

El Editor

"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez

Casualties of
War in Iraq
3,570
as of June 28,
2007

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One Million Dollar Endowment to Benefit Hispanic Students at Tech

By Abel Cruz
El Editor has learned that a group of Lubbock residents representing several Lubbock Hispanic organizations, along with some local business persons and Hispanic elected officials will soon

establish an endowment to benefit Hispanic college students at Texas Tech.

According to sources; the endowment will be established in the amount of 1 million dollars. Although the official announcement has not been made, El Editor has learned that it is a done deal.

According to the source, the effort was initiated by Texas Tech University Professor, Dr. Juan Sanchez Munoz. One of Munoz's primary roles at Texas Tech is to serve as Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity. He also is Associate Vice Provost, for Academic Development and Associate Professor, in the College of Education.

In Munoz's role as special assistant for institutional diversity, Munoz is tasked with increasing the diversity of students at Tech. According to the latest 2006 Tech enrollment numbers, Hispanics comprise about 11% of the student population while blacks make up only 3%. The coalition's aim is to change this number to better represent the ethnic makeup of the state and region.

Our source tells us that Munoz brought together a coalition of individuals who belong to several local Hispanic organizations. Organizations like the League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Hispanic Association of Women (HAW), Raiders Rojos, and G.I Forum among others. Others who were in attendance are Hispanic business persons who work for local business institutions or private industry. There were also Hispanic business owners in attendance including local home builder Art Cuevas and Marciano Morales, owner of Caprock Home Health. Hispanic elected officials included Lubbock County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez, Lubbock City Councilwoman Linda DeLeon and Judge Sam Medina.

Local organizations like LULAC and HAW for years have been providing scholarships to deserving Hispanic students to allow them to be able to attend and stay in college. Perhaps Munoz's idea to bring these individuals and organizations together in this effort was based on a "there is power in numbers" philosophy; which suggests that if organizations unite in their fundraising efforts, they would be able to raise more money and be able to leverage their resources to provide a greater number of scholarships to a greater number of students.

Sources told El Editor that the meeting was held just a couple of weeks ago and that a vote was taken to approve the amount of the endowment. According to the source, there were about twenty-something people present; and when the vote was taken it was not a unanimous "yes" vote.

The one vote against was by Lubbock City Councilwoman Linda DeLeon who told El Editor that the reason she voted no was to vote against the amount of 1 million dollars; and not the endowment itself or the idea behind the endowment.

According to DeLeon, she felt that the "amount was too high" and that it might be seen as an "unreachable goal"; that if the amount could not be reached that some people might get discouraged. She says she would much rather have preferred that the coalition vote for a lower amount which in her view would represent a more realistic amount.

Debate y votación a enmiendas arroja luz sobre texto final reforma migratoria
El debate y la votación en el Senado de EE.UU. de una serie de enmiendas republicanas y demócratas, para modificar el contenido del proyecto de ley de reforma migratoria, arrojaron por fin un poco de luz sobre el posible texto final de esta polémica iniciativa.

Los senadores analizan y votan un total de 27 enmiendas, número que había sido previamente acordado, y que están recogidas en un documento de 373 páginas.

Este proceso se ha iniciado después de que el martes la Cámara Alta acordara rescatar el proyecto de ley y reanudar el debate que se había suspendido el 7 de junio pasado.

En una jornada maratónica, que se puede prolongar hasta bien entrada la noche, los senadores republicanos y demócratas votaron de manera individual cada una de las enmiendas presentadas.

No hubo pocos senadores, sobre todo republicanos, que alegaron que el proceso no es justo porque no han tenido tiempo de leer las casi 400 páginas del documento, lo que hará que los senadores tengan que votar enmiendas cuyo contenido exacto desconocen.

Precisamente, los senadores Jim DeMint, David Vitter, y sobre todo Jeff Sessions protagonizaron un tenso enfrentamiento con el líder de la mayoría demócrata del Senado, Harry Reid, en un intento de echar por tierra el proyecto.

En este ambiente, de desconfianza mutua, los senadores rechazaron dos enmiendas consideradas como importantes por los analistas y los defensores del proyecto.

A primera hora de la mañana, y con 53 votos a favor y 45 en contra, el Senado rechazó una enmienda de la senadora republicana Kay Bailey Hutchison (Texas) que preveía que cada inmigrante adulto indocumentado tuviera que volver a su país natal y solicitar desde allí la residencia permanente, en un plazo de dos años.

Según Hutchison, esta enmienda hubiera permitido "sacar de la ley el concepto de amnistía", o plan de legalización al que se opone la mayoría de los conservadores dentro y fuera del Congreso.

Pocas horas después, la Cámara Alta echó atrás -con 79 votos a favor y 18 en contra- una enmienda del senador demócrata James Webb (Virginia) que hubiera limitado la legalización de inmigrantes indocumentados a aquellos que entraron a EE.UU. antes de 2003.

Esta iniciativa hubiera restringido las fechas para la legalización, marginando a al menos dos millones de indocumentados. No obstante, para Webb, esta enmienda hubiera sido la manera "más justa" de ofrecer a millones de inmigrantes la posibilidad de legalizar su situación.

La próxima votación clave que afronta la reforma se producirá posiblemente mañana, cuando el Senado debería limitar el debate a 30 horas, lo que exige 60 votos.

El viernes, finalmente podría ser el día decisivo para el futuro de la reforma, que, para ser aprobada, necesitará una mayoría simple.

Nevertheless, DeLeon says that she is willing to go along with the rest of the group and that when the meeting was over agreed to change her vote to reflect her commitment to helping Hispanic college students.

DeLeon says that she challenged everyone in attendance to personally donate an initial amount of \$500 dollars, as she would, as opposed to donating the money on behalf of the organizations they represent or work for. DeLeon says that in order for the endowment to work, all participants must make a personal financial commitment also.

The coalition's efforts would seem to have the possibility of altering the way most Lubbock Hispanic organizations award scholarship money to deserving students of Hispanic descent. Presently, organizations like LULAC and HAW raise funds through various fundraising activities and efforts including soliciting donations from local businesses and individuals. They then award scholarships; generally in the amount of \$500.00 each to individuals.

But if the endowment is successfully setup then monies raised by the different organizations would be funneled into the endowment. When the endowment gets large enough to generate some interest revenue, then organizations would receive some funds back to so they could continue to give out their organization's scholarships.

What was not clear is whether this means that local organizations like LULAC or HAW will have to suspend their scholarships until enough income can be generated through the endowment? But according to DeLeon, the Hispanic Association of Women has discussed this issue and they are of the opinion that it will not. The scholarship amount may have to be reduced until after the endowment has generated enough funds to give back to organizations; but it may not have to be suspended entirely.

El Editor attempted to contact Dr. Munoz but we did not receive a reply to our request for comment before going to press.

In a related story, the local daily paper reported on Wednesday that Texas Tech Regents will be asked to appropriate an additional \$150,000.00 in the next fiscal year to the university in an effort to attract a more diverse student body. According to the report, the money would be used to fund 2 separate positions in the office of institutional diversity; the office for which Dr. Munoz is responsible.

The two positions would be responsible for developing programs to in-

crease diversity and seek new funding for "diversity initiatives". It was not clear whether Regents would approve the allocation.

The coalition put together by Munoz is expected to meet again on July 10.

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News Briefs:

Immigrant Advocates in Senate Resurrect Immigration Reform Bill

June 28, 2007 - The vote was 4 votes above the number needed for proponents of the Immigration Reform bill being considered in the US Senate to keep the bill alive. By a vote of 64-35, Senators voted to continue debating the bill and consider three amendments; one offered by Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.

The Hutchison amendment would force both parents in a family to leave the United States and return to the country of origin in order to apply for a Z visa. A "Z" Visa is a visa that would allow immigrant workers to apply for 3 year work permits. They would come with a \$3,500 price tag every time they are renewed; a clear hardship for poor immigrants whose main reason for crossing over into the states is for economic reasons.

According to the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, a national organization whose mission is to "promote Latino Civil Rights", "Under the bill as it currently stands, one family member is required to return to the home country but only after obtaining Z visa status. Under the Hutchison Amendment, parents would risk being trapped outside the country being out of status and having their children remain in the United States. This would be such a disincentive to having a legalization program that few would take that risk. It is unworkable and inhumane."

The vote on Tuesday included support from 39 Democrats, 24 republicans, and 1 Independent Senator.

On Wednesday, news out of the Senate was that the Hutchison amendment had failed.

By a wider margin, the Senate tabled Senator Jim Webb's (D-VA) amendment, 79-18, that would have denied four million unauthorized immigrants the opportunity to apply for legalization.

The next big challenge facing proponents of the bill is an amendment by Senators Kyl of Arizona, Graham of South Carolina and Martinez of Florida. This amendment would require immigrants to return to their home country out of status before they get a Z visa. It would also permanently bar from legal status individuals who overstay their visa and require the mandatory detention of people who overstay their visas by 60 days even if they pose no threat or danger to the community or have substantial ties to the community.

The fate of the immigration reform bill remains unknown. Most observers say that the bill has very little chance of passing and that the President will have to deliver a substantial number of Republican votes to assure passage.

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Lubbock Chamber Seeking Resident's Input

June 28, 2007 - The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce needs Lubbock resident's help. According to an email sent out by the chamber, "Last year, the Lubbock City Council appointed Lubbock citizens to a Citizens' Advisory Committee to explore if there is a need for presenting Lubbock voters with a capital improvement bond authorization. The Citizens Advisory Committee will soon finalize this process and present its findings, and the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce would like to communicate your views on this to the Chamber Board of Directors and the Citizens' Advisory Committee".

Those wishing to participate may do so before 12 noon Friday, June 29, 2007. The whole process will take no more than 5 minutes and anyone can access the online survey at the following link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mZxoARulqPhaCzCF_210UyXA_3d_3d
Participants need not disclose any personal information including name, address, etc., but may provide their personal information if they choose to do so. It was not made clear by the chamber what a person could do if they do not have access to a computer but anyone who is interested in participating can contact the chamber at 806-761-7000.

