

El Editor

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

VOL. XXX No. 36

Week of June 14-20, 2007

www.eleditor.com

Lubbock, Texas 79401

Angry About Illegal Immigration and Marching 'for America'

By David Montgomery
They showed their passion and anger with thousands of faxes and calls to Capitol Hill to stop an immigration reform bill last week. Now, grass-roots advocates of tougher curbs on illegal immigration hope to show their might in person for three days of rallies at the Washington Monument.



Organized by a former PTA mom from California and a homemaker from Texas -- who will meet for the first time today in Washington after months of online planning and venting -- the March for America kicks off this morning with a procession from the White House to the

monument. The organizers expect a few hundred to participate today, a few thousand tomorrow and, they hope, 10,000 on Saturday. Their permit from the National Park Service forecasts a maximum of 2,000 participants each day.

"We want to take our country back from the crazy politicians who aren't listening to the citizens," said Melissa Gardner of Sacramento, one of the organizers.

"For all the people who are too afraid to come out and speak and are watching all this stuff on C-SPAN, calling and faxing, we want them to get out there and see that American patriots are united."

Today's activities are built around Operation Body Count, a project created by activists in California and North Carolina to memorialize people who have died as a result of actions by people in the

country illegally -- primarily victims of murder or drunken driving.

Friday's gathering will address the effect of illegal immigration on American workers. Saturday will focus on the battle against "amnesty" for undocumented immigrants. Dozens of authors and activists will speak. The offices of Reps. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.), Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) and Virgil H. Goode Jr. (R-Va.) said that they will participate.

Todd Klein Defeats Kevin Glasheen in Runoff for Dist 3 Council Seat

By Abel Cruz
Call it a reversal of fortune; both from the standpoint of the final vote totals and from the perspective of a



political fortune which was in jeopardy of being derailed before it ever got under way. Just a few weeks ago, it seemed that Todd

Klein's political aspiration to serve on the Lubbock City Council would be snuffed out by frontrunner Kevin Glasheen.

After receiving just 25% of the vote total in their first encounter in May; the last thing District 3 voters expected was that Todd Klein would be able to reverse those figures and win the run-off election against Glasheen for the District 3 council seat.

From 25% to 52%; with that turnaround, Klein and his supporters got their political wish; for Klein to replace Gary Boren on the Lubbock City Council and in Klein's words to "bring the community together".

Considering the divisiveness or as his predecessor Gary Boren once put it, the "dis-jointedness" that exists on the council; Klein surely has his work cut out for him.

After the May 13th election, most voters assumed that Glasheen would win the runoff since he had received 48% of the vote. He was the leading vote getter but had to win at least 50% of the vote in order to avoid a run off election.

Glasheen says that "Low turnout hurt us". He's also said that voters might have assumed that he would win based on his showing in May and didn't come out to vote.

Glasheen says he wonders how long Klein will honor one of his campaign promises. "I wonder how long Mr. Klein will honor his promise to vote against any tax increase. One of his first votes will be whether to raise debt and taxes for a new animal shelter".

We also contacted Councilwoman Linda DeLeon to get her comment on Klein's victory. DeLeon says she knows Klein well. DeLeon says she was "surprised by Klein's victory given the conservative climate that exists here" and given that Klein is a former Lubbock County Democratic Party Chairman. DeLeon says she looks forward to working with Klein on the council.

Klein has said he thinks he received votes from people who had voted for Frank Sikes who also ran for the council seat. Klein has indicated that one of his main priorities is to "bring the community together". El Editor sent Klein an email asking him how he planned to accomplish that; we did not receive a response by the time we had to go to press.

One angle to this election story which garnered little public attention was Klein's quote in a local radio interview with KFYO Radio, in which the issue of immigration law enforcement was brought up. The question revolved around whether or under what circumstances it is appropriate for local police officers to ask about one's residency status. Glasheen said that as far as he's concerned "immigration is not a local issue at this time".

Klein answered the question this way: "If you think nobody can speak English and you may have another problem, it's appropriate to call in and find out what the next step is, but asking immigration status would be a very appropriate thing to do."

Presently, enforcement of immigration law is under the federal government's domain. But the immigration issue is one which has generated much national attention and passing an immigration reform bill has become an impossible task in Congress.

Klein's answer indicates that it is appropriate for local law enforcement to get involved in immigration related questions. An inability to speak English might make a person's residency status suspect; or in the very least might indicate that a person might be here illegally. We also asked Klein to expand on his answer to the question in the KFYO interview, but did not receive his reply in time to print it in this edition.

Glasheen says he has no plans to run for
email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Studies say Texas lags in health care access With high number of uninsured, state ranks 49th

To many people, Texas has a strong reputation for quality health care. But in reality Texas ranks last in U.S. in access to health care, a study says. Among the 50 states, Texas' health care system ranges from average to poor, according to two reports released this week. Industry experts say the low rankings are explained largely by the widening gap between Texans who have health insurance and those who don't.

The large immigrant population and a high number of small businesses that don't offer health benefits to employees make Texas highest in the nation in the percentage of uninsured residents.

That helped rank Texas 49th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia for the overall performance of its health care system, in a study by the Commonwealth Fund. The study measured access to health care, quality of health care, avoidable hospital costs and deaths per 100,000 residents.

"We have too much pride in this state, and too much good economy, for us to sit back and tolerate this kind of rating," said Ladon W. Homer, immediate past president of the Texas Medical Association.

A study released Monday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services pegged the state as average for health care quality, based on 129 indicators.

The department began publishing the annual study in 2005 as a way to help state health leaders better recognize their strengths and weaknesses in providing quality care.

"Texas on overall quality is about average," said Ed Kelley, supervisor of the department's study. "There are some things Texas is doing well and challenges that can be improved."

For example, the study found that Texas scored strongly for early colorectal cancer diagnoses and having a low percentage of nursing home residents who are depressed or anxious but poorly in areas such as full vaccination of children and avoidable hospitalizations for diabetes.

In both studies, Midwestern and Northeastern states such as Wisconsin, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine performed the best. Those states have higher percentages of residents with health insurance and don't have the same impact from immigration as Texas does.

Many uninsured

In a state with 23.5 million people, more than 5.5 million - including 1.4 million children - lack health insurance, according to the Texas Medical Association. Texas' uninsured rates are about 1.5 times the national average.

Hispanics make up a third of the state's population - much larger than the 13 percent for the U.S. as a whole. More than half of the uninsured in Texas are Hispanic, compared with 25 percent for the nation.

Many Hispanics, particularly laborers, work at small businesses, said Roger C. Rocha Jr., state director of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

"Low-income people who cannot afford health insurance are in jobs that don't offer health insurance," he said. "And then with CHIP programs being cut or not being funded adequately, there is a big segment out there not covered."

Only 55 percent of Texans have access to employer-sponsored insurance, below the national average of 63 percent, according to the Texas Medical Association. For small businesses - which provide about half the state's nonfarm, private-sector jobs - coverage drops to 37 percent.

The strain of supporting uninsured Texans pressures hospitals financially and in the quality of care, experts say.

Total uncompensated care - including bad debt from people who can't pay their bills and charity care that hospitals agree to provide - increased 78 percent, from \$5.6 billion in 2001 to \$10.1 billion in 2005, according to the Texas Hospital Association.

Uninsured patients are more likely than their insured counterparts to forgo or delay treatment for acute illnesses or injuries, to go without needed treatment for chronic conditions or illnesses and to die prematurely.

Besides the dangers to those who go without insurance, the situation also creates a drag on the state's economy. Uninsured patients create higher health care costs for everyone as a result of the inherent cost shifting.

The problem of the uninsured is again getting attention from politicians. Presidential candidates are floating proposals to increase the ranks of insured Americans and even to provide universal health coverage.

In Texas, solutions have come in a more piecemeal fashion.

In the recent legislative session, lawmakers restored many of the funding cuts made in 2003 to the Children's Health Insurance Program. CHIP is designed for children of families who earn too much for Medicaid but not enough to buy private health insurance.

Since the cuts, CHIP enrollment had dropped from a high of 529,000 in May of 2002 to 300,800 this month, according to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Historias reales contadas por sus protagonistas

Miami, 13 de junio de 2007 - Discovery en Español, el proveedor líder de programación de alta calidad basada en hechos del mundo real para la audiencia hispano parlante, estrenará VIVIENDO EN LAS SOMBRAS, una producción original que expone de manera única y objetiva el debate sobre la inmigración ilegal. Este documental le da vida al debate como nunca antes, a través de conmovedores testimonios de personas que viven clandestinamente sin la documentación necesaria y con miedo a ser deportados, pero aun así se esfuer-

zan en trabajar, criar a sus hijos, y soñar con un futuro mejor. Viviendo en las Sombras se estrena en Discovery en Español el domingo, 24 de junio a las 9:00 PM ET/PT.

