

Casualties of  
War in Iraq  
4,340  
as of Sept.  
3, 2009



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# Obama's 1st year sets record for Hispanic nominations

By Erin Kelly  
President Barack Obama has appointed more Hispanics to high office than any president ever has during the first year in office, reflecting the growing political clout of the nation's largest minority

Latin American Citizens, said he believes Obama has made a conscious effort to hire Hispanics in part to keep a campaign promise. "I think the president has been very intentional about it, and he's delivered," Wilkes said.

Sonia Sotomayor. Those appointees represent 14 percent of the 304 Obama nominees the Senate has confirmed. Hispanics make up 15 percent of the U.S. population and about 8 percent of the overall federal work-

according to the White House. In his first year, President George W. Bush appointed 14, President Bill Clinton appointed 30 Hispanics in his first year.

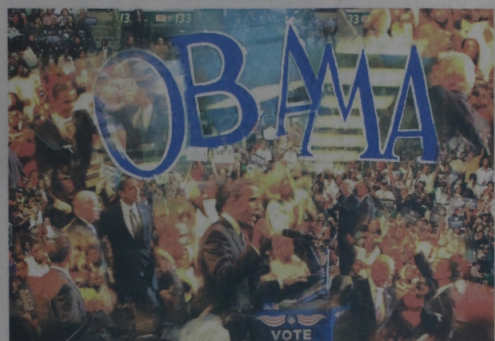
"I am proud that this administration has appointed a significantly higher proportion of Latinos ... than previous administrations," Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, the daughter of a Mexican immigrant, said in Puerto Rico this summer.

"More importantly, while we have made the most start in history in this area, we also know that we have more opportunities in the coming months."

Obama still has more than 200 appointments to make in his campaign. Even before taking office, Latino leaders lobbied Obama to appoint Hispanic Cabinet secretaries and to fill the first Supreme Court vacancy with a Latino. Shortly after taking office, the president nominated three Hispanic Cabinet secretaries, choosing Solis, a California congresswoman, for Labor secretary; Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., for Interior secretary; and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson for Commerce secretary.

Richardson withdrew from consideration amid a federal grand jury probe involving his campaign donors and was replaced by former Washington Gov. Gary Locke, who is Asian-American. But it was Obama's nomination of Sotomayor that resonated most with the Hispanic community. Latino leaders say, Sotomayor, of Puerto Rican descent, was confirmed in early August.

"All appointments aren't equal, and that's the most important one a president can make," Wilkes said. "It ensures that there will be a diverse viewpoint on the court for many years to come."



group. The 43 appointments since Inauguration Day also reflect Obama's debt to the Hispanic community, which helped propel him into the White House. Obama won two-thirds of the Hispanic vote in the 2008 presidential race, according to an analysis of exit polls by the Pew Hispanic Center. He beat Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., overwhelming among Hispanic voters despite McCain's generally moderate stance on immigration issues. Brem Wilkes, national executive director of the League of United

But the White House put a slightly different spin on it. "The president has made it a priority that his administration reflect America's great diversity," said Adam Abrams, a White House spokesman. "But the most conscious effort has been to appoint the best and most qualified candidates for each position." The Senate has so far confirmed 43 Hispanics nominated by Obama to serve at top levels in his administration and in the federal government, including two Cabinet secretaries and the nation's first Hispanic Supreme Court justice,

force, according to the U.S. Census Bureau and the Office of Personnel Management. "Fourteen percent is certainly a high-water mark for any president, and it represents incredible progress for the White House," Wilkes said. Those 43 confirmed appointees don't include the more than two dozen Hispanic staffers working in the White House who did not require Senate confirmation. In eight months, Obama has far exceeded the number of Hispanics appointed by his two predecessors in their first 12 months in office,

# Latino Worker Deaths Sound the Alarm for Declining Standards in America's Workplaces

Washington, DC—Latino workers are the most likely to pay for violations of basic labor laws with their lives, according to a groundbreaking report released today by NCLR (National Council of La Raza), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. In advance of Labor Day, NCLR held a telephonic briefing to release *Fractures in the Foundation: The Latino Worker's Experience in an Era of Declining Job Quality*. The report calls attention to the Latino occupational fatality rate, which is the highest of any demographic group.

The briefing brought together national civil rights, faith, and labor organizations to respond to the findings of the report. Joining NCLR were leaders from the National Employment Law Project (NELP), Farmworker Justice, the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Interfaith Worker Justice, and the National Day Labor Organizing Network (NDLON). Together, they called for targeted outreach and enforcement efforts in high-risk industries and a recommitment to protecting the rights of all workers.



"Latino workers help us tell the story of what is happening to basic standards in the American workplace," said Janet Marguia, President and CEO of NCLR. "The daily reality of so many of our workers—low wages, no benefits, and dangerous working conditions—is a shameful testament to how far our nation has regressed from the laws we enacted to protect all workers."

Based on an in-depth analysis of death on the job, wages, and employer-based benefits, the report exposes the severe erosion of job quality in America. The report calls on Congress and the U.S. Department of Labor to restore fairness and dignity to hard work by strengthening enforcement efforts, modernizing labor laws, and collaborating with community-based organizations to empower low-wage and immigrant workers.

"Weak enforcement of labor protections and a patchwork quilt of coverage impose a huge burden on low-wage workers, particularly workers of color, in the form of inferior wages, benefits, advancement opportunities, and workplace safety," Christine Owens, Executive Director of NELP. "The picture painted by *Fractures in the Foundation* and other recent reports underscores the urgency of reinvigorating Labor Department enforcement of our most basic worker protections, including a fair minimum wage, overtime pay, and safe and healthy workplaces. We cannot rebuild and sustain a sound economy on the backs of America's most vulnerable workers."

"All workers are entitled to living wages and safe working conditions. That some employees neglect to even pay their workers what they are due is not only outrageous, it is illegal. Labor laws are meaningless without the capacity and the will to enforce them," said Ted Smaker, Public Policy Director at Interfaith Worker Justice.

Bruce Goldstein, Executive Director of Farmworker Justice, said, "Migrant and seasonal farmworkers—most of whom are Latino—are suffering from the workplace abuses, labor law violations, and broken immigration system described in this invaluable report, and urgently need Congress and the administration to adopt the report's thoughtful, effective solutions. The people who harvest the food on our dinner tables deserve fair treatment on the job."

"NCLR's report confirms with alarming accuracy what many day laborers experience every day," said Pablo Alvarado, Executive Director of NDLON. "This report underlines the need for comprehensive immigration reform that includes strong protections for all workers."

"This report is a critical resource for all those who care about improving and protecting the lives of workers—both immigrant and native born," said Joe Hansen, International President of UFCW. "The recommendations laid out in this report are a roadmap for building safer workplaces, stronger communities, and a more just society. The UFCW is committed to strengthening our nation's labor laws and to ensuring the passage of comprehensive immigration reform. It is our hope that this report will jumpstart a new dialogue in Congress about protecting workers and providing the tools and resources so that all workers can achieve the American Dream."

"The strength of our economy depends on the strength of our workforce. Workers, employers, and government all play a part in rebuilding a solid foundation of job quality for a better economy," concluded Marguia.

# Mexicans in U.S. face increasing discrimination: Foreign Ministry

Mexicans living in the United States are facing increasingly aggressive discrimination despite legal entry, Foreign Ministry official Daniel Hernandez Joseph said Friday.

Hernandez said Mexicans, even those in the United States legally,

were seen as the cause of increasing migrant crimes, and they were treated with greater hostility as the result of a general rejection of Mexicans, Hispanics and foreigners in the United States.

Mexicans giving randomly made-up social security numbers in the country were charged with identity theft, though what they did was clearly different from deliberately defrauding a citizen by stealing their data, Hernandez cited as an example.

Authorities acted most aggressively in the southern states where immigration was rare until about 10 years ago, he added. "There are fewer Mexicans there than in big cities, but their cases are more difficult."

Mississippi state authorities have separated a woman from her child and put up this child for adoption, claiming that she was an unfit mother because of poverty, illegal immigration and bad English.

"We are appealing the case and will continue to fight this injustice," Hernandez said. "We have not seen any other case like this."

