

# El Editor

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

Casualties of  
War in Iraq  
**3,837**  
as of October  
24, 2007

VOL. XXXI No. 3

Week of Oct. 25-31, 2007

www.eleditor.com

Lubbock, Texas 79401

## Did DeLeon Violate Texas Open Meetings Laws? Councilman Todd Klein "Concerned" That a Violation Occurred

By Abel Cruz

During her 20 years of public service, Linda DeLeon has been the leading protagonist in more than her fair share of political firestorms. And for the most part she has been able to battle back and beat back any major damage done to her political life.

But the events of these past few months could easily qualify as some of the most controversial she has ever faced. And the latest one involving an email she sent to Councilman Todd Klein may prove to be the most difficult one for her to overcome.

Whether or not Councilwoman Linda DeLeon will be able to survive the most recent controversies involving the appointment and subsequent non-appointment of her husband Porfirio to a citizen's committee; and the allegations of a violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act; seems to be the main question on many Lubbock resident's minds as she attempts to weather the latest controversies which have placed her directly in the eye of the storm.

During the past year, DeLeon seems to have been involved in one political battle after another. And although 2 separate recall attempts lodged against her earlier this year officially failed; organizers recently turned in documentation and materials to Lubbock District Attorney Matt Powell; asking him to lodge an investigation into whether City Secretary Becky Garza and DeLeon herself had violated election laws during the signature qualifying period.

Earlier this week, El Editor was told by a credible source that the DA was ready to announce his findings; but had not done so as of this publication date.

As if that wasn't enough to keep DeLeon in the public eye, she then brought the renaming of Canyon Lakes Dr. to Cesar Chavez Dr. up for a council vote. At the October 11 council meeting, DeLeon addressed the city council in what many observers called an acrimonious manner, telling her council colleagues to not "give (her) scraps"; referring to a proposed compromise on the renaming.

But when it was time to vote; DeLeon voted in favor of the compromise; prompting one email to El Editor in which her actions were described as "bizarre". Additionally, many people in the Hispanic community felt that DeLeon had settled for less than what a man of Chavez's stature deserved.

And in an editorial in last week's issue of El Editor, DeLeon was taken to task for not being more of a negotiator and instead playing the role of antagonist.

Next up was the nomination of her husband Porfirio to serve on the city's Citizen's Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement committee; only to find out that the nomination was in violation of the city charter's nepotism rule. That rule in the city charter clearly states that city residents related to city council members may not be appointed to serve on any city commission or board.

One week later on October 18, DeLeon called a press conference to announce that her husband Porfirio had "decided to decline" the appointment and that she would nominate someone else to serve on the committee at the October 25, 2007 council meeting.

During the press conference, DeLeon released a statement which

## Richardson calls for new, proactive Cuba policy; criticizes Clinton, Obama, and Biden for voting for border wall

LOS ANGELES, CA-- New Mexico Governor and Democratic Presidential candidate Bill Richardson today unveiled his Latin America policy in a major address entitled "A New Partnership with Latin America" on the campus of UCLA in Los Angeles, California. At the event, hosted by the progressive think tank and advocacy organization NDN, Richardson called for a comprehensive reform of current immigration policy.

"We need comprehensive immigration reform in this country-- one that includes a path to legalization," Richardson said. "Part of that is increased border enforcement with smarter technology and more guards. That is a workable solution. You know what will not work? A wall. I think

that Senators Clinton, Obama, and Biden were wrong to vote to build a wall between the United States and its neighbors.

"They talk about change, but they voted for the most blatant example of an old-style Washington solution-- expensive, dumb, and entirely the product of political calculation."

The centerpiece of Richardson's policy is a return to engagement with Latin America, including troublesome regimes like Cuba.

"As President, I will allow unimpeded family visits and remittances by Cuban-Americans to their relatives in Cuba," Richardson said. "I also am ready to reassess the trade embargo on Cuba, in exchange for the release of all political prisoners and positive steps toward democratic freedoms. We need a realistic approach toward Cuba. Our current policy has been static and reactive."

Richardson stressed the importance of Latin America and called for a Latin American country to receive a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

"Despite Latin America's economic and national security importance to the United States, President Bush has neglected to engage the region," Richardson said. "The next President must take a far more realistic look at what is needed to restore U.S. standing in our own hemisphere. We need a President who understands the region and can talk directly to all of the players. I can speak in Spanish when needed. Yo hablo el idioma de la diplomacia."

"I also believe that we should push for a Latin American country to have a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile are obvious potential choices."

Richardson also talked about the fires ripping through California. Yesterday, Governor Richardson sent two strike teams of New Mexico fire fighters to California to help fight the blazes. In addition, Richardson's campaign donated \$10,000 to the Red Cross to assist in relief efforts.

"I deeply believe that the coming days will prove that even the greatest natural destruction is no match for the hopeful will of the American people," Richardson said. "We will put the pieces back together. We will rebuild people's homes. Together, we will do it."

read in part: "I appointed Porfirio because of his experience and knowledge of traffic enforcement laws. He was a valued member of the Lubbock Police Department for 28 years and a majority of his service was in the traffic patrol division. Neither I, nor Porfirio, stand to gain anything from his appointment to this volunteer committee. State law nepotism provisions apply only to paid positions, and this position is not compensated. However, concerns have arisen within the media regarding City Charter guidelines about appointments of family members. The Charter provision is broader than the state law, and there is some question as to its application.

Therefore, after discussing the issue with Porfirio, and in order to avoid any questions about this appointment, he has decided to decline the appointment. We believe this is the right thing to do and is in the best interest of the community. A new appointment will be made during next week's (October 25) City Council meeting."

This is not the first time the nepotism issue has come up before the council since DeLeon has been on it. She was serving her first appointed term on the council in 2006; when Marc McDougal was serving as Mayor and another council member nominated his brother Mike McDougal to serve on the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance board. But because of the city charter's nepotism rule, Mike McDougal name had to be rescinded; although he was eventually appointed to the board; but only after Mayor Marc McDougal was no longer in office. It is unclear how DeLeon voted on that board appointment.

Then last week, Lubbock County Precinct 3 County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez submitted an open letter for publication in El Editor. In the letter which El Editor published in its October 18 edition and online at www.eleditor.com, Gutierrez calls for DeLeon's resignation and alleges that DeLeon has become an "ineffective leader" for the Hispanic community.

Gutierrez says that he has no qualms about writing the letter and told

## Hillary is Choice Among Hispanics in Congress

By Mario Aguirre  
With the 2008 presidential election still more than a year away, 15 out of 22 Democratic Latino

by Hispanics because of her long commitment to helping the community.

Similarly, Jacob Ritvo, aide to California Rep. Grace



El Editor that DeLeon's recent behavior during the recall against her calls her leadership abilities into question. "Elected officials should be above reproach. There should not even be the appearance of impropriety or wrong doing. The appearance alone, of wrong doing, should be avoided. This is just one more case of her acting without really taking the time to consider the consequences" said Gutierrez.

As soon as the letter became public, local media outlets picked up the story; reporting on the open letter in El Editor and bringing more public attention and scrutiny to DeLeon.

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## Do Endorsements Make a Difference?

By Mario Aguirre  
Hispanic Link News Service tapped two noted political analysts -- Larry Sabato, director for the Center of Politics at the University of Virginia, and Lionel Sosa, executive director of Mexicans and Americans Thinking Together (MATT) -- to evaluate the importance for next year's presidential election of endorsements by Hispanics serving in Congress.

If the presidential candidate you endorse is elected, "you have a right to expect a certain level of privilege in pushing your bills, getting them signed, having White House support for your activities and maybe getting re-election campaign funds," maintains Sabato, author of the recently released book, "A More Perfect Constitution."

"Every candidate needs the Latino vote," says Sosa, who served as media consultant to both of George Bush's presidential campaigns, as well as six other Republican campaigns dating back to 1980.

Sosa adds that touring Latino districts enables a potential future president "to have a close ear to the community and become better acclimated to the Latino community." It also earns the endorser more face-time to promote his or her favorite programs.

The Congress member also stands to bask in some of the limelight that comes with picking a winner, points out Sabato. "Naturally, the person making the endorsement is hoping that any influence he or she has will rub off on the candidate enough for that candidate to win the nomination."

Because of the "halo effect," it benefits both parties, he says. However, Sabato adds, endorsers don't really have too much influence over the general public. "That's not how people vote, especially for president. I can't remember an election that was ever determined by endorsements."

Early endorsers stand to benefit most in terms of face-time, both agree, but everyone is welcomed in the end.

## My View from Fiery California

By Abel Cruz  
Editor's Note: Abel Cruz filed this story a few days ago from Victorville, California. He shares his thoughts about the massive fires which have been burning since last weekend in Southern California.

October 23, 2007-Victorville, Ca - For a visitor to the west coast, the television reporting at first seems to be overly dramatic and exaggerated; much like our own weathermen when reporting on approaching thunderstorms or possible tornados.

Until that is, I began to comprehend the effects that something like this has on an area which is home to millions and millions of people. A countless number of public schools and universities, along with hundreds of businesses have been closed; people have



Photos by Abel Cruz

had to evacuate their homes; highways like Interstate 15 which runs from Victorville into San Bernardino has been temporarily shut down at times due to high winds and blowing smoke.

