

8 de Diciembre 2022

THE WEEKLY ISSUE

# El Semanario

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**Lessons From Latin América**  
*Lecciones de América Latina*

**8**

**8 de Diciembre 2022**  
Volume No. XXXIII Issue 5

**Chris M. Fresquez**  
President / CEO - Publisher

**Toni C. Fresquez**  
Editor

**Juan Carlos Uribe**  
Spanish Editor

**Raya Tkachenko**  
Layout/Production

**THE WEEKLY ISSUE / El Semanario**

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 460428, Glendale CO 80246

**Colorado:**  
8400 East Crescent Parkway  
Greenwood Village CO 80111

**New Mexico:**  
500 Marquette Ave. NW,  
Albuquerque NM 87102



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303-672-0800  
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Commentary/Comentario

# Last Opportunity to Fulfill the Promise of Legalizing the Dreamers

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

**T**welve years ago, in 2010, in another final session of an outgoing Congress, and with another Democratic President, Barack Obama, who lost the House to Republicans, there was an attempt to approve the Dream Act. The effort cleared the House of Representatives, but could not collect the sixty votes necessary in the Senate. At that time, thirty-six Republican Senators and five Democrats killed the initiative. It seemed like the right moment to not only do the right thing, but something good for both parties and the nation in general. But adhering to anti-immigrant ideology and, especially, the attitude on the part of conservatives to reject the "other," gained ground



Photo/Foto: America's Voice



Photo/Foto: America's Voice

and, to this day, remains the albatross that especially affects immigrants such as the Dreamers. It's impossible to not look for parallels to today, although the deeds are occurring in different political and historical contexts. Obama, in the first mid-term election of his first term, suffered a major defeat, which he called a shellacking. His Democratic Party lost six-

ty-three seats in the House and, therefore, control; it also let go six seats in the Senate. At least now Biden kept control of the Senate, and although Republicans will control the House from January on, their wins were minimal. However, the only constant in this picture is that things continue without obtaining security for millions of undocumented immi-

grants in this country, not even the so-called Dreamers who have so much support among the U.S. population. That is an irrefutable fact in society, which only finds obstacles at the political level when it's about voting for such a winning issue that benefits the most powerful economy on the planet. There are many calls for this Congress, still in Democratic hands, to approve the Dream Act before the Republicans assume control of the House on January 3, 2023. But Republicans have asserted that measures that supposedly benefit immigrants will not see the light of day. That is not difficult to imagine, since the person emerging as the next Speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy, Republican from California, is among those who are most loyal to Donald Trump to this day. In fact, McCarthy has already threatened

“What would be novel is that they surprise us and do the right thing and at least advance legalization of Dreamers as a down payment on the elusive immigration reform.”

to initiate an impeachment against the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Cuban-American Alejandro Mayorkas. Essentially, it's to be anticipated that in what remains of this session, the Democrats will probably try to advance what they didn't in the last two years; and it's certain that the Republicans will block their

See Hastings & Torres on page 17

# Última Oportunidad para Cumplir la Promesa de Legalizar a los Dreamers

Maribel Hastings y David Torres

**H**ace 12 años, en 2010, en otra sesión de un Congreso saliente y con otro presidente demócrata, Barack Obama, que perdió la Cámara Baja ante los republicanos, hubo un intento de aprobar el Dream Act. El esfuerzo avanzó en la Cámara de Representantes, pero no pudo reunir los 60 votos requeridos en el Senado. En esa oportunidad 36 senadores republicanos y 5 demócratas mataron la iniciativa.

Parecía el momento más adecuado para hacer no solo lo correcto, sino lo que convenía a ambos partidos y a la nación en general. Pero el mal consejo de la ideología y, sobre todo, la actitud de rechazo hacia el "otro" de la parte conservadora ganaron un terreno que hasta la fecha persiste como condena maldita que afecta sobre todo a inmigrantes como los Dreamers.

Es decir, es imposible hoy no tratar de encontrar paralelos aun-

que los hechos se hayan dado en diferentes contextos históricos y políticos. Obama, en la primera elección intermedia de su primer mandato, sufrió una paliza, que él llamó *shellacking*. Su Partido Demócrata perdió 63 escaños en la Cámara Baja y, por ende, el control; y también dejó ir 6 asientos en el Senado. Al menos ahora Biden mantuvo el control del Senado, y aunque los republicanos controlarán la Cámara Baja desde enero, sus ganancias fueron mínimas.

Sin embargo, la única constante de este panorama es que seguimos sin ver beneficios para los millones de indocumentados en el país, ni siquiera para los llamados Soñadores que gozan de tanto apoyo entre la población estadounidense. Ese es un hecho irrefutable en la sociedad, que solo encuentra obstáculos a nivel político cuando se trata de votar por un tema que tiene todo por ganar y hacer ganar a la considerada aún economía más poderosa del planeta.

Son muchos los llamados para que este Congreso, todavía en

manos demócratas, apruebe el Dream Act antes de que los republicanos asuman el control de la Cámara Baja el 3 de enero de 2023. Pero esos republicanos han asegurado que medidas que supongan beneficios para los inmigrantes no verán la luz del día; y no es difícil imaginarlo, toda vez que quien se perfila como el próximo presidente cameral, Kevin McCarthy, republicano de California, es del bando de los hasta ahora fieles a Donald Trump. De hecho, ya ha amenazado con con iniciar un proceso de destitución contra el secretario de Seguridad Nacional (DHS), el cubanoamericano Alejandro Mayorkas.

De este modo, es de anticiparse que en lo que resta de sesión es probable que los demócratas intenten avanzar lo que no hicieron en los pasados dos años; y es seguro que los republicanos bloqueen los intentos. Lo novedoso sería que nos sorprendieran e hicieran lo correcto y al menos avanzaran la legalización de los Dreamers como un "enganche" a la esqui- va reforma migratoria.

Pero aun así, se comprobaría una vez más que los demócratas siempre dejan todo para la última hora, cuando ya casi no queda más que la esperanza para lograr algo positivo en función del tema migratorio, mientras los republicanos asumen una actitud de haberlo ganado todo, no para el beneficio común, sino exclusivamente para su enclave político, sin darse cuenta de que gobernar para unos es gobernar para nadie en una democracia.

“Lo novedoso sería que nos sorprendieran e hicieran lo correcto y al menos avanzaran la legalización de los Dreamers como un "enganche" a la esqui- va reforma migratoria.”

Ya hemos recitado hasta el cansancio los beneficios de la legalización para este país. Cada investigación sobre el tema nos dice

que los Dreamers agregan más de 40 mil millones de dólares al año al Producto Interno Bruto (PIB), lo que se traduce en casi seis veces más que los 7 mil millones de dólares que DACA le cuesta a Estados Unidos. Los Dreamers están presentes en todas las facetas de nuestra economía: son consumidores, inversionistas, han abierto negocios y son empleadores. Y con su preparación académica han fortalecido la competitividad internacional de Estados Unidos.

¿Qué otra prueba de compromiso personal, social, cultural o económico necesita la parte anti-inmigrante de Estados Unidos para humanizar no solo a los Dreamers en su concepción, sino para humanizarse ellos mismos de cara a un tema definitivamente también humanitario? Es un hecho que el Estados Unidos de hoy ya rebasó hace mucho tiempo la visión del nacionalismo blanco, pero ese segmento de la sociedad no ha aceptado esa realidad, de tal modo

Vea Hastings & Torres/Esp, página 19

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## DACA is Under Urgent, Existential Threat

Todd Schulte

**F**WD.us is encouraged by the reported bipartisan talks and progress indicating Senators Sinema (D-AZ) and Tillis (R-NC) have a potential framework for compromise legislation that would provide a pathway to citizenship for approximately two million Dreamers, along with investments in border security.

DACA is under urgent, existential threat and will likely be terminated by the courts in the near future. The average DACA recipient came to the United States at the age of six and has lived in America for near-



Photo/Foto: FWD.us

ly a quarter century. There are approximately 600,000 active DACA recipients and over 400,000 peo-

ple eligible for DACA but who are currently blocked by a court order.

All legislation is a compromise, and while we have not seen the full outlines let alone legislative text, this is the case here. As an organization that believes all undocumented immigrants—TPS holders, farm workers, mothers, uncles, essential workers and more—deserve a pathway to citizenship, we want to note that this framework currently does not provide needed relief to many of them.

There are other parts of this reported framework that are concerning; it is important as this process moves forward, it is critical

that any legislation maintain the right to apply for asylum on US soil and that all asylum seekers maintain access to due process.

The reported news is the contours of a compromise. It is critical that this process continue to move ahead. We know that those who want to see Dreamers forced out their jobs and subjected to deportation will try to kill any relief. People should be very clear: if Congress fails to pass legislation during the lame duck period, the consequences will be devastating. We commend these Senators for understanding that this is likely their last, best chance to stave off



People should be very clear: if Congress fails to pass legislation during the lame duck period, the consequences will be devastating.

this devastation and take a critical step forward.

Todd Schulte is the President for [FWD.us](http://FWD.us).

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## DACA Se Encuentra Bajo Una Amenaza Urgente y Existencial

Todd Schulte

**F**WD.us se ve alentado por las conversaciones y el progreso bipartidista que se ha reportado, lo que apunta a que los senadores Sinema (D-AZ) y Tillis (R-NC) cuentan con el marco necesario para llegar a un compromiso para un proyecto de ley que provea una vía a la ciudadanía para los cerca de dos millones de Dreamers, así como inversiones para la seguridad en la frontera.

DACA se encuentra bajo una amenaza urgente y existencial y probablemente los tribunales lo terminen en un futuro cercano. El beneficiario de DACA promedio llegó a los Estados Unidos a los seis años y ha vivido en este país por cerca de un cuarto de siglo. Existen aproximadamente 600,000 ben-

eficiarios activos de DACA y sobre 400,000 personas elegibles para DACA, pero que actualmente se ven impedidas de tener el beneficio debido a una orden del tribunal.



La gente debe ser bien clara: si el Congreso no logra aprobar un proyecto de ley durante la sesión posterior a las elecciones de medio término, las consecuencias serán devastadoras.

Todo proyecto de ley es un compromiso, y a pesar de que no hemos visto todo lo que compren-

de, ni mucho menos un texto legislativo, ese es el caso aquí. Como organización que cree que todos los inmigrantes indocumentados—tepesianos, trabajadores agrícolas, padres, trabajadores esenciales y otros—merecen una vía a la ciudadanía, queremos puntualizar que este marco no brinda el alivio que necesitan tantos otros.

Hay otras secciones de este aparente marco que son preocupantes. Es importante que, a medida que este proceso siga adelante, cualquier proyecto de ley sostenga el derecho de solicitar asilo en el propio suelo estadounidense y de que todas las personas que buscan asilo puedan mantener su acceso al debido proceso.

La noticia que se ha reportado es el atisbo de un compromiso. Es crucial que este proceso continúe

para seguir hacia adelante. Sabemos que aquellos que quieren ver que a los Dreamers se les saque de sus trabajos y se les someta a la deportación van a intentar impedir cualquier alivio. La gente debe ser bien clara: si el Congreso no logra aprobar un proyecto de ley durante la sesión posterior a las elecciones de medio término, las consecuencias serán devastadoras.

Felicitemos a estos senadores por entender que es probablemente su última y mejor oportunidad de evitar esta devastación y de dar un paso crucial hacia Adelante.

Todd Schulte es presidente de [FWD.us](http://FWD.us).

Leer Más Comentarios: [ELSEMANARIO.US](http://ELSEMANARIO.US)



## NM GOP Should Apologize, Take Accountability for Racist Tactics

Peter Rodríguez

**W**hen my friend showed me a mailer that had been sent out by the New Mexico Republican Party this election cycle, I was furious. I can't explain the shock and hurt I felt when I saw this mailer comparing people like me to a predator.

People have no idea how monumentally challenging it is to build a life for yourself after completing a sentence, and then completing probation or parole. And they have no idea how a conviction can impact your chances of getting a job, finding a stable place to live or even securing a loan. It's infuriating how out of touch the lawmak-

ers who regulate and influence our criminal system continue to be, and how little they know about the lives of people like me.

The mailers sent out by the GOP show a child getting a haircut, and the hands that are cutting the child's hair have been darkened



I'm tired of the racist, dehumanizing rhetoric I hear from politicians on both sides of the aisle when it comes to crime.

See Rodríguez on page 18



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Commentary/Comentario

## To Hold Powerful to Account, Journalists Must Be Free of Government Intrusion

John Cusack

For democracy to survive, journalists must be protected from government surveillance and shielded from harassment.

I've served as a founding board member of the Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) since its inception, with the goal to protect the First and Fourth Amendment rights of journalists, whistleblowers and sources from the constant threats from government surveillance—and the ever-expanding dangers of surveillance capitalism.



Photo: Freedom of the Press Foundation

Our mission is to fiercely protect free press and free speech principles and rights—not the personalities involved. Any and every individual journalist and source

is important because, no matter where they fall on the political spectrum, when their rights are violated, all our rights are violated, and we are all in danger.

As FPF's advocacy director explained in a recent op-ed published by the *Sun-Times*, passage of the PRESS (Protect Reporters from Exploitative State Spying) Act is absolutely vital and essential to maintain First Amendment press freedoms. We live in an era in which journalists, publishers, sources and whistle-blowers risk prosecution, and presidential hopefuls threaten journalists with jail time as laugh lines—as red meat for their political

"base" as they gin up anti-democratic authoritarian movements in these times of peril.

Fortunately, we have a senator in Illinois who understands the importance of the Fourth Estate. Sen. Dick Durbin knows that journalists do not work for the government. They cannot do their important jobs when they're forced to spend their days in courtrooms and depositions. And news sources do not come forward when they're afraid of being unmasked in federal court.

We cannot allow the government to surveil journalists and expose sources—even the threat of



Our mission is to fiercely protect free press and free speech principles and rights—not the personalities involved.

which produces a chilling effect on the press—if we expect journalists to expose corruption, speak truth to power and print what the powerful don't want printed. As the man

See Cusack on page 27

## Senate Same-Sex Marriage Vote Still a Step On Long Road Toward Full Justice

John L. Micek

It's difficult to overstate the importance of last week's U.S. Senate vote codifying protections for same-sex and interracial marriage as both a triumph of bipartisanship and fundamental decency.