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Major Mistake by High School Forces Student to Miss Graduation Ceremony

June 28, 2007 - Talk about a major disappointment in your life; just ask Emmanuel Diaz from Frisco and he will tell you.

It seems that as Emmanuel, 18, was getting ready to graduate from Frisco High School this past May, his guidance counselor informed him that he was one credit short and would not be able to graduate and take part in the traditional rite of passage looked forward to by most high school students.

His mother, Sandra Diaz, was reportedly devastated that "he missed his once in a lifetime chance to walk across the stage at the Memorial Day graduation ceremony".

"It's not like he missed a field trip. This is one of the most memorable events of his life," Ms. Diaz said. "He was deprived of that."

Apparently, the school missed a credit and didn't count it toward Emmanuel's credit requirements. The mistake wasn't discovered until after the ceremony and two weeks after Emmanuel had been attending summer school to obtain the credit he was told he needed in order for him to graduate.

Frisco school officials have offered to hold a special ceremony for Emmanuel and his family but the family was undecided about attending. Sandra Diaz, who had already bought the graduation invitations, and cap and gown, in preparation for the ceremony in May, says that the district should have had systems in place to avoid these errors. But she says she believes it was an honest error. "I feel like he did it and he didn't get to live it," Ms. Diaz said. "I can never give that experience back to him. I never want anyone else to go through this."

In what seemed to be adding insult to injury, Ms. Diaz first learned of the error in an email from Frisco Superintendent Rick Reedy in which he expressed his regrets but at the same time reminded Ms. Diaz that "staff members had stepped up when they discovered the error" and that other teachers had worked with her son to help him pass his other classes.

As for Emmanuel, he's just proud to know that he earned his high school diploma; he says he wants to go to college in the spring.

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US Department Of Justice to Review DeLeon Recall Process

By Abel Cruz

El Editor has learned that the US Department of Justice (DOJ) has asked recall organizers, specifically Armando Gonzales, to send them materials and information related to the recent recall effort against Lubbock City Councilwoman Linda DeLeon.

Organizers have repeatedly claimed that the whole process is weighted in favor of the city and that it is an unfair process.

According to Gonzales, who has led the effort and serves as spokesman for the group, "how can we believe that the whole process was handled impartially and without bias if the recount produced different results than the original count?"

They also point to the fact that they resubmitted 43 signatures which were originally included in the petition only to be told that they would not be considered by City Attorney Anita Burgess.

Gonzales says that the group exhausted all other avenues before contacting the DOJ. He says that he received a call back and was asked to send all relevant information which he says he did a few days ago.

El Editor will continue to follow this story and update it as new information becomes available. Check out www.eleditor.com for updates on this story. Email: acruzsc@aol.com

Lubbock Soldier Dies in Iraq; Military Casualties Now at 3,568 and Rising

June 28, 2007 - A Lubbock man has become one of the 3,568 American military casualties in Iraq.

The Department of Defense announced this week that Sgt. Chris Davis, 35 years of age

and whose family still lives in Lubbock and who attended Estacado High School died along with 2 other soldiers on June 23rd while serving in Iraq. Also killed in the attack was Staff Sgt. Michael D. Moody Jr., 31, of Richmond, Va., and Pvt. Shane M. Stinson, 23, of Fullerton, Calif.

According to the DOD press release, Davis and the other two men who were all assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division stationed in Fort Benning, Georgia, were killed after their unit was attacked by insurgents using "improvised explosive devices and small arms fire".

Davis' wife and 3 children all reside in Fort Benning while his parents still live in Lubbock. His father Ray Davis was quoted on NewsChannel 11 as saying: "Once we get over this I think we can do pretty good because he told me, he said, 'Dad, whatever happens, don't be mad at nobody. Don't be mad at my country. Don't be mad at the army. Don't be mad at the President. Don't be mad at nobody.' He said, 'I'm doing this on my own, all volunteer. I wanna fight for my country. I wanna do something for my country.'"

Funeral arrangements are pending.



Guest Commentary Immigration Reform

By Ysidro Gutierrez

In the 12 years Republicans controlled the US Congress, they promised comprehensive reform of the nation's immigration laws and border security, but accomplished neither.

Even with total control of the US Congress, the Whitehouse and the Courts at the national level and in Austin, neither the Republican Congress nor the Republican Texas legislature delivered on meaningful and effective reform of immigration laws or border security.

The failure wasn't due to lack of effort. The Senate version, criticized for being too liberal, never saw the light of day while the House version, H.R. 4437, was punitive and lacked compassion.

Had HR 4437 become law, it would have made it a felony offense to help undocumented persons in anyway whatsoever. The effect of the bill would be to make criminals of compassionate Americans whose Judeo-Christian values Biblical way of life demand that they care for the stranger, the widow and the orphan, and love their neighbors as themselves. Had HR 4437 passed, it would have made it illegal for churches or charitable groups to provide food, shelter, or medical care to undocumented workers. The Bill would make criminals of people of faith who live and practice Biblical principles.

HR4437 was rejected by many in the Republican ranks who split with hard-liners like Lubbock's Randy Neugebauer. Many Republicans from agriculture areas which would be devastated from a lack of workers, also opposed the house version. By the time the bill was announced, some areas were already suffering from worker shortages for the harvest. Huge losses to the agriculture industry had already occurred. The cantaloupe crop in Texas is a case in point.

Immigration Reform was also hotly debated in the recently concluded 80th Texas Legislature. However, in the end, cooler heads prevailed and none of the immigration bills made it out of committee. Some Texas Republican Legislators filed bills that targeted children. To men of good will, targeting children is an extremist tactic. Only an extremist would consider targeting children an acceptable course for border security and immigration reform. Such bills relied too much on "Fear and Suspicion." These are the only explanations possible to make the Republican sponsor of the bill believe that targeting children is the prudent and acceptable course for reform of immigration laws.

As the debate continues to heat up, Christians and all men of peace and good will must now examine their own conscience. Will Christians remain silent while Republicans persecute children and prosecute their families? Christian ministers were the shameful targets of Martin Luther King's letter from his jail cell for their silence in the face of brutal segregation. Will history find Christians silent on this topic too? Will people who call themselves followers of Jesus Christ, be more Republican than Christian? The City of Farmers Branch, Texas was the first to attempt reform, but the voter approved ordinance is on hold by court order. Time will witness the final outcome in the Farmers Branch case.

Although debate in the Texas Legislature ended in May 2007, the debate in the Democratic controlled US Senate continues. The Senate's first bill was widely opposed by the American people, including this writer, because it provided amnesty for the estimate 12 to 20 million illegal immigrants already in the country.

A new bill is expected soon. Its proponents call it a bi-partisan bill and it has the active support of President Bush. Whatever comes out of the debate, one can only hope it preserves justice, protects Americans, is compassionate, and solves the illegal immigration problem. Which is what most Americans have asked for from the President and Congress.

The American people want real reform. A workable solution does not involve rocket science. Herein lays a clue to the course desired by the American people.

First and foremost, the American people want all our borders secured. This is their charge; the Congress must first assure the Safety and Security of the American people. Once the borders are secured, reform of Immigration laws can begin. All sovereign nations have a duty and right to secure their borders.

Border security includes apprehension and prosecution of drug smugglers and people smugglers (commonly known as coyotes), prevention of illegal crossings, unhindered access for day-shoppers to malls and restaurants, healthy tourism, and the normal flow of trade goods on both sides of the border. Whatever form they take, reform laws must preserve the annual \$50 billion trade between Texas and Mexico.

The US border can be secured by adding two elements to the law enforce systems that are already in place.

The first element is the addition of a national tamper proof ID card issued to every person in the country, including visitors, vacationers, students, diplomats. This can be accomplished immediately. For those who object, the ID can system does not have to be permanent. The system can be discontinued once stability is restored.

Secondly, the new laws must severely punish US employers who hire illegal immigrants. The law must include heavy fines and mandatory jail time for company Presidents and CEO's for each illegal worker their company employs.

Law makers must recognize that employers are major contributors to the problem of illegal immigration. Even the US Military hires illegal workers for combat duty in exchange for a rapid path to citizenship. No employer can claim they didn't know an employee used fake ID of a fake SSN. The Federal government can easily identify a fake SSN. Therefore, law enforcement officers must arrest employers who hire illegal workers and the Courts must prosecute them. The arrest and prosecution of employers who hire illegal workers is probably the only true solution to the problem of illegal workers in the U.S.

Once these two initiatives are added to the existing system; comprehensive immigration reform can begin. A three step process is recommended:

First, comprehensive immigration reform must include provisions that make illegal workers legal.

Immigration reform must assure "Economic Prosperity" for our nation. America needs workers to provide the products and services that our economy demands. We must not criminalize workers that are needed for our economic prosperity. Farmers need workers for the harvest. The beef industry needs workers for the slaughterhouse. The construction industry, hotel industry, restaurant industry, and others all need skilled workers. Workers can be matched to jobs based on their skills.

Second: As a Christian nation, we believe God is Creator and Father, and all His children are precious to Him. Bible believing Christians know and understand God's commandment to welcome the stranger, and care for the widow and the orphan. Matthew 25:35 tells us it is Jesus himself who comes before us: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Therefore:

Comprehensive reform must provide for - the preservation of families.

Many illegal immigrants have children who are American citizens. Illegal immigrants who are parents of American children could be sponsored by their own family members. Immigration reform must not make orphans of American children. The nuclear family is the one institution in our society that truly produces stability and economic prosperity. Families are the strength and the very fabric of any Christian nation. The family is, as Pope John Paul II called it, the domestic church where young people acquire morals, virtues, character, and ethics.

Sponsorship of family members already in the US is neither citizenship nor a path to citizenship. It is simply a way to keep families together. Extreme right-wingers like Lou Dobbs will disagree and will say sponsorship is amnesty. But preserving the nuclear family is our Christian duty and is in keeping with what is the very best about America. Immigration reform must be compassionate. The inscription on the Statue of Liberty speaks clearly of a compassionate nation that is welcoming. These things we value as a Christian nation. These values make us America. It is who we are - One nation under God.