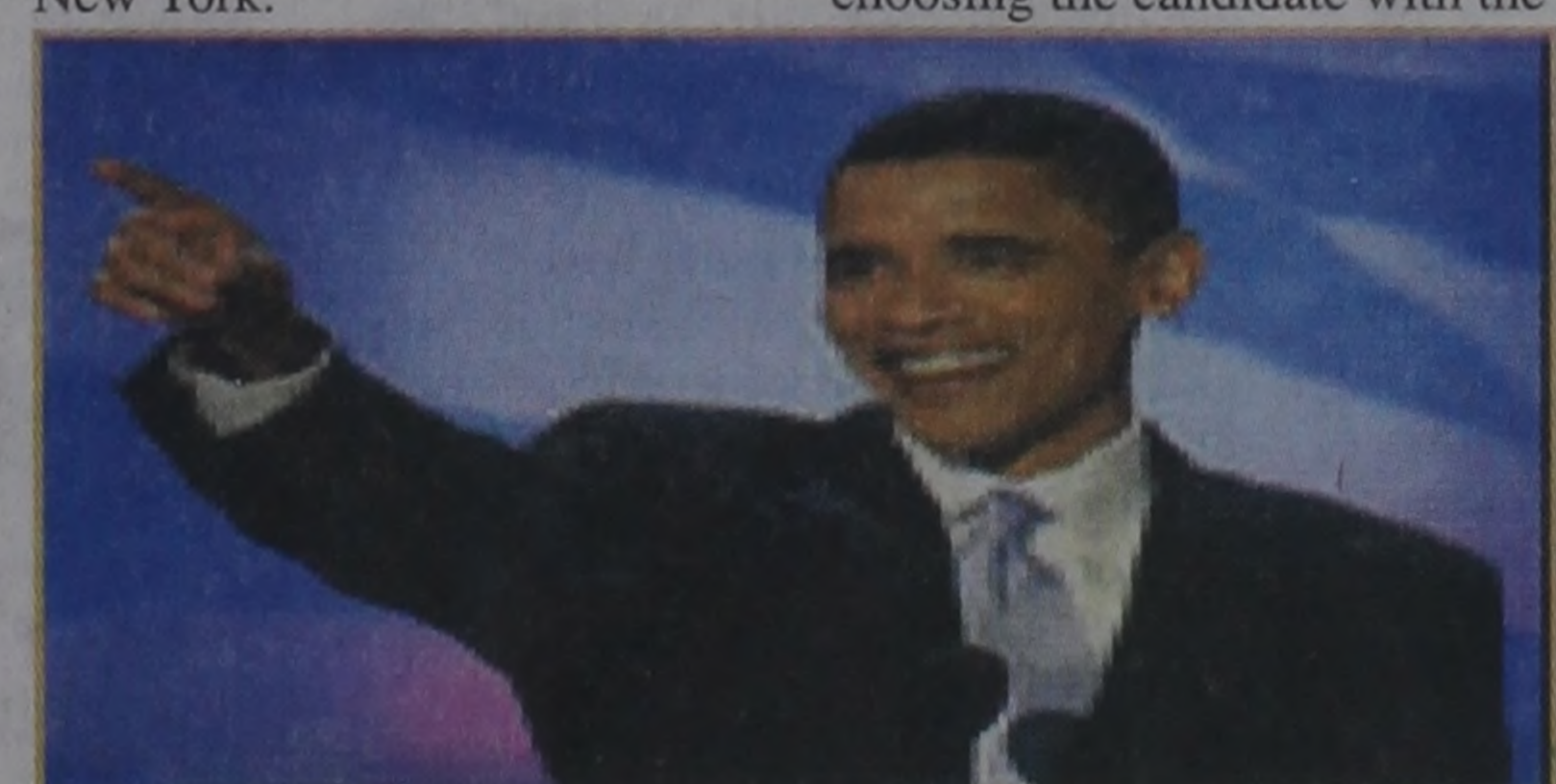
The fires raging in what seems to be every part of southern California according to the media, actually had their beginning late last week when local weathermen began to issue warnings about the Santa Ana winds which yearly effect the area of Southern California; from just north of LA; south to San Diego into Tijuana and at least 100 miles east of Los Angeles into the areas known as the Inland Empire and cities in San Bernardino County like Victorville, Lake Arrowhead and the Apple Valley area.

Having visited this area before, I knew driving on the overly congested freeway and interstates in and around the LA and San Diego area would be my biggest challenge; but never did I think that the weather would produce such real life drama during my

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members in the U.S. House of Representatives have picked their candidates. Of the two Democratic U.S. senators, only Robert Menéndez of New Jersey has stated his selection, Senator Hillary Clinton of New York.

Clinton has also garnered support of seven Hispanic House members, four of them women. Three of the latter are from California and one from New York.



New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson is backed by three House veterans, two from Texas and one from Arizona. Also with Hispanic endorsers are Connecticut Senator Chris Dodd (2), former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards (2), and Sen. Barack Obama, who is supported by fellow legislator from Illinois, Luis Gutiérrez.

All five Republican House members have revealed their selections. The three Florida members back Arizona Sen. John McCain, while the two others, from Puerto Rico and California, are in the camp of former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani.

GOP Senator Mel Martínez of Florida has yet to state his preference.

Fabiola Rodríguez-Ciampoli, director of Hispanic Communications for Clinton, told Hispanic Link News Service that Clinton is favored

Napolitano, commented that his boss backs Clinton because she has been a strong advocate for Latinas "all along" going back to when Bill Clinton was president.

Another Californian, Rep. Hilda Solís, who will co-chair Clinton's Environmental and Energy Task Force and her National Hispanic Leadership Council, agreed, stating, "I am choosing the candidate with the

experience and strength to bring the change that America needs."

Larry Sabato, director for the Center of Politics at the University of Virginia, told Hispanic Link that early on he expected Bill Richardson to capture most of the Hispanic support. "But that's not the way things panned out for a variety of reasons -- mainly his surname," Sabato said.

"I've had a chance to talk to a wide variety of voters, including Hispanic voters, in New Mexico. They all knew Bill Richardson. I was stunned that in neighboring Arizona so many people didn't know Bill Richardson was Hispanic. That was also true three months ago when I was in Nevada."

Three of the eight Democratic candidates have no endorsements from Hispanics in Congress. They are Sen. Joe Biden (Del.), Rep. Dennis Kucinich (Ohio) and former Alaska Sen. Mike Gravel.

(Mario Aguirre is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. Reach him c/o mario@hispaniclink.com) ©2007



Gutierrez says that he has not had any negative feedback since writing the letter; but that "several people have said they agree that she was wrong".

When asked whether he is worried about the backlash from DeLeon's supporters in his own re-election campaign, Gutierrez says that "Four months ago (long before I wrote the letter) DeLeon supporters told me they would campaign against me in the next election. No surprise here. I plan to run on my record of service and accomplishments. You saw half of them in El Editor. I plan to print the other half of my record (service and accomplishments) early in November".

Gutierrez concludes by saying that he "wrote (his) letter because it was the right thing to do. I sincerely believe Linda has shown disdain for our Democratic System of Government. Our Hispanic community needs leadership today more than ever before".

The final controversy and what could prove to be the proverbial straw is the allegation that DeLeon violated the Texas Open Meetings Laws or TOMA. The TOMA is the state laws which guide state and local government entities in regards to meetings protocol and how meetings and communications between council members will be conducted; among other procedures.

According to information obtained by El Editor, the series of events which led to the allegations began when District 3 Councilman Todd Klein posted a resolution on the city council's October 25 agenda, in which he plans to introduce a resolution to place a plaque recognizing the location of the migrant labor camp which was located in the Aztlan Park area of the Guadalupe neighborhood. The agenda item reads as follows:

**Item 6.7 City Council agenda**

Resolution - City Council: Consider a resolution authorizing the creation of an informational marker on a perimeter street around Aztlan [sic] Park commemorating the area as the location of migrant labor camps.

Apparently, the fact that Klein was going to introduce legislation which affected DeLeon's district directly did not sit well with DeLeon and she sent an email to Klein. The email from DeLeon said: "Todd I am requesting that you not place on the agenda a resolution concerning migrant camps in Aztlan Park. This is my district and would appreciate if you would not bring to the council this discussion".

The email alone is not a problem for DeLeon. The problem arises when she copies all other council members including the Mayor. That is considered communication from a council member (DeLeon) with a majority of the other council members about a posted agenda item and seems to be a violation of the Texas Open Meetings Laws.

The report about the TOMA violation was first reported by local radio talk show host, Robert Pratt on his "Pratt on Texas" radio show which broadcasts daily on KFYO radio (790 AM) and was also posted on the web site [www.eleditor.com](http://www.eleditor.com)

Upon receiving the email from DeLeon, Klein then sends an email to City Attorney Anita Burgess because he "is concerned" that a violation of the open meetings act has occurred. Burgess replies that "this is good that there was apparently no email discussion on this topic after the initial email. The Open Meetings Act prohibits deliberation about a matter over which the governing body has cognizance. There is however a provision at 551.042 that allows a little bit of latitude regarding "deliberation...about a subject... [to the extent of whether] to place the subject on the agenda for a subsequent council meeting." This underlying email could be construed as that type of deliberation".

But it seems that Burgess is trying to give DeLeon the benefit of the doubt and is being overly liberal in her interpretation of the law; since the item is already on the agenda and DeLeon is specifically telling Klein to not place it on the agenda.

This past week Klein issued a statement to the media which reads: "On Thursday, October 19th I received an e-mail from Councilwoman Linda DeLeon requesting that I remove an item from the City Council agenda related to the placement of a historical marker in Aztlan [sic] Park recognizing the area as the location of migrant labor camps. After receiving the e-mail, I contacted City Attorney Anita Burgess because I was concerned that it may have violated the Open Meetings Act. It is my intention to move forward with the resolution to place a historical marker recognizing the migrant farm worker camps that were located in present day Aztlan [sic] Park. The item will be deliberated at the October 25th City Council meeting. At that time, it is my hope that the resolution, which has received considerable public support, will pass with the full support of my colleagues."

So there you have it, the 2 recalls, the Cesar Chavez vote, her husband Porfirio's nomination and decline; an open letter from an elected county official, and allegations that she violated the state's open meetings laws.

Add to this the growing public chorus in general, not only residents living in District 1, but citywide; who are also calling in to the local radio talk shows to voice their displeasure with Ms. DeLeon.

At this point, it's anybody's guess just how Ms. DeLeon responds to these latest controversies. El Editor sent her an email in hopes that she would respond to our questions; but as has become routine with the councilwoman; we did not hear back from her.

Email: [eleditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eleditor@sbcglobal.net)

Bidal Aguerro also contributed to this report.

**LETTERS TO THE Editor**

Send Mail to: [eleditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eleditor@sbcglobal.net)

**Coat and Black tie NOT Required!! White Hoods are.**

Seems the black community is running scared! Not only in the city of Lubbock but, in the State of Texas and in many other states as well. What little clout the black community has in Lubbock is quickly dying out, along with its elderly leadership.

Soon the Joan Irving's, Rose Wilson's, TJ Patterson's, Emma Jackson's, Ron Given's, D.A. Smith's, Quincy White's, Vernita Holmes', and Floyd Price's of the black community will no longer be with us.

Don't misunderstand, I wish them no ill will, but the fact is, their leadership is old and getting older. The cliché goes, "One foot on a banana peel, the other in the grave". Whoops!

Recently, the black community has made a lot of noise (or at least a few African-Americans have) about renaming Canyon Lakes Drive to Cesar E. Chavez Drive. "We can't have that" said the voices. "East Lubbock is black Lubbock", said another. Better check your facts folks! East Lubbock has not been predominantly African-American since before the 1940's, if then. Now it is predominantly Hispanic with a few enclaves of Black neighborhoods. Still, you have to admire a dying man clinging onto life as they lower him into the grave.

