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# El Editor

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Lubbock/West Texas Region

## Texas Judge Rules in Favor of Texas LULAC on "Equal Education Opportunities"

By Abel Cruz

In Texas, students who speak primarily Spanish have always been somewhat challenged when being taught because for whatever reason they have limited English speaking skills.

Last year U.S. Senior District Judge William Wayne Justice had

ruled that the state was doing an adequate job of educating those students.

This year it's a different story. This past Friday, Justice ruled that the state has until the end of January 2009 to establish a language



program which will ensure that all students enjoy equal education opportunities.

According to a press release sent to media from Texas LULAC: "In 2006 our State Board authorized our continued lawsuit against the Texas Education Agency regarding Bilingual programs. (We) are pleased to announce that our law-

suit was upheld".

The release goes on to recognize the many individuals who assisted or contributed to the effort; including Marcelo Tafoya; former radio station owner here in Lubbock and the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund; and the American G.I Forum; according to Roger C. Rocha, Jr., Immediate Past State

Director - Texas LULAC

A MALDEF spokesman characterized the ruling as the "most comprehensive legal decision concerning the civil rights of English language learners in the last 25 years."

In the ruling, Justice said that the Texas Education Agency is "violating the civil rights of Spanish speaking students under the Federal Education Opportunity Act"; according to a story in the Dallas Morning News.

In his ruling, Wayne noted that "the failure of secondary (limited English proficient) students under every metric clearly and convincingly demonstrates student failure, and accordingly, the failure of the English as a Second Language secondary program in Texas".

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) was quick to respond saying that "We're continuing to study this latest ruling, but it is likely that we will ask the attorney general to appeal it," said agency spokeswoman Debbie Ratcliffe.

One of the major concerns of the legislature; if the ruling holds and

is not reversed on appeal is the potential costs associated with the ruling. Essentially, the state agencies governing these types of programs must find a way to create a program which will satisfy the ruling's requirement that all students must receive "equal educational opportunities". That can be a daunting task in a state which is continuously embroiled in school funding issues and just recently passed legislation reformulating how property taxes may be used as the primary source of funding for public schools.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's office was also studying the ruling and "weighing the prospects of an appeal" according to an Abbott spokesperson.

In his ruling, Justice noted the achievement gap in 8th grade reading never went lower than 48 when comparing limited English speakers and all other students. In math, the gap was never better than 31 and in science the gap never improved from 30 percentage points.

(Continued Page 2)

## Will New Animal Shelter be Built in McKenzie park?

Not if residents of the Guadalupe Neighborhood can help it. Last week, District 1 Councilwoman Linda DeLeon met with some officers of the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association in an effort to convince them that the new city animal shelter should be built inside McKenzie park.

But association officer Carlos Quirino Jr. says that perhaps Association members might be convinced if they were assured that a swimming pool would be built in the area plus also that the City would show more of an effort to use some of the Gateway funds to improve and renovate roads in the area and also that those funds might become available for the renovation of the methods of warning for trains that pass through the area.

Although City official Marsha Reed was present at the meeting to discuss the railway crossings, Ms. Reed gave little hope that money would be available to make the changes.

"It was kind of like they told us the railway crossing test were very well accepted and a good idea but that we have no money," said Quirino.

Albert Gutierrez, also a resident of the Guadalupe area said he still had questions. "It was funny how Linda went to Clapp with flyers opposing the building of it and when she came over here, all she had was information about how it was going to help the neighborhood. It seemed like the plan was already decided"

Gutierrez asked how now they wanted to spend so many millions of dollars yet when they asked for a neighborhood center or restrooms at Guadalupe park, there was no money. "I can sort of see how the animal shelter with all the plans, will help to beautify that part of the neighborhood but what about the real needs of the neighborhood?"

## Neugebauer Votes no on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Rescue; Joined by Cornyn and Hutchison

By Abel Cruz

Fannie and Freddie two giants in the housing mortgage industry just got saved by the federal government; using tax payer dollars.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as they are known were saved from possible disaster after both the House and Senate voted in favor of a bill which makes money available to each to allow them to skate on easy street after making some bad lending decisions.

The estimates by the Congressional Budget Office say that the cost for this tax payer bailout will run upwards of 41.7 billion dollars. And even by Washington standard that is a steep price for tax payers to pay for the overzealous lending practices which allowed the CEO's and other high level managers to enrich themselves.

The national media reported this week that both CEO's received bonuses of over \$14 million dollars each last year, despite the lending debacle. Now that is corporate greed for you.

The bill allows the Treasury Department to "loan" money to the tune of over \$25 billion dollars. The price tag could go as high as \$100 billion with \$16.8 billion of that being paid through higher taxes.

On the local front; Congressman Randy Neugebauer voted against the bill; as did Texas Senator's John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Neugebauer's vote came a little over a year after he sponsored an amendment to a house bill which in essence relaxed "systemic risk protections" for both lending institutions just last year. It could be argued that lax or reduced oversight could have led to some of the lending practices which resulted in this fiasco.

In a Wall Street Journal editorial; the editorial staff takes Neugebauer to task; here's the excerpt:

"On May 22, 2007, it was Texas Republican Randy Neugebauer who sponsored an amendment to water down systemic risk protections for Fannie and Freddie. It passed 383 to 36, with 162 Republicans voting with the companies. Now these same Republicans claim to be appalled by this taxpayer rescue. What a spectacle."

Here are some of the bill's highlights:  
Loans: Allow homeowners to refinance into government-backed mortgages that cost less.

New agency: Create a new federal agency to oversee mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Lending: Allow an increase in government lending to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for 18 months

Grants: Provide \$4 billion in block grants for communities to buy foreclosed properties

Growth: Stimulate the housing market through 15 billion in tax benefits, including a tax credit of as much as \$7,500 for first time home buyers.

This past Wednesday, the president signed the bill which was also passed in the Senate; although he had threatened to veto it due to the \$4 billion dollar provision in block grant money.

One of the bill's major components is it will allow homeowners who cannot afford their monthly payments due to high interest rates to refinance "into government-backed loans" through FHA.



Veneno Fastpitch Softball Club will be headed toward El Paso, Texas this coming weekend to compete in the World Series Tournament. The Club sponsored by El Editor Newspaper raised over \$8,000 in one month to be able to go to the competition. They will compete with teams throughout the United States. Individual pictures of the players are featured this week on page 6 of this week's El Editor. Photo by Maribel Perez

## El Editor Announces Web Site Enhancements

By Abel Cruz

El Editor Newspaper is pleased to announce web site enhancements to its online newspaper digital edition at www.eleditor.com

The change came about through a cooperative effort between El Editor and PR Newswire and Hispanic Digital Network. The changes became effective on July 22, 2008.

Changes include:

The result is a new home page with more eye pleasing graphics and easier navigation

New video capabilities - For now we are able to post YouTube videos; see the left side of the page for video listings or click on the video icon on top of page. Persons wishing to add you tube videos are encouraged to contact us at acruzts@aol.com and we will upload video in accordance with our editing policies. Presently; we have two videos; one is from an ABC 20/20 news program and includes footage about the Chippendale incident here in Lubbock which aired on ABC on July 22 of this year.

It includes a brief interview with former Lubbock Mayor David Miller; you have got to see it. Then we have an oldie for us oldies; a video of Tejano singer Joe Bravo singing his 1970's hit "Que Casualidad".

More photographs - a capability to upload more photographs. If you want to submit your photos; just send us an email with a Jpg attachment and we will upload.

Website visitors will now have the option of registering on our website. Just click on the register icon on the right side of the home page and follow the instructions.

In addition; we also have a discussion board where visitor's can engage in discussions with other readers; all we ask is that readers be respectful of each other and each other's opinions.

And finally; we have the forums section where we will post questions so that readers may respond. We hope you will give us a look and tell us what you think in our forums section.

Thank you for your continued support and for taking the time to visit www.eleditor.com

For suggestions or comments or even complaints; Email: acruzts@aol.com or eleditor@sbcglobal.net

## Cornyn Chooses Partisanship Over Tax Relief, Disaster Assistance For Texans

Houston - There he goes again. John Cornyn voted - the third time - to side with national Republicans to block a package of much needed tax cuts and disaster relief for Texans. The bill is full of initiatives important to Texans, but Cornyn continued to march lock-step with his party to block legislation critical to Texas families. While Texans have worked hard to meet the challenge of higher gas prices, increasing tuition costs, and devastating disasters, Cornyn has failed them in Washington.