Thirdly: Immigration reform must be based on knowledge and understanding of the problems. The estimated 12 to 20 million people who are here illegally must be given incentives to voluntarily register as non-resident aliens. Employers could be given the opportunity to sponsor workers. If illegal immigrants are not given incentives to voluntarily identify themselves, it would take tens of thousands of police to round them up, and tens of thousands of buses and thousands of airplanes and hundreds of ships to deport them, and would cost billions and would take years. We would need to build a thousand new prisons to hold them and feed them while they wait for deportation.

We must acknowledge that illegal immigrants, although mainly Mexican, include millions from China, Russia, Canada, Europe and many more nations and border security means security of all US borders including the northern border and all points of entry into the US.

Conclusion: In the November 7, 2006 election Hispanic voter turn out increased from 4.5 million in 2004 to an estimated 6.5 million. Of these 70% voted against the Republicans. Many experts believe the vote was due to the punitive nature of HR 4437.

In May 2006, over 3500 Hispanics gathered at the Lubbock County Courthouse lawn to call on the US Congress to pass effective, meaningful and comprehensive reforms. The 3500 categorically rejected HR 4437 and delivered a petition to Representative Randy Neugebauer asking for legislation that would achieve real reform. These remain the wishes and the goals of the American people.

The US Congress must now go about the task of doing the will of the American people. Congress must first provide for border security followed by comprehensive reforms which will permanently resolve and end illegal immigration. The lessons of the 1986 immigration reform laws must not go unheeded. Amnesty is an invitation to millions more to enter the country illegally.

Border security and comprehensive immigration reform are not Republican, Democratic, Liberal or Conservative issues. It is an American issue. True reform will only be possible if the US Congress sets aside political maneuvering and posturing for political advantage.

Effective and enforceable laws are needed to protect the American people and end the problem of illegal immigration. The US Congress must do what is right for America.

The writer is Lubbock County Precinct 3 County Commissioner

LETTERS TO THE Editor

Send Mail to:
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On Tom Adams' Apologia

Mr. Cruz,
I love your publication but your editorial on Tom Adams got me hopping mad.

There is evidence that the city council knowingly allowed one of the Red Light Camera companies to violate the bidding process. There is evidence of a cover up including an effort to smear Jere Hart to take attention away from city council's mistake. Where is your 2,031-word anti-apologia on that?

There is evidence of political oppression concerning the recall petition of Linda Deleon. They got the message across very clearly: you sign a petition against a city council member and you might have to face some strong arm tactics including a visit from the city council member's family or supporters. Heck, you might even have to go to jail. Where is your 2,031-word anti-apologia on that?

Now don't get me wrong; if the petition organizers broke the law then to jail with 'em. But c'mon, this wasn't about justice. This was intended to send a message.

Just a few days ago the city council spent \$14 million on a budget amendment only three months after a hiring freeze in which they said we ain't got the money to hire the police officers we promised you. But magically there's money for a baseball field, dump trucks, and steam rollers (which comes a few weeks after they spent half a million on another baseball field). Remember the tax hike in August? Remember the leaks at city hall about once every three months saying the city will see another 3-cent tax hike in the next budget? Where is your 2,031-word anti-apologia on that? The mayor writes an email that shows such utter contempt and unadulterated disrespect for the taxpayers and you no-good-rotten taxpayers don't want to pay for city services, but you no-good-rotten taxpayers want police officers and pretty parks. Little old ladies can't afford to keep their homes so that city hall can collect their property taxes and a long laundry list of city franchise fees every single utility bill. But he says they don't want to pay. WHERE OH WHERE IS YOUR 2,031 WORD ANTI-APOLOGIA ON THAT? C'mon! Mr. Cruz!!!

So Tom Adams, who has spent years and years in a bureaucratic bubble, which has its own convoluted rules and jargon, is a bad guy and evil and a liar because of what? Because he says "Let me begin by making an apology if I might," instead of saying "hey, y'all I really screwed this up and I'm just so gosh-darned soorry. Gosh I really am." He said "I am more than willing to accept responsibility and make a public apology for the situation we find ourselves in." He said, "It was my decision." Where's the insincerity there?

You have a valid point to say, "Where are the consequences?" Will Adams or one of his subordinates face a written reprimand, a lower employee evaluation score, or a demotion? Fair question. But that's a heck of lot different than the innuendo that someone has been intentionally dishonest. Tom Adams has admitted information to me on the record in plain simple language that he knew was going to make city council members look bad. He knew he would personally have to pay the price for being honest on several occasions and he did it anyway. Where's the deceit? Where's the apologia there?

There are not many straight shooters at city hall. Everyone is so worried about CYA and who's backstabbing who and who's car is parked next door and all that rubbish. Tom Adams is a straight shooter. His honesty is refreshing and rare in any bureaucratic setting.

And, hey, if I find out later that I'm wrong, I'll write you back another email that starts with these words: "Let me begin by making an apology if I might." Then you can write a 2,031-word anti-apologia on me. Again, I love your publication. I have it bookmarked as an Internet favorite. But I got my feathers ruffled over this Tom Adams editorial. I just don't agree with you.

James Clark, via Email
The writer is the Webmaster for Lubbock NewsRadio 1420AM KJDL
www.newsradio1420.com

Austin Police Made Wrong Assumptions in Morales Death; Reader Sets Record Straight

Mr. Aguero,
My name is Jim Branson. I am a good friend of Miguel Torres there in Lubbock. He and I work together, organizing in the Texas State Employees Union.

I am writing this to clarify some issues concerning the death of Mr. Morales in Austin on Juneteenth. I live in Austin and much has come out since Mr. Morales was killed. The incident had nothing to do with the Juneteenth celebration. The 3,000 people who were supposedly in the area were at least 3 blocks away coming out of the Juneteenth celebration at Rosewood Park.

The celebration was entirely peaceful. My son and daughter-in-law and my grandchildren were in attendance. However, the police were treating it like a mob activity as they generally do anything that happens in the African-American community. Based on their assumptions the police held up the emergency vehicles that were headed to Mr. Morales' assistance. According to witnesses there were at most 3 to 4 men involved in the beating. Residents of the apartment complex immediately called 911 and many people have come forward to talk about what happened. The men who did the beating were evidently unknown in the community. There has been an outpouring of support and sympathy for the Morales family from both the Latino and African-American communities with leadership from both communities standing together.

It appears that the Austin police made assumptions based on race and were sowing division in the community because of those assumptions. This is a police department that is currently under federal investigation for a disproportionate number of police shootings in the Latino and African-American communities. What happened was a craven act of cowardice by 3 or 4 individuals. It had nothing to do with the celebration of Black Emancipation in Texas.

In Solidarity,
Jim Branson, Austin, TX, via Email

Letter Writer Regrets Choice of Words

Not having visited a local, popular Mexican food restaurant in a long time, I was informed that our favorite newspaper, El Editor, (favorite because for the past thirty plus years El Editor has fought for Hispanics, and Hispanic rights) had been exiled from its customary place where Chicanos pick up the news about our barrios. As I understand, this exile was the result of one of my letters to the Editor in which I responded unkindly and aggressively to a Texas Tech Professor who supposedly is an expert on diversity. My letter defamed people in Texas (Chicano bricklayers, and Chicanos who according to the professor cower at being in the same room with lawyers, bank presidents, and other professionals). I also called attention to the callous statement that the professor was going to "teach Chicanos how to speak" to these elitists in City of Lubbock Board meetings. I used a "palabrota" (an inappropriate word) to respond to the professor. I received many compliments from people that agreed with the argument in my letter. But many did not agree with my choice of words.

This restaurant on Clovis Road, in Lubbock, Texas, has apparently asked the publisher of El Editor to remove the newspaper from the businesses. I suppose it was because of my bad choice of words. Apparently, I offended the delicate sensitivities of some people with the use of my bad language. For this, I apologize to those people and anyone else who I may have offended.

It seems to me however, that people in general should be equally offended when someone from California comes to Lubbock, Texas and insults a whole set of Chicanos. Perhaps, the professor did not realize what he was saying; all of us make mistakes. But, please accept my apology. The professor has many good attributes with which he can help Chicanos and Chicanitas; why else would someone want to be an educator? And, he is very capable of fighting his own battles as evidenced by his erudite stature. He is vested with education, knowledge, and position. Being a "public figure" as all professors are; this type of criticism is anticipated and I hope taken with a grain of salt. I meant nothing personal but made the mistake of using an old saying which was a common and familiar phrase many years ago.

With my apology, I appeal to the restaurant to please allow El Editor Newspaper to once again grace the sunlit spot that it has occupied for a lifetime. This restaurant and El Editor Newspaper have gone through many, many good times and tough times together, along with "EL PUBLICO" that they both serve.

In their defense, El Editor Newspaper was doing what it does best. It offers a forum that is not available even in the largest, wealthiest, most institutional newspapers. It offers a place where all critical thoughts are welcome and offered to the public in an outright and public way... no "tenemos nada para esconder"... there is nothing occult in this publication and it offers equal space to all --- that is how I see it.

That is why it is important for it to be made available once more in the restaurant. Hope to see you in the sun again.

Thanks,
Armando Gonzales, Lubbock via Email
B.A. Political Science, English, Spanish - TTU, 2001 Master of Education/ Secondary, Foreign Languages - TTU, 2006

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SAY WHAAAAT?

By Abel Cruz

SAY WHAT? TAKE 1

On February 10th of this year, Mayor David Miller wrote the following in an email to city council lobbyist Robert Floyd. Miller had been made aware of possible legislation which would result in the city having to give all revenue from red light camera enforcement to the state:

"This really makes me angry...another grab by Austin politicians at locally generated revenue. Robert, I want us to fight this with all we've got. This is highway robbery."

Mr. Floyd writes back to let the mayor know that there is talk of a compromise that would result in cities sharing red light camera revenue with the state; as opposed to giving it all to the state.

Mayor Miller writes back: "This compromise is still not acceptable." Source of email content: NewsRadio 1420AM KJDL

Fast forward to June 27, 2007 and here's a quote from the Mayor:

"This whole issue of sharing money with the state should not be a deciding factor to us".