"Admiration" is a funny word to be using here, because if you listen to the black community today, you'd think they were the ones carrying crosses to burn. The sentiments exhibited against illegal immigrants, farm laborers, and the Hispanic community in general has been so outrageous that I'm not surprised that even Lubbock is experiencing hate crimes. This time however, it's black versus brown. And these types of hate crimes are becoming more and more prevalent, whether reported to the authorities or not.

In a Newsweek issue of last year (July 3-10, 2006), an article entitled, "Black Versus Brown, Can the venerable black-Latino coalition survive the surge in Hispanic power?" stated in part, "Welcome to the topsy-turvy world of ethnic politics in the 21st century, when blacks and Latinos, once presumed to be natural allies, increasingly find themselves competing for power and where promotion of racial harmony is as likely to evoke anger as admiration. Lynwood [California city] is a case study in the power of prejudice, the pitfalls of ethnic conflict and, perhaps, ultimately, the potential for interethnic cooperation. It may also foreshadow America's future—one that will increasingly see blacks and Latinos fighting, sometimes together and sometimes each other, to overcome a history of marginalization..."

But, do we have to go to Lynwood, California to see these dynamics at work? Or can we look around town and see hatred ever present? The recent renaming initiative would seem to indicate that, at the very least, there's a turf war going on, and at the most, that dying man with a foot in the grave, is pulling out a gun and taking a few Hispanics with him. Either way, it's a losing proposition for the black community. Truth is, Hispanic numbers are growing by leaps and bounds and the African-American community is stagnant, at the best.

As long as the moribund (i.e., "dying, expiring, fading, passing away, sinking; decadent, declining, deteriorating; dead, deceased, defunct, departed, gone, passed away; terminal") members of the black community continue to antagonize the Hispanic community, the less likely real coalitions between the two groups will materialize in the future. After all, who wants to work with someone who tells you, "I don't want you in my neighborhoods." Pues, que se vayan a la ....

Then there were two. That's right. There used to be four African-American elected officials holding office at the same time in Lubbock County, and now there are only two. Ms. Floyd (I think he shaves his legs) and turtle Holmes (stick your head out). Many of us predict that within the next few years that number will drop to one, and then a few years later, to zero. But what should the black community do? Should it form a coalition with the Hispanic community? Well, what the African-American community has done is try to form a coalition with the Anglo community hoping to maintain a semblance of power. While certainly an option, in my opinion not the most viable option long-term. After all, the Anglo community has been in a decline for as long as the black community has been stagnant.

But try to teach an old dog a new trick! The black community will not change its ways. Why? Because of the fact that they believe the Hispanic community has been riding on their "civil rights" coattails and reaping the benefits of "their" efforts since the beginning. Although not true, you'll never convince the black community that real contributions were and are being made by Hispanics across this country for decades. The only difference is, the Hispanic community doesn't have the marketing arm that the African-American community has to tout its' accomplishments. Fact is, the Hispanic community has effected change but in a more subtle way which doesn't necessarily alienate the general populous.

Prediction: The majority of the leadership in the black community will die within ten years and no one is being groomed to replace them. The Hispanic population will continue to grow at extremely fast rates, assimilating themselves, for the most part, in all segments of the community. The black community will start to decline on a percentage basis. The number of African-American elected officials will drop to zero. The number of Hispanic elected officials will continue to increase throughout the South Plains. Since no coalitions have been attempted with the Hispanic community, the black community will continue to be marginalized as a political faction and as an agent for real change.

The Anglo community will abandon the black community in favor of the Hispanic community who will (soon) have four to five times the numbers of blacks and who now control areas such as business, politics, buying power (economic), and education.

RMS, via Email, Lubbock

**Damage the Illegal do to America**

I'm sure that you're content that the illegal alien population will now take the lead in many cities in America. This will no doubt play into the underlying belief that the Mexican people will take back the Southwest one illegal baby at a time. This realization also validates the "victimhood" of the illegal Hispanic aliens and their ploy for amnesty status in America. Now that the first part of the retaking of the Southwest is complete, the next phase will be to get more control of the governments at every level in order to have tax money go to your Hispanic interest which is in as much social engineering.

Since Mexico is polluted, has a corrupt government, over-populated, most of the population is ignorant low skilled, and are taught at birth to hate Americans, then they the Hispanics will turn the Southwest into another Mexico. Most, and really most, of the Hispanics that come to America have no skills and are a burden not only to Mexico but now America. Generally, wherever large groups of Hispanics live, you will have a degradation of many of the elements of society.

When you see dozens of illegal Hispanic aliens on the street corners of many of our major cities that are looking for day labor, no one really feels safe around them and are anxious if they bring them to their homes. Now in ten to twenty years the completion of the Hispanic conquest will be finished. But what after will happen?

You as Hispanic leaders will have to tax yourself in order to support the illegal Hispanics that demanding service. Then after the tax base is exhausted to support illegals in schools, hospitals, and welfare rolls, there will be a mass migration out of the cities to the country in order not to pay and endless amount of money that supports a population that is going nowhere. I have seen this slow but relentless and pernicious state taking place for the last twenty years and I have seen the leadership of this country do little to stop this illegal invasion from Mexico and Central America.

Why does our elected leaders turn a blind eye to this problem? For one the Republicans want cheap labor and the Democrats who want votes so they can socially engineer society. Also my guess as to why the leadership in the last twenty years has allowed the slow degradation of America to take place as a result of the massive infusion of illegal Mexican aliens is to bring into one Canada, Mexico, and America. When we as three countries become one, then America loses it's sovereignty there-by weakening America then we as a country will have limited ability to affect positive change in the world. When we as a country are not able anymore to project ourselves in the world's scene then the charity work, the alliances to other demotoc courtes like Israel and Thaiwan, promotion of human rights, will cease to be part of this countries national policy and America will then be reduced to a third world country like Mexico is today.

I do not see anything good about letting millions of ignorant people into this country there is not enough jobs or assets to support their needs anymore and the Hispanic Americans should also see the harm that they cause to them as well.

God Bless Terry Clarke

**Another Wall for the GOP Humpty Dumpty's On It**

**By José de la Isla**

HOUSTON — The second shoe fell last week when the Christian-conservative "Values Voters" met in Washington. Out of 5,775 opinion votes cast, national frontrunner Rudy Giuliani finished next to last, with only two percent, in a field of six contenders.

The Christian right is far from reaching consensus. Meanwhile Latino evangelicals, a crucial swing bloc, have quietly left Republican hopefuls to fend for themselves.

The first shoe to drop came the day before, when Florida U.S. Senator Mel Martínez announced he was resigning as general chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Martínez took the party reins less than a year ago.

The two events are the latest evidence about how recalcitrant the party has become.

Martínez's departure reflects how the GOP can't pull itself together. He is expected to face a difficult Senate race in 2010. A July Quinnipiac University Poll showed him with a 38 percent disapproval rating and only 36 percent approval. The upside-down effect means the senator has repair work to do at home.

When the poll results were announced, Martínez was reported by Orlando Sentinel.com as saying, "I'm not going to worry too much about polls. My own election is too far away."

Three months later, the 2010 race doesn't seem so distant any more.

The reason is that Florida will by then have surpassed New York's population, becoming the third most populous state after California and Texas. It is expected to gain three new congressional seats after the next census, one of which is attributed to the growth of the undocumented population.

In the United States, while only citizens are permitted to vote, all persons are still represented by elected officials. That's why representatives with a large number of undocumented residents in their districts tend to be sensitive to those concerns. And it explains in large part why the most vociferous against immigration are those who represent districts with relatively few such persons.

Martínez's problem in 2010 was set in motion in 2006 when he carried the Bush administration's bill in the Senate. It included a path to legalization for 12 million people as well elements ensuring strong border security. As the only immigrant serving in the Senate, Martínez was a natural leader for the bill.

But the opposition hammered at the controversial legalization portion in it as the politically poison word "amnesty." Martínez preferred to refer to it as an opportunity for undocumented immigrants "to come out of the shadows." The opposition diverted attention away from fines and long petition waits, choosing no solution at all. In the end, this and similar bills failed. "Amnesty" became a razor blade in the immigration debate candy.

Congress's inaction on immigration is one of the counts in the public's indictment charging government inaction. Consequently, local and state officials have introduced up to 1,400 pieces of legislation to restrict alleged "illegal immigrants."

Numerous other reasons have circulated as to why Mel Martínez was giving up the GOP leadership position. Still, he was highly successful in raising \$55.3 million for the RNC, a lot more than the \$34.8 the Democrats were able to draw.

Of all the explanations, I think the "nursery rhyme" theory hits the target. To avoid the fate of 2008, Martínez is getting out of the way. With only four

months remaining until the first expected primary, the party has failed to find a center of gravity on political values that will give it an edge. It is increasingly unlikely Republicans can select a consensus builder out of their several bizarre, often contentious, factions.

That suggests after the presidential election, all the king's horses and all the king's men won't be able to put Humpty Dumpty together again.

To win his own bid, Mel Martínez is simply getting out of the way of the GOP as it splatters after the fall.

**Fires - From Page 1**

time here. When one thinks of California in the fall, thoughts of Indian summer usually come to mind; not 80 mile per hour winds.

I've been out in this area for close to 3 weeks and already have seen reports of 2 terrible weather related car accidents resulting in multiple deaths. One of them involved several vehicles and was caused by the blowing winds and blowing dust which caused drivers to lose all visibility; forcing semi-trucks into cars and leaving damage strewn all over the highway.

When the dust cleared after an accident on California Highway 14; 15 cars had been involved and 4 people had lost their lives. All this caused by strong winds which kicked up enough dirt to blind motorists to the point that one person involved said he could not see his hand in front of his eyes.

In Lubbock, we get more than our fair share of winds and blowing dust. Here they get something called the Santa Ana winds; a weather phenomenon which usually sees strong and fierce winds occurring in the fall and early winter in the area from north of Los Angeles and south to San Diego. According to the weather reports

I have seen; winds blow at a sustained 30-40 miles an hour and can gust up to 80 miles an hour. This makes it extremely difficult to even walk when the winds are at their peak according to folks who live in the area.

A couple of weeks ago I experienced the velocity and ferocity first hand when driving from Victorville to Carlsbad; a coastal city just north of San Diego. I can tell you that it is very difficult to control your car going through what is known as the "Cajon Pass; a mountainous area between Victorville and San Bernardino. The effects of the winds can really be felt in that area; that coupled with the thousands of vehicles going faster than 70 miles an hour can be a little unnerving to say the least.

I had heard about the Malibu fire over the weekend but there was no indication or warning that the fires would spread south and east of Los Angeles.

