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Democrats' win spurs hope of immigration revamp

weeping wins for Democrats in U.S. congressional elections have rekindled hopes among Latino activists of achieving a comprehensive overhaul of immigration policy that was blocked by Republicans in Congress.

Democrats swept Republicans from power in the U.S. House of Representatives in Tuesday's elections, and appeared to have taken control of the Senate, in a clear repudiation of President George W. Bush's handling of Iraq.

Pro-immigrant think tanks said the shift in power created an opening to achieve a comprehensive overhaul of immigration policy, broadly supported by Bush and the Senate in recent months, although blocked by the Republican-dominated House.

"I would say our chances in the next Congress are better than they have ever been," said Frank Sharry, the executive director of the Washingtonbased National Immigration Forum.

"The public is still frustrated and upset about the issue, and wants its leaders to lead," he said in a telephone interview.

Some backers of the Senate's comprehensive bill had hoped lawmakers would tackle the complex issue in a post-election session that is to start next week. But that seems unlikely given the change in control to Democrats when the new Congress is seated in January.

Some lawmakers see the issue as a way for Bush and congressional Democrats to demonstrate a new spirit of bipartisanship.

"With a new Congress, we have an opportunity to pass a tough but fair plan," said Sen. Edward Kennedy (news, bio, voting record), a Massachusetts Democrat.

Public opinion is divided in the United States over what to do with an estimated 10 million to 12 million illegal immigrants living and working on the margins of U.S. society.

Bush and the Senate favored measures that increased security on the porous Mexican border and created a guest-worker program, while the House voted to build 700 miles

of wall along stretches of the U.S. Southwest.

SECURITY UPPERMOST Immigrant-rights advocates in Phoenix said they believe Democratic gains had likely tipped the balance on Capitol Hill in favor of pushing through comprehensive legislation on immigration.

"It's early, but there are real grounds for optimism," said Elias Bermudez, the founder and executive director of Phoenix-based advocacy * group Immigrants Without Borders.

Arizona voters overwhelmingly backed four anti-illegal immigrant ballot measures calling for tighter border security and making English the state's official language.

Analysts caution that many of the newly elected Democrats in Congress also campaigned on get-tough enforcement measures, which could temper their support for a comprehensive immigration overhaul when they reach Capitol Hill in January.

"A lot of the new Democratic intake got elected in marginal Republican districts where support for enforcement is strong," said Steven Camarota of the conservative Center for Immigration Studies think tank in Washington.

"It seems unlikely that the first thing they will do is vote for amnesty for 10 million illegal immigrants," he added.

However, a comprehensive overhaul is supported by the expected new House speaker, California Democratic Rep. Nancy Pelosi (news, bio, voting record), who analysts say will likely continue to focus on the issue next year.

They say immigration may also gain renewed attention from Bush, who faces a tough ride from Congress on his handling of the Iraq war, and will be looking to his legacy after he leaves office in 2009. During a news conference on Wednesday, Bush said immigration is an area where he and the incoming Democratic-controlled Congress might find common ground.

"If President Bush is smart and is interested in getting something accomplished in his final two years as president, this is a natural issue for him," said Michael Shifter, vice president for policy at the Inter-American Dialogue.



NCLR Statement about the Election and Beyond

Washington, DC - The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., today call on leaders of both political parties to work with the growing Latino electorate to bring about lasting immigration reform and progress on other key issues of concern to the Hispanic community.

"Yesterday's results show that demonizing immigrants was not the path to victory many candidates thought it would be," said Janet tinued. "A year ago, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Murguía, NCLR President and CEO. "The election results indicate a wholesale repudiation of the notion that the American elec-voters, in part after making several anti-immigrant protorate is motivated by anti-immigrant rhetoric, policies, or campaign tactics," she said, noting that most candidates who ran on an explicitly anti-immigrant platform were defeated. (See, for example, www.immigration2006.org http://www.immigration According to exit polls, he earned at least 39% of the His-2006.org>.)

Pointing to the results of a poll jointly released yesterday by NCLR and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Murguía stated, "These tactics did play a significant role in motivating one community - Latinos. Our community was highly engaged in this election, and I'm especially proud to say that this is particularly true of young Latino voters." Murguía way to achieve results is through a bipartisan approach. also noted that, of the young Latino voters polled, nearly half said that they or someone close to them had participated in the immigration rallies last spring.

"The congressional Republicans' strategy to scapegoat our community failed overall, and will prove even costlier in the long run by creating a backlash among Latino voters," she said, noting a shift of 11 percentage points in Latino support for Democrats compared to the midterm elections in 2002.

"But this issue cuts across party lines," Murguía conwas perceived by many to be all but dead among Latino nouncements. But he worked hard to shift his posture by, among other things, endorsing comprehensive immigration reform at the 2006 NCLR Annual Conference in July. panic vote on his way to reelection yesterday."

"These results suggest that the 110th Congress should get back to the hard work of legislating on immigration reform and a host of other issues that matter to Hispanic Americans, including education, the economy, health care, and jobs," said Murguía. "For most of these issues, the We intend to work with members of both parties and the White House to produce positive results for our community, and our country," she concluded.

Declaración de NCLR Sobre la Elecciones

Washington, DC - El Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR, por sus siglas en inglés) hoy hizo un llamado a los líderes de ambos partidos para que colaboraran con el creciente electorado latino para aprobar una reforma migratoria duradera y hacer progreso en otros temas clave de preocupación para la comunidad hispana. Los resultados de ayer demuestran que el demonizar a los inmigrantes no era el camino a la victoria que muchos candidatos esperaban", declaró Janet Murguía, presidenta de NCLR.

"Los resultados electorales indican una repudiación rotunda hacia la idea de que el electorado estadounidense esté motivado por retórica, políticas, o tácticas de campaña anti-inmigrantes", notó refiriéndose al hecho de que la mayoría de los candidatos que apoyaban una plataforma política anti-inmigrante fueron derrotados. (Por ejemplo, ver la página web www.immigration2006.org http:// /www.immigration2006.org>).

"Estas tácticas jugaron un papel significativo en motivar una comunidad, la latina. Nuestra comunidad estaba muy involucrada en estas elecciones. Especialmente estoy orgullosa de decir que este hecho es más que cierto para votantes latinos jóvenes", Murguía señaló, al hacer referencia a una encuesta que NCLR lanzó ayer en conjunto con la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Electos y Designados (NALEO, por sus siglas en inglés).

Murguía también notó que de los todos los jóvenes votantes latinos que participaron de la encuesta, casi la mitad dijo que ellos o alguien cercano a ellos había participado en las manifestaciones de inmigración la primavera pasada.

"La estrategia de los congresistas republicanos para sacrificar

nuestra comunidad ha fallado en términos generales y resultará más costos a largo plazo al crear una reacción adversa entre los votantes latinos", afirmó, al referirse al 11 por ciento de latinos que ahora apoyan a los demócratas en comparación con las elecciones del 2002.

"Pero este tema cruza las líneas divisorias partidarias", continuó Murguía. "Hace un año muchos pensaron que el Gobernador Arnold Schwarzenegger no iba a recuperar el voto latino, en parte por hacer varias declaraciones antiinmigrantes. Pero él ha trabajado muy fuerte para cambiar su posición al respaldar una reforma migratoria integral entre otras cosas-en la Conferencia Anual 2006 de NCLR en julio. De acuerdo a las encuestas realizadas entre personas que acaban de votar, Schwarzenegger ganó por lo menos el 39 por ciento del voto hispano, el cual lo encaminó hacia su reelección ayer".

"Estos resultados sugieren que la 110ava sesión del Congreso debe trabajar fuerte para legislar sobre la reforma migratoria y una serie de temas que le importan a hispano-estadounidenses, lo cual incluye la educación, la economía, el cuidado de salud, y el empleo", enfatizó Murguía. "Para mucho de estos temas, la manera de obtener resultados es mediante un enfoque bipartidista. Trabajaremos con congresistas de ambos partidos y la administración de la Casa Blanca para crear resultados positivos para nuestra comunidad y nuestro país.", concluyó.

El factor migración influyó a latinos en su voto

Pilar Marrero

I polvo se va disipando y las cifras, hablando. Los diversos sondeos a boca de urna y análisis del voto señalan que el tema de inmigración no fue importante para el electorado en general en la elección de ayer, pero sí fue un motivante para los latinos que votan.

En ambos casos, el perdedor fue el Partido Republicano.

El caballito de batalla del mensaje antiinmigrante, tan socorrido siempre y en particular en esta campaña, no funcionó esta vez y más bien perjudicó a los republicanos, que a nivel nacional perdieron entre 12% y 15% de apoyo latino con respecto a las ganancias que había logrado en años anteriores el presidente George W. Bush.

Un par de sondeos lo confirman. El Instituto William Velásquez registró un voto latino del 69.4% para los demócratas y 24.8% para los republicanos. Un estudio pre electoral de NCLR y NALEO notaba una baja de 20% en el apoyo de los latinos para los republicanos debido al tema migratorio.

Los expertos comienzan a comparar lo ocurrido ayer con la reacción antirrepublicana que se vio en California en 1996, dos años después de la Proposición 187: los latinos, enojados con la vilificación de los inmigrantes, castigan a los republicanos.

"Es un cambio muy grande", señala Marcelo Gaete, analista de NALEO. "Bush había logrado un 40% a 45% del voto latino en su momento. Esa ventaja la han perdido casi por completo".

Esto ofrece, según activistas demócratas, una oportunidad que ese partido debería aprovechar.

"Con respecto a inmigración, el Partido Republicano le dio un regalo a los demócratas. El mal manejo que los republicanos han hecho de este asunto está alienando al grupo de votantes de más rápido crecimiento del país", dijo Andrea La Rue, un analista demócrata que vigila el tema migratorio. "Los demócratas ahora tienen una oportunidad clara para realinear el voto latino ahora y en el futuro, y por una generación".

Que vayan a hacerlo o no, está por verse. En su primera rueda de prensa poselectoral, la próxima presidenta de la Cámara de Representantes, Nancy Pelosi, no mencionó el tema migratorio.

En un comunicado oficial, el presidente del Comité Nacional Demócrata, Howard Dean, elogió el progreso de los latinos en algunos cargos políticos y señaló que "la comunidad latina ha pagado un alto precio por el fallido liderazgo republicano", pero tampoco mencionó inmigración, aunque en una reciente entrevista, Dean prometió que, de ganar la mayoría en el Congreso, los demócratas impulsarían la reforma.

