

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.

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?"

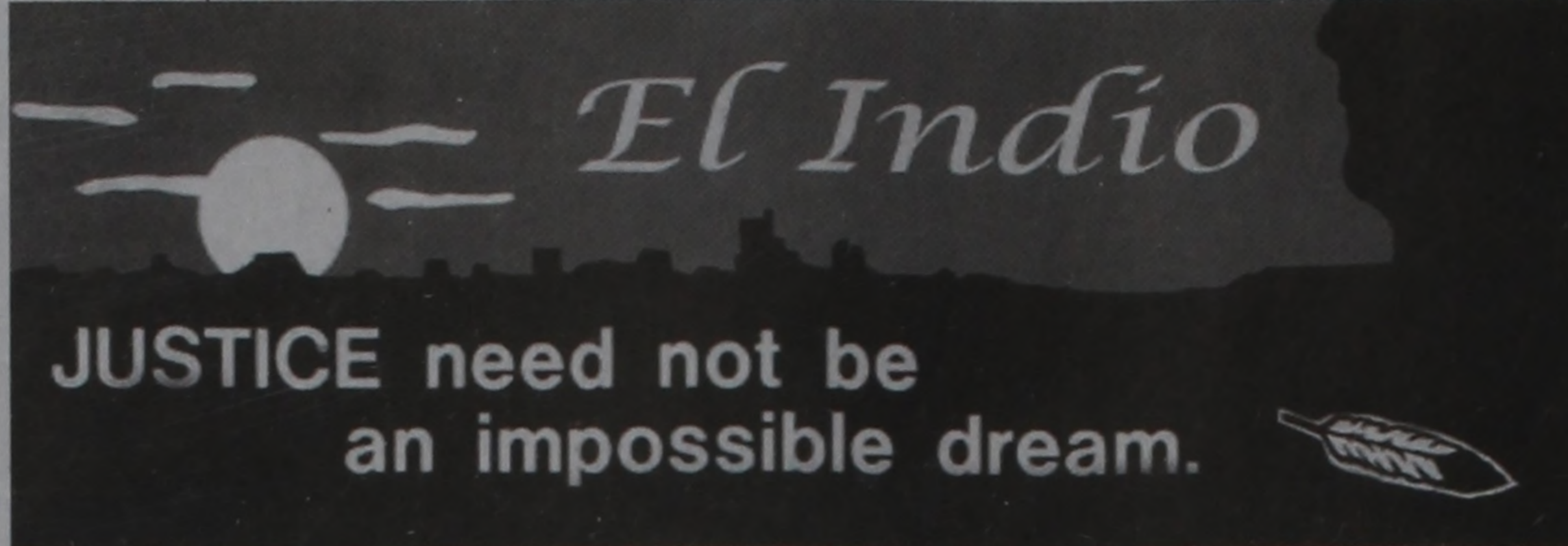
Likewise, Rep. Jo Ann Davis, who heads the subcommittee overseeing much of the CIA's work in Islamic countries, was stamped by Stein's question: "The Sunni are more radical than the Shia. Or vice versa," she said.

This is Jim Hightower saying... Golly, Terry... really? Shouldn't you have thought about that 2,800 lives and \$373-billion ago?

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...

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 HASTER is no longer in power...

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.

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 right-wing fanatic JIM LANDTROOP for PETE LANEY's seat.

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 mexicano-americanos decentes y 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 e 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

los continuos éxitos de los inmigrantes mexicanos y mexicano-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 voto.

Obama, que dice que está pensando en hacer campaña para presidente de los Estados Unidos, no debe esperar a que la historia le pruebe su error. Debe admitirlo, pedir disculpas y ponerse a construir puentes en 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 mexicano-americanos.

¿Cómo pudo arriesgarse a enajenar a 25 millones de mexicano-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 incorrecto creer que se puede conseguir una reforma 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 Obama- pueden decir en la misma frase que están combatiendo el terrorismo y haciendo más seguro a los Estados Unidos al mantener fuera a los trabajadores 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 México 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 México. 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 difícil 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 mexicano-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?...