By Monday morning, strong Santa Ana winds coupled with the low humidity; which was in the single digits on Monday, is what has fed the fires which cover an unknown square mile area. It seems that overnight they have multiplied and new fires are being reported by the hour.

Just last week, I spent a few days in the Carlsbad area which is 30 miles or so north of San Diego and can tell you that is a beautiful part of California. Small coastal cities and where others begin and combined they produce some of the most scenic areas southern California has to offer. These are the areas which are in danger now.

I quickly give thanks that this didn't happen while I was there, but then think about my youngest daughter who lives there with her husband and began to worry for their safety. They have heard that evacuations are voluntary but that may change soon. Already, the college in San Marcos where my daughter works has been closed and will remain closed the rest of the week. They have been told they might have to evacuate. Reports out of San Diego say that up to 500,000 people have been evacuated from there alone.

On Monday the 22nd, the television coverage has been non stop. All day long reporters have been filing their reports from different locations; from Malibu where the fires initially started all the way south to San Diego County and the city of San Diego.

The areas and communities involved are too may to mention. At last count late Monday evening, reports are that there are at least 14 separate fires. They are situated in Malibu, east from LA into Ontario, north to Lake Arrowhead, about 30-40 miles from where I'm at in Victorville; and a strip of land south of Los Angeles for about 120 miles to San Diego; including the areas of San Marcos, Del Mar, Rancho Bernardo, and Agua Dulce, among other small coastal communities.

(Side Note: I can't help but notice that in California they have a town called Agua Dulce, while here in Texas we have Sweetwater which is the exact translation for Agua Dulce).

The cause of the fires has been undetermined; but already there are reports on the local Fox channel out of Los Angeles that at least one of them has been intentionally set; arson. And on Monday, the Los Angeles Fox channel even went so far to report that one of the fires had been set by someone they describe as an "illegal alien". They do not elaborate as to how they know this or even bother to confirm. But I guess that in the heat of the moment; they feel that they have to blame somebody and decide that an "illegal alien" is a good enough culprit to blame for one of the fires.

By noon Monday California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has held separate press conferences in LA and San Diego trying to reassure people that the state is doing all it can to contain the fires. By late Monday, President Bush has gone before the television cameras and offered federal assistance; meaning public tax dollars. He now plans to come to California on Thursday to do what he failed to do in New Orleans. On Tuesday, Bush declares the area a federal disaster area.

By Monday evening, the television news coverage which has been non-stop and pre-empted all other programming show endless footage of scenes of firefighters and equipment and residents from the different fires locations engulfed with smoke behind them. I notice all the reporters are wearing masks to protect them from the smoke.

Early Tuesday morning, Homeland Security Director Michael Chertoff is before the cameras offering FEMA help and other federal assistance and aid. He seems to want to make sure that the feds are seen as being on top of the situation.

During all this time, I can't help but think: Where was Bush and Chertoff when the people of New Orleans needed them?

By Tuesday morning, the LA Times is reporting that the fires "burned 269,000 acres -- about 420 square miles -- and destroyed at least 892 buildings. Remarkably, only one person was known to have died, although it was possible that more fatalities would be discovered. At least 37 people had been injured, including 17 firefighters"

By late Tuesday afternoon, the local media is reporting that California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger held a press conference in Lake Arrowhead; the site of the one fire which is visible from where I'm at.

During the day, I have been amazed by the thick clouds of smoke from the Lake Arrowhead area. Already there are reports that at least 200 hundred homes have been completely burned. I had been out the night before, mesmerized by the massive orange glow emanating from the top of the mountain. It all seemed surreal.

Already there are reports that the damage will be in the billions of dollars and the number of homes destroyed will be in the hundreds. The number of square miles and land acreage affected will probably never truly be known.

But what can never be calculated is the cost to people. The loss of life; lost homes and personal belongings, lost wages, lost valued possessions and mementos which go up in flames in a matter of minutes.


It truly is a sad event to watch up close. At the end of the day, as I watch the orange glow light up the night sky from Lake Arrowhead, I can't help but think that Mother Nature really is in charge.

No matter where we go, we will always be affected by nature and particularly the weather; sometimes in a good way; and at other times in a devastating and deadly way.

**"El Que Pica con la Cola"**

**El Hijo Del Alacrán**

(The Son of the Scorpion)



Back in the 70's and 80's "El Alacrán"; "the scorpion that stings with his tail" was a regular guest on the pages of this newspaper. Many years have passed, "El Alacrán" has now retired his poisonous pen; but now along comes his son...and as they say; "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree".

Oyes, ya deberas que no se entiende la Linda. Ahora ya ni quiere que se ponga una marco historico pa' que se de honor a los campesinos quiene trabajaron aqui en Lubbock y vivieron en el labor camp. Ella le mando una desas emails a el Consejoal Todd Klein que no lo proponiera al Consejo. Quesque porque el Parque Aztlan esta en su distrito. ¿Que ya se hizo dueña o que?

Oh y le sigueemos mandando emails a la Linda y nunca nos responde. Pero siempre esta lista pa' salir en frente de la camaras de los gringos. ¿Que esta pasando? Nomas les pido que ya no los critiquen por no poner lo de su lado. ¡Pues nunca nos quiere contestar nada!

\*\*\*\*\*

Ah pero si me cuenta Carlos Quirino que si fue la Linda a ver.....a ver como hiba el trabajo en el arroyo. Dijo la Linda que si les hiba conseguir dinero a la Asociación pa' que sigueran la limpieza. Una cosa que si estan haciendo un buen trabajo los de la ciudad para ayudar. Ya se esta mirando bien. Me dice Carlos que se hara otro esfuerzo mayor para limpiar los dias 3 y 4. Aqui les estareemos informando para que vayan todos. Este jijo de.....no va porque esta muy cercas del Jala Winnie y tengo miedo que me vaya salir La Llorona!

\*\*\*\*\*

Y haca por el otro lado el Ysidro siempre picandole. Pues me cuentan que ya se estan preparando "los que tambien quieren el dinero" que le pagan a los Comisionados para lanzar sus campania para su el puesto de el Ysidro. Haber como le va a todos. Va estar media interesante esa carrera.

\*\*\*\*\*

No dejen de asistir a las actividades de "El Dia de los Muertos los dias 1 y 2 de Noviembre en el Centro de Artes Underwood y en el Buddy Holly Center. Habran bastantes exhibicion de Artistas locales y de afuera. Bastantes bonitos. Vea El Editor la proxima semana para mas informacion o llame al 775-3560

\*\*\*\*\*

Bueno es todo por ahora. No dejen de celebrar el Jala Winnie. Me dice el Robert Narvaiz que el Hispanic Cultural Center estara dando dulces a los chiquitines ese dia. No dejen de pasar por alli en la Calle 3 y Universidad.

Bueno hasta la proxima. Escondanse porque este hjo del Alacrán anda por todas las rendijas poniendo ojo!

**El Editor**

is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. El Editor has been published on a weekly basis since 1977. Our physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. El Editor is available on the internet at <http://www.eleditor.com> and is distributed throughout West Texas in retail outlets. Opinions expressed in El Editor are those of the individual writer and not necessarily those of the publisher or the advertisers. Advertising information available by emailing us at [eleditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eleditor@sbcglobal.net) or by calling us at 806-763-3841 Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can be sent to the same email address. All opinions and letters to the editor must contain the writer's name, address and phone number but name can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

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## Finding Fault in Student Default Data

Nearly 10% of student borrowers default in the first four years after they graduate, according to a new study of education loans that suggests the federal government has taken too narrow a view when measuring repayments. Moreover, the likelihood of default varies drastically across racial lines with black and Hispanic graduates far more likely to default, according to the study, Hidden Details: A Closer Look at Student Loan Default, released by Education Sector, an education policy group based in Washington.

In September, Education Secretary Margaret Spellings announced that the student loan default rate had fallen from 5.1% in 2006 to 4.6%. But the Education Dept. data cover only the first 24 months after a student graduates.

Longer Term Paints Starker Picture

The new study, released Oct. 23, analyzes data collected over 10 years by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of 1993 college graduates. Instead of examining just the two-year cohort rate, published yearly by the Education Dept. which looks only at student loan default in the two years following graduation, Education Sector expands the window to reveal a starkly different picture of loan repayment.

"The problem is far bigger than the rates provided by the U.S. Department of Education suggest," says Kevin Carey, research and policy manager for Education Sector. "And the problem is much more substantial for certain kinds of borrowers."

Extrapolating from the NCES data, analysts found that the default rate was much higher than the Education Dept. rate, around 9.7%.

Lenders Defend Lifetime Rates

The Education Dept. declined to comment about the discrepancy or the choice of its two-year cohort rate. Student lenders such as Sallie Mae (NYSE: SLM - News) say they largely disregard the cohort rate, and choose instead to view the business and health of student loans and student lenders based on the lifetime default rate. In 2003, the Education Dept.'s Office of the Inspector General

found that the smaller two-year look at default doesn't actually reflect long-term default trends.

"The two-year snapshot of student default rates offers some insight, but it's really not as meaningful as the lifetime default rates," says Kevin Bruns, executive director of America's Student Loan Providers, an industry trade group. "What this report is saying is that loan performance immediately after graduating is not as telling as we may have thought."

Beyond loans, the broader issue of student debt has become a topic of heated debate, focused on its causes and solutions. Credit-card companies have come under increased scrutiny for their college lending practices, as critics argue that aggressive marketing practices fuel ballooning student debt. Credit-card issuing banks take great issue with this charge, pointing to their extensive financial literacy programs and arguing that students are often savvy, smarter consumers (BusinessWeek.com, 9/4/07) than the general population.

Parsing the Data

"Students are clearly struggling," Carey says. The report highlights exactly which type of students are struggling and what aggravates that struggle. As loans get bigger, so, too, does the chance of default. Students who graduated with \$15,000 or more in loans are three times as likely to default as students with less than \$5,000. Separating the data according to post-graduation income, Education Sector found that student salaries immediately after graduation have a tacit and long-term effect on their ability to repay their loans. Students with the lowest salaries one year after graduation were four times as likely to default on their loans as students with the highest post-graduating paychecks.

Default rates vary drastically across racial lines with black students routinely defaulting at far greater rates. Black students were five times as likely to default than white students, and nine times as likely as Asian students surveyed. While not quite as large a discrepancy, Hispanic students also defaulted in greater rates than their white or Asian counterparts. Hispanic students' overall default rates were more than twice the rate for white students and four times greater than Asian students. "Student loan default is a real problem," Carey says. "The data revealed that."

