Hispanic lawmakers leery of school funding proposals

Gary Scharrer

AUSTIN -- Mexican-American legislators will oppose efforts to increase state sales taxes and also will fight any school finance plan that dilutes equity between property-rich and property-poor schools, Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, said Wednesday.

Gallego is chairman of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus.

State leaders want to eliminate the Robin Hood funding plan, which now obligates more than 100 propertywealthy school districts to send more than \$1 billion a year in tax revenues to property-poor schools.

Some lawmakers believe they can end the Robin Hood plan simply by replacing the money raised in rich districts with an equal amount of new state dollars.

Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero

We get Letters:

I think all the majority of the people of District 3 appreciate what Gilbert Flores has done for his precinct in the past and it is time for a new "dreamer" such as he was 12 years ago to take over and try new ideas. The Word has always been to get people involved and now that someone is getting involved and want to try new "dreams" he should be given a chance. I am not a voter in District 3 but the same applies for T. J Patterson, which is my City Councilman. We appreciated all he has done and I'm sure he can continue his Christmas visitations and be a strong community worker for his district, city, state and nation. Janie Ramirez has been a very good example of a good community worker such as being involved with "Keep Lubbock Beautiful" "Back to School Fiesta" She has also been a book and play writer. Janie has been involve with "Raiders Rojos" and plenty more organizations that I am not aware of. Good luck to Victor Hernandez in his venture to become a judge. He made a bold choice to try to unseat a sitting

Tom Wells - delivered via email

Editor:

judge.

I want to comment on a story written by Bidal Aguero of on the week of March 25, 2004.

I want to thank you Mr. Aguero for saying that the flyer that I typed on Mr. Gilbert Flores was a "clever" way to get people to look at it twice. I might say it served its purpose well. Mr. Aguero, I'm sorry that you didn't know the answers to the questions on the flyer, but I want to thank you anyway because now everybody that reads your news paper will know the answers.

Gilbert Flores has done an excellent job as our County Commissioner these past 12 years and has nothing to be ashamed of.

Gilbert Flores is an honest person and uses the taxpayer money wisely.

If Mr. Ysidro Gutierrez feels that he is better than Mr. Gilbert Flores, where has he been hiding for the last 12 years?

It seems that the same people have kept running against Mr. Gilbert Flores for the past 12 years and Mr. Gutierrez is just another one of the same bunch. And by the way Mr. Aguero we all know that Al Gore invented the

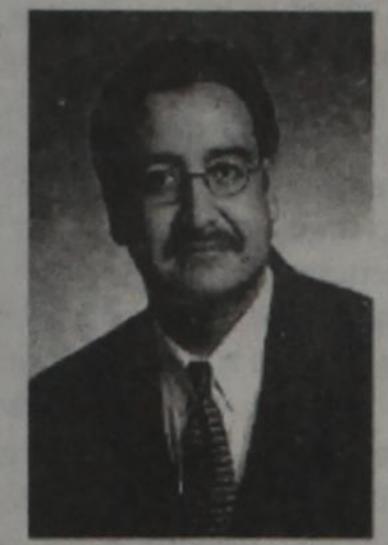
Elsa Hernandez - delivered via email More Letters On Page 2

Internet!

districts a spending advantage of more than \$4,000 a student, or the ability to dramatically reduce tax rates, said Paul Colbert, a former lawmaker and now a school finance consultant.

Providing better education at far lower tax rates, he said, would give rich school districts "a considerable advantage in attracting new business."

Gallego said lawmakers couldn't allow that to happen.



Pete Gallego

"You can't have a situation such as Ysleta in El Paso that is watching from But doing so would give rich school afar as Alamo Heights (a rich district in San Antonio) or Highland Park (a wealthy Dallas district) create new opportunities for their kids, and at the same time, are able to tremendously lower the burden of their taxes," Gallego said.

The Mexican American Legislative Caucus includes nearly one-third of the

150-member Texas House of Representatives.

Gallego said minority members would oppose a sales tax increase because Texas already has the secondhighest sales tax rate (6.25 percent) among the 15 most populous states. Texas already relies too heavily on the sales tax, which brings in nearly 58 percent of the state's total tax revenue, he said.

Sales taxes hurt lower-income families more than others. Sales taxes also are not deductible on federal tax returns, Gallego said, meaning that a shift from property taxes to higher sales taxes would result in tax increases for many middle-income Texans.

Gov. Rick Perry said he would call a special session on school finance this spring if legislative leaders reach a consensus on a solution. Perry has not yet discussed school finance with leaders of the Mexican-American caucus, Gallego said.

"If you want a consensus on education," Gallego said, "the only way to reach that consensus is to bring the members in and make them talk."

Education opportunities expanding for U.S. Hispanics

ashington, D.C., March 31, 2004 (Notimex) - Rod Paige, United States Secretary of Education, signed an agreement today with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) intended to expand education opportunities for Latino students.

"I am pleased to sign an agreement that will strengthen our alliance with

HACU to comply with our shared objectives of raising the academic achievements of young Hispanics preparing them for the demands of the XXI Century, " stated the public official.

"The historic alliance promises to open up new doors for academic success for our country's youngest and largest ethnic population," pointed out HACU president, Antonio R. Flores, during the annual HACU reunion in Washington.

The understanding that has been reached has the stated goal of coordinating activities that will promote work and

educational opportunities by the Department of Education for students and educators in institutions affiliated to the HACU.

In addition it will channel funds that will reinforce education and research in those same organizations.

Included among the initiatives promoted by the project are to insert interns or apprentices at the Department of Education and to provide openings for representatives of the educational institutions that offer services to Hispanics to take part in counseling boards and commissions of that same federal entity.

It also seeks to broaden opportunities for graduate students and Hispanics professors, promoting research in subjects of interest to Hispanics, programs, and forums, special workshops designed to heighten academic performance among Latinos, are just a few of its objectives.

As part of the agreement, the Department of Education and HACU will establish a joint leadership group to coordinate combined activities.

HACU is a non-profit national organization representing 359 universities and centers for higher learning that have considerable Hispanic enrollment.

The great majority of these higher-learning centers can garner funds according to Title V of the Amendments to the Superior Education Act of 1998, whose goal is to improve academic quality, the level of the docents and the installations of those institutions.

The budget projected by president George W. Bush for fiscal 2005 requests 95.5 million dollars for the program, an increase of 40 per cent since Bush took over, according to information from the Department of Education. NOTIMEX

Early Voting Starts Monday race that has some

times drawn heated discussions will begin the final leg to the concusion this coming Monday as early voting begins to select Lubbock's next County Commissioner for precict 3.

In the race, incumbent Gilbert Flores a twelve year veteran of the County Court faces chal-

lenger Ysidro Gutierrez who promises to bring new vision and ideas to the job.

Flores

"New vision and ideas are the thoughts of a dreamer," says Flores. "He is a dreamer when he says that he can build a mercado or pave roads."

Gutierrez hs claimed that the present commissioner has an attitude of sustaining the job in "a maintenance mode. When all one does during a twele years tenure is maintain roads in their present poor condidition and do the everyday job of taking telephone calls, I don't think that that person is doing a good job," says Gutiérrez. "When I say that I will work toward building a Mercado the ultimate goal is to expand economic development in an area that must work to acquire improvements in order to benefit the entire county. A Mercado in the Arnett Benson area would help to bring that economic development to fruit."

"Why does he have to b a county commissioner to work toward a Mercado?" asked Flores during a recent debate. Gutierrez answers that the power of a commission will

uniquely strengthen efforts that have actually been thought about since the 1970's. "The idea has been there but it needs a push from an elected official that can guide it through. If we just hide our head in the ground and say that it can't be done, as Gilbert is

saying, it will never be done." A second issue heavily debated during the campaign has been the party affiliation of each of the candi-

> openly accused Gutiérrez of being a republican. "Maybe Gilbert is confusing me with Frank Gutiérrez, my

name is Ysidro. I am not related to Frank nor am I a republican," says Gutiérrez.. Frank Gutiérrez has run and has filed as a republican for several positions including county commissioner.

Y. Gutierrez

Ysidro Gutiérrez adds that the accusations are being made in a desperate attempt to call attention away from the issues. "It is a desperate act by a desperate politician who has no definite platform. Gilbert has resorted to name calling as a last resort."

Political observers have said that the race is "neck to neck." The runoff election was necessary after a ninevote margin divided both candidates in a three man race. Ysabel Luna a third candidate in the race endorsed Gutiérrez for the position saying that "twelve years of Gilbert have been enough. He claims to have done all these things in East Lubbock when in reality, East Lubbock has just been ignored and the things that were done were done by leaders in our community."

Early voting will begins Monday at normal locations including United Supermrakets and the County Courthouse. Polls will be open at 8 am until 8 pm from Monday April 5 until Thrusday April 9.

dates. Flores has openly accused Ampliarán Oportunidades Educativas para hispanos

El secretario de Educación de Estados Unidos, Rod Paige, firmó hoy un acuerdo con la Asociación Hispana de Universidades (HACU) con el objetivo de ampliar las oportunidades educativas para los estudiantes latinos.

"Me complace firmar un acuerdo que fortalecerá nuestra alianza con HACU para cumplir con nuestro objetivo compartido de elevar el rendimiento académico de los jóvenes hispanos y prepararlos para las exigencias del siglo XXI", refirió el funcionario.

"La histórica alianza promete abrir nuevas puertas al éxito académico para la población étnica más joven y grande de nuestro país," senalo el presidente de HACU, Antonio R. Flores, durante la reunión anual de HACU en Washington.