It's also difficult to overstate, sadly, how much further we have to go to ensure full equality for

LGBTQ Americans.

First, the good news.

On Nov. 29, 61 lawmakers in the 100-member chamber, including 12 Republicans, voted to approve the bill, which came in response to fears that a U.S. Supreme Court, perfectly content to topple abortion rights, might next come for marriage equality as well, the Capital-Star's Washington Bureau reported.

As the *Washington Post* reported last week, the vote was the product of months of work by U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., who began building support for the proposal in July, after the House voted 267-157 in July to approve the original bill, with the support of 47 Republicans.

"We could do this," Baldwin told several Republican colleagues, she recalled to the Post, setting

into motion the talks that led to the Nov. 29 historic vote. The bill must still go back to the U.S. House which, for now, remains in Democratic hands.

The moral arc of the universe, as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King famously remarked, is long, but always bends toward justice.

It was just a decade ago, in 2012, that former President Barack Obama historically announced that he'd shifted his position to support same-sex marriage. And seven years have elapsed since a very different high court granted same-sex marriage rights in the landmark Obergefell v. Hodges ruling.

That is a pretty significant bending toward justice. But as the deadly rampage at Colorado's Club Q last month vividly reminds us, the ongoing journey towards full justice for millions of our fellow citizens remains a long one.

As long as sitting members of Congress can hurl the most vile of slurs against LGBTQ Americans, as long as a former president of United States can sit down to dinner with an antisemite and his white supremacist sidekick and still not face total ostracization by his own party, there will remain work to do.

The bill the Senate passed also is far from perfect, as the editorial board of the *York Dispatch* noted this week, because it requires the federal government to recognize same-sex marriages where they are legal. Thirty-five states, including Pennsylvania, still have same-sex marriage bans on their books. That exposes LGBTQ citizens to harm if the high court ever moves toward tossing Obergefell, the board observed, as it called for broader nondiscrimination protections.

That possibility is all the more jarring given how out of step the court appears to be with the majority of Americans. Support for same-sex marriage rights remains widespread – reaching a historic high of 71 percent in June, according to Gallup.



It's also difficult to overstate, sadly, how much further we have to go to ensure full equality for LGBTQ Americans.

But that still means that 3 in 10 Americans remain opposed. Some of that may be on the basis of concerns about religious liberty. There also is no denying that too much of it is based on nothing more than hate — hate that can turn deadly, and be legitimized at the highest levels of power.

The truth is in the data.

As of last month, at least 32 transgender and gender nonconforming people had lost their lives in 2022, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

In 2020, the FBI recorded 1,051 victims of hate who were targeted because of their sexual orientation (13.5 percent of all hate crimes reported that year) and 236 people who were targeted because of their gender identity (3 percent of all hate crimes reported that year), according to GLAAD data.

The instance of suicidal ideation among LGBTQ youth remains alarmingly high, with nearly half saying they seriously considered

See Micek on page 19

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## Remembering Fred Ross Jr., Lifelong Organizer and Social Justice Champion



Photo/Photo: Courtesy Ethnic Media Services

Fred Ross, Jr. always wanted to be known simply as an organizer. / Fred Ross Jr. siempre quiso que lo conocieran simplemente como organizador.

By Louis Freedberg

**F**red Ross Jr. always wanted to be known simply as an organizer.

Beginning with his organizing work as a young man in the fields of California alongside César Chávez, he inspired countless people to

achieve social change for more than half a century in the workplace and in communities across the United States.

Ross died of cancer on November 20 at the age of 75

Dolores Huerta, a co-founder with Chávez of the United Farm Workers, said there were two

words that describe Ross: humble and noble. "He was always so positive about everything," said Huerta, now 92. "We had a lot of turmoil in the farmworker movement, but Fred always managed to stay above it. He remained a statesman."

Arnulfo De La Cruz, executive vice president of SEIU Local 2015,

recalled working with Ross two decades ago at the Providence St. Joseph's Hospital in Burbank, part of the third largest nonprofit hospital chain in the West.

"I learned so much from Fred, especially how important it was to engage the entire community to support these workers, the faith community, labor, celebrities," he said. "He felt as comfortable in Spanish as in English and the workers really took a deep liking to him especially as they further understood his family's long legacy of fighting for working people."

Ross followed in the footsteps of his father, Fred Ross Sr., another legendary organizer who had a profound impact on Chávez. "He discovered me, he inspired me," Chávez said about Ross Sr., who hired and trained him as an organizer at the age of 25 in San Jose before he founded the United Farm Workers with Huerta. "He thought I had what it took to be an organizer. He gave me a chance, and that led to a lot of things."

Ross Jr.'s brilliance was to take what he learned from Chávez and his father, combine those lessons with field campaigns of local volunteers and a smart use of the

“He was always so positive about everything. We had a lot of turmoil in the farmworker movement, but Fred always managed to stay above it. He remained a statesman.”

Dolores Huerta,

media, and put pressure on employers, state governments and Congress on a range of social justice causes.

Ross began his work as a full-time organizer at age 23 with the farmworkers during the giant 1970 Salinas lettuce strike. One notable contribution was organizing a 110-mile march against Gallo wines, from Union Square in San Francisco to Gallo headquarters, where at least 10,000 farm workers and supporters filled the streets of Modesto.

A motive for the Gallo march was to pressure Gov. Jerry Brown

See [Ross](#) on page 21

## Recordando a Fred Ross Jr., Defensor de la Justicia Social

Por Louis Freedberg

**F**red Ross Jr. siempre quiso que lo conocieran simplemente como organizador.

Empezó de joven con su trabajo organizativo en los campos de California al lado de César Chávez, y ha inspirado a innumerables personas a lograr un cambio social durante más de medio siglo en el lugar de trabajo y en comunidades por los Estados Unidos.

Ross murió de cáncer el 20 de noviembre a los 75 años

Dolores Huerta, cofundadora con Chávez de la Unión de Campesinos, dijo que hay dos palabras que describen a Ross: humilde y noble. "Siempre era tan positivo en todo," dijo Huerta, ahora de 92 años. "Tuvimos mucha agitación en el movimiento de los trabajadores agrícolas, pero Fred siempre logró mantenerse por encima de ella. Siguió siendo un estadista."

Arnulfo De La Cruz, vice presidente ejecutivo de la SEIU Local 2015, recordó haber trabajado con Ross hace dos décadas para sindicalizar con éxito al Hospital Providence de St. Joseph en Burbank,

“Siempre era tan positivo en todo. Tuvimos mucha agitación en el movimiento de los trabajadores agrícolas, pero Fred siempre logró mantenerse por encima de ella. Siguió siendo un estadista.”

Dolores Huerta,

parte de la tercera cadena más grande de hospitales sin ánimo de lucro en el Oeste.

"Aprendí mucho de Fred, especialmente lo importante que es involucrar a toda la comunidad para apoyar a estos trabajadores, a la comunidad de la fe, de la labor, a las personas famosas", dijo. "Se sentía igual de cómodo hablando en español que en inglés y los trabajadores le tomaron una gran simpatía, especialmente cuando comprendieron el largo legado de

Vea [Ross/Esp](#), página 18





## Lessons From Latin America's Abortion Victories

By Tina Vazquez

The abortion rights movement in the United States is in the fight of its life.

Although the leaked draft opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* gave advance notice that *Roe v. Wade* would be overturned, the Supreme Court's [June 24 decision](#) was still a devastating blow. In the months since, the situation has only become more dire for people in need of abortion care. As of October 2022, abortion is banned or severely restricted in [15 states](#), with 11 additional states and territories threatening to restrict or eliminate access.

As a result, people needing abortions in the U.S. are looking everywhere to find health care—including across the border.

For more than 20 years, Mexican feminist group Las Libres has worked to end violence against women and expand access to sexual and reproductive health services in México. In January, the group formed a cross-border network with activists in Texas, helping people obtain medication for self-managed abortion. Once *Roe* was overturned, the network ex-

panded to build alliances in states where abortion is now banned or severely restricted.

"You have a big opportunity in the United States to push this as a collective right, not just an individual right of individual women," says Verónica Cruz, co-founder of Las Libres, in Spanish. "This isn't going to happen overnight; it could take 10 to 20 years. But however it ends up playing out, the movement in the U.S. right now is more alive than ever."

Cruz is speaking from experience: Las Libres was pivotal in the struggle to legalize abortion in México, beginning in 2000 when [Guanajuato lawmakers passed a bill](#) removing the only exception to the state's anti-abortion law—pregnancies resulting from rape. Las Libres organized direct actions and public abortion storytelling for survivors, which was unheard of at the time.

"We were really pissed off, and we created a lot of social outcry and indignation, and we started to work to guarantee that women had access to this right," says Cruz.

Decades of activism eventually paid off. [In September 2021](#), México's supreme court unanimously



Verónica Cruz is the co-founder of Las Libres, that has worked to end violence against women and expand access to sexual and reproductive health services in México. / Verónica Cruz es cofundadora de Las Libres, que ha trabajado para acabar con la violencia contra las mujeres y ampliar el acceso a los servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva en México.

Photo/Foto: Las Libres

ruled that criminalizing abortion was unconstitutional, paving the way for abortion to be legalized nationwide.

This victory in México came on the heels of a similar win in Argentina, which legalized abortion

in January 2021. In February 2022, Colombia also [legalized abortion up to 24 weeks' gestation](#), one of the most liberal abortion laws in the world.

As the U.S. abortion rights movement regroups, one thing is clear: There's much to learn from activism across Latin America.

After joining Argentina's fight for abortion rights as a student in 2014, Balaguer then offered her legal expertise to the Campaña Nacional por el Derecho al Aborto Legal, Seguro y Gratuito, which [launched in 2005](#) and became a major player in Argentina's movement to legalize abortion.

### Pushing Uphill

While the sociopolitical conditions that fostered the movements in Argentina, Colombia, and México aren't identical to those in the United States, there are similarities.

According to Mayca Balaguer, an attorney in Córdoba, Argentina, U.S. activists face an uphill battle given the increasingly complicated hodgepodge of state abortion laws.

Balaguer sees how the *Dobbs* decision emboldened anti-abortion forces and created an exhausting atmosphere for those trying to protect abortion access—especially when state laws are so radically different. When providing abortion care is legal in one state and punishable by life in prison in another, activists on the ground face increasingly high stakes and can feel burnout quicker, Balaguer says.

"I think that when you get a legal outcome like this, the first thing is diagnosis," the attorney says when asked about next steps for U.S. abortion advocates. "Study what happened and how you got there. Study everything that happened and try to understand why—all the factors. Try to have a map of the situation."

“

It is not safe when it's stigmatized and when it's made illegal. In the United States ... there's a lot of work to be done to really change the narrative and to bring about that whole cultural shift to where abortion is seen as an essential part of life and something that just happens.”

Verónica Cruz, Las Libres

That movement comprised activists, attorneys, health care providers, advocates, organizers, and everyday women, all funneling their energy toward making abortion legal. Week after week, month after month, year after year, they built a national movement, waving their signature green handkerchiefs up until the very moment in 2020 when the [National Congress passed](#) the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy Law, which legalized



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## Lecciones de las Victorias del Aborto en América Latina



En una demostración de solidaridad, simpatizantes en México se manifiestan (2018) a favor de una legislación para abortos legales y seguros en Argentina. / In a demonstration of solidarity, supporters in México rally (2018) for legislation for legal and safe abortions in Argentina.

Por Tina Vasquez

El movimiento por el derecho al aborto en Estados Unidos enfrenta la lucha de su vida. Si bien un anteproyecto filtrado de la opinión "Dobbs vs. la Organización Jackson para la salud de la Mujer" fue un preaviso de que la sentencia "Roe vs. Wade" sería anulada, la decisión de la Corte Suprema de Justicia de EE. UU., dada a conocer el 24 de junio, siempre fue un golpe devastador. En los meses subsiguientes la situación solo se ha vuelto más apremiante para quienes necesitan cuidados médicos relacionados a la salud reproductiva. Para el mes de octubre de 2022, el aborto estaba ya prohibido o severamente restringido en 15 estados, mientras 11 estados y territorios adicionales amenazan con limitar o eliminar acceso al procedimiento.

A causa de los impedimentos, quienes requieren abortos en EE. UU. buscan alternativas —incluso fuera del país.

“

“No es seguro cuando se estigmatiza y criminaliza. En Estados Unidos... hay mucho trabajo por hacer para reestructurar realmente la conversación y producir un cambio cultural amplio dentro del cual el aborto sea visto como una parte esencial de la vida y algo que sucede”.  
Verónica Cruz, Las Libres

Por más de 20 años, la organización feminista Las Libres, con sede en Guanajuato, ha luchado para eliminar la violencia en contra de las mujeres; y para expandir su acceso libre y seguro a cuidados de salud sexual y reproductiva en todo el territorio mexicano. En enero de 2022, el colectivo estab-

leció una red con activistas al otro lado de la frontera, en Texas, a fin de proporcionar los medicamentos necesarios para abortos autogestionados, fuera de un entorno médico. Desde la decisión judicial, la red se ha expandido, formando alianzas con activistas en estados norteamericanos donde el aborto está prohibido o restringido.

“Tienen una gran oportunidad en Estados Unidos para que ejerzan presión por un derecho colectivo, no sólo como un derecho individual de cada mujer”, dice Verónica Cruz, cofundadora de Las Libres. Advierte que “esto no va a pasar de la noche a la mañana; pudiera tomar de 10 a 20 años. Pero al margen de cómo se den las cosas, el movimiento en Estados Unidos está ahora más vivo que nunca”.

Cruz habla con el respaldo de la experiencia. El papel que jugó su organización fue trascendental en la lucha para legalizar el aborto en México. Su trabajo comenzó el año 2000, cuando los legisladores de Guanajuato abolieron la

única excepción a la prohibición del aborto: en casos de embarazos producto de violación. Las Libres procedieron a organizar acciones directas y a exponer en público testimonios de sobrevivientes de agresiones sexuales, lo cual nunca se había hecho antes.

“Estábamos muy molestas y disgustadas. Protestamos, manifestamos nuestra indignación, y comenzamos a trabajar para garantizar que las mujeres tuvieran acceso a este derecho”, dice Cruz.

Décadas de activismo eventualmente dieron fruto. En septi-

embre de 2021 la Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación dictaminó, por unanimidad, que criminalizar el aborto era inconstitucional, dando paso a que el aborto sea legal a en toda la república mexicana.