The nearest Mexican consulate, in New Orleans, a port city of Louisiana, has issued the woman papers that allowed her to re-enter in the country while she sought to regain custody of her child, and the government was working with a regional NGO, the Southern Poverty Law Center, on the case, he said.

Consular officials are now being trained to seek out and rescue victims of human trafficking, including immigrants working under harsh conditions and forced sex workers.

The total number of Mexicans seeking consular help did not increase, even though their experiences abroad were harsher, Hernandez said.

In the 12-month period to late July, about 64,000 Mexicans had



# Report: 41% of Latino girls students fail to graduate from high school in U.S

Via Xinhua News Agency  
A report released here Thursday revealed the serious drop-out crisis in the Latino community in the U.S. with 41 percent of Latino girls students failing to graduate on time with a standard high school diploma.

The report said while 98 percent of high school seniors in the U.S. want to graduate from high school, and 80 percent aspire to higher education, Latino students continue to face numerous challenges in reaching these goals.

The report was released by the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) entitled "Listening to Latinas: Barriers to High School Graduation," a new report that takes a close look at the dropout crisis in the Latino community, according to the report. "Latinas have high aspirations, but too many doubt their ability to reach their goals. Many of the Latina

girls surveyed and interviewed for this project had very high aspirations for the future. Substantial numbers of them want to have professional careers as doctors, lawyers, nurses, and scientists and understand that they cannot reach those goals without education.

The Latino community faces many challenges that help to explain the discrepancy between Latinas's dreams and actual expectations. Latinas students' academic achievement and dropout rates can be profoundly affected by the challenges that many of their communities face, the report said.

According to the report, poverty impacts students' preparation for school. Too few Latinas attend early childhood education programs, for a variety of reasons; many of the schools' Latinas attend receive limited resources which can restrict learning opportunities, those whose families move to find work are forced to change schools frequently; and having inadequate

community supports, such as parks and after-school programs, can affect Latino students' ability to succeed in school.

Immigration status creates instability for many Latino students. Students who are undocumented or who have family members who are undocumented experience anxiety and uncertainty about their futures, and face added financial barriers to higher education opportunities, the report said.

Limited English proficiency can make students more likely to fall behind and increase the risk of dropout.

According to the report, parental involvement, which has been correlated with better engagement in school and can increase the chances of graduation, is limited for many Latino parents due to a number of factors, including their own low levels of formal education, lack of familiarity with the American school system, and feeling unwelcome at their children's

schools.

In addition, Latinas face some similar challenges at school, such as concerns about school safety, attendance problems, disciplinary issues, and poor academic performance, all of which tend to limit student engagement in school and increase the risk of dropout, the report said.

Latinas' face particular challenges related to the intersection of their ethnicity and gender.

According to the report, many Latinas are influenced by family and societal expectations, often based on stereotypes of Latinas as submissive underachievers and caretakers. When these stereotypes are internalized, they may cause Latinas to doubt their chances for academic and career success and their self-esteem, which can hinder their motivation and engagement in school.

Also, too few Latinas lack educational and career role models among their family members and

peers to help them set goals and envision themselves reaching those goals.

The report also cited discrimination as one factor. Some Latinas still find that their teachers and classmates treat them differently in both subtle and blatant ways or have different expectations for them because they are Latina.

This treatment makes them feel unwelcome at school and can affect their academic performance and graduation rates.

Some feel unwelcome at school as non-native English speakers, some experience sexual harassment, and some do not get equal access to or encouragement in career and technical education programs for fields that are traditionally male but that tend to offer higher wages and better benefits than do traditionally female fields, according to the report.

drop out of high school, according to the report.

Latinas have the highest pregnancy rates and teen birth rates of any racial or ethnic group, almost twice the national average in the U.S. Many do not discuss pregnancy prevention or contraception with their parents, and many attend schools in states that limit sex education to abstinence-only curricula, the report said.

Once they have children, all girls face enormous challenges to staying in school, graduating, and pursuing post-secondary options. Some of those challenges are financial and logistical, some experience sexual harassment, and some do not get equal access to or encouragement in career and technical education programs for fields that are traditionally male but that tend to offer higher wages and better benefits than do traditionally female fields, according to the report.

Pregnancy and parenting responsibilities are dropout risk factors for almost half of the girls who

Condolences to our friend and fellow worker Bobby Garcia on his recent loss, El Editor



# Commentaries - Opiniones

## A LATINO LEADER REFLECTS ON TED KENNEDY

By Juan Andrade Jr.  
Hispanic Link News Service

I was deeply saddened when I heard the news that Senator Ted Kennedy had died. I had followed the Kennedy family since 1960 when John Kennedy campaigned for the presidency. Later in the campaign for the 1964 Presidential election, I remember exactly where I was when the death of President Kennedy was announced, and where I was when the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy was announced. And so it was again at 5:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 28.

I first met Ted Kennedy in 1967 when he and three other senators cancelled Grand City Edinburg in order to hold subcommittee hearings regarding the suppression of farm worker rights in Arizona. Farm workers had gone on strike in Starr County at La Casita Farms. The Texas Rangers were being accused of harassing and intimidating strike organizers. Wealthy growers used the threat of economic reprisals to keep workers from attending the hearings.

Ted Kennedy was only 35 years old at the time but one could already see in him a champion for social and economic justice. We took a picture together that appeared in a local newspaper. I wish I had kept it.

I watched his career from a distance. I visited his Senate office only once. I saw him again at a UAW conference in Chicago in a campaign for Harold Washington, and helped elect Chicago's first African-American mayor.

Ted Kennedy was about change before change was cool. And while accounts of his rendition of Ay Jalisco No Te Rajes has not been favorable on television, I heard it and I was impressed. If anyone thinks George Bush could speak Spanish, it is Ted Kennedy. I was shocked as errors in judgment almost ended his political career. I marveled at how he redeemed himself, learning from his mistakes and coming back a better man. I watched in horror in 1980 when Roger Mudd asked him why he wanted to be president and Kennedy had no idea, and I marveled again when he roared back into the Senate with legislative vengeance, finally realizing that he could do more for those in need as a senator than as president.

As a public speaker, I have had my share of hard acts to follow, especially at labor conferences. Any speaker's worst nightmare was to follow Ted Kennedy, especially at a conference of trade unionists. It happened to me at a UAW conference in Washington, D.C.

I grew up watching all the great legislators of the last 50 years. Speaker Sam Rayburn, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson, the "Happy Warrior" Hubert Humphrey, Jacob Javits, Everett Dirksen, to name a few. ("The Master of the Senate," as Ted Kennedy was regarded.) The two men I most admired were Lyndon Johnson and Hubert H. Humphrey. They were backed as senators they were driven not by personal ambition, but by insatiable compassion for the less fortunate.

They gained power by mastering their craft and earning the respect of their peers. And once they had the power, they liked how to use it. LBJ brought electricity to Appalachia, declared War on Poverty and gave us Medicare. Ted Kennedy was among the longest-serving members of the Senate and his list of legislative accomplishments is too long to recite, but passage of the Voting Rights Act, the American Disabilities Act, Meals on Wheels, Family Leave, and Immigration really come to mind. In short, Ted Kennedy was the conscience of the Senate. That august body will never be the same, and neither will the lives. The Lion that roared is no more.

(Dr. Juan Andrade is president of the National Hispanic Leadership Institute, based in Chicago. III. Email him at jandrade@nhli.com) ©2009

## REFLEXIONES DE UN DIRIGENTE LATINO SOBRE TED KENNEDY

Juan Andrade Jr.  
Hispanic Link News Service

Me dio mucha pena el anuncio de la muerte del senador Ted Kennedy. Yo había seguido las noticias de la familia Kennedy desde 1960, cuando John Kennedy hizo campaña por ser presidente. Como muchas personas de mi edad, recuerdo precisamente dónde me encontraba cuando se anunció la muerte del presidente Kennedy, y dónde estaba cuando se anunció el asesinato del senador Robert Kennedy. Y así fue de nuevo a las cinco de la mañana del miércoles, 28 de agosto.