El memorandum de entendimiento tiene por objetivo coordinar actividades que fomenten las oportunidades laborales y educativas en el Departamento de Educación para los estudiantes y educadores de instituciones afiliadas a HACU.

Además, canalizar recursos para el fortalecimiento educativo y de investigación en esas organizaciones.

Entre las iniciativas promovidas se incluyen a pasantes o internados en el Departamento de Educación y oportunidades para que representantes de instituciones educativas que prestan servicios a hispanos participen en consejos de asesores y comisiones de esa entidad federal.

Tambien busca ofrecer más oportunidades a estudiantes, graduados y profesorado hispano, promoción de investigación en materias de interés hispano, programas, y foros y talleres especiales para elevar el rendimiento académico de los latinos, entre otros objetivos.

Como parte del acuerdo, el Departamento de Educación y HACU establecerán un grupo de liderazgo conjunto para coordinar las actividades conjuntas.

HACU es una organización nacional sin fines de lucro que representa 359 universidades y centros de educacion superior con una cantidad considerable de hispanos matriculados.

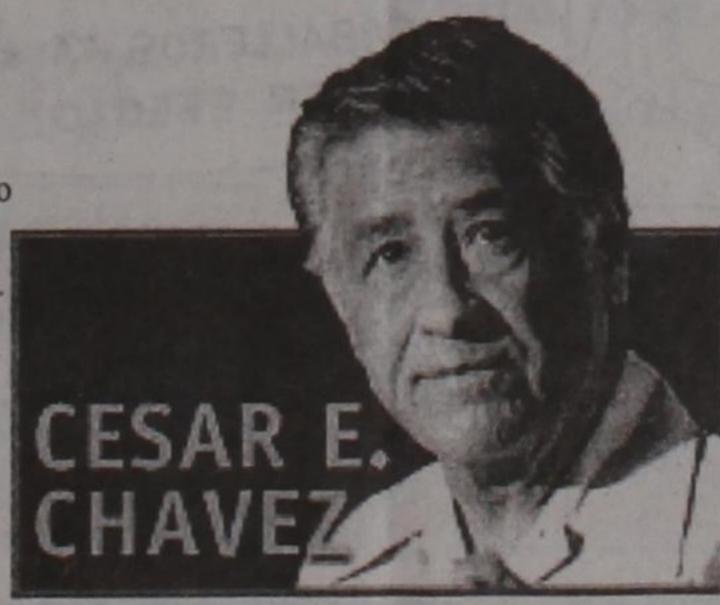
La mayoría de estos centros de educacion superior pueden recibir fondos conforme al Título V de las Enmiendas a la Educación Superior de 1998, que tiene como fin mejorar la calidad académica, el nivel de el profesorado y las instalaciones de esas instituciones.

César Chávez to be Honored in Local March Saturday

The outstanding life of Cesar Chavez will be honored this coming Saturday in a march that is scheduled to start at 2:30 at Cavazos Junior High and will continue with activities at 3:45 at Bbuddy Holly park. Te program at the park will include musical groups, skits and speakers. Father Curtis Halfmann and Dr. Sheryl Santos, dean f the college of Education of Tech are scheduled to speak

Around eight thousand people marched down the street of central San Antonio, Texas to honor farm worker's leader César Chávez, in one of the major demonstrations held yearly in the United States in memory of the Hispanic torchbearer.

Chávez, founder of the United Farm Workers, the first farm worker's union in the United States, was born on March 31, 1927 on a farm near Yuma, Arizona. Due to his family's constant migrating he was forced to leave school after the sixth grade. At his death, in 1993, at the age of 66, the farm worker's figure as a leader had become an icon for the Hispanic sector in this country where many consider him a hero for having won better working conditions for millions of workers in the



fields, all through peaceful, non violent demonstrations.

Chávez served in the U.S. Marine during WWII, later he worked for a community organization, and in 1966 he began putting together the union of workers in the agricultural fields, first called the National Association of Agricultural Workers. During his life-long battle Chávez always followed the principles of non-violence and peaceful protest practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

In 1968, Chávez finally won national

recognition when he organized a boycott against California table-grape producers across the entire United States, demanding better salaries for their workers, which he stressed with a 25-day long fast.

Twenty years later, the farm workers' leader started a new protest and a fast with the intention of forcing grape producers to stop using pesticides that harm the health and lives of the workers in the fields.

Chávez, a recognized labor leader, continued his fight to improve the lives of millions of farm workers across the United Stats until his death in 1993.

Cesar Chavez En Una Epoca de Nuevo Nativismo Different but Equal

En un avance de su nuevo libro, "Who We Are: The Challenges to America's National Identity" (Quienes somos: Los retos a la identidad nacional estadounidense), el profesor Samuel Huntington, de Harvard, escribe: "El influjo persistente de inmigrantes hispanos amenaza con dividir a los Estados Unidos en dos gentes, dos culturas, y dos lenguas. A diferencia de los inmigrantes del pasado, los mexicanos y otros latinos no se han asimilado a la cultura general de los EEUU. Los Estados Unidos peligra al hacer caso omiso de este reto".

Hace más de una década, Ron Unz, millionario conservador y cruzado opositor a la educación bilinguJe profirió una queja similar. Siguiendo las manifestaciones en Los Angeles de 1992, Unz escribió que: "De repente, la feliz y multicultural California tan amada por los promotores locales se vio desenmascarada como una antiutopía tercermundista, dura y peligrosa...los grandes números de latinos detenidos (y deportados sin más) por estar saqueando la ciudad causó que ahora los blancos miraran con ojos precavidos los jardineros y niñeras quienes sólo semanas antes les habían parecido tan placenteros y cumplidos".

A pesar del sello de Harvard que pueda prestar Huntington a las distorciones de Unz, lo que escriben ambos hombres es parte de un movimiento antimexicano que quiere hacer chivo expiatorio a miles de familias trabajadoras y sus hijos. Además de estos comentarios irracionales tenemos ataques bien remunerados por parte de

los College Republicans en la Universidad de California en Los Angeles (UCLA) en contra de la organización estudiantil chicana, MEChA, y las continuas patrullas de vigilantes en Texas y Arizona en las que hombres armados cazan a los indocumentados, y lo cual resulta nada menos que un nuevo nativismo.

En un ambiente así, ¿qué significa que los californianos celebren un feriado oficial en honor a César Chávez este mes? ¿Qué puede significar tal feriado si figuras de influencia como Huntington y Unz pueden representar injustamente a personas de ascendencia mexicana como una amenaza a la nación?

Los "jardineros y niñeras" que alguna vez hicieron temer a Ron Unz son precisamente las personas por quienes luchó César Chávez toda su vida. Desde que acabó su turno de servicio con la Fuerza Naval estadounidense en 1946, Chávez se dedicó a servir a las familias trabajadoras mexicanas y méxico-americanas. En 1962 se unió a Dolores Huerta, Gilbert Padilla y otros para organizar a las más explotadas de aquellas familias, los trabajadores agrícolas de los campos de cultivo en California.

Los trabajadores agricolas, sujetos a viviendas inferiores, expuestos a químicos tóxicos a diario, y obrando por lo que era mucho menos que un sueldo para vivir, entregaban al mercado las verduras y frutas que las familias en Estados Unidos daban por sentado habría en sus

Ya no se limitan los trabajadores agrícolas a California y el suroeste de los EEUU, sino que están por todo el país, y continuan desempeñando esta labor ardua bajo condiciones que sólo han mejorado un

Hoy, en ámbitos urbanos y rurales, trabajadores mexicanos y latinoamericanos forman una parte integra de las economias locales. En la agricultura, el sector de servicio, la industria del turismo, la construcción, la jardinería paisajística y los viveros, el empaquetado de carnes y aves, cumplen responsablemente con su labor haciendo trabajos que otros no están dispuestos a asumir.

¿Son, acaso, la amenaza al bienestar de otros trabajadores en los Estados Unidos, como quisiera el profesor Huntington que creyéramos?

Un estudio realizado en el 2000 sobre el impacto de los trabajadores indocumentados en Minnesota encontró que "cada trabajador indocumentado que se elimina de la economía causa que otro trabajador en alguna parte de Minnesota pierda su trabajo". Dado el hecho que la fuerza laboral indocumentada contribuyó al menos \$1.5 mil millones a la economía del estado, el estudio concluyó que: "Si se eliminan los trabajadores indocumentados de Minnesota, se reducirá repentinamente el crecimiento económico en un 40 por ciento". Muchos otros estados tienen proyecciones similares.

¿Son estas personas trabajadoras, que quieren realizar el sueño del inmigrante por una vida mejor para sus hijos, un reto a la cultura tradicional de los Estados Unidos? Su deseo de mantener la lengua y el folclor no es diferente en nada de otros grupos de inmigrantes

anteriores. Nos complace que nuestros hijos aprendan de Abraham Lincoln, dicen, con tal que también sepan de Benito Juárez. Aunque resulte interesante la historia de la Mayflower, nuestras raíces están en otra región. Queremos mucho aprender inglés, pero, ¿por qué tendríamos que dejar de hablar y soñar en español?

nativistas nuevos quisieran que olvidáramos que las personas de ascendencia mexicana y latinoamericana han contribuido mucho a todas las actividades en la esfera de toda la historia de los Estados Unidos. Lo que han insistido los dirigentes más claros de la comunidad, César como Chávez, es que nuestras contribuciones se realicen como determinemos nosotros y de manera que aseguremos que los menos entre nosotros reciban el respeto y el trato del que son

A sólo tres años de su fallecimiento en 1993, Chávez reflexionó sobre la vida de Martin Luther King, Jr. Dijo al público reunido: "Amigos míos, al entrar en una nueva década, debemos tener claro que queda por realizarse un programa, que nos queda todavía mucho que recorrer antes de llegar a la tierra prometida. Nuestra nación continua segregada por raza y poder adquisitivo. Los que tienen el poder se hacen más ricos explotando a los pobres. Es hora que la gente, de todas las razas y culturas, hagan sonar el clarin del cambio".