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!

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 herculean 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. GO MADAM SPEAKER PELOSI!!

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 over.

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.

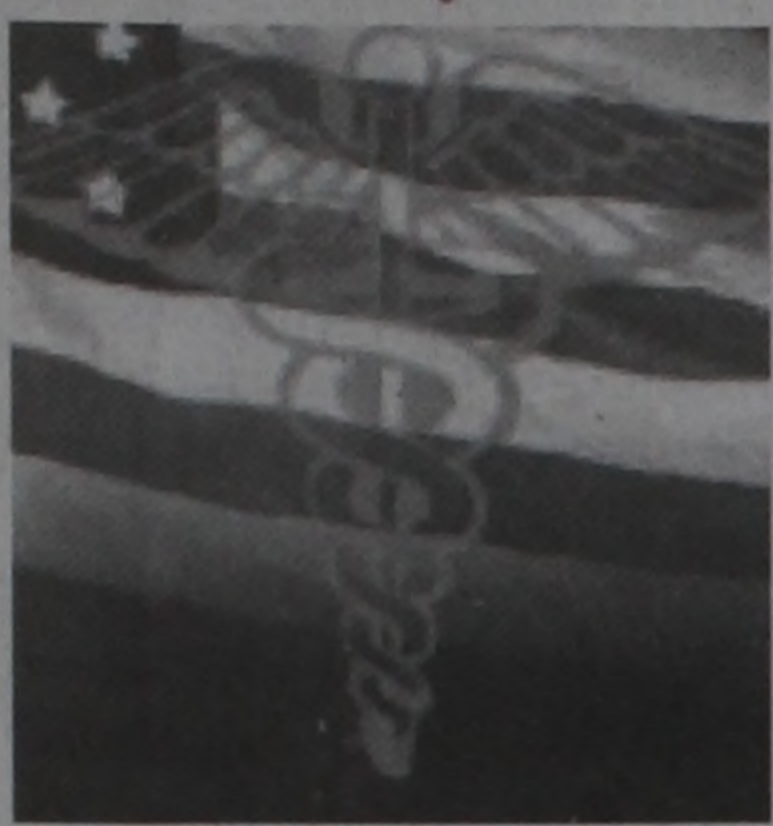
The former Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, said it best when he commented that he found it difficult to understand why the party of Ronald Reagan who, as president of the United States called on him to tear down the Berlin Wall, is now the party calling for a wall to be built between 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 Mexicans and Mexican Americans have anything to say about it.

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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 vice-president 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 small-business 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 small-business 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.

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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 society and our economy."

A study by the Joint 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 of the border to the Negras — across Pass, Texas — border community the U.S. plan to miles of fencing on



"We want to raise consciousness, to awaken the border lives from 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.

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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 men.

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.