Source: Lubbock Avalanche Journal, June 27, 2007 issue

So, which is it; "highway robbery" by the state or "not a deciding factor"? These are the type of contradictions which are hard to understand and make no sense whatsoever.

If a person is going to take a stand; take a stand. Do not stick your finger out to see which way the wind is blowing before deciding which way to go.

SAY WHAT? TAKE 2

"This is the only place I have ever worked that wants to cut revenue sources while increasing services and then gets mad at 'city management' because we can't print money in the basement to fill the gap."

"Thank you for letting me vent on this topic." - City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld in an email to Bill Miller who serves on the Citizens Advisory Committee - Source NewsRadio1420AM KJDL

"The issues are nearly the same everywhere aren't they? Citizens want more services (paved streets, clean alleys, trash

emptied, police and fire protection, pretty parks, etc), but nobody wants to pay for these things... just doesn't work that way." - Mayor David Miller in an email to Councilman Jim Gilbreath - Source NewsRadio 1420Am KJDL.

Sounds to me like 2 very unhappy campers down at city hall. And it's all about never having enough taxpayer money and it's always about blaming the very people who provide the "revenue sources".

Take Ms. Dumbauld's email, do you really think that the other places she worked at before coming here gave her carte blanche? Of course not! To me this statement reveals just how Ms. Dumbauld really feels about this city's residents. Talk about arrogance?

As for the Mayor's email, are paved streets, clean alleys, trash emptied, police and fire protection, and pretty parks" really qualify as "more services". Those are basic services which we pay taxes for; not extra services like the Mayor implies.

SAY WHAT? TAKE 3

"I see some more courteous drivers since (cameras) came online." "I really do." - Councilman Floyd Price - Lubbock Avalanche Journal

What can you say about that statement; talk about political spin? Even if drivers are more courteous, how can you possibly attribute that to red light cameras? Some people will say anything to justify their votes.

Ok, I take my leave with one last email quote from Mayor Miller; which happens to be my favorite by the way:

"There is no question that we are getting some attention from the Enemy as the attacks are more frequent and personal," - Mayor David Miller, Lubbock Avalanche Journal, October 5, 2006

I suppose the Mayor feels stronger about that written statement now than he did back in October. How about a new motto for the Mayor and the rest of the gang of 4 plus 1 using the same enemy reference; just to cheer them up?

"WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND HE IS US",
Email:acruzts@sol.com

GEORGE W'S GLOBAL WARMING "PLAN"

by Jim Hightower

Big news! In an apparent effort to get his job approval rating higher than 30 percent, George W has conceded that global warming does exist, and he has proposed his very own plan for coping with it.

Well...not a plan exactly. His idea is that the nations causing the most climate change (led by the U.S. and China) should meet and set goals for fixing the problem. In other words, his plan is to seek a plan. Still, in the wonderland of BushWorld, that's progress.

Yet, having taken a tentative step forward, Bush quickly took two steps backwards. Just one week after George touted his plan to make a plan, it was revealed that he is drastically cutting back on the scientific effort to collect climate data needed to devise a plan.

Starting next year, six research satellites were to be put into orbits to provide precise measurements of shrinking ice sheets, glaciers, levels of seas and lakes, surface radiation, atmospheric carbon dioxide, and other environmental changes that can only be detected by satellites.

However, most of the satellite sensors needed to collect such precise data are being eliminated by the Bushites, and the launch date is being postponed to sometime between 2013 and 2026. Why? Bush's bean counters say that the \$12 billion cost of this research program is too much.

Hello... they dump \$12 billion into the hellhole of Iraq every two months! These are the people who airtight \$12 billion in cash to Iraq in 2003 - and it simply disappeared. But now that it's money for something that America and the world actually need, they've suddenly turned into penny-pinchers, putting the overall climate program in serious jeopardy.

Ironically, Bush's excuse for taking no action to reduce the pollution that's causing climate change has been that he's committed to researching the problem. Now we see that that's just another Bush lie.

"Fewer U.S. satellites to keep tabs on climate," Star-Ledger, June 5, 2007



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Publisher Bidal Aguero
Business Manager - Olga Ruelas Aguero

Damnificados en Texas no quieren dejar sus viviendas

Una semana después de las inundaciones que causaron las lluvias torrenciales en el norte de Texas, decenas de hispanos indocumentados no han querido abandonar su vivienda en pésimas condiciones por temor a su estatus migratorio.

Hasta la fecha, se ha informado de seis muertes en las zonas devastadas en esta parte del estado, de las cuales tres ocurrieron en Gainesville, al norte de Dallas.

A pesar del intento de un grupo de activistas y residentes hispanos para que los gobiernos estatal y federal declaren la zona en emergencia y así recibir fondos para auxiliar a los damnificados, muchos dudan de la posibilidad de recibir alguna clase de ayuda, especialmente los indocumentados.

Clara Sánchez, de Tamulipas, México y madre de una niña de 6 años, perdió todos los muebles que se encontraban en su vivienda, una pequeña casa de madera de dos dormitorios ubicada en el centro de Gainesville.

Aunque las autoridades sanitarias han declarado su vivienda como inhabitable, ella ha optado por permanecer allí en medio del moho reinante y del alto índice de humedad en la zona.

"No sé qué hacer ni adónde ir. Todo lo poco que pude comprar en los pocos años que llevo aquí se ha deteriorado por el agua. Nada sirve", comentó Sánchez, quien teme que al pedir alguna clase de asistencia social o material le sea negada por ser indocumentada.

Lo mismo sucede con Jaime Espinoza, natural de Tegucigalpa (Honduras). El nivel del agua en su casa llegó a una altura de más de metro y medio y el piso de madera cedió ante la presión de los torrentes fluviales.

"No sólo huele mal, es peligroso incluso caminar por los pasillos, pero allí nos las arreglamos", señaló Espinoza, quien optó por no recibir ayuda municipal gratuita para desocupar sus bienes.

"Nos sentimos desamparados porque no tenemos información sobre qué hacer", agregó Espinoza.

Esa falta de información en español para los hispanos es la que ha criticado Lydia García, residente de Gainesville ahora convertida en portavoz de los

latinos afectados en esta ciudad.

Según ella, hay más de dos mil personas de origen hispano cuyos hogares han sufrido daños irreparables.

"Por eso queremos que el gobierno responda pronto. Lo más lógico y humano es que lleguen fondos federales para que cada uno de nosotros reconstruya su vida y la de su familia sin importar el estatus migratorio de cada individuo", dijo Espinoza.

El viernes pasado, García y otros líderes entregaron un padrón de firmas a los legisladores estatales de la zona para tratar que el gobernador de Texas, Rick Perry, ordene una acción social inmediata.

Pero según Alberto Guzmán, portavoz de la Cruz Roja en



Gainesville, aunque llegue alguna clase de ayuda federal, será difícil convencer a la población hispana indocumentada que tiene ciertos

derechos a esa asistencia.

"Si la Cruz Roja tiene limitaciones al persuadir a la gente que la ayuda que recibe de nosotros es gratuita y que no nos interesa saber su condición migratoria, imagínense al llenar formularios complicados en donde se les hace una sinnúmero de preguntas", cuestionó Guzmán.

Por otro lado, Carlos Quintanilla, activista de Dallas, indicó que se están llevando varias iniciativas para gestionar la ayuda humanitaria y federal, "y cuando eso se concrete, entonces la siguiente labor será ir a los lugares donde están pernoctando los hispanos" para tratar de convencerlos.

Mientras eso sucede, algunos hispanos mantienen la esperanza de reconstruir ellos mismos su vivienda y continuar con su vida, como le sucede a Jacinto Ruiz, natural de San Luis Potosí (México).

"Si hay que demoler toda la casa y volverla a construir, lo voy a tener que hacer con tal de regresar a mi vida de antes, que era trabajar y llevar el pan de cada día a mi familia", concluyó Ruiz.

Medal of Honor Recipient Roy P. Benavidez's Papers Donated to Center for American History

AUSTIN, Texas-The family of the late Army Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez, a Medal of Honor winner, has donated his papers to the Center for American History's Institute for Studies in American Military History at The University of Texas at Austin.

Benavidez received the Medal of Honor for his heroism in the Vietnam War. He saved the lives of at least eight men during a daring rescue in the jungles near Loc Ninh, Vietnam, and was critically wounded.

Benavidez received the Distinguished Service Cross, but the medal was upgraded to the Medal of Honor when the full story of his actions emerged. The late President Ronald Reagan awarded him the Medal of Honor in 1981 for bravery under enemy fire. Benavidez died Nov. 28, 1998, in San Antonio, Texas. Notable material in the Benavidez collection includes speeches, photographs and numerous papers documenting his actions in Vietnam and his 1983 testimony on Capitol Hill convincing Congressional leaders to veto reductions in Social Security benefits for veterans.

Benavidez's son Noel said, "It is an honor for our family to donate dad's papers to The University of Texas at Austin. We hope that students, researchers and the general public will learn about dad's devotion to his beloved family, the military, his fellow veterans and his community, as well as his tireless efforts to keep kids in school and away from drugs and gangs."