El triunfo en México se alcanzó poco tiempo después del logro en Argentina, que legalizó el aborto en enero de 2021. A México le siguió Colombia, que legalizó el aborto en febrero de 2022. Colombia autorizó la realización de un aborto hasta las 24 semanas de

Vea **Lecciones**, página 23

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State News / Noticias del Estado

# Ending DACA Would Come at a High Cost, Economists Warn

COLORADO

By John Arnold

Eliminating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA as it's commonly known, would hit U.S. businesses hard, exacerbating labor shortages and costing employers billions in worker-turnover costs, economists at Metropolitan State University of Denver on November 29.

Research shows that federal and state governments would also lose out on billions of dollars in revenue and U.S. gross domestic product could take a \$215 billion hit if DACA ends, said Alexandre Padilla, Ph.D., professor and chair of MSU Denver's Department of Economics.

"It's definitely bad economics," Padilla said of the possibility that a U.S. District Court could soon terminate the program, which protects from deportation more than 600,000 undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children and provides them with work authorization.

Padilla was among the participants in a "DACA Teach-in" event

at MSU Denver, where immigration experts discussed legal, educational and economic impacts of the Obama-era policy.

A federal appeals court ruled in October that DACA was unlawful, but returned the case back to a lower court to consider it in light of a new regulation that the Biden administration added last summer.

“Right now, Dreamers are in serious limbo. In any moment, DACA could end. That’s what we expect in the immigration world.”  
Arturo Jiménez, J.D., MSU Denver

With DACA in legal peril, Democrats in the U.S. Senate are trying to pass legislation that would provide a pathway to citizenship for qualified immigrants, known as Dreamers, before Republicans take control of the U.S. House in January.

Immigrant advocates are "praying the lame-duck Congress can pass the DREAM Act," said Arturo Jiménez, J.D., an immigration lawyer

and affiliate professor in MSU Denver's Department of Chicana/o Studies.

"Right now, Dreamers are in serious limbo," he said. "In any moment, DACA could end. That's what we expect in the immigration world."

Such a ruling would be extraordinarily costly to the U.S. and Colorado economies, which are already facing a shortage of workers, panelists warned. Colorado has faced a workforce shortage in recent years, with tens of thousands of jobs unfilled, according to a state report issued last year.

"Labor shortages can lead to higher prices, and we're already feeling the sting of inflation," said Marie Mora, Ph.D., a labor economist and deputy provost at MSU Denver.

She added that many Dreamers who would face deportation are college graduates filling critical roles in health care, education and STEM fields, while others are small-business owners contributing to state and federal tax coffers.

If DACA ends, the federal government would lose out on more than \$6 billion a year in tax revenues and Colorado, where 13,000



Alexandre Padilla, Ph. D., chair of MSU Denver's Department of Economics, speaks at MSU Denver's DACA Teach-In with Marie Mora, Ph.D., a labor economist and deputy provost at MSU Denver. / Alexandre Padilla, Ph. D., presidente del Departamento de Economía de MSU Denver, habla en el DACA Teach-In de MSU Denver con Marie Mora, Ph.D., economista laboral y vicerrectora de MSU Denver.

DACA recipients reside, would lose out on more than \$60 million per year, Padilla said, citing a 2017 Cato Institute report.

Meanwhile, DACA's repeal and lack of a legislative solution could cause employee-turnover to cost businesses billions of dollars, as they would be faced with recruiting, hiring and training hundreds of thousands of new employees, he added.

"That's why this issue is relevant to their bottom line," Padilla said.

Despite the contentious political and legal debate over DACA, Padilla and Mora said there is a large consensus among economists that the benefits of immigration, including DACA, outweigh its costs but that their profession must do a better job of communicating their arguments and research to the public.

"Sometimes, folks aren't necessarily moved by the moral arguments (for DACA) and they need to hear the economic facts," said Chalane Lechuga, Ph.D., a professor in MSU Denver's Department of Chicana/o Studies who moderated last week's Teach-in.

That the event took place at MSU Denver is no coincidence,

Lechuga said, because the University "has been at the forefront of supporting DACA students."

She noted that in 2012, MSU Denver was the first university in the state to approve a reduced tuition rate for undocumented students and was a strong supporter of Colorado's ASSET bill, which provides in-state tuition for qualified undocumented students.

**Support MSU Denver's Dreamer Fund**

The University has established a Dreamer Emergency Fund to provide financial assistance for medical emergencies, dependent care, DACA renewal fees and more. The fund has helped more than 150 Dreamer students since it was established in 2020. To make a donation, visit the Student Care Center giving page and select "Dreamer Emergency Fund" from the Designation dropdown box.

John Arnold is Editor-in-chief of MSU RED. This story originally appeared on MSU Denver RED.

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## Poner Fin a DACA Tendría un Alto Coste, Advierten los Economistas



Foto: Photo: Alyson McClaram/MSU RED

Expertos en inmigración discutieron los impactos legales, educativos y económicos de la política de la era Obama en un evento "DACA Teach-in" en MSU Denver el 29 de noviembre. / Immigration experts discussed the legal, educational and economic impacts of the Obama-era policy at a "DACA Teach-in" event at MSU Denver on Tuesday, Nov. 29.

### COLORADO

Por John Arnold

La eliminación del programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia, o DACA como se le conoce comúnmente, golpearía duramente a las empresas estadounidenses, exacerbando la escasez de mano de obra y costando a los empleadores miles de millones en costos de rotación de trabajadores, según advirtieron economistas de la Universidad Estatal Metropolitana de Denver (MSU) el 29 de noviembre.



"En este momento, los Dreamers están en un limbo serio. En cualquier momento, DACA podría terminar. Eso es lo que esperamos en el mundo de la inmigración".

Arturo Jiménez, J.D.,  
MSU Denver

La investigación muestra que los gobiernos federal y estatales también perderían miles de millones de dólares en ingresos y el producto interno bruto de Estados Unidos podría recibir un golpe de 215 mil millones de dólares si DACA termina, dijo Alexandre Padilla, Ph.D., profesor y presidente del Departamento de Economía de MSU Denver.

"Es definitivamente una mala economía", dijo Padilla sobre la posibilidad de que un Tribunal de Distrito de EE.UU. pronto podría poner fin al programa, que protege de la deportación a más

de 600.000 inmigrantes indocumentados que fueron traídos a los EE.UU. cuando eran niños y les proporciona autorización de trabajo.

Padilla fue uno de los participantes en un evento "DACA Teach-in" en MSU Denver, donde expertos en inmigración discutieron los impactos legales, educativos y económicos de la política de la era Obama.

Un tribunal federal de apelaciones dictaminó en octubre que DACA era ilegal, pero devolvió el caso a un tribunal inferior para que lo considerara a la luz de una nueva regulación que la administración Biden añadió el verano pasado.

Con DACA en peligro legal, los demócratas en el Senado de EE.UU. están tratando de aprobar una legislación que proporcionaría una vía a la ciudadanía para los inmigrantes calificados, conocidos como Dreamers, antes de que los republicanos tomen el control de la Cámara de EE.UU. en enero.

Los defensores de los inmigrantes están "rezando para que el Congreso pueda aprobar la Ley DREAM", dijo Arturo Jiménez, J.D., abogado de inmigración y profesor afiliado en el Departamento de Estudios Chicanos de MSU Denver.

"En este momento, los Dreamers están en un limbo serio", dijo. "En cualquier momento, DACA podría terminar. Eso es lo que esperamos en el mundo de la inmigración".

Tal fallo sería extraordinariamente costoso para las economías de Estados Unidos y Colorado, que ya enfrentan una escasez de trabajadores, advirtieron los panelistas. Colorado se ha enfrentado a una escasez de mano de obra en los últimos años, con decenas de miles de puestos de trabajo sin cubrir,

según un informe estatal publicado el año pasado.

"La escasez de mano de obra puede conducir a precios más altos, y ya estamos sintiendo el aguijón de la inflación", dijo Marie Mora, Ph.D., economista laboral y vicerrectora de MSU Denver.

Añadió que muchos Dreamers que se enfrentarían a la deportación son graduados universitarios que desempeñan funciones críticas en la atención de la salud, la educación y los campos STEM, mientras que otros son propietarios de pequeñas empresas que

contribuyen a las arcas fiscales estatales y federales.

Si DACA termina, el gobierno federal perdería más de 6.000 millones de dólares al año en ingresos fiscales y Colorado, donde residen 13.000 beneficiarios de DACA, perdería más de 60 millones de dólares al año, dijo Padilla, citando un informe de 2017 del Instituto Cato.

Mientras tanto, la derogación de DACA y la falta de una solución legislativa podrían causar que la rotación de empleados cueste miles de millones de dólares a las

empresas, ya que se enfrentarían a reclutar, contratar y capacitar a cientos de miles de nuevos empleados, agregó.

"Por eso este asunto es relevante para su cuenta de resultados", dijo Padilla.

A pesar del polémico debate político y legal sobre DACA, Padilla y Mora dijeron que hay un gran consenso entre los economistas de que los beneficios de la inmigración, incluido DACA, superan sus costos, pero que su profesión

Vea DACA, página 27

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State News / Noticias del Estado

# Westside Oratorio at Su Teatro: An Inspiring Musical Production

COLORADO

By Luis Torres

**E**l Centro Su Teatro's current production of the musical, "Westside Oratorio" is an early Christmas gift to our community and a major artistic contribution to Denver, Colorado. The "Westside Oratorio" was originally written by Anthony "Tony" Garcia and Daniel Valdez, performed by Su Teatro in 2004, restaged since then, now being performed at Su Teatro, 721 Santa Fe Drive in Denver, December 1-18. This reviewer wrote an original review of the play upon its first production, printed in *The Weekly Issue/El Semanario*, revised and updated here, as with the play itself.

The music for "Westside Oratorio" was created and produced by Valdez, the actor, musician, and film producer noted, for example, for his role as Henry Leyva in the movie "Zoot Suit" and his production of "La Bamba." The lyrics and narrative were written by Garcia, artistic director of El Centro Su Teatro, an educator and well-known civil rights advocate in Denver, CO.

The "Westside Oratorio" is a musical historical rendition of Denver's Westside, including the section now housing the Auraria Campus

“  
We owe a debt of gratitude to El Centro Su Teatro for speaking so eloquently about our ancestors and for giving this gift to our heirs.”

of Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University, and the University of Colorado Denver. According to Garcia, the co-author, it is not a documentary, but it is based on real events, histories, and experiences of individuals and the community. It is the story set to music and lyrics of the growth and rise of the Auraria section of Denver's *Mexicano* Westside, the area targeted for demolition to build the Auraria Campus during the late 1960s and early 1970s. As the play reveals, such dispossessions are cyclical, but resisted and su-

perseded by its residents. For the former residents, the wounds from that displacement are still agonizingly painful.

For its 2004 production, articles detailed that removal. *The Denver Post* article, "Auraria Picked for Metro Site," of October 29, 1967, indicated that the Trustees of the State Colleges of Colorado had chosen the "184 acre site" of the Westside of Denver for the campus; the article claimed the neighborhood was "a declining area." In the March 10, 1973 edition of *The Rocky Mountain News*, the article "Official Demolition Starts in Auraria" noted, "Three homes of the 900 block of Ninth Street were bulldozed Friday, in the initial phase of land clearance for the Auraria Higher Education complex." These and other articles reveal part of the history told by the "Oratorio." In marked contrast, the "Oratorio" serves to assert about the Westside, "It was a sacred space."

One of the most significant artistic achievements of "Westside Oratorio" is its variety of genres and styles of its thirteen songs, with oral interludes interspersed between each song. The styles



El Centro Su Teatro's production of the musical, "Westside Oratorio" tells a story about seven generations of Mexican Americans in the Auraria neighborhood.

include a polka in the song "Ruby Hill Polka," a *corrido* in the *Norteña* style in "El Corrido del Inmigrante," a children's song in "Aye Mamacita No Llores," a swing Doo Wop style in "Veteran's Doo Wop (No Mexicans or Dogs Allowed)," and a *cumbia* in "La Rueda de la Vida." There is a contemporary ballad in "Westside Friends" and a song in the tradition of Chicano Movement protest songs in "Chicano Movement Suite." The lyrics and oral narratives give the chronology of the

seven generations which span the history of the Westside, with each style representative of its historical milieu.

"Mahk Jchi" is the first song, in the original Lakota language, written by Pura Fe, Soni, and Jen-Sampson, with a translation by Lawrence Dunmore. The song sets the stage for the narration in the song "Where the Rivers Meet," about the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indigenous nations living among "The confluence of the two mighty rivers and the buffalo path / Caused the Arapahoe and the Cheyenne to follow their food source," the Platte and Cherry Creek, which once were rivers.

As we are told,  
*The summer grasses were thick and the buffalo had grown fat,  
It was in this sacred triangle that life began,  
As it had been preserved for the ancestors before them  
They would gather to protect the land*

Generations later, it would fall to the Chicana/o community living on the same land to once again fight to "protect the land," the action and narrative of the play.

The brilliant, masterful song "Seven Generations" follows, at once introducing the philosophical wisdom of how generations build on each other and the prologue to the poetry and vision of the play. "Seven Generations" could serve as a delineation of the Indigenous principle that how we live today was set in motion as far back as the seventh generation of our ancestors, with its corollary that what our generation does today will follow on for the next seven generations of our posterity. We are the heirs of our ancestors, and we will be the ancestors of our heirs.

Please contact COLOR about upcoming community forums on the "Know Your Rights" training for immigrant families and the "What's At Stake?" information sessions regarding your health care coverage.

Contacta las oficinas de COLOR para obtener información de los próximos foros comunitarios sobre inmigración y el taller Conozca Sus Derechos. En los foros puedes saber más sobre como puede verse afectada tu cobertura médica mediante el taller ¿Qué está en juego?



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# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

The cast of A Christmas Carol. Photo by Jamie Keane. Photoography.

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State News / Noticias del Estado

# Northern New México Residents Fly Over Burn Scar to Map Damage Themselves

NEW MEXICO

By Megan Gleason

**H**undreds of miles of blackened, lifeless trees — vast stains on the land when viewed from above. Rivers and streams cutting their way through valleys and deadened forests. Even narrower waterways, acequias that New Mexicans rely on for their livelihood, scattered across the land, the water itself almost not even visible through the airplane's window.