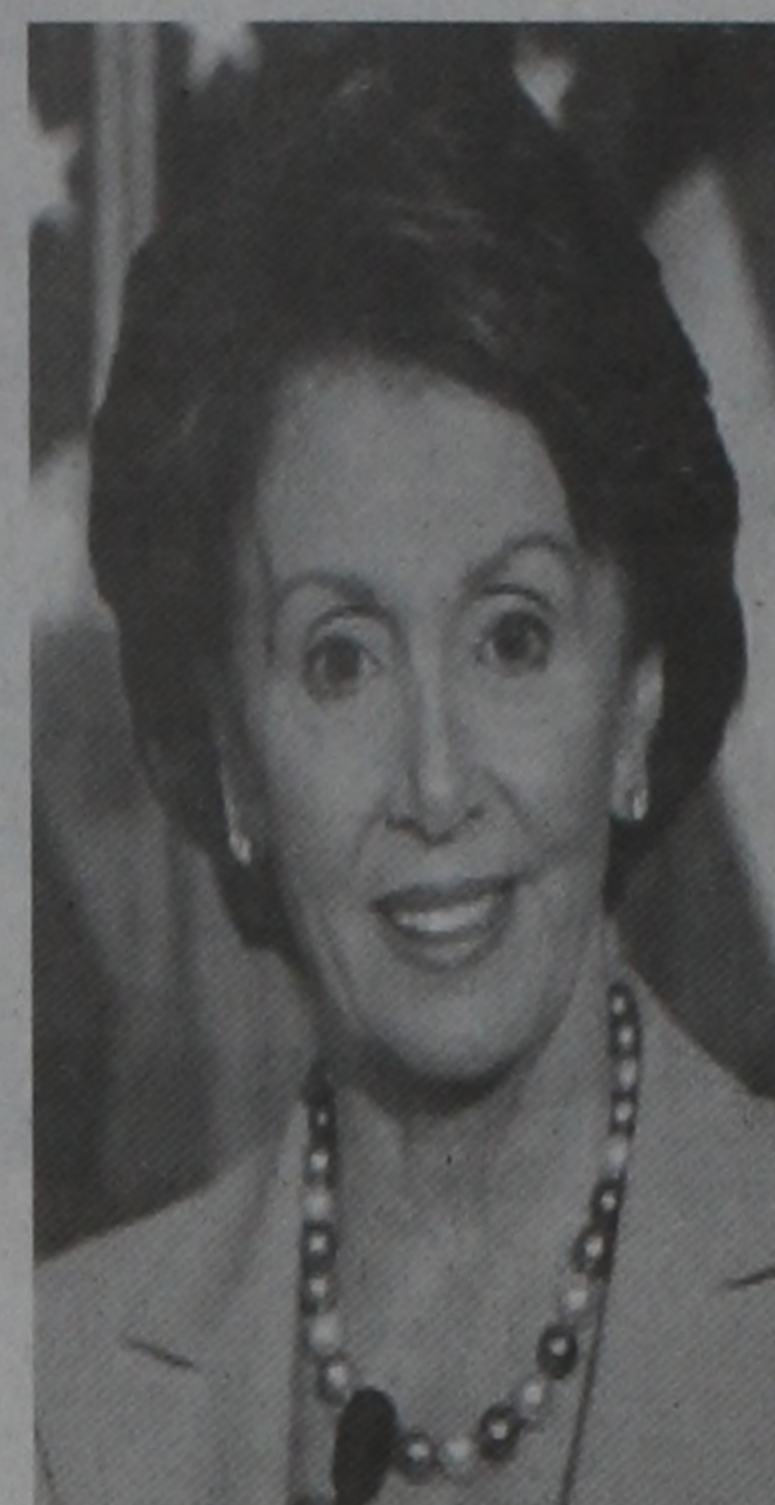
"It's a real sea change of women taking political power and showing it in a most visible way, by electing Nancy Pelosi speaker," said Ellen Malcolm, president of EMILY's List, which supports female Democratic candidates. "We're going to have the highest number of Democratic women in Congress in history."

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 incumbent from Connecticut.

The number of black and Hispanic 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 politics.

"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.