An expansion of the child tax credit for Texas families. Nearly 345,000 new Texas children would have been eligible for the child tax credit, and nearly 1.2 million would have received an expanded tax credit providing much needed tax relief in the midst of an economic downturn.

Tax incentives for wind energy and renewable energy producers. The bill contained \$18 billion in renewable energy incentives that would have helped lessen our dependence on foreign oil and created Texas jobs.

Extension of research and development tax credit, which helps Texas businesses innovate. Texas is one of two states with the most companies utilizing this provision.

Disaster Relief for the victims of Hurricane Dolly and rampant wildfires.

Tax relief from the alternative minimum tax. "Cornyn has once again chosen to blindly follow national Republicans, even as it comes at the expense of Texas families," said Noriega spokesman Martine Apodaca "Partisanship has a price, and unfortunately for Texas families, Cornyn's spineless obedience to party bosses means they'll miss out on expanded child tax credits, and disaster relief. Now is not the time for partisanship. It's time for leadership."

This is just the latest in a series of Cornyn votes that show his voting record is out of touch with the problems Texans are facing. Saying one thing in Texas and doing another in Washington seems to be par for the course

## News Briefs Suicide in Aztlan Park

The body of 25 year old Cynthia Baeza of Levelland was discovered by a passerby this past Saturday at Aztlan Park.

The discovery was made at around 6pm by someone who then called the Lubbock police to the scene. Very little information was available; as police quickly cordoned off the area and did not allow anyone close to the scene. But all reports pointed to suicide as the cause of the young woman's death.

Services for Baeza were held in Levelland this past Tuesday morning.

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Judiciary Committee Votes to Find Karl Rove in Contempt

The House Judiciary Committee voted 20-14 to hold former advisor to President Bush and White House political director in contempt for refusing to testify and ignoring a congressional subpoena.

The committee has been feuding with the White House to get not only Rove but other White House operatives to testify concerning a variety of matters. This contempt charge resulted from Rove's refusal to testify about what role he and by extension the White House played in the prosecution of a former Democratic governor of Alabama.

The President has invoked executive privilege to keep former and current aides and advisors from testifying; Rove is among that group.

The vote by the Judiciary Committee still must pass the House before the charge can be applied and additional steps taken to compel Rove to testify or risk going to jail.

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## Obama or "Obamonos?"

This past Tuesday, Obama for America and the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC announced an unprecedented effort and historic commitment to engage potential Hispanic voters to vote for Barack Obama for President in November.

A press conference was held at DNC headquarters in SE Washington. According to the DNC, Obama has already spent more "on Hispanic outreach than any previous presidential campaign".

Speculation has been centered on whether Hispanic voters will support a black candidate for president. El Editor has talked with several individuals and their feeling is a mixed bag. While some speculate that Obama may win a few Hispanic votes; most remain convinced that the tensions between Hispanics and blacks remain and that alone will keep Hispanics from fully supporting Obama.

In Lubbock, there has been no active movement by any Hispanic based group or organization to actively campaign for Obama.

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## From the Bridge to Nowhere to a Bridge to Jail for Republican Senator

By Abel Cruz

The Alaska Senator, once so powerful that he once managed to get the Senate to vote to build a bridge to nowhere is on the verge of going to jail.

Alaska Senator and senior republican in the Senate Ted Stevens was indicted on Tuesday on seven counts of making false statements on his financial disclosure forms.

The indictment details how Stevens concealed his acceptance of more than \$250,000 dollars worth of benefits from Veco Corporation and its former CEO Bill Allen; who was with the oil services company from 1999-2006.

Other benefits include "substantial home improvements to one of Steven's homes; household goods, and automobiles; according to the allegations. There are also claims in the indictment that Stevens used his position in Congress to help Veco; the oil services company.

Stevens was perhaps the most powerful Senator during the Republican majority reign since the early 90's. He is the longest-serving Republican senator in history, ranks seventh in all-time Senate seniority. Stevens was chairman of the all powerful appropriations Committee from 1997 to 2005 and is now the ranking Republican on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committees.

Hopefully, not for long; after the trial.

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# Editorial

## We Say No to New Shelter at McKenzie Park

Our question this week is why is an animal shelter bad for Clapp Park but good for McKenzie Park.

Less than two weeks ago, District 1 Councilwoman Linda DeLeon was conducting a protest meeting with residents in District 2 and from other districts; and now we hear that she has met with some Guadalupe Neighborhood Association officers in an effort to convince them that the shelter should be built in McKenzie Park.

As they say on the street: What's up with that?

How can it be so bad for the Clapp Park neighborhood residents and so good for a park frequented by not only Guadalupe neighborhood residents but by residents from all over this city and out of town visitors?

How about the foul odor of burning dead dogs and the environmental concerns which were mentioned at the Clapp Park protest meeting? Will they magically disappear just because the proposed location will change? Or were those mentioned just to fuel the emotions of the people who were there?

And what of the residents who are opposed to it for whatever reason? What about their views and opinions?

We acknowledge that we do not know how other council members stand on this new proposed location; if this is a council initiative; or just Councilwoman DeLeon testing the waters.

Either way; the way this issue is being handled smells of DeLeon politics; which frankly we are quite tired of.

We call on Mayor Tom Martin and the full city council to make a final decision on the location and the amount to be spent on the shelter sooner rather than later; so that we can all move on to the

## The New Lubbock Chamber Hispanic Division

It was in 1974 when Bidal Aguero, the publisher of this newspaper began to go from business to business, most of which were small businesses, to begin to talk to them about the idea of forming a new organization that would serve to help their business by providing educational workshops.

The proposed organization would at the same time provide an opportunity for them to talk to other business owners. After several meetings an organization called COMA, Comerciantes Organizados Mexico Americanos, was born.

The organization was soon to grow and become well respected in the community and in the eighties would evolve into a Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber soon grew to state-wide recognition and became one of the founding members of the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce.

Recent news has revealed that a merger between the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has been completed and a new board of directors has been seated to supposedly continue the program of work the Hispanic Chamber followed for many years.

Those seated on the Board are Velma Medina with Coldwell Banker; Victor Salazar with American State Bank; Rudy Rosales; general manager of Montelongo's Mexican Restaurant; and Noe Valles of Glasheen, Valles & Dehoyos.

Since negotiations began for the merger, many of the older members of the Chamber remained adamant that a merger would simply mean that

1. That there would be a loss of identity,
2. That the small Hispanic business will lose all type of representation and services and
3. That the Hispanic chamber would be taken over or absorbed by the majority chamber.

In a statement written and sent to a few of the Chamber members Aguero wrote: "It is my opinion that the LHC has really nothing to lose with 'merging' with the majority Chamber because in this instance, we have much to gain and little to lose.

As some say we must commit to progress when the opportunity to advance is available. In other words although our accounting has been done by hand by a trusted friend for many years, why continue with the old ways when a computer is available and can do the work more efficiently.

The proposal offered by the Chamber, that I hope all of you have received by now, gives us the opportunity to essentially "start over" with the main advantage being that we can maintain our identity, maybe not as a "Chamber", but as an organization or a definite identifiable division of the main Chamber and can work for the progress and needs of Hispanic businesses. We can also count as a main advantage the opportunity for us to really start providing the services needed and deserved by our members by a competent and fully compensated staff.

But we must bear in mind, that all of these advantages and the future of the organization are dependent on the fact that we must assure and must elect a viable and working Board of Directors that will take matters in hand and will not permit that the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber be absorbed. It is up to us.

We publish Aguero statement at this time when the new board of the Hispanic Division is being named in order for the new Board to consider because it is a fact that the survival of a Hispanic business organization that will have adequate resources and will continue to serve our community will be UP TO US.

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## Obama – "I'm America's Only Hope"

By: Ysidro Gutierrez

Most Americans remember the day in New Hampshire when Hillary Clinton cried in front of national TV news reporters and said, (paraphrased) "I have so many ideas for this country and I just don't want to see us fall backwards ... some of us are right, some of us are ready and some of us know what we'll do on day one," Hillary, really did believe that she alone could save the country.

There must be something in the water Democratic Candidates drink. No one can say what it might be but, whatever it is, it seems to be contagious because this week Barack Obama contracted it. Like Hillary, he too believes that he and he alone can save the country. He said, "I'm the ONLY one who can return America to traditional values."

