

Casualties of War in Iraq  
4,144  
as of Aug  
21, 2008



# El Editor

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Lic Benito Juarez

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Lubbock/West Texas Region

## Flores Found in Violation of Ethics Election Code

By Abel Cruz

Democratic candidate for Precinct 3 County Commissioner, Gilbert Flores has been found in violation of allegations brought against him by current Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez.

In February, Gutierrez filed a complaint with the Texas Ethics Commission; the Commission notified Flores of



its findings and resolution on July 18 of this year.

News of the commission's ruling brought immediate response from not only present commissioner Gutierrez but from Flores' republican opponent in the November election Frank Gutierrez.

In a statement issued by Gutierrez expected to be released to the public on Friday, the Commissioner said that "Gilbert Flores knowingly and blatantly violated the law,"



said Gutierrez, "he misrepresented himself as the incumbent in the primary election." Flores claimed that Susan Barrick, the Chair of the Lubbock County Democratic Party, lied when she "advised that the signs did not comply with the law." "The evidence indicates it was Flores who lied," added Commissioner Gutierrez.

At issue was whether Flores had violated what the commission referred to as section 255.006 of the Election Code; a law administered and enforced by the commission.

The complaint filed by Gutierrez stemmed from Flores' use of cam-

aign signs which was found to have violated the way a candidate can represent their candidacy.

In this case; signs used by Flores violated the section of the law cited by the commission. The use of the word "Re-elect" on some signs implied that Flores was the incumbent and Flores also failed to include the word "for" in other signs.

In a statement issued exclusively to El Editor by candidate Frank Gutierrez, he said The manner in how Gilbert Flores handled the outcome of Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez complaints to the Texas Ethics Commission is typical of a person who feels that ethical behavior is to be violated. Mr. Flores had the opportunity to bring it to the attention of the voters in precinct three by issuing a press release acknowledging the sanctions and that he did violate the ethics involved. Additionally he failed to let the public know what he learned from his mistakes and that he promises to comply with the tenets of the Texas Ethics Commission and the Code of Fair Campaign Practices which reads as follows: "There are basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play that every candidate and political committee in this state has a moral obligation to observe and uphold, in order that, after vigorously contested but fairly conducted campaigns, our citizens may ex-

ercise their constitutional rights to a free and untrammelled choice and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues." Mr. Flores in not addressing the matter in a timely manner commits another ethics violation and should be man enough to resign as his party's nominee, lest the Democratic Party feels that it is acceptable to violate the ethics and rules involved in election campaigns. The sanctions warrant an apology and subsequent resignation. That would be the ethical thing to do.

Included in the commission's findings were the following determinations:

That (Flores) displayed signs at a campaign banquet held on January 11, 2008 that read "Re-elect Mr. Gilbert Flores". The evidence also indicates that (Flores) was advised that he signs did not comply with the law but that he did not remove them.

That (Flores) had several 4x8 political signs placed at several locations throughout the precinct that read "Re-elect".

That some of the signs placed by (Flores) failed to include the word "for" prior to the name of the office sought.

That on February 21, 2008 there was a sign mounted on a vehicle in front of a polling place in Idalou which read in part "Re-elect".

The commission also addressed an old sign which one of Flores' supporters displayed at the Idalou polling site. It also noted in the determinations that "the respondent (Flores) corrected the signs at issue by changing them to read "elect" and by adding the word "for" before the office sought.

At issues here is the use of the word "Re-elect" and "for". By using the word re-elect; Flores was giving potential voters the impression that he was the incumbent when in fact he was not. Although Flores had previously held the position; he was not running for re-election.

The lack of the word "for" gives the impression that the candidate presently holds the office and assumes the title of the position as part of his campaign material.

(Continued on Page 2)

## FIESTAS DEL LLANO TO OFFER MEXICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM

This year's Fiestas Patrias Celebration will offer the Lubbock community a free educational symposium on Mexican American Heritage. The event will be at the Lubbock Civic Center in meeting room 104-105, on Friday, September 12, from 9:00

AM until 4:00 PM. The symposium and its participants will be introduced by Dr. Jim Goss, Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus and past Director of Museums at Texas Tech University. It has been designed as an introduction to the Mexican American Legacy for a general audience.

Beginning at 9:15 A.M., Christy Martinez, Editor of Latino Lubbock Magazine will speak on Pride in Mexican American Heritage, and Mexican American Empowerment.

Dr. Goss will speak on Pride in the Native American Component of being of Mexican American Heritage. Daniel Sanchez, of the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University will speak on the importance of preserving Oral and Family histories, and the ways that the Southwest Collection can serve the community. The last speakers of the morning will be Vi Zeek and Pam Casto of the South Plains Genealogical Society who will discuss the importance of collecting the Genealogies of Lubbock's Mexican American Families, and how to get started.

At Lunch time the Fiestas Patrias Celebration will be open 11:00 until 2:00 with no gate fee. All of the food vendors will be open and the Official Ribbon Cutting will open the Fiestas Patrias Celebration at 1:00 PM.

After lunch the symposium will resume in meeting room 104-105 of the Civic Center at 2:00 with Dr. Miguel Levario of the Department of History at Texas Tech University, who will speak on problems of the Border, the Fence, and the Separation from our relatives and friends.

At 3:00 Dr. Joseph Sanchez, a distinguished visitor from New Mexico will honor us with a presentation entitled: 450 YEARS OF HISPANIC HISTORY ON THE LLANO ESTACADO. Dr. Sanchez is Director of the Spanish Colonial Research Center at the University of New Mexico and Superintendent of Petroglyph National Monument with the National Park Service.

At 5:00 the Fiestas Patrias Celebration continues with food, music and entertainment.

The Celebration continues though Saturday and Sunday, with the Miss Hispanic Lubbock Pageant Friday evening, the Parade on Saturday morning, a celebration of the 30 year anniversary of the single member district system of electing city officials on Saturday afternoon, and The Grito de Dolores on Monday evening, September 14, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Fiestas Patrias is a city-wide Lubbock Celebration, at the Civic Center. Everyone is invited.

Contact: Dr. Jim Goss email: mariarivas2@suddenlink.net

## Barack Obama's Plan to Gain Crucial Hispanic Vote

Cuauhtémoc "Temo" Figueroa has worked on many political campaigns during his career but his role for the Obama campaign is his most prominent. As the Latino Vote Director for the Democratic presidential candidate, his job is convincing Latino voters that Obama is the right man for the job.

His background includes that of staffer to the late Congressman George Brown, who during his time was the dean of the California delegation, serving as policy communications director for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), and most recently, assistant political director for AFSCME, a public union representing government workers.

On a Sunday afternoon from campaign offices in Chicago, Figueroa discussed with Jonathan Higuera, former editor of Hispanic Link Weekly Report, Obama's strategy to garner the Latino vote.

**Q: How do Latinos fit into Obama's strategy to win the presidency?**

A: The way we believe can win this race is by doing a few things. One is to expand the playing field. The last few cycles, the way it has worked is the Democrats go to bed at night praying they will get Florida or Ohio to reach 270 electoral votes needed to win. We decided to create new paths to 270. That entails playing in a lot of states that have gone Republican in the last few cycles. We have ads running in 17 states that have gone Republican in the past, some since 1964. We're in states like Virginia, Georgia, Iowa, North Dakota, Alaska, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Florida and Ohio.

We also have to expand the voting electorate. This campaign is focused like a laser beam on voter registration. Historically campaigns have relied on other groups to do that but now we in the Obama campaign are doing that. We believe the result will be the largest voter turnout in history.

That's the mega picture. So where do Latinos fit? In the battleground of battleground states - New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado and Florida - they all have a high percentage of Latinos that vote. Those elections have been incredibly close histori-

cally. If we increase the amount of Latinos voting, it could make a difference.

**Q: What is the on-the-ground strategy for registering more Latino voters?**

A: When it comes to voter registration, there are no secret weapons. It takes lots of volunteers, lots of staff and people willing to go door to door. We have a large number of people willing to give of their time to get this man elected. Five months ago, we put out a call on the Internet for volunteers. We didn't know what we'd get. Over 10,000 people applied. We picked 3,600 that we sent to 17 states.

**Q: What will be the messages your candidate will use to appeal to Latino voters?**

A: With a few exceptions, it's not very different than the messages for all voters. The economy, jobs, how to pay for health insurance. In some cases, these issues are more pronounced among Latinos. When there's a mortgage crisis, who suffers the most? There were a lot of shysters preying on Hispanic communities. That's a huge issue.

Then, there are issues of particular importance to Latinos, especially in the Southwest, like comprehensive immigration reform. People want to know what's going to be done. We're hearing lots of rhetoric, hyperbole from both sides on that issue but nothing is being done. Obama has said in front of Latino audiences and white audiences that will he fight for comprehensive immigration reform in his first year as president. He talks about border security first and foremost and no one will jump to the front of the line. He's addressing that issue.

Also the Iraq war resonates higher among Latinos than with most other communities. We'll say let's put an end to this war and bring our people home.

**Q: The campaign recently announced it is devoting \$20 million focused on the Latino electorate. How and where will this funding be spent?**

A: A majority will be used on general market TV and radio in both English and Spanish. But it will also be spent on campaign literature in Spanish and bilingual.

(Continued on page 2).

## News Briefs

### They Owe How Much?

Perhaps Chief Financial Officer for the city Jeff Yates left at just the right time? Or perhaps this is one of the reasons he left.