READ EL EDITOR FIRST

Voters weren't on the fence about illegal immigration

Democrats' gains and a Latino shift may breathe new life into push for Immigration Changes

By MICHELLE MITTELSTADT he immigration issue had a heavy impact on at least three Republican candidates in Tuesday's elections: Jolted by the dramatic shake-up on Capitol Hill, the incoming Congress may prove more receptive to sweeping immigration changes such as a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants, lawmakers and policy experts said.

Among the causes: Democrats' big gains, a shift by Latino voters away from the GOP and the defeat of several conservative Republicans who ran on a strident anti-illegal immigration message.

"I do see a light at the end of the tunnel," Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, of Houston, the top Democrat on the House immigration subcommittee, said Wednesday.

Still, few were rushing to predict that Congress will quickly — or successfully — tackle a major immigration overhaul in the legislative session that begins in January.

"Some of the worst (political) barriers have been washed away," said Tamar Jacoby, an immigration expert with the conservative Manhattan Institute. "(But) it's still going to be extremely hard to

accomplish it in Congress."

Immigration's huge impact on economic, national security, cultural and foreign policy arenas makes it among the most controversial of policy issues in the best of times.

"It's a difficult issue," said newly reelected Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas. But, she added, "We need to make every positive effort to work with the Democrats and have solutions. That's what the people want."

On Wednesday, President Bush identified immigration as an area in which he'd work with Democrats. And in comments directed to congressional conservatives who stymied his push for a guest-worker plan, Bush noted that strides have been made on border security.

"I would hope we can get something done," Bush said. "There's an issue where I believe we can find some common ground with the Democrats."

Though immigrant-rights backers drew comfort as they sifted through election. results Wednesday, they acknowledged the outcome is not unalloyed good news for their side. They noted that several victorious Democratic candidates sought to outflank GOP rivals on illegal immigration and presumably will take a hard line when they come to Washington.

And, even as some prominent borderenforcement hawks will see their power ebb with the Democrats' capture of the House, any immigration solution will require a bipartisan consensus, they said.

"Neither party can deliver immigration reform on its own," said Cecilia Muñoz, vice president of the National Council of La Raza, which is pressing for legal status for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants.

But she and her allies had a bounce in their step with the defeat of several ardently anti-immigration incumbents and exit polls suggesting Latino voters deserted the GOP in droves.

"The immigration issue upset many Hispanics — the tone of it, the rhetoric, the reactionary solutions, the building of the wall," said Miami pollster Sergio Bendixen, who tracks Hispanic voting trends. He called the House GOP's enforcement-heavy approach a "very, very bad tactical mistake" that could weaken the party for years to come.

Congress proved unable this year to

bridge the gulf between the House's enforcement-first plan and a Senate bill that paired increased border security with "earned" legalization and a worker program. But House Republicans pushed into law a bill mandating 700 miles of fencing at the border and provided billions in additional funding for border agents, detention beds and surveillance.

With a new Congress convening in January, the clock essentially is reset, and a new bevy of hearings, votes and debates will be required.

Still, "I think we've learned a lot during the debate," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. "My hope is we'll roll up our sleeves and sit down and work out a bipartisan bill that the president can sign."

Some Republicans, however, made clear they won't budge from their opposition to a legalization plan.

"I just think it will be very difficult for the Democrats to pass legislation granting amnesty to illegal aliens," said Rep. John Culberson, R-Houston.

During a triumphant round of appearances Wednesday, Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill didn't identify immigration as an immediate priority.

Our Clueless War Leaders

by Jim Hightower The most basic rule of war is

this: know your enemy. A major reason that Bush's Iraq war is such a disaster is that the commander-in-chief is clueless about the culture of Islamic people. That's no surprise, since George W has the intellectual curiosity of a butter bean. But what'll really give you gas is to realize that most of the Bushite counterterrorism officials also don't know beans about their

enemy. Jeff Stein, the national security editor at Congressional Quarterly, has recently been asking these officials a rather fundamental question: "Do you know the difference between a Sunni and a Shiite?" Since the Sunni-Shiite culture clash is a 1,400-year-old conflict that is now playing out in a civil war in Iraq, with our soldiers trapped in the middle, an understanding of this difference

The head of the FBI's national security branch agreed that it is important for a man in his position to know the difference... but he didn't. He could not even tell whether neighboring Iran is Sunni or Shiite – a rather crucial distinction, since the new Iraqi government is forging alliances with Iranian theocrats.

is crucial to the war.

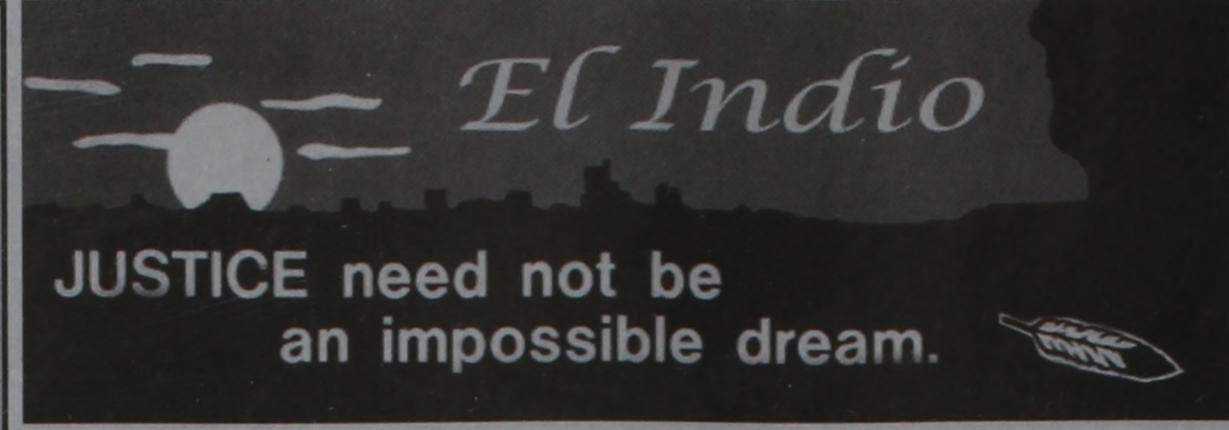
Likewise, Rep. Jo Ann Davis, who heads the subcommittee overseeing much of the CIA's work in Islamic countries, was stumped by Stein's question: "The Sunni are more radical than the Shia. Or vice versa," she said. Also stumbling was Rep. Terry Everett, head of a subcommittee on tactical intelligence: "I thought it was differences in their religion, different families or something," he answered. Then Terry said: "Now that you've explained it to me, what occurs to me is that it makes what we're doing over there extremely difficult."

This is Jim Hightower saying... Golly, Terry... really? Shouldn't you have thought about that 2,800 lives and \$373billion ago? Sheesh, these people clearly don't know what they're doing.

EL EDITOR

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The Watershed Election, Part II ."Don't Mess With Texas?????"

by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

November 7 was INDEED a red-letter day...or shall we say, a BLUE-LETTER DAY! The Democrats, as predicted by many, including this writer, gained more than 20 seats to take over control of the U.S. House...and as I predicted, the 51-49 split in the U.S. Senate, favouring Democrats, appears likely!

NANCY PELOSI, a graceful and dignified leader, is going to reshape the Speakership into something worthy of respect...at last! Not only is TOM DeLAY gone, but his toady DENNIS HASTERT is no longer in power...and BOEHNER and the others are out as well.

Wish we could say the same about Texas.....the Democratic sweep didn't "Mess With Texas"....or rather, Texas remained blissfully immune to the wave of COMMON SENSE that swept over most of the rest of the country. The infamous RICK PERRY returned to the Governor's office with just 38 per cent of the vote, only 8 points ahead of CHRIS BELL...quite a repudiation for Governor Goodhair!

However, TOM CRADDICK's day as Speaker may be over...his tainted tenure may be brought to an end by the results of several legislative races...including our own JOE

HEFLIN, a good and decent man who edged out the rightwing fanatic JIM LANDTROOP for PETE LANEY's seat. The Avalanche-Journal wrote: "Facing Heflin's 193-vote lead, Landtroop concedes Wednesday."

The Austin American-Statesman reports that Democrats increased their representation in the Texas Legislature by six seats, 69 Democrats to 80 Republicans, with one seat vacant. The old margin was 88-62. This should be enough to finish CRADDICK...hip, hip hooray!

Perhaps Texas may join the rest of the nation after all!

Barck Obama Debe Esculparse con 12.5 Millones de Nosotros

Dr. Juan Andrade

El senador estadounidense Barack "El Próximo Presidente" Obama, quien recientemente votó a favor de construir un muro de 700 millas a lo largo de la frontera entre EE.UU. y México, les debe una disculpa a los 125 millones de mexicanos y mexicanoamericanos decentes trabajadores que insultó en ambos lados de la frontera.

El nombre de Obama estará asociado para siempre con este muro de la vergüenza y la deshonra nacional internacional. Es una barrera internacional que representará la arrogancia y la ignorancia mientras se mantenga en pie.

Pero Obama puede distanciarse del muro si admitiese que estuvo equivocado al votar a favor de construirlo y se disculpa inmediatamente.

La explicación de Obama de que el muro "nos acercará a la legalización" es, en el mejor de los casos, defectuosa. Su argumento, francamente, me recuerda a demócratas blancos del sur de Estados Unidos que, siendo senadores, votaron en contra de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 y de la Ley del Derecho al Voto de 1965, mientras repetían que algunos de sus mejores amigos eran negros.

Aquellos senadores estaban en el lado equivocado de la historia, según se evidencia por el propio éxito de Barack Obama. Lamentablemente, Obama también se ha puesto de lleno en el lado equivocado de la historia, según se evidencia a diario por

inmigrantes mexicanos y mexico-americanos.

Muchos de estos senadores blancos del sur vivieron lo suficiente para arrepentirse de su oposición a los derechos civiles y a los derechos de votación. Ninguno fue electo a puestos más altos, a pesar de que algunos lo intentaron.

Estoy seguro de que Obama va a vivir lo suficiente para arrepentirse muchas veces de su

Obama, que dice que está no debe esperar a que la historia le pruebe su error. Debe admitirlo, pedir disculpas y ponerse a construir puentes en a vez de muros.

Su voto dejó totalmente desconcertados a miembros de su propio partido, a colegas congresistas y a muchos de sus amigos mexicanos y mexico americanos.