John McCain is the luckiest Republican alive. During the primary he cancelled his first trip to Lubbock because he was broke, in debt and his campaign was in shambles. No one held out any hope for him. But, John, the comeback kid, McCain rose from the ashes like the phoenix.

Seems John's luck is holding out and his lucky-charm is Barack Obama. Obama's comment is not only narcissistic but elitist. Only an elitist is so out-of-touch with the average American that he would fail to recognize that American voters despise politicians who worship themselves.

The list of Obama's elitist blunders is getting longer everyday, and all of them are of his own doing. He refused to wear an American flag lapel pin. He dangled his arms in a limp manner during the pledge of allegiance. He said people cling to religion and guns out of desperation and he failed to visit wounded American military personnel in the hospital. If any American needed a reason not to vote for him, Obama provided ample reasons and more.

For many Americans, Obama's slight lead in the polls is a mystery. This week's trip to Europe should have catapulted him to a double digit lead. Over 250,000 adoring Germans gathered to see him and he was welcomed in all the European capitals. He should have moved ahead but didn't.

On the surface, Obama's reception in Europe appears beneficial but the reality is that American's aren't impressed by European gov-

ernment or society much of which is laced with elements of socialism, pacifism, appeasement, liberalism and Marxism. These things Americans loathe.

The European love-fest did nothing to boost him in the polls and it will not help him win American votes. It may very well have the opposite effect. It may plant doubts that will grow in the minds of the American voter and ripen by the November Election.

On the domestic side, Obama promises to Tax and Spend. Americans rejected tax and spend policies long ago. This is only one of many ultra-left-wing Democratic Liberal policies that Obama promises for America. This commentator must question whether an informed voter will vote to return to the failed Liberal policies of yore.

On the issue of Abortion, Obama is an extreme liberal. Millions of evangelicals and Catholics will stand firm against Obama's record on abortion. His record is clear. He supports and promotes abortion including the horrendous partial birth abortion. But more alarming to pro-life Christians is Obama's extreme ultra-leftwing liberal position that goes beyond the horrendous partial birth abortion issue. Obama voted against a bill to protect children born alive. Pro-life Christians are horrified by this and feel they have a moral obligation to defend the life of innocent babies.

What about American dependence on foreign oil? Polls show that 75% of the American people favor off-shore drilling for oil, which would help the economy and free the U.S. from foreign entanglements. Yet the Democrats in Congress and Obama, the candidate of "Change" remain steadfastly against this policy. He is either out-of-touch with the will of the American people or he is steadfastly elitist.

Only extreme left wingers remain unconvinced about Obama's unsuitability to assume the duties of the most powerful man in the world. For the rest of us, all doubt vanished when rapper Ludacris endorsed Obama. Just one more reason not to vote for him.

Obama's appeal to Ludacris, his missteps in Europe and his narcissistic and elitist behavior at home have endeared him to John McCain. Obama, by his own hand, is John McCain's best friend.

comment at eleditor@sbcglobal.net

## New Teachers: 'I wasn't prepared for the challenges of teaching in a diverse classroom.'

PR Newswire

NEW YORK, May 21 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Public Agenda and the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality today released research that points to two specific areas where teacher training may be lacking, according to rookie teachers in the trenches and fresh from training: preparedness for the diversity of the contemporary American classroom and teaching students with special needs.

Seventy-six percent of new teachers said that teaching an ethnically diverse student body was covered in their training. But only 39 percent say that their training in this area helps them a lot now that they are in the classroom, which puts their evaluation of the effectiveness of this aspect of their training near the bottom of the list of subjects the new teachers had studied. The survey covered 12 areas of teacher training ranging from direct instruction to their study of history, philosophy and policy debates in public education. No other factor examined in the Public Agenda research showed nearly as great a gap between how many received training in a given area and new teachers' assessments of the effectiveness of said training.

This final report of the "Lessons Learned" series, "Teaching in Changing Times" focuses on the strengths and possible deficits of the training new teachers say they receive. The new report and complete questionnaire are available to media prior to release at: <http://www.publicagenda.org/LessonsLearned3>

The first report in the "Lessons Learned" series (<http://www.publicagenda.org/LessonsLearned1>) described the differences between the views and experiences of new secondary and elementary teachers. The second looked at the views of teachers coming into the field from three prominent alternate route programs (<http://www.publicagenda.org/LessonsLearned2>).

The entire "Lessons Learned: New Teachers Talk About Their Jobs, Challenges and Long-Term Plans" series is online at: <http://www.publicagenda.org/LessonsLearned>.

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## Guest Commentary

### District Attorney Matt Powell and the Lubbock Police

By Charlie Dunn

It's no secret that Lubbock County District Attorney Matt Powell refuses to prosecute police officers.

After all, who could forget the tragic SWAT raid in 2001 in which an LPD officer shot and killed another officer and then covered it up for three days while an innocent citizen was accused of capital murder?

Although the City of Lubbock paid over a million dollars to settle the wrongfully accused citizen's civil suit, and another million dollars in benefits to the slain officers family, no criminal charges were ever brought against the officer who recklessly fired his weapon. Instead, he was allowed to quietly resign. Unfortunately, the list of police officers given special treatment does not stop with the failed SWAT raid.

Officer Keith Jobe was working off duty at the South Plains Mall when he was accused of stalking, sexually harassing and attempting to take nude pictures of a minor who also worked in the mall. He was allowed to resign as an LPD officer without criminal charges only to reappear later in the in the Dallas area as a motorcycle cop. He recently resigned after being accused by a citizen of charges similar to those that cost him his job in Lubbock.

Officer Blake Littlejohn was accused by a Lubbock woman of aggravated sexual assault after he stopped her for a routine traffic violation. He was allowed to resign and was charged by Matt Powell's office, not with the offense that he committed, but with the lesser offense of violating the constitutional rights of the young woman. He was allowed a plea bargain in which he plead no contest to a misdemeanor and received six months probation.

Another officer was charged with driving while intoxicated in his police car after leaving a party attended by other members of the LPD who had vandalized the officers city owned vehicle. No officers were ever charged with destroying city property.

The latest example of special treatment given by Matt Powell to Lubbock Police Officers is the case of LPD officer Kimberly "Nikki" Diaz.

Diaz was indicted by a Lubbock County Grand Jury on May 1, 2007 for three counts of injury to a child and one count of tampering with a witness. The Grand Jury alleged that Diaz hit, threw hot liquid on and bit one of her children. Although the Grand Jury set her bond at \$150,000, the Sheriff, with the approval of the District Attorneys office, allowed Diaz to get out of jail without posting a surety bond based only upon her written promise to appear. If she violates that promise, the County will have no property or bond to execute against. A condition of her bond was that she have no contact with the alleged victim or her other two children.

Shortly after her indictment, Nikki Diaz's attorney requested a speedy trial and the case was scheduled for trial beginning July 16, 2007. Nikki Diaz happens to be married to Evaristo "Chico" Diaz who is a Lieutenant in the LPD.

To prepare for trial, Diaz's attorney subpoenaed the internal affairs records of Lt. Diaz as well as just about every high ranking police officer employed by the city, including former police Chief Claude Jones. Lawyers for the city immediately moved to prevent the testimony and subpoenas. Although the public record is murky, I have attempted to piece together the sequence of events which happened after Diaz's defense attorney attempted to involve LPD administration in the defense of his client.

On June 6, 2007, Judge Underwood partially granted the City's motion to prevent the discovery of the internal affairs file but did not rule on the witness testimony. At the same time, the District Attorney filed a motion to have Nikki Diaz submit to a psychiatric exam and for permission to bring up her prior bad acts which are alleged to include an assault allegation in Scurry County in 1998, contraband in a correctional facility in Scurry County in 1999, and numerous aggravated assaults against Chico Diaz between May 1, 2001 and February 1, 2006. No ruling was ever made by Judge Underwood on those motions.

Suddenly, less than a month before the scheduled July 2007 trial date, the District Attorney made a motion to withdraw from the prosecution on the grounds that members of his office could be called as witnesses in Diaz's trial. This motion was granted by Underwood on July 16, 2007 and Lubbock attorney Tommy Turner was appointed as the special prosecutor.

This is the same Tommy Turner who ran against Matt Powell for District Attorney in the Republican Primary in 2006. Powell based his entire campaign against Turner on Turner's lack of experience for the job because Turner has spent the last 25 years as a civil personal injury trial lawyer. Powell chose Turner over any number of qualified criminal defense lawyers and prosecutors who practice criminal law on a daily basis.