It turns out the management company in contract with the city to operate Meadowbrook Golf Course is behind in rent money; to the tune of \$91 thousand dollars.

Evergreen Alliance Golf Limited is the company which contracts with the city to manage and run the golf course. Council members were caught by surprise and now it should fall to City manager Dumbauld to see how she can explain this one.

One council member found out by watching a local newscast. Councilman Jim Gilbreath told a local TV station that he found out about it by watching a local newscast. And he wasn't the only one; according to local media; at least 3 council members and the Mayor were unaware of the back rent owed the city.

How's that for communication?  
Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

### LISD Phones Home

This past Tuesday, the Lubbock Independent School District tested a new phone system which will be used to notify parents when there is a school closure due to weather or any other emergency of some kind.

The calls were placed electronically by the school system on Tuesday in a test run.

According to the district "the new Parent Notification System will be in effect for the 2008-2009 school year. In a matter of minutes, the district will be able to send a recorded message to the home and parent cell numbers of the 28,000 LISD students.

The first test call was also used to check for incorrect phone numbers.

LISD officials plan to use the system at both the district and campus levels as a complement to existing communication methods. District wide messages such as weather delays and emergency communications will be only one part of the system. Calls to parents when a student has an unexcused absence from school, reminder calls about open house and other school events will also be an option at the campus level.

The system will select messages in either English or Spanish, based on the preference of the family. Information provided by parents on the student enrollment form is the basis of the call system.

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

### Our Lady of Grace Jamaica This Sunday

One of the regions largest Jamaicas will be held on Sunday August 24 on the grounds of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church.

The even will begin at about 11:00 AM and will run through 8PM. The featured music attraction this year is sure to generate excitement among festival goers. Tejano musician Gary Hobbs will be taking the stage during the afternoon.

The raffle this year will include a \$10,000 Grand Prize along with a second prize of \$5,000. Third to seventh place prizes are \$1,000 each. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased the day of the Jamaica.

And of course, food booths with a variety of foods will be available with a variety of foods including brisket, and hamburgers.

Our Lady of Grace is located in the 3100 block of Erskine Street in the Arnett Benson Neighborhood. Everyone is invited to attend.

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

### Latest Poll Shows Obama Trailing McCain

If polls are any indication of who will win an election; then Presidential Candidate Barack Obama may be in some hot water.

The latest poll conducted by Reuters/Zogby shows that Republican John McCain is leading Barack Obama by 5 percentage points. The poll shows that McCain has damaged Obama's credibility on the issue of the economy and foreign policy.

But then again, in politics especially, polls change like the weather.

One factor which is sure to affect voter's positions is the selection of each candidate's Vice Presidential running mate. Obama is expected to announce his decision this Saturday the 23 in his home state of Illinois.

Speculation has Delaware Senator and former presidential candidate Joe Biden as a front runner along with Indiana Senator Evan Bayh. Also being mentioned as a possible running mate is Virginia's Governor Tim Kaine. If Kaine is selected; it will show that Democrats will make a serious run at winning the state of Virginia since that state usually goes to the Republicans. But Kaine does not have the same national name recognition as Biden or even Bayh.

And still in the mix is Senator Hillary Clinton; whose many supporters are still unhappy with her defeat in the residential primary. But Clinton remains a long shot and is not expected to be selected. Supporters will place her name in nomination for President during the convention in a show of support even though the nomination has already gone to Obama.

Obama is expected to make the announcement just 4 days before making his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention which will be held in Denver.

Obama's speech is scheduled for Wednesday night and will be held at INVESCO Field; home to the Denver Broncos football team and Colorado Rockies baseball teams. The venue was changed to accommodate the expected large number of people besides convention attendees which will crowd in to hear Obama's historical acceptance speech. The stadium holds 75,000 people but is an outdoor stadium which could pose some problems.

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## City Attorney Burgess Resigns

Anita Burgess, a 13 year employee of the City of Lubbock resigned on Wednesday to take a similar position with the city of Denton, Texas.

The city posted the announcement and statement from Burgess on its website: "It has been a pleasure to serve the City of Lubbock for the past 13 years, and I wish the very best for the City and each

and every citizen. I am also grateful to the many elected officials with whom I have worked," said Burgess. "I am delighted for the opportunity to serve as the City Attorney in Denton, a vibrant community with a bright future, and I hope to make a significant contribution to its growth and continued success."

Immediately after Burgess' resignation, the city council appointed Donald G. Vandiver interim Lubbock City Attorney. Vandiver is described as having "a lot of municipal experience" by local attorney Charlie Dunn.

But Dunn also added that "the city also hires outside attorneys for just about everything, so it doesn't matter who gets the job".

Burgess resignation comes on the heels of the resignation of Chief Financial Officer Jeff Yates. Yates resigned to take the same position with the Kansas City Missouri city council.

After the new council took effect, it had been speculated that at least some of the city's top managers would seek employment elsewhere. During the past administration; Burgess and City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld were seen as two main players who always sided with former Mayor David Miller and the majority on the council then.

And as Charlie Dunn told El Editor; "you don't have to do much of anything except get along with the council and the city manager".

Dunn speculates that "When they put up this job for hire, there will be many applicants because it pays over \$200 thousand per year. It is a great retirement job for someone who doesn't want the hassle and pressure of a private practice law firm".

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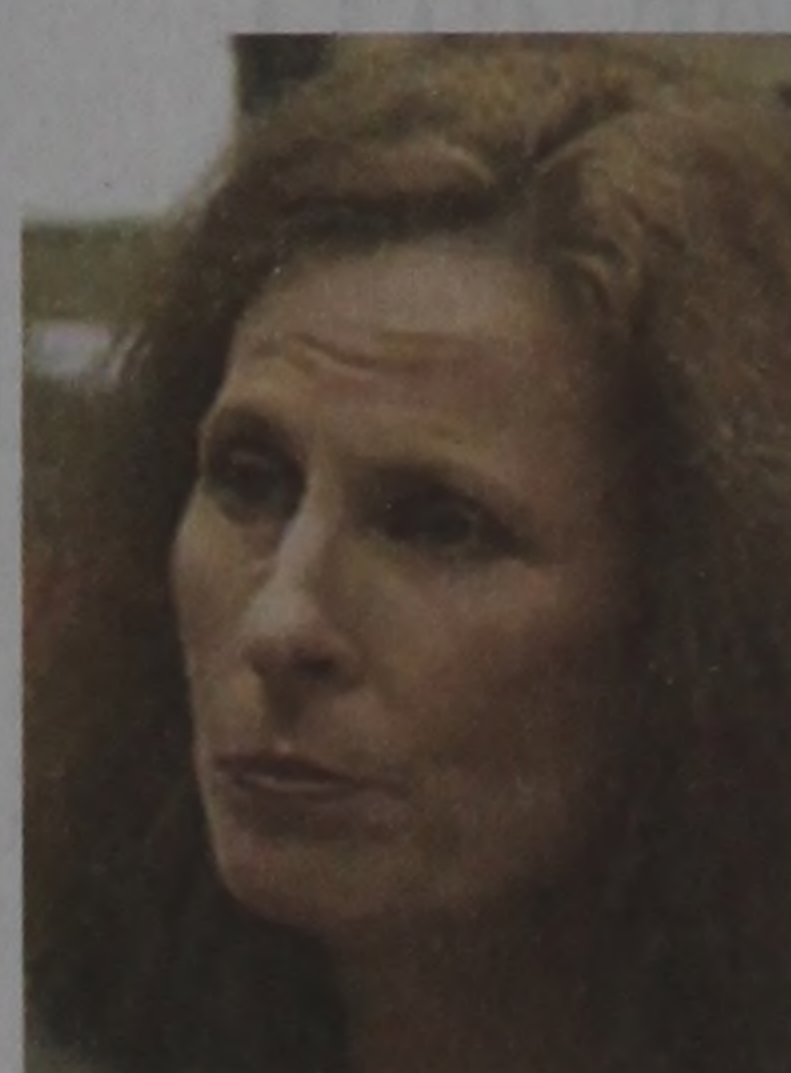


Photo from News Channel 11

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# Editorials

## Flores Fined by Ethics Commission

from Front Page

In its findings; the commission concluded that "A person commits an offense if the person knowingly represents in a campaign communication that a candidate holds a public office that the candidate does not hold at the time the representation is made".

(Continued on Page 2)

It also concluded that: "A person represents that a candidate holds a public office that the candidate does not hold if the candidate does not hold the office that the candidate seeks and the political advertising or campaign communication states that the public office sought but does not include the word "for" (in a certain type size) for the name of the office to clarify that the candidate does not hold that office".

In the final resolution sent to Flores by the commission; Flores agrees to 3 major points in order to resolve the issue. The resolution states that "the respondent neither admits nor denies the facts" of the commissions findings; that the respondent "consents" to the commission's order and "waives any right to further proceedings in this matter"; and that Flores acknowledges that "a person commits an offense" if a candidate knowingly misrepresents his status in campaign communications.

And finally the commission imposed a \$200 dollar "civil penalty" on Flores stating that: After considering the seriousness of the violations described...including the nature, circumstances and consequences of the violations and after considering the sanction necessary to deter future violations, the commission imposes a \$200 dollar civil penalty.