Mientras ciento de miles de personas esperan una decisión del Congreso estadounidense en relación a las leyes de inmigración, Discovery en Español llevó sus cámaras a lugares donde raramente antes se ha filmado de forma tan directa y abierta, para seguir de cerca la vida cotidiana de los más afectados por este debate. Estos son sólo algunos de los testimonios que forman parte de este documental:

•Doris Aguirre inmigró desde Honduras hace siete años. Caminó durante un mes llevando en brazos a su bebé de 5 meses. Fue detenida en Brownsville al cruzar la frontera, y fue puesta en libertad con la condición de que tenía que presentarse ante un juez de inmigración, algo que nunca hizo. Mientras trabajaba en Chicago, conoció su actual esposo, se casaron y tuvieron una hija. A pesar de todos los esfuerzos realizados por su esposo para legalizar a Doris, esto no ha sido posible. Ahora, aunque está casada con un ciudadano norteamericano, no puede legalizar su estatus a menos que regrese a su país de origen y permanezca allí por lo menos 5 años.

•Oscar abandonó México hace siete años, sin un centavo, pero con enormes deseos de triunfar. En la actualidad, supervisa a más de 30 obreros de la construcción, y su brigada estuvo a cargo de construir el edificio más alto de la que ahora es su ciudad. Oscar trabaja de sol a sol, paga sus impuestos utilizando un número de identificación asignado por el INS. Oscar sueña con el día en que pueda salir de las sombras.

•Elvira Arrellano llegó a este país hace 10 años, buscando un mejor futuro que el que tenía en su México natal. En Chicago, comenzó una nueva vida, nació su hijo Saulito, y comenzó a trabajar en el aeropuerto O'Hare como agente de seguridad usando un número de seguro social falso. Pero, después de una redada del ICE, terminó en la cárcel. Momentos antes de ser deportada, Elvira se refugió en una iglesia, desafiando a las autoridades de inmigración. Elvira, y su hijo Saúl se han convertido en las caras de un movimiento que busca detener las deportaciones de personas ilegales con hijos ciudadanos norteamericanos. El pastor de la iglesia dice temerle más a Dios que a los agentes del Seguro Nacional.

Todas las personas que participaron en el documental y que nos cuentan sus historias, insistieron en mostrar sus caras. Sólo los nombres y el nombre de la ciudad donde residen fueron cambiados. A pesar de conocer el riesgo, querían, ante todo, que el mundo conociera sus historias.

Uno de los objetivos de VIVIENDO EN LAS SOMBRAS fue el de capturar el espíritu de una población que vive de manera clandestina, pero que se siente orgullosa, desea salir de las sombras, no pide compasión, sino la oportunidad de formar parte de este gran país.

De igual manera, VIVIENDO EN LAS SOMBRAS, explora el actual debate sobre inmigración, los cambios a las leyes migratorias que se discuten actualmente en el Congreso, y presenta los puntos de vista y opiniones de ambos lados del debate que incluye a políticos, abogados de inmigración, y líderes comunitarios. Entre los participantes se encuentran: el Congresista Lincoln Diaz-Balart; Dan Stein, Presidente de FAIR; Jonathan Encarnación Director del Centro Hispano Daniel Torres; Lou Barletta, alcalde de Hazleton; Tom MacMahon, alcalde de Reading; Darlene Kattan, Directora de la Cámara de Comercio de Louisiana; Victoria Hernández, Directora de Asuntos Gubernamentales del MDCC; y los prominentes activistas Nora Sandigo, José Oviedo, y José Lagos, entre otros.

El documental ofrece un análisis convincente sobre el candente tema de la inmigración ilegal al combinar testimonios dramáticos de personas que narran sus experiencias y los desafíos que enfrentan desde el momento en que comienzan a vivir clandestinamente, así como también reveladoras entrevistas con legisladores y líderes comunitarios que forman parte esencial de este debate.

City To Begin Issuing Red Light Citations Friday

After a 2 week grace period, Lubbock drivers can expect to begin receiving city issued citations if they happen to run a red light at at least 3 Lubbock intersections. Although the cameras have been installed and operational for at least 2 weeks, the city decided to give motorists a 2 week warning period.

The cameras are located at the intersections of 19th Street (westbound) and Indiana Ave; I-27 (Southbound) and South Ave Q; and I-27 (Southbound) and 66th Street. Violations will cost drivers a \$75.00 fine the first time, and could go as high as \$150.00 for a second offense.

Violations are considered to be civil violations and will not affect a person's driving record. A person's credit record might be another thing which could be affected. It's still not clear what will happen if a person fails to pay the fine. But, in other cities, where American Traffic Solutions has contracted to run the camera enforcement program; cities like Houston, have contracted with ATS to act as a collection agent. The possibility exists that a person who fails to pay a fine may get the debt reported to a credit bureau and it might affect a person's credit rating.

Recall Recount Comes Up Short Again; Only 453 Signatures Validated

By Abel Cruz
Sooner or later, one way or another, it has to end; but apparently not just yet.

The effort to recall Lubbock City Councilwoman Linda DeLeon has failed again, according to City Secretary Becky Garza. Last week, Garza had agreed to conduct a recount of the signatures after Recall 2007 Committee Organizers re-submitted 43 names which were on the original petitions but which had been disqualified by Garza the first time she counted the signatures.

Enter City Attorney Anita Burgess into the fray. On Friday, June 8th, Burgess ruled that the 43 signatures could not become part of the original petition. The 43 names are considered to be a supplement to the original petition and according to Garza, "Once a petition is filed, it may not be supplemented with any other information. I agreed to conduct a second review, and the petition that had initially been filed is what I reviewed".

In addition to the 43 names; at least 4 people who had signed the original petition filed affidavits with the City Secretary claiming that they had been misled into signing the petition. Burgess also ruled that regardless of the affidavits, those names would remain part of the petition and would be recounted as such.

Councilwoman DeLeon has maintained that people were misled and has urged those people to contact Garza. It is not clear though, what if anything will come out of the affidavits being filed. Garza has said that she will forward them to Lubbock County District Attorney Matt Powell so that he may make a determination. KCBD's NewsChannel 11 Investigative Reporter, Cecilia Jones, reported this past week that Powell is "not sure anything criminal has occurred", referring to the affidavits. But he does say that the "closest crime (that) may have occurred is tampering with governmental documents". But back to the recount...Garza says that the criteria she went by to qualify signatures comes directly from Chapter 277 of the city election code. She added that some of the reasons a person's signature could be disqualified "include but (are) not limited to: "Signature not in signer's handwriting"; "registered voter status"; "date of birth" and "residence address

or valid voter registration number invalid or not provided"; "date of signature not provided or invalid"; "effective date of voter registration"; and "unable to identify voter due to incorrect information supplied on petition". Subsequently, the number of signatures disqualified actually grew from the initial review. Previously, 200 signatures had been disqualified; this time an additional 19 signatures were added to the original 200.

A review of the list of disqualified signatures revealed that all were disqualified for reasons included in Garza's response. Reasons included: "Incorrect Date of Birth"; "Not Registered in District 1"; and "No Address". Fourteen of the signatures were disqualified for having "No Signature Date".

So what's next for the Recall 2007 Committee? Organizers can either choose to pursue this in the courts, or they have the option of starting all over with a new petition.

Armando Gonzales, the principal organizer and spokesperson for the recall committee says that it's not over yet. He says they will review the latest findings and may pursue the issue with the Justice Department. They vow to continue in their efforts and indicated they may take another run at DeLeon in the fall. Traditionally, fall is when the majority of Texas Tech students return to the city to begin the fall semester; and organizers may possibly be waiting until then when they can approach Tech students.

They also say that they will look at the possibility of starting a recall effort against Councilwoman Phyllis Jones and Councilman Jim Gilbreath. News reports also indicate they might target Mayor David Miller in a recall effort; although El Editor could not confirm if this was mere speculation or fact.

For now, the official word from city hall according to Garza is that: "After a second and final review, the petition has failed again. They (organizers) needed 494 signatures, but fell short by 41."