After the Turner appointment, Judge Underwood scheduled Diaz's case for trial beginning July 21, 2008 which was more than 14 months after Diaz's indictment. Despite the trial setting, the case did not go to trial as scheduled and there is no evidence of a plea bargain, motion for continuance or dismissal in the court file. In fact, the file reflects no activity on the case since it was set for trial except that in August of 2007 Turner and the Judge agreed to allow Diaz to have custody of her two children back and allowed her to have supervised visitation with the alleged victim. The supervisor during the visits is Diaz's mother.

The handling of the Diaz case raises many unanswered questions. Why was Diaz allowed to be released from jail on very serious charges without posting a property bond? Why have no public hearings been held on the numerous motions that have been filed in the case? Why haven't the motions been ruled upon? Why was a civil lawyer appointed to prosecute the case? Why is a woman accused of child abuse allowed to have her mother supervise her visits with the victim? Why didn't the case go to trial as scheduled? Why is the public record incomplete?

The citizens of Lubbock deserve to have the answers to these questions and others. Diaz should have her day in court to be judged by a jury of her peers. And most importantly, the criminal justice system must protect the most vulnerable members of our society by making sure that those who are charged with harming children are quickly brought to trial.

This case is another sad example of special treatment by the District Attorney that is provided to members of the Lubbock Police when they are charged with a crime. Because the local media is not covering the developments in this case, as service to the community, I will continue covering this story and asking the hard questions until they are answered.

The citizens of Lubbock County deserve nothing less.

Charlie Dunn is a Lubbock Attorney who practices Civil Law and specializes in Medical Malpractice and Personal Injury; [www.charlesdunn-law.com](http://www.charlesdunn-law.com)

## U.S. Hispanic User Base on Web Growing Faster Than Expected

The growth of U.S. Hispanic population on the Internet has accelerated faster than once expected in recent years. Fifty-two percent of the population are now online, representing 23 million users, according to new report issued by eMarketer – who just two years ago predicted that the Hispanic Web population wouldn't exceed 20 million until the end of the decade. Now, the Web researcher forecasts that 29 million Hispanics will be online by 2012, representing nearly 60 percent of the fast growing population. That growth surge—there were just 15.7 million Hispanics on the Web as recently as 2005—is being driven primarily by the young and native born Hispanics, says eMarketer, rather than immigrants.

This young segment of relatively new Web users, which represents 13.5 percent of the total U.S. Internet population, are generally bilingual—unlike many of their parents—but are not necessarily being reached by brands' ad efforts on mainstream Web sites, found eMarketer. In addition, this swelling collection of wired Hispanics are highly diversified when it comes to ethnic background and regional preference, making them difficult to target for media buyers in a homogenous fashion, according to the report. "The paradox is that the larger this market grows," says Lisa E. Phillips, senior analyst at eMarketer and author of the new report, US Hispanics Online: Demographics, "the more fragmented it becomes."

Unfortunately, from a marketer's point of view, US Hispanics do not constitute a homogeneous market.

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# Homelessness Declines, According to U.S. Report

There was good news Tuesday on the homeless front – but the skeptical reaction to it caused a bit of whiplash.

Nationally, the Bush administration announced that the number of homeless Americans decreased about 12 percent from 2005 to 2007, with an even larger decline – 15 percent – in the number of people who are termed “chronically homeless.”

But in Silicon Valley, many homeless coordinators said the announcement really pointed to a bigger problem in need of a solution: affordable housing to keep people from becoming homeless in the first place.

“It’s great news,” said Chris



Block, chairman of the Santa Clara County Collaborative on Affordable Housing and Homeless Issues. “But the other side of the coin is that you have to look at affordable housing across a very large perspective if we’re ever going to really end homelessness.”

The problem with the report from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, said Block and others, is that the Bush administration has focused mainly on ending “chronic homelessness” – defined as disabled people who have been living on their own on the streets for more than a year or have been homeless at least four times in the past three years.

Block points out that homeless families, by definition, aren’t included in that category. “There are a lot of women and children living on the streets and in the shelters of Silicon Valley right now who aren’t defined as chronic – but they are most certainly still homeless.”

HUD credited the national decline to programs that offer permanent housing and support services for the disabled homeless – the so-called “Housing First” approach that many communities, including Santa Clara County, have adopted.

Margie Matthews, director of the county’s Office of Affordable Housing, said officials in recent years have shifted resources from emergency shelters to transitional and permanent housing. “We are increasingly placing people in permanent supportive housing, as opposed to simply providing them services while they live on the

streets.”

The former approach, she said, may actually have been prolonging homelessness, not decreasing it. Homeless tallies have declined to about 3.8 percent in the valley, a smaller drop than the national average. Experts said the reason is because suburban areas such as the South Bay and the Peninsula tend to have fewer concentrations of hard-core homeless than urban centers such as San Francisco or New York.

Heavier concentrations of homeless not only provide opportunities for dramatic improvement – such as converting transient hotels into permanent housing – but also are easier to count than in spread-out areas like Santa Clara County.

Indeed, the federal report attributes part of the national decline to improved data collection. The data released Tuesday counted the number of homeless people on the street and in emergency shelters on a particular night in January 2007 as recorded by more than 3,800 cities and counties. The data also included, for the first time, a full year of information from 98 communities nationwide, many of which provided more detailed figures than in the past.

Despite the more comprehensive numbers, some homeless advocates said HUD’s report paints too rosy a picture.

“It’s not a true reflection of what’s going on among the homeless population,” said Michael Stoops, acting executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington, D.C. Stoops said there always are some homeless who are not counted, adding that people who are not chronically homeless are getting too little attention from the government.

For example, the report does not take into account the effects of the foreclosure crisis and slowing economy. Many who work with the homeless, including Trish Crowder of San Jose’s Family Supportive Housing, are bracing for more homeless as the nation struggles with ballooning foreclosure rates.

“We serve only families, and since last March, we are almost always full,” said Crowder, whose organization also runs the San Jose Family Shelter. She added that although many of her clients have not lost homes themselves, their landlords may have – putting the tenants on the streets.

“If someone is barely renting,” she said, “then the owner loses the house, it trickles down.”

“El jalapeño es la base de la comida mexicana, si lo dejáramos de usar en los platillos tendríamos que cerrar el negocio”. Con este argumento, Fernando López, explica por qué en su cadena de restaurantes —La Guelaguetza— continúa utilizando esta clase de chiles.

Tras el anuncio de la Oficina de Alimentos y Medicinas (FDA) sobre la presunta implicación de los chiles jalapeños cultivados en México con el brote de salmonela en Estados Unidos, algunos restaurantes y tiendas optaron por retirarlo de sus menús y estantes. Pero no todos se sujetaron al aviso.

En establecimientos del Este de Los Ángeles, Montebello y Pico Rivera, por ejemplo, este producto sigue ofreciéndose a su clientela, sobre todo de origen mexicano.

“Realmente no se pueden substituir”, recaló Armando Barragán,

propietario de los restaurantes Barragán’s.

Para este empresario, los chiles jalapeños aparecen en casi todos sus platillos, por tratarse del ingrediente por excelencia de la cocina mexicana.

“Lo que estamos haciendo es que los lavamos bien, los cocinamos para la salsa”, mencionó Barragán, quien estima atender a unos tres mil comensales cada semana en sus tres sucursales.

La determinación de la FDA de considerar a los jalapeños mexicanos como la causa principal del brote de salmonela surgió a raíz de una muestra tomada de un centro de distribución en McAllen, Texas.

El Centro para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) indica que la entidad donde se ha registrado el mayor número de personas infectadas es Texas (495). En California se han

reportado nueve casos desde abril pasado.

José Urrutia, jefe del Departamento de Alimentos y Lácteos, indicó que los tres distribuidores de alimentos más grandes de la región han retirado del mercado los chiles jalapeños provenientes del vecino país. “En caso de ser necesario, tomaremos acciones más importantes como el retiro de todo el producto”, recaló.

Desde que la cuarentena entró en vigor, los supermercados Food 4 Less y Walmart, retiraron este alimento de sus anaqueles.

“El otro día llevé otro chile y no me quedó buena la salsa, no tenía sabor”, reclamó la señora Leticia, quien compraba en una sucursal de la cadena Walmart.

En tanto, en la tienda Vallarta, del Este de Los Ángeles, los jalapeños siguen en exhibición. “Lo uso para todas las comidas.