## OTRO MURO PARA EL PARTIDO REPUBLICANO - ENCIMA DEL CUAL SE ENCUENTRA HUMPTY

Se dio el repique de gracia la semana pasada cuando en Washington, D.C., se reunió el grupo conservador cristiano, "Values Voters" (votantes con base en los valores). De los 5.775 votos de opinión registrados, el candidato de avanzada, Rudy Giuliani, terminó penúltimo, con sólo el 2 por ciento, en un lista de se contendientes.

Los cristianos de derechas distan mucho de llegar a un consenso. Mientras tanto, los evangélicos latinos, un bloque crucial y determinante, sin decir palabra han dejado que los esperanzados republicanos se las vean ellos solos.

El primer repique ocurrió el día anterior, cuando el senador por Florida, Mel Martínez, anunció su renuncia del cargo de presidente del Comité Nacional Republicano.

Martínez asumió las riendas del partido hace menos de un año.

Ambos eventos son evidencia de lo recalcitrante que se ha vuelto el partido.

La razón por la que la renuncia de Martínez es reflejo de la incapacidad del partido republicano de lograr ser unido se encuentra en su campaña por mantener su escaño en el Senado en el 2010, que no va a ser muy fácil. Una encuesta en julio de la Universidad Quinnipiac lo puso con un 38 por ciento de desaprobación y sólo un 36 por ciento de aprobación. Este efecto revertido implica que el senador tiene reparaciones que hacer en casa.

Cuando se anunciaron los resultados de la encuesta, el periódico en línea, Orlando Sentinel.com reportó que dijo, "No me voy a preocupar mucho por las encuestas. Está muy lejos mi propia elección".

A los tres meses, la campaña del 2010 ya no parece estar tan distante.

La razón es que para entonces Florida habrá sobrepasado en población a la de Nueva York, haciéndose el tercer estado de mayor población después de los estados de California y Texas. Se anticipa ganará tres nuevos escaños en el Congreso después de realizarse el próximo censo, uno de los que se atribuye al crecimiento de la población indocumentada.

En los Estados Unidos sólo se permite a los ciudadanos votar, aunque toda persona queda representada por los funcionarios electos. Por eso es que los representantes que tienen en sus distritos un alto número de residentes indocumentados tienden a ser sensitivos a aquellas inquietudes. Y también explica en gran parte por qué los más vociferantes contra la inmigración son los que representan distritos con relativamente pocas personas indocumentadas.

El problema de Martínez para el 2010 comenzó en el

2006 cuando llevó el proyecto de ley de la administración de Bush en el Senado. El proyecto incluía un camino a la legalización para 12 millones de personas así como elementos que aseguraban una fuerte seguridad fronteriza. Como el único inmigrante de todos los senadores, Martínez era el líder natural para tal proyecto de ley.

Pero la oposición dio fuerte a la opción controvertida de legalización con la palabra venenosa para la política - "amnistía". Martínez prefería referirse a la legalización como una oportunidad para que los inmigrantes indocumentados pudieran "salir de

de inacción gubernamental. Por consecuencia, los funcionarios locales y estatales, han presentado hasta 1.400 artículos de legislación para restringir a los supuestos "inmigrantes ilegales".

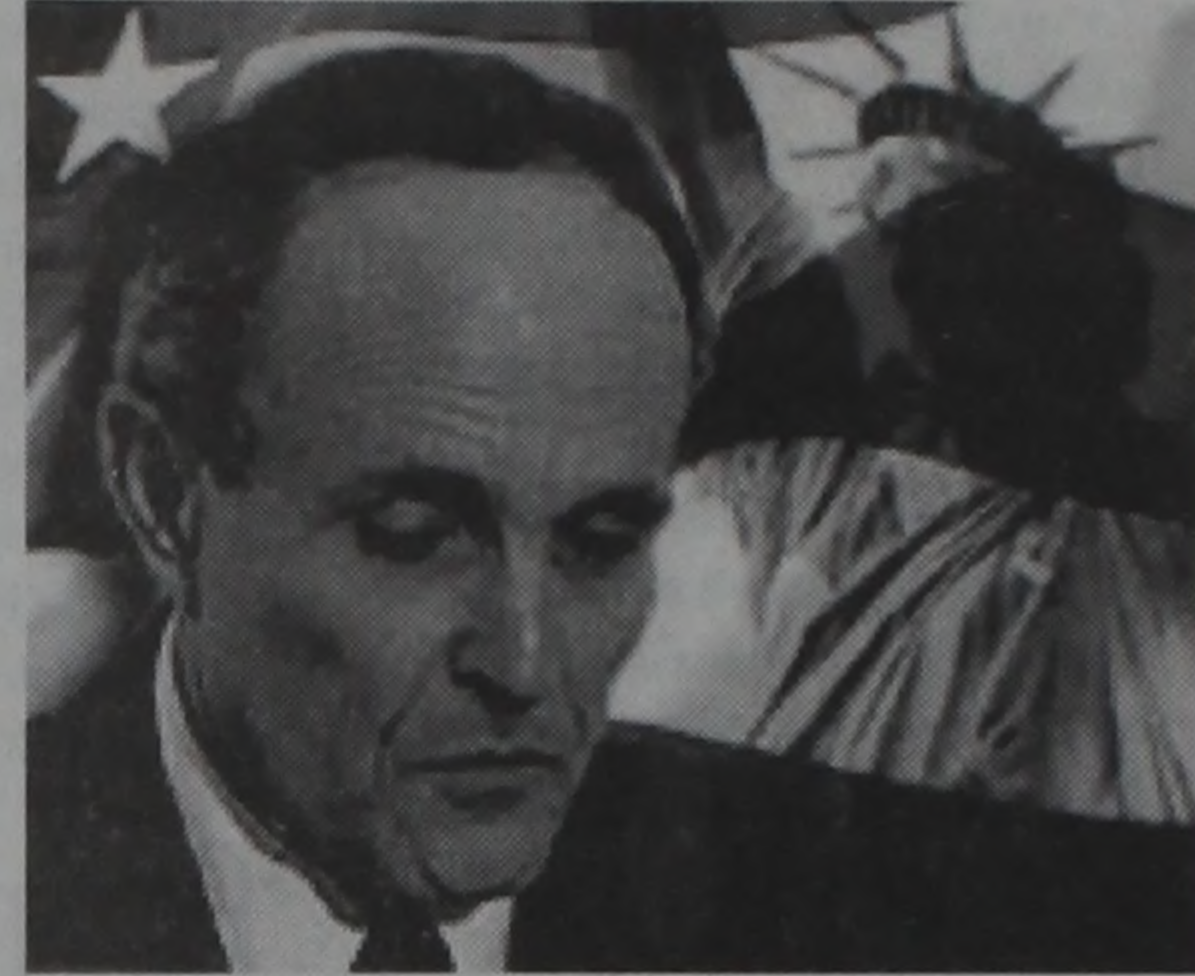
Han circulado numerosas razones más por las que Mel Martínez renunció al cargo de liderazgo del partido republicano. No obstante, tuvo mucho éxito en recaudando \$55.3 millones para el Comité Nacional Republicano, mucho más del \$34.8 millones que pudieron recaudar los demócratas.

De todas las explicaciones, me parece que la teoría del "cuento de niños" da en el blanco.

Para evitar el destino del 2008, Martínez se está apartado. Con sólo cuatro meses hasta la primera primaria anticipada, el partido no ha podido encontrar su centro de gravedad sobre los valores políticos que le daría una ventaja. Es cada vez menos probable que los republicanos logren seleccionar a una candidato que fomente el consenso de sus varias rarísimas, y muchas veces conflictivas, facciones.

Lo cual sugiere que después de los comicios presidenciales, todos los caballos del rey y todos los hombres del rey no podrán restituir de nuevo a Humpty Dumpty.

Para ganar su propia candidatura, Mel Martínez sencillamente se aparta del partido republicano en lo que se aplasta después de caerse.



la penumbra". La oposición desvió la atención de multas y largas esperas por la solicitud, prefiriendo no solucionar el problema. Al final, este proyecto y otros similares fracasaron. La "amnistía" se volvió una navaja en los dulces del debate sobre la inmigración.

La falta de acción por parte del Congreso sobre la inmigración es uno de los cargos de la acusación del público

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## Home Sales Plunge by 8 Percent

Sales of existing homes plunged by a record amount in September while median home prices dropped by the largest amount in nearly a year, reflecting deepening problems in the troubled housing market.

Analysts said the current downturn is already more severe than the housing slump of the 1990s and they predicted before it is resolved it will rival the 1980-82 housing slump when the industry was battered by double-digit mortgage rates and a steep economic downturn.

The National Association of Realtors reported Wednesday that sales of existing homes fell 8 percent in September, the largest decline to show up in records dating to 1999. The seasonally adjusted annual sales rate of 5.04 million existing homes was also the slowest pace on record. The median price - the point at which half the homes sold for more and half for less - fell to \$211,700 in September, down by 4.2 percent from the sales price a year ago. It was the biggest price drop since last October and marked the 13th time out of the past 14 months that the year-over-year sales price has decreased.

Problems in housing worsened in September following a severe credit crunch that hit in August as banks and other lenders tightened standards in the face of soaring mortgage defaults. The market all but dried up for subprime borrowers, those with weak credit histories, and people seeking so-called jumbo loans over \$417,000.

Many economists said the problems in housing could well last for another year, given record-high levels of unsold new and existing homes.

"The housing market is unraveling," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "We are in a steep downturn and the prospects are that it is going to get worse before it gets better."

The 8 percent decline in sales was bigger than the 4.5 percent drop that had been expected. It marked the seventh straight monthly decline and left sales activity 19.1 percent below the pace of a year ago. Last week, the government reported that construction of new homes slid to the slowest pace in 10 1/2 years in September as builders continue to cut back in the face of weak demand.

The housing slump followed five straight years of record sales, a boom that was fueled by the lowest mortgage rates in four decades. The housing boom lured many investors to purchase second homes in hopes of flipping them for quick profits.

That all began to turn down late last year as mortgage rates began to rise and buyers began to balk at the huge price gains that had been occurring in the hottest sales areas such as California, Florida and parts of the Northeast.

Analysts blamed the bigger-than-expected sales slump in September on the turmoil that hit credit and mortgage markets in August as worries increased over rising mortgage foreclosures.

"Mortgage problems were peaking back in August when many of

the September closings were being negotiated and that slowed sales notably in higher priced areas that rely more on jumbo loans," said Lawrence Yun, senior economist for the Realtors.

By region of the country sales were down 10 percent in the Northeast, 9.9 percent in the West, 7 percent in the Midwest and 6 percent in the South.

