were a betting man, I'd say there's nothing major in our future," he said. "We have a real strong club right now if we just fill in to complement what we have."

If the owners are able to work something out, the Red Sox would then need to trade shortstop Nomar Garciaparra. Epstein has said the team's first choice was to sign Garciaparra to a long-term deal "that makes sense for both sides," but Garciaparra turned down a \$60 million, four-year offer last spring, looking for a longer and richer deal.

That appeared to be a mistake

in a declining market, but on Sunday former AL MVP Miguel Tejada agreed to a \$72 million, six-year deal with Baltimore that raised doubts about whether the market was declining after all. Garciaparra's agent, Arn Tellem, made a brief visit to New Orleans and had cursory discussions with Epstein.

One destination for Garciaparra, if he's traded, would be Los Angeles. Dodgers manager Jim Tracy wouldn't confirm his team was interested except to say, "We're looking for somebody to fit in the middle of our order."

"Nomar Garciaparra ... is a name that would fit in the middle of somebody's order," he said at the winter meetings on Sunday.

"That's what we're looking for."

However, there were reports Wednesday that the Dodgers' interest had faded. Other reports had Garciaparra going to the Chicago White Sox with pitchers Scott Williamson and Byung-Hyun Kim for star outfielder Magglio Ordonez; some reports said Chicago would then deal Garciaparra to Los Angeles.

It all depends on whether Hicks and Henry can work out the money. Then, Rodriguez has to waive the no-trade clause in his contract.

The Red Sox did make one deal involving an infielder Tuesday, acquiring Mark Bellhorn to replace free agent Todd Walker at second base.

Walker could be part of Texas' contingency plans for replacing Rodriguez. They have talked to Walker's agent about signing him to play second, which would mean moving second baseman Michael Young to shortstop.