A dusting of white snow — maybe a flooding threat again, come spring.

This is the work of a wildfire so large that it left billions of dollars of destruction across hundreds



A dead landscape remains in northern New Mexico after the Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon blaze. Pictured on Nov. 30, 2022. / Un paisaje muerto permanece en el norte de Nuevo México tras el incendio de Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon. Imagen del 30 de noviembre de 2022.

of thousands of acres in northern New México.

The victims of the blaze have been begging the federal govern-

ment — whose own employees ignited the flames — to restore the charred land and polluted water that many families have attended



Gilbert Quintana is strapped into the plane flying over the Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon burn scar, pointing to damaged areas on Nov. 30, 2022. / Gilbert Quintana está atado al avión que sobrevuela la cicatriz del incendio de Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon, señalando las zonas dañadas el 30 de noviembre de 2022.

to and lived on for generations.

Gilbert Quintana is an acequia steward and president of the Mora County Land Grant Association. He set up a flight for residents of Mora and San Miguel Counties over the Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon burn scar on Nov. 30, hoping to map out the injuries to their watersheds and acequias.

"We have our work cut out for us," said Quintana (Genizaro Pueblo).

It's been difficult for residents to actually see the whole of the damage, or to get ahold of charts or maps outlining what's been lost since places are inaccessible due to flooding and torn up roads. People living in Mora have also said the feds won't share the high-resolution images that they already have documenting the destruction.

Quintana said the goal is to get the state to push the feds to start down a firmer recovery path.

He reached out to EcoFlight, a nonprofit focused on environmental protection, to orchestrate the flight.

Pilot Bruce Gordon flew the residents in a small five-seater plane, drifting low and slow over the burn scar while recording and taking photos with Quintana guiding him.

"It's a big fire," Gordon said. "It's a big area."

Though the region is heavily altered, Quintana pointed out landmarks he easily recognized from the air after living in the area his entire life — the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Morphy Lake, the boundaries of Mora County.

Mountains and valleys were filled with the barren trees for miles with contrasting patches of bright snow scattered on burnt soil.

"It's not going to be the same for irrigators, for hunters, for farmers," he said.

Leafless trunks overtook entire cliffs, though on others, recently

fallen orange leaves dotted fields with new, green growth.

"There's a spot where it looks like they dropped a bomb on it," Quintana said, pointing to a circle of earth devoid of any real color. It's the outline of a spot where the U.S. Forest Service, fighting the blaze over months, set a smaller fire — a backburn — in order to remove fuels that if consumed would make the massive blaze even more difficult to control or extinguish.

“There’s an intentional appropriation of lands that is taking place, and they are taking advantage of not only low socio-economic status and limited resource availability, but now the devastation.”  
Eric Romero, New Mexico Highlands University

And even from thousands of feet above, Quintana could spot the acequias, too. He pointed to the damaged irrigation channels and named the people who depend on each for their agriculture.

Eric Romero, a professor at New Mexico Highlands University, also came on the flight with expertise of the land. He explained how the big fire as well as the backburns raced through the forests in varying levels of intensity, leaving behind different levels of damage visible from the plane — from forests that stayed mostly the same to entire fields burnt nearly to a crisp.

"If you're doing prescribed burns to fight a fire in 40 mile per hour winds, yeah, it gets away from you," he said.

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## Residentes Sobrevuelan la Cicatriz del Incendio para Ver los Daños



Gilbert Quintana stands in the Las Vegas Municipal Airport on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022.  
/ Gilbert Quintana en el Aeropuerto Municipal de Las Vegas el 30 de noviembre de 2022.

millas con parches contrastantes de nieve brillante dispersos en el suelo quemado.

"No va a ser lo mismo para los regantes, para los cazadores, para los agricultores", dijo.

Los troncos sin hojas ocupaban acantilados enteros, aunque en otros, las hojas anaranjadas recién caídas salpicaban los campos de nuevo crecimiento verde.

"Hay un punto en el que parece que hayan lanzado una bomba", dijo Quintana, señalando un círculo de tierra sin color. Es el contorno

de un lugar donde el Servicio Forestal de EE.UU., luchando contra el fuego durante meses, estableció un incendio más pequeño - un backburn - con el fin de eliminar los combustibles que si se consume haría que el incendio masivo aún más difícil de controlar o extinguir.

Incluso a miles de metros de altura, Quintana podía ver las acequias. Señaló los canales de riego dañados y nombró a las personas que dependen de cada uno de ellos para su agricultura.

Eric Romero, profesor de la Universidad Highlands de Nuevo México, también vino en el vuelo con conocimientos de la tierra. Explicó cómo el gran incendio, así como las quemaduras posteriores, recorrieron los bosques con distintos niveles de intensidad, dejando tras de sí distintos niveles de daños visibles desde el avión: desde bosques que permanecieron prácticamente igual hasta campos enteros quemados casi hasta las cenizas.

Ve **Daños**, página 25

### NEW MEXICO

Por Megan Gleason

Cientos de kilómetros de árboles ennegrecidos y sin vida, enormes manchas en la tierra vistas desde arriba. Ríos y arroyos abriéndose paso a través de valles y bosques muertos. Vías fluviales aún más estrechas, acequias de las que dependen los habitantes de Nuevo México para su subsistencia, esparcidas por la tierra, el agua misma casi ni siquiera visible a través de la ventanilla del avión.

“

Se está produciendo una apropiación intencionada de tierras, y se están aprovechando no sólo del bajo nivel socioeconómico y de la limitada disponibilidad de recursos, sino también de la devastación”.

Eric Romero, Universidad Highlands de Nuevo México

Una capa de nieve blanca, tal vez una amenaza de inundación de nuevo, en primavera.

Este es el trabajo de un incendio forestal tan grande que dejó miles de millones de dólares de destrucción a través de cientos de miles de hectáreas en el norte de Nuevo México.

Las víctimas del incendio han estado rogando al gobierno federal -cuyos propios empleados encendieron las llamas- que restituya la tierra carbonizada y el agua contaminada que muchas familias han atendido y de las que han vivido durante generaciones.

Gilbert Quintana es administrador de acequias y presidente de

la Mora County Land Grant Association. Organizó un vuelo para los residentes de los condados de Mora y San Miguel sobre la cicatriz del incendio de Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon el 30 de noviembre, con la esperanza de trazar un mapa de las lesiones sufridas por sus cuencas hidrográficas y acequias.

"Tenemos mucho trabajo por delante", dijo Quintana (Genizaro Pueblo).

Ha sido difícil para los residentes ver realmente la totalidad de los daños, o conseguir gráficos o mapas que describan lo que se ha perdido, ya que los lugares son inaccesibles debido a las inundaciones y a las carreteras destrozadas. La gente que vive en Mora también ha dicho que los federales no compartirán las imágenes de alta resolución que ya tienen documentando la destrucción.

Quintana dijo que el objetivo es conseguir que el Estado presione a los federales para que inicien un proceso de recuperación más firme.

Se puso en contacto con EcoFlight, una organización sin ánimo de lucro dedicada a la protección del medio ambiente, para organizar el vuelo.

El piloto Bruce Gordon llevó a los residentes en un pequeño avión de cinco plazas, sobrevolando a baja altura y lentamente la cicatriz del incendio mientras grababa y sacaba fotos con Quintana como guía.

"Es un gran incendio", dijo Gordon. "Es una gran zona".

Aunque la región está muy alterada, Quintana señaló puntos de referencia que reconocía fácilmente desde el aire después de haber vivido en la zona toda su vida: las montañas Sangre de Cristo, el lago Morphy, los límites del condado de Mora.

Montañas y valles estaban llenos de los árboles estériles por

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National News/Noticias Nacionales

# The World Cup: The Significance of Soccer at Home and Abroad

By Benjamin Neufeld

Exploring the global appeal and popularity of soccer, Ethnic Media Services recently hosted a panel of soccer players, coaches, and sports journalists to discuss the World Cup, the significance of soccer throughout the world, and some of the political implications associated with the sport.

The panel included Henrik Reh binder, a journalist and analyst from Argentina; Charles Anchang, a journalist from Cameroon; Ehab Zenga, a soccer coach from Egypt; and Andrew Howwon Jo, a soccer coach from South Korea.

Beginning the discussion, the panelists speculated that the accessibility of soccer is what has made it such a popular sport worldwide. "You don't need any equipment to play soccer," said Zenga, a professional soccer coach and owner, Legacy Anaheim FC; Director of Coaching, California Futbol Club. Any object can take the place of a ball, he explained. Zenga used to play the sport barefoot as a child—prov-

ing that even shoes are not a requirement. Anchang described how soccer was the only sport he and his friends could afford to play growing up.

Rehbinder theorized that children have a natural instinct to both run and kick, making the natural progression to turning these actions into a formal sport inevitable.

The accessibility, affordability, and our natural propensity toward Soccer make it a natural catalyst for cross-cultural connection. At the World Cup, even players from hostile countries like the United States and Iran can play a friendly and fair game. The sport is also an opportunity for immigration. Many of the players in the World Cup on European teams came from, or have close family ties to, African or Latin American countries.

Anchang described how soccer, more than anything, put his home country of Cameroon on the world stage. Anchang, in addition to the three other panelists, each reported soccer playing a role in their immigration to the U.S.

The U.S. has always had a reputation for being bad at soccer

relative to the rest of the world. The sport is far less popular here than other countries, and we tend to invest most of our athletic talent into sports like football, basketball, and baseball, which are less popular worldwide. Though the U.S. team has been eliminated from the World Cup by The Netherlands, their uncharacteristically impressive performance during the group stage matches shows how the sport is gaining more widespread national popularity—an effect of immigrant culture, according to the panelists.

Ironically, the U.S. women's soccer team has been extraordinarily competitive at the international level—having won four world cup titles. Their disproportionate lack of popularity may speak to some amount of sexism in the culture around the sport. Reh binder described soccer as very "machista." He recalled a 70s trend in which attractive women in revealing outfits would play soccer more for the purpose of sexualization for men's entertainment than as a high-stakes athletic competition. While soccer is still predominantly seen



Photo/Foto: Adobe Stock

Soccer experts feel that the accessibility of soccer is what has made it such a popular sport worldwide.

as a men's sport, that attitude is slowly changing. Many of the panelists described female participation in the sport as a solid litmus test for a culture's progressivism on women's rights.

Though no female teams play in the World Cup, women's rights has been a hot topic of discussion amid controversy surrounding the host country of the World Cup: Qatar, which has a notoriously weak record on women's rights. This record came to a head after specula-

tion about how the country's strict policies might affect fans visiting to watch the World Cup. Numerous other controversies have inundated the country—principally: migrant worker deaths during construction and preparation for the World Cup, and accusations that the country bribed the FIFA (*Fédération Internationale de Football Association* or in English, International Association Football Federation) executive

See Soccer on page 25

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## La Copa del Mundo: La Importancia del Fútbol en el País y en el Extranjero

NEW MEXICO

Por Benjamin Neufeld

Para analizar el atractivo y la popularidad del fútbol en todo el mundo, Ethnic Media Services organizó recientemente una mesa redonda de futbolistas, entrenadores y periodistas deportivos para hablar de la Copa Mundial, la importancia del fútbol en todo el mundo y algunas de las implicaciones políticas asociadas a este deporte.

En la mesa redonda participaron Henrik Reh binder, periodista y analista de Argentina; Charles Anchang, periodista de Camerún; Ehab Zenga, entrenador de fútbol de Egipto; y Andrew Howwon Jo, entrenador de fútbol de Corea del Sur.

Al comenzar el debate, los panelistas especularon que la accesibilidad del fútbol es lo que lo ha convertido en un deporte tan popular en todo el mundo. "No se necesita ningún equipamiento para jugar al fútbol", afirmó Zenga, entrenador profesional de fútbol y propietario del Legacy Anaheim FC; Director de Entrenamiento del California Futbol Club. Cualquier

objeto puede ocupar el lugar de un balón, explicó. De niño, Zenga practicaba este deporte descalzo, lo que demuestra que ni siquiera el calzado es un requisito. Anchang describió cómo el fútbol era el único deporte que él y sus amigos podían permitirse cuando eran pequeños.

Rehbinder teorizó que los niños tienen un instinto natural para correr y chutar, lo que hace inevitable la progresión natural para convertir estas acciones en un deporte formal.

La accesibilidad, la asequibilidad y nuestra propensión natural hacia el fútbol lo convierten en un catalizador natural para la conexión intercultural. En la Copa Mundial, incluso jugadores de países hostiles como Estados Unidos e Irán pueden jugar un partido amistoso y limpio. Este deporte es también una oportunidad para la inmigración. Muchos de los jugadores de los equipos europeos que participaron en el Mundial procedían de países africanos o latinoamericanos o tenían estrechos lazos familiares con ellos.

Anchang describió cómo el fútbol, más que ninguna otra cosa, puso a su país natal, Camerún, en

la escena mundial. Anchang, al igual que los otros tres panelistas, afirmó que el fútbol desempeñó un papel importante en su inmigración a Estados Unidos.

Estados Unidos siempre ha tenido fama de ser malo en fútbol en comparación con el resto del mundo. Este deporte es mucho menos popular aquí que en otros países, y tendemos a invertir la mayor parte de nuestro talento atlético en deportes como el fútbol, el baloncesto y el béisbol, que son menos populares en todo el mundo. Aunque la selección de Estados Unidos ha sido eliminada del Mundial por Holanda, su impresionante rendimiento durante los partidos de la fase de grupos demuestra que este deporte está ganando popularidad a nivel nacional, un efecto de la cultura inmigrante, según los panelistas.