En este año electoral, las palabras de Chávez suenan más ciertas que nunca.

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Cesar Chavez in a Time of New Nativism

By Jorge Mariscal

In a preview of his new book, "Who We Are: The Challenges to America's National Identity," Harvard professor Samuel P. Huntington writes: "The persistent inflow of Hispanic immigrants threatens to divide the United States into two peoples, two cultures, and two languages. Unlike past immigrant groups, Mexicans and other Latinos have not assimilated into mainstream U.S. culture. The United States ignores this challenge at its peril."

Over a decade ago, conservative millionaire and crusader against bilingual education Ron Unz lodged a similar complaint. Unz wrote that in the wake of the 1992 Los Angeles riots: "Suddenly, the happy multicultural California so beloved of local boosters had been unmasked as a harsh, dangerous, Third World dystopia ... the large numbers of Latinos arrested (and summarily deported) for looting caused whites to cast a newly wary eye on gardeners and nannies who just weeks earlier had seemed so pleasant and reliable."

Despite the Ivy League imprimatur that Huntington might lend to Unz's distortions, both men's writings participate in a growing anti-Mexicanism that seeks to scapegoat thousands of working families and their children. Add to these irrational commentaries the well-funded attacks by College Republicans

(4-1-04)

at UCLA against the Chicano student organization MEChA and the on-going vigilante patrols in Texas and Arizona in which armed men hunt the undocumented, and you have what is nothing less than a new nativism.

In such an environment, what does it mean for Californians to celebrate an official Cesar Chavez holiday this month? What meaning does such a holiday have if influential figures like Huntington and Unz can unjustly represent people of Mexican descent as a threat to the nation?

The "gardeners and nannies" who once struck fear into Ron Unz's heart are precisely the people Cesar Chavez fought for his entire life. From the time he completed his tour of duty with the U.S. Navy in 1946, Chavez devoted himself to serving Mexican and Mexican-American working families.In 1962, he joined with Dolores Huerta, Gilbert Padilla, and others to organize the most exploited of those families, the farmworkers in California's fields.

Living in substandard housing, exposed to toxic chemicals on a daily basis, and working for what was far below a living wage, farm workers delivered the fresh produce that most U.S. families took for granted.

No longer limited to California and the Southwest but now everywhere across the country, farmworkers continue to perform this arduous labor in conditions that have improved only slightly.

Today, in urban and rural settings, Mexican and Latin American workers form an integral part of local economies. In agriculture, the service sector, the tourist industry, conlandscaping and struction, nurseries, and meat and poultry-packing, they responsibly go about their business doing jobs that others choose not

Are they a threat to the wellbeing of other workers in the United States, as Professor Huntington would have us believe?

A 2000 study of the impact of undocumented workers in Minnesota found that "every undocumented worker removed from the economy causes another worker somewhere in Minnesota to lose his or her job." Given the fact that undocumented labor contributed at least \$1.5 billion to the state economy, the study concluded: "If the undocumented workers were removed from Minnesota, economic growth would be suddenly reduced by percent." Many other states project similar scenarios.

Do these hard-working people who seek to realize the immigrant's dream of a better life for their children pose a challenge to the traditional culture of the United States? The desire to maintain their language and folkways is certainly no different than that of earlier immigrant groups. We will be happy to have our children

NOMAS

DOLARES

DIEZ

anxious to learn English, but and dreaming in Spanish?

The new nativists would have us forget that people of Mexican and Latin American descent have insisted upon is that those ensures the least among us will be treated with dignity and respect.

flected on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. He told his assembled audience: "My friends, as we enter a new decade, it should be clear to all of us that there is an unfinished agenda, that we have miles to go before we reach the promised land. Our nation continues to be segregated along racial economic lines. The powers-that-be make themselves richer by exploiting the poor. The time is now for people, of all races and backgrounds, to sound the trumpets of change."

words ring truer than ever.

Media Services International.

learn about Abraham Lincoln, they say, as long as they also know about Benito Juarez. Although the story of the Mayflower is interesting, our family roots lie elsewhere. We are why should we stop speaking

have made major contributions in every sphere of activity throughout U.S. history. What the community's most enlightened leaders like Cesar Chavez contributions be made on our own terms and in a way that Just three years before his passing in 1993, Chavez re-

In this election year, Chavez's 2004, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Tribune





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"ME COSTO

SABER"

by andré





By Abel Cruz

As far back as I can remember there has always been a debate about what we, meaning people with a Spanish surname, light to darker skin and black hair for the most part, should call ourselves and what other people should refer to us as.

Other minority groups have gone through this debate and one, blacks, have managed to settle on pretty much two terms, African American and black, as the two interchangeable labels. For this minority group the process was a lot easier since the black race does exist. Not so for the Hispanic community, and consequently the debate goes on.

I bring this up at this time of the year, since it is an election year and politicians are busy courting the so called Hispanic vote. Although they see Hispanics as a group of people united by what I call, their Hispanic ethnicity, and as a separate racial group, they fail to recognize that we are not at all united by anything other than a common language and sometimes a common skin color and physical features. The fact that Hispanics are viewed as being mostly Democratic is more a result of socioeconomic standing rather than political ideology.

In 1999 the US Census Bureau was using 4 race categories to distinguish one person from another, each with distinct physical traits. This evolved from a process that was first started in the 70's. The 4 categories are White, Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander. Nowhere was the term Hispanic to be found. But, they did designate a racial category as White Hispanic as opposed to White Non-Hispanic to differentiate between those people who knew they were not White.

For a lot of Hispanics born in the 50's and 60's, the blank space that asked for the race of the individual was usually filled with the term Caucasian, or "white person with Spanish surname". There was no such thing as Hispanic or Mexican American, etc. During this last decade, another term, Latino, has emerged as another label that some people prefer. As an example, Latino was the choice term used at the newspaper I used to work for, The Washington Post, to describe a person who came from a country in Latin America, or had a connection to Latin America, and happened to speak Spanish.

Consequently, over the past 30-40 years, the Hispanic community has been left with more confusion than a clear choice of label. For instance, we have people who prefer Mexican American, Mexican, Chicano, Hispanic, Latino, Spanish, and some just simply American, and then we have all the other subsets such as Cuban American, Puerto Rican, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, etc.

One thing that is undeniable is that for the most part, and with the exception of a lot of our youth, we all speak a common language. Therefore the label should reflect that commonality, and not reflect a race category. Perhaps the term Hispanic fits better than most?

Most importantly, Hispanics should not be treated as a group that will always vote collectively, regardless of the candidate. I suppose that you could make the argument that Hispanics usually vote Democratic, but check out the Cuban American/ Hispanic vote totals in Florida next time and you'll be surprised at the number of Republican voters.

But aside from the language connection, the differences can be very distinct or can be equally similar. There are different social standings, economic and educational levels, and cultural similarities. Hispanics also tend to share common family and cultural values.

and make use of them in a positive socioeconomic way. Whether that is as a voting bloc or an economic influence. Either choice would lead to a better political standing and improve the quality of life for a lot of people. But first, we have to decide among ourselves what we want

Now if we could only learn to identify these commonalities

to be called, and stop depending on governmental institutions to label us.

My hunch is that if we could agree to do that, only good things will follow.

(c)acruz2004

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More Letters to the Editor Editor

I was very fortunate to have the time and opportunity to attend last Wedesday night's debate at Cavazos between County Commissioner Flores and candidate Mr. Ysidro Gutierrez.

My observation was of Mr. Flores at being a very negative, desperate and scared individual.

One who seemed to be afraid of an impending doom! At every questionthat was directed at both candidates, the panel

offered th opportunity and requested that the questions be answered in both English and nuestra idioma, español. It's sad to say that Mr. Flores answered only in English -- with

speaking in English. However before answering any and all of the questions, Mr Flores was determined to attack Mr. Gutierrez by menial and trivial accusations and did so, before addressing the question.

an attempt at humor - by saying"I'm bilingual" as he continued

His answers had "nada" to do the campaign agenda or commissioner duties. He kept insinuating that it was a "bad thing" to dream of improving conditions for Precinct 3. Throughout the debate Mr. Flores kept getting off track. When he was asked what he planned to do about kids losing their insurance and the Chips program, Mr. Flores started asking Mr. Gutierrez if he had reported campaign donations given during a Little Joe dance. Huh??

Mr. Flores - aren't you aware that one cannot catch any fish

watching the other guy's line? I was also very offended when Mr. Flores approached me and an Anglo spectator, from precinct 1 who was at the debate because of a meeting with his son who teaches at Cavazos and had no interest in the debate. Mr. Flores moved to intorduce himself, ingnored me and directed all his attention to the Anglo. It is sad to say that it weems that Mr. Flores is more interested in impressing Anglos than talking to those Hispanics that can vote for him. I'm willing to bet that Mr. Flores is one of those that tell "Mexican jokes." when he's around Anglos. "Triste, que no!"

Jose Macias - Lubbock, TX El Editor Newspaper

is published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock, Texas at 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Our telephone number is 806-763-3841. El Editor is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Publications and the Texas Associaiton of Hispanic Newspapers, El Editor is audited by Community Papers Verification Service. Rates available on request. Our fax number is 806-741-1110 and our e-mail is eleditor@llano.net. Letters and opinion expessed on our editorial page are those of the author and do not necesarily reflect the opinions of the publisher, its staff or advertisers.

