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April/abril 20, 2012 Spanglish Lazo Cultural Edition Vol. 8, No. 4 (LP1)

Special Edition of La Prensa for Lazo Cultural

Bill Maher tour includes MSU

EAST LANSING: For the last nineteen years Bill Maher has set the boundaries of where funny, political, talk can go on American television. First on *Politically Incorrect* (Comedy Central, ABC, 1993-2002), and for the last nine years on HBO's *Real Time*, Maher's combination of unflinching honesty and big laughs have garnered him twenty-seven Emmy nominations. Now he's taking his message across America and is presenting it on Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall Sunday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m.

In October of 2008, Maher's uproarious and unprecedented swipe at organized religion, *Religulous*, directed by Larry Charles (*Borat*) made headlines. The documentary has gone on to become the 8th Highest Grossing Documentary ever.

In addition to his television program – which has featured such regular visitors as John Edwards, Ben Affleck, Robin Williams, Arianna Huffington, Alec Baldwin, and Michael Moore – Maher has written five bestsellers: *True Story*; *Does Anybody Have a Problem with That?*; *Politically Incorrect's Greatest Hits*; *When You Ride Alone, You Ride with Bin Laden*; *New Rules: Polite Musings from a Timid Observer*; and most recently, *The New New Rules: A Funny Look at How Everybody But Me Has Their Head Up Their Ass*.

Maher started his career as a stand-up comedian in 1979, and still performs at least fifty dates a year in Las Vegas and in sold out theaters all across the country. Three of his nine stand-up specials for HBO – 2007's "The Decider," 2005's "I'm Swiss," as well as his most recent, the hilarious, "Bill Maher ... But I'm Not Wrong," – have been nominated for Emmy awards.

Maher was born in New York City, raised in River Vale, N.J. and went to Cornell University. He now resides in Los Angeles.

Tickets go on sale Friday, April 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. online at whartoncenter.com, at the Auto Owner's Insurance Ticket Office or by calling 1-800-WHARTON. Ticket Office: whartoncenter.com and 517.432.2000 or 1.800.WHARTON

Report to examine tuition at U-M for non-citizens

ANN ARBOR, April 11, 2012 (AP): The question of whether students who live in Michigan but lack U.S. citizenship or a green card should pay in-state tuition is getting a look at the University of Michigan.

The Detroit Free Press says the school's Board of Regents has asked for a report about tuition equality for undocumented students. The report could be presented to the board for review as soon as its meeting next week, but it's unclear whether the Ann Arbor school would change its policy.

The University of Michigan currently charges out-of-state tuition rates, which are higher than in-state rates, to students without U.S. citizenship or a green card.

Freshman *Daniel Morales* is co-founder of the *Coalition for Tuition Equality*. He says a change could save those students tens of thousands of dollars.

Information from: Detroit Free Press, <http://www.freep.com>




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Cuba split leaves summit without declaration

Is it the Anglos versus the Latinos?

By FRANK BAJAK and VIVIAN SEQUERA, Associated Press

CARTAGENA, Colombia, April 15, 2012 (AP): A summit of nearly 30 Western Hemisphere leaders has ended without a joint declaration due to divisions over Cuba and Argentine claims to the Falkland Islands.

"There is no declaration because there is no consensus," said Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos as the summit's closing news conference.

The United States, backed by Canada, stood fast against widespread demands to include in the meeting's final declaration language specifying that Cuba be included in future hemispheric summits.

They had also balked at backing Argentina's claims to the British-held Falkland Islands.

Is it the Anglos versus the Latinos?

"All the countries here in Latin American and the Caribbean want Cuba to be present. But the United States won't accept," President Evo Morales of Bolivia told reporters late Saturday. "It's like a dictatorship."

Morales and other leaders have been insistent that this weekend's meeting in this Caribbean colonial port, which wrapped up at midday, will be the last regional summit under Organization of

American States auspices unless Cuba is invited in the future.

But Santos said the leaders agreed to meet again in 2015 in Panama.

"Hopefully within three years we can have Cuba" at the summit, Santos said.

U.S. President Barack Obama's peers lectured him Saturday over his unflagging opposition to Cuban participation due to U.S. objections to the alleged Caribbean island's lack of democracy.