As for the recall organizers; if anything, it looks like this issue is far from being over and resolved to their and the petition's signer's satisfaction.
email: acruztsch@aol.com

Shall We Dance?

by Abel Cruz

Short Petticoats and Pelvic Thrusts: Not in This Town by Golly!

This past weekend Lubbock hosted the 45th annual Texas State Federation Square and Round Dance Festival. But not to worry, the LPD was present to make sure the length of the dresses and petticoats worn by the ladies were within the skirt and petticoats limits as outlined in the city's "Display of Public Sexual Activity Ordinance". Plus they were there to make sure the men did not engage in any sexually suggestive pelvic thrusts.

There were no other reports of any arrests; except for a little old man who was questioned and detained after a sex novelty item dropped out of his shirt pocket as he was busting a do-si-doe move on the dance floor.

Police suspect he might have purchased the item at the "Somethin' Sexy" lingerie shop; the Lubbock store which was recently served with a search warrant by 4 Lubbock undercover officers. In that incident officers arrested and charged a store employee with promotion of obscene devices after she sold a sexual device to an undercover officer. Although it could not be confirmed, confidential sources told this reporter that the device had mysteriously disappeared and had never made it to the police property and evidence room.

Chief Claude Jones called an emergency press conference to discuss the little old man's arrest and vowed to investigate "until we get to the 'bottom' of this", said Jones. When reminded by this reporter that using a word like 'bottom' could be misconstrued as sexually suggestive language and in violation of the city's ordinance, the Chief said it was ok for him to use the word, "the ordinance," he said, "does not apply to Lubbock police officers".

Ok, I made this up; the only parts which are true are that square dancers did have their festival here; it really took 4 LPD undercover officers to serve the warrant; and the employee was arrested and charged.

But tell me, considering what has been happening here lately, would you be that surprised if those were the only parts that were true?

Shall we dance some more...

30 Pieces of Silver

I received the following question from a reader: Why did you once use the phrase "30 pieces of silver" when writing about the city's red light camera program? Signed: "a born again Atheist"

Dear Born Again:

Thanks for the question. I didn't know Atheists could be born again; thanks for the heads up.

I used the term to illustrate a point and I used it figuratively, and not literally. The Mayor is a Christian/religious man. He asks us to pray for rain, he reminded us once that local media was the "Enemy"; much like Satan; he wrote: "There is no question that we are getting some attention from the Enemy as the attacks are more frequent and personal. We are putting on the armor and taking refuge in Him everyday. Therefore, we are not discouraged or disheartened... but we are certainly challenged. Thanks to so many for lifting us up in prayer".

The Mayor used religion as a basis for making his point; I just thought I'd do the same. I referred to the biblical story which teaches that Judas betrayed Christ for 30 pieces of silver to make a point. And the point is this; when the majority on the council voted for red light cameras, even though they knew that the majority of residents were against it and even though they knew that the potential revenue from the program was more of a priority than public safety, they in a sense betrayed whatever public trust that the public had in their elected officials. In my view they should have listened to the majority; represented their wishes and voted accordingly. In other words, one could say that it was all a political ruse; just like the one Judas planned with the Roman soldiers. "Capice" yet? That's Italian for do you understand; those Roman soldiers spoke Italian didn't they? It's either that, or I must still be in a "Sopranos" mode after the finale this past weekend; well, never mind.

Anyway, the point I was trying to illustrate was that those who voted in favor in a sense "betrayed" the tax paying citizens of this city for the revenue the city stood to make; hence the "30 pieces of silver" reference. Of course they will argue that they voted in favor of the cameras so they can hire more police officers and citizens will benefit. But then I could argue that the reason they want the money is to repair the police vehicles which might be damaged the next time LPD officers over imbibe and vandalize public property; in order to keep drunken police officers from driving; just like the officers said they did in the Jacob Opperman case.

No? Ok, here. Here's something that might help you understand it. Hank Williams recorded a song once by the same name. Here's a verse; I took some creative liberties and rewrote some of the lyrics to fit our topic.

"Tis a sad but true story, from the Lubbock city council it came

And it tells us how they sold the citizens trust in them away.

She planned with the Mayor and the gang of 4 that day,

For 30 pieces of silver, they voted our trust away"

I hope that answers your question. If not, you might want to write Mayor Miller and ask him if he can explain it to you. And please, try and get to church every once in a while if you can.

Shall we dance the next one...?

Maria Elena Who?

Why is it ok for Texas Tech University, a state funded public institution, to trademark their name, the Raider Red label, their mascot and even the color red and sue people who infringe on the trademark in order to make money off of it; but it's not ok for Maria Elena Holly to try and do the same?

Councilwoman Phyllis Jones had some choice words during a recent council meeting in which the council was discussing the most recent development in the ongoing battle between some people in this city and Holly's widow.

I don't have the exact quote, but here's some of what she said: "I think it's a shame that Buddy Holly's brothers and Lubbock citizens can't fully celebrate Buddy Holly's name because it is so difficult to negotiate with his (Holly's) wife".

I don't know, but I'm guessing she might have meant: I think it's a shame that that "witch" Maria Elena wants to keep us from using Buddy's name without paying her just so she can make money off his name. Just who the heck does she think she is; she was only his wife, it's not like she's like his brother or something. Why does she get to make money off his name and we don't?

Does Ms. Jones think that just because the city had to remove the name from a couple of places, this will prevent Lubbock residents and especially his brothers from "celebrating" his name? What does that mean anyway to celebrate one's name? I thought you celebrated someone's life; their memory and their legacy; in this case his musical legacy.

Another thing, the majority of the people in this city never celebrate Buddy Holly's name; the majority of the people who were born and live here probably have no idea who Holly was. In fact, most of the people who celebrate days like his birthday and anniversary date of his untimely death are people who come from England, Germany, and other European countries.

In fact one could make a good argument that the city of Clovis outdoes this city when it comes to celebrating Holly's legacy. And all Holly did there was record some of his greatest hits at the Norman Petty Studios.

Oh, that's right, that's where the money part comes in. Come on City Council Elections 2008!

Ok, that's enough dancing...

Intolerance and Hatred in Print

An AJ reader wrote a letter to the editor opposing the effort to rename a Lubbock street after Cesar Chavez; stating that Chavez wasn't from here and that somehow disqualified him from having a street named after him. Fair enough; she made her case.

A few days later, a letter is published disputing some assertions which the original letter writer had made. The letter happened to be from a local resident who happens to be a Catholic priest serving in the Lubbock Diocese. He made his case saying that just because Chavez was not from here did not disqualify him. He noted that Lubbock was named after Thomas S. Lubbock and Lubbock had not lived here at all. He wrote the following:

"It didn't occur to the early settlers that because (Thomas S.) Lubbock had never lived in this area that they should not name this community in his honor. It was enough that they were inspired by his memory as a farmer and a soldier. In a similar way, those who support naming a street in honor of Cesar Chavez are also inspired by his memory. While Chavez, like Thomas S. Lubbock, never lived here, his memory continues to inspire people of every race and cultural background to work for peace and justice."

He made no religious references at all and he signed it using his official title; "Reverend". Apparently, this did not sit well with the first letter writer and she wrote in again.

Again she made her case; disputing what the Reverend had written. Fair enough. But it was the last line in her letter where she revealed her real reason for responding. I can imagine her wanting so bad to say what she did she was probably "bursting at the seams" as she wrote her response. By God she would teach the Reverend a lesson; she would get even with him for having disagreed with her. Here's how she ended her letter:

"I do not choose to call the letter writer "Reverend" because there is no scripture in the bible which commands this".

Now I ask you, why was it important for her to write this last line?

The lesson in this story is this:

Intolerance and hatred, masked as religious conviction, are the source of many a person's inner doubt and insecurity.

Email: acruzts@sol.com

WHY ALBERTO GONZALES IS AN 'S'

By Cecilio Morales
Forget about whether Attorney General Alberto Gonzales remembers too little, deletes too many e-mails, fires federal prosecutors for partisan reasons or justifies the use of cruel and unusual punishment. The real issue bedeviling Hispanics is why he insists on torturing his surname.

The real name is González. The attorney general can't blame his peculiar spelling (and it is very peculiar) on an Ellis Island error. There's no legal immigration record for three of his foreign-born grandparents.

What's the difference between -es and -ez?

Plenty. Surnames ending in az, ez, oz or iz are all patronymics. That's a word from the Greek meaning "father's name."

In Spanish, González means "son of Gonzalo," the way the English Johnson means "John's son," the Norwegian Eriksen means "Erik's son" and the German Mendelsohn means "Mendel's son."