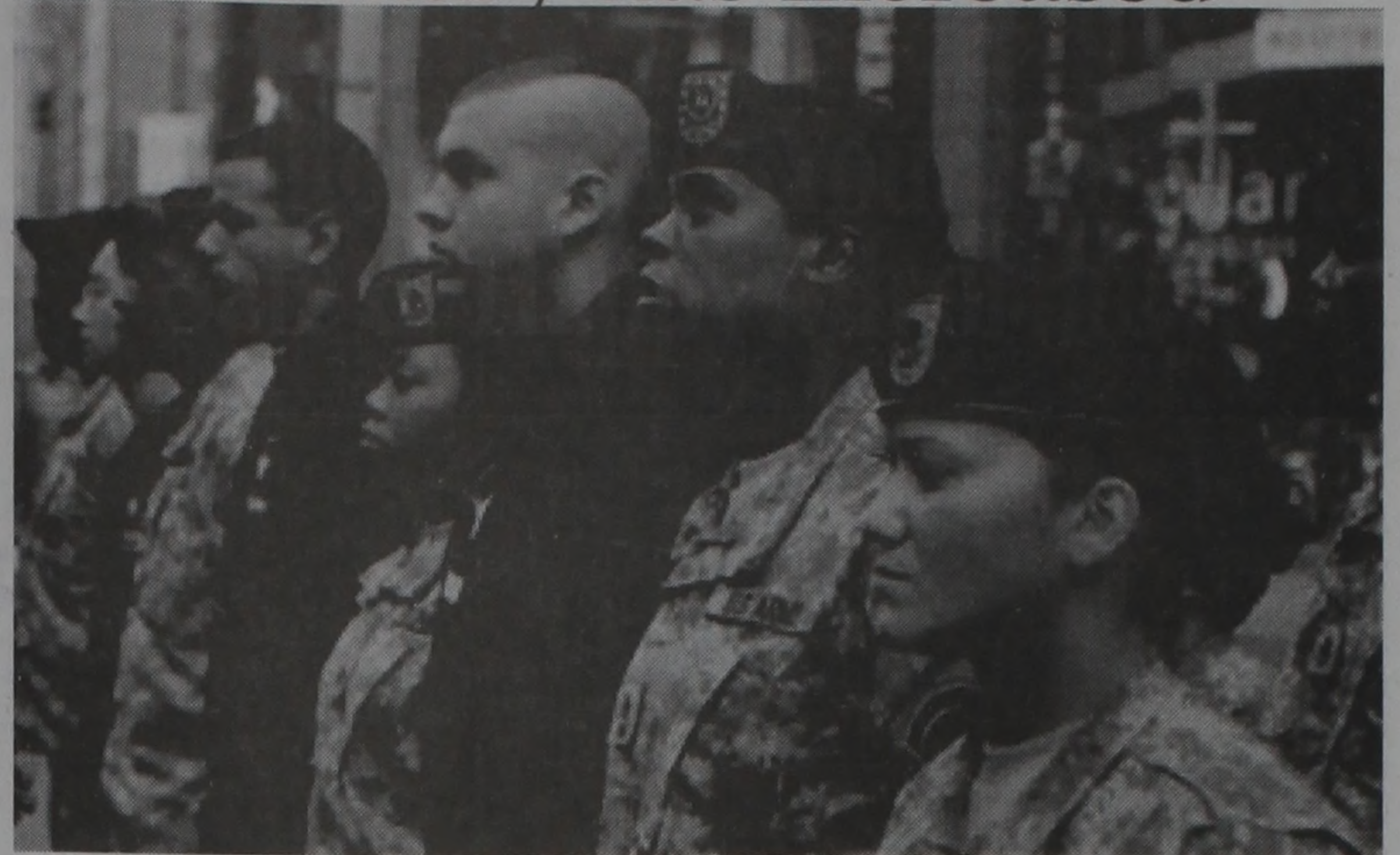
Benavidez spent his later years speaking to young people about the importance of education. The orphaned son of a South Texas sharecropper, Benavidez dropped out of middle school to pick sugar beets and cotton. In his autobiography, "Medal of Honor: A Vietnam Warrior's Story," Benavidez wrote, "I tell these students that an education and a diploma are the keys to success. I tell them I paid a large price for leaving school early. It was a bad decision on my part, and I have paid dearly for it my entire life. I had a good mind and I sold myself short."

Despite these hardships, Benavidez believed, "Only in America could I, a young Hispanic-Indian American, have risen to my place."

Three elementary schools in Texas, a park in Colorado and the naval ship USNS Benavidez have been all named in his honor. In 2001, the Texas legislature honored Benavidez with the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor, and the Hasbro toy company released the Roy P. Benavidez G.I. Joe action figure, the first G.I. Joe to portray a soldier of Hispanic heritage.

Dr. Tom Hatfield, head of the Center's Institute for Studies in American Military History, said, "We're grateful to the family for choosing us as a repository for Master Sgt. Benavidez's papers. This is a significant collection not only for students of military history, but for those interested in the histories of Hispanic and Native American Texans as well. This collection will add to our understanding of war, especially the Vietnam War, and serve as a basis for the history books, novels and films of tomorrow."

Hispanic recruiting by U.S. military has increased



Newly enlisted Army recruits, in black shirts, join recruiting officers in a ceremony in New York file photo. Slightly more Hispanics have been joining the U.S. military since the Afghanistan and Iraq wars while the number of blacks signing up has dropped, according to Pentagon data.

WASHINGTON Slightly more Hispanics have been joining the U.S. military since the Afghanistan and Iraq wars while the number of blacks signing up has dropped, according to Pentagon data.

The trend involving Hispanics is somewhat mixed and varies according to military service, with more heading into the Army in 2006 than in 2001 and fewer answering the Marines' call.

But the latest Army figures also

suggest a potential problem with sustaining that level of recruiting in the future: There was a slight dip between 2005 and 2006, the last year for which numbers were available.

That decline caused concern among Marine leaders and led Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, to call for increased recruiting.

"What we have seen is, really, in all three ethnic groups, a ... declining propensity to join. Our recruiters are aware of that," said Conway. "I've tasked our recruiters with ensuring that our minority percentages stay strong."

He said he wants the Marine Corps "to roughly parallel the ethnic makeup of

our country. I think that's what our country would expect of our

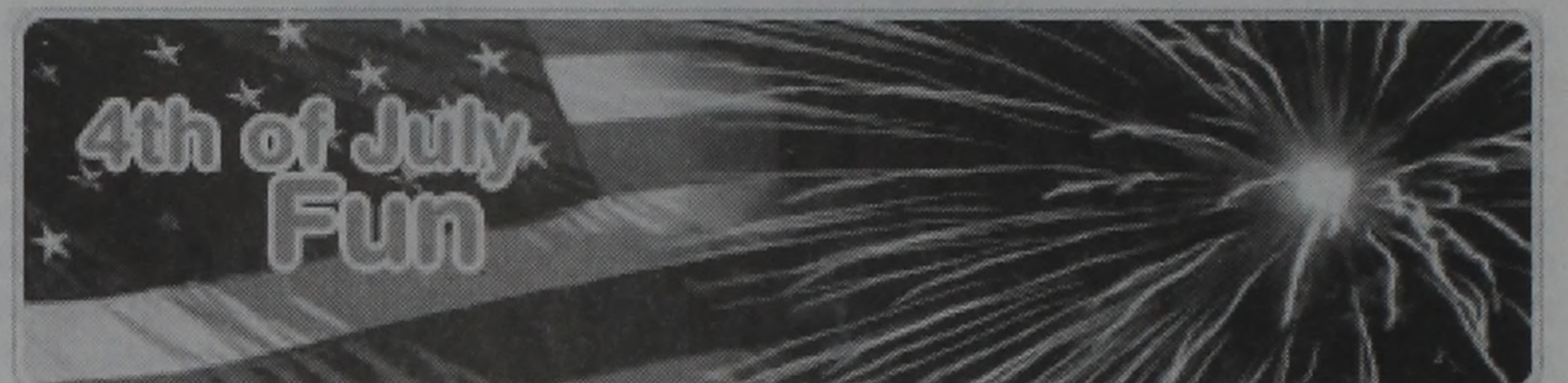
military."

According to the Pentagon data obtained by The Associated Press, the number of Hispanics joining the active duty military and reserves for all four services grew from about 27,000 in 2003 _ the year the Iraq war began _ to more than 33,000 in 2006.

Marine statistics show that the number of Hispanics serving in this branch dipped from 23,000 in 2001 to about 22,000 this year.

Maj. Wesley Hayes, spokesman for the Marine Corps Recruiting Command, said the Marines are working to reach out more to Hispanic parents and other adults who influence potential recruits.

In recent weeks, he said, they created an area on their Web site in Spanish that is targeted at parents.

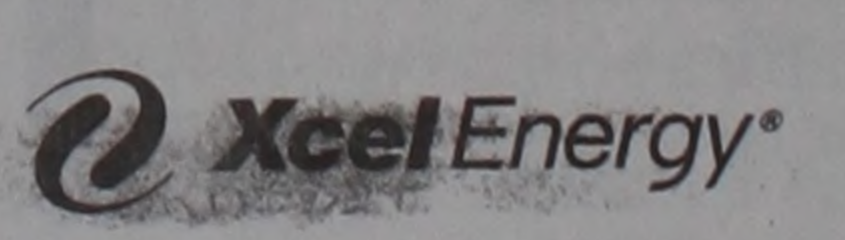


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Rise in Child Chronic Illness Could Swamp Health Care

As more American children eat poorly and exercise less, rates of chronic illness such as asthma and diabetes are continuing to rise, researchers are reporting.

And because childhood illness often sets the stage for adult health woes, the U.S. health-care system could be headed

toward a crisis in coming decades, experts warn in a number of reports in the June 27 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"A chronic condition in a child will become a chronic condition in an adult -- we just know that. And what you're talking about for an adult is maybe 10, 20 years of suffering. But with a child, you're talking about maybe 50, 60 years of suffering," said the journal's editor-in-chief, pediatrician Dr. Catherine DeAngelis, during a Tuesday teleconference.

A surge in childhood illness will also have a big impact on the U.S. health-care system, another expert said.

"Given these high rates of [ill children] in the next decade, there are going to be tremendously higher rates of expenditures for health care and social welfare, because a lot of these people will have health disabilities, and they won't be employable," Dr. James Perrin, director of the Center for Child and Adolescent Health Policy at MassGeneral Hospital for Children, in Boston, told HealthDay. Perrin is also co-author of a journal analysis of the prevalence and causes of childhood chronic illness.

The special themed issue of JAMA is devoted to chronic childhood illness, defined as any

debilitating illness that lasts a year or more past diagnosis. A number of new studies suggest that, in many ways, the health of America's children is getting worse, not better.

Some findings:



colleagues, more than 7 percent of U.S. children and youth were hampered in their daily activities by an illness that lasted three months or longer in 2004, compared to just 1.8 percent of children in 1960.