Commissioner Gutierrez added in his press conference that I Release the final report from the Texas Ethics Commission concerning ethics violations by Gilbert Flores and in

a letter to the Texas Ethics Commission,

2 Report that Gilbert Flores provided "False Statements" in his response to the Texas Ethics Commission.

Gilbert Flores, the Democratic challenger in the March 2008 primary race for Lubbock County Commissioner, Pct 3, was the subject of a sworn complaint filed by Gutierrez, the incumbent. Gutierrez charged that Mr. Flores violated Texas ethics law by displaying campaign signs claiming that he was the incumbent. Texas law prohibits all but the actual office holder from claiming to be the incumbent.

After a six month investigation, the Texas Ethics Commission found seven violations supported by credible evidence. Flores paid a fine to resolve the complaint, but Gutierrez submitted new evidence in a letter to the Texas Ethics Commission dated August 12, 2008, entitled "Report of Discovery of False Statements".

Commissioner Gutierrez said. "Gilbert Flores' response to item III (7) is "False" and may constitute perjury. I am recommending that the Texas Ethics Commission investigate this new charge."

Gutierrez said, "As a presiding member of the Commissioner's Court, it is my duty to protect and defend the integrity, dignity, and honor of the court".

Gutierrez ended the press conference saying, "Gilbert Flores' conduct is representative of a person of questionable character. He is an embarrassment to the people of Lubbock County and the Lubbock County Democratic Party. Gilbert Flores would be a stain on the integrity, dignity and honor of the court. He is unfit to preside as a member of the Commissioner's Court".

Source: County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez

# "Freedom of Expression"

## An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

Submitted to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

## HISPANIC ELDERLY NEED AND DESERVE SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION

By Janet Murguía

Hilaria Vallejo was shocked to learn that after 35 years of picking tomatoes in farms across the southern United States, she was not eligible to receive Social Security benefits. Born in southern Texas, the 77-year-old was unaware that her employers did not report her wages or withhold Social Security taxes. "At the time, we were just happy to be getting paid, but we didn't know what they were doing," she said. "They took advantage of us."

With an amputated leg — the result of a cancerous tumor and an aging body — Hilaria cannot work to sustain herself. Denied the Social Security benefits she should have earned, she depends on the help she receives from her five children to pay her bills and buy groceries. "I'm an American citizen," she said. "I worked many years in this country's fields."

As the economy heads toward recession, Hilaria's financial stability is at even greater risk. Most elderly Americans and people with disabilities can find at least some relief in Social Security, the federal insurance program to which workers contribute through mandatory payroll taxes and from which they or their family members collect benefits in the event of retirement, disability or death. During times of economic hardship, Social Security benefits become critical to meeting immediate needs.

Unfortunately, Hilaria's situation is a reality for many members of our most vulnerable communities, people who face economic insecurity because they lack this social insurance. Almost 30 percent of Latinos age 65 or older do not receive Social Security benefits, compared to only 10 percent of the general population of this age, and more than half of elderly Latinos rely on Social Security for 90 percent of their income. Without Social Security, nearly two-thirds of Latinos over the age of 65 would live in poverty.

Low-wage employment, lack of wage reporting, and errors in employment classification are among the factors that contribute to the gap in Social Security coverage. Workers earning minimum to low wages are less likely to be covered, putting them at risk of bearing a heavy financial burden after retirement or following a debilitating medical emergency. In addition, employers like Hilaria's, who withhold Social Security taxes or fail to report wages, rob workers of these crucial benefits. Many employers also misclassify workers as independent contractors who need to file their own.. Unaware that the Social Security tax is not automatically withheld from their wages, these employees unknowingly forfeit their benefits.

August marks the 73rd anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of the Social Security Act into law. Many Latino workers have not benefited, despite the contributions that they have made to the U.S. economy before and after the bill became law. This disparity in coverage affects our nation's economy as a whole. As the Baby Boomers retire, the number of working-age adults who contribute to Social Security significantly decreases. As a younger population and an important growing part of the workforce, Latinos will play a large role in paying for the retirement of the Baby Boomers.

Undocumented immigrants, often targeted in the media as "freeloaders," also significantly contribute to Social Security. The Social Security Administration Chief Actuary estimates that 75 percent of undocumented workers, most of whom will never see any Social Security benefits, pay Social Security taxes. They will contribute as much as \$7 billion annually to the Social Security trust fund.

In an effort to inform the discussion on these disparities, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) — the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States — has published Domestic Workers Working Hard to Sustain American Families, Compromising Their Social Security and The Social Security Program and Reform: A Latino Perspective, both available at www.nclr.org. Conducting important research and releasing publications such as these is just the first step in addressing the critical needs of the older members of our community. They, like all workers, have made invaluable contributions to our country. It is our obligation to ensure that their basic needs are met.

(Janet Murguía is president of the National Council of La Raza.) ©2008

## The Forgotten People of the Gulf Coast

It has been almost 3 years since we witnessed the devastation caused by Mother Nature in the form of Hurricane Katrina and the destruction it wrought on the families and residents of the gulf coast; and in particular New Orleans.

We also witnessed the inept response by the Bush administration and FEMA.

Three years later; it is hard to tell just how much progress has been made in the area. According to some reports over \$100 billion in tax dollars have been poured into the area from New Orleans to Mississippi and Alabama.

But the money spent is not a good indication that all is well. As in a lot of these cases; the money has gone to unscrupulous contractors and those who are adept at gaining access to the money.

Housing for residents from a lower socio economic group is still inadequate. Thousands of former residents still have not returned to the area and in particular New Orleans.

Up until just recently thousands of people were still living in trailers along the Mississippi Gulf Coast; some contracting illnesses and disease brought on by "unhealthy levels of formaldehyde in the trailers" according to a report in The New York Times.

On Wednesday President Bush addressed a convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars to praise the federal government's monetary contributions to the area; meaning our tax dollars.

But as usual his words will ring hollow to the poor and the voiceless; the ones who are still struggling to repair their lives; the ones who lost everything and who the government has forgotten about.

Words were not sufficient 3 years ago and today they are even more inadequate from a President who leaves office in a few months and whose failure to lead and respond in a time of national crisis will remain part of the legacy of his failed presidency.

## LISD Should be More Forthcoming with Public

Next week, the PEW Hispanic Center is expected to release a report which will reveal that "the number of Hispanic students in the nation's public schools nearly doubled from 1990 to 2006".

According to the center, the report "documents the growth of Hispanic public school students over the past two decades".

We are sure the report will reveal some important information and since we all have a vested interest in our children's education, we will bring you the results when the report is made public.

In the meantime; we continue to try and bring some attention to the problems which seem to exist in our own school system but seem to be have been dismissed by local administrators.

We refer of course to the latest school ratings which found that half of our high schools were rated as "academically unacceptable" by the Texas Education Agency.

As we go into a new school year; we have seen no assurances from Superintendent Wayne Havens that the problems at these two schools and other which might be hanging on to their acceptable ratings by a thread will be addressed and in a way in which the public knows what is being done to correct the problems.

The education of our youth is a basic community obligation. As a community we are asked to provide the financial resources to help operate and maintain the schools.

But it is ultimately the school administration which is responsible for providing the kinds of results the community expects. For better or for worse the ratings are a direct reflection of how well or how badly the system as a whole is operating.

It is not only a teacher problem or a two school problem but rather an administration problem. And the results do not reflect positively on school administrators; beginning with Superintendent Wayne Havens.

It is after all the administration and in particular Superintendent Havens who is charged with making sure our children receive an acceptable education in the very least.

It has been roughly 4 years since Superintendent Havens was hired by the board.

In our view, there are some serious issues not being addressed. It is time Mr. Havens was held accountable for this year's dismal performance in the two high schools.

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Creating Action.  
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**Publisher Bidal Aguero**  
**Business Manager Olga Riojas Aguero**  
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**ADVERTISE CALL**

## Obama's Plan to Gain

(Continued from Front

online organizing efforts, hiring of staff, training programs for grassroots organizers in Spanish and English, developing precinct leaders in battleground states and voter registration efforts.

What it's demonstrating is we are fighting hard for every vote. We're out to earn Latino votes in battleground states. I'm proud of the training programs we have going in these states.

Q: How will you win over Hillary supporters, many of whom are still harboring resentments that their candidate didn't receive the nomination?

A: One of outcomes from having long primary contest was the feelings that supporters of candidates had toward their candidate. It's expected. People worked years and had longtime relationships with the Senator from New York. But I've also seen the vast majority of her supporters, now supporting Barack. Among Latinos, Antonio Villarai-gosa has been campaigning hard for us. Henry Cisneros, Hilda Solís and Nydia Velázquez and José Serrano were big Hillary supporters now on board with Barack.

My job has been to reach out to each and every one and listen to their comments and suggestions. They've done an amazing job in the primary and we've incorporated some of their strategies into our campaign. There are pockets (of resistance). It's understandable some people are not quite there. But the vast majority is. The Senator herself is campaigning for us in Las Vegas and New Mexico.

Q: How are you addressing concerns that Obama has never visited Mexico or Latin America?

A: After he won the nomination, the first trip he took was to Florida where he spoke to the Cuban American National Foundation. It was a comprehensive speech on Latin America. He didn't just talk about Cuba but all of Latin America. He showed incredible knowledge of Latin America. The speech is on our web site.

Q: Do you expect him to make a visit to any of those countries prior to the election?