¿Cómo pudo arriesgarse a enajenar a 25 millones de mexico-americanos, el segundo grupo de votantes demócratas más firme de la nación? De los 99 votos emitidos, el proyecto de ley fue aprobado por un margen de 30 votos a favor. ¡Los republicanos no necesitaban su apoyo! ¿Por qué no tuvo valor para sostenerse en sus convicciones y votar NO? El Obama que yo pensaba conocer no creía en muros. (Dios nos cuide si Obama, como dice, realmente cree que hizo lo correcto.)

Obama argumenta que es los continuos éxitos de los incorrecto creer que se puede conseguir una reforma GO MADAM SPEAKER PELOSI!! comprensiva de la inmigración sin tener una frontera segura. "Una frontera segura" es la frase clave utilizada por los mercaderes de la guerra y del miedo para frenar el flujo de trabajadores indocumentados hacia Estados Unidos.

Al utilizar las palabras "nacional" y "frontera" de forma intercambiable mientras hablan de seguridad, personas antimexicanas como el congresista James Sensenbrenner -y ahora pensando en hacer campaña para Obama- pueden decir en la presidente de los Estados Unidos, misma frase que están combatiendo el terrorismo y haciendo más seguro a los Estados Unidos al mantener fuera trabajadores los indocumentados.

Su muro va a hacer la inmigración más difícil y más peligrosa, pero definitivamente que no la va a detener. La única manera humanitaria de detener la inmigración ilegal es hacerla menos necesaria. Podríamos empezar con un compromiso de ayuda externa a mexico de \$200 mil millones por 20 años, que es menos de lo que gastaremos en Irak en los próximos dos años.

Los terroristas y los trabajadores indocumentados no tienen nada en común. Los terroristas que nos atacaron el 11-S no entraron por la frontera con mexico. Los terroristas vienen a matar americanos de EE.UU., destruir nuestra forma de vida y morir como mártires. Los inmigrantes latinoamericanos vienen para conseguir una mejor vida para ellos y sus familiares, y, al hacerlo, ayudarnos a mantener nuestra calidad de vida y fortalecer nuestra nación.

Es falso sugerir que los inmigrantes indocumentados son responsables, de alguna forma, de los peligros que confrontamos de todas partes del mundo. Es ridículo sugerir que restringirlos es, de algún modo, esencial a nuestra seguridad nacional. Y es racista construir un muro, lo admita Obama o no.

El antiguo primer ministro de la Unión Soviética, Mikhail Gorbachev, lo dijo bien claro cuando comentó que encontraba dificil de entender por qué el partido de Ronald Reagan, quien le reclamó como presidente de los Estados Unidos que demoliera el Muro de Berlín, sea el partido que reclama ahora la construcción de un muro entre EE.UU. y México. El Muro de Berlín separó las familias alemanas hasta que cayó 30 años más tarde.

El muro de Obama también va a caer, pero no durará 30 años si los 125 millones de mexicanos y mexico-americanos tenemos algo que decir.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Because of the election we were unable to print our responses to the Question of the week: November 7th is election day. Early voting started last week. How do you feel that the Hispanic community will cast their vote in this election? What will be the determining factor?, although the election is already gone we decided to go ahead and print the response we recieved:

I am really hoping that the Hispanic community will go out and vote. The determining factor will be that many Hispanics go and vote for their favorite candidates. I know there are still many Hispanics who are skeptical about voting. Who isn't? We just never know if the candidates will keep their promises. We just have to wait and see. Gente, ¡salgan a votar! Minerva Alaniz via email

It makes sense to me that more Chicanos will vote on election day. Given that the marches during the summer produced little political consequence and given that the anemic Democratic party must rely on the reality of Iraq to slow down the GOP, if Chicanos vote, it will be because of the wrong reasons. It seems to me that Chicanos are furious about the way things are going for us. I am stinking angry. This anger may turn to casting votes for candidates that have performed a magic show for us. We must research the candidates. Nearly everyone has access to computers.

To the candidates: Generic phrases and embracing Christian values is not enough to win my vote, anymore. Your values are different than mine. You must have done something good for us to earn it. Two years ago herculian efforts were made by the Democratic party to get out the vote. In Lubbock more Chicano voters voted than in the past. In the Governors race the three candidates seem to have splintered a chance to kick out Governor Perry. I do not like these new voting machines either, but that's just me.

Armando Gonzalez

This week Mr. Gonzalez wrote.

I think this is a great new beginning for the United States. It is just great that the Democrats have taken control of the House and the Senate. Maybe now Dictator Bush will not have his way with Nation. It is obvious that the rest of the Nation uses good common sense and logic in coming to grips with the unrealistic goals of the President. I guess that Texas, especially, West Texas is behind the curve in understanding the dangers that Bush had lead us into.

Barck Obama Owes 12.5 Million of Us an Apology

By Dr. Juan Andrade

U.S. Senator Barack "The Next President" Obama, who recently voted in favor of building a 700-mile-long wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, owes the 125 million decent, hardworking Mexicans and Mexican Americans he insulted on both sides of the border an apology.

Obama's name will forever be associated with this wall of national and international shame and disgrace. It's an international barrier that will epitomize arrogance and ignorance as long as it stands.

Or Obama can disassociate himself from the wall by admitting he was wrong for voting to build it and he can apologize immediately.

Obama's explanation that the wall will "to get us closer to legalization" is lame at best. His argument, quite frankly, reminds me of white Southern Democrats who, as U.S. senators, voted against the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, while insisting that some of their best friends were black.

Those senators were on the wrong side of history, as evidenced by Barack Obama's own success. Sadly, Obama has put himself squarely on the wrong side of history, too, as evidenced daily by the on-going success of Mexican immigrants and Mexican Americans.

Many of those white Southern senators lived long enough to regret their opposition to civil rights and voting rights. None ever went on to be elected to higher office, though some of them tried.

I'm sure that Obama will live long enough to regret his vote many times

Interestingly, Obama, who says he is thinking about running for President of the United States, should not wait until history proves him wrong. He should admit his mistake, apologize, and build bridges instead of walls. His vote left members of his own party, congressional colleagues, and many of his Mexican and Mexican-American friends in total disbelief.

How could he risk alienating 25 million Mexican Americans, the second most solid Democratic voting bloc in the nation? The bill passed by a margin of 30 votes out of 99 cast. Republicans didn't need his support! So why didn't he have the courage of his convictions to stand up and vote NO? The Obama I thought I knew didn't believe in walls. (God help us if Obama really believes he did the right thing, as he claims.)

Obama argues it is wrong to believe that we can get comprehensive immigration reform without border security. "Border security" is the code term used by war-mongers and fear-mongers for stopping undocumented workers from entering the United States.

By using the words "national" and "border" interchangeably when talking about security, anti-Mexicans like Congressman James Sensenbrenner - and now Obama - can say they are fighting terrorism and making the United States safer by keeping undocumented workers out, all in the same breath. Their wall will make immigration more difficult and more dangerous, but it certainly won't stop the flow. The only humane way to stop illegal immigration is to make it less necessary. We could start with a 20-year, \$200-billion commitment in foreign aid to Mexico, which is less than we will spend in Iraq over the next two years.

Terrorists and undocumented workers have nothing in common. The terrorists who attacked us on 9/11 did not cross over the Mexican border. Terrorists are coming here to kill U.S. Americans, destroy our way of life, and to die as martyrs. Immigrants from Latin America are coming here for a better life for themselves and their families, and in doing so, help us maintain our quality of life, and make our nation stronger.

To suggest that undocumented immigrants are somehow responsible for the dangers we now face from all corners of the world is bogus. To suggest that their containment is somehow essential to our national security is ludicrous. And to build a wall is racist whether Obama admits it or not.

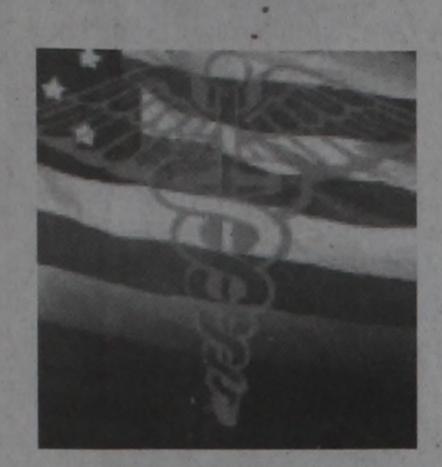
The former Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, said it best when he commented that he found it difficult to understand why the party of Ronald Reagan who, as president of the United States called on him to tear down the Berlin Wall, is now the party calling for a wall to be built between the U.S. and Mexico. The Berlin Wall separated German families until it fell 30 years later.

Obama's wall will also fall, but it won't take 30 years if 125 million Mexi-

cans and Mexican Americans have anything to say about it. Read El Editor on the Internet www.eleditor.com



UNHEALTHY COSTS



In September, the U.S. Census Bureau released the latest numbers on health insurance coverage, and the situation for workers - and small businesses - is bleak.

According to the Census report, not only did the percentage of people without health insurance coverage increase but the percentage of people covered by employment-based health insurance decreased last year, from 59.8 percent in 2005 to 59.5 percent.

For the Hispanic population, the news gets worse: The U.S. Current Population Survey (2001-2005) shows that in 2004, 65.7 percent of Anglos had employer-provided coverage, compared to 49.9 percent of African Americans, and just 41.1 percent of Hispanics.

"More workers and their families are losing employer-sponsored health insurance," says Sara Collins, assistant vicepresident of the Commonwealth Fund, a nonpartisan foundation that studies the U.S. health care industry. "Most of the increase in the number of uninsured Americans was due to a decline in workplace coverage. Although the individual market is a last resort for those shut out of employer-sponsored coverage, it is by no means a safe or secure haven for everyone."

One obvious reason for this is the skyrocketing costs of health care. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, health insurance premiums rose 9.2 percent in 2005 and have increased about a 70 percent over the last five years.

These annual increases hurt small businesses even more. A study by the Commonwealth Fund finds employees in smaller firms pay, on average, 18 percent more in health insurance premiums for the same benefits than do employees in the largest firms: The report cited "the inefficiencies of the small-employer market: a result of the higher administrative costs from marketing, medical underwriting, greater risk, and other factors associated with small size."

For entrepreneurs and smallbusiness owners trying to stay afloat, health insurance is often a first thing on the chopping block when budget cuts are necessary. So, while many may want to offer benefits, options are limited.

"Most small employers offer sound business reasons for offering health benefits to workers: it helps with employee recruitment and retention, and increases productivity. More than three-quarters report that offering health benefits is 'the right thing to do," according to a study by the Employee Benefits Research Institute.

But the costs get in the way. The Kaiser report found that many small firms are choosing to drop coverage or pass on costs to their employees.