Irónicamente, la selección femenina de fútbol de Estados Unidos ha sido extraordinariamente competitiva a nivel internacional, con cuatro títulos mundiales. Su desproporcionada falta de popularidad puede hablar de cierto sexismo en la cultura que rodea a

Vea Fútbol, página 25



Hastings & Torres

attempts. What would be novel is that they surprise us and do the right thing and at least advance legalization of Dreamers as a down payment on the elusive immigration reform. But even then, we see once again that the Democrats always leave everything to the last minute, when there remains almost nothing other than hope to achieve something positive on the immigration issue, while Republicans adopt an attitude of having won everything, not for the common good, but exclusively for their political enclave—without realizing that, in a democracy, governing for some is governing for no one. We have already recited, to exhaustion, the benefits of legalization for this country. Research on the issue tells us that the Dreamers add more than \$40 billion to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) yearly, which translates to almost six times more than the \$7 billion that DACA costs the United States. Dreamers are present in every facet of our economy: they are consumers, investors, have opened businesses and are workers. And with their academic preparation, they have fortified the international competitiveness of the United States. What other proof of personal, social, cultural, or economic commitment does the anti-immigrant part of the United States need in order to humanize not only the Dreamers in their mind, but also to humanize themselves to face such a definitively humanitarian issue? It's a fact that today's United States already rejected a white nationalist vision a long time ago, but this segment of society has not accepted this reality—so much so that it wallows in its own hatred and foolishness, rather than acknowledge this new country's existence.

The worst part is that the deferred action program (DACA) which, since 2012 has protected Dreamers from deportation and granted them work permits, continues to run the risk of being eliminated in the courts. There are 600,000 people who benefit from DACA and it's calculated that another 400,000 are eligible, but cannot benefit because a judicial order doesn't permit new applications. These lame duck sessions of Congress are not characterized by grand achievements, since the party that won control but will not assume it until January, in this case the Republicans, have neither the appetite nor the goodwill to support the measures of those who lost control of the chamber. But bad faith and politicking are not good advisors. And in the case of the Republicans, despite the fact that their extremism failed at the polls, they don't seem to be in a hurry, at the moment, to abandon their political strategy. It's not to be expected, also, that their hearts and feelings would soften to those who need it. And in that we are referring not only to the Dreamers in this case, but to U.S. society as a whole. At any rate, the still-Democratic majority must try to close out the electoral year that wasn't as bad as anticipated by advancing legalization of Dreamers, to at least begin to make their unfulfilled promises a reality.

*Maribel Hastings is a Senior Advisor to América's Voice.  
David Torres is a Spanish-language Advisor at América's Voice.*

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su familia en la lucha por los trabajadores."

Ross siguió los pasos de su padre, Fred Ross Sr., otro organizador legendario que tuvo un impacto profundo en Chávez. "Él me descubrió, me inspiró", dijo Chávez acerca de Ross Sr., que lo contrató y capacitó como organizador a los 25 años en San José antes de fundar la Unión de Campesinos con Huerta. "Él pensaba que yo tenía lo que se necesitaba para ser organizador. Me dio una oportunidad, y eso llevó a muchas cosas".

El talento de Ross Jr. consistía en tomar lo que había aprendido de Chávez y su padre, combinar esas lecciones con campañas so-

bre el terreno con voluntarios locales, usar de forma inteligente los medios, y presionar a los patrones, los gobiernos estatales, y el Congreso en diversas causas de justicia social.

Ross comenzó su trabajo de organizador a tiempo completo a los 23 años con los trabajadores agrícolas durante la masiva huelga de la lechuga en Salinas en 1970. Una contribución notable fue la organización de una marcha de 110 millas contra los vinos de Gallo, desde Union Square de San Francisco hasta la sede de Gallo, donde por lo menos 10,000 trabajadores agrícolas y partidarios llenaron las calles de Modesto.

Una de las razones de la marcha contra Gallo fue la de presionar al gobernador Jerry Brown a firmar la Ley de Relaciones Laborales Agrícolas, decretada en junio de 1975. Fue la primera ley de su tipo que establecía el derecho de los trabajadores agrícolas a organizarse, votar en elecciones sindicales y negociar con sus patrones.

Ross se valió de reuniones en casas como táctica central a lo largo de su carrera. Ese fue el sello distintivo del enfoque de Ross para organizar: creaba relaciones individuales para, según sus palabras, ejercer "poder colectivo".

Arturo Rodríguez, que sucedió a Chávez como presidente de la UFW y desempeñó ese papel durante 25 años, dijo que Ross "realmente encarnaba el lema de *Si se puede*". Dijo que la creencia de Ross en las reuniones en casas "durante todas estas décadas ha sido verdaderamente increíble, y me dio fe para continuar el proceso de las reuniones en casas como nuestra manera básica de organizar".

En los años 80, Ross dirigió Neighbor to Neighbor, que inicialmente se centraba en la grave situación de los refugiados de Centroamérica, pero que se convirtió en un esfuerzo mucho mayor para enfrentar las políticas de EUA en la región que contribuían a que la gente huyera de sus países.

Después de presionar al Congreso para acabar con las ayudas de EUA a los Contras, el grupo rebelde de derechas que luchaba contra el gobierno Sandinista de Nicaragua, Neighbor to Neighbor lanzó un boicot de café salvadoreño para presionar al gobierno a retirar su apoyo de los escuadrones de la muerte. Como resultado de los piquetes formados por Neighbor to Neighbor, los estibadores se negaron a descargar cargas de café en toda la costa Oeste, incluyendo Long Beach.

Después de que los votantes de California aprobaran la Proposición 187 en 1994 promovida por el gobernador Pete Wilson, Ross ayudó a lanzar la Campaña de la ciudadanía activa en Los Ángeles que presionó con éxito al Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización para que acelerara el proceso de solicitud para la nacionalidad a seis meses.

"No solo tuvimos un papel sustancial en ayudar a que miles de personas se naturalizaran, sino que, y más importante, a que se involucraran mucho más en todo el proceso político", recordaba Ross poco antes de fallecer. "Eso fue un verdadero avance para seguir creando el poder de votación latino en California".

Durante el último año de su vida, Ross se dedicó a producir un documental acerca del legado de

su padre. La película, que se espera que se estrene en 2023, tiene como objetivo inspirar a otros a organizar, y lo hace destacando el impacto que tiene la organización de las bases populares en el cambio a largo plazo.

"Como en el caso de su padre, las labores de Fred Jr. nunca trataban de sí mismo", dijo la Unión de Campesinos en un tributo. "Siempre trató de capacitar a los demás para que creyeran que eran ellos los responsables del progreso que conseguían. La naturaleza de Fred Jr. era incesantemente positiva; siempre pensaba que las cosas se podían hacer".

A Fred Ross Jr. le sobreviven su esposa, Margo Feinberg; su hijo e hija, Charley y Helen Ross; su hermano, Robert Ross; y su hermana, Julia Ross. En su memoria, la familia pide que se destinen contribuciones al proyecto del documental de Fred Ross Sr. mediante fredrossproject.org. Las condolencias y recuerdos que se envíen a FredrossMemories@gmail.com se compartirán con su familia.

*Louis Freedberg reporting for Ethnic Media Services. Reproducido con permiso de Ethnic Media Services.*

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Rodríguez

significantly. (The original stock image shows that the person cutting the child's hair has white skin.) Clearly, the darkening of the skin tone is hugely problematic, implying that the state's Republican Party thinks the types of people who are seen as "criminals" are people with dark skin.

Beyond that, this is yet another move from self-serving politicians to eliminate a lifeline that many in the system depend on in order to re-establish their lives on the outside.

Cutting hair is a trade that many who are incarcerated have the opportunity to learn, and it's one of the few career paths that is relatively accessible to folks who have been incarcerated. A felony conviction can have a serious impact on finding a job, so many folks seek out trades like cutting hair because they can open their own businesses or find work without as many barriers.

Earning these types of licenses while incarcerated can make an immense difference in a person's life when they leave a correctional facility, because they can start

looking for employment right after their release. Professional licenses are a critical support for people who have been incarcerated, and these mailers show how laughably out of touch the GOP still is when it comes to people who have been impacted by the criminal system that they, as elected officials, make decisions about.

Let's call this mailer what it is — racist dehumanization. We all know the criminal punishment system disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), because the system was set up to disenfranchise folks of color in order to maintain and further the white supremacist status quo.

What the state's GOP intended to do with these racist mailers was to further demonize and dehumanize People of Color and people living in poverty who are more likely to have run-ins with the criminal system, in an effort to fear monger and place themselves on a morally superior pedestal.

We all see through this tactic, which is why the GOP failed to win so many of their elections this year.

New México voters are smart and didn't fall for their racist dog whistles.

I'm not a predator. I'm a person who had a past felony conviction and built a life for myself to the best of my ability, given what's been stacked against me. And I'm tired of the racist, dehumanizing rhetoric I hear from politicians on both sides of the aisle when it comes to crime.

I expect (but don't anticipate) that the GOP own up to this repulsive mailer, and apologize for the many ways in which this type of rhetoric causes harm to people who are rebuilding their lives after receiving a felony conviction.

*Peter Rodriguez is a member of OLE who earned his barber's license while incarcerated in Santa Rosa, and who still cuts hair professionally long after his release from prison. This oped is republished from Source New Mexico under a Creative Commons license.*

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## Hastings &amp; Torres/Esp

que se revuelca en su propio odio e insensatez antes que reconocer la existencia de un nuevo país.

Lo peor del caso es que la acción diferida (DACA) que desde 2012 protege a los Dreamers de la deportación y les concede permisos de trabajo sigue corriendo el riesgo de ser eliminada en los tribunales. Hay 600 mil beneficiarios de DACA y se calcula que otros 400 mil son elegibles, pero no pueden beneficiarse porque un fallo judicial no permite nuevos casos.

Estas sesiones de Congreso saliente (*lame duck*) no se caracterizan por grandes logros, toda vez que el partido que ganó el control pero no lo asume hasta enero, en este caso los republicanos, no tienen el apetito ni la buena voluntad de apoyar medidas de los que perdieron el control cameral. La mala fe y la politiquería no son buenos consejeros. Y en el caso de los republicanos, pese a que su ex-

tremismo fracasó en las urnas, no parecen tener prisa, de momento, en abandonar su estrategia política. No es de esperarse, tampoco, que se les ablande el corazón ni los sentimientos para hacer el bien a quien lo necesita, y por ello no nos referimos solamente a los Dreamers en este caso, sino a la sociedad estadounidense en su conjunto.

De todos modos, la todavía mayoría demócrata debe tratar de cerrar un año electoral donde no les fue tan mal como se anticipaba, impulsando la legalización de los Dreamers para al menos comenzar a hacer realidad tanta promesa incumplida.

*Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice. David Torres es Asesor en Español de América's Voice.*

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## Micek

suicide in the past year, [NPR reported last month](#), citing data compiled by the Trevor Project.

That's just one reason why we can never speak too loudly about the victories among those tragedies.

Openly LGBTQ Americans are rightfully taking their place as elected leaders, such as Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey, who is the first woman, and first openly gay person, to serve as the Bay State's first chief executive. In Pennsylvania, lawmakers such as Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, D-Philadelphia, and Jessica Benham, D-Allegheny, [are among the out lawmakers serving in the General Assembly](#).

LGBTQ Americans are becoming ever-more visible on television and in film. And the Colorado shooting has reinforced the urgency of telling LGBTQ-centered stories, Will Graham, the show-runner for *A League of Our Own*, which streams on Amazon Prime, [told Forbes](#).

"I think for so many of us, queer spaces are just an integral part of how we found ourselves and found our community and really understood who we were. We need those safe spaces and the idea that they are being targeted is heart-breaking," Graham said. "My heart goes out to those people who were there and the community around that space. We're seeing very clearly that things don't always move forward and that our lives and our stories are being politicized more than they were a few years ago and

that has consequences like these."

So while it is imperfect, let's talk about and celebrate this historic vote. Government does much that is blundering, blind and borderline incompetent. But in those instances where it moves to protect the health, welfare, and security of millions of our fellow citizens, and to ensure the same equality we all enjoy, those are moments to be lifted up and noted.

It takes on an added importance when families and friends are mourning the loss of their loved ones, not just in Colorado, but across the country. It becomes a duty when a young person is considering taking their own life because they fear they will be shunned instead of embraced and celebrated.

We can never say often enough that we love them, that we hold them close, and that we will vow to keep them safe. Not just in times of tragedy. But every day. And always.

*(If you are considering suicide, or know someone who is, there always is help. Call the national Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.)*

*John L. Micek is the editor-in-chief of Pennsylvania Capital-Star.*

*This commentary originally appeared in the Pennsylvania Capital-Star.*

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At the heart of "Westside Oratorio" is the "protect the land" determination from "Where the Rivers Meet," updated to the late 1960s and early 1970s when the Westside was slated for the destruction of its neighborhoods to make way for the Auraria campus. These plans followed the arrival of the Mexican refugees from the Mexican Civil War of 1910-1920 into what became the Westside, as they disembarked from the trains and moved the few blocks to the west to the then-developing area. Lurking unsuspected by the residents was the insidious U.S. Government real estate practice known as "redlining," the method of literally drawing on a map of Denver a red line around neighborhoods dominated by especially Blacks and Mexicans. That was the fate that interrupted the generations of *Mexicanos* in the westside. While they were recent immigrants, they were predated as early as 1857 by Mexican prospectors who found gold in the Platte River coursing through what would become Denver. Among other gold strikes in the area, this caused a rush of prospectors from back East that transformed the area into the establishment of Denver in 1858.

The U.S. government, through its Federal Housing Administra-



"Westside Oratorio" is the story set to music and lyrics of the growth and rise of the Auraria section of Denver's *Mexicano* Westside, the area targeted for demolition to build the Auraria Campus during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

tion, established by the National Housing Act of 1934, began the "redlining" practice by 1938. A residential map, still available to us today, created by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation in 1938, shows the effect. The Westside at the time included as redlined the southern part of the current Auraria campus, with the rest labeled an "Industrial" area. It extended south of Colfax, and included from Osage on the West to Delaware and Acoma on the East, to Bayaud in the south. Along with other redlined areas in Denver, such as Five Points, the resi-

dents of Westside were noted as not worthy of receiving real estate mortgage loans, making it difficult if not impossible for the residents to purchase homes for their families, leading to an impoverished area, sending rent money outside of the neighborhood and enriching others with increasing home equity. (Type "History of Redlining in Denver" in your search engine for information.)

Perhaps the controlling metaphor of the "Oratorio" is that of rivers, not only the physical Platte River and Cherry Creek, but also the rivers of people who came to and left from the Westside. "Los Tres Rios" establishes this metaphor, with the refrain, "Tres rios me llevan a mi" out of México and into the United States, the story of this reviewer's father, uncle, and two aunts, left orphans by the Mexican Civil War. This metaphor of a river of people is expanded in the next number, "El Corrido del Inmigrante," the story of a large number of *Mexicano* immigrants to Colorado. During and after the Mexican Civil War of 1910—1920, approximately one million Mexicans fled their country because of the violence and social disruption caused by the War. Most had to leave by the major transportation means available, railroads and trains, from México converging in Juárez, and across the Rio Grande from El

Paso into the United States. The rails led in three directions: Los Angeles to the West, Chicago to the Midwest, and Denver to the North. "El Corrido del Inmigrante," then, is not only the story of the populating of Denver's Westside but of much of the rest of Northern Colorado by *Mexicanos*.