A: When you expand the universe as much as we have, there's never enough time. You can raise more money but you can't increase time...I'd love to have him do a lot of events, go to Latin America. I think he would have the same reception as we saw in Europe. But we can't plan beyond two weeks. Nothing is locked down. It's a matter of keeping things fluid, being able to respond as needed.

Q: What are you doing to alleviate concerns that Barack has no historical track record in the Latino community?

A: Barack has been to a number of Latino conventions. He's spent a lot of time on Spanish-language radio and TV. He's cultivating relationships with evangelical folks, deejays. We're introducing Barack to segments of the Latino community in the four battleground states. We've got more Latino staff in those states than any combined presidential campaign. We're training leaders. We're throwing everything and the kitchen sink. I think the community likes the attention and likes to be courted. We won't take anything for granted.©2008



JOHN MCCAIN and BARACK OBAMA

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# Jobless Claims Fall Less Than Expected

WASHINGTON (AP) - The job market showed continued strains on Thursday when government data said the number of newly laid-off workers filing applications for unemployment benefits fell less than expected last week.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that applications for jobless benefits dropped to 450,000, down by 10,000 from the previous week. That was a smaller decline than had been expected and left the four-week average for claims at the highest level in six years.

The big jump in the four-week average for claims was attributed to a number of factors, including a surge in layoffs and increased publicity surrounding an extension of benefits provided by a law Congress passed in June.

The four-week average reached 440,500, up 19,500 from last week's revised average of 421,000. A year ago, that number stood at 315,500.

The number of people continuing to receive unemployment benefits jumped 114,000 to 3.4 million for the week of Aug. 2, the most recent period for which that information is available.

Wall Street economists had expected that number to drop to 3.3 million.

Higher energy prices and tight

credit markets are squeezing employers, who have cut jobs every month this year. The unemployment rate rose to a five-year high of 5.7 percent in July, the government said earlier this month.



Several large companies announced layoffs earlier this week, including Wachovia Corp., the nation's fourth-largest bank. It said Monday it will cut 600 additional jobs. Ford Motor Co. said it will eliminate 300 positions.

The Labor Department also reported Thursday consumer prices jumped 0.8 percent in July. Large increases in food and energy costs has inflation running at the fastest pace in 17 years.

The combination of a slowing economy and rising inflation puts the Federal Reserve in a tough spot. The Fed can tame higher prices by increasing the short-term interest rate it controls, but it may be reluctant to do so since higher rates can further slow the economy.

# Noriega Encourages Texas Democrats

Rick Noriega is intent on changing the way Texans are represented, and spent a few hours Friday afternoon asking for support from local Democrats.

"Faith, hope and pride are permanent residents in our state," said Noriega, who is running for the Senate against incumbent John Comyn. "I believe the best is yet to come. But it will take leadership that will address the challenges facing our state."

The candidate, who served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Texas Army National Guard and spent a year in Afghanistan after 9/11, is critical of Comyn's voting record and encouraged voters to press for change.

"One of the biggest challenges

facing this state on Nov. 4 is the need to vote John Comyn out of the Senate," Noriega said.

"We as Texans expect a lot from our senators. We expect them to provide vision and leadership to reach our potential. Comyn has voted against Texas families, and we deserve better."

Noriega discussed many key issues with the residents who attended his event, held at the Museum of the Americas, which Noriega described as "a little jewel."

Noriega also took questions on education, energy and the war in Iraq.

"We talk a good game," he said, regarding education. "But we need to pay teachers like the

professionals they are. We need to get out of the way and let them teach instead of focusing on one test a year."

In closing, Noriega encouraged area Democrats to do everything they could to support change, from the local level all the way through national offices.

"There is nothing more powerful than the will of the people of the state of Texas," he said. "It's time for someone to be in office who will represent that will, and those people."



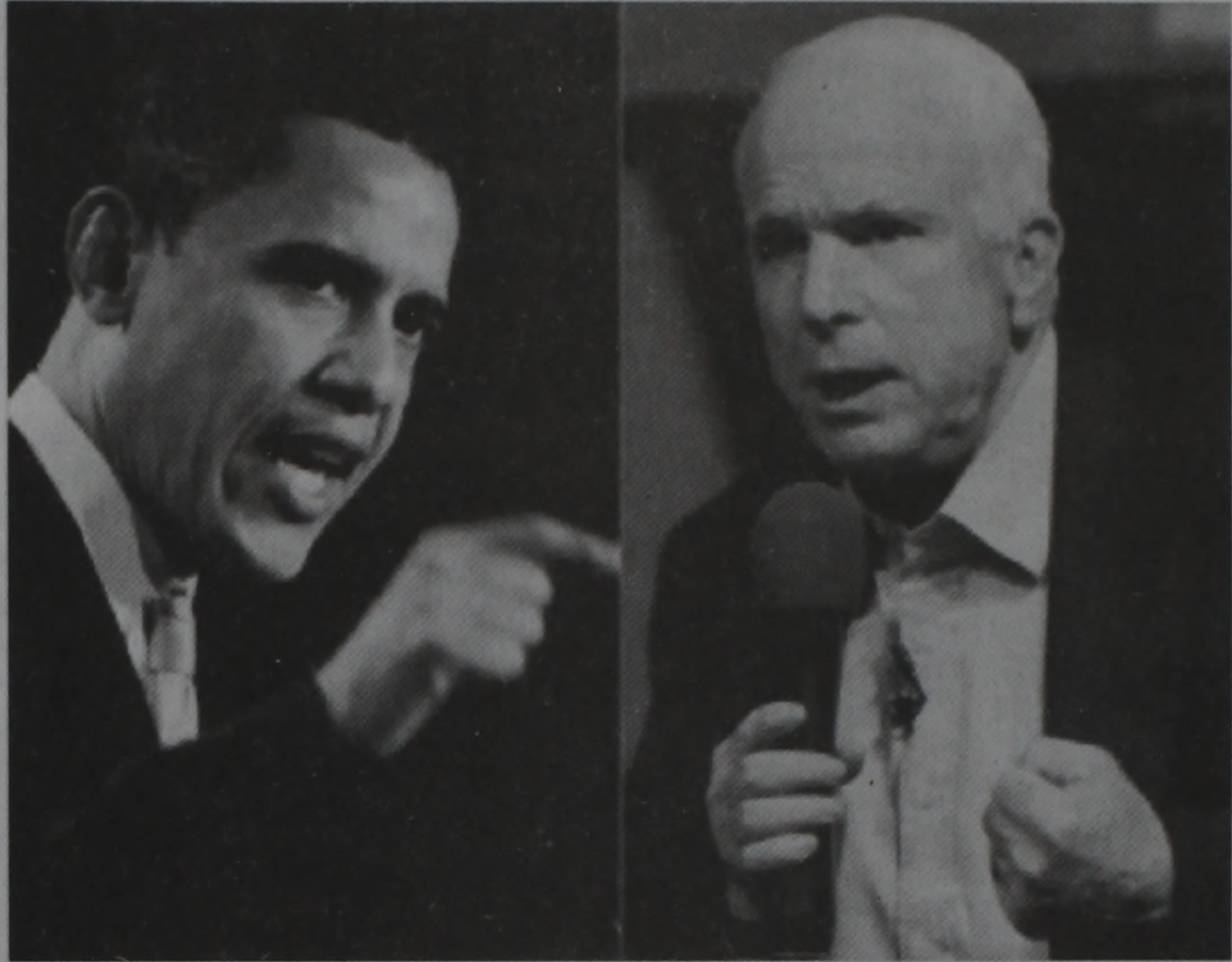
# El Voto Hispano II

Para los Senadores McCain y Obama, julio ha sido un mes de intensa campaña entre los votantes

hispanos. Ambos posibles candidatos han hecho presentaciones ante las asambleas de tres importantes organizaciones hispanas, mientras que el Senador McCain ha visitado Colombia y México. Según declaró el Senador Obama, ante la conferencia del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, la razón es porque "la comunidad latina tiene esta elección en sus manos."

El Senador Obama tiene buenas razones para esperar que así sea en noviembre, porque los hispanos tradicionalmente votan por el Partido

Demócrata. Además, encuestas recientes revelan que los Republicanos no han recu-



por ciento de hispanos votaron por candidatos Republicanos. Una encuesta Gallup de julio

Senador McCain.

No obstante, lo que puede ser decisivo son los resultados en unos pocos estados indecisos, tales como Colorado, Nevada y Nuevo México y aún Florida, donde los votantes hispanos son numerosos y donde el Presidente Bush triunfó en 2004. Según el Senador Obama, en noviembre, estos estados serán los más disputados.

Adicionalmente, no todos los hispanos votan, porque muchos son menores de 18 años y no todos son ciudadanos, mientras algunos que lo son no acostumbran ir a las urnas. Un estudio reciente, citado en el Wall Street Journal, reveló

que apenas 20 por ciento de los hispanos votarán en noviembre, lo cual contrasta con 52 por ciento de blancos y 40 por ciento de Afroamericanos.

# U.S., Mexican states may charge to cross border



U.S. and Mexican states are considering charging a fee for border crossings to raise money for infrastructure improvements that would reduce congestion at border posts, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said on Friday.

The news came after governors from the 10 border states met with U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff at the Border Governors Conference in Los Angeles.

"Everyone agrees that we need to expand the pipe ... which means that we can get more people across quicker, more efficiently," Schwarzenegger told reporters at a news conference. "And there is a lack of money right now ... maybe people pay a certain amount to come cross. Let's assume \$5. Don't hold me to that but that would then pay the bonds so we can develop infrastructure."