Additionally, a July 2006 SurePayroll survey of smallbusiness owners revealed that nearly 11 percent of respondents who offer health care benefits say they may not do so in 2007, depending on costs. Of those that don't offer a plan now, 44 percent have no intention of offering benefits in the coming year.

Many small businesses and their advocates have been looking for some sort of legislation to help companies find affordable solutions.

Read El Editor online at www.eleditor.com

HOME LOANS TO HISPANICS PROMOTED

The slumping housing market could get a \$200 billion boost from new immigrant home buyers if mainstream lenders start using alternative methods to score credit, a national group of Hispanic real estate agents said Friday.

Creditors like Citigroup Inc.'s Citibank see recent immigrants as a growing market niche, but those who lack Social Security numbers or legal status in the United States often are rejected by the three major credit bureaus.

A handful of new credit reporting systems - already used by 200 real-estate brokers, community groups and mortgage counselors nationwide - allows lenders to calculate risk by evaluating a prospective client's utility bills, rent checks and other payments.

Should the new reporting methods gain acceptance on Wall Street and among secondary mortgage lenders like Fannie Mae, housing markets in places like California's Central Valley would stand to gain the most, the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals said.

"Gateway states like California and Texas will disproportionately benefit from the housing boom because so many of their residents are immigrants," said Gary Acosta, the association's co-founder, speaking from the group's annual convention in Las Vegas. "Boosting homeownership among these

populations is a, positive contribution to the overall fabric of our sociand our economy."

A study by the Join't Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University shows Latinos

will account for nearly one-

third of the home-buying pool by 2010. That same year, the disposable income of Hispanics will exceed \$1.08 trillion, or 9.2 percent of total purchasing power nationwide, according to the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia.

No law requires that buyers be in the country legally in order to purchase real estate, Acosta said. Citibank, for instance, doesn't require that borrowers be citizens or legal residents of the United States, Citigroup spokeswoman Janis Tarter said.

Bringing Hispanic families into the mortgage market is a continuing challenge, say officials at Federal Reserve Banks across the country.

Community groups from California to Atlanta have begun offering financial education classes in Spanish as the number of mortgage products available to immigrants and underserved populations has grown.

Once Acorn vets the client's financial stability, they send them to Citibank, which finances the home loans.

Acosta said the group was discussing the alternative credit programs with officials at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Both companies require that borrowers for loans they underwrite be legal residents, but Fannie Mae accepts some alternative credit data.

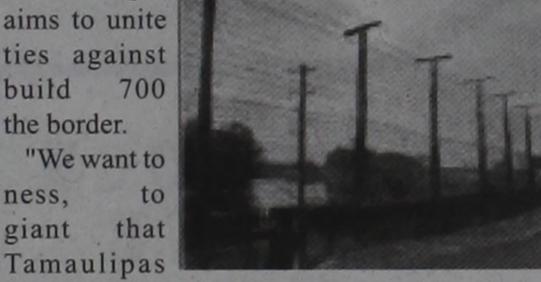
HUNDREDS PROTEST BORDER FENCE

The mayor of a Mexican city on the Texas border led about 400 people on a 55-mile march Tuesday to protest U.S. plans for new

border fence. Evaristo Perez, mayor of Ciudad Acuna, said the march along the

Mexican side city of Piedras from Eagle aims to unite ties against build 700

"We want to to ness, that giant Tamaulipas



the U.S. plan to miles of fencing on raise consciousawaken the border

of the border to the

Negras — across

Pass, Texas -

border communi-

from lives all the way to Baja California," Perez said of the march, which began Tuesday. The marchers were expected to arrive in Piedras Negras on Thursday or

Friday. Last month, President Bush signed a bill to build the fencing and

add more vehicle barriers, lighting and infrared cameras. President Vicente Fox has called the plan "an embarrassment for

the United States." Marchers also hope to capture the attention of Hispanics voting in Tuesday's U.S. midterm elections, Perez said.

"They have to think if they want to vote for those (politicians) who push for bills that divide and discriminate, or those who support unity," Perez said.



On the Internet -www. eleditor.com MALE-DOMINATED CONGRESS ADDS NEW WOMEN

WASHINGTON - The first female speaker of the House will lead a chamber filled with more women than ever before.

Congress as a whole, however, still will be dominated by white

The House will add at least three women and the Senate will add two, bringing the total number of female members of Congress to at least 86 — 70 in the House, 16 in the Senate.

Women were candidates in two House races that were too close to call Wednesday.

"It's still very hard for women to succeed and to actually get to the House of Representatives," said Rep. Hilda Solis (news, bio, voting record), a California Democrat and co-chair of the Women's Caucus. "But that number just keeps going up every time we have elections."

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (news, bio, voting record), D-Calif., is expected to become the first female speaker of the House, with Democrats taking control of the 435-member chamber. She was helped by the election of at least seven new female Democrats.

"It's a real sea change of women taking political power and showing it in a most visible way, by electing Nancy Pelosi speaker," said Ellen Malcolm, president of EMILY's List, which supports female Democratic candidates. "We're going to have the highest number of Democratic women in Congress in history."

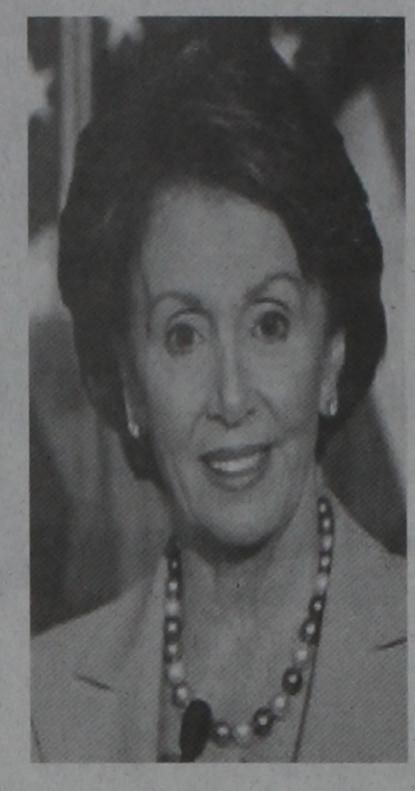
In the 100-member Senate, Democratic women scored victories in Missouri and Minnesota, pushing the number of female senators to 16, the most ever.

Republican women did not fare as well. Several longtime House members lost to men, including Rep. Nancy Johnson (news, bio, voting record), a 12-term incum-

bent from Connecticut. The number of black and His-

panic members will stay the same in the new Congress.

There will continue to be 40 black House members and one black senator - Democrat Barack Obama of Illinois. The number of Hispanic House members will stay at 23 and the number of Hispanic senators will remain at three.



Hispanics are the fastest growing demographic group in America, making up nearly 15 percent of the population, but they account for only 5 percent of Congress. Blacks make up a little more than 13 percent of the population, but just 8 percent of Congress.

Black and Hispanic candidates for the House have been helped by the creation of districts in which minorities are in the majority. They have not, however, done well in majority white districts.

In the House, only three black members and one Hispanic mem-

ber represent districts with white majorities. That includes Democrat Keith Ellison of Minnesota, who on Tuesday became the first Muslim elected to Congress.

"We have to make progress in running Hispanic candidates in non-Hispanic districts;" said Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

"We need to show non-Latinos that Latinos can provide effective leadership for everybody," Vargas said.

Massachusetts became the second state to elect a black governor, 17 years after Virginia became the first.

But black candidates did not fare as well in races for the Senate.

In Tennessee, Democrat Harold Ford Jr. lost a close race to Republican Bob Corker. In Maryland, Republican Michael Steele lost to Democrat Ben Cardin.

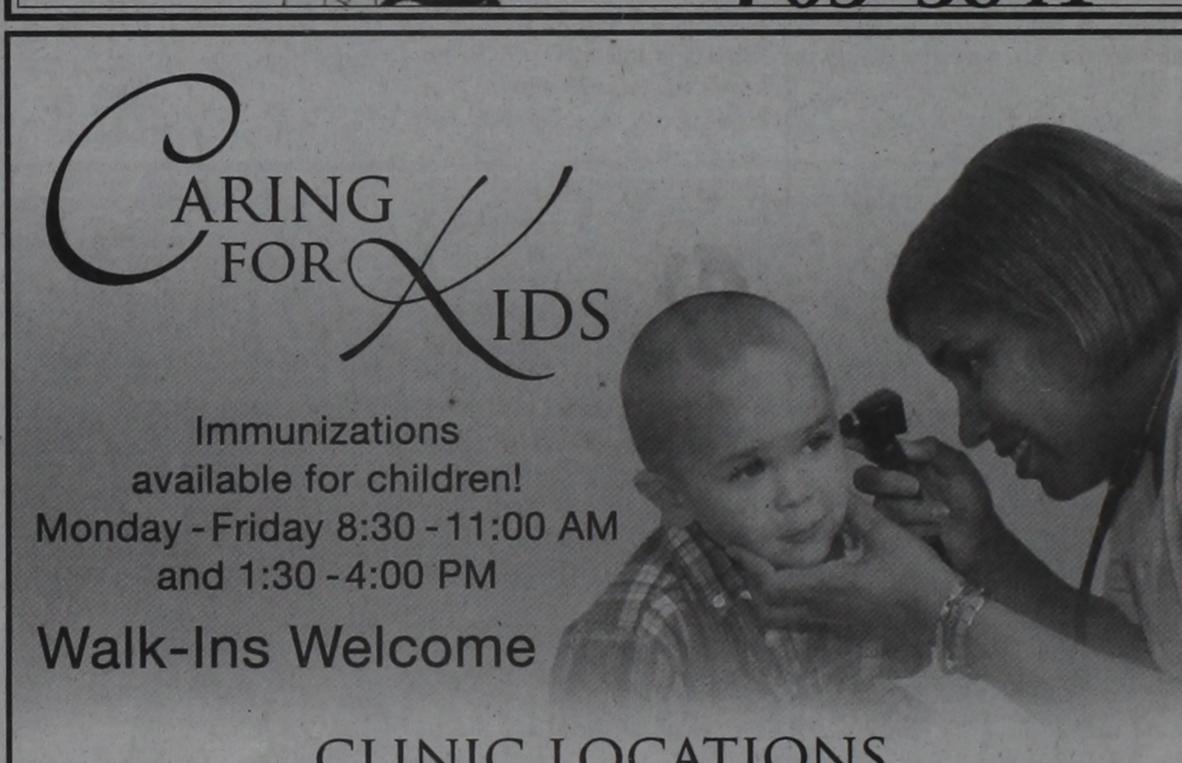
L. Douglas Wilder, the nation's first black governor, said black candidates have done best when they focus on issues other than race. Wilder said he heard supporters of Ken Blackwell, a black Republican who lost big in the race for Ohio governor, talk about making history by electing Ohio's first black governor.