Conoci por primera vez a Ted Kennedy en 1967 cuando él y tres senadores más llegaron a las ciudades de Rio Grand City y Edinburg en el estado de Texas para realizar audiencias de subcomité en referencia a la supresión de los derechos de organización de los trabajadores agrícolas. Los campesinos había condecorado a hacer huelga en el conchado Starr, contra los agricultores La Casita.

Se acordó a los rangers de Texas por estar acusando e intimidando a los organizadores de la huelga. Los agricultores pudientes usaron la amenaza de represalias económicas para evitar que los trabajadores asistieran a las reuniones.

Ted Kennedy tenía apenas 35 años en aquel entonces, pero ya se veía que llevaba muy arraigado el deber de la justicia social y económica. Nos tomamos una foto juntos que salió en un periódico local. Ojalá me la hubiera quedado.

Observé su carrera a la distancia. Visité sólo una vez su despacho en el Senado. Lo volví a ver cuando llegó a Chicago a hacer campaña por Harold Washington, y ayudó a elegir al primer alcalde afroamericano de Chicago.

Ted Kennedy hizo por el cambio antes que el cambio estuviera de moda. Y si bien la reacción por televisión de su versión de Ay Jalisco No Te Rajes no ha sido favorable, yo se la doy de muy impresionado. Si alguien considera que George Bush podía hablar español, simplemente nunca lo oyeron a Kennedy.

Observé en lo que sus errores de juicio casi acabaron con su carrera política. Me maravilló cómo se redimió, aprendiendo de sus errores y volviendo un hombre mejor. Vi a como en 1980 cuando Roger Mudd le preguntó por qué quería

## Armando Gonzales

I have read Ysidro Gutierrez' commentary about Judge Tom Head. One must dig deeply to understand why Ysidro supports and defends what Judge Head has posted on the Lubbock County Court House wall.

1) Ysidro now wants to belong, (being in every sense of the word) to the Republican Party, even though the Party has turned its nose at him more than once. I think that defending Judge Tom Head serves as some sort of ritual, a passing of a test, like joining a fraternity. In defending Head, Ysidro may hope to prove his loyalty and commitment to the local GOP.

2) Ysidro has politics in his veins and has served the people well, up to now. Only he knows what political aspirations he answers to, maybe he will run for some office in the near future.

3) The far, right wing conservative disease has Ysidro by the short and curly hairs. He is not well. We will say "Our Fathers," and "Hail Maries," for him.

It is this same right wing, Rush Limbaugh, Shanna Hannity, Dark Levin, swack, conservative atmosphere that makes it easy for Ysidro to defend the Tom Heads of Lubbock County. It is easy for Judge Head to have disrespected so many in the Community. That has made it easy to have formed a protest against him, and for legal people to have filed formal complaints to the State of Texas Committee of Judicial Conduct, against Judge Head. Apparently, it is not easy for Judge Tom Head to do the right thing and resign. It is not easy to fall weeks since the protest at the steps of the Lubbock County Courthouse and Judge Head has not made a move to prove willingness to redeem himself. It is easy to say, "I'm sorry."

It was easy for Linda DeLeon to condemn what Judge Head did, but too hard for her to do something about it. Where was Floyd Price? He was not at the protest, nor were Gilbert Flores. All of these people are supposed to represent and defend the citizens from even the appearance of racism. They did nothing. The State Representatives did nothing. The Lubbock Independent School District did nothing. No elected officials were there. It is easy for so called Hispanic leaders to talk. They are like "Action Jackson," always showing up after the fact.

But there were many elected officials at the April 15th, 2009 TEA PARTY. Some elected officials even made speeches at the conservative, mostly Republican rally. Say racism... and these politicians stick their heads up their political ass. It is easy for politicians to talk, but not easy for them to walk the walk.

It is easy for the Lubbock County conservative environment to rail on people like Timothy Cole to die in prison an innocent man, and no one in Lubbock County is held accountable. It is easy for the Judge and Commissioners to not hear the public and give themselves a raise and raise taxes. It is easy for the City of Lubbock, City Council to take Bond money legally designated for specific purposes and use the money in West and Southwest Lubbock. It is easy for the Lubbock Independent School District to participate in the school to prison pipeline (check out the number of blacks and browns at the Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center). It is easy for Judges to send them there in this racial, just wing, conservative, Republican, wacko County.

Finally, the message from Lubbock County, the Commissioners, and Judge Head, and all elected officials (including the ineffective Gilbert Flores) is this:

- The County has built a new, multi-million dollar jail house to keep black and brown youth.
- Judge Head is irrelevant to, and makes fun of people of color - those people that he is obliged to represent and act as elected.
- The Commissioners Court has hired 113 new jailers and has budgeted over \$18 million dollars to keep black and brown in jail.

The right wing, conservative, Republican environment in Lubbock County makes it easy to believe that we are surrounded by an accepted, expected, and defended racism in Lubbock County. Not only must people watch out for the common criminal but we need to watch out for Lubbock County as well.

Our message to Lubbock County, City of Lubbock and to the racists: You will not hide behind judge's robes, badges, the dais, in the classroom, or bureaucratic office. We will look for your hate, and we will stomp it out like the filthy weed it is. We will not be silent or docile any longer. Believe it.

## \*TOMORROW\* Let's Get It Done: Organizing For America To Deliver Declarations of Support for Health Insurance Reform Now in Dallas

Thousands of people across the country are taking action to show their support for health insurance reform.

As Members of Congress get ready to head back to Washington, Organizing for America (OFA), a grassroots project of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) dedicated to supporting the President's agenda for change, will deliver declarations of support TOMORROW Wednesday, September 2 in Dallas, highlighting the strong support throughout Texas for getting health insurance reform now and the importance of getting it done this year.

At the event, Texans will show their support for health insurance reform, deliver declarations of support, and talk about what reform would mean, and how to fight back against the lies being spread by the special interests and Republicans in Washington. Participants will also be thanking Congressman Eddie Bernice Johnson for her support as she heads back to Washington to get it done and pass health insurance reform now.

Since the health care debate began, President Obama's principles for health insurance reform have been simple and consistent - reform will lower costs, protect choice and ensure all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care.

In addition to these basic principles, President Obama announced eight Health Insurance Guarantees which will protect the millions of Americans who already have insurance, but aren't getting the care they need because of sky-rocketing out of pocket expenses and unfair insurance company practices. 1) no discrimination for pre-existing conditions, 2) no exorbitant out-of-pocket expenses, deductibles, or co-pays, 3) no cost-sharing for preventive care, 4) no dropping of coverage for the seriously ill, 5) no gender discrimination, 6) no annual or lifetime caps on coverage, 7) extended coverage for young adults, and 8) guaranteed issue/renewal.

OFA, a grassroots project of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), dedicated to supporting the President's agenda for change, is committed to building on and strengthening the historic grassroots network created during the campaign and helping advance the President's policy agenda. In recent months OFA has organized thousands of events in support of President Obama's efforts to reform America's broken health insurance system, has collected hundreds of thousands of stories emblematic of the struggles Americans face in providing health care for their families and has collected over one million declarations of support for the President's principles for reform.

## The Fight Among Book Worms

By José de la Peña  
Hispanic Link News Service

HOUSTON - A big battle is brewing in all of places the library. It all started when Google, the Internet search engine and media giant, began scanning millions of books without permission. That led the Authors Guild and the Association of American Publishers to issue a class-action suit. Now a \$125 million settlement might be on the offing that could lead to a book registry for author and publisher rights and royalties and a huge online archive of millions of books.

Meanwhile, Amazon, Microsoft and Yahoo have joined the Open Book Alliance, a coalition opposed to the settlement because they claim it gives Google the rights to commercialize digital copies of books. Submissions to the court are likely to bring these and other objections forward.

The Alliance (also called the "Sour Grapes Alliance") includes Google and the authors and publishers scheming to monopolize access, distribution and pricing of the largest digital database of books in the world. Besides Microsoft, Yahoo and Amazon, the Alliance also has in its ranks nonprofit author groups, library institutions, the American Society of Journalists and Authors, and the New York Library Association.