Los lavo bien, dicen que hirviéndolos y tatemándolos [asandolos] se limpian bien”, señaló Lizeth Gagliola, al salir del supermercado.

En la misma zona, sobre la avenida Whittier, la tienda Top Valu también conserva este alimento en su lista de productos.

“El mismo día en que avisaron que estaban malo vine a comprar a la tienda. Los he usado y no me ha pasado nada”, indicó María Canel, originaria de Guadalajara.

No obstante, hay quienes prefieren guardar distancia, en tanto las autoridades sanitarias no den por terminada la cuarentena.

“Quería hacer unas enchiladas con sopa de hongos, pero por lo mismo que están diciendo que están malos no compré jalapeños”, manifestó Guadalupe León, residente de Pico Rivera.

# Bush Administration Projects Record 2009 Deficit

The next president will inherit a record budget deficit of \$482 billion, according to a new Bush administration estimate.

A Bush administration official said the deficit was being driven to an all-time high by the sagging economy and the stimulus payments being made to 130 million households in an effort to keep the country from falling into a deep recession. A \$482 billion deficit approaching billion would easily surpass the record deficit of \$413 billion set in 2004.

Government officials confirmed the \$482 billion figure Monday on condition of anonymity because the new estimate had not been formally released. Administration officials were scheduled to do that at a news conference later in the day.

The new figure actually underestimates the deficit, since it leaves out about \$80 billion in war costs. In a break from tradition – and in violation of new mandates from Congress – the White House did not include its full estimate of war costs.

White House press secretary Dana Perino had no comment on the new deficit number. But she told reporters that the White House and lawmakers acknowledged months ago that they were going to increase the deficit by approving a short-term boost for

the slumping economy.

“Both parties recognized that the deficit would increase, and that that was going to be the price that we pay,” Perino said.

In fact, the White House had included cost estimates for an economic stimulus bill in its earlier projections, so the new figures represent a considerable deterioration in the government’s fiscal health.

The White House had predicted in February that next year’s deficit at \$407 billion, which puts the increase in the projections since at \$72 billion.

Figures for the 2008 budget year ending Sept. 30 will actually drop from an earlier projection of \$410 billion to \$389 billion, the officials said.

The numbers represent about 3 percent of the size of the economy, which is the deficit measure seen as most relevant by economists. That’s considerably smaller than the deficits of the 1980s and early 1990s, when Congress and earlier administrations cobbled together politically painful deficit-reduction packages.

Still, the new figures are so eye-popping in dollar terms that it may restrain the appetite of the next president to add to it with expensive spending programs or new tax cuts. In fact, pressure may build to allow some tax

cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003 to expire as scheduled at the end of 2010, with Congress also feeling

pressure to curb spending growth. The deficit for 2007 totaled \$161.5 billion, which represented the lowest amount of red ink since an imbalance of \$159 billion in 2002. The 2002 performance marked the first budget deficit after four consecutive years of budget surpluses.

That stretch of budget surpluses represented a period when the country’s finances had been bolstered by a 10-year period of uninterrupted economic growth, the longest period of expansion in U.S. history.

In his first year in office, helped considerably by projections of continuing surpluses, Bush drove through a 10-year, \$1.35 trillion

package of tax cuts.

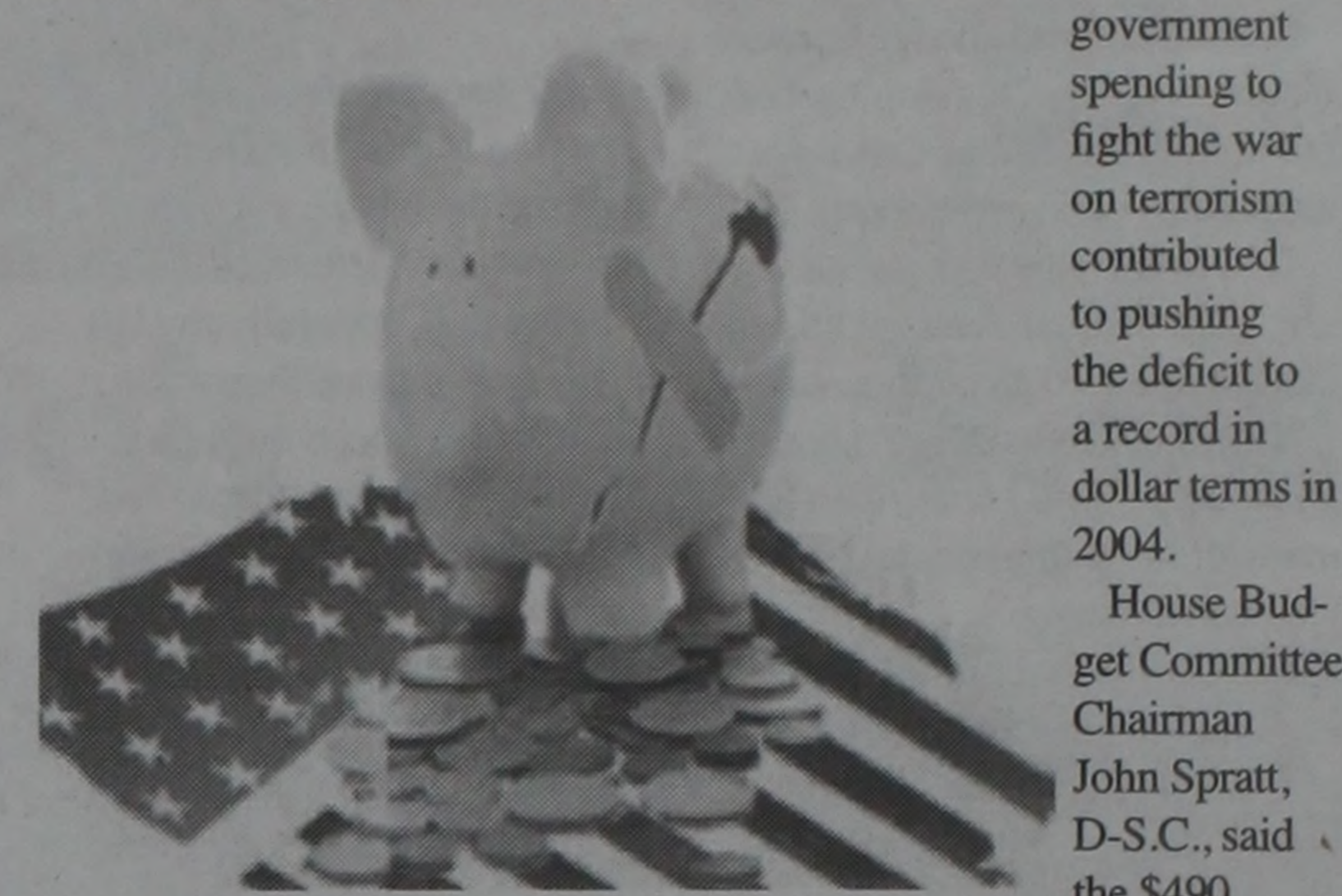
However, the country fell into a recession in March 2001 and government spending to fight the war on terrorism contributed to pushing the deficit to a record in dollar terms in 2004.

House Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt, D-S.C., said the \$490 billion figure

confirms “the dismal legacy of the Bush administration: under its policies, the largest surpluses in history have been converted into the largest deficits in history.”

The figures to be released later will paint a picture of the financial health of the government that President Bush’s successor will inherit, as well as updated predictions of the health of the economy.

White House budget director Jim Nussle and Edward Lazear, chairman of the president’s Council of Economic Advisors, were scheduled to release the administration’s updated forecasts at an early afternoon news conference.