Chronic conditions now affect 15 percent to 18 percent of children and teens, and even those estimates may not fully account for obesity and mental health woes, the Harvard team said.

The "big three" chronic health conditions for kids are obesity, which affected 5 percent of American children in the early 1970s but 18 percent of children today; asthma (9 percent prevalence, nearly double from the 1980s), and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (a dramatic rise, mostly



linked to better diagnosis).

Childhood diabetes is one of the prime results of rising obesity rates, which in turn result from more sedentary behaviors and poor diets.

"Children's environments have really changed a lot in the last 30

40 years," said Perrin. "By that, we mean a big change in their diets -- much more fast-food, high-calorie foods -- and major changes in their use of electronic media, especially television. They are spending much more time in the home watching television and eating high-calorie foods while they do so."

However, new research finds that the rise in childhood diabetes is still largely attributed to an increase in type 1 disease -- usually thought of as an inherited illness -- rather than an increase in obesity-linked type 2 disease, the form that typically strikes obese adults.

Experts aren't sure why type 1 diabetes numbers might be rising. Some experts believe that obesity might help spur certain immune-cell changes that are seen in type 1 disease, changes that eventually lead to the destruction of insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. Or, as Dr. Rebecca Lipton of the University of Chicago noted in an editorial, many of these type 1 cases may be type 2 cases misdiagnosed by physicians.

Diabetes does seem to be affecting different groups of American children in different ways, however.

"We have seen an increase in type 1 diabetes over a 27-year period of about 60 percent. This translates into 2.7 percent higher annual rates for non-Hispanic white children and about 1.6 percent higher annual rates for Hispanics," said Dr. Dana Dabelea, of the

University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and lead author of the country-wide SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth study group.

"Based on these data, we estimate that 15,000 youth are diagnosed annually with type

1 diabetes in the United States," she said.

As for type 2 diabetes, Dabelea said that form of the disease "accounts for 1 to 2 percent of cases in Caucasian children [in Europe], whereas here in the United States, this figure is 15 percent. That figure speaks for itself... It's a deleterious consequence of obesity in this country."

In their journal study, the researchers at University of Colorado Health Sciences Center found that non-Hispanic white children are more likely to develop type 1 diabetes than minority children. On the other hand, type 2 disease is much more likely to appear in black or Hispanic 15- to 19-year-olds than in white teens.

Asthma, too, is affecting more and more children, and childhoods spent largely indoors may be to blame here, as well, said Perrin, who is also a professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

While allergies to cockroaches and dust mites have long been linked to soaring asthma rates among America's urban poor, studies have shown no concurrent rise in the rate of household infestations over the past decades, he pointed

out. "However, we do know that kids now spend much more time indoors [than they used to] in intimate contact with cockroaches and dust mites," Perrin said.

Even the good news on childhood illness comes mixed with a little bad news. Dutch researchers note that more and more children are claiming victory over a wide variety of cancers. However, the study also suggests that battling cancer in childhood boosts risks for adult illnesses.

The study of almost 1,400 five-year survivors of childhood cancer tracked these young people to an average of just over 24 years of age. Three-quarters of these survivors experienced some form of adverse medical event in young adulthood, and one-quarter suffered five or more such events, the research-

ers found. More than one-third (36.8 percent) developed a life-threatening or disabling

disorder years after beating their cancer, the researchers found.

Study author Dr. Huib Caron, of Emma Children's Hospital/Academic Medical Center, in Amsterdam, strongly supports the creation of specialized follow-up clinics that could monitor childhood cancer survivors into adulthood.

These clinics are essential because "the majority of adult medicine physicians haven't got the faintest clue about the health risks that this population is running -- they haven't got the expertise," Caron said. And many problems, such as cardiac troubles, are asymptomatic and would only show up on doctor-ordered ultrasounds or other tests, he said.

Getting doctors to keep closer tabs on childhood cancer survivors might not be so difficult. However, changing the poor eating habits and lax exercise patterns of America's children -- and their parents -- will be a lot tougher, Perrin said.

Recent public policy moves -- such as bans on sugary or greasy snacks and soft drinks in schools -- are steps in the right direction. But parents, especially, "are critical to this effort," Perrin said. By modeling good behaviors and closely monitoring their children's behaviors, "parents can do a really good job, and it's important for them to realize that," he said. "We think that improving how parents parent is a critical way of stemming this epidemic."



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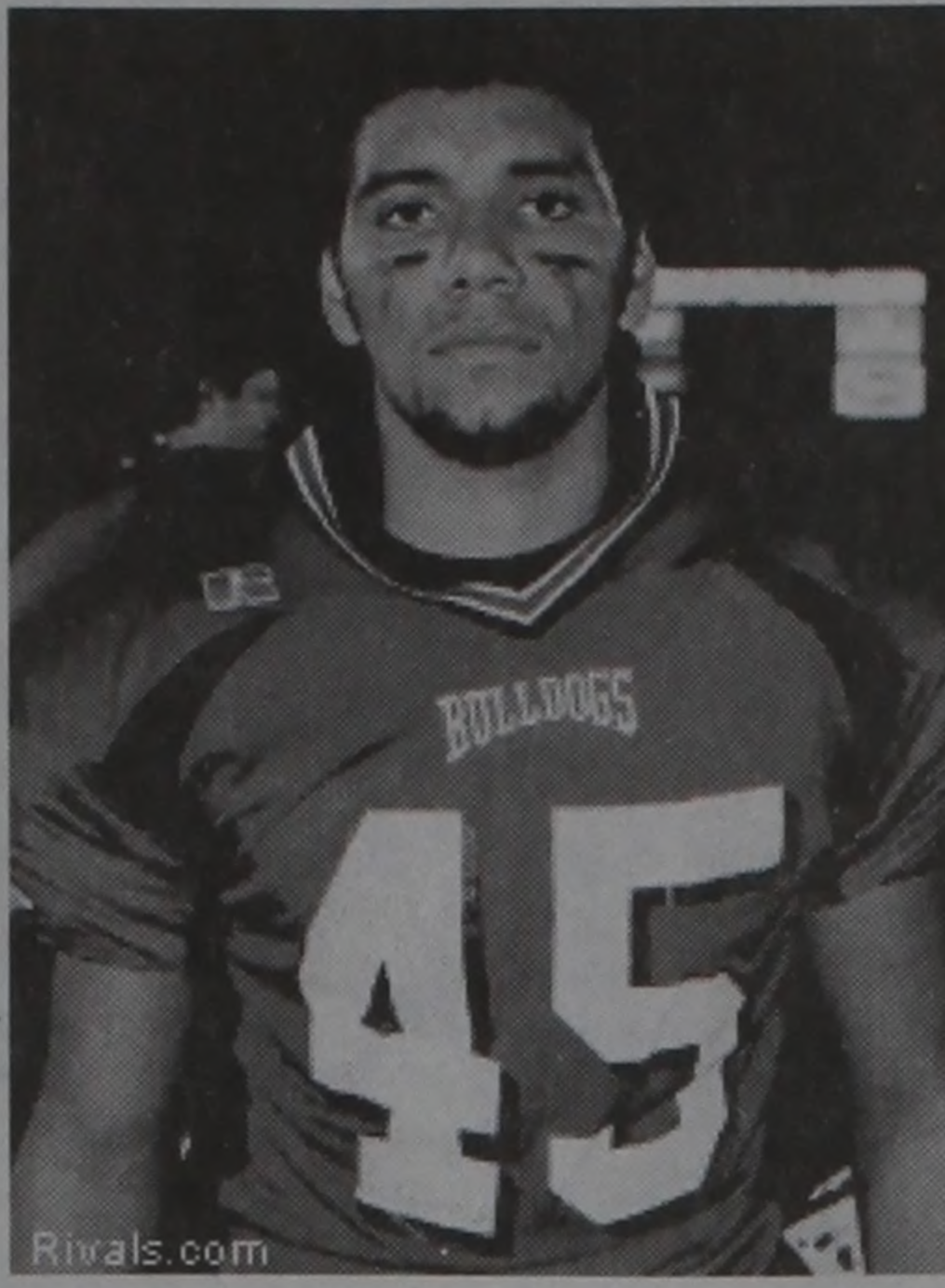
UnitedTexas

Tejada Embraces Role As Hispanic Role Model

Part of Alex Tejada misses playing soccer. The sport, after all, helped shape his childhood and his identity. Tejada's grandparents and uncles played soccer in El Salvador, and his father still competes in a 35-and-over league in Rogers. Tejada saw himself as a soccer player as well. He played soccer immediately after school, and he recalled a game always being on the TV at home. "That's what I was, a soccer player throughout my whole life -- until about ninth grade. Tejada started to play American football. "But my heart was still playing soccer," he said.