Álvarez is "son of Álvaro," just as Díaz, Díez and Dieguez are all forms of "son of Diego"; Ruiz is "son of Ruy" and Pérez, one of the most common surnames, is "son of Pedro."

There are arguments among linguists about how the -z endings came to be patronymics. Some say it comes from the Latin genitive case, particularly the -is ending in the third declension.

Others argue that it comes from those Barbarians who invaded Roman Spain around the 5th century of our era, the Visigoths. (They're the ones who give some Spaniards light skin and sometimes even blue eyes and blond hair.)

Why was establishing paternity so important? No, not child support, but inheritance.

In the Middle Ages, when surnames came into use in Europe, women rarely acquired title to property and more often were themselves deemed chattel. Incidentally, that's the very origin of the biblical injunction against adultery. It messes up claims to paternity, especially if the woman commits it.

This should come as a relief to Alberto Gonzales' Republican presidential candidate pals who have multiple messy divorces involving adultery. Adultery has nothing to do with family values; it's all about money, which is a very Republican thing.

If this sounds confusing, think about the confusion the attorney general is imposing on the rest of us Hispanics, especially those, like me, who have a surname ending in -es.

Since Gonzales should be González, should Morales be Morález?

Absolutely not! Just as with adultery, my name has nothing to do with morality. Morales comes from the word for mulberry, mora. A mulberry tree is a moral. A mulberry grove is (presto!) Morales.

A number of localities in Spain are named Morales del Rey, signifying that they were the king's mulberry groves; no freelance picking allowed.

Many surnames in Spanish end in -es. Like mine, they are often place names; they do not indicate paternity (because probably there was nothing to inherit, darn it).

Perales, like Morales, comes from pear (pera) grove. Céspedes has to do with lawns. And so on.

Finally there's the other spelling problem of — my fingers almost refuse to type it — Gonzales.

González, the real name, carries a diacritical or accent mark over the a. That's for the well-known rule that words stressed in the penultimate syllable are accented if they do not end in a vowel or the consonants n or s.

So what do we do with the name-mangling attorney general? Purists insist that since the name ought to be González, Gonzales should have an accent.

In matters of Spanish, which unlike English has rules decided upon by the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language, purists abound. In some cases, they're right.

Still, I just can't bear to accent Gonzales until it gets changed to z.

Whichever way you type it, it's like Johnson. Don't leave home without it.

(Cecilio Morales is executive editor of the Washington-based Employment & Training Reporter. Contact him at Cecilio@MIIPublications.com.)

COMMENTARY DROWNING IN INCOMPE- TENCE OR BUREAUCRATIC MUMBO JUMBO

By Abel Cruz

Ever wonder why some people have lost faith in our city government; or in the very least have close to zero confidence in city management? The water restrictions the city implemented last week may give us a clue.

The obvious question: whose bright idea was it to approve the work on this phase of the Sharp Freeway at the beginning of the peak water usage season when businesses and residents use the most water; either for residential use, swimming pools, landscape businesses, etc?

Answer; we'll never know who, because we don't have the kind of city management staff that stands up and takes responsibility for making bad decisions which result in these types of problems. Problems, I might add, which could have been avoided if someone had just used a little common sense and shown a little consideration for the businesses which would be affected. And for this city's residents, the people they supposedly "Serve with Humility, Lead with Passion", and "Commit to Excellence" to. What happened this time?

A tip of the hat goes to KCBD, NewsChannel 11; they at least asked the number one question on everyone's mind. Here's the written transcript from the June 12th newscast:

Abner Euressti: "The city banned some outdoor watering; yesterday NewsChannel 11 asked why the project was being done during peak water usage season; and this was the answer from the city.

Assistant City Manager Tom Adams: "Well we actually bid this project out and council approved it back in January, we didn't get the permit from TexDot to actually approve the location until about March 5th and so we're moving as quickly as we can".

Abner Euressti: "Today TexDot told us the project has been in the works for months and the original permit was approved last October." Say what? And for these types of answers we pay this guy a high six figure yearly salary?

First, Adams never answers the question. Right away, he seems intent on assigning blame to TexDot and shifting it away from himself and the city. Adams clearly tries to blame TexDot for the problem, saying the city did not receive the approval from TexDot until March 5th. But NewsChannel 11 says the original permit was approved since last October? Who to believe? I think I'll go with Abner on this one...

As if the work being scheduled in June wasn't bad enough, the city did it without giving sufficient and timely warning to the local businesses which depend on water use in their business; landscape companies and plant nurseries just to name a couple; those business owners say they heard it on the news.

The restriction announcement was first posted on the city's web site on June 8th, there was no prior indication given. Sure, some local media reported that Adams was saying that the restrictions were a possibility; but my guess is that at that point, the restrictions were a done deal.

Adams appeared on a couple of local newscasts in the week before the restrictions saying that if people didn't use water sparingly, the restrictions might have to be implemented. So now, it's the resident's responsibility and fault? Point is that city staff probably already knew restrictions were more than just a possibility; why not give business owners and residents sufficient time to plan accordingly? I'll tell you why; because it makes too much sense; a concept bureaucrats seem to have a hard time grasping.

I did notice that the city made sure to get city pools filled and going before implementing the restrictions; they obviously knew they would implement the restrictions long before they let the rest of us know. Did filling city owned pools put a strain on the system? Who knows? Have they been closed down temporarily because of the restrictions? Who knows?

Ok, city owned swimming pools benefit Lubbock residents who use them, but who are we kidding here? My hunch is they also are a revenue stream for the city; money the city obviously didn't want to lose out on. Well guess what, landscape companies don't like to lose money either.

But back to Adam's non-answer, an answer that ranks right up there with other bureaucratic answers like the time former Washington, DC Mayor Marion Barry; who when caught on tape smoking crack with a woman in a DC hotel room quickly said: "the bitch set me up". Even after being caught on camera, Barry still lays the blame on someone else.

Now, I'm not comparing Adams to Barry in any way, shape or form. But I use Barry's explanation as a stark, and perhaps overly exaggerated example, of a government bureaucrat not taking responsibility for his/her actions; something which happens way too often in city, state, and federal government. By answering the way he did, Adams chose to deflect responsibility; and in typical "bureaucratic speak" he made sure to absolve himself of any.

See, for bureaucrats, just like for most politicians, there's always a reason or excuse why things happen; it's always someone else's or something else's fault; never theirs. Bureaucrats make it seem like these things are out of their control; they blame the weather, they blame the regulatory process; they blame everything else on this earth; never exploring the possibility that they could have blown it by making the wrong decision.

Here's a suggestion for Mr. Adams; next time try something like this:

"First and foremost, I apologize for the inconvenience this situation has caused our city's residents. I especially apologize to the business owners who have been adversely affected, and to the employees who work at these types of businesses who have been laid off from their job because of the restrictions. We should have handled this better; we are accountable to you the taxpayer and I will personally see to it that all people directly involved in this are held accountable. I take full responsibility for the poor planning and poor forethought that went into this work being done at a time when water usage is at a peak level. We knew this and we should have taken it into consideration. In hindsight we admit that we could have had this work scheduled at a time when it would have the least amount of adverse effect; or inconvenienced the least amount of people, but we didn't. Instead of making the needs of our residents and business owners a priority when we made this decision, we didn't; we took them for granted. I apologize to the many landscape business owners whose business and profit line has suffered from the restrictions. We will try to do better."