Several of the remaining songs also depict the unfolding history but also are lyrics of love, separation, loss, and achievement. There is the beautiful "Christmas Memory Song," sung wonderfully in soprano by the singer. This is the story of a young child waiting for his or her father to arrive home from work: "He works 'til long after dark, / Loading the mail into trains / For Christmas... Mama says, it's good to have work / At Christmas." The child can't stay awake and falls asleep but knows that his or her Christmas present will be the father's loving whisper of "Good-night" when he returns.

There is also the "Veteran's Doo Wop (No Dogs or Mexicans Allowed)," with the subtitle taken from signs which used to be posted in some businesses in Colorado. The irony is that the narrator of the song has just returned from the Korean War:

*I served in Uncle Sam's Army,  
Damn proud to wear my uniform...  
I can't find a job any more...  
No dogs or Mexicans allowed here,  
Sign seemed to stand out in the crowd....*

Adding to the dramatic irony was the upbeat tempo of the music, with the singers swaying and dancing, in marked contrast to the "No Mexicans or Dogs Allowed" lyrics.

The remaining songs and narratives point to the heart of the Oratorio, the loss of the neighborhood lamented in the poignant "Chicano Movement Suite." There is also "Westside Friends," a song longing and even aching for the loved ones separated by the destruction of the Westside. As is said in "Chicano Movement Suite," "We will come and then go / What remains is memory," followed by

the "Westside Friends" lines, "They reminisce of the places they miss / On that Westside of Denver." We are also told, in the final narrative, "The Ghosts of the Westside," the former residents "offer you memory, / That which is the true gift / From the seven generations before you" to do with as we will. Our first debt to them is to remember.

"The Westside Oratorio" is an artistic rendition of the historical function of an "oratorio," a musical form which originated in Italy in the 1550s, originally a form for religious worship without acting or staging. The etymology of "Oratorio" is "chapel," or a place of worship. Major Oratorios such as Johann Sebastian Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" and Handel's "Messiah" continued this religious musical tradition, but the form changed to include secular themes adapted to the form while still retaining a devotional tone. This devotion to the Westside in the play is the ultimate effect of "The Westside Oratorio" in depicting the area and the people. Rather than the Government Housing Authority which demeaned the citizens with their redlining, and the Colorado Legislature's and media's depiction of the neighborhood as "declining" and fit for bulldozing, the "Oratorio" treats the memory of the people, buildings, and land with dignity and even devotion. We owe a debt of gratitude to El Centro Su Teatro for speaking so eloquently about our ancestors and for giving this gift to our heirs.

*The Westside Oratorio continues through December 18. Tickets are available at [Su Teatro](http://SuTeatro.com) or call 303-296-0219. All audience members are required to wear a mask while inside Su Teatro's facility.*

*Luis Torres, Ph.D. is an educator. He retired in 2016 as Metropolitan State University of Denver's Deputy Provost for Academic and Student Affairs, and professor of Chicana/o Studies.*

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PODCAST



Ross

to sign the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, enacted in June 1975. It was the first law of its kind establishing the right of farm workers to organize, vote in union elections, and bargain with their employers.

Ross employed house meetings as a central tactic throughout his career. That was the hallmark of Ross' approach to organizing: building one-on-one relationships to, in his words, exercise "collective power."

Arturo Rodríguez, who succeeded Chávez as president of the UFW, and served in that role for 25 years, said Ross "truly embodied Si Se Puede." He said Ross' belief in house meetings "throughout all these decades has been truly amazing and gave me faith to continue the house meeting process as our basic way of organizing."

In the 1980s, Ross led Neighbor to Neighbor which initially focused on the plight of refugees from Central America but grew into a much larger effort to confront U.S. policies in the region that contributed to people fleeing their countries.

After putting pressure on Congress to end U.S. aid to the Contras, the right-wing rebel group fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, Neighbor to Neighbor launched a boycott of Salvadoran coffee to pressure the government to withdraw its support of death squads. As a result of picket lines set up by Neighbor to Neighbor, longshoremen refused to unload coffee cargoes up and down the West Coast, including in Long Beach.

After California voters approved Proposition 187 in 1994 promoted by Gov. Pete Wilson, Ross helped launch the Active Citizenship Campaign in Los Angeles which successfully put pressure on the

Immigration and Naturalization Service to speed up the application process for naturalization to six months.

"We not only played a tangible role helping thousands become citizens, but, more importantly, to become a lot more engaged in the whole political process," recalled Ross shortly before he died. "That was a real breakthrough in continuing to build Latino voting power in California."

During the last year of his life, Ross had devoted himself to producing a documentary film about his father's legacy. The film, expected to be released in 2023, seeks to inspire others to organize by highlighting the impact of grassroots organizing on long term change.

"As with his father, Fred Jr.'s labors were never about himself," the United Farm Workers said in a tribute. "He was always about empowering others to believe they were responsible for the progress they won. Fred Jr.'s nature was ceaselessly positive; he always thought things could be done."

Ross is survived by his wife, Margo Feinberg; his children, Charley and Helen Ross; brother, Robert Ross; and sister, Julia Ross. In his memory, the family asks that contributions be made to the Fred Ross Sr. documentary project via fredrossproject.org. Condolences and memories sent to Fredross-Memories@gmail.com will be shared with his family.

*Louis Freedberg for Ethnic Media Services. Reproduced with permission by Ethnic Media Services.*

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**Our work to ensure that people can be healthy & thrive must include striving for Indigenous Justice.**

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Women across México say it's crucial to build a broad pro-choice movement to push for legal and safe abortions. / *Mujeres de todo México afirman que es crucial crear un amplio movimiento a favor del derecho a decidir para impulsar el aborto legal y seguro.*

abortion during the first 14 weeks of gestation.

By contrast, Colombian activists won abortion rights through the courts. In 2021, more than 100 individual activists and 92 organizations petitioned the constitutional court to address abortion—which the court did in February 2022, legalizing abortion through the second trimester.

It was a striking development in a conservative and overwhelmingly Catholic country. Abortion in Colombia was banned completely until 2006, when an initial constitutional court ruling decriminalized abortion if the life or health of the pregnant person was at risk, in cases of severe fetal abnormality, or if the pregnancy was the result of rape. That ruling was prompted by activists in what would become the Causa Justa movement, comprising more than 100 groups fighting for abortion rights.

One of those groups was Women's Link Worldwide, which strategized to use the power of law not just to win a case but to "actually achieve sustainable social change," says Mariana Ardila, the organization's former managing attorney. Litigation can be its own advocacy tool, providing an opportunity to organize, gain allies and partnerships, produce educational materials, plan public events, and strategize.

"There are many decisions on paper that do not actually transform the reality of women and girls and pregnant people," says Ardila. It's crucial to build a broad movement, she adds—so that when a good legal decision comes down, the sociocultural seeds for implementing the law have already

been planted. And if the ruling goes the other way, advocates have still gained a stronger, more unified movement and begun to tear through disinformation. This is especially important when the subject is abortion, which is still steeped in misinformation and stigma.

Ardila says flipping the script on common anti-abortion talking points was an important facet of the Causa Justa movement, leading some politicians to publicly support abortion for the first time. A key element of the 2021 Colombian lawsuit focused on "liberty of conscience." A version of this argument has long been used against abortion access, permitting the denial of this health care based on religious grounds.

"But we sort of [flipped] the argument and said, 'OK, this criminal regulation of abortion is actually imposing decisions on people's conscience that [they] may not agree [with], so you are impeding people from actually making decisions according to their individual conscience,'" says Ardila. "This was actually one of the arguments that the court accepted. For the first time, liberty of conscience was used to protect access to abortion and abortion rights and not to oppose them."

According to attorneys and activists in Colombia, Mexico, and Argentina, securing the right to abortion was the result of a multipronged approach: grassroots organizing, strategic litigation, and most importantly, changing the narrative.

In Colombia, Ardila calls it the "social decriminalization" of abortion: eliminating stigma around

abortion and thus changing how people think, talk, and feel about this form of health care.

"If you only fix the law through a lawsuit or through a bill—and people still think that [abortion] shouldn't be happening—it's very possible that a decision won't be implemented or that it will be overturned, [like what] happened in the United States," Ardila says. "We said very clearly: This is not about if abortion is good or bad, if you agree or not, or if you want an abortion or not. It's about how to regulate abortion. Do we want to regulate it through criminal laws, which are ineffective to prevent abortion [and] which put vulnerable women in danger? Or do we want to try other means to regulate abortion, like health care laws and social policies?"

The abortion rights movement has to set the terms of the debate, echoes feminist attorney Sabrina Cartabia Groba, who fought to secure abortion rights in Argentina. Cartabia Groba says the most effective messaging rejected the language of death: the death of "unborn babies" or of women from unsafe illegal abortions.

"Why is it that 'abortion' is a word related to death and not to life?" Cartabia Groba asks. "We will always have this kind of taboo surrounding abortion, because death is the taboo surrounding it. We need to change narratives to start talking about why women perform abortions. What are the meanings of those abortions in [the lives of] these women? It's opportunities. It's choice. It's freedom."

Balaguer prefers to lean into the health care angle. Women do die from unsafe abortions. And it's im-

portant to make it clear that "women dying is more tragic than babies not being born," she says.

"If you want to focus on the woman deciding, that's not nice," Balaguer explains. "No one wants a free woman. It doesn't sell."

Cruz, of México's Las Libres, agrees that shifting narratives is critical to expanding abortion access. She calls these efforts "the work of ants": little by little, people start to understand that abortion is natural, safe, and has always existed.

"It is not safe when it's stigmatized and when it's made illegal," Cruz says. "In the United States ... there's a lot of work to be done to really change the narrative and to bring about that whole cultural shift to where abortion is seen as an essential part of life and something that just happens."

Balaguer saw this cultural shift happen in Argentina, as people began to recognize abortion as a normal part of health care.

"To be able to speak about it and to change the stigma and what people knew about it was crucial," Balaguer says. "What happened in 2018 is that everybody started talking about this in their homes, in school, and in the institutions."

### The Struggle Continues

Yet setbacks in global abortion rights movements are not constrained by national borders. International anti-abortion groups are already trying to weaponize the catastrophic *Dobbs* decision. For groups like Las Libres, it's a reminder that protecting abortion rights means constantly having to defend them.

México's supreme court decriminalized abortion in September 2021, the same week Texas enacted SB 8, then the most restrictive abortion law in the U.S. It banned abortion after detecting electrical activity in the embryo, which is roughly six weeks of gestation, before many people even know they're pregnant. The legislation also allowed anyone—regardless

of whether they lived in Texas or had any association with a patient—to sue an abortion provider who violated the six-week ban or anyone who helped a patient obtain an abortion after six weeks.

These developments are linked, which is why Cruz says her goal moving forward is to "work for universal access to abortion for all people, everywhere."

Defending abortion access requires personal assessments of the amount of risk each individual is willing to take on, Cruz explains. Las Libres made a conscious decision to provide access to medical abortion, in defiance of the law and despite criticism from other feminist groups. To this day, Cruz says she doesn't believe the work Las Libres did was illegal—because abortion access is protected under international human rights law.

Cruz encourages U.S. abortion activists to not romanticize the movement. Las Libres had to learn that everyone wasn't in the fight together, and that not every group had the same goals. Despite setbacks, threats, and moments of hopelessness, Cruz stands by all of Las Libres' choices. Many of the Mexican supreme court's justifications for decriminalizing abortion were the same that her group had been chanting for decades.

It's an instructive lesson for the U.S. as abortion advocates navigate life without *Roe*. "The fight, the struggle continues," Cruz says. "In the U.S. right now, you have a great responsibility to help women."

*Tina Vasquez is a movement journalist, editor-at-large for Prism, a board member at Southern journalism collective Press On. She is based in North Carolina and is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. This article is republished from YES! Magazine under a Creative Commons license.*

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En toda América Latina, las mujeres siguen manifestándose en apoyo del aborto legal y seguro. // Across Latin America, women continue to rally in support of legal and safe abortions.

gestación, lo que hizo la ley colombiana una de las más liberales del mundo desde su inicio.

Mientras el movimiento estadounidense en pro de los derechos reproductivos se agrupa de nuevo, algo es evidente: Hay mucho que aprender del activismo en América Latina.

### Empujando Cuesta Arriba

Aunque las condiciones sociopolíticas que fomentaron los movimientos en Argentina, Colombia y México no son idénticas a las de EE. UU., hay claras similitudes.

Según la abogada argentina Mayca Balaguer, de Córdoba, las activistas estadounidenses tienen ante ellas un camino cuesta arriba, dadas las —cada vez más confusas— disposiciones estatales.

Para Balaguer es evidente cómo la decisión Dobbs envalentonó a las fuerzas opositoras, creando un ambiente extenuante para quienes estaban tratando de proteger el acceso legal al aborto, especialmente cuando las leyes varían radicalmente de un estado a otro. Cuando los cuidados médicos en procesos de aborto son legales en un estado, y penalizados con cárcel de por vida en otro, es mucho lo que está en juego y las activistas de a pie pueden agotarse rápidamente, dice Balaguer.

"Me parece que cuando se da un resultado legal como ese, lo primero que hay que hacer es un diagnóstico", responde la abogada cuando se le pregunta sobre cuáles serían los posibles siguientes pasos para los defensores norteamericanos. "Estudia lo que sucedió y cómo llegaste a este lugar. Analiza todo lo que ocurrió y trata de entender los porqués —to-

dos los factores. Trata de desglosar los elementos para formar un mapa de la situación".

Balaguer se sumó a la lucha por el derecho al aborto en Argentina en 2014, cuando era una estudiante. Después ofreció su experticia legal a la "Campaña Nacional por el Derecho al Aborto Legal, Seguro y Gratuito", que había iniciado en 2005 y se convirtió en una fuerza formidable dentro del movimiento argentino por la legalización del aborto.