Other options, Schwarzenegger said, include charging to use certain lanes of traffic at the border.

"All of this has to be thought through," he said, referring to such a plan as a "public-private partnership."

Such plans will be critical to making all kinds of infrastructure improvements throughout California in the years to come, Schwarzenegger said, adding that the state would need \$500 billion of investment in infrastructure in the next 20 years.

In a joint statement the governors called for a substantial reduction in wait times to cross the border by 2013, and backed a drive by U.S. and Mexican federal agencies for funding to hire more border inspectors.

They also backed measures to curb crime in the borderlands, including human and gun trafficking.

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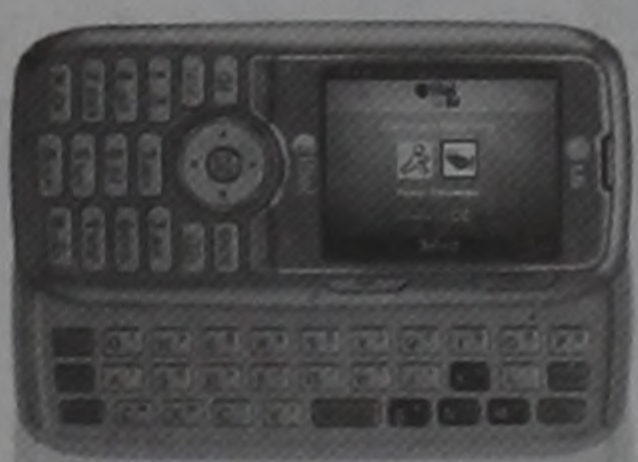
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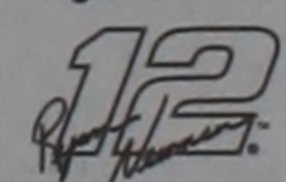
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## PBS Announces Lineup for Hispanic Heritage

Hispanic Heritage Month 2008 (September 15-October 15) is coming up, and PBS is celebrating with a great lineup of programs that entertain while examining the history, heritage and cultural contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

All month, PBS explores the rich and varied styles of Latin music. From Texican (LOS LONELY BOYS COTTONFIELDS AND CROSSROADS) to Afro-Cuban pop (INDEPENDENT LENS "La Lupe: Queen of Latin Soul") to an all-female mariachi band (INDEPENDENT LENS "Companeras") to traditional Mexican corrido (INDEPENDENT LENS "Al Otro Lado [To The Other Side]"), the creative talents of diverse musicians are on display.

PBS will also re-broadcast several of its recent nominees for Imagen Awards, created to honor excellence in Latino entertainment, including BROWN IS THE NEW GREEN, AMERICAN MASTERS "Orozco: Man of Fire" and P.O.V. "Made in L.A."

And, a special presentation in October, LATINOS '08, examines the election through the prism of ethnic politics.

PBS' children's content continues to serve a diverse audience with series that encourage healthy exploration of cultural differences while providing opportunities to learn and grow as individuals.

On the new season of SESAME STREET, kids can follow Murray, the street's newest friendly resident monster, as he deciphers clues from his little lamb friend, Ovejita. Murray faces a challenge, however: all of Ovejita's clues are in Span-

ish! Murray uses visual hints to stay hot on Ovejita's trail.

On the PBS KIDS preschool destination, Miss Rosa invites children to discover new cultures and build language skills through Spanish language content, while PBS KIDS series BETWEEN THE LIONS, DRAGON TALES and JAY JAY THE JET PLANE insert Spanish words into their curricula to help English speakers learn beginning Spanish. On PBS KIDS GO!, MAYA & MIGUEL (also a nominee for the Imagen Awards), continues to promote the value of cultural diversity while supporting school-age English language learners by combining English and Spanish language in stories about Maya, Miguel, their family members and their friends.

The following is a list of PBS' Hispanic Heritage Month programming. Full program descriptions, press materials and photos are available on PBS PressRoom at [http://pressroom.pbs.org/programs/hispanic\\_heritage\\_month\\_2008](http://pressroom.pbs.org/programs/hispanic_heritage_month_2008).

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## Jennifer Lopez Exclusive Blog at Self.com

Jennifer Lopez, SELF Magazine's September cover model,

at <http://www.self.com/> when the magazine hits newsstands today, Monday, August 18. Lopez, one of SELF's reader picks for the 10 Most Inspiring Women of 2008, will raise money for the Children's Hospital Los Angeles by competing in her first triathlon with SELF Editor-in-Chief Lucy Danziger.

Doing the race the same year as she



launches an exclusive new blog gave birth to twins and as a

way to support an important charity combines several of Lopez's personal post-baby goals. She tells SELF, "The babies have actually made me more ambitious. I feel all this newfound inspiration."

Lopez's personal <http://www.self.com/blog> features exclusive video and photos taken during her workout program designed by trainer Gunnar Peterson. In the first entry, learn why Lopez is taking on this challenge and see her biking and running in preparation for her big race. In her own words, "I've always loved sports. I used to be on a track team in school. And that's probably why I can think to myself now, Yeah, I can do this, which is totally crazy! The team was a big part of my life back then and taught me so many things. When I look back

on my life and what I'm able to do, it's partly because of that early training. It taught me discipline, how to be committed, about striving to win, stamina, all that good stuff."

"Now I've come full circle," says Lopez in her Self.com blog. "I don't expect to win this race; my goal is to finish. I'll probably end up crawling across the finish line, but I'll do it!"

Just 6 months after having the babies, Lopez is totally toned, with sexy muscles and flat, rock-hard abs. Check back to <http://www.self.com/> over the next 4 weeks for regular updates on Lopez's race ramp-up and exclusive behind-the-scenes video and photos. Cheer her on as she strives to make her twins proud!