Alliance members fear the Google Book Search Settlement will restore access to millions of out-of-print books and will one day make Google a virtual digital library monopoly. The Open Content Alliance (not to be confused with the "Open Book Alliance") opposes the Google settlement because "orphan books" can be commercialized.

Orphan books, although out of print, remain under copyright and the rights holders are unknown or cannot be found. In other respects Google will become the legal guardian of millions of books. Google has been scanning the pages of those and others as part of a plan to bring a digital library and bookstore, unprecedented in scope, to computer screens across the United States.

According to Michael Kirkland, executive director of the settlement, Google will feature full online access for purchase. Institutional subscriptions will allow patrons access to the entire corpus of scanned books. Each public library in the country

will also have a free public access terminal available.

Brent Wilkes, national executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the largest and oldest Hispanic advocate group for civil rights, education and employment opportunities, submitted an amicus letter to Judge Denno Channing supporting the settlement. Although he confirmed his argument is to rather concentrate on the library interface there is a broader argument to make.

U.S. education is unique because of an ethic that a curious person wants to learn anything and has open access to that knowledge. That ethic arose when Andrew Carnegie, soon after the 1900s, underwrote and encouraged a system of about 3,000 free public libraries in the United States. Almost all municipalities soon followed the example with city libraries for self-guided and reference instruction. There are today more than 123,000 public libraries according to the American Library Association.

In U.S. history, the library system, the land-grant college system of 1862 and the community college system after World War II have been among the greatest reform advancements in social and economic development. When various author, publisher, commercial and anti-trust concerns get worked out in the Google matter, at the heart of any accommodation should be the value about satisfying the curious which has served the nation so well.

And there is one other Door-to-door encyclopedia salesman convinced many parents in the second half of the last century they needed to make an investment as part of their children's education. We were reminded of that during Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation hearings. She was a woman who had read thousands of books in a hundred languages are inside his demonstration case.

José de la Peña's latest digital book, sponsored by The Ford Foundation, is available at [www.DayNightLifeDeathHope.com](http://www.DayNightLifeDeathHope.com). He writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service and is author of The Rise of Hispanic Political Power (2003).

# Editor

Joins with the entire public in extending condolences to Ted Kennedy's Family and Friends  
Les acompañamos los sentimientos



## El Editor

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# The \$80 Billion Health Care Question

# Drug Cartels Make \$64 Billion a Year from U.S.

By any measure, \$80 billion is a gargantuan sum.  
It is twice the net worth of Bill Gates, the world's richest man. It would pay for almost three decades worth of "Cash for Clunkers" programs.

This \$80 billion is the amount the pharmaceutical industry has told the Obama administration and Senate leaders it will chip in over 10 years to help pay for health care reform.  
The White House asked the industry to cough up the cash. Big Pharma agreed, allotting \$30 billion to \$35 billion of the figure to help Medicare participants pay for drugs when they reach the so-called doughnut hole gap in coverage.

Medicare covers up to \$2,700 in yearly drug costs. After that, recipients must pay any additional amount until total costs hit \$6,154 and coverage resumes. While in the "doughnut hole," participants' out-of-pocket expenses might be as high as \$3,400.

Under the agreement reached with the White House, pharmaceutical companies would reduce prices of brand-name drugs 50 percent to those in the "doughnut hole."

It is not clear yet where the rest of the \$80 billion would go.

Besides the money, the administration wants the drug industry's top executives to testify before Congress. Those new "Harry and Louise" commercials, in which the couple that doomed the Clinton plan now back Obama's health-care proposals? Paid for by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the industry group that negotiated the \$80 billion deal.

In the world of medicine, care, where most numbers are Carl Sagan-size, \$80 billion was a

small price to pay for what drug companies hope to get in return.  
The White House and Max Baucus, head of the Senate Finance Committee, which is overseeing health-care legislation, promised they would fight efforts in the U.S. House of Representatives to win even lower prices for drugs paid for by Medicare. The pharmaceutical industry also won a pledge that the administration would oppose importation of cheaper drugs from Canada.

But U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, a leader in the House debate, said he thought that deal let drug companies off too easily. He argues that the industry received a windfall when Medicare took over drug payments for several million consumers known as dual eligibles, who had been getting them through Medicaid, the government program for the poor.

Medicaid can negotiate the prices it pays for drugs, so it pays significantly less than Medicare, which is barred by law from doing so. Instead, private insurers negotiate Medicare drug prices. But Waxman and others said they believed the program would get bigger discounts if it bargained as a single entity.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the federal government would save \$3 billion yearly if dual eligibles got drugs at Medicaid prices.

Ken Johnson, senior vice president of PhRMA, said switching some consumers from Medicaid

to Medicare did not create an industry windfall.

"It's just not borne out by the facts," Johnson said. His group's research says that lower prices for dual eligibles would result in higher premiums for other participants in the Medicare drug benefits.

High drug prices put a dent in many consumers' budgets, but winning lower prices for Medicare probably won't save the government much, several experts said.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the total spent on health care in the United States in 2007 (the latest year for which data were available) was \$2.2 trillion, with



prescription drugs coating about \$227 billion, or about 10 percent. Medicare spends about \$450 billion yearly. Most of that pays hospitalists and doctors and, again, drugs account for about 10 percent.

"It's not a lot of money. From my perspective of looking at the deal for Obama and for the Democrats, the benefit is that it has engaged pharma on the side of health reform," said Georgetown University health-policy analyst Jack Hadley.

Gains from reform may help the industry offset the cost, and drug companies may get more customers if health care is expanded.  
"If the country can add 46 million to the rolls of the insured, that's a lot more people who can afford their medicines," said

Drexel law professor Robert Field.

PhRMA's Johnson, however, said most of the uninsured were younger people with fewer prescription-drug needs. Many of those who do have prescriptions take generics, he said.

Some research shows that when seniors fall into the "doughnut hole," they cut back or stop taking their medicines, so giving them a break also may reap profits for the industry.

The \$80 billion will lower prices only for branded, not generic, drugs, which also could push more income Big Pharma's way and raise Medicare's costs.  
PhRMA's Johnson said the industry simply applied its share of the country's health-care tab (8 percent to 11 percent, depending on who is counting) to \$1 trillion, the estimated 10-year cost of reform.

"This wasn't loose change that we found in the sofa. It's going to require our companies to make some very difficult choices going forward, from the size of workforces to what drug to develop. Many in Congress and in the White House would have liked to see the number a little larger, and our companies would have liked to have seen it a little smaller," he said. "It was a compromise."

But will PhRMA be able to hang on to its compromise as the House hashes out its version of reform? That's the next \$80 billion question.



Drug cartels currently take to \$64.34 billion from their sales to users in the United States, Mexico's public safety secretary said.

Genaro Garcia Luna cited the figure during a speech Wednesday at the international forum organized in the northern border metropolis of Ciudad Juarez by the OCDA, a federation of center-right parties in the Americas.

The drugs that — the mainly Mexican — cartels smuggle into the United States include marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines and Ecstasy.

Mexico produces substantial amounts of marijuana and crystal meth and smaller quantities of heroin. South America is the source of the cocaine that Mexican gangs smuggle into the United States.

Garcia Luna said that organized criminal groups — in particular, the cartels — are a risk for public and

national security in the hemisphere.

He said that according to figures compiled by international entities, the production of cocaine in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia has remained stable over the past nine years at an average of about 900 tons annually.

He said that in 2007 the wholesale price of cocaine went from \$2,198 per kilogram in Mexico to \$12,500 when it arrived in Mexico, and from there rose to \$97,400 per kilo in the United States and \$101,490 in Europe.

Garcia Luna acknowledged that Mexico now has a domestic drug problem and that Mexicans spend an average of \$431 million per year on illegal drugs.

The survey said that the criminal organizations are taking advantage of the phenomenon of globalization to expand their activities through the opening up of the financial markets and technological development.

He also emphasized that organized crime is participating not only in the shipment of drugs but also in trafficking in weapons and migrants, smuggling other items, money laundering, vehicle theft, kidnappings, for-ransom and extortion.

## N.C. native wrongly deported to Mexico

The U.S. government admitted in April that it had wrongly deported an N.C. native, but newly released documents show that federal investigators ignored FBI records and other evidence showing that the man was a United States citizen.