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Frustration Builds Over Federal Failure to Hire Latinos Líderes demócratas culpan a Bush por aumento de la gasolina Ironically, the Department of By Sonia Meléndez shooting upward once again, outreach and employment

Latino frustration in Washington, D.C., and beyond is intensifying over the historical and increasing failure of the federal executive branch -- the nation's largest employer -- to bring qualified Latinos into its workforce of nearly 2 million.

The executive branch employs about 98 percent of federal workers. They are spread throughout the country, with fewer than 20 percent holding jobs in the nation's capital.

A diversity report prepared by the Office of Personnel Management for delivery to Congress this month shows that in spite of a succession of ballytween Hispanics in the civilian and federal work forces is expanding.

According to the 2003 Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program report obtained by Hispanic Link, as of Sept. 30, 2003, Hispanics represented 7.0 percent of the executive branch's workers while they constituted 13.1 percent of U.S. civilian workers.

Just a year earlier, the gap, while wide, was close to a full percent point narrower: 6.9 percent vs. 12.2 percent.

If Hispanics were hired at a rate equal to their civilian labor force presence, their number on the federal payroll would nearly double its current 105,921 figure, putting an estimated extra billion payroll dollars into Latino households.

Since 2002, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's largest and oldest Hispanic membership organization, has been expressing its concern. Drawing little interest from the media or the government, it has prepared and delivered major reports on the situation at its national conventions in Texas and Florida. It plans another one this summer.

With Latino unemployment

other Latino organizations are beginning to give the federal failure higher priority as an is-

"We are seeing a disengagement of the Latino community with the federal government," claims Larry González, Washington, D.C., director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. He proposes that the federal government reach out not just by informing its Latino community contacts of potential jobs, but by following and guiding applicants through the rigorous application process.

"It certainly cannot be said hooed programs, the gap be- that progress has been made with this systemic problem," observes National Hispanic Leadership Agenda chairman Manuel Mirabal. "The change has to come from the top." NHLA, a coalition group that meets in Washington, includes the heads of 30 of the nation's most influential national Hispanic organizations.

> Echoes Gil Sandate, vice president of the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives, "Until federal officials are held accountable, the numbers are not going to change," The accountability, he stresses, must be reflected in annual performance evaluations and monetary bonuses.

> The lack of representation has been an issue that has frustrated Latino community leaders for more than 30 years. In 1970, President Richard Nixon made the first real attempt to address it with his "Sixteen-Point Pro-Spanishthe Speaking."

The effort went through several changes in name and emphasis. Since 1978, the government's minimally supported Hispanic Employment Program, which involves Latino employee representatives from most federal departments and agencies, has provided some

training to build Latino representation.

"The technology is available to track applications in recruitment pools," explains Jeffrey Vargas, chair of the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers. "But you have to have a commitment to building programs that integrate diversity workforce planning."

Vargas mentions the Labor Department and Social Security Administration as having some success in hiring Hispanics because, according to him, they have had a focused commitment and have tracked their results.

Nearly all federal jobs require U.S. citizenship, a policy that Latino leaders are also questioning. "If Latino non-citizens can defend this country in a war zone, why aren't they good federal enough employment?" Sandate asks. He urges a "reassessment and update of the hiring policies."

Most Hispanic federal employees are bunched in the lower and middle General Schedule ranks. They make up only 4.3 percent of those in the GS 13-15 grades, the highest on the GS scale, and just 3.4 percent in the best-paying Senior Pay positions.

Vargas also points out that some federal agencies take as long as four to six months to respond to applicants.

The report shows that Hispanic men are better represented (4.1 percent) among federal employees than Hispanic women (2.9 percent).

Presence of Latino employees is greatest in the new Department of Homeland Security (22.8 percent), which absorbed the Border Patrol and Customs, where need for Spanish skills is high. Next come the Justice Department (8.5 percent) and Treasury (7.6 Commerce (3.4 percentages of Hispanic em-

gram concerns. U.S. Rep. Hilda Solis (D-Calif.) suggests that the Bush Administration could do much more. The current shortage of Latinos at policy levels in key departments within the executive branch is having an effect on cutbacks in programs that promote diversity, she main-

tains. The FEORP report was established by Congress in 1978 to secure a more accurate picture of the government's progress in hiring and retaining workers of color.

Hispanics continue to be the only underrepresented ethnic group in federal service. Blacks, FEORP figures show, make up 10.4 percent of the civilian labor force and comprise 17.6 percent of the permanent federal government workforce. The percentages for Asian Americans are 4.5 and 4.5, while Native Americans make up 0.6 percent of the civilian labor force while holding 2.0 percent of federal jobs

"The federal agencies are simply not doing enough" for Hispanics, concludes John Sepúlveda, former deputy director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

The dearth of Latinos cannot be addressed with a short-term solution, according to Vargas. He recommends a long-term approach that identifies how to build a sustained relationship.

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Engagement

Announcement

percent), Health and Human Services (3.5 percent) and Education (4.3 percent) have the lowest ployees in the federal bureaucracy. It is these areas -- education, health care and economic status -- that Gabriela Lemus, director of policy and legislation at LULAC, that frame LULAC's three principal pro-

> Lideres demócratas lanzaron ayer una campaña coordinada de ataques contra la política energética del presidente George W. Bush, a quien culpan por el aumento de los precios de la gasolina en Estados

Unidos. Encabezando esa campaña de ataques figura el virtual candidato presidencial demócrata, el senador John Kerry, quien hoy delineó sus políticas para procrecimiento mover económico de EU y su independencia del petróleo impor-

Kerry aseguró que, si gana la noviembre presidencia la via utilizará proximo, diplomática para presionar a los miembros de la Organización de Países Exportadores de Petróleo (OPEP) para que suministren más petróleo.

"Necesitamos un nuevo rumbo en la política energética", dijo Kerry durante un Diego San (California), donde el precio de la gasolina se mantiene a 2.13 dólares por galón, un nivel récord en EU.

Por su parte, la Casa Blanca insiste en que esta subida de precios hace más urgente la aprobación en el Congreso de la Ley de Energía, que otorga incentivos fiscales y de otro tipo de beneficios para la explotación de nuevos yacimientos en

Kerry indicó que en los últimos tres años, bajo la gestión de Bush, los más beneficiados de la política energética de EU han sido las empresas del sector petrolero que han contribuido a su campaña política.

El senador demócrata de Massachusetts acusó a Bush de dejar que empeore el problema de los costos de la gasolina, lo que ha repercutido en el resto de la economía.

En enero pasado, el precio promedio de la gasolina se ubicaba en 1.51 dólares por galón, y tres meses después el precio promedio es de 1.75 dólares, un incremento de 24 centavos.

Según un análisis del diario The Wall Street Journal que citó la campaña de Kerry, cada aumento de sólo un centavo en los precios de la gasolina le cuesta a los consumidores estadounidenses mil millones de dólares anuales.

Añadió que, sólo este año, los consumidores estadounidenses pagarán unos 24,000 millones de dólares más por la gasolina como consecuencia de la política energética de Bush.

Rice testificará bajo juramento en público

En respuesta a las tremendas presiones del país, entre las que se incluyeron las de algunos republicanos, la Casa Blanca dio un giro en su postura y anunció que la asesora de seguridad nacional, Condoleezza Rice, testificará públicamente y bajo juramento ante la comisión especial que investiga las medidas que se tomaron o dejaron de tomarse antes de los ataques terroristas del 11 de septiembre de 2001.

El presidente George W. Bush y el vicepresidente Dick Cheney también testificarán conjuntamente ante los 10 integrantes del panel, pero en privado, sin estar bajo juramento. La Casa Blanca había indicado que Bush y Cheney testificarían en privado, pero sólo ante el presidente y el vicepresidente del panel especial.

El Presidente Bush compareció ante la prensa en la Casa Blanca y, sin responder preguntas sobre por qué esperó hasta ahora para permitir que Rice comparezca ante el panel, habló de la importancia de la comisión y de por qué se tomó la decisión.

"Hoy le informé a la comisión que mi consejera en seguridad nacional Condoleezza prestará testimonio público", declaró Bush en una breve alocución pública.

"Las circunstancias son excepcionales, porque los eventos del 11 de setiembre son excepcionales", subrayó Bush al justificar su decisión de cambiar de opinión y permitir que Rice comparezca ante comisión.

"Esta comisión recibió la misión de realizar una tarea crucial. Para impedir nuevos atentados, debemos comprender los métodos de nuestros enemigos", declaró Bush, quien en el año 2002 se había opuesto a su creación. Agregó, sin embargo, que la comparecencia de Rice ante la comisión independiente "no debe tomarse como precedente en la conducción de futuras pesquisas".

"Este principio de separación de poderes está protegido por la Constitución, es reconocido por los tribunales y ha sido defendido por presidentes bajo los dos partidos políticos [Demócrata y Republicano]",

dijo Bush. "He dado orden de brindar este nivel de cooperación porque me parece necesario para

obtener un panorama completo de los meses y años que precedieron al asesinato de nuestros conciudadanos el 11 de septiembre de 2001", dijo Bush.