Tejada is viewed as both a celebrity and a pioneer in the local Hispanic community because of the opportunities his strong leg has provided him in football. College football coaches started

paying attention to Tejada after he kicked a pair of 52-yard field goals as a freshman. By his senior year at Springdale High School, he was rated as one of the nation's top kickers. Tejada has accepted a scholarship to play for the University of Arkansas, where he's expected to win the starting kicking job in the fall. Many Hispanic leaders and football coaches believe Tejada's success



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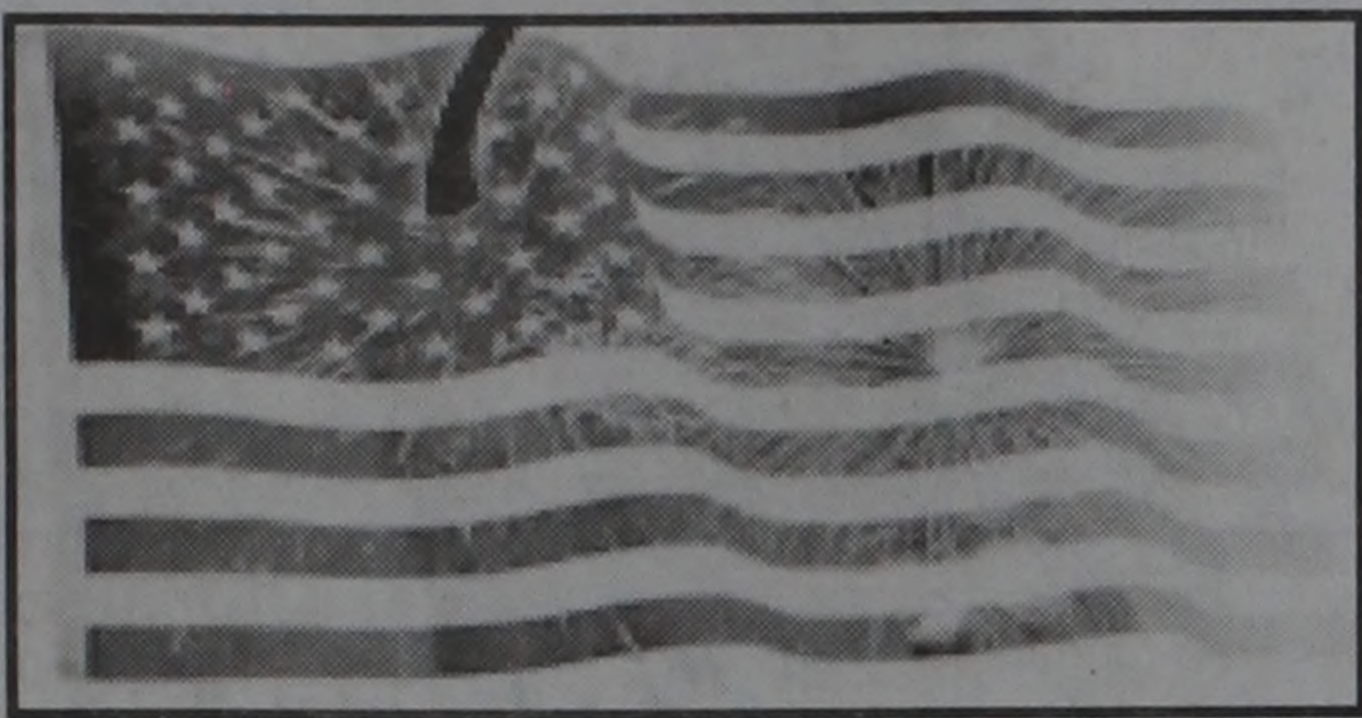
will make it more acceptable for Hispanic students in Northwest Arkansas to take up football instead of playing soccer like their parents. "Now Latinos are looking to the American culture because there are more opportunities. For example, Alex Tejada," said Carlos Chicas, the sports anchor for Univision, the local Span-

ish-speaking TV station. "He used to be a phenomenal soccer player, but the future was not so bright in soccer. So he chose to go with football." Tejada has already helped open the door for more Hispanics teenagers to play football. "I think he will (be a role model) because he stands out as a Hispanic, and not many Hispanics play American football," said Chris Melchor, a 17-year-old defensive end for Springdale High School whose parents are from Mexico. "With the success that he's had, that will encourage many kids to play." Tejada often signs autographs and poses for pictures when he visits local elementary and middle schools to talk to Hispanic students about trying football. He's also received phone calls from several Hispanic teenagers who asked for his help in football. And when Tejada

announced at a news conference he was committing to sign with the Razorbacks, he gave a big nod to the Hispanic community by making the announcement in both English and Spanish. "I just wanted to represent myself, and never forget where I come from and never forget my family or my parents or my roots," Tejada said of his decision to speak Spanish at the news conference. "It meant a lot to me, (and) it meant to a lot to my parents for me to do that." Tejada had no intention of being an ambassador for football. He thought his future was in soccer. He didn't try kicking from a tee until prior to his ninth-grade year when he was an assistant for Springdale Southwest Junior High School football coach Bruce Matthews. The coaches were looking for a kicker, and they knew he had a strong leg from

his soccer background. Tejada's first love remained soccer. He dreamed of playing soccer for a Division 1 school. Those plans changed during his junior year of high school when he dislocated his left kneecap for the second time in as many years. "It was just like, 'I'm through with this sport, and football is my future,'" Tejada said. He helped market Springdale High School's powerful football program to the Hispanic community. And his decision to play for Arkansas is expected to make the Razorbacks' football team more popular among Hispanics. "That means a lot to me," Tejada said of the reception he's received from the Hispanic community. "Being a role model and being a pioneer just means a lot to me. That's what I want to be, and that's what I've always wanted to be."

Happy 4th of July



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Outgoing Ochoa new face of golf

The burly ex-cop has trekked more than 400 miles alongside her, awestruck by a swing that touches off music in his head, a smile that sparks images of his daughter, and a personality that is every bit as warm as the country she represents.

"Step for step," said David Beare, seemingly oblivious to the heat and humidity at the recent McDonald's LPGA Championship. "With every step she takes, I'm convinced she is one step closer to the Hall of Fame."

He's talking about Lorena Ochoa, the world's No. 1-ranked women's golfer - a player who has drawn comparisons to Tiger Woods, not only for her philanthropy off the course but her ability to draw new fans onto it.

"I've never asked her for an autograph or photo. I don't want to take up her time. I just want to watch her," the retired Connecticut state trooper said.

So he does, going from stop to

stop on the LPGA Tour, watching from outside the ropes as the slightly built native of Guadalajara, Mexico, racks up wins and adds fans, all the while maintaining a touching bond with her family.

Beare wasn't at Cherry Hills Country Club two years ago to see Ochoa misplay her drive on No. 18 into the water for a quadruple bogey, sinking her dreams of winning the 2005 U.S. Women's Open for that elusive first major.

But he was there last year as she ended Annika Sorenstam's five-year reign as LPGA player of the year, and this April when she overtook the Swede in the world rankings.

And he was there Sunday when Ochoa, 25, cleared one more hurdle, winning the Wegmans LPGA in dramatic fashion after going 0-for-4 in her previous playoff appearances.

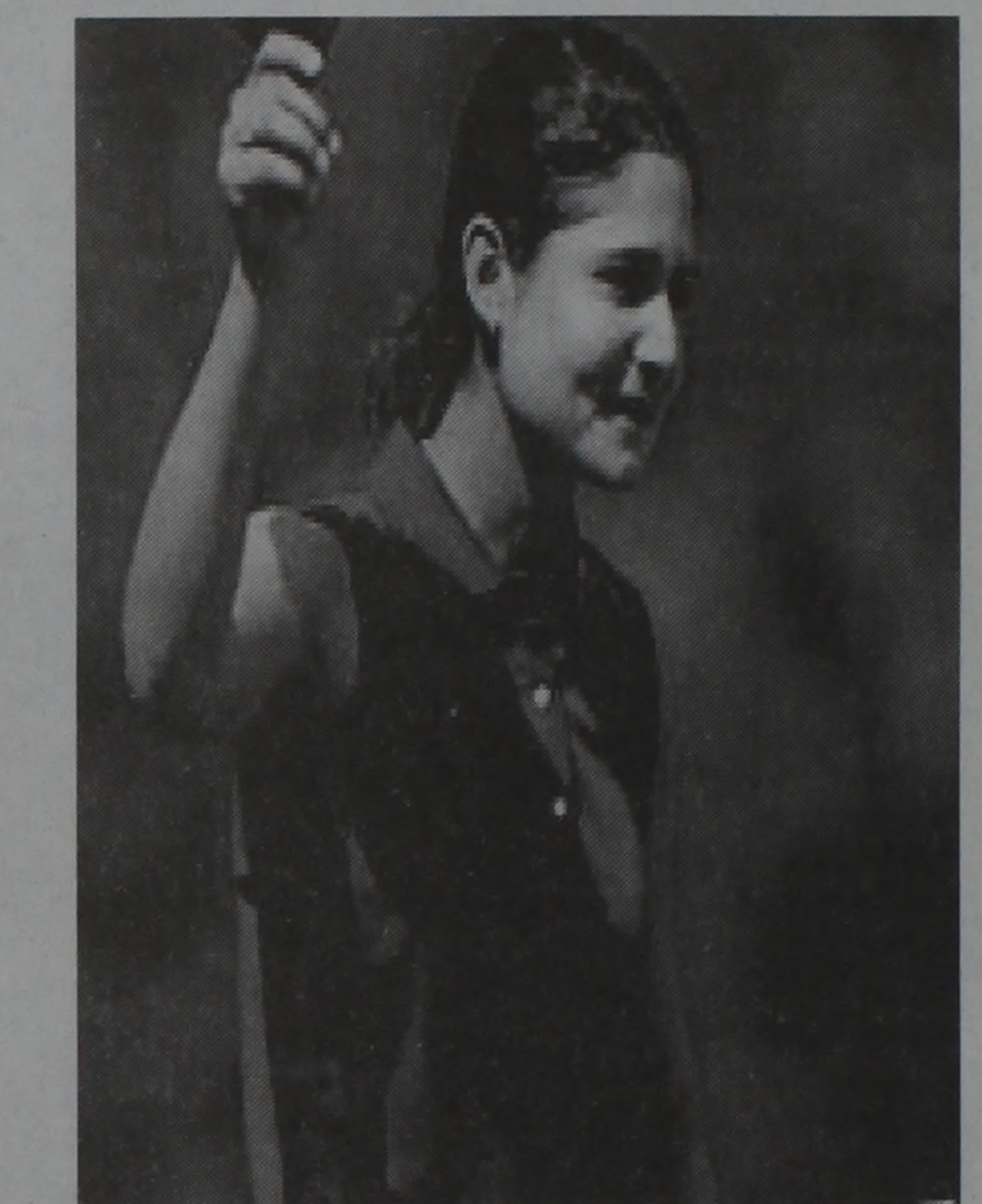
Now the young woman who has scaled 17,323-foot Mount Iztaccihuatl in Mexico has just one more mountain to climb - winning a major championship. She'll get that chance starting Thursday when the U.S. Women's Open tees off at Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club in Southern Pines, N.C.

"I'm ready, I'm prepared," said Ochoa, her dark hair still wet from the champagne dousing she received after the playoff win. "I like my chances."