But a senior U.S. administration official said in a briefing for White House reporters Saturday evening that the subject did not come up in any of Obama's brief meetings on the summit's sidelines with the leaders of Guatemala, El Salvador, Argentina, and Perú.

The foreign ministers of Venezuela, Argentina, and Uruguay had said their presidents won't sign any declaration unless the U.S. and Canada remove their veto of future Cuban participation.

The Cuba issue led Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa to boycott the summit, and Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega also sat out the meeting, though he offered no explanation. Venezuela's cancer-stricken president Hugo Chávez

also was absent. He flew Saturday not from Venezuela but to Cuba, where he has been undergoing radiation therapy.

Even moderates such as Santos of Colombia and Brazil's Dilma Rousseff said there should be no more America's summits without including Cuba.

The Obama administration has greatly eased family travel and remittances to Cuba, but has not dropped the half-century U.S. embargo against the island.

Chinese gains in the Americas has cost the OAS clout

U.S. commercial and political influence in the region has been in decline as China gains on the U.S. as a top trading partner, and many analysts say these regional summits tend to be unwieldy and only make sense if they are a departure for serious follow-up on substantive issues.

"The label 'Americas' doesn't seem to mean that much anymore unless you're a cartographer," said analyst Adam Isacson of the Washington Office on Latin America.

A splintering of old alliances due to region and ideology has cost the OAS clout and, many analysts say, relevance.

The main alternative summits, such as the Latin America-Caribbean group and the IberoAmerican session, exclude both The United States and Canada.

The first Summit of the Americas was convened in Miami in 1994 by then-U.S. President Bill Clinton. In subsequent summits, U.S. attempts to create a hemispheric free-trade zone collapsed.

South America's rising left further eroded U.S. influence.

The failed US War on Drugs

At this weekend's summit, Obama was criticized by some leaders for refusing to abandon a drug war that has claimed tens of thousands of lives and undermined governments, although he didn't shy from listening to arguments on the other side.

"I don't mind a debate around issues like decriminalization," he said in a pre-summit interview with Univision television. "I personally don't agree that that's a solution to the problem."

"But I think that given the pressures that a lot of governments face here—under-resourced, overwhelmed by violence—it's completely understandable that they would look for new approaches," Obama added.

Santos urged a reconsideration of the war on narcotics, citing the irony of Colombia's successes: While it extradites hundreds of alleged drug traffickers for trial to the U.S., criminals turn to other countries where law enforcement is weaker. Central America and México, in particular, are bleeding as traffickers shift to countries of lesser resistance.

"We know that our success has (negatively) affected other countries and we are pedaling and pedaling like we're on a stationary bike," said Santos. "The moment has come to analyze if what we're doing is best or if we can find a more effective and cheaper alternative for society." Associated Press writer Marco Sibaja contributed to this report

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Cumbre de las Américas, sin acuerdo sobre Cuba

Por MARCO SIBAJA Y VIVIAN SEQUERA

CARTAGENA, Colombia, 15 de abril del 2012 (AP): *La VI Cumbre de las Américas* culminó el domingo sin una declaración final por desacuerdos sobre la inclusión de Cuba en el foro, lo que a la vez hizo surgir nubarrones sobre la posibilidad de que no todos los países asistan al próximo cónclave.

El gobierno de La Habana, ausente físicamente de la cita en esta balneario del Caribe colombiano, sin embargo, fue la “presencia” dominante al punto que fue una de las causas para que la declaración final naufragara.

El otro tema de desacuerdo fue las islas *Malvinas*, cuya soberanía ha reclamado largamente Argentina al Reino Unido.

Estados Unidos y Canadá se opusieron a que Cuba fuera invitada a la cumbre. Ambos gobiernos también se negaron a que se mencionara ese tema en la declaración final, según ya habían pronosticado los cancilleres de Argentina, Venezuela y Uruguay.

También funcionarios estadounidenses dijeron a la AP que fue el desacuerdo sobre Cuba y las Malvinas lo que impidieron llegar a una declaración final.

Como en las cumbres las decisiones se toman por consenso, la oposición de Washington—que contó con el respaldo de Canadá, según cancilleres—bloqueó el texto.