La Casa Blanca insistió en todo momento que Rice no tenía por qué comparecer ante el panel especial porque, al no ser confirmada por el Senado, no tenía la obligación de testificar públicamente y bajo juramento. Rice ya ha testificado en privado ante la comisión es-

Presión irresistible

a la Administración a dar un giro en su postura. Diversos sondeos revelaron que el público empezó a cuestionar la insistencia de la Casa Blanca de no permitir que Rice testificara, si no tiene nada que ocultar.

continua en la pagina 6

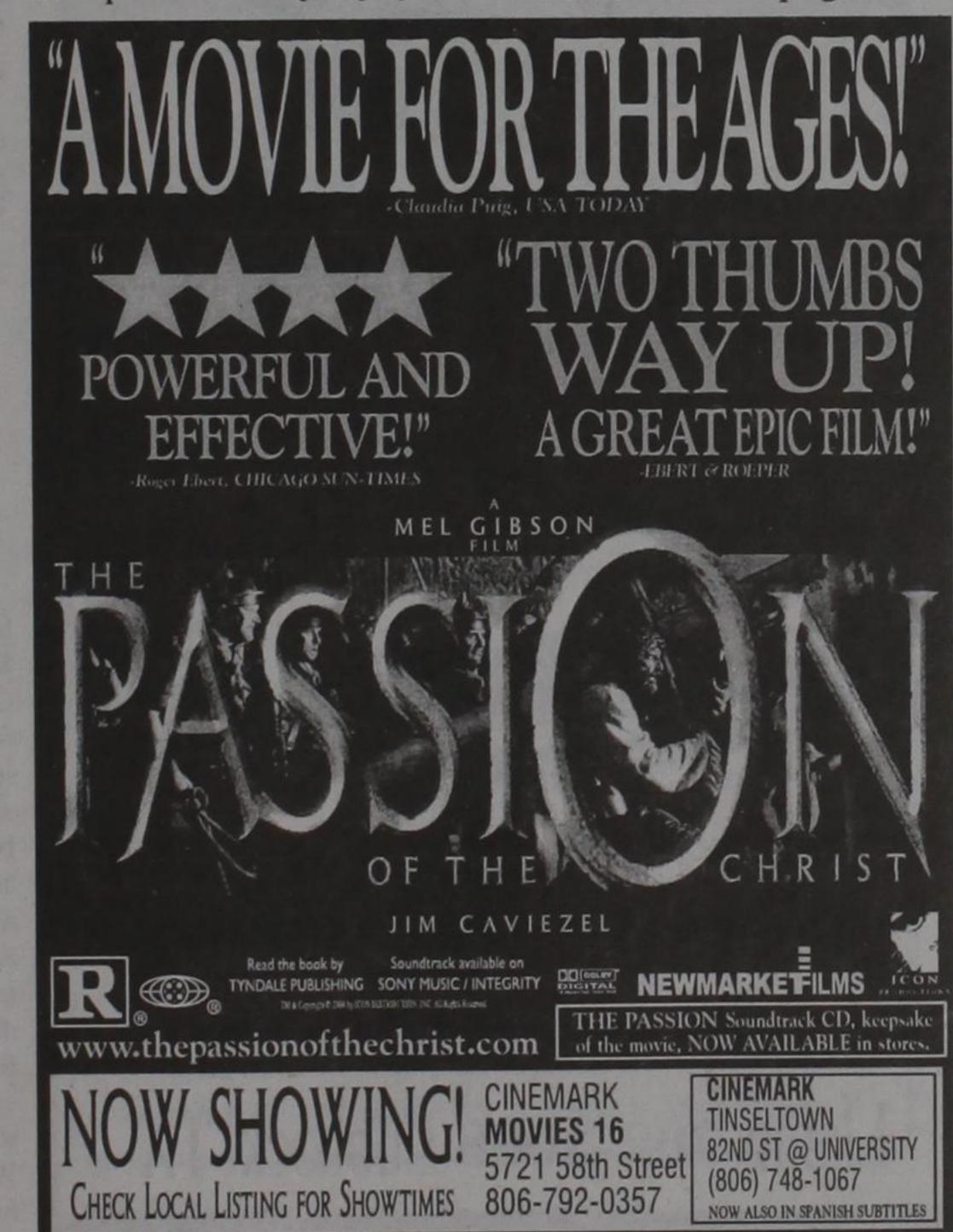
Virginia Martinez and the late Natalio O. Martinez announce the engagement of their daughter Teresa to Pero la intensa presión obligó

Emilio son of Guadalupe Martinez and the late Gonzalo Martinez. The couple will marry April 17 in Lubbock. The bride to be is employed by Interim Health Care and the groom is employed by Brazos Masonary Inc.

Hello, my name is Stephanie Pleasant and attend JT Hutchinson Jr. High School. I have the opportunity of attending the Junior National Young Leaders Conference but I need your help. I would appreciate any type of donation or contribution sent to: 1201 48th St.-Lubbock 79412.

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The people's march will lead participants to Buddy Holly Park, at Canyon Lake Drive, for the Cesar Chavez Festival.

This year's theme is "VOTE WITH HOPE"

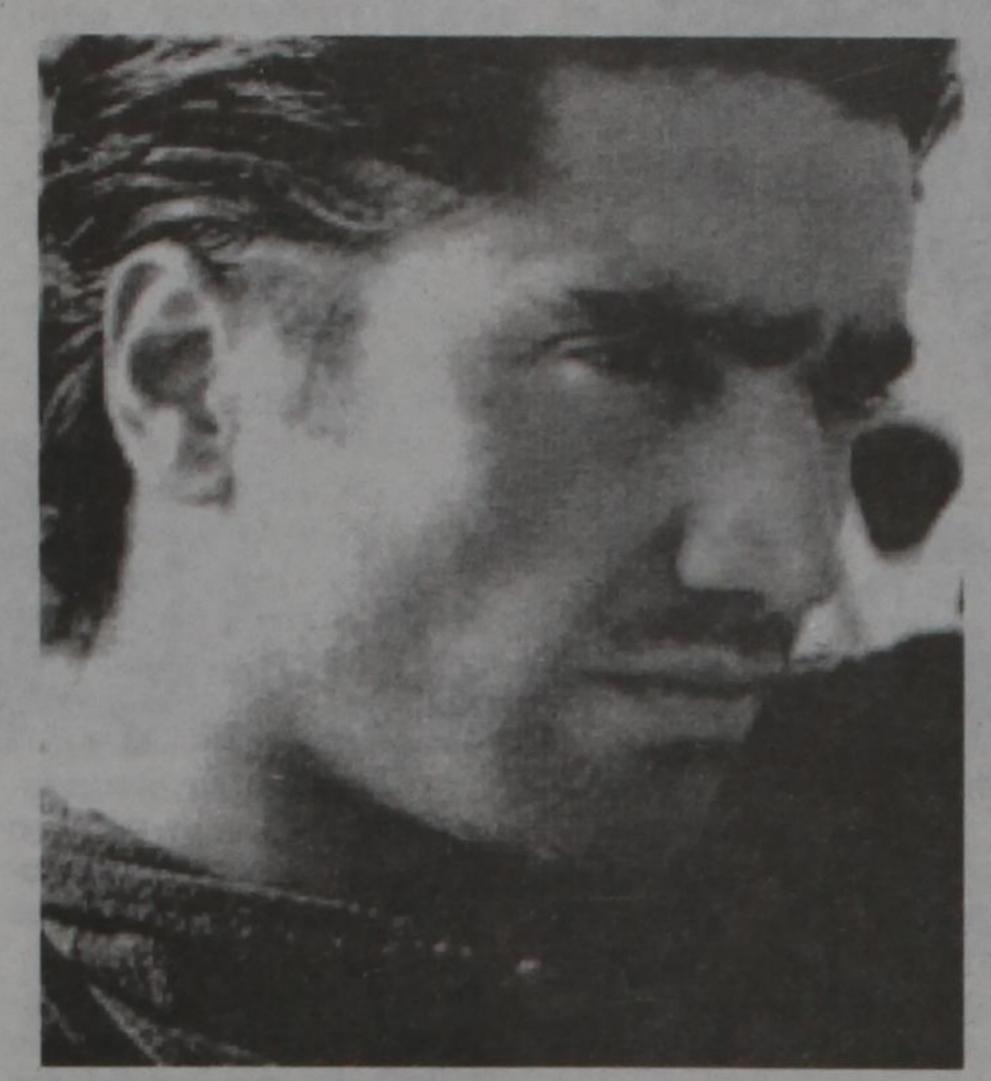
Cesar Chavez believed strongly in voting and having your voice heard. We will have inspirational speakers, mariachi, a musical band, food, drinks and fun. Bring your blankets & lawn chairs.

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We encourage group, organizations, individuals to come out and celebrate the memory of Cesar Chavez and his contributions.

For more information contact Irma Guerrero at 791-3545 or Tavita Dorow at 741-1142

Alejandro Fernández, sensuality & music for Honduras



Mexican singer Alejandro Fernández offered a concert in Honduras, where his fans observed scenes from his upcoming film "Zapata, el sueño del héroe", at an event that combined sensuality, music and feeling.

Fernández, known as "El potrillo", performed Sunday night at the Chochy Sosa Stadium in Tegucigalpa attired in a black charro outfit as two giant screens behind him showed scenes from the movie in which he plays revolutionary leader Emiliano Zapata.

The recital projected the essence of Mexico when the singer interpreted "Nube viajera" along with songs by Agustín Lara and José Alfredo Jiménez, which all got ovations from the audience.

"Sugar, you're just what we like, we love you!" and "You're the biggest bom-bom!" read some of the signs held high by young girls who sang along with all of the tunes interpreted by the son of Mexican singer Vicente Fernández.

Alejandro Fernández ignored the amorous advances from the

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young women present as mey let out euphoric screams when he began to unbutton his vest and undo the first button of his shirt, making emotions rise even higher.