"People are not interested in making history," said Wilder, who is now mayor of Richmond, Va. "What has history got to do with effectiveness?" Rep. Melvin Watt (news, bio,

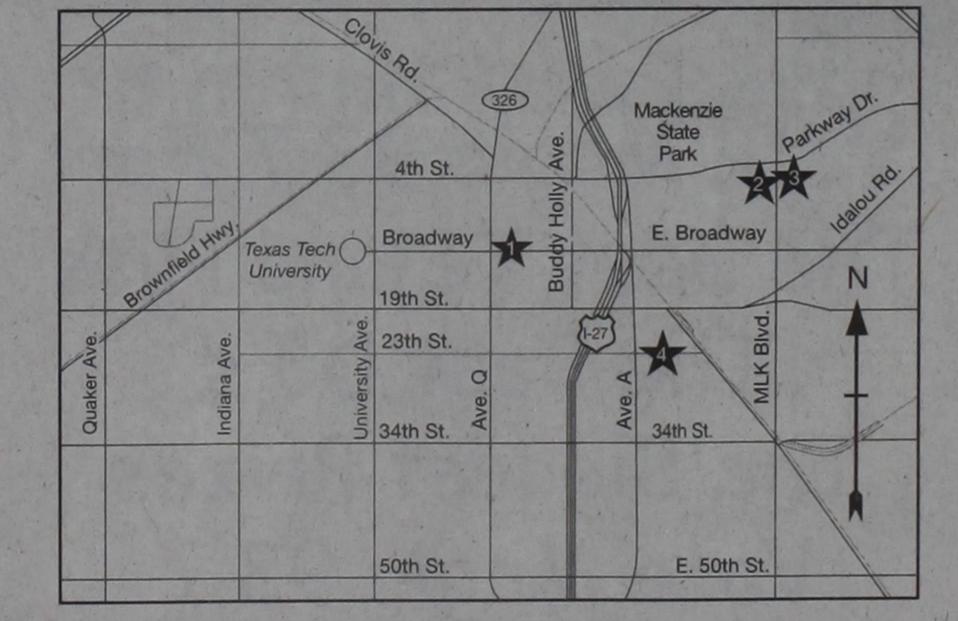
voting record), chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, said race is still a factor in poli-

"There is still a lot of racially polarized voting," said Watt, D-N.C. "It's diminishing, but it still exists.'





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Parcells' Cowboys Fall on Hard Times Preview

IRVING, Texas -- Bill Parcells benched Drew Bledsoe a few weeks ago, convinced the veteran quarterback could no longer get the job done. Now Dallas Cowboys fans are starting to wonder whether the same is true about Parcells.

Midway through a fourth season in Dallas that Parcells said could be "special," the Cowboys are 4-4.

They've done themselves in with mistakes not expected from a Parcells-coached team. The offence turns the ball over too much, the defence gives up too many big plays and they lead the league in penalty yards.

Distractions could be partly to blame. There might even be "25 million reasons" why Terrell Owens is at fault.

But the bottom line is this is 'Parcells' team. And the way it's playing is tarnishing a career that could be headed into its final eight games.

"It is trying on me. It is, there's no doubt," Parcells said following the team's latest and perhaps most devastating defeat, a 22-19 loss in Washington when a potential game-winning field goal was blocked and a penalty on the return set up the winning three-pointer for the Redskins.

"But that's the way the game is. And, you know, you just have to go forward. You can't look back. You have to go forward."

Sports Honor

nations are in and the polls are

open. Red Raider fans can cast

their votes for Texas Tech wide

receiver Joel Filani for the Cin-

gular Wireless/ABC Sports All-

America Player of the Week,

the only major college football

honor determined exclusively

by fans. Filani was nominated

for the award after recording

212 receiving yards and three

touchdowns in the Red Raiders'

Filani, who ranks in the top 10

nationally in receiving, recorded

his third career three touchdown

game and second of the season

Filani is one of four candi-

dates for the All-America Player

of the Week, who are selected

by a panel of ABC Sports and

ESPN college football analysts.

The other finalists are: Hawaii

quarterback Colt Brennan; Min-

nesota quarterback Bryan Cu-

pito; and Arkansas running back

Fans can determine the winner

by text messaging "VOTE" to

"87654" on their wireless phone

and casting their votes for the

Fans have until 11:59 p.m.

Eastern Time on Wednesday to

Darren McFadden.

nominees.

55-21 win against Baylor.

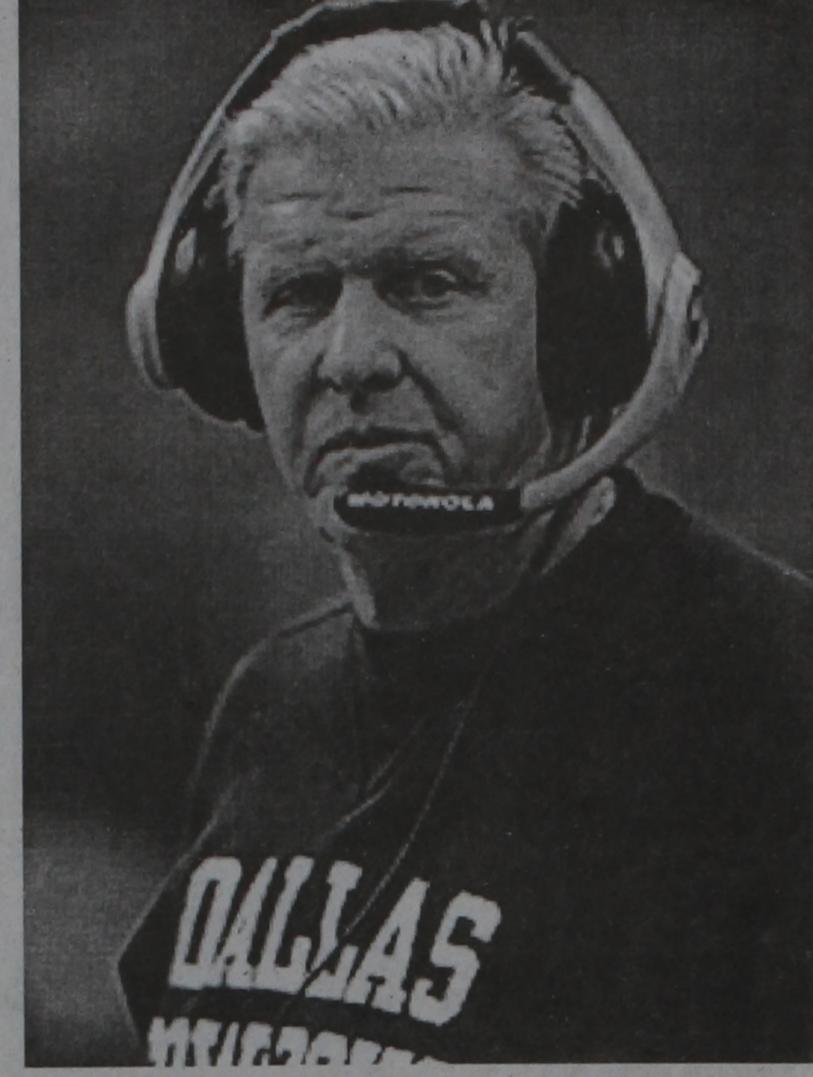
(Iowa State).

Filani Nominated to

Cincuglar Wireless/ABC

LUBBOCK, Texas - The na- submit their votes. The winner

tional player of the week nomi- will be announced November 9



Since going 10-6 and snagging a wild card in Parcells' first season, the Cowboys are 19-21, with another loss in that lone playoff game. Their longest winning streak in that span is three games, and it's only hap-

during ESPN's Thursday night

college football game between

Rutgers and Louisville. Fans

can vote as many times as they

like, with each vote counting as

one entry into a sweepstakes to

win a trip to the 2007 BCS Na-

tional Championship game. The

Cingular All-America Player of

the Week program will continue

throughout the season, with the

nominees being revealed each

Sunday on the 9 a.m. ESPN

SportsCenter and on the Web at

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tos, check scoreboards, track

their favorite teams and down-

Rutgers running back Ray

Rice, Notre Dame quarterback

Brady Quinn, Michigan wide

receiver Mario Manningham,

Georgia Tech wide receiver Cal-

vin Johnson, Tennessee quarter-

back Erik Ainge, Texas quar-

terback Colt McCoy and BYU

quarterback John Beck have

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pened once. This was supposed to be a breakthrough year.

The defence smoothly converted to the coach's 3-4 scheme last season. Owens' arrival gave the offence more firepower. And a kicking game blamed for three of last season's seven losses was upgraded with the signing of Oakville, Ont., native Mike Vanderjagt, the most accurate field goal kicker in league history

Still, Dallas led the opener 10-0 after two possessions, then went cold and lost at Jackson-ville

Turnovers at the start and end blew a chance to make T.O.'s return to Philly a success. The Cowboys were severely outplayed at home by the Giants, then had a game's worth of blunders catch up to them against the Redskins.

Parcells likes to say "the game tells you what you are." So at 4-4 Dallas is average. That means the coach is, too. Maybe age has caught up to the 65-year-old Parcells. Maybe he's burned out after three years of working with Jerry Jones and three months of T.O. Or maybe it's short-timer's syndrome from a guy who knows he won't be around next year.

Parcells points at other inconsistent teams. While that means his misery has company, what he's really looking for is a way to snap out of the funk.

"When your team's doing it, you don't know whether it's ever going to end," Parcells said.

> Go Fight Win!

Mayweather pounds Baldomir for WBC welterweight belt

Carlos Baldomir was game, just as advertised. Floyd Mayweather Jr. was brilliant, just as expected.

Brilliant had a much better night.

Mayweather dominated nearly every minute of every round Saturday, winning the welterweight title with a lopsided decision to remain unbeaten and set up a possible megafight next year against Oscar De La Hoya.

About the only thing Mayweather didn't do was knock Baldomir out, but he had an excuse. He injured his right hand midway through the fight, and was content merely to win rounds as the fight

went on.

"I fought a perfect fight,"

Mayweather said. "I can win

under any circumstances."

Baldomir never went down and never appeared in trouble, but his face was bloodied from the first round on and he took punch after punch to the face from the much quicker and much more skilled Mayweather.

Floyd Mayweather has a sore right hand, but his ego is just fine.

Two judges gave Mayweather every round, while a third gave him all but two rounds. The Associated Press had Mayweather winning every round, 120-108.

"I thought I'd be able to get the knockout going down the stretch, but I hurt my hand," Mayweather said. "He was pretty resilient. He definitely fought with a lot of heart."

Mayweather remained unbeaten in his 37th professional fight, and won for the 16th time in as many title fights. More importantly, he looked good enough to set up a possible fight with De La Hoya in May that could be one of boxing's richest ever.

De La Hoya hasn't decided whether to fight again, but says if he does it will be against Mayweather.

"I think he'll get in the ring with me after tonight," Mayweather said. "If he wants to, he knows how to reach me."

Though Mayweather dominated, he drew scattered boos from the crowd at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino in the late rounds when he boxed Baldomir from the outside and did little to press the action.

"People are always criticizing," he told HBO announcer Larry Merchant in an interview in the ring. "You do the commentating and let me do the fighting." Red Raiders Report:

Strategy & Personnel

THIS WEEK'S GAME: Texas Tech at Oklahoma, Nov. 11 - One formality Texas Tech accomplished in its Nov. 4 romp over Baylor was becoming bowl-eligible for the seventh consecutive season. With that out of the way, the Red Raiders can concentrate on closing out strong. Against Oklahoma, they will face the defense that's played the best in conference games, allowing just six touchdowns during a 4-1 run through the Big 12. Texas Tech coach Mike Leach served as an assistant for one season under Oklahoma's Bob Stoops, and the Sooners always seem properly prepared to shut down the Red Raiders' passing attack.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

WR Joel Filani - He recorded the second-best day of his career with eight catches for 212 yards in the Nov. 4 win over Baylor, averaging 26.5 yards per catch, the best single-game performance by a Tech receiver under coach Mike Leach. Filani scored three touchdowns.

RB Shannon Woods - He rushed for a career-high 125 yards and three touchdowns on just 10 carries against Baylor. Woods is proving to be more than adequate as a first-year starter. He has 693 yards rushing and 492 re-

ceiving yards on 62 catches.

DE Keyunta Dawson -- He sits fourth on the Texas Tech career chart with 19

career chart with 19 sacks.Red Raiders report: SCOUTING THE OF-FENSE

It can be argued that Texas Tech is as good as any team in the Big 12 at making up for yardage lost by mistakes. Nonetheless, penalties can come at costly times, and the Red Raiders run the risk of inopportune mark-offs. They lead the Big 12 with 78 infractions, which have led to 70.8 penalty yards on average.

SCOUTING THE DE-FENSE

Tech is coming off its finest defensive performance of the season, limiting Baylor to 217 total yards while securing three turnovers and six sacks. It could be that the Red Raiders are benefiting from easier competition, though the performance certainly provides a boost in confidence for a unit that earned the reputation as hard hitters last season.

QUOTE TO NOTE

"People ask me all the time about when Mike (Leach) keeps throwing on people, and other coaches start fussing, but I have no problem with that. My job is to keep them out of the end zone." -- Baylor coach Guy Morriss.

New time for Colts-Cowboys game

The Nov. 19 Indianapolis Colts at Dallas game has been moved from 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. and will be televised by CBS,

The Colts (8-0) lead the AFC South. Dallas (4-4) has fallen two games behind the New York

Giants in the NFC East.

The San Diego Chargers-Denver Broncos game the same day has been moved from 1 to 8:15 p.m. on NBC under the league's new "flexible scheduling" for-

Parcells not enthusiastic about state of Cowboys

Bill Parcells is discouraged by the Dallas Cowboys' mediocre first half of the season and frustrated by the team's penalty difficulties.

That doesn't even cover Terrell Owens' end zone antics.

A day after the Cowboys lost to the Washington Redskins 22-19 in a wild final few seconds, Parcells labored over the mistakes that left Dallas one of five teams in the NFC with a .500 record.

Parcells, who was 5-3 at the midway point during his first three years in Dallas, said Monday he is discouraged the Cowboys are not entering the season's second half in better position.

"We've got to get going and put some things in sequence or we're going to wind up being average to below average," he said.

The Cowboys made several mistakes late in the loss to Washington.

Troy Vincent bolted through the Dallas line to block Mike Vanderjagt's 35yard field goal attempt with six seconds left. Then, after Redskins safety Sean Taylor scooped up the ball, Cowboys guard Kyle Kosier committed the last of a season-high 11 team penalties by putting a hand on Taylor's facemask during the return. That added 15 yards to the end of the run, setting up Nick Novak's 47-yard winning kick with no time

left on the clock.

The Cowboys have racked up the most penalty yards in the NFL, a rarity for Parcells-coached teams traditionally built around discipline and committing fewer mental errors than the other team.

"It's just exasperating," Parcells said.

Owens also was penalized 15 yards after catching a 4-yard touchdown in the third quarter when he pretended to take a nap by using the football as a pillow. Parcells said he talked to his flamboyant wide receiver but the conversation was a "day late and a dollar short."

The Cowboys, who will finish a three-game road swing when they play at Arizona on Sunday, are tied with Philadelphia for second place in the NFC East behind New York (6-2).

Dallas' schedule doesn't get any easier in the second half: among the remaining games are unbeaten Indianapolis, on the road against the Giants, home against New Orleans (6-2) and at Atlanta (5-3).

Parcells said he thinks the Cowboys need 10 wins to make the playoffs, and Dallas' current position could make things "appreciably more" difficult for the fight ahead.

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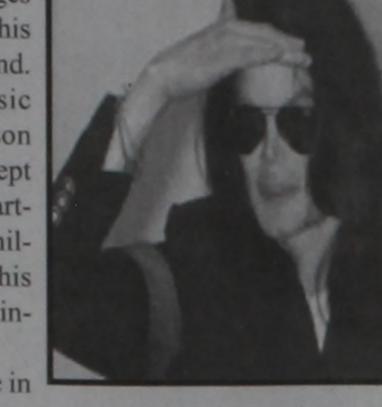
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JACKSON TO PERFORM "THRILLER"

Reclusive pop star Michael Jackson plans a dramatic comeback bid later this month with a performance of his classic song "Thriller," organizers of a music awards ceremony said on Wednesday.

The 48-year-old entertainer has been a virtual recluse since his acquittal on child molestation charges in June, 2005, dividing much of his time between Bahrain and Ireland.

Last month the World Music Awards announced that Jackson would appear in London to accept a Diamond Award that goes to artists who sell more than 100 million records worldwide, and this week they confirmed Jackson's intention to perform.



"Yes, it's his first performance in

a long time," said a spokeswoman at Outside Organization, one of the public relations companies publicizing the event. "It's something of a comeback if you like."

The choice of song coincides with the 25th anniversary of Jackson's "Thriller" album, one of the biggest-selling records of all time.

Jackson has said he planned to move to Europe in a bid to resurrect his musical career, and in April a record label said he intended to make a new album to be released in 2007.

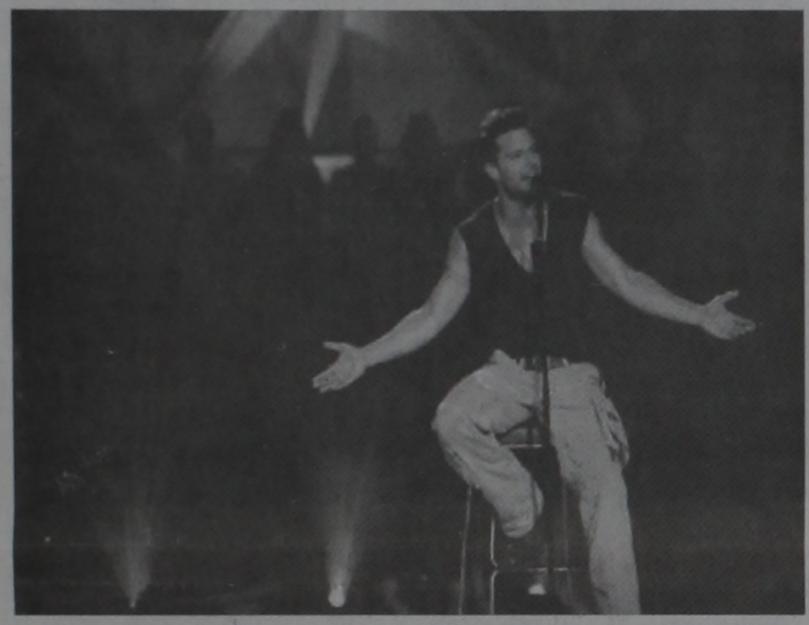
Besides Jackson's eagerly awaited return, Hollywood actress

Lindsay Lohan will host the awards show on November 15, and recording stars Beyonce, Mary J. Blige and Andrea Bocelli are slated to perform.

The World Music Awards are based on artists' sales as opposed to votes from the public or a panel of judges.

Read **El Editor Online** www.eleditor.com

RICKY MARTIN MTV UNPLUGGED



Las últimas semanas han sido intensas para Ricky Martin, incluso para un artista que ha hecho de la intensidad uno de los elementos más atractivos de su música. Pero también han sido semanas llenas de grandes momentos. Ayer martes 7 de noviembre, por ejemplo, el muy esperado álbum Ricky Martin: MTV Unplugged salió al mercado con un gran recibimiento de su público. Es un disco que marca un gran paso en la carrera del intérprete puertorriqueño, y su público lo ha ratificado en grande.

El lanzamiento fue precedido de un sentido homenaje por parte de la Academia Latina de la Grabación, la organización responsable de la planificación de los Grammy Latinos. Ricky, quien fue nombrado Persona del Año por la academia, es la persona mas joven que recibido este prestigioso premio.

El intérprete puertorriqueño fue sin duda una de las figuras más destacadas de la ceremonia de entregas, al cantar dos temas de este nuevo disco: su nuevo sencillo Tu recuerdo y la contagiosa Pégate. Fue un momento en el que Ricky mostró su energía y madurez como intérprete.