Remembering her roots Since joining the tour in 2003, Ochoa has won 12 times, with another 16 runner-up finishes.

Last year, she led the tour in money won (\$2.6 million) and scoring average (69.2), and was also voted The Associated Press female athlete of the year and awarded the National Sports Prize in Mexico, the country's highest honor for an athlete.

Like top-ranked Woods, Ochoa



understands and embraces her job as a role model.

She lobbies the Mexican government for public golf courses, has raised money through her foundation to build schools in poverty-stricken areas and has already built public golf academies in Guadalajara and Mexico City (with plans to open a third in Monterrey).

"She knows she comes from a privileged family and that people who come from her country are not predominantly privileged," Sirak said.

"She appreciates her background."

She also appreciates those who follow her, never missing a chance to connect, whether it's with the Mexican course workers before a tournament, or fans such as Beare who have become visible outside the ropes.

After seeing her refreshing personality, it's easy to see why so

many come back to watch again and again.

"They follow me in good times and in bad times, follow me 18 holes, and they enjoy it," Ochoa said.

"It means a lot. I always try to be patient and nice with spectators because I think they are the most important thing."

Sometimes, however, that can mean getting swept up in a tide of emotion.

When she won in Arizona this spring, more than a dozen Mexican-Americans rushed the 18th green after she sank the final putt.

"She said, 'I just kept hugging strangers. I didn't know what to do,'" recalled Jonathan Ochoa, who is filming a documentary on his famous cousin.

"But she did it happily, and the ceremony went on. She represents a whole country, and she does that willingly."

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Plans and Specifications are available from Vaughn Construction (Houston and Lubbock) and/or Midwest Reproduction (Lubbock). A deposit of \$250.00 per set of Proposal Documents is required. Deposit checks shall be made payable to Texas Tech. The deposit will be refunded if documents are returned in good condition within Thirty (30) days of the opening of Proposals.

Plans and Specifications will also be available for review at the following plan rooms or associations:

- AGC - Lubbock
- AGC - El Paso
- AGC - Houston
- AGC - San Antonio
- AGC - Austin
- AGC - Dallas
- F.W. Dodge
- Midwest Reproduction - Lubbock

There will be a Pre-Proposal Conference on July 9, 2007 from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, at the Law School Faculty Conference Room - Room 222 - 1802 Hartford, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

It is the policy of Texas Tech University System and Vaughn Construction to actively seek the involvement of Historically Underutilized Businesses in its construction projects. The Texas Tech University System and Vaughn Construction recognize probable subcontracting opportunities for Historical Underutilized Businesses in this proposal package.

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Christina Aguilera is reading scripts

Christina Aguilera says she's reading scripts in search of the right role to launch an acting career.

"I am looking forward to moving into another form of what I feel is another creative outlet for me and that would be acting," the 26-year-old singer told reporters Monday in Shanghai, where she was to hold her first mainland China concert.

Aguilera, who married music executive Jordan Bratman in 2005, said she was taking her time reading and understanding the film industry.

"It is something that, when I attempt to do it, I want to do it right so it's important for me that I do choose the right first role for myself," said Aguilera, who will perform Tuesday night at the Shanghai Grand Stage, host to earlier performances by the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton and the Black Eyed Peas.

Aguilera found fame alongside boy bands and Britney Spears, but caused a stir with the release of her second album, 2002's "Stripped," with its accompany-



ing sexual imagery and overall bad-girl attitude. The album received mixed critical reviews but racked up strong sales.

Her latest record, the double album, "Back to Basics," and its accompanying tour were inspired by the blues, jazz and early soul music of the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, along with the sexy, grown-up look of Hollywood vamps such as

Marilyn Monroe, Jean Harlow and Veronica Lake.

"I wanted to revert back to a time and place in music that truly inspired me the most," Aguilera said.

Her sexy act apparently didn't faze China's cultural officials, who told the Rolling Stones not to sing some of their racier hits and canceled a performance by Jay-Z after deeming the rapper's lyrics "vulgar."

Yet, Aguilera said she was already moving on, gathering inspiration for the next album, which she promised would be "completely different from this one."

Aguilera offered no hints what that new style would be, but did make one promise: It will be a single album. "We're going to keep it short and sweet," she said.

Food For Thought

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists.

Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated.

But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged:

"For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America.

**Note: On July 4, 2001, in Ann Landers column, a history buff from Dallas shared further information. He stated that most of the above was true, but unfortunately, a lot of the information was incorrect or misleading. He shared the following:

No signer was killed outright by the British, and only one, Richard Stockton, is said to have been imprisoned solely for having signed the Declaration of Independence. The others were

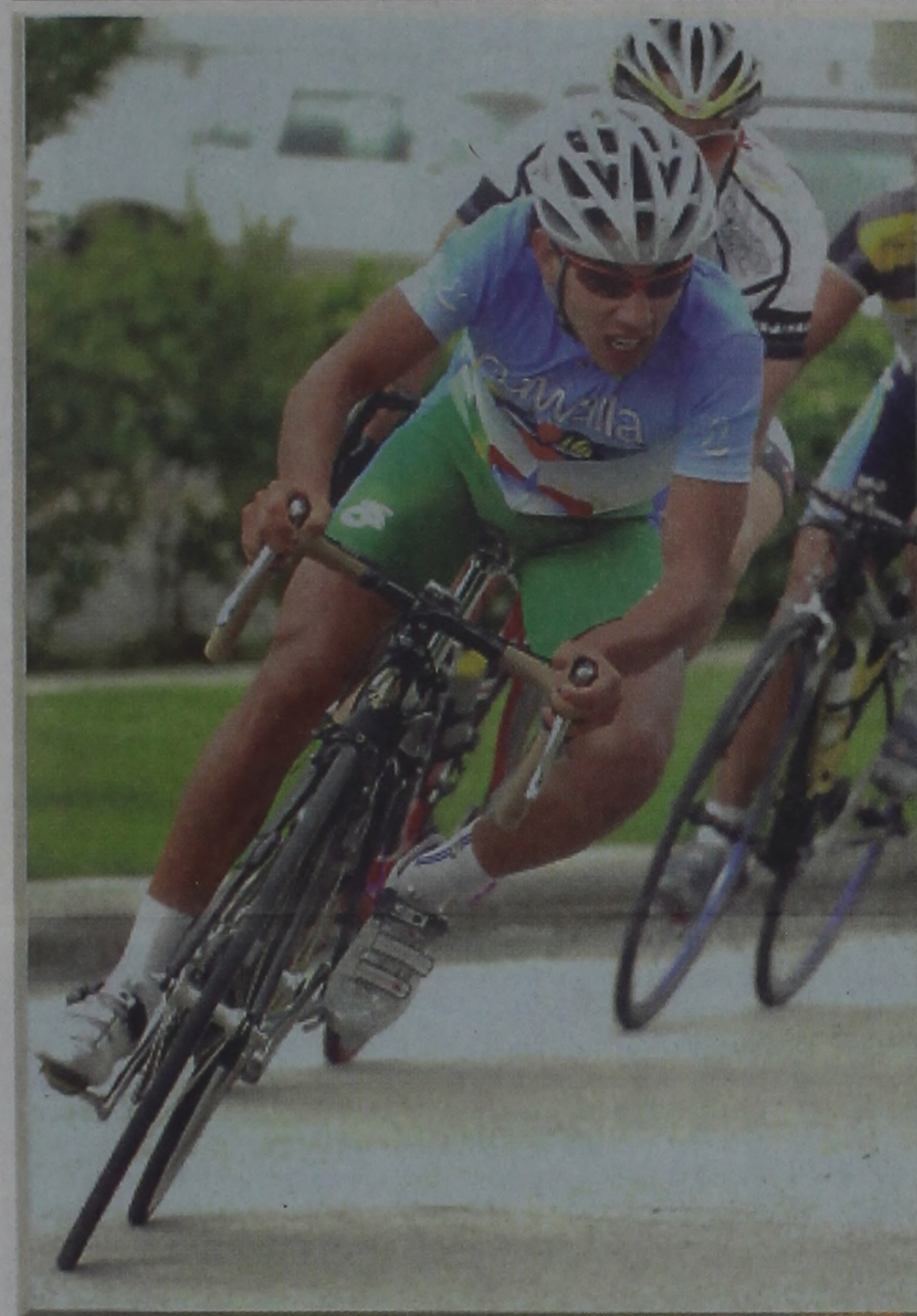
captured while fighting in the army and were treated just like any other prisoner of war (which was fairly harshly), but they were not tortured. Of the 56 signers, 17 (not nine) held commissions in the army or did medical duty during the war. Many of those whose property was looted or destroyed managed to re-establish themselves financially after the war.

Carter Braxton did suffer financial hardship because of the British, but he retained other holdings. What ruined him were commercial setbacks after the war. Thomas McKean did not die in poverty. In fact, he was quite wealthy when he died at the age of 83 in 1817. No one knows for sure if Thomas Nelson's home was fired upon (the source of this story is family legend), but he heard the home was turned into a tourist attraction after the war, and additional cannonball holes were added for "authenticity."

The other facts are essentially correct, but they give the impression that these men died as a result of wounds suffered in the war, or they died in poverty. In reality, the majority survived the war and rebuilt their fortunes.

The signers of the Declaration of Independence knew they could have been targeted by the British as traitors. They showed tremendous courage and bravery by willingly putting their names on a document that could bring about their deaths. They were remarkable men. We do not need to embellish the truth.

**Additional Note: It seems there has been some controversy about the author of the above. Some insisted the original piece was written by the father of Rush Limbaugh, Jr. (Rush, Sr.) Another said the author was Peter McWilliams, a libertarian writer. Others say the true author is Gary Hildreth of Erie, PA.



David Rendon of Lubbock, son of Sam and Marta Rendon, recently won a race in Austin at the Copperas Cove State Championship Festival. David won first place in the Category 3 Men's race. He is sponsored by the Odwalla Fruit and Whole Grain Bar Company. He is currently headed toward Wisconsin and Chicago where he will compete in a 3 week race.



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