The slowdown in sales meant that the inventory of unsold homes rose to 4.4 million units in September. At the September sales pace, it would 10.5 months to eliminate the overhang of unsold homes, a record length of time.

Yun forecast that prices will decline by 1.5 percent this year, compared to 2006. That would be the first annual price decline in the four decades that the Realtors have been tracking prices.

The troubles in housing have been a drag on overall economic growth, increasing worries that the housing slump and related credit market troubles could become so severe that they will push the country into a recession.

However, many private economists believe that the Federal Reserve, which cut a key interest rate for the first time in four years last month, will continue cutting rates to make sure that the weakening economy does not tumble into a full-blown recession. The Fed meets again next week.

"The housing crunch is accelerating. The Fed can't stand by and watch," said Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics.



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## Univision Debuts "Como Ama Una Mujer" October 30th

The debut of the highly-anticipated dramatic series, "Como Ama Una Mujer" (How a Woman

each episode, Lopez will be featured in an exclusive musical performance of one of the songs



Loves), featuring Golden Globe and GRAMMY® nominated superstar Jennifer Lopez as creator and executive producer will debut on Tuesday, October 30 at 10pm ET/PT (9pm Central) on the Univision Television Network

The original, five-part dramatic mini-series is inspired by the lyrics of Lopez first Spanish-language album of the same name released earlier this year. Filmed in Mexico and featuring an all-star international cast.

"Como Ama Una Mujer" tells the story of a woman's journey to find her true soul-mate, but with her glamorous life and professional success come heartbreak and betrayals that threaten to break her spirit. At the end of

from the album upon which the series is based.

The cast of 3Como Ama Una Mujer2 will feature some of Spanish-language television and motion pictures1 biggest stars including Chilean motion

picture actress Leonor Varela (Voces Inocentes, Blade II, The Tailor of Panama), Mexican motion picture star Raul Mendez (Los Justos, Un Mundo Maravilloso, Matando Cabos, The Legend of Zorro), Cristián de la Fuente, the internationally popular Chilean novela (Soñar No Cuesta Nada) and motion picture (Driven, Vampires: Los Muertos) actor, one of Mexico's top novela actresses Rebecca Jones (Cuna de Lobos, Dos Vidas, and Huracan), Mexican motion picture star Rocío Verdejo (Los Justos, Corazón Marchito) and novela actress Gabriela de la Garza (Ángel, Las Alas de Amor, Belinda), among others.

# Llega 'Making Menudo'

A partir de mañana jueves el público podrá ser testigo de la selección de los integrantes de lo que será la nueva agrupación Menudo, a través del reality show que se transmitirá por el canal de música MTV.

Los 15 jóvenes que competirán en Making Menudo, que se emitirá a las 4:30 de la tarde y 10:30 de la noche y será retransmitido los sábados a las dos de la tarde por MTV3, fueron elegidos tras un proceso de audiciones este año en Miami, Los Ángeles, Dallas y Nueva York para chicos entre 13 y 19 años que cantan y bailan.

Cerca de 300 jóvenes se presentaron pero sólo fueron seleccionados 15 de Texas, Puerto Rico, Florida, Chicago, California, Nueva York, New Jersey y Colombia.

"El verdadero reto está por comenzar en Making Menudo, una serie de 10 episodios que presenta a las superestrellas futuras de este grupo de jóvenes", señaló MTV en un comunicado de prensa.

La serie comenzará con el viaje que hicieron a Miami los 15 finalistas para participar en un intenso programa de entrenamiento, "Menudo Boot Camp", bajo la dirección de Johnny Wright (Backstreet Boys, NSYNC, Janet

Jackson, Justin Timberlake), el director musical y maestro de canto David Coury (Backstreet Boys, NSYNC, Leona Lewis) y un equipo de coreógrafos.

Cada semana se les dará a tres finalistas 72 horas para apren-

musical.

Durante el programa los aspirantes a la nueva banda Menudo recibirán la visita de artistas como Howie D de los Backstreet Boys, Frankie J, Wilmer Valderrama, el productor musical Danja, el grupo de cantautores The Clutch, y por el presidente de Epic Records, Charlie Walk, para darles apoyo.

A los cinco jóvenes finalistas les espera un contrato con Epic Records para la grabación de un disco, una gira mundial y millones de entusiasmados fanáticos.

El grupo Menudo original, que arrasó en Estados Unidos y Latinoamérica durante las décadas de los 70 y 80 grabó 35 discos, vendió más de 40 millones de copias y llenó conciertos en todo el mundo.

La legendaria banda, que en la década de los 80 tuvo entre sus integrantes a Ricky Martin, Robby Rosa, Johnny Lozada y

Charlie Massó, sigue manteniendo hasta hoy el récord mundial por presentarse en vivo frente al público más numeroso en la historia de la música.

Menudo logró reunir 200 mil seguidores en un estadio en Río de Janeiro y más de 500 mil en un concierto en Ciudad de México, además de 13 presentaciones consecutivas en el famoso Radio City de Nueva York.

Sus seguidores no olvidan temas como Súbete a mi moto, Quiero rock, A volar y Dulces besos entre otras que han sido grabadas en español, inglés, portugués, italiano, tagalo y japonés.

Menudo regresó con nuevos integrantes en 1991 y en 1997, en su última etapa, su nombre cambió a MDO.

El nuevo Menudo tendrá un sonido contemporáneo, hip-urbano-rítmico y será representado por Menudo Entertainment y Wright.

El próximo diciembre, Epic lanzará al mercado la nueva música de Menudo con un disco en inglés y español.

Cada semana, después de salir al aire, el episodio más reciente estará disponible en su totalidad en la internet junto con un avance del episodio de la siguiente semana.



derse una canción sorpresa que incluirá armonías y una rutina de baile, que luego presentarán frente a un público de cientos de personas.

Wright y su equipo estarán presentes para evaluar cada presentación y al final del reality show quedarán los cinco integrantes que revivirán la famosa agrupación bajo un nuevo concepto

## "El amor en tiempos del cólera" beneficia a fundación de Shakira

Shakira le sacará partido a su cólera.

La cantante colombiana promoverá una subasta el 6 de noviembre en Las Vegas, a beneficio de su fundación Pies Descalzos, con motivo del estreno estadounidense de la película "El amor en los tiempos del cólera", inspirada en la novela épica del Nobel colombiano Gabriel García Márquez y en cuya banda sonora participa.

Como parte de la celebración, Shakira interpretará los temas suyos incluidos en el filme, entre ellos "Cada día pienso en ti".

"El evento comenzará con una cena y una subasta silenciosa en el club nocturno Rain, y todos los fondos obtenidos serán destinados a la Fundación Pies Descalzos, una asociación colombiana sin fines de lucro que ayuda a los niños y a sus familias", dijeron los organizadores el miércoles en un comunicado de prensa.

No estuvo claro de inmediato qué artículos se subastarán. "Estoy muy agradecida con todos los que están detrás de esta película apoyando el importante trabajo de la Fundación Pies Descalzos", dijo en la misma misiva la ganadora de dos premios Grammy y ocho Latin Grammy.

"Pies Descalzos apoya a los

niños y a sus familias que han sido desarraigados y desplazados por el conflicto actual en mi natal Colombia, la hermosa tierra que García Márquez describe con tal exuberancia en "El amor en los tiempos del cólera", agregó.

La casa productora Stone Village Pictures destacó el trabajo de la cantante en el filme.

"Shakira es una mujer de un inmenso talento y compasión, y eso se transmite conmovedoramente en su música y aún más en sus acciones... Nos sentimos honrados de colaborar con ella como artista y como persona humanitaria", declaró el productor Scott Steindorff.

Protagonizada por el español Javier Bardem y dirigida por Mike Newell con guión adaptado por Ronald Harwood, "El amor en los tiempos del cólera" se rodó en Cartagena en inglés con un reparto que incluye a la italiana Giovanna Mezzogiorno como Fermína Daza, la brasileña Fernanda Montenegro como la madre del protagonista, Tránsito Ariza; el estadounidense Benjamin Bratt como el Dr. Juvenal Urbino y la colombiana Catalina Sandino Moreno como la prima de Fermína, Hildebranda Sánchez.

La trama gira en torno a un hombre que espera 50 años por el amor de su vida.



## Crossover appeal could make Juanes a worldwide star

The release of the new album by Colombian rocker Juanes is something of a watershed moment for fans of rock en español. Back in the late '80s/early '90s, the feisty scene exploding out of the Spanish-speaking world was often derided or ignored by the Latin pop and English-language rock mainstream.

Flash forward to this week and Juanes' La Vida Es un Ratico (Life is a Moment) is reportedly the first all-Spanish album to be released simultaneously in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. That's how high expectations are at Juanes' label, Universal, for its success. Take that, Ricky Martin.

But his crossover appeal is a bit of a mixed blessing for longtime followers of the genre. Once again, Juanes works with the hipster Latin-music producer of the moment Gustavo Santaolalla (Cafe Tacuba, Motorcycle Diaries and Brokeback Mountain soundtracks) and Ratico has all the elements listeners have come to expect from the singer-songwriter.

Its easy-to-like musical mix (well-played Anglo-American rock shot through with Colombian vallenato and various Latin and Caribbean flavors) and lyrics of topical but hardly con-

troversial concerns -- Banderas de Manos (Flag of Hands) tells us races and countries should get along. It makes Ratico an enjoyably pan-global but hardly groundbreaking listening experience.

As with Mexico's Mana, another rock en español act that's now an arena band in the U.S., Juanes is rarely less than pleasant but he's also -- especially for non-Spanish speaking audiences to whom he's now being marketed -- rarely transcendent either. There are other rock en español acts, from Mexico's Cafe Tacuba to Argentina's Gustavo Cerati, who've made more compelling, adventurous music.

Having said that, La Vida Es un Ratico has many convincing moments, such as the infectious, reggae-flavored hit single Me Enamora (It Makes Me Fall in Love), the jazzy Hoy Me Voy (Today I'm Going Away), the Santana-ish Bailala (Dance), two versions of the catchy Banderas de Manos, and the piano-ballad title track, reminiscent at times of Argentine singer Fito Paez.

Certainly, this album is going to be a major worldwide hit and neophytes to the style could do worse than get their introduction through La Vida Es un Ratico. But they also could do better.

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MIDLAND-ODESSA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )  
 )  
 V. ) CRIMINAL NO. MO-07-CR-79 (1)  
 )  
 JASON HEATH QUINN )

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Notice of Preliminary Judgment of Forfeiture, pursuant to Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 853(a) through (n)(1) - (n)(7), and/or Title 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1), and the intent of the United States of America to dispose of subject personal property:

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## Panel Recommends FluMist for Young Kids



Children as young as 2 can be given a nasal spray flu vaccine, a federal advisory panel said Wednesday.