## 2008 ALMA Awards: Focus on Hispanic Vote

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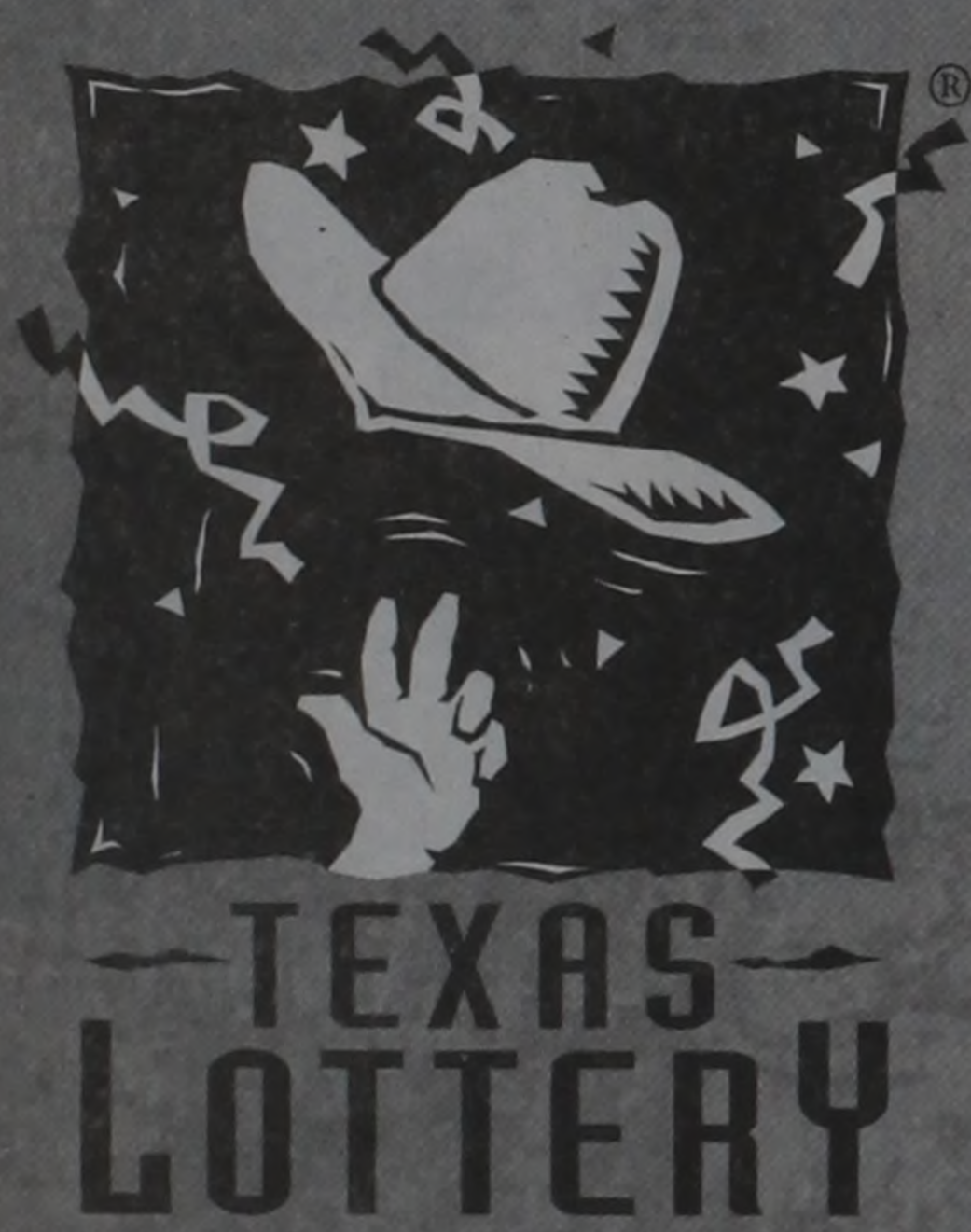
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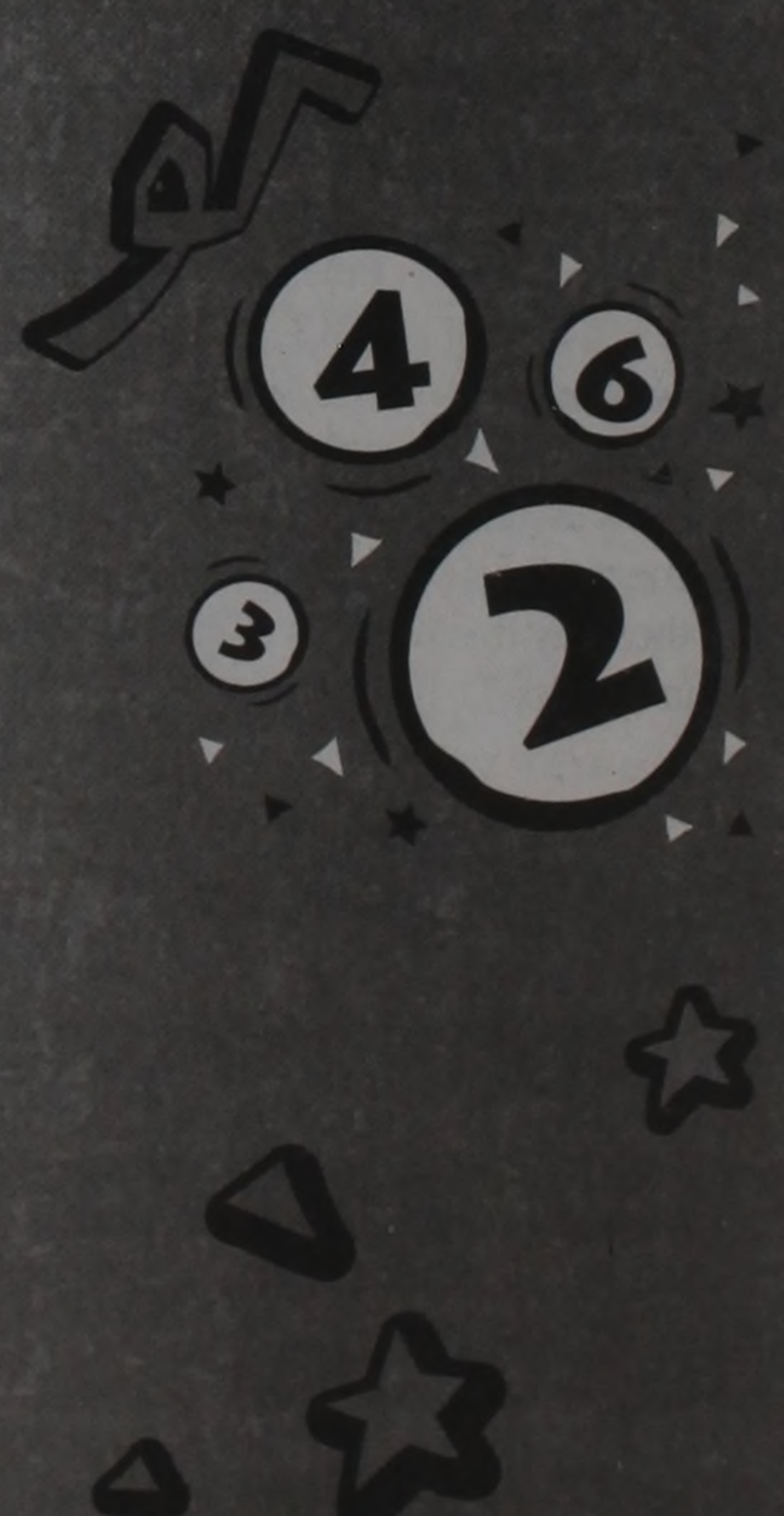


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# Henry Cejudo Wins Wrestling Gold for the U.S.

Henry Cejudo gave the United States its first wrestling gold at the Beijing Olympics on Tuesday with a clinical victory over Japanese Tomohiro Matsunaga in men's 55kg freestyle wrestling here on Tuesday. Cejudo, who finished 31st in last year's world championships, became the first American to win a men's freestyle wrestling gold in 16 years as a son of undocumented Mexican immigrants.



He scored with a high crotch to back in the first period and a big double-leg takedown to seize the win.

"This is what I said I was going to," said Cejudo, who is coming out of a Mexican-American background. "I set my goal and trained hard. I just put the pieces together, and I really believed in myself. I did it."

"It was a tough match. I just wrestled hard," he added.

Cejudo's chances were hard to judge, partly because he is just 21, and doesn't have much international experience. He opened the day defeating 2006 world champion Radoslav Velikov of Bulgaria in the round of 16.

"I'm a smarter wrestler now," he said. "I'm learning more and more about wrestling at the world-class level. I'm ready to go."

Russian Mavlet Batirov won the 60kg freestyle gold, to become the fourth Russian wrestling gold medalist in Beijing, joining three Greco-Roman wrestlers.

"When I said in Athens after winning that I dedicate my gold to my father, my mother joked that I have to dedicate my next one to her. So I dedicate this gold to her," said Batirov.

"This is my second Olympic gold medal. I felt better in the 60kg here than when I won in Athens 2004. It felt easier. The competition was over so fast."

Another Russian Besik Kudukhov scored with three single-leg takedowns to defeat twice world champion Dilshod Mansurov of Uzbekistan 2-0.

Besides Matsunaga's silver, Japan also got one bronze from Kenichi Yumoto in 60kg category. Yumoto scored from the clinch and then added two low single-leg attacks to defeat Bazar Mavletov of Kyrgyzstan 2-0 in the bronze medal match.

Another 55kg bronze went to 2006 world champion Radoslav Velikov of Bulgaria while Iranian Seyedmamad Mohammadi won the other 60kg bronze.

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# Why not 2012 for ageless Torres?

BEIJING - A few hours after she won two silver medals in a span of 35 minutes Sunday, Dara Torres arrived at the Main Press Center to answer a few final questions before fading into the history books.

Except that the first question had nothing to do with finality. Given that she won three silver medals in this, her fifth Olympic Games, why wouldn't the 41-year-old supermom want to try to be a 45-year-old supermom?

"Please?" Mark Schubert, the U.S. national team coach, pleaded to her.

"I don't know," she said. "I really haven't thought that far in advance ... Right now I want to just go home and spend some time with my daughter. And go from there."

Her daughter will be six in 2012. Maybe there will be another kid before 2012, another responsibility Dara Torres would have to juggle should she decide to continue a swimming career that began during the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Maybe she might try it. Maybe not.

"I'm the kind of person," she said later. "... One day at a time."

In a strange way, that might explain her amazing career, which has frog-hopped Olympics since '84. Seoul and Barcelona, yes.

Atlanta, no. Sydney, yes. Athens, no. Beijing, yes.

To provide some perspective, there were 53 automobiles registered in Beijing in 1984. Now there are more than three million, and 1,000 more hitting the streets every month. The only televisions existed in the homes of politicians and dignitaries. Now an estimated one billion Chinese viewers are tuning in.

You couldn't log onto the Internet. There was no text messaging. Ronald Reagan was your president. The Sixers had just won Philadelphia's last championship.

Dara Torres won three silver medals in Beijing, eclipsing her total in all but one of those Olympics, tying her with Jenny Thompson for most Olympic medals by an American female swimmer. She was thisclose to her fifth gold medal, too, out-touched in the 50-meter freestyle by the same hundredth of a second that propelled Michael Phelps into history a day before.

"I filed my nails," she said. "I shouldn't have filed my nails."

Torres admitted she was beating herself up afterward with all the what-ifs. That's one reason she might come back. Another is that oft-stated axiom of hers: "You don't have to put an age

limit on your dreams," she said again Sunday.

The biggest, though, might be the camaraderie she experienced with one of the closest U.S. teams in history. Two decades older than many of her teammates, she became both their confidante and comic relief during this Olympics. The rookie skits performed on the eve of these Olympics all skewered her age. She admits snapping at a few when their youthful energy kept her from her needed sleep.

But Sunday, as her team waited to perform, Torres loosened them all up with her tales of childbirth.

"Somehow giving childbirth came up and being in the stirrups," she said. "I was trying to tell them that after giving childbirth and getting back into shape I thought I was stronger and more flexible."

"All I got out of it," Kara Lynn Joyce said, "was that it was really painful. A lot more painful than the 50 free."

"Dara's comeback has been motivation for me every day in the pool," said Joyce, 22. "And I can attribute being here ... where I am today, as definitely influenced by Dara."

Torres is the latest inspiration to the middle-aged, and perhaps the most unlikely. While the average

age of women swimmers has crept higher since the last Olympics, even 30-year-old swimmers are an anomaly.

As she has learned through e-mails, letters and phone calls, Torres has become an inspiration to career-balancing mommies everywhere.

The door swings the other way, too.

"I'm very lucky to have that balance between my swimming and being a mother," she said. "And I got that inspiration from working moms. I mean, they have to do the same."