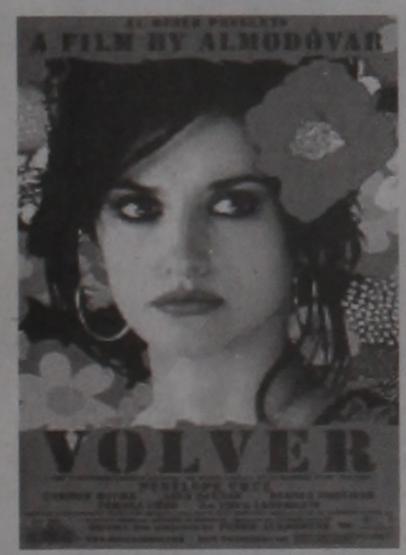
Y es que Ricky Martin: MTV Unplugged es otro clásico de su discografía. El álbum será promocionado en un intenso plan de trabajo. Para empezar, Ricky celebro ayer el lanzamiento del disco con una firma de autógrafo en la tienda Ritmo Latino en la ciudad de Los Angeles. En la misma ciudad, Ricky realiza hoy un evento privado, a celebrarse en el Teatro El Rey.

Desplazándose a Nueva York, el astro boricua llevará a cabo también una firma de autógrafos el jueves en la tienda FYE (1290 Avenue of the Americas).

El viernes, Ricky se traslada a Miami para presentarse en Despierta América, el popular programa mañanero de la cadena Univisión. Asimismo, el astro se conectará con numerosos seguidores a través de un chat (a las 10:30a.m.) auspiciado por Univisión.com.

A continuación, el cantante viajará a su querida tierra puertorriqueña esa tarde por dos días de promoción extensiva, incluyendo dos presentaciones el sábado. Serán dos firmas de autógrafos que se llevarán a cabo en los Caribbean Cinema de San Juan y Mayagüez. De hecho, será la primera vez que los seguidores podrán ver la filmación del álbum unplugged en los teatros, para luego conocer en persona a Ricky en los in-stores de los respectivos centros comerciales.

'Volver' Synopsis



The story explores the interactions between three generations of women in a Spanish family. Raimunda was born and raised in the apocryphal village of "Alcanfor de las Infantas," in La Mancha, Spain. But she now resides in Madrid, where she works as a janitor. She is married to Paco, an unemployed layabout, and looks after her daughter, Paula. Raimunda and Sole's mother Irene died several years back in a house fire. Raimunda's younger sister, Sole, also lives in Madrid and works as a hair stylist, while their Aunt Paula still makes her home in La Mancha, with occasional help from neighbor Agustina.

ALEJANDRO SANZ VUELVE EN 'ELTRENDE LOS MOMENTOS'

Alejandro Sanz presentó ayer El tren de los momentos, su último trabajo discográfico, con el que ha logrado "un sonido que suena cada vez más a mí mismo", según manifestó en la vispera de que el disco salga a la venta en España Latinoamérica.

Sanz, ganador de 16 premios Grammy y con más de 21 millones de copias vendidas en todo el mundo, presentó en Madrid, su ciudad natal, su séptimo trabajo de estudio, El tren de los momentos, un disco que le ha supuesto "una catarsis liberadora" puesto que en él ha plasmado "todo lo que tenía dentro", explicó.

Retirado durante dos años y medio en su casa de Miami para componer, el autor de algunas de las letras más populares de la reciente música española, como Corazón partío y Pisando fuerte, apareció ante los medios solo y en un decorado que reproducía el backstage de una sala de conciertos en los bajos fondos de Nueva York.

Esta ambientación se hacía eco del sonido de su nuevo trabajo, en el que suma sones de trompetas callejeras y un poco de blues ahogado en ritmos

heredadas de su anterior No es como lo tiene en la cabeza". lo mismo y a su gran clásico, las baladas de amor.

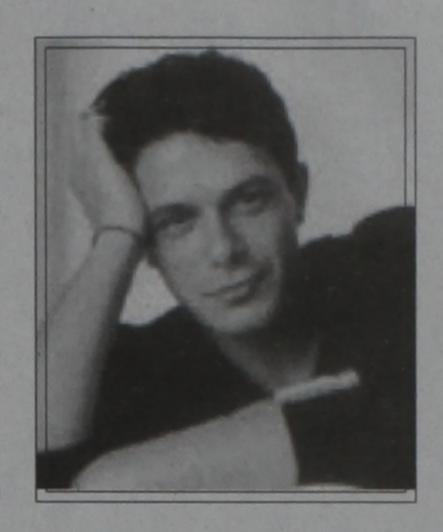
El cantante, que se mostró paciente y cariñoso hasta con las preguntas menos oportunas, reconoció que quería recuperar las baladas "como algo que es mío" porque "queda mucho del Alejandro Sanz de siempre. Mi madre me sigue preguntando si me he lavado las manos antes de comer", bromeó.

Por eso, "aunque tenga siempre una maleta preparada y muchas estaciones para elegir", sigue manteniendo referentes como Paco de Lucía y juntando en sus discos a grandes amigos como Shakira, con la que canta a dúo Te lo agradezco pero no, Antonio Carmona, que toca el cajón en Si lo dices tú, o Juanes, que se marca un solo de guitarra en La peleita, en la que Sanz canta con el grupo de hip-hop Calle 13.

A pesar de que piensa que "eslo más sano para la música" contar con este tipo de colaboraciones —a las que hay que añadir una nota de violín tocada por su hija Manuela—, el artista ha intentado superar lo que consideró "lo más complicado de la música", es decir, no dejarse

latinos a las dosis comprometidas influir y "lograr que el disco suene

El cantante se ha iniciado con programas informáticos con los que ha realizado más de 30 composiciones, de las cuales han quedado "10 canciones que pueden gustar o no, pero que están ahí por algo", y en las que



hace especial hincapié en la palabra "coraje" puesto que "es el arma fundamental para seguir adelante".

Sanz, que indicó que la música le sirve para "enfrentarse a las cosas", sigue ofreciendo a su público letras elaboradas, metáforas y recursos estilísticos que ha decidido situar en esta ocasión en un tren "por lo mágico que tiene, por esa complicidad que te hace contar cosas que no has dicho ni a tu familia e intercambiar teléfonos a los que luego nunca llamarás", expresó.

La fugacidad ferroviaria le ha inspirado también para dar una mayor rienda suelta a la improvisación y en este disco "no hay ninguna letra sobre el papel; se grabó todo según fue saliendo, para evitar ser un rehén de la semántica y dar una mayor autenticidad", resumió.

Alejandro Sanz, que ya tiene compuestas algunas canciones para un futuro álbum en inglés, ha contado de nuevo con el productor Lulo Pérez, tras la experiencia de No es lo mismo en 2003, y con Thom Russo, que ha realizado mezclas para Michael Jackson y Macy Gray, que dio los últimos retoques al sonido del álbum.

Pero, pese al equipo del que se ha rodeado y a que las cifras parecen hablar alto y claro, Alejandro Sanz sigue dejando todavía abierta la puerta a que el público decida sobre la suerte de El tren de los momentos, porque "las canciones las termina de componer el que las escucha".

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Shakira, Calle 13 Dominate Latin Grammy Awards

Shakira was the big winner at Thursday night's Latin Grammy Awards, emerging with four awards out of five nominations, winning for Record of the Year, Album of the Year, Song of the Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Album for Fijacion Oral Vol. 1.

elegantly blackgowned Colombian singer grew more excited as each prize was announced during Univision's live broadcast from New York's Madison Square Garden, practically babbling with joy as she took the final statuette for Record of the Year.

"Everything I know I learned in one place -- I want to thank my people, Barranquilla, Colombia," she said.

Calle 13, the irreverent duo whose wildly inventive reggaeton fusion debut was one of the most talked about albums of the year -- but who were snubbed as performers on the Univision show -came away with awards in all three of the categories for which they were nominated: Best New Artist, Best Short Video and Best Urban Music Album.

Calle 13 rapper Residente literally leapt into his director's arms before accepting the award for Best Short Video. "There are no words



for this," he said after they picked up the Urban Music award.

"I believe in music now more than I used to and in the industry," Residente said by cellphone from backstage after the show ended.

"I didn't think we were going to win. We're very, very happy. I had a lot of things I wanted to say and I just forgot everything."

Ricky Martin was honored as Latin Grammy Person of the Year.

There were plenty of salutes to Latin New York for the show's debut in the Big Apple, one of the historic homes of Latin music. But the show felt oddly flat for a world of music that can explode with

"There are 8 million stories in this city and 2 million of are written in Spanish!," co-host Lucero announced as the awards show opened. Exuberant Dominican merengue singer Milly Quezada introduced a sheepish Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who emerged trailing a parade of prancing dancers and gamely spoke in horrendously accented Spanish.

"Hasta la vista!" he said, putting his farewell first.

But the musical tribute to New York salsa, with Willie Colon, the Fania All-Stars, and other salsa stars, was left to the end of the show and was cut off as the telecast ended.

The show played it safe in production and choice of performers, from Andrea Bocelli singing a syrupy bolero medley and Thalia doing what looked like a second-rate rehash of Madonna's Vogue performance costumed as 17th century court decadents in hoop skirts and pantaA Salute to Reggaeton with

Wisin y Yandel, Ivy Queen and Hector El Father looked and sounded chaotic.

There were also unprofessionally awkward moments, as when presenters couldn't explain why quadruple nominee Ricardo Arjona -- also left out of the performances -didn't appear to accept his award for Best Male Pop Vocal Album.

Lucero and co-host Victor Manuelle couldn't manage anything but lame food and he-she jokes.

Even the biggest star seemed subdued. Shakira sang her broken-hearted torch song No to a simple piano accompaniment, followed by Alejandro Sanz singing the tortured heart A La Primera Persona from his upcoming album. The two of them joined for Shakira's megahit La Tortura, but it lacked the electricity that these artists can generate live.

The only person to say something besides thank you to the usual suspects was Shakira, who paid tribute to, "All Latinos, especially the immigrants here in the United States who are just trying to achieve their dream -- that someday they receive the recognition that they deserve."

Commerce Secretary Urges Fellow Latinos to Assimilate

Cuban-born Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez on Thursday urged fellow Hispanics in the U.S. to assimilate and participate in American society.

"It is only by fully engaging in every aspect of American life - and not stand on the edges looking in that we will achieve success as a community," he told the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City at the opening session of a two-day business conference.

"That is what generations of Americans before us have done. And that is what we must do now.

"Irish, Italians, Greeks, eastern Europeans, Vietnamese - it's our turn. We can make a better society."

While in Kansas City, Gutierrez also announced \$6 million in Commerce Department grants to business technology incubators and workforce training centers.

U.S. Treasurer Anna Escobedo Cabral is scheduled Friday to address the conference, which drew nearly 600 people to business skills workshops, sessions on immigration law and network-

Gutierrez and Kansas City Chamber president Miguel Meneses both hailed dramatic gains by Hispanic businesses and workers in recent years. Growth of Hispanic-owned business is 31 percent in recent years three times the national average for all business.