"Too much clothing", said the girls as Alejandro unbuttoned the next one, revealing dark skin to the lyrics of "Niña amada mia" with sensual moves that brought on more shouting and sighs.

In the audience was Lizzi Flores, the daughter of expresident Carlos Flores Facussé (1998-2002); as well as the head coach of the National Soccer Team, Serbian Belibor "Bora" Milutinovic.

While the potrillo sang "Noche de ronda", "Solamente una vez", and "Granada", the giant screens showed an image of Agustin Lara at the piano.

"Mi viejo" was a song dedicated to his father Vicente Fernández and to his own son, the interpreter commented as screaming women surrounded him dancing on the lawn of the Chochy Sosa Stadium while bras hurled by teen-aged girls landed on the stage at his feet.

OlgaTañon: Orgullosa la merenguera



La estrella de la música Olga Tañón habló esta semana con los medios de su hijo Indiana Noa Denizard Tañón, quien nació el pasado miércoles 24 de marzo en Orlando.

"Estoy muy feliz y muy agradecida de Dios y de todas las oraciones que con tanto cariño hicieron para mí y para mi hijo. En estos momentos estoy recuperándome y disfrutándome a Indiana Noa y Gabriela junto a mi esposo Billy", comentó feliz la merenguera puertorriqueña, ganadora en 2003 de un Grammy Latino.

"Indiana tiene mucho cabello y dicen que se parece a mi", añadió la madre del bebé, que llegó al mundo mediante cesárea, pesó siete libras y midió 21 pulgadas.

Madre e hijo regresaron a su hogar de Orlando el pasado viernes, luego de determinar

que ambos se encontraban en perfecto estado de salud y podían ser dados de alta del hospital donde se produjo el

alumbramiento Unas fotos que llevó Tañón a su encuentro con la prensa presentaban por primera vez a Indiana Noa junto a su hermanita Gabriela Marie, quien se encuentra eufórica con la llegada

de su hermanito. Gabriela Marie, de 8 años, es hija del fruto de la relación de la cantante con el jugador de beisbol puertorriqueño Juan 'Igor' González.

Durante los próximos meses "La Mujer de Fuego", como es conocida Tañón, continuará retirada de los escenarios, dedicada a su familia y trabajando en lo que será su nueva producción discográfica para el sello Warner Music que, según lo proyectado, debe estar en el mercado en agosto próximo.

An Art Form -- Or a Bird?

Some people might hear the word "Flamenco" and hear "Flamingo." The former is cor-

Flamenco is a form of music, song, and dance which has its orgins in Spain. Gypsies, originally from Indian, traveled throughout Asia and Europe incorporating what pleased them musically in each various culture. They entered Spain through Morocco and again, united their own, as well as their adopted culture, with the Spanish forlk dance and music. Flamenco was born! It produced a vehicle that was flamboyant, colorful, powerful and expres-

Alician Laura is an international famous and talented dancer/instructor who is opening a Flamenco dance studio and introducing its study for the first time to Lubbock. She expresses how the art of Flamenco is anything but simple. Most of the time the guitar is used as accompaniment. "To my knowledge, Flamenco is the only dance form where the music follows the dancer," Laura explained. The dance is often accompanied by castanets. These are small sea-shelled shaped, percussion instruments held in each hand and played with the fingers. Elabo-

rate and colorfuly costumes are worn. Laura loves the Flamenco dance for its ability to express deep emotions. "Flamenco expresses the entire range of human emotions: joy, loneliness, love, hate - the list goes on." Laura believes tha the age the dancer gets better, so it is not limited to the young. "As you get older, you get better, because you've seen and experienced so much more of life."

Laura has led a full and interesting life and is always excited to see what the future will bring. Her mother's family is from Barcelona and her father is

Polish/American. She grew up in New York City and is a graduate of the High School of Performing Arts where she majored in music. As the school had no PE facilities, modern dance was taught. It was here that she considered pursuing the dance arts and continued studies after graduation. When a friend took her to see José Greco, a famous Flemenco dancer, Laura knew what she wanted to do. With her first lesson she realized that the Spanish satisfied her needs through physical discipline and structured dance forms which alloed the individu-

al's expression. Since then she has devoted her life to mastering this dance form. She instructed in both New York City and Phoenix, Arizona and has produced 15 professional Flamendo dancers. She was principal dancer with the International Dance Theatre which performed at Carnegie and Town Halls in NYC; enjoyed performing internationally with Ballet Granada; toured the US twice with the marvelous dancer, Maria Alba and performed for Queen Farida of Egypt. Individually Sra Laura and the company she formed in Phoenix, were performing artists with the Arizona Commission on the Arts, a federally-sponsored organization, for six years.

Sra Laura studied primarily with Mariquita Flores who was the hub of Flamenco on the East Coast. They have been close friends for many years and Luara does not hesitate to mention that Mariquita, in her mid-80s, is presently teaching at her daughter's school in Virginia.

"I've lived my life fully - as people should," Laura said. She is recorded in the Texas Tech archies where students can learn more about her dancing career. Ms. Laura performed last September at the Fiestas del Llano in the Lubbock Civic Center and, for those who have never exprienced Flamenco as well as those who would enjoy seeing it again, she will perform on April 9th at 12:50 pm during the Lubbock Arts Festival, also at the Civic Center.

More information about dance lessons and presentations can be obtained at 762-1274.

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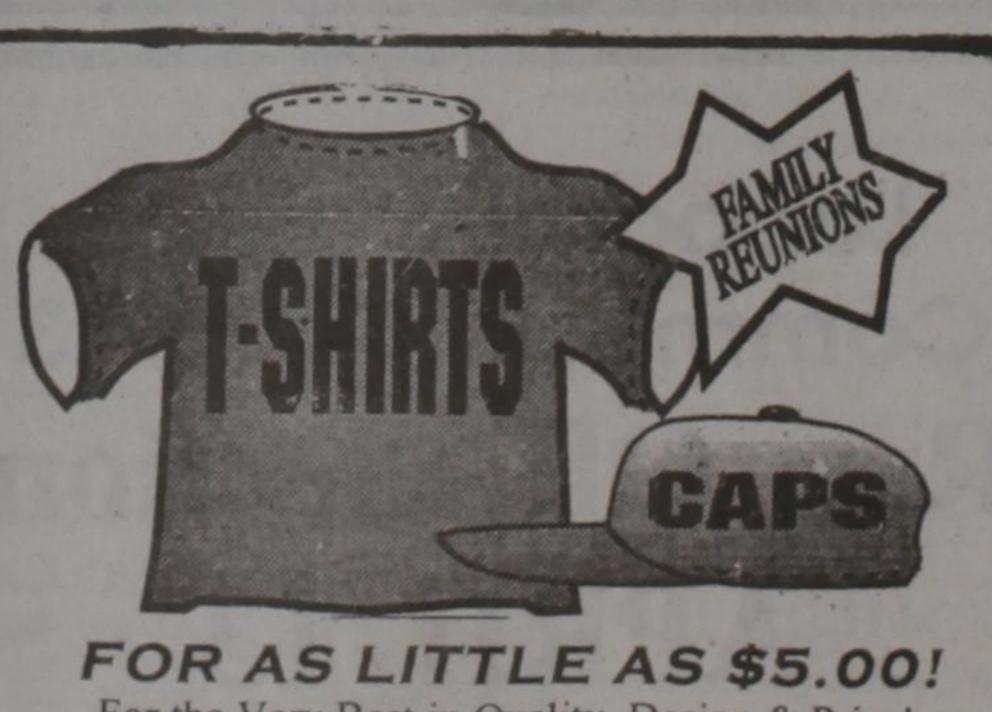
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TELEMUNDO

Posada, Matsui lead Yanks in 12-1 rout

Hideki Matsui and the New York Yankees came through for their fans.

Matsui rocked the Tokyo Dome with a two-run homer, Jorge Posada hit three-run shots from both sides of the plate and the Yankees calmed their jittery supporters back home by routing the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 12-1 Wednesday night.

"It was truly a happy moment for myself," Matsui said, allowing himself a rare moment of public emotion.

A day after Tampa Bay turned baseball upside down by winning the season opener 8-3,

the Yankees restored the old order - appropriate for a country tied to tradition -- in another game that started just after 5 a.m. in New York.