Will it continue? In some manner, said Torres, yes. Whether that means returning to her less strenuous broadcasting career, or the world of endless training and fingernail margins - well, 2012 is a long ways away.

"I was thinking about how the whole atmosphere is going to be so different," she said. "It was

just something I really looked forward to, hanging out with the younger kids and trying to



be like them. It's going to be different now. I'm going to be going to PTA meetings and be with the moms."

She said she was looking forward to it. "Sort of getting a new group of friends," she said, but it sounded hollow and a little sad. The new friends will not have rookie skits and pressure-filled wait rooms and touch finishes. And they will seem older. Much older.

"I think I'm always going to be young at heart," she said. "I don't think that's ever going to change."

# Juan Estrada, father of Olympic boxer, dies

Juan Estrada, a 64-year-old garment cutter and former boxer who realized the dream of seeing his son Shawn become an Olympian,

died early Sunday at St. Vincent Medical Center.

Estrada, who was the subject of Times stories by sportswriter Kevin Baxter and columnist Steve Lopez,

watched with pride about a week ago when Shawn, 23, easily won his first fight in Beijing against an Argentine. Estrada had hoped

to travel to Beijing with his son, but his failing health kept him home in Maywood.

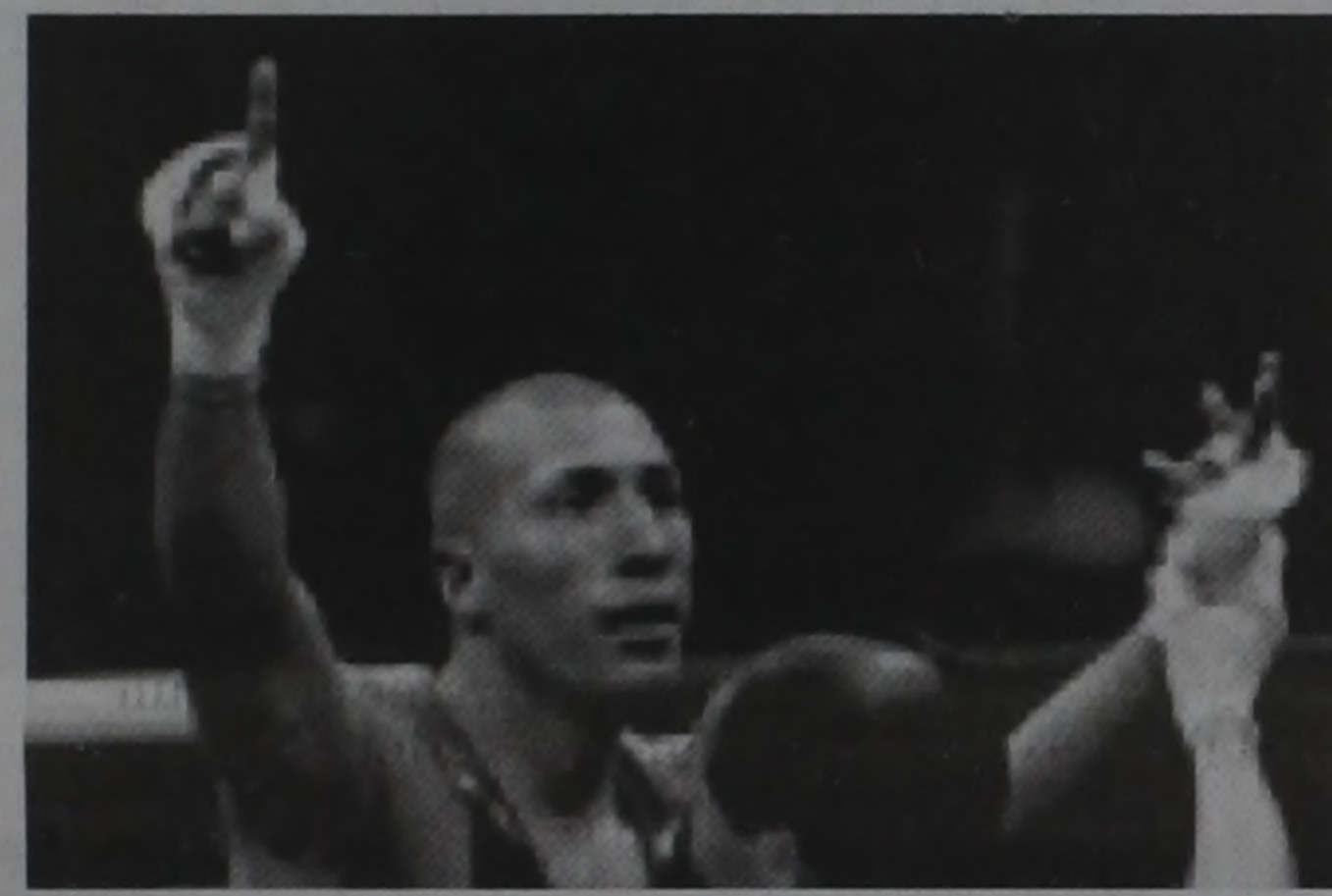
Estrada was hospitalized Thursday with worsening heart and kidney problems but held out the hope of seeing his son's second-round fight on TV in the early morning hours Saturday. He was in grave condition, though, and missed

the fight. His wife, Sandy, stood

where he lost his fight, ending his Olympic run

As long ago as January, doctors told Estrada that he had very little time left. But he said he was fighting to stay alive so he could see his son box, even as Shawn said he was fighting for his father in Beijing.

Juan Estrada's wife, three daughters, two sisters and a brother were with him when he died. On Sunday, as the family began making funeral arrangements, Shawn Estrada was making arrangements to return home from Beijing.



pic boxer, died early Sunday at

an Argentine. Estrada had hoped

at his bedside and held his hand

while their son was in the ring,

arrangements to return home from Beijing.

# T.O. says Cowboys will turn on switch for season

Terrell Owens scoffs at any notion that there is reason to worry about the Dallas Cowboys after losing their first two preseason games.

"We'll be fine once the season starts," Owens said Tuesday. "I promise you."

So, no concerns that the first-team offense was mostly ineffective in the second game after scoring a touchdown on its only possession in the opener, without a pass from Tony Romo to T.O.?

"I mean you can never really get a full or a great assessment just by playing a few plays here, a quarter," Owens said.

That is expected to change Friday night in the third preseason game, when coach Wade Phillips plans to play his starters into the second half against the Houston Texans.

Owens has three catches for 20 yards, all coming within a span of five plays on the same drive in the second game. And that possession netted only 24 yards after being bogged down by three penalties.

"Once the preseason is over, I think it's almost like another switch is turned off and another

one is turned on," said Owens, who caught a Cowboys-record 15 TD passes last season. "We can't really gauge by how the season may go just by the way the preseason goes."

They better hope that's true, because the Cowboys have had two mistake-filled and penalty-plagued games against San Diego and Denver, not that kind of performances anticipated for a team with such high expectations.

Despite the disappointing finish last season with the home playoff loss to the New York Giants, the Cowboys did win 13 games and were the NFC's top seed.

Dallas has basically the same players from a year ago and is considered a legitimate Super Bowl contender.

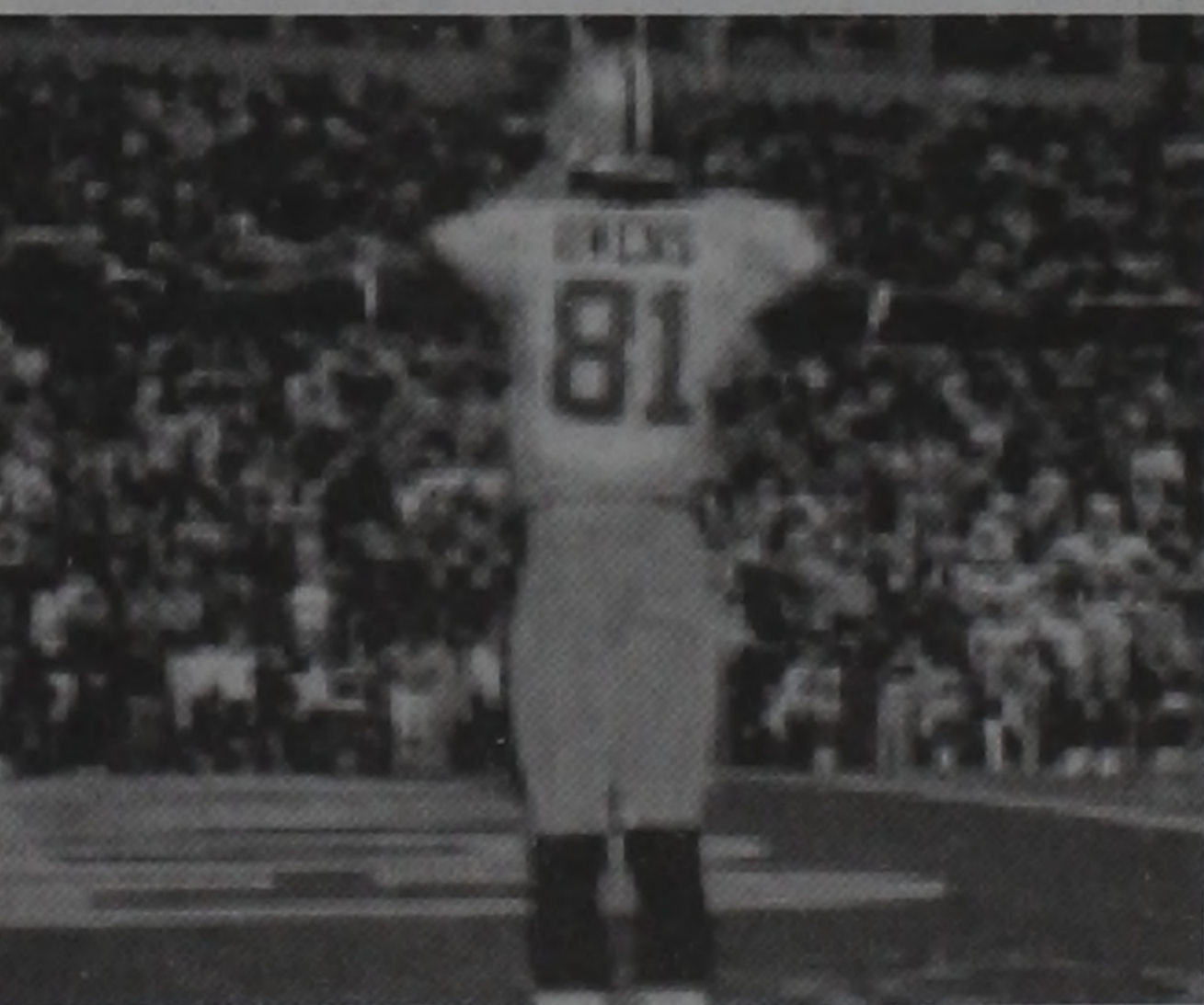
Owens and Romo are among seven Pro Bowl players back on the Cowboys offense that averaged 366 yards while setting numerous team passing records and scoring the second-most points in the NFL (455).