Meanwhile, Hispanic unemployment this year reached historic lows, averaging 5.4 percent and rapidly closing a historic 3 percent gap with the national aver-

Michael Barrera, president of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of the Commerce, noted that the combined \$800 billion spending power of Hispanics in the United States was greater that the gross domestic product of Mexico.

He said that makes the United States a prime market for foreign businesses and in

turn creates jobs here. "Hispanic business in the U.S. is exploding," he said. Despite such gains, wide-

spread Hispanic success in

the United States is "a work

in progress," said Gutierrez. "I don't think any Hispanic that comes to this country is looking for a handout," he said. "The one thing that we want, that we ask for, is op-

portunity." He cited his own story as a truck driver for Kellogg USA who rose through the ranks to become the company's chief executive. President Bush appointed him to

the Cabinet post in 2004. But Gutierrez said twin forces of isolationism and security concerns threatened vital international free trade and a controlled immigration flow into this country.

Secure borders are essential, he said, while echoing the president's call for a middle ground in the immigration debate between amnesty or deportation for those who entered this country illegally.

In an interview, Meneses said the challenges of cultural assimilation were daunting.

He said his local chamber's survey earlier this year of more than 300 area Hispanic business owners found many were "not yet a part of the 21st century."

First-generation immigrants especially, he said, distrust banks and operate their small business on a cash basis. Many are far behind technologically and appear out of the loop on knowing where find ready assistance.

"We're starting to gather momentum," he added, with expansion of Spanish-language media and growing but still modest clout in the board rooms and executive suites of corporate Kansas City.

Debates Sin Contundencia



José de la Isla

Los analistas de la política se enfrentan a la gran labor de traducir las elecciones de medio término de la ficción a la realidad. Así será también para los candidatos quienes quieran realizar las promesas de sus guiones de campaña.

Lo que nos esperaba se hacía evidente ya en junio. Un grupo de perito de la política se reunió en el Club Nacional de la Prensa para ponderar si "¿Da señales de vida intelectual la política?"

Dana Milbank, columnista, reportó que "al enfrentarse con los temas difíciles -Irak, la inmigración, el salario mínimo - los legisladores sopesaron sus opciones para a continuación decidir por lo incumbente: el inter-

cambio de pullas". En una ocasión este tipo de sarcasmo terminó por perjudicar al que lo profería: John Kerry. Tuvo que pedir disculpas por "la chapuza" que ocasionó una broma que hizo sobre las tropas en Irak. La mayoría del público hasta allí siguió las noticias; pero fue lo que dijo Kerry a con-

tinuación lo más interesante. Kerry dijo que se negaba a ser resondrado por el secretario de prensa de la Casa Blanca, Tony Snow, "una boquilla de traje de relleno tras un podio, o un Rush Limbaugh pastoso...quien dejará de lado un momento burlarse de la enfermedad de Parkinson de la que sufre Michael J. Fox...En esencia, estos republicanos quieren debatir el aire porque les da miedo debatir a hombres de verdad".

Sólo entonces, después del vaivén fue que sonara como un debate directo de la cultura política de nuestra era y de la campaña en la que estamos.

Los lemas televisados pueda que ayuden a puntualizar algo, pero con frecuencia lo que se juega es algo mucho más fundamental, que tiene que ver con buscar la veracidad de los avisos publicitarios. Por ejemplo, ¿qué ha de pensar un votante cuando el Congreso no implementa acción sobre un problema, o cuando se dirige al tema equivocado?

Que yo sepa, por ejemplo, ninguna campaña accedió a la nueva información emitida por la investigadora conservadora Tama Jacoby, del Manhattan Institute, sobre el efecto mínimo que surten los inmigrantes sobre salarios a nivel general. Se creará más de 56 millones de nuevos empleos hasta el 2012; la mitad con el perfil de las características que muestran los trabajadores inmigrantes de rangos menores. Durante el mismo periodo, se jubilarán 75 millones de personas. Bajo el supuesto que realizaban labores necesarias, ¿estamos preparados a reemplazarlos?

Lo que argumenta Jacoby es que lo que necesitamos hacer para controlar la entrada ilícita de personas al país "no es la mano dura, sino la liberalización [de la política mi-

gratoria]". A ver, ¿y qué campaña que usted siguió dijo eso? ¿Son los políticos los culpables o es la voluntad del votante de

aceptar respuestas inferiores? Tal vez lo que padecen los votantes es lo que los antropólogos de la economía llaman "privación relativa", lo cual indica el descontento que siente la gente al compararse con sus semejantes de mejores condiciones económicas y percibe que tiene menos de lo que se merece.

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Gracias y estaciona su nuevo

Es la sensación que se tiene cuando aparece el cuñado a la

auto Lexus al lado del suyo, un Chevrolet de 10 años. La privación relativa es una reacción común cuando la diferencia entre ingresos es tan grande como lo es ahora. Se nos desvía la atención con importunar a los inmigrantes de bajos ingresos e imponernos a nosotros mismos, políticas malsanas como consecuencia. Formas más realistas de enfrentar el problema serían animar a que todos vuelvan al

salón de clase (incluyendo a los que se jubilan) para hacer más competitiva la nación, y empujar a los hijos de inmigrantes a la educación superior. De lo contrario, hubo unos 26 estados que pusieron en la papeleta de votación algún tipo "reforma" de la inmigración, ninguno de los cuales haría que sea menos tóxico el ambiente social.

Esta temporada de elecciones fue buen momento para recordar a Dwight D. Eisenhower, en su discurso de despedida, advirtiendo contra la "influencia injustificada" del complejo militar-industrial y el "alce desastroso de poder mal aplicado". El remedio, indicó, era "un pueblo alerta y conciente". Era abrumante el conflicto

de interés entre el ciudadano y el candidato. Los candidatos proferían burlas, no soluciones. ¿No nos toca, como ciudadanos, ponernos metas mayores y exigir que los candidatos estén a la altura? ¿Quién de los candidatos ofreció un desafío al estilo de Kennedy a los electores? ¿Quién osó debatir las opciones sombrías y verdaderas que nos tocan? ¿Y qué recibimos sino afectaciones destinadas a nuestra vanidad y temores falsos y fobias?

Poco antes de las elecciones, organizaciones políticas designadas "527" por el departamento de impuestos federal (IRS), creadas para influ-

enciar las campañas políticas, recaudaron \$131 millones. Además, los comités de recaudación de fondos demócratas habían recibido \$304 millones y los republicanos \$419,6 millones, encima del dinero que las campañas particulares gastaron.

Según el Campaign Finance Institute, sin afiliación de partido, un candidato de hace una década que gastara medio millón de dólares en su campaña por un escaño en la Cámara de Representantes, hoy, como promedio, excedería el millón de dólares.

Con esa cantidad de dinero, nos tendrían que haber ofrecido una discusión con base en la realidad, y no historietas baratas.

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Rumsfeld Resigns, Gates Steps In

WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush on Wednesday announced that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has resigned, one day after his Republican party was defeated in congressional elections that largely reflected voter discontent over the war in Iraq.

Rumsfeld was a key target of Democrats who captured control of the House and appeared close to retaking the Senate by campaigning on public anger over the conflict that has claimed the lives of more than 2,800 U.S. soldiers and on the lack of a strategy by the Bush administration to resolve the conflict.

"After a series of thoughtful conversations Secretary Rumsfeld and I have agreed that the time is right for new leadership at the Pentagon," Bush said in the surprise announcement at a White House press conference.

Just a week before the election, Bush had steadfastly defended his war minister and insisted that Rumsfeld would stay in the job until Bush's term ends in January



2009. Bush, however, met with Rumsfeld on Tuesday as polls indicated the Democrats would prevail to discuss the departure of the 74year-old defense secretary.

Bush named Robert Gates, 63, director of the CIA from 1991 to 1993 and current president of Texas A&M University, as his nominee to succeed Rumsfeld. Bush's choice must be be confirmed by the Senate.

For the last three years, Rumsfeld has faced increasing calls to step down, a trend that began in large part after the Abu Ghraib prisoner

abuse scandal. Rumsfeld has previously said that following the scandal, Bush, known for his loyalty twice rejected offers to step down.

The final blow came to Rumsfeld in Tuesday's elections when voters overwhelming shifted toward Democrats after months of polls showing the U.S. public believed the decision to invade Iraq was a mistake.

"I recognize that many Americans voted last night to register their displeasure with the lack of progress being made there," Bush said.

Prior to the press confer-

ence, Bush spoke with Democratic leaders and pledged to work with them, but remained determined to prevail in Iraq and the war on terrorism and warned al-Qaeda that Tuesday's outcome and Rumsfeld's resignation should not be interpreted as a sign of weakness.

"To our enemies: Do not be joyful. Do not confuse the workings of our democracy with a lack of will. Our nation is committed to bringing you to justice," Bush said.

Rumsfeld has been Bush's only defense secretary and the longest serving one at the post since the 1960s. His tenure was marked by an abrasive style of management that often frustrated the top military brass. Rumsfeld will be credited for an invasion plan that quickly toppled Saddam Hussein's regime in April of 2003, but by not thoroughly planning for postwar Iraq and ignoring the advice of his generals.

The last month heading into Tuesday's election was marred by increased levels of violence in Baghdad and the highest American death toll in Iraq in more than two

years. At the beginning of the year, Rumsfeld suggested that a gradual withdrawal of U.S. soldiers could begin in 2006.

But the presence of U.S.

troops has instead increased from about 130,000 to 140,000 as Iraqi forces have been unable to take control of security operations or quell the insurgency and the outbreak of sectarian violence between Sunnis and Shiites that has brought Iraq to the brink of civil war.

The Democratic party won control of the House for the first time in 12 years in elections on Tuesday and were winning in crucial races to regain the Senate.

Among the prominent Democrats who have called for Rumsfeld to step down in recent years have been former presidential candidate and current Senator John Kerry,

and senators Ted Kennedy and Hillary Clinton.

At least eight former gener-

als who served under Rumsfeld in Iraq have also called for Rumsfeld's firing.

After winning the midterm elections viewed as a referendum on Bush, Democrats wasted no time in stepping up calls for Rumsfeld's resignation.

Less than two hours before Bush's announcement, Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic leader in the House who is poised to become the top U.S. lawmaker, said Bush should show his commitment to changing course in Iraq by removing Rumsfeld.

"To change the civilian leadership at the Pentagon, that would signal an openness to new, fresh ideas on the subject," Pelosi said.

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