At the time of Mark Lytle's deportation, immigration officials had criminal record checks that said he was a U.S. citizen. They had his Social Security number and the names of his parents. They had Lytle's own sworn statement that he had been born in Rowan County, N.C. None of this stopped them from leaving Lytle, a mentally ill American who speaks no Spanish, alone and penniless in Mexico, where he has no ties.

Lytle's 350-page Department of Homeland Security file, released to The (Raleigh) News & Observer, shows that the government deported him based entirely on some of his own conflicting statements, even though agents knew that Lytle is bipolar and has a learning disability.

"I tried to tell them I was a U.S. citizen born right here in Rowan County," Lytle says now. "But no one believed me."

Lytle is one of a growing number of people who have been swept up in the federal immigration detention system since 2001, when terrorist attacks prompted an unprecedented effort to find and deport illegal immigrants. The U.S. government deported 150,000 people in the fiscal year that ended in October 2008.

When the N&O first reported on Lytle's case in April, officials with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, said that Lytle had caused the mistake by declaring that he was from Mexico. They maintain that position now.  
"Officials who misrepresent their true identity and make false statements to ICE officers create problems both for law enforcement and themselves," ICE spokesman Ivan Ortiz-Delgado said in a written statement.

Lytle swore to immigration agents on two occasions that he was Mexican, but he also swore that he was a U.S. citizen born in Rowan County. His Homeland

Security file does not reflect any attempt by ICE officials to confirm Lytle's citizenship claims.

The agent who took Lytle's statement that he was born in North Carolina dismissed it, saying in a report that Lytle "does not possess any documentation to support his claim."

A few dozen pages were withheld from the file released by ICE. But the file provided to The N&O shows no search for a Rowan County birth certificate and no attempts to reach the family members Lytle named before his initial deportation.  
The ICE file states that Lytle's Mexican citizenship "was established based on interview notes and numerous background system checks." But repeated background checks, from an FBI fingerprint database and the National Crime Information Center, showed he was an American citizen.

Asked by The N&O why they had not accepted the findings in these background checks, ICE officials said they were reviewing their information and could not provide a response after a week.

The inconsistencies in his case were not discussed when Lytle appeared before an Atlanta immigration judge and was ordered deported on Dec. 9. On Dec. 18, he was loaded onto a plane and left at an airport just across the border from Hidalgo, Texas.

On Dec. 29, he returned to the U.S. border threatening to hurt himself and the border patrol agents.  
"Subject appears to be mentally unstable," the report notes.  
Lytle, who now lives with his mother in Georgia, says that during his travels he had taken medications that treat his mental illness and was subject to cycles of manic activity and depression.

Lytle again told immigration agents he had been born in Rowan County. This time the file shows that they checked for his birth certificate there. They didn't find it because Lytle is adopted. In a case of adoption, birth certificates are stored in Raleigh, said Shirley Siller, the deputy register of deeds in Rowan County.

Lytle was deported a second time, within hours. With no medications to prove legal residency in any

country, he soon found himself on an international odyssey.

Mexican authorities sent him to Honduras, where he was imprisoned before being sent to Guatemala. In late April, he found the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City. Within a day, officials there contacted Lytle's brother at the military base where Lytle told them he was serving, got copies of his adoption papers and issued him a U.S. passport.

Three days after his arrival in Guatemala City, his brother had wired him money and Lytle was on a flight to Atlanta.  
U.S. Immigration officials worked Lytle's case for 31/2 months and held him in immigration detention for more than six weeks.

"This is not rocket science," said Jacqueline Stevens, a professor at the University of California at Santa Barbara who brought Lytle's case to light on her blog and is now writing a book about it. "It took someone in Guatemala one day to prove he was a citizen."

Lytle, 32, has spent much of his adulthood bouncing among mental institutions, halfway houses and prisons. He has been convicted of more than a dozen crimes, including assault and sexual battery.

He also lost touch with his mother, who had moved during his time in prison, and did not have phone numbers for his two brothers, who are in the military. His father is deceased.

When he entered prison, his country of birth was listed as Mexico. Prison officials say Lytle made that claim, but in an interview with The N&O, Lytle said he never invented such a story. Regardless, he was flagged for a federal immigration check.

In September and November 2008, he met with immigration agents three times, each time signing a different sworn statement.  
Lytle says he claimed to be Mexican at the first interview because he thought it was pointless to argue with the agent, who was convinced that he was an illegal immigrant. His brother father was Puerto Rican, and Lytle says he is often mistaken for Mexican.  
He says he figured he would take a free trip to Mexico.

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7:00 Pm—9:30 pm—Miss Hispanic Lubbock Pageant Civic Center Theater

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 18TH—FREE ADMISSION ALL DAY**  
1:00 pm—2:00 pm—Curtain cutting ceremony—Lubbock Chamber of Commerce  
11:00 am—Festival opens for lunch  
5:00 pm—Festival opens for evening activities  
5:00 pm—8:45 pm—Lubbock High Mariachi De Oro  
Lubbock High Ballet Folklorico  
6:00 pm—6:45 pm—Mariachi Flores  
7:00 pm—7:45 pm—Fiesta del Sol  
8:00 pm—9:30 pm—Los Arcos  
9:45 pm—10:45 pm—Calibre  
11:00 pm—Festival closes

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 19TH**  
10:00 am—FIESTAS DEL LLANO PARADE  
Route will be from Broadway & Ave. V proceeding East on Broadway  
to AVE. M and then North to Civic Center Parking Lot.  
11:00 am—Festival Opens For Saturday Activities;  
Vendors, Music, Motorcycle Show And Other Activities.  
12:00 pm—12:15 PM—Parade Begins  
12:15 pm—1:00 PM—Robert "G" Gonzales  
1:00 pm—1:45 pm—Don Duran (Spanish Rap)  
2:00 pm—2:45 pm—TBA  
3:00 pm—3:45 pm—Herve  
4:00 pm—4:45 pm—Paloma Lara  
5:00 pm—5:45 pm—TBA  
6:00 pm—6:45 pm—Conjunto Rosal  
7:00 pm—8:30 pm—Chente Barrera  
8:45 pm—10:15 pm—Michael Salgado  
10:30 pm—11:15 pm—Los Sunshiners  
11:15 pm—Festival Closes

**Sunday, Sept. 20th**  
11:00 am—Vendors Open  
Childrens Entertainment, Music & Other Activities, Car Show  
12:00 Noon—12:45 pm—Amenaza  
1:00 pm—1:45pm—Oreguillo  
2:00 pm—2:45 pm—Adrian Blanco (Rap Music)  
3:00 pm—3:45 pm—Joe Trevino & Cactus Jack Band  
4:00 pm—4:45 pm—Mariachi Mi Tierra  
5:00 pm—5:45 pm—Paloma Lara  
6:00 pm—6:45 pm—Ballet Folklorico Aztlan  
7:00 pm—7:45 pm—Tex Mex Connection—  
2008 Battle Of The Bands Winner  
8:00 pm—9:30 pm—Home Town Boys  
9:30 pm—Festival Closes

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# Latino sensation Shakira just too good to be true?

# Mariachis imponen récord Guinness

It's a sweltering night in the Bahamas and in a back room of a recording studio close to her home in an exclusive gated community, the belly-dancing Latino pop star Shakira is ripping off the tinfoil wrapping off a rib of beef with almost indecent speed.

Finally," she exclaims in her quick-fire Spanish-American accent, rolling her eyes to convey that the known divas shouldn't eat at all, let alone gnaw ravenously on ribs. I can only have meat once a week and today is beef day, so I'm happy. It's this diet I'm doing; it's pretty cruel.



SHAKIRA

All fish and vegetables. But then her pouty face clouds over. But you're not eating! That makes me feel bad. Maybe I should eat later. And we need to turn the air-conditioning on, you're melting! Not me. I'm like a mosquito. I love humidity. I don't sweat."

The words pretty much sum up the words warbling, buttock-thrusting, poverty-solting phenomenon that is Shakira Mebarak Ripoll, aged 32 and the fourth richest woman in music - after Madonna, Barbra Streisand and Céline Dion - with an estimated fortune of \$38 million (\$23 million).