And, don't forget there were also five Dallas defenders and a kicker who went to Hawaii.

While Owens expects the Cow-

boys to be ready for their Sept. 7 opener at Cleveland, he's trying not to get too far ahead of things.

"Obviously everybody wants to win the Super Bowl," Owens said. "My goal is different. My



mentality in a sense is I want to win a Super Bowl, but we can't win a Super Bowl without winning a playoff game. So my thinking is let's win a playoff game."

The Cowboys have gone 11 seasons without winning a playoff game, though Owens

believes that might have been changed last year had he gotten more chances against the Giants.

After catching nine passes for 212 yards with four touchdowns (all at least 22 yards) in the two regular-season victories over New York, Owens caught only four passes for 49 yards and a touchdown in the play-

off loss - all in the first half.

"If you go back and watch that game, I felt like I could have done more," Owens said.

Owens insists that he was capable of doing more despite having missed the regular-season finale because of a high ankle sprain sustained in the

15th game of the season. He had three weeks between the time he got hurt and the playoff game.

"I just tried to make the best of the opportunities that were thrown at me," Owens said. "It was just like when I played in the Super Bowl with the Eagles, I told the coach if I am on the field, treat me as if I am 100 percent. I don't think (the Cowboys) did that at that time."

Notes: Owner Jerry Jones said he's not interested in signing WR Joe Horn, cut Tuesday by Atlanta. The Cowboys are without WR Miles Austin (sprained right knee) for 4-6 weeks and waived WR Terry Glenn at the start of camp. ... CB Terence Newman (groin) said he is "getting stronger" and is ready to get back to practice after being sidelined for three weeks. Coach Wade Phillips has said, without being specific, that Newman could practice this week. ... The Cowboys will practice Wednesday night at Texas Stadium, a public event marking the start of their final season in the venue.

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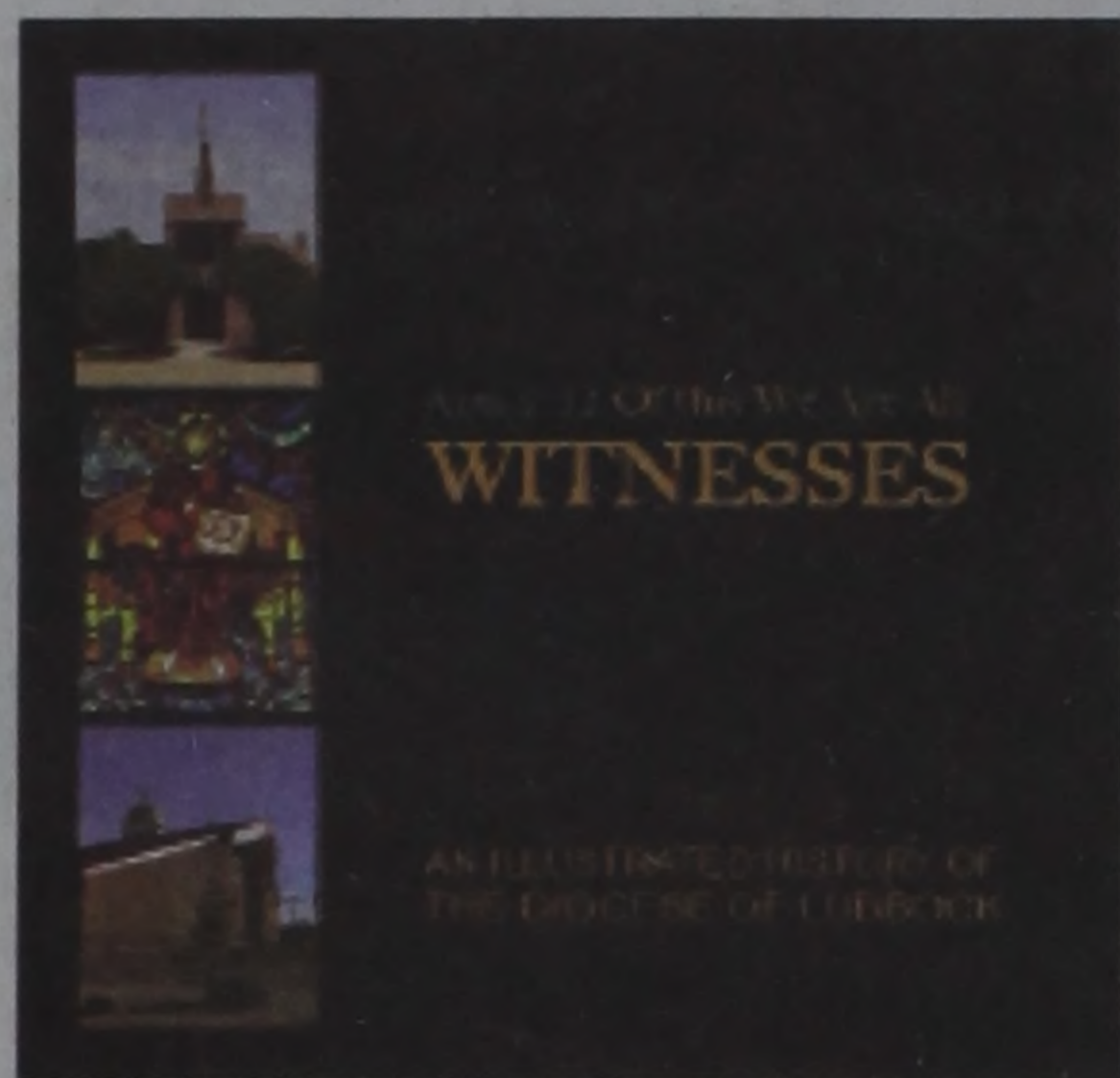
## LULAC Awards students with college scholarships



LULAC Council 263 Scholarship recipients: Lori Amin, April Arevalo, Troy Castilleja, Sandra Garcia, Jennifer Gonzales, Elizabeth Juarez, Erika Lopez, Christina Martinez, Valerie Martinez, Marizza Montes, Frances Moreno, Lauren Rodriguez and Shemika Shedd.

## Bishop to host September 6 book-signing for history of area's 'first, largest' church

Copies of the book, "Of This We Are All Witnesses (Acts 2:32): An Illustrated History of the Diocese of Lubbock" will be signed by Bishop Rodriguez on Saturday, September 6, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



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## Free Assistance in Spanish for Latino Patients With High Hospital Bills

"K.B. Forbes, a leading national healthcare advocate and Executive Director of the Consejo de Latinos Unidos, a public charity that assists and educates Latinos and others, announced today the launch of a new, free nationwide assistance program in Spanish for Latinos with high hospital bills.

The key aspect of the program is to negotiate lower hospital bills for patients in debt and qualify them for any available discounts or charity care. The services are free. The program is fully funded and run by the Fairness Foundation, a public charity based in Indianapolis, Indiana.

"Many Latinos have no idea they are being price gouged by a hospital," said Forbes. "Now there is a free program in Spanish to help negotiate reasonable balances and payment plans. The anxiety so many victims of hospital price gouging face is being replaced with real concern, real help, real discounts, and real solutions for these patients."

According to the Fairness Foundation, patients who have utilized their free services have received significant discounts — in some cases 90 percent off the original balances. In one cited case, a hospital patient ended up paying \$6,300 on a hospital bill that was originally over \$66,000 due to the successful efforts of the Fairness Foundation.

Spanish speaking patients in debt with a hospital are encouraged to register on the Internet at [www.ayudagratis.net](http://www.ayudagratis.net) or call 1-800-742-3441.

Last November, Forbes was named by Health Leaders magazine as one of the top 20 people making a difference in making healthcare better in the United States.

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