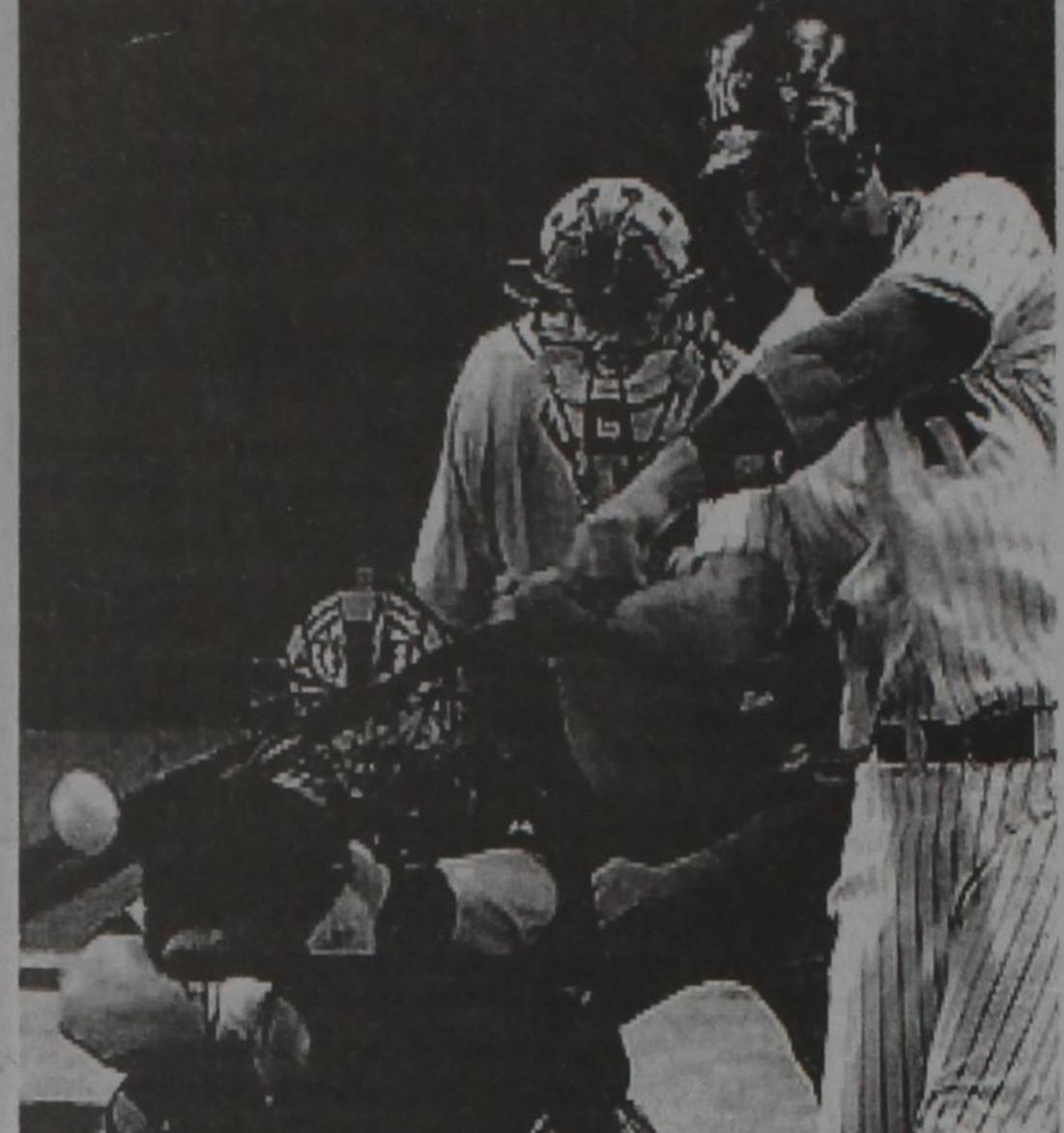
Kevin Brown recorded his 198th career victory in his first start for the Yankees, allowing six hits over seven innings, and Tom Gordon and Mariano Rivera finished with hitless relief.

Tony Clark, playing first base because of Jason Giambi's ailing knee, hit a tiebreaking two-run homer for the Yankees, who made sure they didn't return from Japan in last place.

took the first loss calmly, saying, "It's not where you start, it's where you finish," but an 0-2 trip might have led to a different tune.

"It wouldn't be fun. In fact, I made a comment when we were down 1-0 in the first," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "I felt a little tenseness in there. I said, 'Guys, what's the worst thing that can happen? We lose 162 games, big deal. We can still eat, and you're still going to get paid."

Alex Rodriguez came a few feet short of a grand slam but had another quiet night, going Owner George Steinbrenner 0-for-5 and dropping to 1-for-9



with no RBI. Derek Jeter finally got his first hit, an RBI single, after going hitless in his first seven at-bats.

"I was in there saying, 'I'm the last one without a hit," Jeter remembered.

Tampa Bay, coming off six consecutive last-place finishes, was pretty much overlooked during its five days in Japan. Devil Rays manager Lou Piniella understood that.

"We came to play a team that was very popular here," he said. "If we can play .500 against New York all year, I'll be very, very pleased."

The night -- if not the whole week -- belonged to Matsui, Japan's biggest sports star.

After starring for 10 years with the Yomiuri Giants, he signed with the Yankees before

Los Yankees contrataron a

Por Judd Hickinbotham

Alex Rodríguez, el mejor

jugador de béisbol a nivel

mundial. Mientras que el resto

parece estar enojado, pateando,

gritando y arrojando objetos, yo

del universo de este deporte

estoy aquí sentado con un

mensaje: ¡disfrutenlo anti-

yankees!

the 2003 season. In his first game back, he homered against his old team in Sunday's exhibition game.

That didn't count. This one did.

He repeatedly was greeted by flashbulb-popping fans thrilled to see him in the flesh, and he rewarded them with two big hits. After Aubrey Huff's RBI single in the first put the Devil Rays ahead, Matsui tied it in the fourth with a run-scoring single off loser Jeremi Gon-

put New York ahead 3-1. In the fifth, Matsui teed off on a belthigh pitch, sending it deep into the seats in right-center. Fans gave him a standing ovation, a rarity in Japan. Some of the spectators repeatedly bowed to him.

The ovation was prolonged, as if fans were trying to get him to come out for a curtain call. But Matsui, always modest, didn't leave the dugout.

He had another chance to come up big in the seventh when he batted with the bases loaded, but Matsui struck out

against Trever Miller. After he was presented with the series MVP award, a redand-gold armored samurai helmet called a Kabuto, he addressed the crowd from a podium near home plate. The videoboard showed his father.

"Hopefully, we can have many more games like this," he said. "Everybody really enjoyed this, and the fans were great."

The crowd in the Big Egg was much quieter than the previous night. And while some Yankees' fans might have been furious over the opener, players were calm.

Brown, the 39-year-old righthander acquired from Los Angeles in December, struck out five and walked none. His turning point came in the fourth, when he gave up a leadoff single to Jose Cruz Jr. and went to a 3-0 count on Tino Martinez. Brown came back to strike out Martinez as Cruz was caught trying to steal second.

Posada homered right-handed off Damian Moss in the fifth and left-handed against Jorge Sosa in the seventh. It was the Clark's homer in the fourth fifth time he homered from both sides in the same game, the first since June 28, 2002, against the New York Mets.

His drives were an afterthought as players dressed for the 7,250-mile flight back to spring training in Florida.

"Now," Posada said, "we can talk on the plane."

Elder says foot is better, plans to play in Final Four

B.J. Elder walked into the room with a very ominouslooking protective device on his right foot.

Not to worry.

Georgia Tech's leading scorer insisted Tuesday that his sore foot was feeling much better and shouldn't keep him from playing in the Final Four against Oklahoma State.

"No doubt," Elder said. "I'm definitely going to be ready. It's a lot better. A lot of the soreness is gone."

The Yellow Jackets (27-9) showed they could win without Elder, beating Nevada and Kansas last weekend without any points from their most prolific scorer. Even so, coach Paul Hewitt would prefer not to face that predicament in San Antonio, where Georgia Tech will be facing one of the nation's most rugged defensive teams.

"When you're playing a team like Oklahoma State, you need everybody," Hewitt said. "I'm not saying we can't overcome it. But it sure would be an advantage to have Elder. When you're playing a team that's so strong defensively, you need all your options on offense."

Elder was injured less than two minutes into the regional semifinal against Nevada, when Kirk Snyder landed on the back of his ankle. He tried to come back but lasted only a minute -- the pain was too intense at the base of his Achilles' tendon.

Two days later, Elder tried to give it a go with a heavily taped ankle in the regional final. He wasn't much of a factor, lasting only 12 minutes Midland-Odessa-Lubbock eleditor@llano.net and missing his only two shots.

B.J. Elder hopes to get off the bench and join his teammates on the court Saturday.

Until the injury, Elder had reached double figures in 30 of 34 games and never been held below seven points all season. Even with a couple of gooseeggs on the stat sheet, he's still the team's leading scorer by far at 15.3 points per game.

Elder said he likely will skip Wednesday's final practice in Atlanta, but he plans to be on the court when the team works out in San Antonio. He's been wearing a protective boot on the foot, giving it a little extra cushion. He's also undergoing plenty of treatment.

"It get a little stiff at times," Elder said. "But I'm going through a lot of different stretches, things like that. Every day, it's getting better."

In St. Louis, he cheered on his teammates from the bench, but it sure was tough to watch. The Yellow Jackets endured two more nail-biting victories, holding off Nevada by five points and beating Kansas in overtime.

"He kept telling us, 'C'mon guys, give me one more game," said Clarence Moore, one of the players who stepped up big for Georgia Tech.

If nothing else, Elder's injury allowed the Yellow Jackets to show off their impressive depth. Marvin Lewis scored 23 points against Nevada, then Jarrett Jack had a career-high 29 points in the win over Kan-

But the Yellow Jackets have gone through some offensive struggles in the NCAA Tournament, averaging 65 points in regulation during their four wins -- 12 points below their season average. Not surprisingly, they have been tested each time -- the eight-point overtime win against Kansas was Georgia Tech's largest margin in the tourney.

Elder is one of the team's top threats from beyond the 3point arc and provides another

versatile player on the wings. He's definitely a streak shooter, which was epitomized during the regular season when he scored a career-high 36 points in a win over Clemson, then came back four days later and made only 2-of-11 shots in a loss to Duke.

If Elder can get on a roll, he sure would be a major factor in Saturday's game.

"It would mean a lot to have him. We would have all the pieces of the puzzle back

said. Lewis together, "Defensively, we're all on the same page. But on offense, we've been sort of waiting to go full throttle. If we have him back in the lineup, we can get there."

min Birth

With Georgia Tech making its first Final Four appearance since 1990, Elder is amazed at how much attention everyone is paying to his foot.

"It's kind of funny," he said. "I guess this kind of thing can really get blown up when you make it this far."