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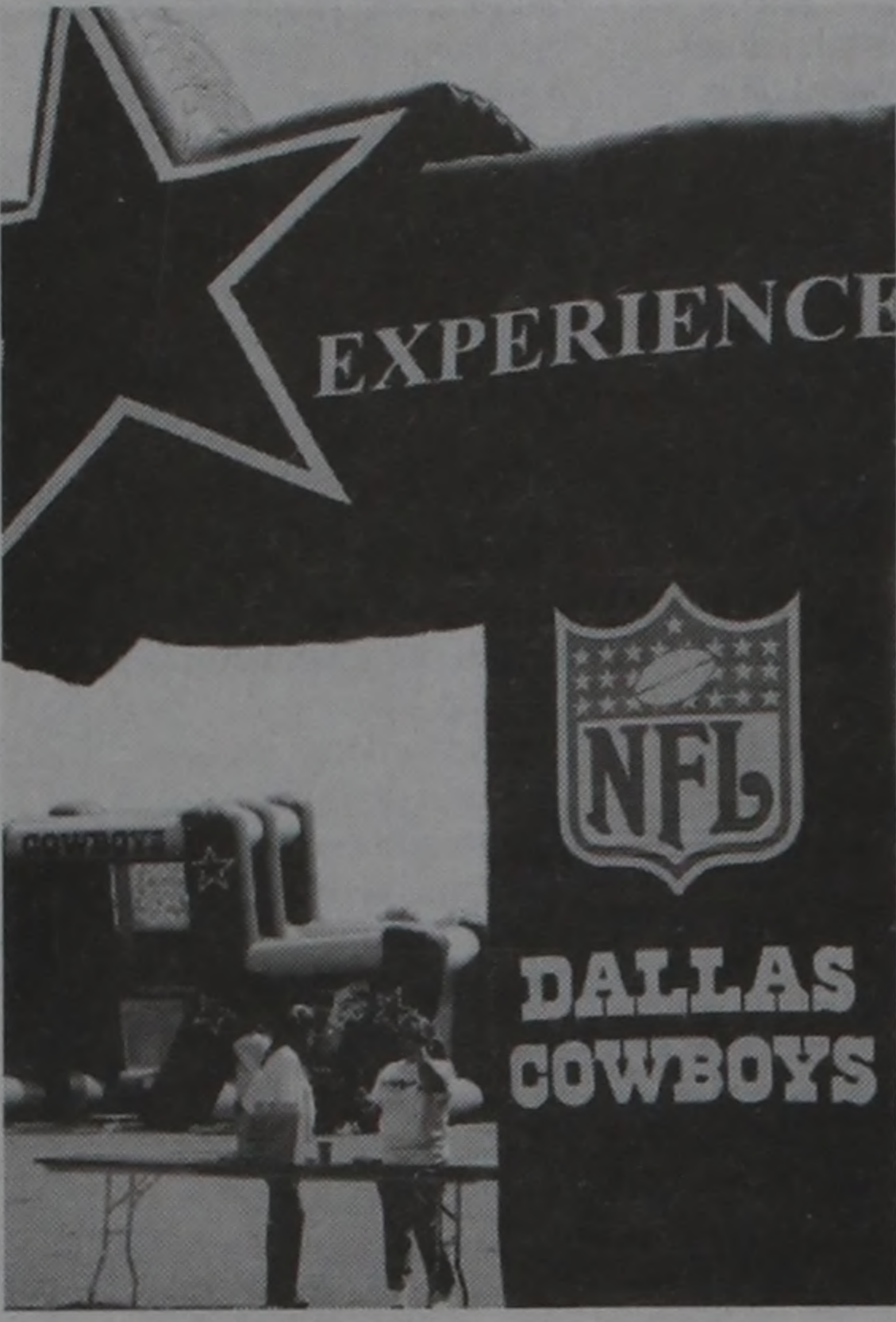
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# Earthquake rattles Cowboys training camp



"It wasn't nothing major, just like the ground was moving," defensive lineman Marcus Spears said. "I was in my room upstairs, so we had to get downstairs. That was my first time. You don't get those in Louisiana." Linebacker Greg Ellis was outside preparing to do a radio interview when he realized the ground was moving.

Leonard Davis rolled over to see if somebody was shaking his bed, but none of his Dallas Cowboys teammates were in the room.

That's when the 353-pound offensive lineman realized he had just experienced an earthquake.

"I was just laying there, about to go to sleep," said Davis, who like many of his teammates had never felt such a tremor.

The Cowboys' training camp is about 90 miles from the city of Chino Hills, where a magnitude-5.4 earthquake hit at 11:42 a.m. PDT Tuesday.

"If that was a small one, I'm all right. I can say I've been in an earthquake, a tornado, a hurricane," guard Andre Gurode said. "I waited for a good 30 seconds until everything stopped, then I ran outside."

At the time of the earthquake, the Cowboys were on their lunch break after morning meetings. It was about three hours before the start of their afternoon practice, which was held as scheduled.

There was no damage reported at the hotel complex where the team is staying, which is next to the practice fields.

guard, just thinking maybe the wind is blowing. Then I realized the wind can't blow me that hard," Ellis said. "That was my first, hopefully my last. ... It's one of those things that I can say I've been through it. Nothing happened, thank God. And I don't want to go through another one."

Tight end Jason Witten was in the lunch room with about 20 others. At first, he thought he might be feeling the effects of too many lead blocks on linebacker Bradie James. Then he realized other guys were also looking around trying to figure out what was happening.

When coach Wade Phillips was with the San Diego Chargers, there was a minor earthquake he didn't feel because he was in his car at the time. The coach almost missed this one, too.

"I was on the elliptical (exercise machine) and I was going. I thought, 'Man, I'm really going now, shaking this place down.' So I didn't even notice it," Phillips said. "I thought I was really working out."

# Colvin adjusting to new role with Texans

Rosevelt Colvin is fine with whatever position the Houston Texans play him at - that is as long as he's "going forward."

The former New England Patriot, in his first year with Houston, has played linebacker most of his career. But he will be used more as a situational pass rusher at defensive end in Houston.

"I would love to be going forward," he said. "A lot of the guys up there in New England used to say all the time when I'd drop back in coverage, 'Keep that guy going forward.'"

The Texans can probably oblige his preference this season. They're looking to improve their pass rush and take some pressure off the double teams Mario Williams will likely draw after getting 14 sacks last season.

Colvin has 52 1/2 sacks in nine seasons in Chicago and New England, but was released by the Patriots in February after missing the last five regular-season games and the playoffs with a foot injury.

He's healthy now and coach Gary Kubiak is looking forward to seeing how quickly Colvin learns Houston's 4-3 scheme. At 6-foot-3 and 250 pounds, Colvin's quite a bit smaller

than the rest of the defensive line.

ence should aid in his move to Houston.

that he comes from championship teams



"We'll have to see how he fits in what we're doing and how we're using him," Kubiak said. "We have to be smart. He's not a big enough guy, end-wise, to play down in and down out. We'll have to pick our spots, so I think it's up to us coaches to find his niche."

Colvin says his performance is a "work in progress."

"It's a different situation as far as how I line up and learning different techniques," he said.

As a linebacker in a 3-4 defense in New England, Colvin was often in on the rush. He thinks that experi-

"I hope it's not as big of a transition as some people are expecting," he said. "It's been mixed in here and there. It shouldn't be that big a deal, but I got a lot of work to do."

Colvin was a member of two of New England's Super Bowl championships. For a team still looking for its first playoff berth, that experience could be invaluable.

"You want them around guys that have great work ethic, take care of themselves and love the game.

If they're looking up to those type people, they're probably going to end up like that," Kubiak said. "The fact

gives him a lot of credibility with our guys, and he's doing a good job."

Colvin isn't quite ready to anoint himself as a leader of this team yet. That's understandable, considering he's only been a part of it for about a month.

"It's different coming from where I've been and coming to this camp," he said. "I have to get adjusted to the way they do things here.

As soon as I can get comfortable in knowing what to do and lining up and adjustments, I can do all the other things. I try to hold telling people what to do to a minimum right now because I don't even know what to do myself."