A la falta de declaración por el tema de Cuba se suma el hecho de que países aliados a La Habana, como *Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua y Ecuador*, entre otros, ya han anunciado que no asistirán a la próxima cita, prevista para 2015 en *Panamá*, si Cuba queda excluida.

Sin embargo, pesos pesados de Latinoamérica como *Argentina, Brasil y México* dijeron que las cumbres son un mecanismo útil para discutir los desacuerdos y que esperan que Cuba pueda participar.

Pero Estados Unidos—cuyo presidente *Barack Obama* busca la reelección en noviembre y uno de los bastiones claves electorales es la Florida, cuya comunidad cubana se opone a cualquier acercamiento con la isla—mantuvo su postura en la jornada.

“Cuba no ha hecho la transición a la democracia, no respeta aún los derechos humanos. Tenemos la esperanza de que una transición se dé”, dijo Obama.

A ese punto de la transición, agregó, “no hemos llegado”.

Sin embargo, “como se lo indiqué al presidente (colombiano Juan Manuel) Santos y otros líderes sentados alrededor de la mesa (de debates de la cumbre), quizás habrá una oportunidad en los próximos años de admitir plenamente a Cuba en estos foros en la medida que Cuba empiece a considerar el camino que debe recorrer para ofrecerle a su pueblo libertad y prosperidad”, agregó el mandatario estadounidense en una conferencia de prensa posterior a una reunión bilateral con Santos.

Poco antes Santos hizo el anuncio: “no hay declaración, precisamente porque no hay consenso” sobre esos temas de Cuba y las Malvinas.

Agregó que “antes (en otras cumbres) eran unas declaraciones que a nivel técnico se elaboraban, venían los presidentes, les daban su visto bueno y se iban para su casa... Aquí se discutió todo. Eso es un inmenso avance”.

El de Cuba “era un tema de esos álgidos donde nadie iba a pensar que de esta cumbre iba a salir una decisión, pero sí hubo una discusión por primera vez”, sostuvo Santos.

Que se discutiera lo de Cuba “tiene un peso político importante, eso no se había visto antes. Eso debe iniciar una serie de acercamientos, de puentes que nos permita, ojalá, dentro de tres años tener a Cuba en la próxima cumbre”, dijo Santos.

Destacó que el hecho de “que se haya iniciado la discusión... eso tiene ya, de por sí, una tremenda importancia”.

No es la primera vez que una Cumbre de las Américas culmina sin una declaración final de los mandatarios. La de Mar del Plata, Argentina, en 2005 terminó también sin ese texto debido a desacuerdos sobre temas como el ALCA, una zona hemisférica de libre comercio, que fue impulsada por Washington, pero que nunca prosperó y menos tras la negativa ocurrida en Mar del Plata.

El presidente colombiano rechazó en varias ocasiones que la cumbre haya sido un fracaso porque no hubo declaración final, que es la muestra concreta de los acuerdos de los dirigentes e incluso sus compromisos y sin ella mucho de lo discutido queda en el aire.

A pesar del mal sabor por la ausencia de ese texto, los jefes de Estado sí aprobaron, en una decisión aparte, dar un mandato a la Organización de los Estados

Americanos (OEA) para que comience el análisis sobre la política de la lucha contra las drogas.

“Hemos dado a la OEA el mandato para que inicie ese proceso. Ver si esta política (la actual) está funcionando y si hay alternativas más eficaces y menos costosas para enfrentar este problema de las drogas”, agregó Santos, sin dar detalles sobre cuándo podría estar listo ese estudio o si al final de su realización sus conclusiones o recomendaciones serán aceptadas por todos los países miembros.

Los analistas consultados por The Associated Press criticaron a la diplomacia colombiana por no conseguir los consensos necesarios para finiquitar el texto final y aseguraron que el proceso de reuniones cumbres está en crisis y que la de Panamá está en riesgo de concretarse.

Los espacios “de diplomacia presidencial siempre son importantes para concertar, pero lo que yo creo que se mostró con esta cumbre es que el proceso de cumbres está en crisis. Lo que va a pasar es que o no hay más cumbres o hay cumbre con Cuba. Pero seguir postergando el problema de Cuba es imposible”, dijo la politóloga Laura Gil vía telefónica.