Government advice now recommends only traditional shots for children younger than 5. But recent studies have shown the vaccine FluMist, made by Maryland-based MedImmune Inc., to be safe and effective in kids as young as 2.

FluMist was initially approved in 2003 for use in healthy people ages 5 to 49. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration last month approved its use for the 2 to 5 age group as well.

Now, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which advises government health officials, is recommending FluMist's use for kids in the 2 to 5 age bracket. Committee members said Wednesday that children with a history of asthma or wheezing should opt for a shot.

Recommendations by the panel usually are accepted by U.S. health officials, and they influence insurance companies' decisions on vaccination coverage.

The committee didn't recommend FluMist over flu shots, merely making it an option for young children who may dread a shot with a needle. Flu shots are still recommended for children ages 6 months to 5 years and those 50 and over as well as other groups at risk for flu complications.

The committee also voted that a government program that pays for vaccines extend its FluMist coverage to the younger age group, meaning more than 5 million children will now be eligible for free

FluMist. That includes children eligible for Medicaid, members of Native American and Alaska Native groups, and some children who don't have insurance that covers the vaccination.

"This is a significant step forward in our vision to have a significant impact on influenza disease in all age groups," said Frank Malinoski, MedImmune's senior vice president for medical and scientific affairs.

MedImmune is a wholly owned subsidiary of London-based AstraZeneca PLC. The company had \$36 million in FluMist sales last year, and has made about 4.5 million doses for the current flu season, a company spokeswoman said.

A dose of FluMist costs about \$18, roughly the cost of a flu shot. One dose is recommended annually, but if it's the first time a young child was ever vaccinated against flu, two doses should be given, spaced at least a month apart.

The committee also discussed a proposal to recommend flu vaccinations for all school-age children.

Health officials believe vaccinating more children would reduce the spread of flu in general as well as protecting the students themselves. But experts say they're concerned about the strain on pediatricians and schools if they tried to give annual flu shots to so many children.

The discussion was tabled until the committee's next meeting in February.

Democrats are reversing President Bush's cuts to education, health research and grants to local communities as they gird for Bush's first-ever veto of a regular appropriations bill.

Taking a critical step on Tuesday, the Senate was poised to pass a huge health and education spending bill, which will likely be the first of the fiscal 2008 spending bills they'll ship to the White House to start a veto battle involving the budget for almost every domestic agency.

It promises to be a protracted battle, but Democrats have seized on the massive health and education measure as the best measure with which to challenge Bush and his GOP allies in Congress. The measure totals over \$600 billion and reverses a raft of cuts sought by Bush to health research, special education and funding for grants to community groups that help the poor, among others.

The confrontation with Bush over domestic programs - many of which are also popular with Republicans - will come on the heels of the bruising veto battle over a children's health insurance bill. Programs funded by the health and education bill affect schoolchildren, workers, the poor and disabled, the unemployed and those with special needs or drug and alcohol prob-

lems, among others.

The House measure, which exceeds Bush's budget by more than \$10 billion, must be reconciled with a companion House measure passed in July before the legislation can be sent to Bush.

Battles over anti-crime funds, transportation and housing and perhaps the homeland security budget will follow.

"We are arguing about whether or not to invest further moneys in education, health care, (anti-crime grants), border security, port security, environmental protection," said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md. "The President has asked for \$196.4 billion of supplemental funding this year for Iraq and Afghanistan ... while he argues as to whether or not we ought to increase ... cancer research, diabetes research, heart/lung research for our citizens."

Bush is intent on issuing vetoes and has so far rebuffed Democratic pleas for negotiations. But Democrats and some Republicans hope that once he gets a few vetoes out of his system, that the White House will signal a willingness to compromise.

For starters, a company of the ad-

ditional money came to restore White House cuts. Many of those cuts were rejected by Republicans when they controlled Congress.

House Republicans have demonstrated they have the votes to sustain Bush vetoes, though on some votes, including the House version of the health and education bill, they barely produced the more than one third required.

More than any other of the 12 annual spending bills setting agency budgets for the 2008 budget year, the health and education measure defines the differences between Bush and Democrats controlling Congress.

Bush sought to cut \$4 billion from last year's levels of the \$152 billion portion of the measure that Congress adjusts at its discretion. The rest of the bill mostly funds inflationary increases to Medicare and Medicaid.

Democrats instead added almost \$11 billion to Bush's request, including almost \$4 billion more than the president sought for the Department of Education. For health research at the National Institutes of Health, Democrats added \$1 billion over 2007 funding; Bush sought a \$289 million cut.

And Bush sought to eliminate the \$630 million budget for the Community Services Block Grant program, which provides the federal seed money for community action agencies that offer job training programs, emergency housing, food aid and other services to the poor.

Senate Democrats are also seeking a \$259 million increase for community health centers, a \$224 million boost for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a \$1 billion increase over 2007 level for Title I grants to local school districts, an almost 8 percent increase.

During several days of Senate debate, Republicans did not offer a single amendment to make specific, substantial cuts to the measure to bring it closer to Bush's budget. But they did attack the bill over its bevy of "earmarks," or home-state projects sought by lawmakers.

According to Taxpayers for Common Sense, a Washington-based budget watchdog group, the bill contains more than 1,000 earmarks totaling \$562 million. A move by anti-pork crusader Tom Coburn, R-Okla., to strip out every one of those projects was killed by a 68-26 vote.

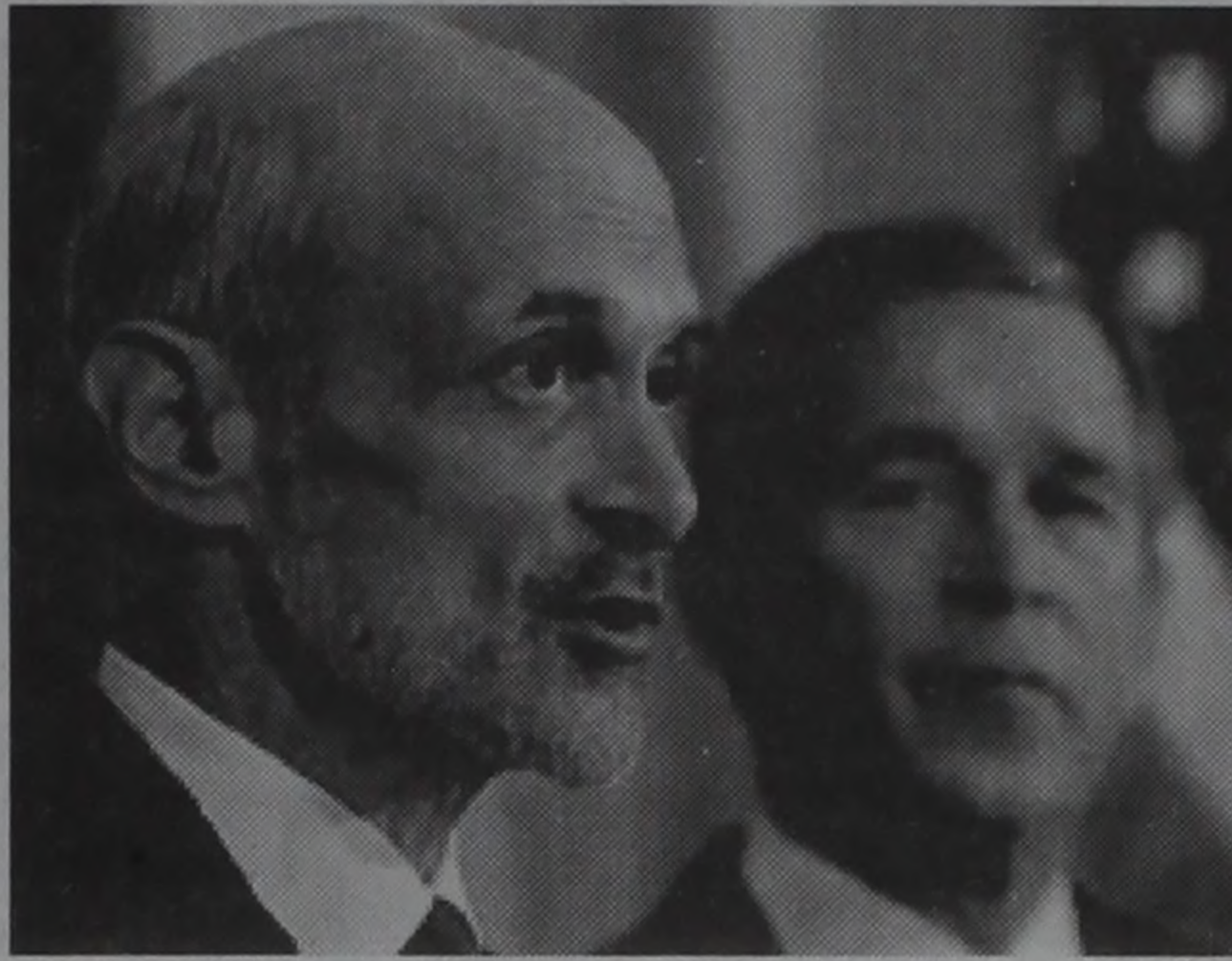
## Chertoff reanuda construcción de muro fronterizo

El secretario de Seguridad

Interna, Michael Chertoff, invocó ayer su derecho a eludir ciertas leyes para reanudar la construcción de una barda a lo largo de la frontera entre Arizona y México.

Las acciones de Chertoff permitirán que la construcción avance en un sector de 11 kilómetros (siete millas) en el Área de Conservación Nacional de San Pedro Riparian, cerca de Naco, Arizona.

Las obras en una zona de



aproximadamente tres kilómetros de la barda (dos millas) estaban suspendidas desde el 10 de octubre, cuando una jueza federal de distrito ordenó un aplazamiento en su construcción.

La jueza decidió que el gobi-

erno federal no estudió completamente el impacto ambiental de la barda.

El Congreso le dio a Chertoff el poder de saltarse las leyes del medio ambiente y otras regulaciones para construir bardas fronterizas que fueron aprobadas en la iniciativa de ley REAL ID del 2005.

La iniciativa de ley REAL ID indica entre otras cosas los lineamientos que deberán tener las licencias de automovilista, mismas que serán exigidas como identificación para abordar aviones o ingresar en edificios federales. Esos lineamientos aún están en estudio.

Es la tercera ocasión en que Chertoff ha utilizado este poder. El secretario también lo empleó el 22 de septiembre del 2005 para concluir la construcción de 22.5 kilómetros de barda (14 millas) en San Diego, y el 19

de enero para erigir una barda en el Campo de Tiro Barry M. Goldwater de la Fuerza Aérea en Arizona.