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## Lindsay Lohan and 'Ugly Betty' crew film in Long Island City

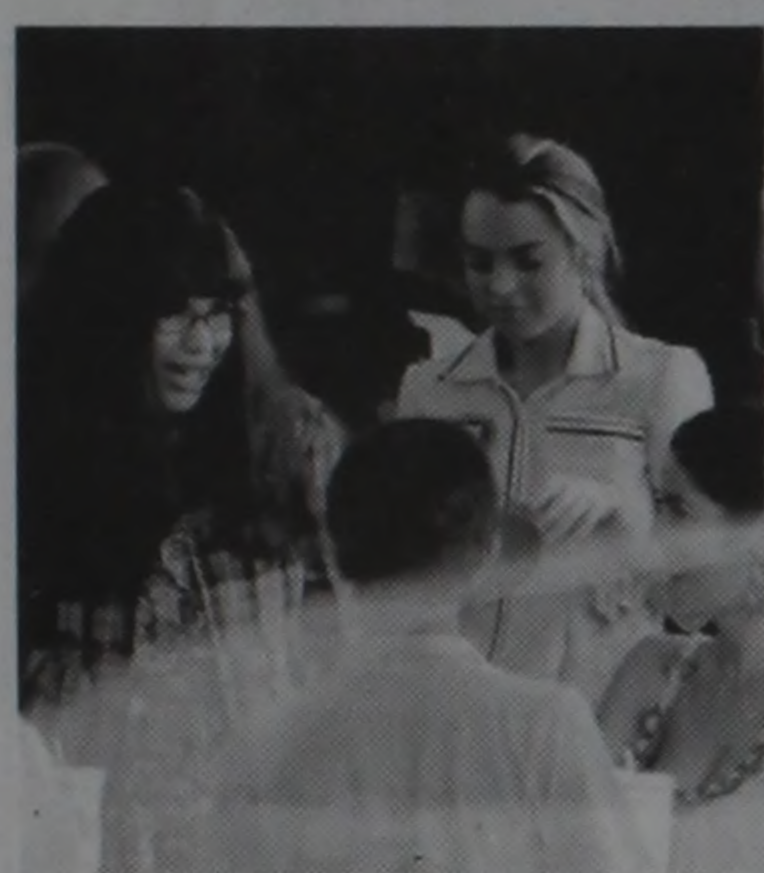
Our cameras recently caught Lindsay Lohan in Queens with some very pretty ladies - neither of which are her rumored squeeze, 30-year-old deejay Samantha Ronson.

But Ronson shouldn't fly into a jealous rage just yet: LiLo was simply filming a guest appearance on the TV show "Ugly Betty," with hottie co-stars America Ferrera and Ana Ortiz.

In episodes set to air this September, Lohan's character, Kimberly, re-connects with her less-popular high school classmate, Ferrara's Betty Suarez. Ortiz plays Betty's older sister, Hilda.

The hit ABC series turned a fried chicken joint at 21st St. and 44th Drive in Long Island City into "Flushing Burgers" last Tuesday - as Lohan donned a retro waitress outfit.

No word on whether Lindsay is as good at taking



orders as her mom, Dina, is at dishing them out on her E! Channel reality show "Living Lohan."

Days before the film shoot, on July 17, the "Ugly Betty" stars threw a block party on 92nd St. in Jackson Heights - best known to viewers as Betty's neighborhood.

Fans saw Ortiz, as well as actors Tony Plana (Betty and Hilda's dad, Ignacio) and Mark Indelicato (Hilda's son, Justin) pose in front of the Suarez family house.

Crowds also packed around Ferrera to get her autograph - and lined up for free ice cream at a Mister Softee truck.

The festivities even included a mariachi band jamming away on trumpets, guitars and violins.

One star we didn't spot: Christopher Gorham, who played Betty's love interest, Henry, but is reportedly leaving the show to shoot the CBS horror series "Harper's Island."

# Cheech and Chong reunite as feud goes up in smoke

Now that their feud is up in smoke, Cheech and Chong are high on plans to reunite for their first comedy tour in more than 25 years.

Cheech Marin said that he and Tommy Chong "looked at each other going, 'If we're ever going to do something it has to be now because you're not getting any younger and neither am I.'"

They tossed around some ideas and figured a comedy tour would be "the most fun" and "the least hassle," the 62-year-old Marin said.

Marin and Chong, who broke up amid creative differences, have tried to reunite before, but have always fought too much.

Marin laughed and said: "It takes about 3 minutes for that to happen. There's this veiled hatred." But he added: "We've kind of resolved that."

"We've gotten to the age where we don't feel like fighting anymore because the end is a lot closer than the beginning," he said.

Marin said he thinks dope humor can be as funny today as it was back in the '70s.

"I think it's time for a revival of dope jokes. It's a much bigger audience now, it's much more widespread and institutionalized," he said in an interview earlier this month.

Details of the "Hey, What's That Smell?" tour were to be announced Wednesday at a news conference in West Hollywood, Calif., according to concert promoter Live Nation.

During their original run, Marin and Chong released nine comedy albums between 1972 and 1985, were nominated for four Grammy Awards and won one.

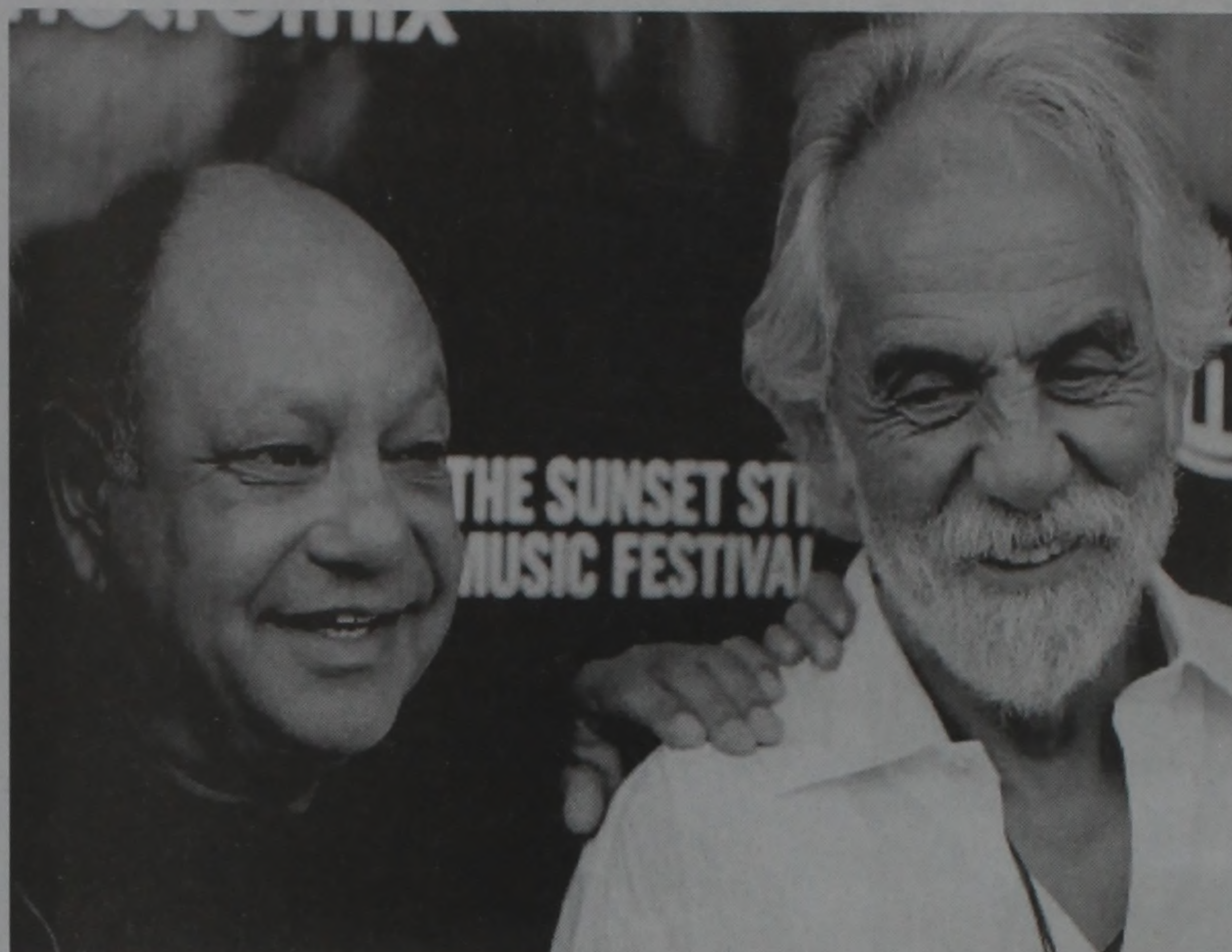
They also starred in eight feature films, almost always portraying a pair of comical stoners stumbling through life.

While Chong has continued to do standup, Marin has concentrated on films and TV appearances.

"I guess Cheech forgot how tough standup is," Chong joked last month after Marin said they

were considering reuniting. "But he's got the incentive and the enthusiasm and he's ready,"

he said of his former partner. "My boy is back."



## Sexo, Diego y Rock and Roll

El productor argentino Cachorro López (ganador de cuatro Latin Grammy y un Grammy, incluyendo Latin Grammy como Productor del Año en 2006) ya me había hablado de un tal Diego.

"Es un chico mexicano que cumplió 15 años mientras grabábamos [su primer disco]", dijo Cachorro a RUMBO en 2006.