First, she is intensely disciplined. "You want to be skinny and have a good body? You have to work out every day and say no to certain foods," she says, shrugging when I commiserate on the diet. "You can't achieve anything in life without a small amount of sacrifice." Second, she is friendly and considerate - a rare thing in superstar circles.

Third, the fact that, in these tropical temperatures, not a bead of sweat mars her perfect brow indicates that she is, quite possibly, superhuman.

I hadn't been well-disposed towards Shakira. As she's been famous in her native Colombia since the age of 13, I'd dismissed her as South America's Britney Spears with an overexposed nasal and a penchant for ridiculous lyrics (Lucky that my breasts are small and humble, so you don't confuse them with mountains'), went her pan-piping international hit Whenever, Wherever.

But mine was the minority view.

With 40 million record sales behind her, Shakira makes comparable Spanish-English 'crossover' acts such as Jennifer Lopez and Enrique Iglesias seem like minnows. In South America she is viewed as akin to Mother Teresa, thanks to her charity Pies Descalzos (Barefoots), which she founded aged 19 and which has opened six schools in rural areas, providing education and jobs for more than 30,000 people over the years. Meanwhile, her will-they, won't-they marry? nine-year relationship with Antonio de la Rúa, the son of the former president of Argentina, is the staple of Latin gossip mags.

Friends include - inevitably - Bono, with whom she sang at President Obama's inauguration, the only non-Americans to do so. She brainstormed about child poverty with Gordon Brown (I like his accent," she says, laughing) and the 82-year-old Nobel literary laureate Gabriel García Márquez, who has written dubious essays about her 'innocent sensuality'.

Within minutes of shaking hands, I'm sucked in by Shakira's charm. Tiny (she's 110) in cut-offs and a T-shirt, she looks as if the most pressing thought in her head is what colour to paint her toenails, but as soon as she starts talking it's clear that those bleached-blond curls conceal a mind of steel. As someone whose life has been almost entirely played out in public (she performed her first public belly-dance age four), she must surely be a basket-case, but she seems

utterly grounded.

Normally, child stars are the puppets of pushy stage parents. But the way Shakira tells it she was always in the driving seat. The only child of a Lebanese jeweller (with eight children from his first marriage) and his Colombian second wife, she was born in Barranquilla, an industrial city on Colombia's Caribbean coast. Civil war and drug syndicates were tearing her country apart but they had little effect on Shakira's middle-class childhood. I was a real mummy's girl - still am. And as for my father, well I have an Oedipus complex I'm still working out. I love that man!"

But when she was eight her cosseted world imploded when her father's business went bankrupt. "He sent me and my mother to stay with relatives in Los Angeles so he could liquidate things, and when we came back he had sold all our furniture, our colour television and both cars, and we had no air-conditioning. The new reality was a shock to me, so my parents decided to take me to the park where orphans were sniffing glue to put my situation in perspective. I remember it so vividly. I made myself a promise that that one day I would, one, vindicate my parents' social and economic situation and, two, do something about those kids. That image of those kids that day in the park has never left my mind."

It sounds like a cheesy speech from a miseries, but I sense that's how Shakira sees her life: an epic drama with her as the protagonist. In any case, shortly after this watershed she wrote her first song. Two years later she joined a touring dance troupe performing for workers in Colombian mines. At 13, having pressed a demo-tape on a Sony executive in a Barranquilla hotel lobby, she acquired a three-album deal.

Although she had a number-one single in Colombia, sales of the first two albums were disappointing. I tried to give my career a shot from Barranquilla, but the musicians would never show up. It was just not taken seriously. She persuaded her mother to move with her to the capital, Bogotá, where she found a role in a popular soap (I was terrible," she says, chortling). But an award for 'best rear on television' given by a listings magazine, was not enough to satisfy Shakira's ambition. Then Sony announced it would drop her unless the sales of her next album improved dramatically.

"Imagine the pressure! But I work best that way and basically I did my first really good album." Aware that talent does not necessarily equal sales, Shakira promoted it all over Latin America. "I promise you I went to every single radio station with that album under my arm - even some obscure place in Honduras." Like Scarlett O'Hara vowing to rebuild Tara, she continues: "I did my homework. I put one brick on top of the other, under the sun with hard work and sweat." It paid off: the album sold six million copies worldwide, including one million in America. Time for Shakira to tackle her next hurdle - the English-speaking market. The fact that she didn't speak a word of English was a minor concern. She locked herself up

with a personal tutor, studied the lyrics of Bob Dylan and the poetry of Walt Whitman and wrote the English lyrics to her album 'Laundry Service', with a dictionary in one hand and a thesaurus in the other."

Why bother when a jobbing songwriter could have done it? Shakira giggles again and shrugs. "I just felt that was part of my destiny and I had to fulfil it. I knew I had to jump into a pool of cold water without even knowing how to swim, and I learnt. Songwriting is such an intricate part of me as an artist and as a person; I couldn't just let someone else do it."

Spanish speakers report that her songs in her native tongue are far more profound than her English numbers, and bewail her selling out and becoming a homogenised clone. Shakira certainly plays a tricky game - balancing an image of a serious-minded artist who critics Led Zepplin and the Cars as influences, with that of her alter ego - a leather-bond hottie writing in a cage, as she does in the video for her latest single, She Wolf. But the sales bear her out: 'Laundry Service' sold 13 million copies. In 2005 she released the two-album series 'Oral Fixation', the single from which, Hips Don't Lie, became the biggest-selling single of the century, along with Madonna's Hung Up.

As ever, that success just spurred Shakira on to climb even higher. She extended her reach to black America by duetting with Beyoncé and working extensively with legendary songwriters such as Donna Summer and Wyclef Jean. In her new album, 'She Wolf', she has collaborated heavily with the producer of the moment Pharrell Williams to produce an electronic sound that barely nods to her Latin roots, but which will almost certainly be a huge hit with clubbers.

Still, she's sensitive to accusations that she's abandoned her native land. Her main home is in the Bahamas; her parents live a short hop across the water in Miami in a house she bought for them. But, she stresses, the family returns to Colombia 'all the time'.

Having left her convent school to go on the road, Shakira's now keen to catch up on her formal education. Last year she took a break to do a course in western civilisation at the University of California, Los Angeles. Then she has to find time for de la Rúa, who used to have a trust-fund, jet-set image (Colombians called him 'the sponger') but in recent years has redeemed himself somewhat through the game as vice-president of Alas, a Latino children's charity.

Will they marry? 'No!' she says, grinning but firm. "I wanna stay an eternal girlfriend. I want to have my boyfriend's children, but I don't think we need a piece of paper to regulate the game and we don't have to go through the whole stress of a wedding and suffering to throw a good party." But there will be babies? 'Yah, we're so ready to reproduce. At some point during the making of the album I was like: "I want to stop everything and just have a baby." You hit your thirties and something changes. Your body clock is reminding you that it's another important part of your

existence to reproduce." She wants two children; Antonio wants three. I might need to stop work for a couple of months to breast-feed but that's about it. I can't conceive of the idea of not working."

She is as tireless working for her charity as she is on her music. Of the former she says: "That is the part in my life I will always have. Even when I am 60 and no one pays attention to me anymore, I'll be able to go to the schools I've helped found and see the progress of these kids."

In many ways Shakira embodies the having-it-all dream women today are supposed to live up to: world domination, babies, followed by more world domination; semi-pornographic gyrating while also being a modern saint and PhD student.

"Can one woman do so much and still remain sane? The only admission that it may have not all been ticky-toe comes as we're saying our goodbyes (another interviewer is waiting - Shakira will carry on wooing the media until 2am). The catchy strains of 'She Wolf' float through the door, with its typically burly lyrics about 'lysantryp' and feeling abused like a coffee machine in an office'. So, who is this she-wolf, I ask. "A free woman. A happy one," Shakira says, wrinkling her adorable nose.

Like you? She smiles. "Well, yeah, like me after eight years of analysis. I think I'm letting the she-wolf out more often than probably 10 years ago, five years ago, even. I think I'm getting there."