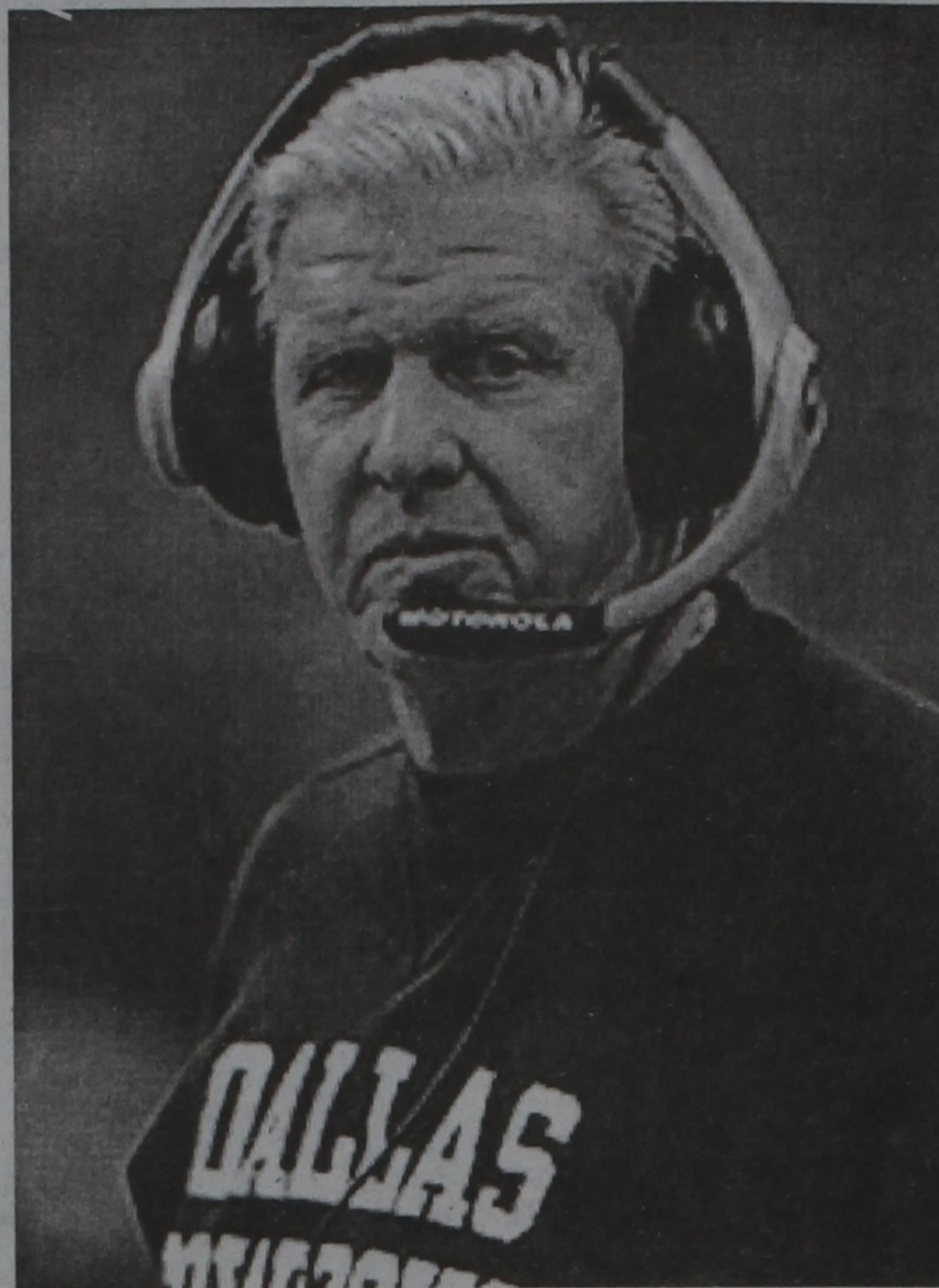
Midway through a fourth season in Dallas that Parcells said could be "special," the Cowboys are 4-4.

They've done themselves in with mistakes not expected from a Parcells-coached team. The offense turns the ball over too much, the defense 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."



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-

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

The defense smoothly converted to the coach's 3-4 scheme last season. Owens' arrival gave the offense 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 Jacksonville.

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 welter-weight 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 commenting 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 sacks. Red Raiders report: SCOUTING THE OFFENSE

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 DEFENSE

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.

Filani Nominated to Cingular Wireless/ABC Sports Honor

LUBBOCK, Texas - The national player of the week nominations are in and the polls are open. Red Raider fans can cast their votes for Texas Tech wide receiver Joel Filani for the Cingular 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' 55-21 win against Baylor.