Al movimiento se integraron activistas, abogadas, proveedores de salud, proponentes de la causa, organizadoras y mujeres regulares, todas canalizando su energía para despenalizar el aborto. Semana tras semana, mes tras mes, año tras año, se convirtieron en una fuerza nacional, ondeando sus característicos pañuelos verdes hasta el mismo momento en 2020 cuando el Congreso argentino aprobó la Ley de Interrupción Voluntaria del Embarazo (IVE). Promulgada el 14 de enero de 2021, la IVE permitía a partir de entonces la práctica del aborto durante las primeras 14 semanas de gestación.

En contraste, las activistas colombianas obtuvieron el derecho al aborto a través de las cortes judiciales. En 2021, más de cien activistas individuales, junto con 92 organizaciones civiles le solicitaron a la Corte Constitucional que abordara el tema del aborto, lo cual hizo en febrero de 2022. La Corte no solo lo abordó, sino que aprobó la interrupción de un embarazo en cualquier punto hasta la conclusión del segundo trimestre.

Fue un avance sorprendente en un país conservador, mayormente católico. El aborto había estado to-

talmente prohibido hasta el 2006, cuando por primera vez se despenalizó el aborto por tres causales: si la vida o la salud de la madre corría peligro; en casos que el feto presentara una anomalía severa incompatible con la vida; y cuando el embarazo fuera el resultado de una violación.

La decisión fue impulsada por la demanda de más de 100 organizaciones que se amalgamaron para eliminar el delito del aborto y se conformaron en una agrupación llamada "Causa Justa", un movimiento "que busca la libertad y la autonomía reproductiva de todas las mujeres sobre sus cuerpos y sus proyectos de vida", como se lee en su sitio web.

Una de esas organizaciones fue "Women's Link Worldwide", una asociación feminista transnacional que usa el poder del derecho no solo para ganar un caso, sino para "alcanzar cambios sociales sostenibles," dice Mariana Ardila, quien en su momento fuera la abogada y vocera de la organización. Litigar puede ser una herramienta de activismo. Brinda una oportunidad para organizar, ganar aliados y socios, producir materiales educativos, planear eventos públicos, y definir estrategias.

"Hay muchas decisiones en papel que en la práctica no transforman la realidad de mujeres y niñas y personas embarazadas", dice Ardila. Es crucial construir un movimiento amplio, añade, para que cuando se dé un dictamen legal favorable, ya se hayan sembrado las semillas socioculturales para que esas leyes se implementen. Y si el fallo es contrario, los proponentes aún saldrán con un movimiento más fuerte y más unido, listo para

combatir información errónea que surja alrededor de la discusión. Esto es especialmente importante cuando el tema es el aborto, que está envuelto en desinformación y estigma.

Ardila dice que darle vuelta al guion en lo que respecta a los puntos contrarios que comúnmente se repiten sobre el aborto fue un factor importante del trabajo de Causa Justa. Ese cambio condujo a que algunos políticos públicamente apoyaran el aborto por primera vez. Un elemento esencial de la demanda que interpuso el grupo en Colombia se enfocó en la "libertad de conciencia".

Una versión de este argumento se viene usando en contra del acceso al aborto desde hace mucho, lo cual dio pie a la negación de ese servicio de salud exclusivamente en base a criterios religiosos.

"Pero le dimos vuelta a ese argumento y dijimos: 'Okay, esta regulación que criminaliza de aborto en efecto impone decisiones sobre la conciencia de las personas, con las que ellos posiblemente no estén de acuerdo, por lo que impide que cada quien tome decisiones de acuerdo a su propia conciencia', expresa Ardila, quien añade que "éste fue uno de los argumentos que la Corte aceptó. Por primera vez, la libertad de conciencia se utilizó para proteger el acceso al aborto y el derecho a él —y no para oponerse a ellos".

Según lo explican abogadas y activistas en Colombia, México y Argentina, asegurar el derecho al aborto fue el resultado del abordaje desde varios flancos: la organización de las bases, el litigio estratégico y, lo más importante, el cambio de la narrativa.

En Colombia, Ardila lo llama "la despenalización social" del aborto. Es decir, eliminar el estigma sobre el aborto, cambiando la manera como las personas piensan, hablan y se sienten respecto a la práctica que es esencialmente un cuidado de la salud.

"Si solo arreglas la ley mediante una demanda judicial o un proyecto de ley —y las personas siempre piensan que la práctica no debería de suceder— es muy posible que la decisión jurídica no se implemente o que se revierta, como sucedió en Estados Unidos", dice Ardila. "Lo dijimos claramente: Esto no se trata de si el aborto es bueno o malo; si estás de acuerdo o en desacuerdo; si quieres un aborto o no. Se trata de cómo regular el aborto. ¿Lo queremos regular mediante leyes punitivas, que son ineficaces para prevenir el aborto y que ponen a mujeres vulnerables en riesgo? ¿O queremos tratar otros medios para

reglamentar el aborto, por medio de leyes de salud y políticas sociales?".

El movimiento a favor del derecho al aborto tiene que establecer los términos del debate, reafirma la abogada feminista Sabrina Cartabia Groba, quien participó en la lucha para procurar ese derecho en su país, Argentina. Ella dice que para fines de una comunicación más efectiva, se rechazó todo lenguaje de muerte expresado en frases como la muerte de "bebés no nacidos" o incluso al referirse a la muerte de mujeres a consecuencia de abortos clandestinos e inseguros.

"Por qué es que 'el aborto' es un concepto relacionado con la muerte y no con la vida?", pregunta Cartabia Groba. "Siempre tendremos este tipo de tabú en torno al aborto, pero necesitamos cambiar esa narrativa y comenzar a hablar acerca de las razones por las cuales las mujeres se los practican. ¿Qué significa en las vidas de esas mujeres? Significa oportunidades; alternativas; libertad".

Balaguer prefiere apoyarse en el ángulo del cuidado a la salud. Las mujeres sí mueren a consecuencia de abortos inseguros. Y es importante subrayar que "mujeres muriéndose es más trágico que bebés sin nacer", dice ella.

"Si quieres enfocarte en la mujer decidiendo, eso no es tan amable", explica Balaguer. "Nadie quiere a una mujer libre. Eso no vende".

Cruz, del grupo mexicano Las Libres, concuerda que el cambio en el discurso es crítico para ampliar el acceso al aborto. Ella se refiere a estos esfuerzos como el "trabajo de hormigas": poco a poco, las personas comienzan a entender que el aborto es natural, seguro y que siempre ha existido.

"No es seguro cuando se estigmatiza y criminaliza", dice Cruz, y pausa para expresar su siguiente apreciación. "En Estados Unidos... hay mucho trabajo por hacer para reestructurar realmente la conversación y producir un cambio cultural amplio dentro del cual el aborto sea visto como una parte esencial de la vida y algo que sucede".

Balaguer observó este cambio suceder en Argentina, cuya población comenzó a reconocer el aborto como una parte normal de la atención médica para el cuidado de la salud.

"Poder hablarlo; reducir el estigma y cambiar lo que las personas conocían del tema fue crucial", dice Balaguer. "Lo que sucedió en 2018 fue que todo el mundo comenzó a hablar sobre el tema en



With the photos and footage from the flight, Quintana said he intends to chart the damage, then turn it over to the state legislators that represent the burned region — Sen. Pete Campos (D-Las Vegas) and incoming Democratic Rep. Joseph Sánchez.

Quintana said he tried to get some lawmakers on the flight, but they couldn't make it due to scheduling issues.

Much of the devastation affects whether residents can earn their living — often from farming and ranching, or even growing and selling Christmas trees. Quintana said he wants the legislators "to advocate on behalf of making sure that the federal government makes the people of these communities whole again."

Romero added that the aerial footage and photos will allow for a better understanding of all the damage that's been done, allowing people to visualize destruction in a way that they can't from the ground.

This won't be the only flight over the burn scar. Quintana said he's planning another in April when warmer temperatures will make it safer to assess damage from the air.

Some peaks are already capped with snow. He said if it turns to liquid that rushes down the slopes as the seasons change again, "there goes that watershed."

Quintana pointed to a slowly running creek below. "That looks like a helpless little creek right now," he said. "It was rushing."

Flooding in the burn scar already caused multiple deaths in 2022.

**Damaged acequias need to get fixed**

The fire forced ash, debris, silt and other materials into acequias, plugging the historic irrigation ditches that are essential to agricultural work.

"We're farmers," Quintana said. "We've been agriculturalists on these lands for years and years and years."

The state and federal governments have been slow to help restore these essential waterways. Paula Garcia, director of the New Mexico Acequia Association, told Source New Mexico that acequias submitted applications by early November to get federal funding, despite roadblocks along the way.

Romero said there's been a lack of official response because acequias are subdivisions of the state, similar to municipal levels of government, so higher government entities left it up to the locals to do their own advocacy for the channels.

To fix this mess, though, he said acequias and the government need to figure out a working rela-

tionship. "Historically," he said, "it's been a tenuous relationship."

Quintana said fixing everything is going to take five or 10 years at least, and the federal government needs to stick around for that.

"If they're not committed for the long haul, we're going to be in the problem over and over and over again, every irrigation season," he said.

**Historic communities ignored**

Many of the communities hit by the Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon Fire have been in the area for centuries and understand the workings of the land and water intimately. But residents have repeatedly said that the federal agencies coming in for disaster recovery don't listen to them.

Ralph Laumbach is a land grant heir. On the flight, he recounted Quintana trying to tell the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which way the water runs so they could effectively put up barriers against flooding. But, he said, they didn't heed the advice of Quintana, the person who has lived there for his entire life.

And stories like that aren't uncommon from residents.

"A lot of the recovery crews that went in there didn't have any concept whatsoever of our water," Laumbach said. "And so they kind of made a mess of things."

Quintana said the land grant heirs are the "land and water protectors" — after Indigenous people on the land before them — but the federal government doesn't really have an ear for their historical knowledge.

Quintana and Romero voiced frustration about the start of the disaster, too, when the U.S. Forest Service didn't adequately survey land, weather and drought conditions in the state before lighting the prescribed burns that merged in April and went on to become the largest wildfire in the state's recorded history.

The pilot, Gordon, who hails from Colorado questioned how the flames could have jumped so far as he observed the hundreds of miles of dead trees, and Romero told him about the intense winds present when the prescribed burns were lit.

Gordon was shocked about the story of how the blaze got out of control, he said, and now the lifeless forests the fire left behind.

"It'll never be the same," Romero said.

**Slower help for a poorer area**

On the flight, Romero pointed to the Cerro Grande burn scar in the distance, another fire that the National Park Service ignited intentionally 22 years ago as a prescribed burn that also got out of control, tearing through Los Alamos County.

Officials and Mora residents have pointed out that help has been much slower to come to the community hit by the Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon blaze decades later, and Romero said it's partly because the area isn't as wealthy.

And now, property values have dipped even further due to the wildfire destruction. Romero and Laumbach said land speculators have been coming in from out of state looking to buy up the cheaper property.

Romero called this "disaster capitalism," when outsiders arrive seeking financial gain after a catastrophe like this.

"There's an intentional appropriation of lands that is taking place, and they are taking advantage of not only low socio-economic status and limited resource availability, but now the devastation," he said.

Flying back to the Las Vegas airport, the scenery of blackened, lifeless mountains and damaged centuries-old waterways were left in the distance. Everyone fell quiet.

*Megan Gleason is Reporting Fellow with Source New Mexico. This article is republished from Source New Mexico under a Creative Commons license.*

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## Daños

"Si estás haciendo quemas prescritas para luchar contra un incendio con vientos de 65 km por hora, sí, se te escapa", dijo.

Con las fotos y las imágenes del vuelo, Quintana dijo que tiene la intención de trazar el daño, y luego entregarlo a los legisladores estatales que representan a la región quemada - el senador Pete Campos (D-Las Vegas) y el representante demócrata entrante Joseph Sánchez.

Quintana dijo que trató de conseguir algunos legisladores en el vuelo, pero no pudieron hacerlo debido a problemas de programación.

Gran parte de la devastación afecta a si los residentes pueden ganarse la vida - a menudo de la agricultura y la ganadería, o incluso el cultivo y venta de árboles de Navidad. Quintana dijo que quiere que los legisladores "aboguen por que el gobierno federal haga que la gente de estas comunidades vuelva a estar sana".

Romero añadió que las imágenes y fotos aéreas permitirán comprender mejor todo el daño que se ha hecho, permitiendo a la gente visualizar la destrucción de una manera que no pueden desde el suelo.

Este no será el único vuelo sobre la zona quemada. Quintana dijo que está planeando otro en abril, cuando las temperaturas más cálidas harán que sea más seguro evaluar los daños desde el aire.

Algunos picos ya están cubiertos de nieve. Dijo que si se convierte en líquido que se precipita ladera abajo al cambiar de nuevo las estaciones, "ahí va esa cuenca".

Quintana señaló un arroyo que corría lentamente más abajo. "Ahora parece un arroyuelo indefenso", dijo. "Se estaba precipitando".

Las inundaciones en la zona quemada ya causaron varias muertes en 2022.

### Hay que reparar las acequias dañadas

El fuego empujó ceniza, escombros, limo y otros materiales hacia las acequias, taponando las históricas acequias que son esenciales para el trabajo agrícola.

"Somos agricultores", dijo Quintana. "Hemos sido agricultores en estas tierras durante años y años y años".

Los gobiernos estatal y federal han tardado en ayudar a restaurar estas vías fluviales esenciales. Paula García, directora de la Asociación de Acequias de Nuevo México, dijo a Source New Mexico que las acequias presentaron solicitudes a principios de noviembre para ob-

tener fondos federales, a pesar de los obstáculos en el camino.

Romero dijo que ha habido una falta de respuesta oficial porque las acequias son subdivisiones del Estado, similares a los niveles municipales de gobierno, por lo que las entidades gubernamentales superiores dejaron en manos de los locales hacer su propia defensa de los canales.

Sin embargo, para solucionar este problema, las acequias y el gobierno deben establecer una relación de trabajo. "Históricamente", dijo, "ha sido una relación tenue".

Quintana dijo que arreglar todo va a tomar cinco o 10 años por lo menos, y el gobierno federal tiene que quedarse para eso.

"Si no se comprometen a largo plazo, vamos a estar en el problema una y otra vez, cada temporada de riego", dijo.