El mariachi más grande que se haya visto en la historia cantó el domingo Guadalajara ante unos 2,000 asistentes e ingresó en el libro de "Récord Guinness", al reunir a 549 músicos en escena.

Los artistas vestidos con trajes típicos de charro pertenecen a 66 grupos de mariachis de México y otros cinco países, quienes se congregaron en la explanada del Instituto Cultural Cabañas, en pleno centro de la Guadalajara, capital del estado Jalisco, cuna del mariachi y del tequila.

Los 549 músicos interpretaron al unísono cinco canciones durante diez minutos para poder romper la marca lograda en 2007 en Phoenix, Estados Unidos, con 520 músicos.

Al concluir la presentación en la que los mariachis cantaron "Guadalajara", "La Negra", "México Lindo", "Fiesta en Jalisco" y "Ceileto Lindo", el gerente

de la oficina de negocios de "Guinness World Records", Stuart Claxton, dijo a la prensa que se cumplieron todos los requisitos.

"Nosotros pedimos que se toque la música por un mínimo de 10 minutos, y en esta ocasión al tocar cinco canciones lo logramos perfectamente, y claro sin pausa entre cada canción", señaló.

En el evento estuvieron músicos mexicanos y de Suecia, Canadá, Estados Unidos, Colombia, y Perú, quienes participan además en el XVI Encuentro Internacional del Mariachi y la Charrería (sueres a caballo) que se realiza del 27 de agosto al 6 de septiembre.

Para Miguel Alfaro, presidente de la Cámara Nacional de Comercio de Guadalajara, organizador del evento, era obvio que el récord permanecería en el extranjero, cuando la cuna del mariachi está en México.

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# Disconsin-reared Romo OK seeing Favre in purple

Tony Romo is looking forward to seeing Brett Favre on Friday, even if No. 4 is wearing purple.

While the sight of Favre playing for the Vikings riles many Wisconsin natives, Romo doesn't mind. The Dallas Cowboys star is for all quarters-backs, or any other athletes, hanging around as long as they can, wherever they can.

"I've gotten used to it now," Romo said Wednesday. "You see him with the jets last year, you see him with the Vikings this year. The thing that people don't realize is you don't just get chances to play in a National Football League because, I mean, you have to be a good player."

"He's one of the best to ever play the game. I think that sometimes people might forget how special. Not really forget, but they just think kind of, 'Oh, he's coming back, whatever.' But at the end of the day, the guy's a talented football player. There's obviously a team that wants him for that reason. It's going to be fun to go out there and play against him."

Romo probably won't get to see Favre play, and Favre is just as unlikely to see Romo, when the Dallas Cowboys and Minnesota Vikings meet in the preseason finale Friday night.

The Cowboys have seen enough from Romo this summer to know he's ready for the regular season. Although Favre might benefit from more playing time with his new teammates, coaches probably won't risk an injury to their soon-to-be 40-year-old newcomer.

Romo may still make the trip and certainly will find time to make the game to hang out with Favre, whose best days with the Green Bay Packers came while Romo was growing up in Badger, Wis.

Romo was in high school when Favre won three straight NFL MVP awards and led the Packers to consecutive Super Bowls. Now Romo is going into his seventh year in the NFL, and Favre keeps chugging along, even if this is his third year in as many years, with heavy doses of drama and short-lived addresses surrounding every change of retirement.

Has it ratcheted Favre's legacy? Not to Romo.

"Shoo, history tells us plenty of people have done it," Romo said. "Everybody remembers your (best) moments. I Michael Jordan not Michael Jordan because of Washington? He came back, he was still a good player, very productive, but you hold such a standard - can you ever reach the level you were at in your prime? I don't know. That's why they all come back to try and do that."

Romo's swashbuckling style certainly is reminiscent of a young Favre, from the scrambles and clutch plays to the groun-worly mistakes made while trying to do the impossible.

This season, though, Romo is working to break that habit, trying to convince himself that a sack is better than a turnover, that an interception is better than an interception. He spent the offseason working on a new mindset and on doing other fundamentally sound things like keeping two hands on the ball when he's on the run.

The early results this preseason were promising. Then an ugly interception in the last game was a reminder that he's still trying to learn which risks are worth taking. The first sign of progress was admitting that he made a mistake.

"I think every quarterback in the league should be looking at themselves from that same perspective and trying to figure out a way to minimize mistakes and turnovers," Romo said. "Believe me, there's not one quarterback in the league who hasn't done something, turnover-wise, that they can get away with saying, 'Oh, I'll never do that again.' Everyone has things that they're going to work on to try to improve upon."

He knows more mistakes will happen, but he expects there will be fewer than last season, when he had at least one interception or lost fumble in 12 of 13 games. He had a total of 20 interceptions and seven lost fumbles.

"You just have to understand what went through your mind and why you're doing certain things and what can you make and turn into something that can be second-nature to you instead of having to think. That's where practice comes into play," Romo said. "Same with a golf swing. Tiger Woods changed his golf swing. It's not going to be as natural in the beginning, but eventually it turns natural, then you get all your feel and everything back."

"I'm happy with the way the progression is taking shape. I still have a long way to go."

Maybe Romo will get things so smoothed out that teams will still want him to play when he's 39.

"Um, I don't know," Romo said. "I'm just trying to get better this year."

There is no easing into the season for Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

The Big 12 South teams that play north of the Red River will play in two of the four opening-weekend games matching Top 25 teams.

"It makes your players have a sense of urgency and realize that they've got to be on the top of their game for sure right off the bat," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said. "It's challenging and it does get your players' attention."

The third-ranked Sooners, the three-time defending Big 12 champions and last season's BCS runner-up, play No. 20 BYU on Saturday at the new Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, where the league's championship game will be played three months later.

Certainly no Chattanooga or North Texas, the teams Oklahoma beat by a combined 136-12 its last two openers.

While Oklahoma is used to preseason hype, ninth-ranked Oklahoma State opens a season in the Top 10 for the first time ever. And the Cowboys immediately get tested in a home opener against No. 13 Georgia.

"Guys have a tendency to stay more focused because they know you have a great challenge in the first game," Cowboys coach Mike Gundy said Monday during the Big 12 coaches' teleconference. "You don't really have any time to work the kinks out. You kind of have to be up and running."

Having the returning trio of quarterback Zac Robinson, receiver Dez Bryant and running back Kendall Hunter for an offense that averaged 41 points a game should help.

Still, Gundy admittedly worries about how his Cowboys will respond to an unprecedented sense of expectation.

"Way too fast for me," Snyder said.

Snyder came out of retirement to replace the fired



"This is new for me ... this much national attention," Gundy said. "I do worry about it. I don't know what we can do other than practice hard and stay focused as a staff."

The Cowboys got into the top 10 for the first time in 20 years after starting 7-10 last season, then lost four of their last six games - including Oklahoma, Texas and Texas Tech. Oklahoma State opened the 2007 season at Georgia, who was then also No. 13 and beat the Cowboys 35-14.

Stoops has lost only one of his 10 season openers at Oklahoma, in 2005 against TCU, a Mountain West Conference foe like BYU. He has only had to go on the road for one opener, an instate game at Tulsa seven years ago.

"We're not anxious to do it a whole lot," Stoops said. "In this case, our fans and people are really excited about it."

BILL'S BACK: Bill Snyder's three-year hiatus from coaching is over. It's time to get back on the Kansas State sideline, whether he's ready or not.

able to deal with it."

An easy opener could get them on the right track. The Jayhawks play Northern Colorado, a team still completing the transition from NCAA Division II to the Football Championship Subdivision, formerly I-AA.

QUOTEABLE: "I don't know what you'd call it. Nervous. I think, isn't real accurate. The anticipation, anxious, yeah, probably." - Texas Tech coach Mike Lewiston on the fog of the unexpected before playing a season opener. The Red Raiders come off one of their best seasons having to replace quarterback Graham Harrell and receiver Michael Crabtree.