"Estamos tratando de respetar la parte sustancial del proceso ambiental y estamos utilizando la autoridad de saltarnos la ley donde pareciera que la gente simplemente intenta detenernos o frenarnos en nuestro trabajo lanzándonos obstáculos procesales" y la utilización de litigios, indicó Chertoff en una entrevista telefónica con la AP.

Entre las leyes ambientales que fueron eludidas por Chertoff se encuentran la Ley de Política Nacional Ambiental, la Ley de Especies en Peligro de Extinción y la Ley de Desechos Sólidos.

Chertoff también se ha saltado algunas leyes de conservación como la Ley de Preservación Nacional Histórica y la Ley de Antigüedades

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After Heartbreaking Loss to Mizzou,

Photos by Steven Leija

# Tech Looks To Rebound Saturday Against Colorado



Red Raiders and Buffaloes kickoff at 11 a.m. on ABC Sports  
 Tech will face Colorado at 11 a.m. on Saturday.  
 Football Home  
 Tech-Baylor Set for 2 p.m.  
 Tech Looks To Rebound Saturday Against Colorado  
 Texas Tech (6-2; 2-2 Big 12) vs. Colorado (4-4; 2-2 Big 12)  
 Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007 - Jones AT&T Stadium  
 11 a.m. - ABC Sports (Regional)

Missouri's Chase Daniel threw for 210 yards and a touchdown and No. 15 Missouri intercepted Graham Harrell four times, returning one for a score to hand Texas Tech a 41-10 loss on Saturday.

### BREAKFAST AT JONES

The Red Raiders are back home Saturday and face their final opponent from the Big 12's North Division. Texas Tech and Colorado kickoff at 11 a.m. from Jones AT&T Stadium. Both teams are coming off losses: Tech, a 41-10 setback at Missouri, and Colorado, a 19-14 home loss to Kansas. Saturday's game is the fifth of the season at Jones AT&T Stadium with one more to play against Oklahoma in the regular-season finale.

Tigers' tailback Jimmy Jackson had 59 yards and three touchdowns on 12 carries filling in for Tony Temple, sidelined a second straight game by a sprained ankle.

### RADIO COVERAGE

The Texas Tech Sports Network is comprised of 48 stations and the game can be heard on Sirius Satellite Radio (140) and XM Radio (242). Brian Jensen will handle the play-by-play duties, while John Harris and former Red Raider quarterback Sonny Cumbie serve as analysts. Armen Williams will comb the sidelines for the network. Flagship station 1340 KKAM and KFMX 94.5 carry the games in Lubbock.

Missouri freshman Derrick Washington added 66 yards on nine carries for Missouri (6-1, 2-1 Big 12), which rebounded from a 10-point loss at Oklahoma last week and is 2-1 during a three-game stretch against ranked opponents.

### TELEVISION COVERAGE

ABC is televising the game live from Jones AT&T Stadium. Dan Fouts (play-by-play), Tim Brandt (analyst) and Todd Harris (side line) will call the action this weekend. Kickoff is set for 11 a.m.

Missouri has won 13 of its last 14 at home.

### ROAD TO THIS POINT

The Red Raiders are 6-2 (2-2 in Big 12) on the season and are coming off a 41-10 loss at Missouri last weekend. Texas Tech opened the season with wins over three-straight Conference USA opponents, before dropping its conference opener at Oklahoma State, 49-45. Tech bounced back with three straight wins against Northwestern State, Iowa State and Texas A&M, all in Lubbock. The Buffaloes are 4-4 (2-2 Big 12) after dropping a 19-14 decision to Kansas in Boulder last weekend. Colorado opened the season with a win over Colorado State, before dropping games to Florida State and Arizona State. CU won three straight prior to dropping the last two.

The scoring total was a season low for Texas Tech (6-2, 2-2), which entered the game first in points (50) and yards (582) per game. Missouri scored on its first four possessions of the second half to top its 40-point average.

Texas Tech entered the rankings last week after a 35-7 victory over Texas A&M. The high point for the Red Raiders Saturday was a 68-yard touchdown pass from Harrell to Edward Britton in the second quarter that cut Missouri's lead to 10-7. Harrell, who entered the game with 31 TD passes and only three interceptions, was 44-for-69 for 397 yards.

He completed 83 percent of his passes the previous two weeks, going 66-for-80 for seven touchdowns with one interception. The attempts are a season high and the yardage is second-lowest of the year and fewest against a major college opponent.

### RED RAIDERS IN THE POLLS

After a brief showing in the polls, the Red Raiders dropped out following last week's loss, but are receiving votes. Red Raider opponents earning top 25 status include Texas (16/17), Oklahoma (4/4) and Missouri (13/13). (USA Today/AP)

### ON THE HORIZON

The Red Raiders travel to Baylor (Nov. 3) and Texas (Nov. 10), before closing the regular season against Oklahoma (Nov. 17) at Jones AT&T Stadium.

### TECH IN MIDST OF WINNING SEASONS STREAK

Texas Tech currently ranks fifth nationally with 12-straight winning seasons. Florida State leads with 30, while Michigan (22), Florida (19), Virginia Tech (14) and Tech comprise the top five.

### SIXTEEN DIFFERENT RECEIVERS HAVE CATCHES

Texas Tech's quarterbacks have a cornucopia of talent at which to throw and have spread the wealth this season. Sixteen different Red Raiders have caught passes in 2007. Aside from WR Michael Crabtree's national-leading 88 receptions, eight other receivers have double-digit receptions as well. WR Danny Amendola has 71 receptions followed by IR Eric Morris and RB Shannon Woods with 37 and 34, respectively. Edward Britton and Grant Walker have 21 apiece, while L.A. Reed and WR Lyle Leong check in with 13 each. RB Kobey Lewis has 11. Amendola and Morris have been the other go-to guys for Tech QBs with five and four touchdown receptions. Eight different players account for Texas Tech's 35 receiving touchdowns.

### ANOTHER RECORD FALLS

This sounds redundant, but WR Michael Crabtree broke another record. The freshman receiving phenom has 1,320 yards this season which breaks the previous NCAA freshman yardage record of 1,265, set by USC's Mike Williams in 2002.

### PRODUCTIVE TO SAY THE LEAST

While WR Michael Crabtree hasn't scored in the last two games, he still leads the nation in all receiving categories and scoring. He recorded his seventh-straight 100-yard receiving game against Texas A&M, which ties him with Lloyd Hill, who recorded a Tech record seven 100-yard games in 1992. The streak ended at Missouri as he grabbed 10 catches for 76 yards.

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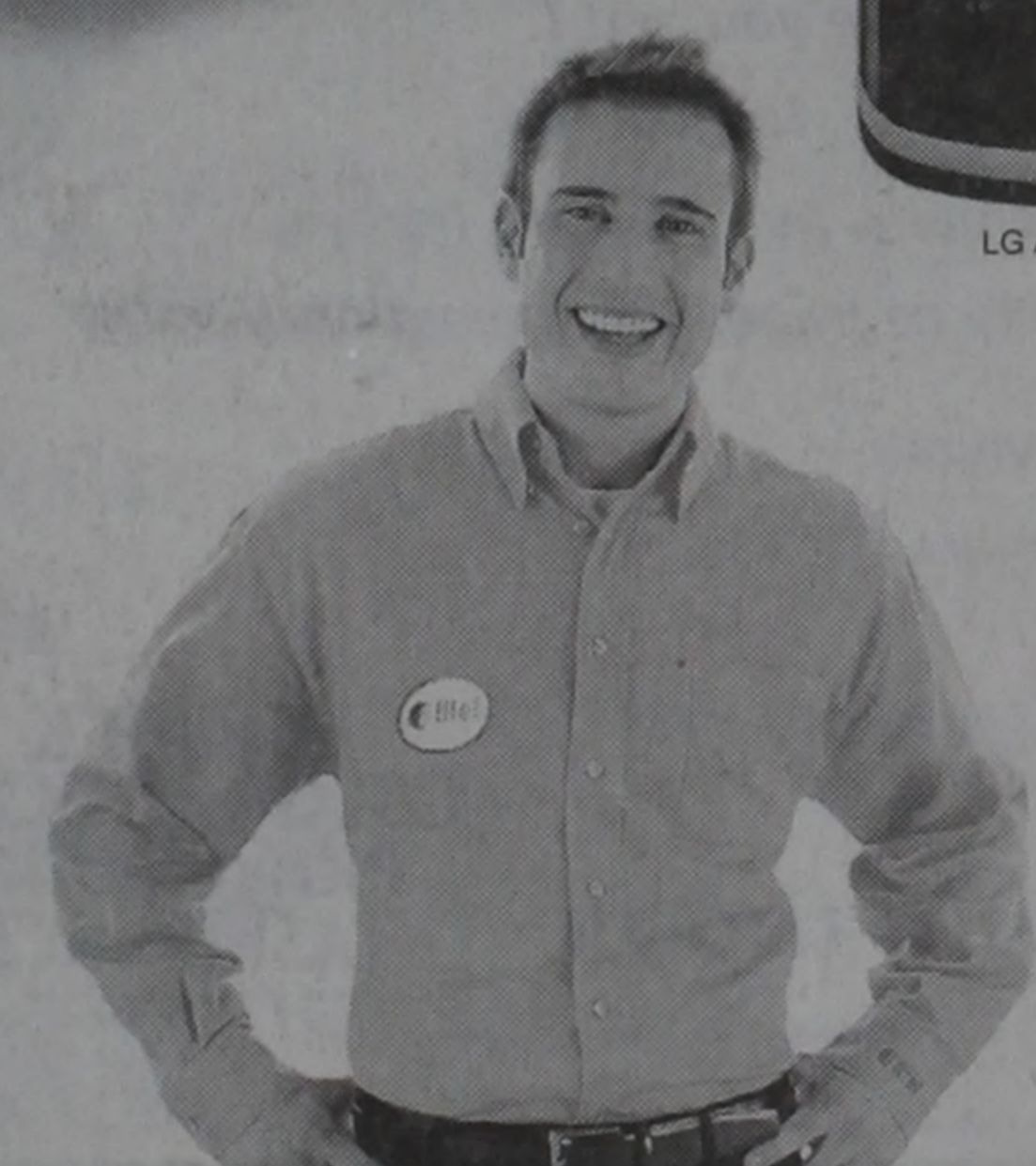
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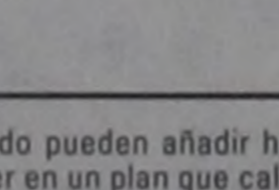
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