"Es muy talentoso. él tenía cierta presencia en televisión [en la telenovela Rebelde, haciendo el papel de Roco]. El hecho de que un chico de 15 años salga de la televisión y se busque un buen repertorio y cierto énfasis en la calidad, te dice mucho. Me gustó y me lo tomé como un disco de alta expectativa de calidad... No es pop alternativo, pero es algo serio. Es muy inteligente y le auguro un buen futuro".

La descripción que Cachorro hace de Diego y su primer disco homónimo (lanzado en 2006) es perfecta. Según el propio Diego, el disco vendió "150,000 solamente en Brasil". Según quien escribe, es un dignísimo disco de pop, pero luego de varias escuchadas Diego suena como lo que era: una estrellita pop adolescente que canta bien y le gusta grabar con productores de primera... pero 'estrellita pop adolescente' al fin.

En cambio, indigo, su segundo disco, sorprende por su potencia y por lo que parece ser un deliberado intento de Diego por dejar aflorar su lado más adulto y rockero.

"¿Escuchaste esas cuerdas?", pregunta Diego por teléfono desde el DF, cuando le comento que en más de una oportunidad tuve que bajar el volumen del parlante durante esas baladas que, tarde o temprano, explotan en algún lugar. "Las grabamos

en Abbey Road [el estudio de los Beatles]. Este disco fue un sueño hecho realidad".

En realidad, fueron varios los sueños: Diego compuso nueve de los 11 temas del disco, pero participó en todas las canciones como cantautor y productor, junto con luminarias como Guy Chambers (Eros Ramazzotti, Enrique Iglesias), Matt Wallace (Maroon 5) y la compositora Kara DioGuardi, una de las más exitosas y prolíficas del país (Christina Aguilera, Avril Lavigne). El resultado se acerca mucho más a lo que es él, aunque asume y quiere a su primer disco.

"Cachorro hizo un trabajo excelente", dijo. "Me hubiese encantado estar más involucrado en la producción, porque es lo que más me encanta, y la composición, pero por los tiempos y todo fue como un relajo. Pero en estos dos años que estuve de gira por todo el mundo maduré y me di cuenta cuáles son mis gustos musicales. Esas experiencias me hicieron crecer y eso se escucha en indigo: está mucho más inclinado al rock que al pop".

Diego co-escribió y grabó todo el disco en inglés (su madre es estadounidense) y dos de esas versiones se usaron en el disco en español: 'Losing Me' ('Perdido en ti') y 'Show Me The Way' ('Cómo me amarías'). La primera fue 'sencillo gratis de la semana' en iTunes y fue bajado 500,000 veces en la primera semana, "lo cual aceleró el lanzamiento del disco en inglés", según Diego, aunque aún no hay fechas confirmadas para el estreno.

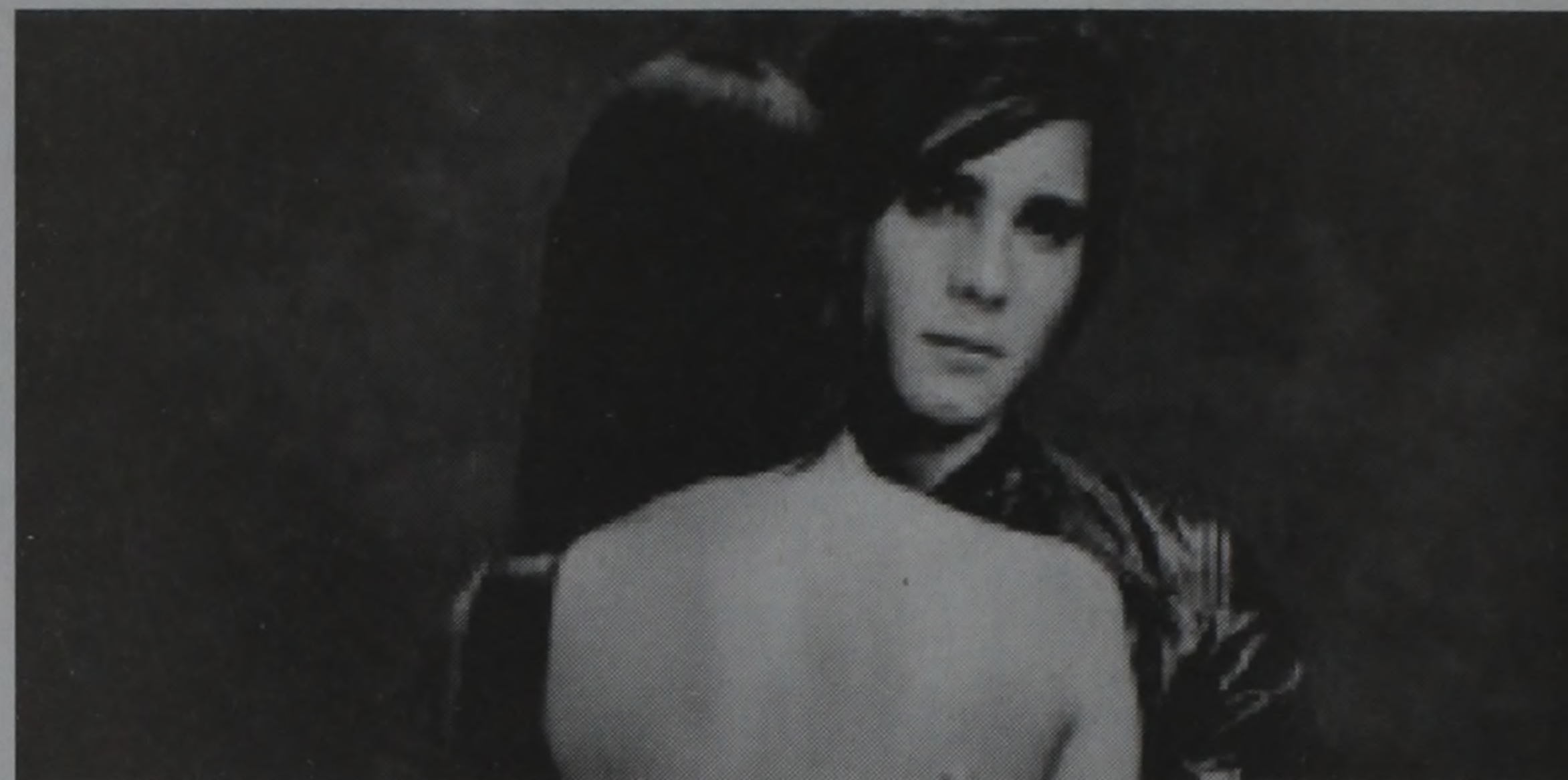
El problema con indigo, a juzgar por un adelanto de cinco canciones enviado por la disquera, es que las letras no están a la altura de la música. "Híjole, te mandamos las puras canciones de

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amor", dice Diego, aclarando que el disco tiene temas relacionados con el medio ambiente.



## Questions? Comments?

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# VENENO Fastpitch Softball Club Goes to World!!



Celinda Hinojosa



Marisol "Taco" Aguero



Amanda "Bill" Garcia



Coaches: Daniel Perez & Noel Carrillo



Monica "Mo" Perez



Amanda Zuniga



Alyssa Quevedo



Cynthia Hernandez



TV raffle winner of 32" flat screen - Mike Hinkle of Lubbock.



Vanessa Ramirez



Cassandra Mendez



Mariah Lopez



Maya Hernandez



Cynthia Salazar



Alanna Zuniga

Veneno Fastpitch Softball Club was created by Marisol Aguero and her Dad, Bidal Aguero with the intentions of getting together with a group of girls and having a blast and that is what has come about with Veneno. The team will be traveling to Plano, Tx this coming week to participate in the World Series Tournament. "Not everyone gets this chance but we all stuck together and did it as a team, and look at us now, we are going to the world,!" said Marisol with great pride.

Special thanks to all the people that have supported this team in different fundraisers that have been held. Good Luck to the team expressed by pride sponsor El Editor newspapers.

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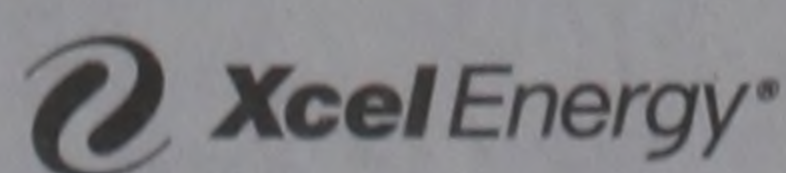
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