### Comunidades históricas ignoradas

Muchas de las comunidades afectadas por el incendio de Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon llevan siglos en la zona y conocen a la perfección el funcionamiento de la tierra y el agua. Pero los residentes han dicho en repetidas ocasiones que las agencias federales que intervienen en la recuperación tras el desastre no les escuchan.

Ralph Laumbach es un heredero de la concesión de tierras. En el vuelo, contó que Quintana intentó decir al Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de EE.UU. por dónde corría el agua para que pudieran levantar barreras contra las inundaciones. Pero, dijo, no hicieron caso de los consejos de Quintana, la persona que ha vivido allí toda su vida.

Y este tipo de historias no son infrecuentes entre los residentes.

"Muchos de los equipos de recuperación que entraron allí no tenían ni idea de lo que era el agua", explica Laumbach. "Así que hicieron un desastre".

Quintana dijo que los herederos de las concesiones de tierras son los "protectores de la tierra y el agua" -después de que lo fueran los indígenas que habitaron la tierra antes que ellos-, pero que el gobierno federal no tiene realmente oído para sus conocimientos históricos.

Quintana y Romero también expresaron su frustración por el inicio de la catástrofe, cuando el Servicio Forestal de EE.UU. no estudió adecuadamente las condiciones del terreno, el tiempo y la sequía en el estado antes de encender las quemas prescritas que se fusionaron en abril y se convirtieron en el mayor incendio for-

estral registrado en la historia del estado.

El piloto, Gordon, natural de Colorado, se preguntó cómo las llamas podían haber saltado tan lejos al observar los cientos de kilómetros de árboles muertos, y Romero le habló de los intensos vientos presentes cuando se encendieron las quemas prescritas.

Gordon quedó conmocionado por la historia de cómo las llamas se descontrolaron, dijo, y ahora por los bosques sin vida que el fuego dejó tras de sí.

"Nunca volverá a ser lo mismo", dijo Romero.

### Ayuda más lenta para una zona más pobre

En el vuelo, Romero señaló a lo lejos la cicatriz del incendio de Cerro Grande, otro fuego que el Servicio de Parques Nacionales provocó intencionadamente hace 22 años como una quema prescrita que también se descontroló y arrasó el condado de Los Álamos.

Funcionarios y residentes de Mora han señalado que la ayuda ha sido mucho más lenta en llegar a la comunidad afectada por el incendio de Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon décadas más tarde, y Romero dijo que es en parte porque la zona no es tan rica.

Y ahora, el valor de las propiedades se ha reducido aún más debido a la destrucción causada por el incendio. Romero y Laumbach dijeron que los especuladores de la tierra han estado viniendo de fuera del estado en busca de comprar la propiedad más barata.

Romero llamó a esto "capitalismo del desastre", cuando los forasteros llegan en busca de ganancias financieras después de una catástrofe como ésta.

"Se está produciendo una apropiación intencionada de tierras, y se están aprovechando no sólo del bajo nivel socioeconómico y de la limitada disponibilidad de recursos, sino también de la devastación", afirmó.

Volando de regreso al aeropuerto de Las Vegas, el paisaje de montañas ennegrecidas y sin vida y de cursos de agua centenarios dañados quedó en la distancia. Todo el mundo se quedó en silencio.

*Megan Gleason es becaria de información de Source New Mexico. Este artículo ha sido publicado por Source New Mexico bajo una licencia Creative Commons.*

*Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.*

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## Fútbol

este deporte. Rehinder describió el fútbol como muy "machista". Recordó una tendencia de los años 70 en la que mujeres atractivas con atuendos reveladores jugaban al fútbol más con fines de sexualización para entretenimiento de los hombres que como competición atlética de alto nivel. Aunque el fútbol sigue considerándose predominantemente un deporte masculino, esta actitud está cambiando lentamente. Muchos de los panelistas describieron la participación femenina en este deporte como una sólida prueba de fuego del progresismo de una cultura en materia de derechos de la mujer.

Aunque ningún equipo femenino juega en la Copa Mundial, los derechos de la mujer han sido un tema candente de debate en medio de la controversia que rodea al país anfitrión del Mundial: Qatar, que tiene un historial notoriamente débil en materia de derechos de la mujer. Este historial se puso de relieve tras las especulaciones sobre cómo las estrictas políticas del país podrían afectar a los aficionados que acudieran a ver el Mundial. Otras muchas polémicas han salpicado al país, principalmente la muerte de trabajadores inmigrantes durante la construcción y

preparación de la Copa Mundial, y las acusaciones de que el país sobornó al comité ejecutivo de la FIFA (Federación Internacional de Fútbol Asociación) para convertirse en anfitrión.

La Copa Mundial no es ajena a la polémica. El acontecimiento deportivo se ha utilizado antes como una especie de herramienta de relaciones públicas para países con una mala posición internacional. En 1934, el Mundial se celebró en Italia durante el régimen del dictador Mussolini. En 1978, la Copa del Mundo se celebró en Argentina sólo dos años después de un golpe militar. En estos casos, el Mundial se utilizó para distraer la atención de la polémica. En el caso de Qatar, la Copa Mundial parece haber sacado a la luz su historial de abusos contra los derechos humanos.

*Benjamin Neufeld es un Reportera Independiente de The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.*

*Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.*

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## Soccer

committee in order to become the host.

The World Cup is no stranger to controversy. The sporting event has been used before as a kind of public relations tool for countries in poor international standing. In 1934, the World Cup was held in Italy during the dictator Mussolini's reign. In 1978, the World Cup was held in Argentina only two years after a military coup. In these cases, the World Cup was used as

a distraction from controversy. In the case of Qatar, the World Cup seems to have brought their human rights abuse record into the limelight.

*Benjamin Neufeld is an Independent Reporter for The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.*

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## Lecciones 1

sus hogares, en la escuela, y en las instituciones".

**La Lucha Sigue**

Es un hecho que los retrocesos que enfrentan los movimientos en defensa del aborto a nivel global no están limitados por fronteras nacionales. Agrupaciones internacionales en contra del aborto están tratando ya de usar de la decisión Dobbs como arma de ataque. Para asociaciones como Las Libres, es un recordatorio que proteger los derechos reproductivos significa tener que defenderlos constantemente.

La Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación azteca despenalizó

el aborto en septiembre de 2021, la misma semana que el estado de Texas abrobó la ley S.B. 8, la prohibición más extrema y severa en EE. UU. hasta ese momento. Esa ley prohibió el aborto cuando se detecte actividad eléctrica en el embrión, lo cual sucede aproximadamente a las seis semanas de gestación, cuando muchas personas ni siquiera saben que están embarazadas. La ley también permite que ciudadanos particulares—al margen de si viven en el estado o no tengan relación con una paciente— interpongan demandas en contra de un proveedor de abortos si viola la prohibición de las seis semanas, y también en

contra de cualquier persona que le haya ayudado a obtener un aborto después del periodo estipulado.

Tanto la decisión en México como las disposiciones en Texas están enlazadas, razón por la cual Cruz dice que su misión es proceder a "trabajar por el acceso universal al aborto, para toda persona, en todo lugar".

Defender el acceso al aborto requiere valoraciones personales sobre el nivel de riesgo que cada quien esté dispuesto a asumir, explica Cruz. Las integrantes de Las Libres tomaron la decisión consciente de proveer acceso al aborto médico, en abierto desafío a la ley; y a pesar de las críticas provenientes incluso de otros grupos feministas. Hasta la fecha, ella sostiene que la labor realizada por Las Libres no fue ilegal, porque el acceso al aborto está protegido por leyes internacionales de protección a los derechos humanos.

Cruz recomienda a las activistas estadounidenses que no romaticen el movimiento. El colectivo Las Libres aprendió que no todas participan en todas las luchas juntas; y que no todos los grupos tienen las mismas metas. A pesar de los reveses, amenazas y momentos de desánimo, Cruz respalda todas las decisiones adoptadas por Las Libres. Muchas de las justificaciones de las que se valió la Suprema Corte mexicana para despenalizar el aborto son las mismas por las cuales su grupo había abogado durante décadas.

Es una lección instructiva para las defensoras del aborto norteamericanas ahora que tienen que navegar la vida sin las protecciones que otorgaba el caso *Roe vs. Wade*.

"La batalla, la lucha sigue", dice Cruz. "En Estados Unidos ahorita, tienen la gran responsabilidad de ayudar a las mujeres".

**Tina Vásquez es una periodista del movimiento que lleva más de una década informando sobre inmigración, injusticia reproductiva, género, alimentación, trabajo y cultura.**

*Es redactora jefe de Prism y miembro de la junta del colectivo periodístico sureño Press On. Reside en Carolina del Norte y es miembro de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos. Este artículo ha sido publicado por YES! Magazine bajo una licencia Creative Commons. Este artículo fue traducido del inglés por Iris Amador.*

**Apoye el Fondo Dreamer de MSU Denver**

La Universidad ha establecido un Fondo de Emergencia Dreamer para proporcionar asistencia financiera para emergencias médicas, cuidado de dependientes, tarifas de renovación de DACA y más. El fondo ha ayudado a más de 150 estudiantes Dreamer desde que se estableció en 2020. Para hacer una donación, visite la página de donaciones del Student Care Center y seleccione "Dreamer Emergency Fund" en el cuadro desplegable Designation.

*John Arnold es editor en jefe de MSU RED. Esta historia apareció originalmente en MSU Denver RED.*

*Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.*

**Para Noticias de Colorado:**  
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## DACA

debe hacer un mejor trabajo para comunicar sus argumentos e investigaciones al público.

"A veces, la gente no está necesariamente conmovida por los argumentos morales (a favor de DACA) y necesitan escuchar los hechos económicos", dijo Chalane Lechuga, Ph.D., profesora del Departamento de Estudios Chicanos de MSU Denver, quien moderó el debate de la semana pasada.

Que el evento tuvo lugar en MSU Denver no es una coincidencia, dijo Lechuga, porque la Universidad "ha estado a la vanguardia en el apoyo a los estudiantes DACA."

Señaló que en 2012, MSU Denver fue la primera universidad en el estado en aprobar una tasa de matrícula reducida para estudiantes indocumentados y fue un firme partidario del proyecto de ley ASSET de Colorado, que proporciona matrícula estatal para estudiantes indocumentados calificados.

## Cusack

said, everything else is just public relations.

American newspapers are already facing enough challenges these days between layoffs, budget cuts, and the anti-media rhetoric that has become so common among many politicians. The last thing newspapers need is more government intrusion into the news-gathering process. As technologies evolve, surveillance of journalists becomes even more dangerous. Data and metadata—in addition to traditional newsgathering materials and source identities—need protection, now more than ever.

Durbin has a history of support for the First Amendment and he should be proud of that track record. The PRESS Act, which he can advance as chair of the Sen-

ate Judiciary Committee, offers us a rare opportunity to preserve and strengthen press freedoms for the next generation. Illinois and the entire country should let Durbin know that he has our full support in moving this important legislation forward.

*John Cusack is a founding board member of Freedom of the Press Foundation. He is also an actor, director, producer, and screenwriter and the author, along with Arundhati Roy of the book "Things that Can and Cannot be Said." This oped is republished from Common Dreams under a Creative Commons license.*

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## Classifieds / Clasificados

**TRIO Site Coordinator for Colorado Springs**

The TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is a federally-funded program at CSU Pueblo with the primary purpose of assisting individuals who are low- income and/or potential first-generation college students in gaining access to higher education.

**Description of Job**

Provide in-person services to program participants including providing information about college, and careers; assistance in applying for college admissions, student financial aid and scholarships; referrals to college readiness and GED programs and community agencies; other assistance as necessary to facilitate college enrollment and funding.

Manage day-to-day operations of satellite office. This includes coordination with host institution, responding to inquiries, scheduling appointments and supervising any student employees.

Perform client intakes, determine eligibility, select participants, assess services needed to achieve educational goals, and develop participant service plan.

Enter information about participants and services provided into database and maintain hard-copy files for all participants, ensuring participant records are complete and in order. Completes monthly error checks and file audits. Facilitate completion of the Annual Performance Report (APR).

Plans and implements community outreach in assigned service area. This includes individual and group meetings, representing the program at events, and conducting workshops for potential participants, parents and staff members of community organizations, secondary and postsecondary institutions.

Tracking participant progress in completing critical tasks identified in the participant service plan, including enrollment of participants in postsecondary education.

**Salary Range**

\$40,000 to \$42,000.

*Bilingual candidates are welcome!  
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**Coordinador de TRIO para Colorado Springs**

El Centro de Oportunidades Educativas TRIO (EOC) es un programa financiado por el gobierno federal en CSU Pcon el propósito principal de ayudar a las personas de bajos ingresos y / o potenciales estudiantes universitarios de primera generación en acceso a la educación superior.

**Descripción del trabajo**

Proporcionar servicios en persona a los participantes del programa, incluyendo proporcionar información sobre la universidad y las carreras; Asistencia en la solicitud de admisión a la universidad, ayuda financiera para estudiantes y becas; Referencias a programas de preparación para la universidad y GED y a programas comunitarios. Apoyar según sea necesario para facilitar la inscripción en la universidad y la obtener financiación.

Gestionar las operaciones diarias de la oficina satélite. Esto incluye la coordinación con la institución anfitriona, responder a las consultas, programar las citas y supervisar a los estudiantes empleados.

Realizar la captación de clientes, determinar la elegibilidad, seleccionar a los participantes, evaluar los servicios necesarios para alcanzar los objetivos educativos y desarrollar el plan de servicios del participante.

Introducir la información sobre los participantes y los servicios prestados en la base de datos y mantener archivos impresos de todos los participantes, asegurándose de que los registros de los participantes estén completos y en orden. Completar las comprobaciones mensuales de errores y las auditorías de archivos. Facilitar la finalización del Informe Anual de Resultados (APR).

Planifica y ejecuta las actividades de extensión comunitaria en el área de servicio asignada. Esto incluye reuniones individuales y de grupo, representando el programa en eventos y realizando talleres para posibles participantes, padres y miembros del personal de las organizaciones comunitarias, instituciones secundarias y postsecundarias.

Seguimiento del progreso de los participantes en la realización de tareas críticas identificadas en el plan de servicio al participante, incluida la inscripción de los participantes en la educación postsecundaria.

**Rango salarial**

\$40,000 to \$42,000.

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