Filani, who ranks in the top 10 nationally in receiving, recorded his third career three touchdown game and second of the season (Iowa State).

Filani is one of four candidates 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; Minnesota quarterback Bryan Cupito; and Arkansas running back Darren McFadden.

Fans can determine the winner by text messaging "VOTE" to "87654" on their wireless phone and casting their votes for the nominees.

Fans have until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday to

submit their votes. The winner will be announced November 9 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 National 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 www.espnallamerica.com.

Cingular customers can visit Cingular's NCAA® Football Portal on their wireless handset to view video highlights of each week's candidates, retrieve photos, check scoreboards, track their favorite teams and download school ringtones.

Rutgers running back Ray Rice, Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn, Michigan wide receiver Mario Manningham, Georgia Tech wide receiver Calvin Johnson, Tennessee quarterback Erik Ainge, Texas quarterback Colt McCoy and BYU quarterback John Beck have won the Cingular All-America Player of the Week during the 2006 college football season.

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 NFL announced today.

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" format.

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 discour-

aged 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 35-yard 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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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.

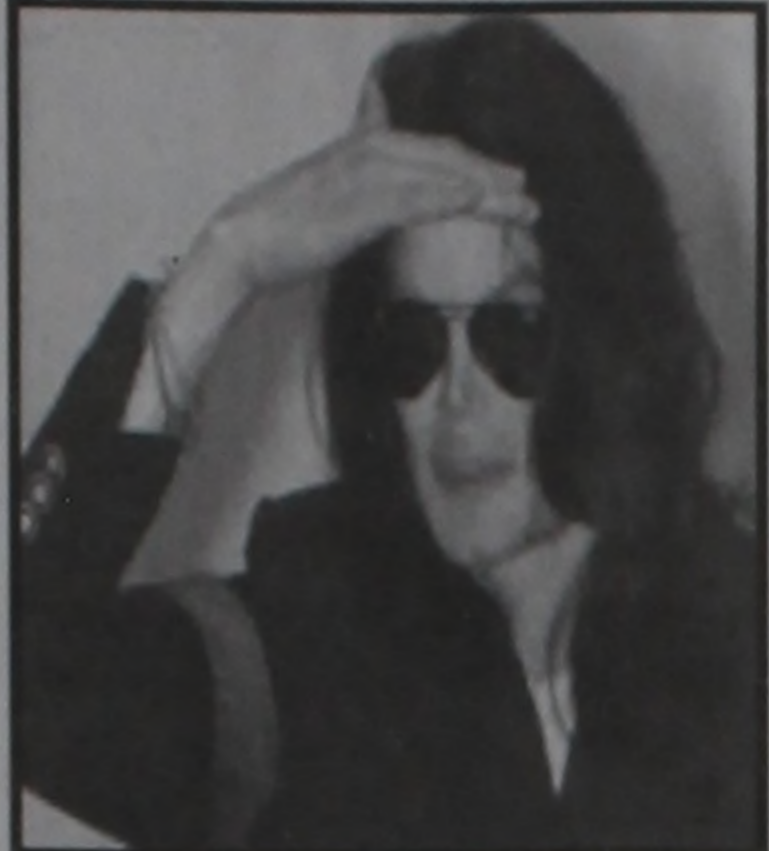
"Yes, it's his first performance in a long time," said a spokeswoman at Outside Organization, one of the public relations companies publicizing the event. "It's something of a comeback if you like."

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.