EXTRA POINTS: No. 2 Texas and No. 24 Nebraska enter the season with four-game winning streaks. Kansas is the only other Big 12 team with a multiple-game winning streak - two in a row. ... Missouri has opened the past two seasons with a pair of high-scoring victories over Illinois, 52-42 and 40-34. Tigers coach Gary Pinkel insists he has no idea if this year's game in St. Louis will be the same, but knows it will be intense. "It's like a bowl game at the beginning of the year," he said. ... Iowa State coach Paul Rhoads makes his head coaching debut 10 minutes from where he was born in the first Big 12 game of the season, Thursday night against North Dakota State. The Cyclones have a 10-game losing streak. ... Cyrus Gray will be the starting tailback for Texas A&M. Coach Mike Sherman expects to utilize all the running backs in the opener, an expected hot Saturday night, but says he's not a "big back-by-committee guy."

... Colorado will be the Big 12 team to take the field, Sunday against Colorado State, and will be the first to play their second game, the following Friday night at Toledo. ... Three of Baylor's losses last season were by seven points or less. But the Bears lost by four touchdowns to Wake Forest, their opening opponent.

coach, Ron Prince, who replaced him. He is still getting back into the flow of coaching the Wildcats, he did for 17 seasons previously.

"Every single day, there's something I'm prompted about," Snyder said. "You know just a way of doing things and a process, just little reminders."

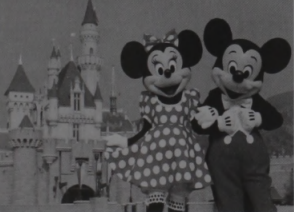
K-State opens at home against Massachusetts, which will provide a first for Snyder: coaching in a stadium named for him. DEFENDING KANSAS: With all three starting linebackers gone, Kansas switched to a 4-2-5 base defense to help ease that transition.

"I think that we're going to be better on defense than a lot of people think we will," said coach Mark Mangino, who still has seven returning defensive starters. "We do have some youth (at linebacker). But I like what they do and how they do it. I like their intensity, their ability and the way they run to the football. There will be some growing pains, but we'll be

# Family memories made at Disneyland

By Mary Ellen

Disneyland is indeed a place of fun for all ages. I had the pleasure of visiting the park in early August of this year. From the moment you arrive at the parking area one can feel the magic in the air. Everyone there is in a hurry to



get into the park and see what

absolutely gorgeous with all the green plants and trees.

Once you get into the park area you don't know where to look, there is so much to see. You see the excitement on the faces of all the families. The children seem to want to take off as fast as they can to the Disney characters that are prancing around with children of all ages) surrounding them

it's all about. The scenery is

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# Prueban nueva generación de cupones de descuento

Estados Unidos está ensayando una nueva generación de sus tradicionales cupones de descuento: vales electrónicos que pueden llegar al consumidor a través de su teléfono celular, sus cuentas de correo electrónico o en Twitter y Facebook.

Los nuevos formatos están ayudando a promover el regreso de una vieja costumbre norteamericana mientras atrae a los clientes nuevos y más jóvenes.

Hasta hace poco, muchos consumidores, especialmente consumidores jóvenes como April Englebert, de 30 años, rechazaban los cupones impresos en periódicos y folletos llegados directamente al correo, pues parecían pasados de moda o resultaban vergonzosos presentados en la caja al pagar la mercancía.

Englebert, sin embargo, una empleada de una empresa contable en Portland, Oregon, quedó tan sorprendida tras notar que su cuenta mensual por comestibles bajó de 500 a 300 dólares, principalmente por los cupones electrónicos, que ella le recomendó a amigos y colegas del trabajo que los probaran.

"Es impresionante", dijo Englebert. "Hay muchas cosas que puedes comprar gratis".

El uso de cupones había estado disminuyendo desde 1992, a medida que los consumidores los consideraban menos necesarios, incómodos de usar o incluso humillantes. Pero cuando la economía entró en recesión la austeridad hizo que su popularidad repuntara.

El uso de descuentos electrónicos y cupones aumentó más del 100 por ciento en el primer semestre de 2009 comparado con el mismo período del año pasado, mientras que el uso de los vales en general creció un 23 por ciento, según la compañía de procesa-

miento de cupones Iinar Inc. Su ofrecimiento representa ahora más de 3 por ciento de todos los cupones usados, comparado con el 2 por ciento en 2008.

Aunque ellos representan todavía una parte pequeña de todos los cupones usados en total, tienen un fuerte potencial de crecimiento, otorgándole a los compradores una nueva manera de estrisar sus presupuestos cada vez más estrechos.

"Son necesarias algunas fuerzas externas significativas para que las personas despierten y presten atención a las oportunidades de ahorro que tienen disponibles", afirmó Matthew Tilley, director de mercadotecnia en Iinar. En la mercadotecnia estadounidense, un vale puede intercambiarse por un descuento o una rebaja al comprar uno o varios productos. Habitualmente, los vales son emitidos por los fabricantes de los productos o por las cadenas minoristas, para ser usados al momento de pagar en las tiendas como una forma de fomentar las ventas y la lealtad a un artículo o a una tienda. Los cupones se distribuyen ampliamente desde hace décadas en el país, a menudo en la edición dominical del periódico, o se reciben por correo.

En un reciente viaje a la tienda de comestibles, Englebert acudió con muchos cupones. Además de los descuentos ofrecidos por la tienda en su propio folleto, traía vales de fabricantes que había recibido por correo electrónico y otros que compró en el sitio eBay de internet. Con ellos, compró un total de 14 artículos -incluyendo macarones con queso y carne- por un total de 5.98 dólares, con un ahorro de 24.88 dólares.

Englebert dice que pasa unas cinco horas a la semana recolectando cupones, verificando sus

blogs favoritos en busca de las ofertas del día, las páginas de los fabricantes y grupos en Facebook o Twitter, entre otras herramientas. Incluso usa eBay, donde algo como un cupón de descuento de cinco dólares no representa valor para alguien que no va a usarlo pero sí vale los 99 centavos que ella puede pagar por él.

Los consumidores pueden imprimir cupones digitales de sitios en internet o de su correo electrónico, pero muchos no pueden ser impresos porque son completamente electrónicos. En estos casos se usan en las tarjetas de lealtad de una tienda o pueden en un teléfono celular con un código de promoción o una imagen. Hay también programas para iPhone, dispositivos portátiles en las tiendas y pantallas construidas en las asas de los carros de comestibles que alertan a los compradores sobre las ofertas en la tienda. Los minoristas continúan ensayando con los nuevos formatos.

Los nuevos formatos de cupones pueden traer problemas también, a medida que se experimentan sus alcances. La cadena de restaurantes KFC enfrentó una inesperada ola de consumidores durante el segundo trimestre en varios de sus negocios, debido a un vale que ofrecía pollo asado gratis que fue publicado en el sitio en internet de la presentadora de televisión Oprah Winfrey.

Los expertos dicen que es probable que crezcan tanto los formatos impresos tradicionales como los electrónicos, aunque pasará un tiempo antes de que lleguen al máximo sin precedentes en el uso de cupones de 7.900 millones en 1992. En 2008, los consumidores aprovecharon apenas 2.600 millones de vales de todos tipos.

# Latina Students Face Greater Challenges Than Counterparts

Today, the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) and MALDEF were joined by U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Chair of the Education Task Force on the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, in releasing "Listening to Latinas: Barriers to High School Graduation", a new report that takes a close look at the drop-out crisis in the Latino community. The latest data show that 41% of Latina students do not graduate on time with a standard high school diploma. The study reports that while 98% of high school seniors want to graduate from high school, and 80% aspire to higher education, Latina students continue to face numerous challenges in reaching these goals.

esteen pre-nancy rate, their own children. Cultural stigmas contribute to low self-esteem and insecurities, allowing society to ignore



Latina students who then trade-in the possibility of a future career, for a future predestined by bias, discrimination, and a lack of support.

Beginning by acknowledging that a problem exists, and recognizing the importance of investing in our children, the study offers some solid recommendations. The recommendations include calling on schools, policymakers, and government agencies to: invest in the future of Latino children through

high-quality early learning programs, connect Latinas with role models, ensure that all students are prepared for post-secondary educational opportunities, ensure safe school environments that are culturally inclusive and free from discrimination, help Latino parents get involved in their children's education, improve efforts to prevent teen pregnancy and support for pregnant and parenting students, and require better data collection and promote school accountability.

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