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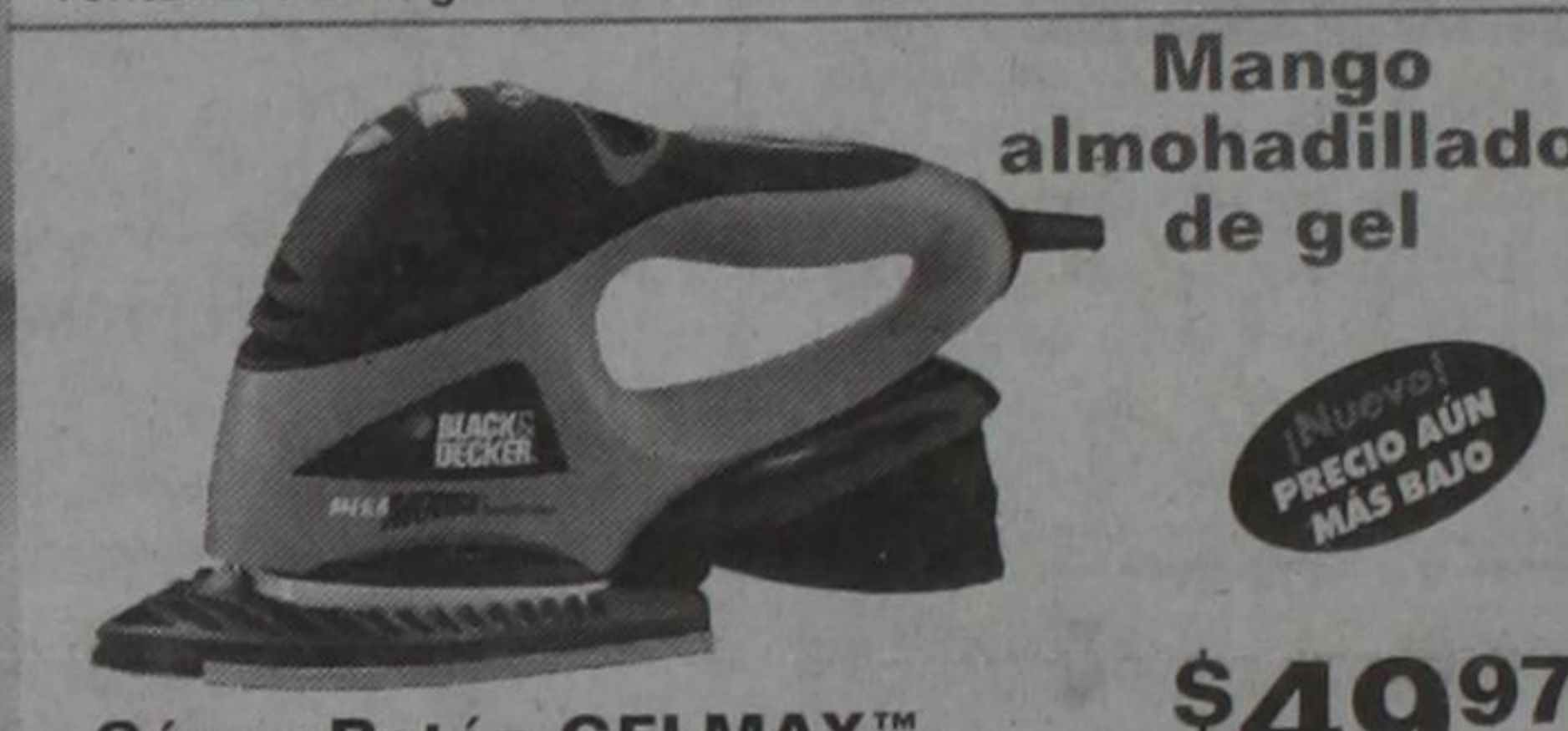
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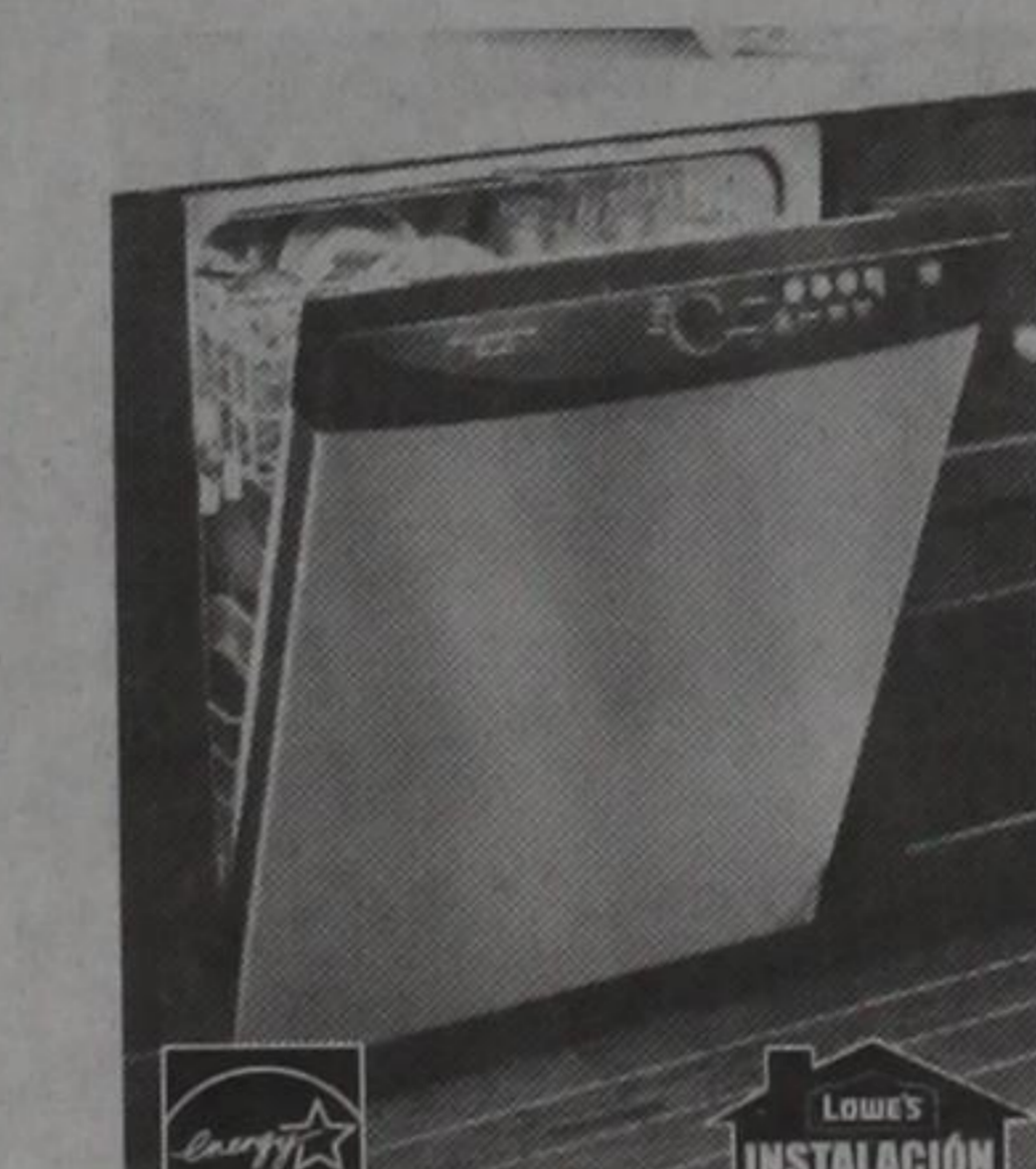
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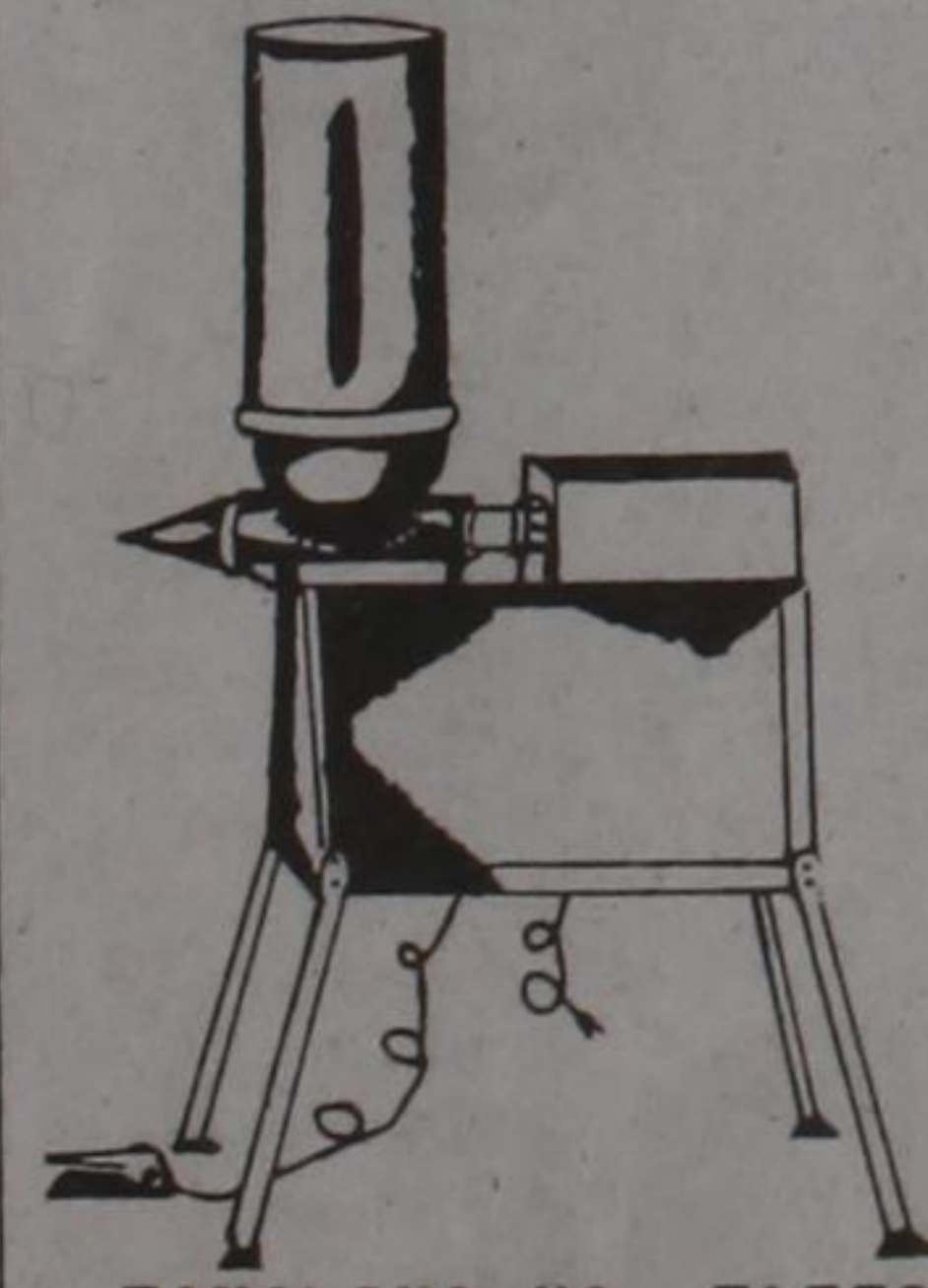
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War on Iraq, fair or unfair to Hispanics?

Por Marco A. Delgado

Phoenix, Arizona, U.S., November 17, 2003 (quepasa.com) - The new wave of military attacks in Iraq, Veteran's Day celebrations in the United States on November 11th and the effort to pass a bill to speed-up citizenship proceedings for immigrant soldiers have stirred up the doubts of hundreds of Hispanic families for whom the Bush government has lost credibility on the "highly questioned" support for the members of their families who are still in active duty in that faraway land.

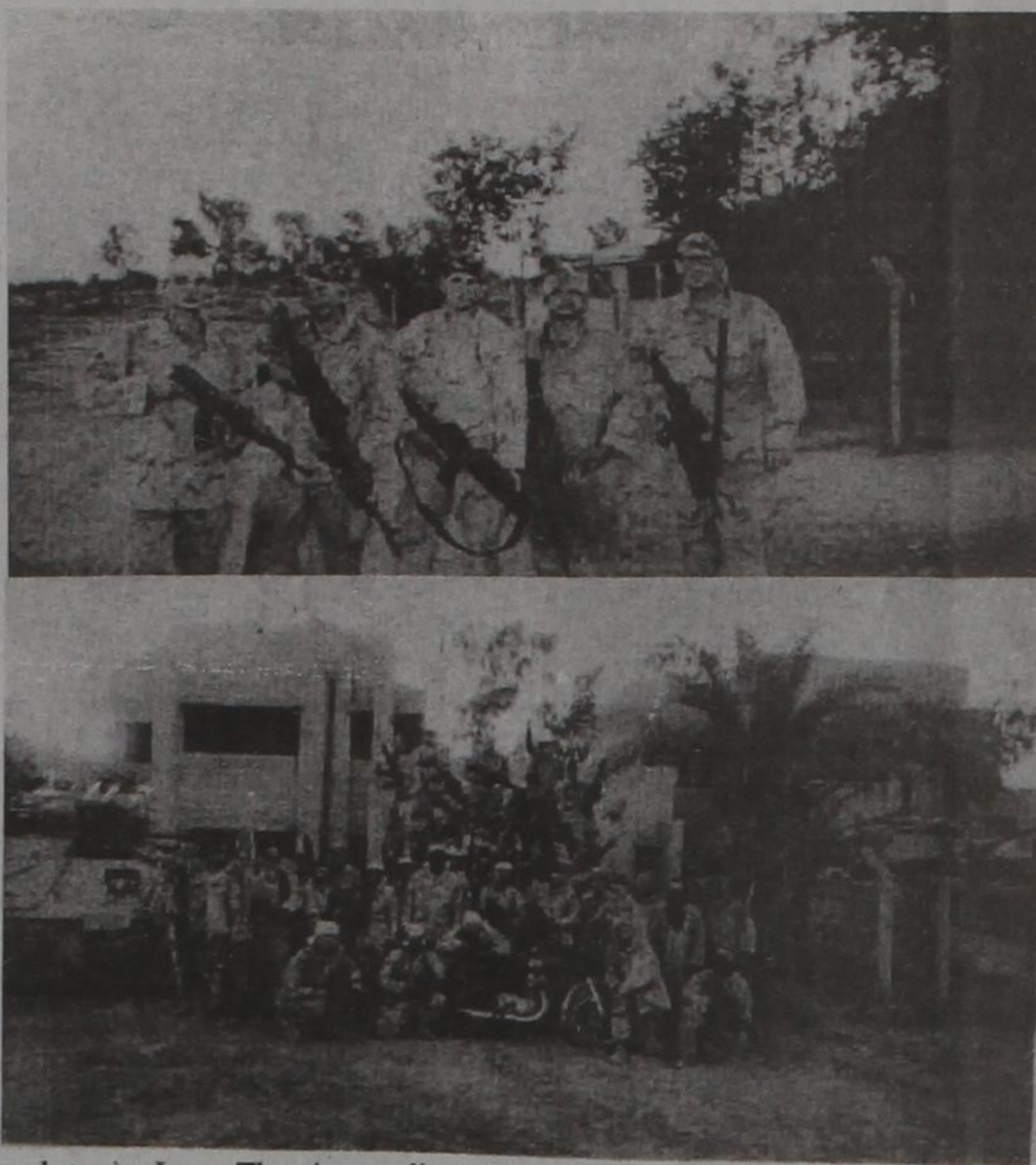
According to U.S. Defense Department figures there are 128 thousand Hispanics doing active duty; according to a study by the Pew Hispanic Center 9.5% of the armed forces is comprised by this minority, as is, the largest minority in the Union, numbering 37.7 million people according to Census Bureau statistics.

Since the beginning of the conflict last March 14 Hispanics soldiers are reported fallen in action in Iraq, triggering different reactions from this community, outstanding among these is a legal suit filed by the family of Rubén Estrella who died on March 23 in a confrontation against Iraqi troops outside the city of Nasiriyah, filed against the United States government protesting their refusal to pay the 250 thousand dollars of their son's insurance, which he was paying for since before he left.

On the contrary, there are others for whom the United States Army has been more than "generous" granting posthumous citizenship as in the case of Diego Rincón, a 19-year-old Colombian soldier, who died victim of a suicide attack in Najaf. For his father, Jorge Rincón, the news meant a victory in his battle to defend his son's rights, as is reflected in an article published in "La opinión" daily.

In April the media published the news about the petition made by the father of Jesús Suárez del Solar, a soldier of Mexican origin who also fell in Iraq, for donations to give his son a proper burial, since, according to Fernando Suárez's own words, what the government provided was not enough to cover the costs of his son's funeral.

The most recent event to arouse inconformity from the Hispanic sector is the case of Juan Escalante, a young Mexican, 19 years old, who arrived in the United States at the age of 4, who enlisted in the army using false documents to go into active



duty in Iraq. The Army discovered the soldier's undocumented immigrant status, which now puts him at risk of being deported along with his parents.

The bill proposed by Democrat Congress woman Hilda Solis to reduce citizenship proceedings for immigrant soldiers, as well as to eliminate the adherent 260 thousand dollar cost the proceeding entails is a source of hope for thousands of Hispanics who are enlisted in the armed forces, and there are those who propose that undocumented immigrants also be included, since there are other known cases aside from Escalante's, like that of Guatemalan soldier, José Gu-

tiérrez, whose situation as an undocumented immigrant was not discovered until after his death in Iraq.

Servicemen like José A. Garibay, Ana Laura Esparza Gutiérrez, Melissa Valles, Isaac Campoy Márquez, Joe Casanova and Francisco Martínez Flores, to mention only a few, lost their lives in Iraq and can never return to fight for their rights, so now their families are fighting to preserve the honor of those who fell at the front, as well as that of those who are still standing. Schwarzenegger, an immigrant who is against undocumented immigrants

Feds Target Hispanics in New DUI Campaign

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

Alcohol-related crashes account for half of all Hispanic traffic deaths, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In the general population, alcohol-related crashes accounted for 41 percent of traffic deaths in 2002.

"States have been clamoring for good-quality Spanish-language materials," agency spokesman Rae Tyson said Wednesday.

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

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

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

Instalará México estación de auxilio a paisanos en territorio Texano

San Antonio, E.E.U.U., 17 de diciembre, 2003 (Notimex).- Autoridades mexicanas colocarán del 19 al 21 de diciembre una estación de información y ayuda en territorio texano para auxiliar a miles de inmigrantes que regresan a México a pasar las tradicionales fiestas navideñas y de fin de año.

El Centro de Orientación y Atención al Viajero -que contará con personal de diferentes dependencias mexicanas y de agencias estadounidenses- se ubicará sobre la carretera Interestatal 36, a 20 kilómetros al norte de Laredo, Texas.

En el lugar se ofrecerá a los viajeros ayuda con documentos migratorios y con los permisos para internar vehículos a México, además de que contará con baños y área de descanso.

La estación permanecerá

abierta los días 19, 20 y 21 de diciembre, los días más transitados al estimarse que entre 80 y 100 mil vehículos cruzaran por el lugar rumbo a México.

"Esto beneficia a todos", dijo Rocío Garza, vocera del gobierno de la ciudad de Laredo. "Es muy caótico, pero la idea es ayudarlos a pasar y nosotros les facilitamos eso", indicó.

La estación es la única de su tipo a lo largo de la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos, y ha sido instalada en forma consecutiva desde 1998 a iniciativa de las autoridades mexicanas.

La estación complementa otros servicios de auxilio a viajeros que se prestan en el lado mexicano de la frontera, como el de escoltar -por parte de las patrullas de policía- a caravanas de turistas a lo largo de un tramo de la carretera. NTX

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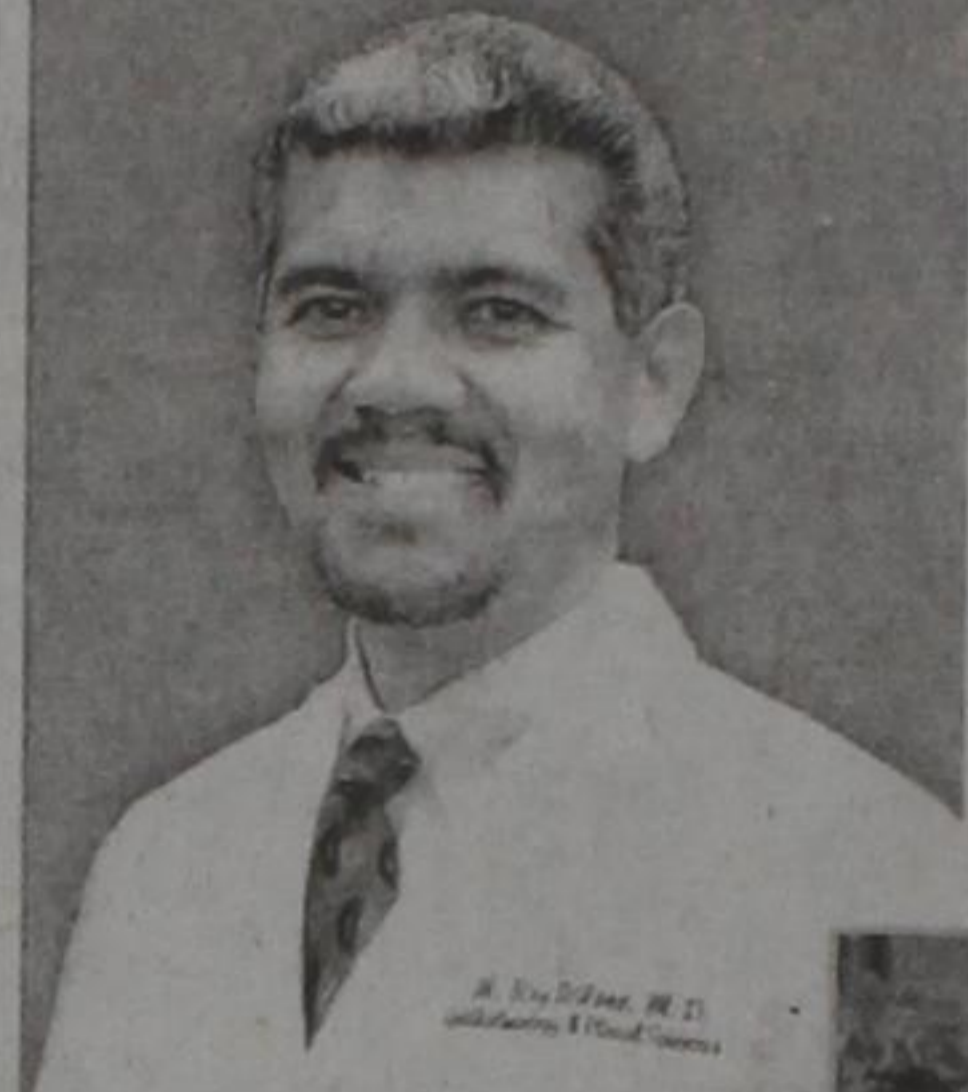

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