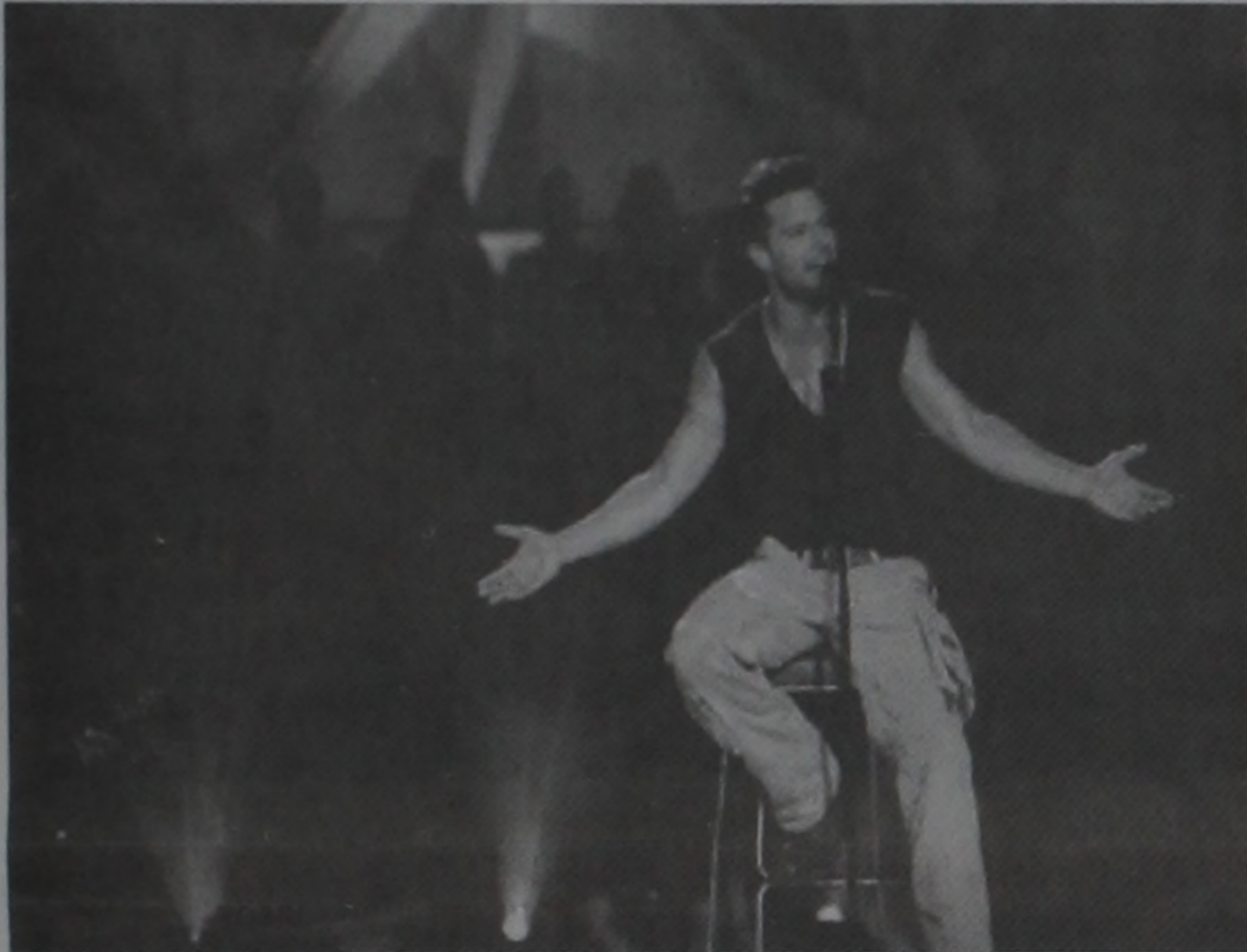
The World Music Awards are based on artists' sales as opposed to votes from the public or a panel of judges.



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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 más joven que recibió 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 celebró ayer el lanzamiento del disco con una firma de autógrafa 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 matutino 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 'EL TREN DE 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 víspera de que el disco salga a la venta en España y 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 Coazón 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 sonos de trompetas callejeras y un poco de blues ahogado en ritmos

latinos a las dosis comprometidas heredadas de su anterior No es 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

influir y "lograr que el disco suene como lo tiene en la cabeza".

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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