Agregó que “esta rebelión que hubo aquí era una rebelión cantada (de parte de algunos países) y la diplomacia colombiana ignoró o hizo creer a buena parte del país que el problema estaba resuelto y postergado para el futuro”.

Este ha sido “el mayor fiasco diplomático en la historia de política internacional colombiana... Colombia organizó estupendamente la cumbre cosméticamente, gastronómicamente; demostró una alta capacidad de organización, lo cual puede ser benéfico para el turismo, pero... nunca pudo desarrollar una diplomacia estratégica”, dijo Vicente Torrijos, profesor de ciencia política de la Universidad del Rosario, en Bogotá.

Agregó que “el fiasco consiste en que la verdadera agenda la impuso la Alianza Bolivariana, ausente o presente. El presidente (de Venezuela Hugo) Chávez... se encargó de hacer de esta cumbre la última Cumbre de las Américas. Yo creo que no habrá una nueva”.

Pero poco antes de regresar a su país, el canciller brasileño Antonio Patriota dijo a reporteros que “no siempre se logran consensos” y que en este caso América Latina tenía una posición sobre Cuba y las Malvinas y Estados Unidos tenía otra.

Agregó que las cumbres son “oportunidades valiosas y deben repetirse”, aunque no dijo claramente si Brasil estaría en la cita de Panamá en 2015.

Antes de partir de regreso a Buenos Aires, el canciller argentino Héctor Timerman dijo que termina la cumbre “con un balance muy positivo, muy importante, esperando que la próxima cumbre sea una cumbre que incluya a todos los países de América”.

“Tenemos cuatro años más por delante para incorporar a Cuba a las cumbres de las Américas y estamos seguros de que vamos a seguir dialogando” sobre ese asunto, añadió Timerman a los periodistas.

El mandatario de México, *Felipe Calderón*, recordó en una conferencia de prensa tras finalizar la cumbre que son estas citas donde los jefes de Estado pueden intercambiar sus ideas.

“Las cumbres son encuentros y de esos encuentros surge un valiosísimo intercambio de opiniones...no tenemos otra oportunidad de contrastar nuestras ideas”, dijo el dirigente azteca.

Calderón recordó que asuntos como Cuba o las Malvinas no eran parte de la agenda formal de la cumbre, sino que eran temas de desarrollo e integración.

En otra conferencia de prensa al final del cónclave, el presidente colombiano fue consultado sobre si hubo algún reclamo de parte de la mandataria argentina, Cristina Fernández, por haber dejado de lado en su discurso inaugural el sábado el viejo reclamo de Buenos Aires por la soberanía de las Malvinas y al final si eso provocó la salida anticipada de la mandataria de la cumbre el domingo al mediodía.

“Nos despedimos con esa amistad y con ese cariño que siempre nos hemos saludado y que nos hemos despedido. De manera que no veo que ella se haya ido por un motivo en particular”, dijo Santos al recordar que el sábado al final de su discurso inaugural Fernández sí le reclamó el haber dejado por fuera de su discurso el asunto de las islas.

“¿Qué me dijo la presidenta?... me dijo ‘te olvidaste de las Malvinas’. Algo así, no me acuerdo...algo parecido a eso”, narró el dirigente colombiano que en su discurso abordó temas que fueron desde Cuba y la lucha antidrogas hasta la necesidad de ayudar a Haití y el mejoramiento de sus relaciones con Venezuela. *Los periodistas de The Associated Press Pedro Mendoza y Libardo Cardona, en Cartagena, y Camilo Hernández en Bogotá contribuyeron para este despacho.*

The Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra Partners with the Sphinx Organization and the Henry Ford for a Special Concert Sunday, April 29, 2012

Ypsilanti: In its season grand finale on April 29, 2012, the *Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra (YSO)*, in partnership with *Dykema*, will be teaming up with the Henry Ford and the *Sphinx Organization* to bring concertgoers the experience of a lifetime. Violin virtuoso and Sphinx Laureate *Gareth Johnson* will perform Tchaikovsky's D major Violin Concerto on a rare 1709 Stradivari, part of the Henry Ford's collection.

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