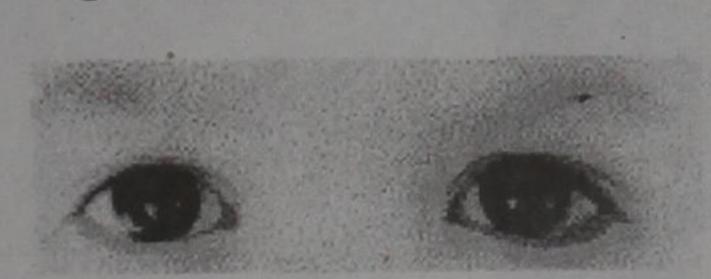
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Los Yankees desequilibran al béisbol Tan simple como que contar con el nuevo jugador puede lastimar el equipo y no

> la Serie Mundial este año. Es un hecho comprobado que el dueño de los Yankees, George Steinbrenner, está orgulloso de su equipo y resentido con aquellos que se

contribuir a las probabilidades

que tiene Nueva York de ganar

cruzan en su camino. Ambos defectos juegan un papel importante a la hora de contratar a Rodríquez.

En primer lugar, Steinbrenner vio al mejor jugador de béisbol y se dio cuenta de que lo quería en su equipo (orgullo). Además, se percató de que su adorado

continua en la pagina 6



Child Care Division/Child Care WorkSource Services

Child Development Specialist - Lubbock

Duties include recruitment of providers and technical assistance and training of providers. One year experience delivering or supervising direct delivery of child care services or providing professional child care support in child development programs, Head Start, child care, or other child related programs. Knowledge of developmentally appropriate practice; ability to train others in the early childhood field; ability to organize and implement system for monitoring and tracking of child care providers.

Bachelor's degree in Child Development, Early Childhood or a related field. Applications available at WorkSource Child Care Center, 1946 Ave. Q, Lubbock or WorkSource Career Center, 1218 14th St., Lubbock. See www.spcaa.org for more detail.

Human Resource Department

Human Resources Administrative Assistant - Levelland

Provide administrative and clerical support to the Human Resources Department. Duties include development and/or maintenance of filing systems, conducting employment verifications, compiling reports, and data entering information.

Associate degree preferred. Experience may be counted in lieu of part of education, as is applicable. Excellent Computer skills and interpersonal skills required. Human Resources experience helpful. Applications available at WorkSource Career Center, 411 Houston Street, Levelland or see www.spcaa.org

Human Resources Technician - Levelland

Act as Human Resources liaison to the Head Start Division of SPCAA by providing day-to-day support to employees. Duties include maintaining accurate personnel records, timely processing of information, preparing information for job vacancies, coordination of Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) issues, and assist in new employee orientation and staff training.

Associate Degree required, Bachelor degree preferred. Must have Human Resources background and/or knowledge. Must have excellent computer skills. Requires a valid driver's license and satisfactory driving record.

Applications available at WorkSource Career Center, 411 Houston Street, Levelland or see www.spcaa.org

Head Start Division

Head Start Director - Levelland

Director for operations of Head Start Program in 16 county area. See detailed job description, qualifications, and application instructions at www.spcaa.org

Fiscal Division

Senior Accountant - Levelland Responsible for maintaining the general ledger and performing all general accounting duties. See

detailed job description, qualifications, and application instructions at www.spcaa.org

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Rice

testificará viene de la pagina 3

El ex asesor de Bush en maantiterrorista, Richard Clarke, abrió "la caja de Pandora" cuando publicó en su libro y luego testificó ante la comisión 9/11 que para la Casa Blanca la amenaza del terrorismo no fue un asunto "urgente" durante los primeros ocho meses de gobierno de Bush, los mismos previos al fatídico 11 de septiembre de 2001.

Por tratarse de año electoral, los propios republicanos, incluyendo a los cinco que intela comisión 9/11, comenzaron a presionar a la Casa Blanca para que permitiera que Rice testificara públicamente ante el panel.

En una carta enviada al presidente y al vicepresidente del panel, el republicano Thomas H. Kean y el demócrata Lee H. Hamilton, respectivamente, el asesor legal del presidente Alberto Gonzales, que la decisión responde a la función especial que está llevando a cabo la comisión, pero que no es la intención sentar un precedente que obligaría a otros funcionarios no confirmados por el Senado a testificar públicamente ante comisiones especi-

En la misiva, la Casa Blanca puso como condición que el panel aceptara no sentar un



precedente que afecte la separación constitucional de los poderes Ejecutivo y Legisla-

presidente [Bush] reconoce las circunstancias únicas y extraordinarias que subrayan la responsabilidad de la comisión en preparar un reporte detallado sobre los hechos y circunstancias de los horrendos ataques del 11 de septiembre de 2001", indicó Gonzales en la carta.

La comisión accedió de inmediato a la petición de la Casa Blanca y posteriormente anunció que se fijará una fecha para la conducción de las dos sesiones, la pública de Rice y la privada de Bush y Cheney.

La próxima ronda de sesiones del panel se llevará a cabo

El cambio de postura denota las delicadas decisiones que en un año electoral se ha visto obligado a tomar un presidente que busca ser reelecto diciendo a los ciudadanos que es el único capaz de dirigir al país en momentos de crisis y de

garantizar la seguridad nacional

ante el flagelo del terrorismo. Rice y la Casa Blanca se mostraron desafiantes durante las pasadas dos semanas, cuando el libro de Clarke y su posterior testimonio ante la comisión 9/11 ocuparon las primeras planas de los diarios y los espacios televisivos y que hicieron aparecer a Bush como un líder que no hizo caso a las señales previas al 9/11 y que sólo actuó cuando ya habían perecido casi cuatro mil Washington y Pennsylvania en los siniestros por los cuales se responsabiliza a la red terrorista Al Qaida de Osama Ben Laden.

Rice incluso acusó a Clarke de difamación y de hablar con medias verdades y, el viernes pasado, el liderazgo republicano del Congreso anunció que buscaría hacer públicos los testimonios a puerta cerrada rendidos por Clarke ante el Congreso en julio de 2002 en los que presuntamente contradice lo que testificó la semana pasada ante la comisión 9/11.

Postura firme

Clarke, empero, se ha mantenido en su postura de que, en efecto, la Casa Blanca ignoró jugador más cotizado de las las señales previas al 9/11 y manos de Boston sólo porque que pudo haber hecho algo para prevenir los ataques. También retó a la Casa Blanca a dar a la luz pública todos los correos electrónicos que intercambió con Rice y con otros funcionarios de la Casa Blanca, no sólo porciones de algunas de sus respuestas, como hizo la Casa Blanca la semana pasada.

La comisión especial aplaudió la decisión de la Casa Blanca y dijo que "representa una importante contribución del Presidente a la labor de este comité".

"Reconocemos el hecho de que es un suceso extraordinario", dijo Kean refiriéndose a la decisión de la Casa Blanca de dar luz verde al testimonio público de Rice. "Esto no sienta un precedente", afirmó

Viene de la Pagina 5 una gran ofensiva, pero sin un jugador era codiciado por su buen lanzamiento, tiene las mayor rival, el Boston Red Sox mismas posibilidades de ganar De manera que, le arrebató al en la Serie Mundial que las que

así lo sintió (resentimiento).

Gran equivocación, George.

Rodríguez es un jugador

increible y probablemente

jugará exitosamente en la

No me malinterpreten, Alex

bateará sus 50 jonrones al año y

Es un ciudadano modelo, y será

un líder en el club. Con él en la

El problema es que de todas

maneras iban a contar con una

alineación superior incluso sin

Rodríguez, pero aún no se han

dado cuenta de la debilidad que

salta a la vista en el montículo

Alex Rodríguez es buen

jugador, pero no tiene muchas

problemas. Su rotación inicial

sólo cuenta con tres lanzadores

estables. Su fogón únicamente

tiene uno. Así como lo han

probado otros equipos en el

pasado, un equipo puede tener

Por esta razón, los Yankees

habilidades como lanzador.

siguen teniendo grandes

lista, los Yankees tienen la

mejor alineación entre los

equipos de béisbol.

de lanzamiento.

tercera base para los Yankees.

triunfar en las primarias. Igualmente, la adición de Rodríguez empuja peligrosamente el pago de la nómina de Nueva York, de alrededor de 200 millones, cifra que incluye a su personal actual de lanzadores.

posee Dennis Kucinich de

que no tiene ningún problema en meterse la mano al bolsillo cuando se trata de gastar dinero en su equipo, pero aflojar tal cantidad por año, puede hacer que hasta él mismo se estremezca. Francamente, los Yankees no pueden contratar otro pícher sin decirle adiós a una de sus estrellas y tampoco

Steinbrenner, ha mostrado

podrán ganar sin otro lanzador. Así que, dejemos que los Yankees tengan a la estrella y que continúen mostrándole al mundo del béisbol que la balanza económica en el juego es increiblemente desequilibrada. Permitamos que sean los favoritos para ganar la Serie Mundial y que sientan toda la presión del mundo en

sus hombros...y dejemos que

nos desilusionen una vez más.

a mediados de abril. Kean. personas en Nueva York, Lubbock County Commissioner Pct 3 RUN - OFF ELECTION-April 13 Early Voting Starts: April 5 thru 9



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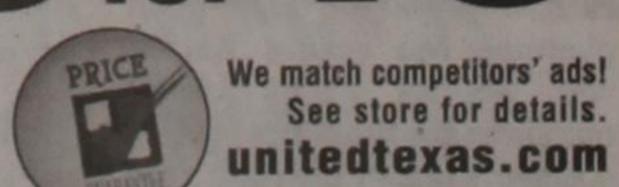
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