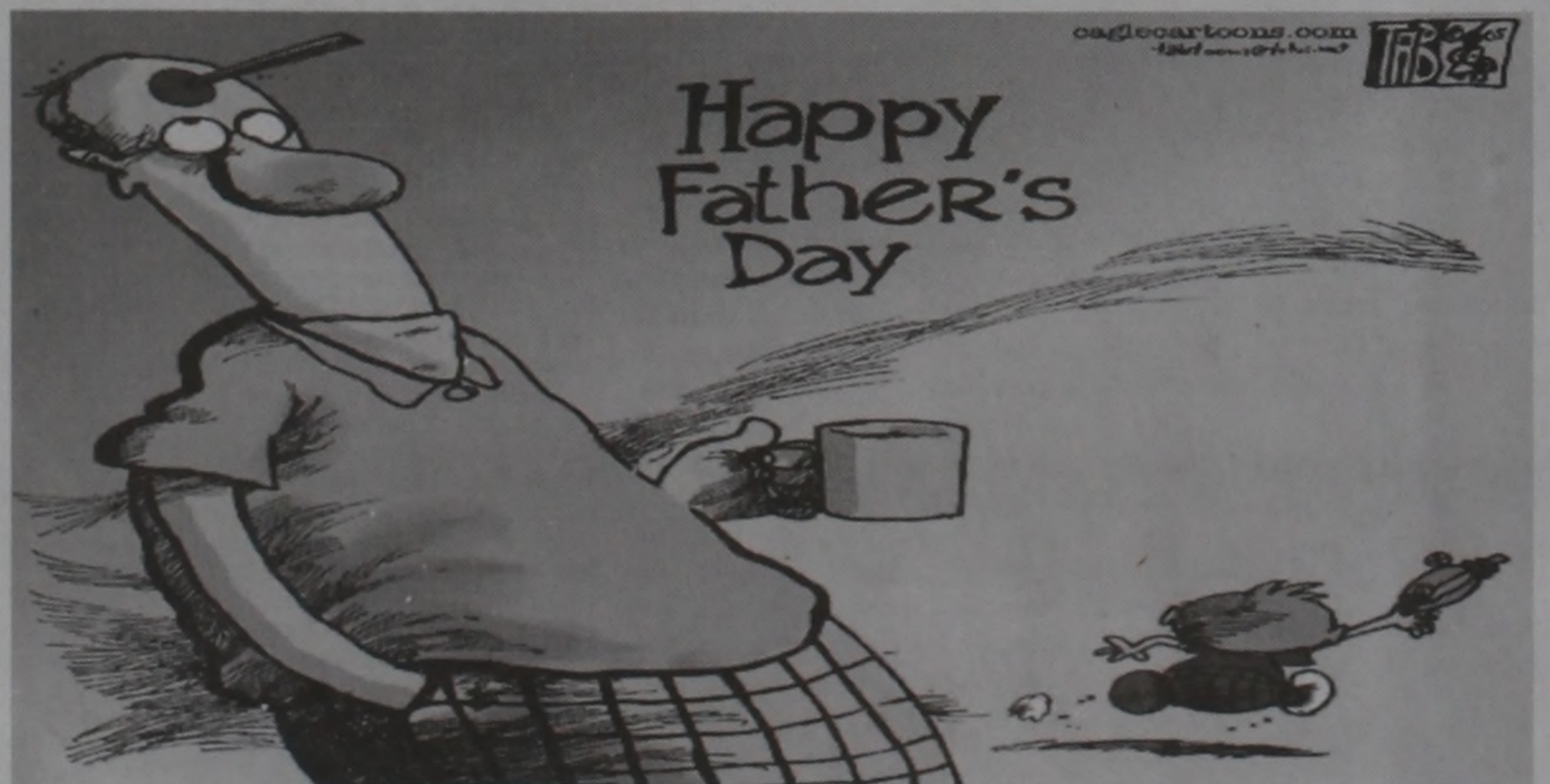
What's wrong with that answer? We all know that from time to time people will screw up, make mistakes. We know that; we accept that. It is the attempt to insult our intelligence by providing superficial, bogus responses to the questions that bugs me. Level with us, don't dance around the issue thinking that you can fool us with your useless answers; be forthcoming; what's so difficult about telling it like it is and saying: "we screwed up, we blew it; sorry; we'll try and do better"?

Sounds simplistic? I know, but what would you rather hear, Adams answer or what I suggested he might have said?

Email: Email: acruz@aol.com



Daniel Samaripa and Ashley Benitez Our Lady of Grace celebrated their Graduation Mass on May 20.

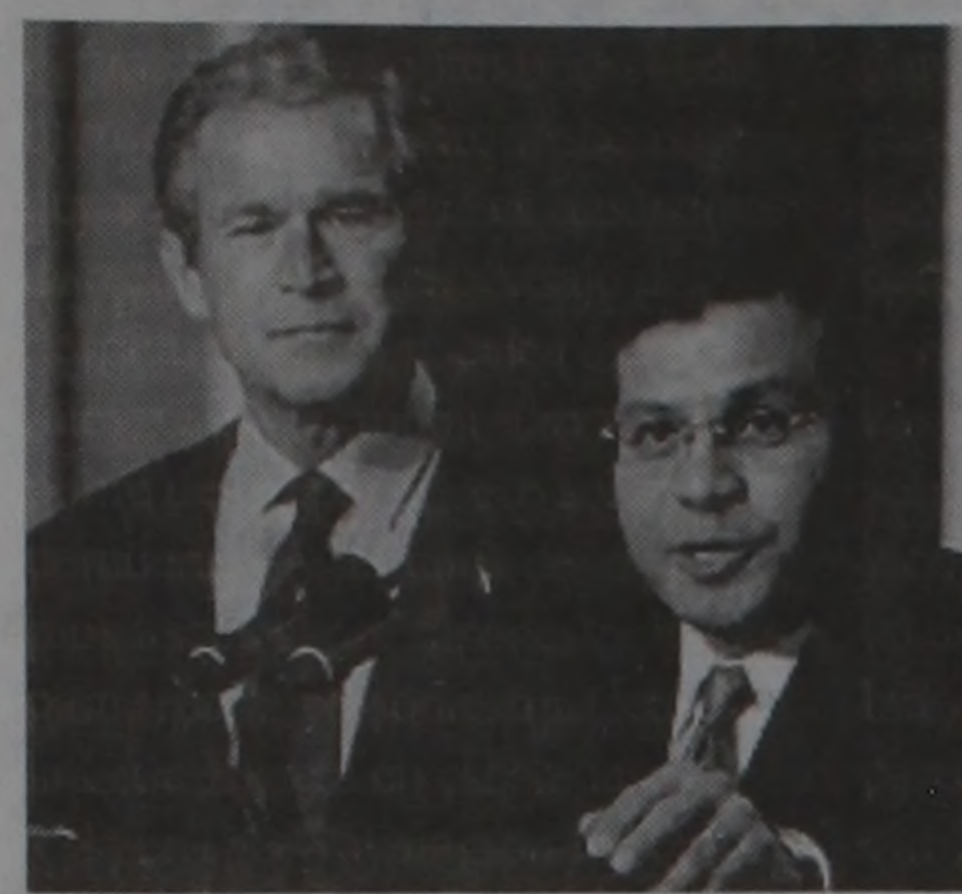


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Bloquean censura contra Gonzales



publicó una investigación conducida por el diario sobre los nombramientos de jueces de inmigración desde 2004 tanto por Gonzales como por su predecesor, John Ashcroft. El análisis dice que el proceso de selección "enfatózó los lazos políticos, en lugar de la experiencia... a pesar de las leyes que lo prohíben". Los jueces de inmigración

Los republicanos bloquearon la resolución de censura en contra del secretario de Justicia, Alberto Gonzales, al oponerse a cerrar el debate para proceder a considerar la medida democrata que el presidente George W. Bush catalogó de "pura politiquería".

La moción para cerrar el debate requería de 60 votos, pero fue derrotada en votación 53-38, quedándose corta por siete votos. De todos modos, se trata de una mayoría de votos que votan en contra de Gonzales.

Un total de siete republicanos se unieron a los demócratas para cerrar el debate. El rechazo de la medida por parte de los republicanos no es por apoyo a Gonzales, sino porque consideran que la resolución democrata sólo tiene motivaciones partidistas para avergonzar al presidente George W. Bush y a su Partido Republicano.

Un total de 37 republicanos y un independiente se opusieron a cerrar el debate.

El senador Arlen Specter, republicano de más alto rango en el panel Judicial, se unió a los demócratas para evidenciar su desconfianza en Gonzales. Pero aclaró que el Senado tiene cosas más importantes que hacer, como por ejemplo, retomar la medida de reforma migratoria.

Gonzales ha sobrevivido —de momento— a los pronósticos de que se vería obligado a renunciar a su cargo por el escándalo del despido de ocho fiscales federales, según el funcionario por pobre desempeño, pero según los demócratas y algunos de los propios fiscales, por razones políticas para tener a personas más leales a la Casa Blanca en esos puestos. Ayer The Washington Post

deciden la jueces de inmigración miles de inmigrantes cada año.

La resolución fue presentada por los senadores demócratas Dianne Feinstein, Charles Schumer y Sheldon Whitehouse, de California, Nueva York y Rhode Island, respectivamente. Sólo dice que "el secretario de Justicia, Alberto Gonzales, no cuenta con la confianza del Senado y del pueblo estadounidense". La medida tiene 27 patrocinadores.

Feinstein expresó que se trate de politiquería y expuso detalladamente todas las razones por las cuales Gonzales debe dejar su cargo. Lo resumido dice que Gonzales ha politizado el Departamento de Justicia convirtiéndolo en una extensión de la Casa Blanca.

La resolución no tiene peso de ley, pues la única forma en que el Congreso puede relevar a un funcionario de sus funciones es mediante un juicio de destitución (impeachment).

En Bulgaria, antes de su retorno a EU, el presidente Bush desechó la resolución como una maniobra puramente política de los demócratas y agregó que "ellos pueden tratar de tener sus votos de censura, pero eso no determinará quién sirve en mi gobierno".

Gonzales, por su parte, aseguró que "no me estoy enfocando en lo que el Senado está haciendo", sino en las necesidades del país.

Los comités judiciales de ambas cámaras conducen pesquisas sobre los despidos de los fiscales y condujeron audiencias en las cuales Gonzales fue acibillado por legisladores de ambos partidos que le pidieron que dimitiera.

Study Suggests Social Security Reform Options for Hispanics

A new study examines Social Security reform options that would both "shore up" the system and benefit Hispanics, who because of their relative youth and growing population will find themselves in essence subsidizing retired baby boomers.

The study by UCLA's Latinos and Social Security Research Project found that the Hispanic population will play an important role in minimizing Social Security's "legacy debt" because of its large population of young Hispanics. The median age for the nation's approximately 42 million Hispanics is 26, while the average age of the nation's total population of 300 million is 35.

This comes as concerns mount over the Social Security System's ability to maintain itself through the existing payroll deductions and surplus of Treasury notes (used to help finance the national debt) it currently carries. Based on forecasts assuming no change in demographic trends or federal

policy, federal estimates range from 2041 to 2052 as the point in which all that savings would be gone and future payouts would be drawn solely from deductions from then-current workers.

The various reform proposals, ranging from increasing taxes to creating private retirement accounts, have been floated as ways of saving the system.

"More than any other group in the nation, Latino retirees rely on Social Security for their economic well being," Dr. Fernando Torres-Gil, lead researcher in the study, said in a release. "Meaningful reform of Social Security needs to take this into account. We have to make sure that the changes do not fall disproportionately onto those least able to bear the burden."

The study, titled "Social Security Reform and the Potential Implications for Latino Retirees," states that the Social Security Administration has indicated that 39 percent of elderly Hispanic married couples and 58 percent of

elderly Hispanic unmarried persons receive at least 90 percent of their income from Social Security.

When considering reform options, the study found that some have the ability to benefit as well as harm the Hispanic population.

The reform options that would benefit Hispanic retirees are those that increase the amount of money paid into Social Security by high-wage workers, those that increase the number of workers contributing to Social Security Trust Funds without increasing worker contributions.

The best options, according to the report, would be to convert estate tax into a Social Security tax and increase the maximum amount of earnings subject to payroll tax.

Reforms that would likely hurt Hispanics would be altering the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), increasing the retirement age, and extending the number of years used to calculate a

worker's earnings history. COLA benefits are important for retirees because it maintains their purchasing power for their entire life, which is beneficial for Hispanics who have a longer life expectancy than the average population. Also, taxing Social Security benefits would create additional financial burdens on low-income workers.

The study suggests that Social Security can be "shored up" by creating and strengthening other programs, such as personal retirement accounts that would supplement Social Security.

Latino and Social Security is a two-year research project of the UCLA Center for Policy Research on Aging, the USC Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center, and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. It is working in partnership with the National Hispanic Council on Aging and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Office.

Milk Prices Are Expected to Rise By Nearly a Dollar a Gallon

Consumers could be crying over the cost of milk with prices expected to rise nearly a dollar a gallon.

Factors ranging from a persistent drought in Australia to increased ethanol production in the U.S. are combining to push up milk prices, industry officials say.

One bright spot for consumers: Increased supplies of organic milk should lead to discounted prices on grocery shelves, or at least a shrinking cost difference between organic and conventional milk.

The milk shakeup is hitting Dallas-based Dean Foods Co., the nation's largest dairy producer.

Company executives told analysts in Paris early Tuesday that they are bracing for an "absolutely stunning rise" in the cost of raw milk. The company expects to spend almost double for fluid milk later this year, compared with its earlier prediction.

Dean lowered its second-quarter and full-year earnings estimates because of the increased costs.

Producers and retailers already have absorbed some increased costs this year, a U.S. Agriculture Department economist said. So come fall, consumers are likely to have to ante up.

"I think it's highly likely that it will be passed on to consumers," said Larry Salathe, a senior economist with the USDA. "That's typically what happens. Somebody has to absorb the costs."

He said a raw milk cost increase on the scale predicted by Dean — which is in line with what the USDA forecasts — could result in as much as an 86-cent increase in the retail price of a gallon of whole milk.

As of April, the national average retail price of a gallon of whole milk was \$3.13, according to the USDA.

Reduced supplies of milk are expected to be a factor. Speaking at the Deutsche Bank Global Consumer & Food Retail

Conference in Paris, Gregg Engles, Dean's chairman and chief executive, said reduced corn supplies, due largely to increased ethanol production, have boosted dairy farmers' feed costs. Also a severe drought in Australia dampened worldwide supplies of milk products.

Australia is a major exporter of dairy products to Europe, particularly milk powder, Mr. Salathe of the USDA said. Supplies normally destined for U.S. tables are now being exported to Europe to make up for the Australian shortfall.

That will cause some grocery list adjustments for consumers such as Susan Frankovich, a Richardson mother of three who bought two gallons of milk — on sale — at a Garland Kroger store Tuesday afternoon.

"I usually buy five or six gallons a week," said Ms. Frankov-

ich, who was planning a celebration for her daughter Sarah's 15th birthday. "We'll still have to continue drinking milk. I'll probably look for sales."

"There are other foods I can see us cutting out," she added. "I just don't see us cutting out milk."

Unlike in the oil industry, where costs are relatively fixed and higher prices generally go directly to improving companies' bottom line, dairy producers have to pay higher prices for raw milk and other supplies, and then must attempt to pass that on to retailers, who try to keep prices low for discerning customers.

Jennifer Vroman, a spokeswoman for Albertson's LLC, said her company has been following news of the coming cost increase for raw milk.

"It is a little too early to tell what the impact for consumers will be," she said.

U.S. Border Passport Regs Suspended

The Bush administration on Friday suspended some of its rules post-Sept. 11 requirements for traveling abroad, hoping to placate Congress and irate summer travelers whose vacations have been thwarted in processing their passports.

The proposal would temporarily lift a requirement that U.S. passports be used for citizens flying to and from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda.

The suspension should allow the State Department to catch up with a massive surge in applications that has overwhelmed passport processing centers since the rule took effect this year. The resulting backlog has caused up to three-month delays for passports and ruined or delayed the travel plans of thousands of Americans.

Until the end of September, travelers will be allowed to fly without a passport if they present a State Department receipt, showing they had applied for a passport, and government-issued identification, such as a driver's license.

Those without passports would receive additional security scrutiny, which could include extra questioning or bag checks.

The change would help those like Judy and Darrell Green, of Rifle, Colo., who are still waiting to hear whether their son-in-law's passport will arrive in time for a family vacation to Mexico to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary and Darrell's 60th birthday.

Darrell Green's passport arrived Thursday, only after Rep. John Salazar, D-Colo., helped expedite it. Their son-in-law expects to

get his Friday with the help of his congresswoman.

"It makes you feel kind of frantic because you've spent all that money," Judy Green said.

Homeland Security signed off on consultations Thursday after consultations with the State Department, the White House and members of Congress, who have been deluged with calls from

"To say people must have a passport to travel and not give people a passport is right up there in the stupid column," said Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M., who urged the State Department to lift the rule last month.

The application process is the result of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative that since January has required U.S. citizens to



angry constituents seeking help with their passports.

Rep. Thomas Reynolds, R-N.Y., whose district lies near the Canadian border, said White House officials had been on Capitol Hill trying to work out a compromise amid what he called a "turf war" between State and Homeland Security.

Reynolds faulted "arrogant" officials for failing to get the system working properly, and said he was worried about even more headaches next year when passports will be required to drive into Canada or Mexico.

Lawmakers had been pushing for a change for weeks.

use passports when entering the United States from Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean by air. It is part of a broader package of immigration rules enacted after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

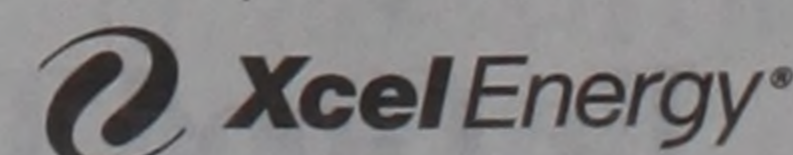
Between March and May, the department issued more than 4.5 million passports. It has millions more to process, according to consular affairs officials.

Wilson's office took more than 500 calls from frustrated travelers seeking help in May alone. The problem has since spread from border states to Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Colorado and elsewhere.



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Intocable: La espera valió la pena

En el título del nuevo disco que el grupo Intocable acaba de poner en circulación, Crossroads/Cruce de caminos, está contenida la visión artística que tienen hacia el futuro cada uno de sus integrantes.

Así lo manifestó su líder, el cantante mexicano Ricardo "Ricky" Muñoz, al señalar que "yo y mis compañeros estamos en un constante proceso de búsqueda" para continuar dándole una dimensión más amplia y variada a la música norteña, con la que han ganado los aplausos y la admiración del público.

"Aunque ya tenemos una posición bien establecida en el mercado de la música regional mexicana, no queremos quedarnos encasillados para siempre dentro de ese concepto", añadió Muñoz. "Nos interesa seguir incorporando otros ritmos y otros instrumentos a lo que hacemos. Y creemos que Crossroads/Cruce de Caminos es un buen ejemplo de nuestras intenciones. Esperamos que la gente lo reciba con el mismo cariño que nosotros lo grabamos".

De visita en Los Ángeles, como parte de la gira promocional que están haciendo para presentar su disco en todo el país, Ricky Muñoz, René Martínez (batería), Sergio Sema (percusiones), Félix Salinas (bajo), Juan Hernández (ritmos) y Johnny Lee Rosas (bajo sexto y arreglos) comentaron algunos de sus puntos de vista sobre la exitosa carrera que traen y los desafíos que han tenido que superar para poder llegar, después de poco más de 12 años de estar trabajando continuamente, al sitio en que se encuentran.

De todos ellos fue Ricky Muñoz el encargado de ofrecer una versión detallada de las razones por las que el grupo ha podido mantenerse unido desde el día que, a principios de los 90, en la

pequeña ciudad de Zapata, Texas, decidieron organizarlo.

"El secreto de todo está en el respeto, el aprecio y la amistad que sentimos mutuamente", explicó Muñoz. "Eso y no tomar alcohol es lo que ha evitado que se produzcan fracturas y alejamientos entre nosotros.

Tenemos una gran capacidad de comunicación que nos permite hablar con absoluta claridad y sin ningún problema, sobre las metas que nos interesa alcanzar juntos y cuál es la mejor forma en que podemos hacerlo".

"Nos vemos a nosotros mismos como si fuéramos hermanos, sentimos que somos una verdadera familia y creemos que eso se proyecta a través de nuestra música. Especialmente en este último disco que le estamos presentando al público".

Con respecto a los tres años que pasaron entre Crossroads/Cruce de caminos" y X, el anterior disco de Intocable, Muñoz dijo que fue positivo alejarse por un tiempo de los estudios de grabación.

"Con el anterior disco obtuvimos muchísimas satisfacciones y quedamos muy contentos y felices con todo lo que pasó con él. Y la verdad, creo que sentimos que valió la pena esperar antes de empezar a trabajar en Crossroads/Cruce de caminos, porque la gente nos ha dicho, adonde quiera que vamos, que ya quieren escucharlo. Saber eso nos da mucho orgullo a cada uno de nosotros", asegura Muñoz. Integrado por 16 temas, entre los que hay melodías norteñas, baladas de amor y algunas canciones bailables, Crossroads/Cruce de caminos es, en opinión de Muñoz y sus compañeros, un disco en el que se encuentran presentes los innumerables conocimientos que han adquirido a lo largo de la "vida artística" de Intocable.

"Nunca hemos tratado de repetir alguna fórmula exitosa en los discos que grabamos. Sería como defraudar al público", indicó. "Lo que hacemos, es tratar de superarnos a nosotros mismos y no perder nunca la originalidad. Vivimos de la música y por eso entregamos lo mejor que tenemos dentro y fuera de los escenarios y los estudios de grabación".

"Para nosotros no hay canciones más grandes o mejores que otras. Por eso invertimos en cada una de ellas toda nuestra pasión y creatividad. Y yo creo que eso lo va a captar y sentir el público que escuche Crossroad/Cruce de caminos. Tal y como ha sucedido con otros de nuestros discos", terminó diciendo Muñoz, apoyado por las sonrisas de sus buenos compañeros de Intocable.



George Lopez to Have Last Laugh at Sí TV's Latino Laugh Festival

After a five-year hiatus used to launch Sí TV, the Latino Laugh Festival is back on track in a new city – Hollywood instead of San Antonio – and veteran comic and humanitarian with a recently canceled sitcom to his credit finally getting the last laugh.

Joining Sí TV's three-night festival will be stand-up comedian George Lopez to wrap up its last night at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. Mr. Lopez has been a longtime performer at past Latino Laugh Festivals, which moved from its previous home in San Antonio, Texas to Hollywood, California this year.

"George has been with us since the beginning and I'm very happy that he is coming onboard with us again. This year we have a great line-up of talent leading up to the finale. It's going to rock!" Jeff Valdez, Sí TV founder, creator and executive producer of the Latino Laugh Festival, said in a release.

Presented by Time Warner Cable of Southern California, the Latino Laugh Festival will donate all proceeds to First Star, a nonprofit organization that advocates to improve the child welfare system and the lives of more than 3 million U.S. children in institutions, foster care and on the streets.

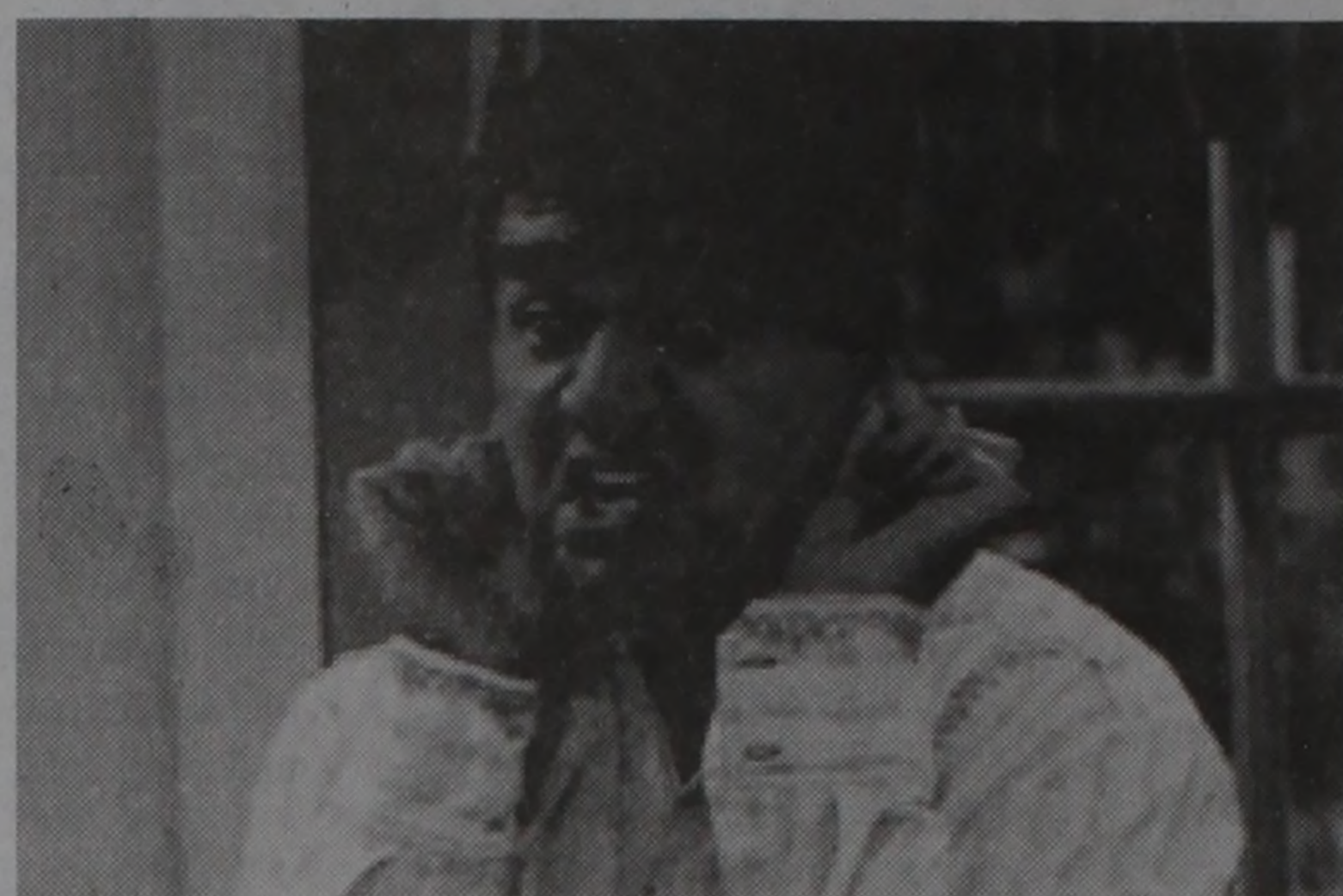
Mr. Valdez first created, hosted and produced the Friday

night comedy series "Comedy Compadres" on Los Angeles independent station KTLA, then launched The Latino Laugh Festival in San Antonio in 1996. The festival originally appeared as a series of half-hour shows on Showtime, featuring hosts such as Paul Rodriguez, Cheech Marin and Daisy Fuentes, before moving to a 90-minute Showtime Special format in 1997. The festival was in syndication until 2002.

This year, three nights of laugh-

Mr. Rodriguez, a Mexican-born comedian who gained fame with "Born in East L.A." and was the executive producer and star of "The Original Latin Kings of Comedy," will join the festival as a special guest. Performer, writer, and producer Dan Guerrero will bring ¡Gaytino!, a 75-minute autobiographical play about Chicano history and the gay experience.

Featured comedians include Carlos Alazraqui from "Reno 911," Gabriel "Picachu" Iglesias, whose comedy is a mix of character-driven stories and sound effects; Puerto Rican-born Joey Medina, who starred in "The Original Latin Kings of Comedy;" Debi Gutierrez, who relates stories about parenting and relationships; and Sandra Valls who



has performed on Galavision's "¡Que Locos!" and HBO Latino's "Habla."

Other featured comedians include Willie Bercena, Felipe Esparza, and Jill-Michele Melean.

Celebrity hosts include Judy Reyes from the TV show "Scrubs;" Mario Lopez from "Dancing with the Stars;" Adam Rodriguez from "CSI: Miami;" Nadine Velasquez from "My Name is Earl;" Giselle Fernandez from "Dancing With the Stars;" Rick Salinas and Herbert Siquenza of Culture Clash; and Bobby Lee of "Mad TV," among others.

Texas Writer Wins Four International Latino Book Awards

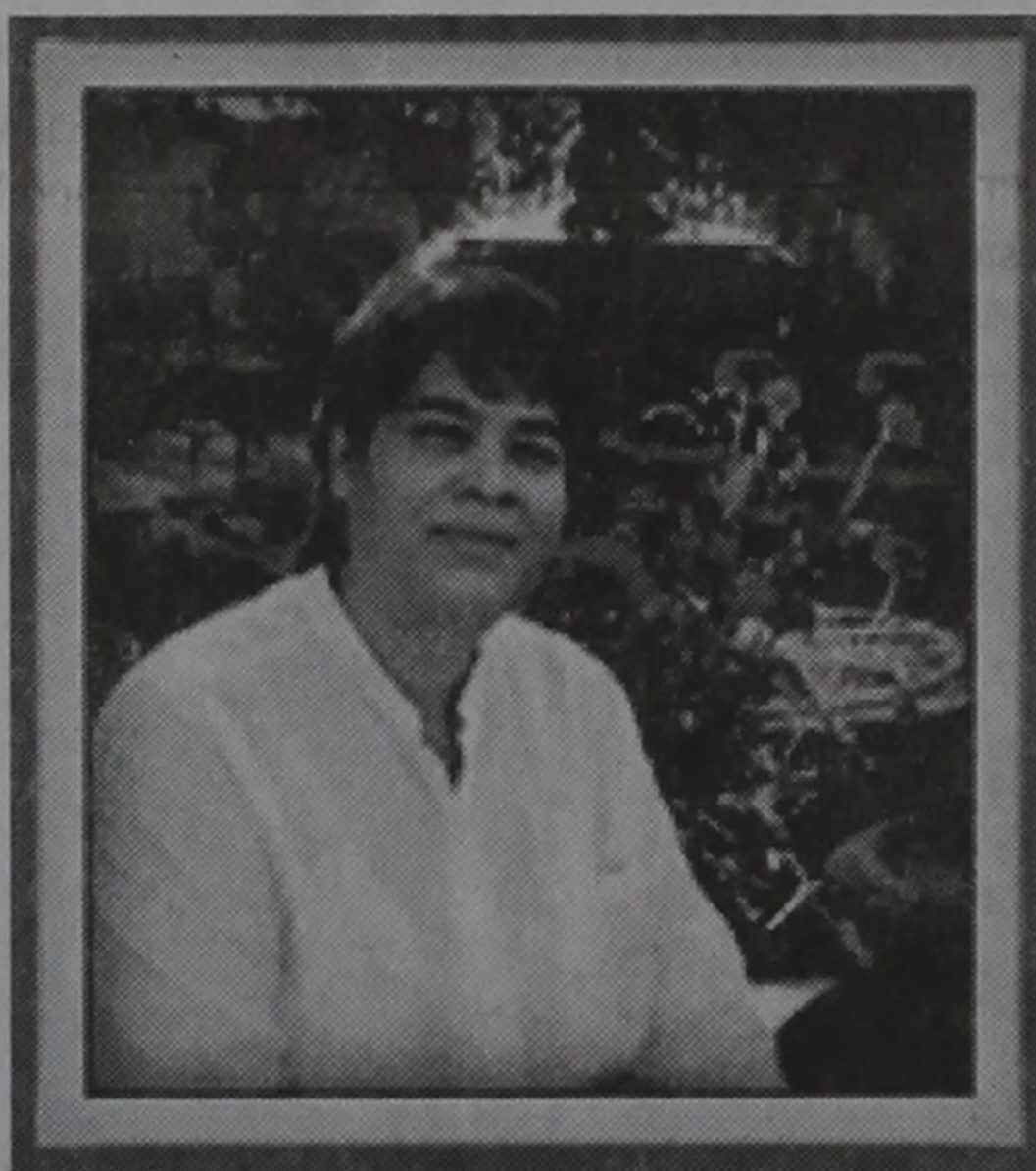
On May 31st, at the 2007 International Book Awards held in New York, The Mystics of Reyesville, a novel by writer/artist Corinne Chacón, resident of San Antonio, was recognized for Best Cover Illustration, Best Softcover Design, and was also awarded Second Place for Best Romance-English and Honorable Mention for Best Mystery-English.

Chacón, a writer/artist, created the illustration that serves as the book's cover (which she also co-designed). The first in a series of mystical novels celebrating Mexican culture, The Mystics

of Reyesville tells the tale of a woman who must confront her past after returning to her Texas home town. Chacón describes the novel as "a tasty serving of Tex-Mex mysticism with a side order of love and secrets," and plans to write an entire series about the mythical south Texas town she named Reyesville, its powerful Mexican-American families, and the spirituality and sensuality of the Tex-Mexican culture that is interwoven into their lives.

The life-long student of mysticism and politics began writing the book in 2005 while

she was working full-time as a nonprofit administrator. As the manuscript began to take shape, she began to study the publishing



industry to learn about transitioning to a writing career and retired in early 2006 to pursue writing full-time. Chacón felt

driven to document and preserve Mexican healing customs, which she says, "contribute to a sense of connection that is crucial to emotional well-being—wisdom that the world needs now more than ever." It was also important to her to create stories that tell the full picture of the Mexican-American experience in the U.S. Her book was published in December, 2006, in collaboration with iUniverse, Inc. It is available online at iUniverse and Amazon.

She is currently working on the sequel to "The Mystics of Reyesville." More information

is available on the Internet at www.reyesville.com.

The event was held in conjunction with BookExpo, the country's premier publishing event, and broadcast live over the Internet by Diversity Broadband TV. The webcast will be archived for the next few weeks at www.LBFF.us. The awards are sponsored by Latino Literacy Now, a non-profit organization, to promote literacy and to honor literary excellence in English and in Spanish from the U.S., