

# EL OBSERVADOR

## MARTIN TO PERFORM AT LATIN GRAMMYS

(AP)—Ricky Martin, Alexandre Pires with Kelly Clarkson, Thalia, Bacilos and Molotov will perform at the fourth annual Latin Grammy Awards on Wednesday, Sept. 3 in Miami.

The awards will be broadcast at 9 p.m. from the American Airlines Arena on CBS.

Comedian-actor George Lopez will be awards show. Lopez, a long-time stand-up comedian, is co-creator, writer, producer and star of the ABC sitcom "George Lopez."

The Latin Grammys feature 40 award categories, including record of the year, album of the year, song of the year and best new artist.

Producer-composer Sergio George, who wrote the hit "Mi Primer Millon" for the group Bacilos, leads the nominations with six; Colombia singer-songwriter Juanes has five.

George is nominated for record of the year, song of the year and



Ricky Martin (right) and George Lopez will star in the fourth annual Latin Grammy Awards on CBS.

other honors for the Bacilos' hit song, as well as for album of the year for producing the group's "Caraluna."

Juanes earned nominations for

record and song of the year for "Es Por Ti," album of the year and best rock solo album for "Un Dia Normal," and best rock song for "Mala Gente."

## Hispanic Men, Low Wages Linked

(AP)—Men tended to earn less in blue-collar and service jobs if they worked alongside newly arrived Hispanic immigrants because the newcomers were paid less, driving down the wages for all, according to a UCLA study that analyzed Census data from 1990.

The UCLA Chicano Studies Re-

search Center study found that men — both native and established immigrants — earned an average of 11 percent less than others in similar service and manual labor jobs when they worked with newly arrived Hispanics.

Minority workers in those jobs earned an average of 14 percent

less. And the higher the proportion of newly arrived Hispanic men on the job, the less money the other workers tended to make, the study said.

The study recommends expanding worker protections for the immigrants, enforcing minimum wage standards and extending amnesty.

## Mexicans Living in U.S. Ask Their Gov't for Support

(AP)—Mexicans living in the United States want their home country to arrange cross-border health insurance, denounce anti-immigrant groups and helping identify the bodies of migrants, according to suggestions published by a fledgling migrant advisory council.

Since taking office in December 2000, President Vicente Fox made the rights of Mexicans living abroad a priority. He appointed the advisory council in December 2002, and asked for suggestion on how Mexico can help the estimated 8 million Mexicans in the United States.

The council's suggestions, taken from minutes of the two-day meeting in March, ran the gamut from promoting access to higher education for Mexicans in the United States to

providing timely information about the U.S. death penalty, drivers licenses and the Mexican consular identification cards.

Other suggestions included a bi-national forum on allowing Mexicans to vote from abroad in Mexico's national elections.

The council also called for a campaign to fortify cultural identity and the use of Spanish among Mexican living abroad, as well as a campaign about opportunities to close the education gap between Mexicans and other U.S. citizens.

The council includes 100 people from Mexican communities in the United States and reports to the government's Institute of Mexicans Living Abroad, the office that replaced Fox's migrant affairs office.

## School Named in Honor of Celia Cruz



New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has named a new high school in memory of "Queen of Salsa" Celia Cruz, shown in, in this Sept. 17, 2002 photo. (AP photo)

(AP)—New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced a new high school named in memory of "Queen of Salsa" Celia Cruz.

The DeWitt Clinton High School-Lehman College Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music is scheduled to open in September. The 90 students enrolled this year will take academic classes at DeWitt and their music classes at Lehman College, where the music school will be located.

"It is a great honor to her and a way to remember the contribution she made to the community and gives all those who hold her in their hearts the feeling that she lives on and that she's a part of us," Bloomberg said.



Steve Kelton, hands shown at right, instructs Vicente Ramirez how water from a fire hose can be used to filter smoke during a session at a fire training camp near Salem. Over the past five years, Hispanics have flooded the ranks of contract firefighting crews in Oregon and Washington. (AP photo)

## Hispanics Flood Firefighting Ranks

### Changing demographics bring language barriers to the front lines

(AP)—As they fought a raging wildfire last year in southern Oregon, a fire crew got word that the blaze was approaching rapidly and all workers needed to evacuate.

They yelled the directions to a Hispanic crew digging a fire line, but none of them understood English. They stood, confused.

Members of the English-speaking crew ran toward the workers, waving their arms in an attempt to

communicate. Eventually, someone who could translate was found and no one was hurt.

"That's a dangerous situation," said Ed Daniels, training manager for the Oregon Department of Forestry, who investigated the account. "Knock on wood that no one has died" yet because of language barriers.

The case illustrates a growing language barrier on the front lines of the nation's wildfires as more Hispanic migrant workers rush to firefighting jobs around the West.

In Oregon and Washington, contractors who employ the majority of crews fighting forest fires in the Northwest estimate that Hispanics make up more than 60 percent of their crews. Many of those workers cannot speak or understand English.

The prevalence of Spanish spoken on fire lines has prompted a safety debate among contractors.

Despite the influx of Hispanics, the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordination Group, which oversees national contract crews, has strengthened language requirements to ensure more firefighters speak English.

On any 20-person crew, the boss and the three assistants must speak English fluently. All fire communication on the radio must be in English. And firefighting officials are making greater efforts to make sure those hired on crews meet the minimum English requirements.

Some contractors say they prefer to hire Hispanics - regardless of language barriers - because they are hard workers despite the low wages.

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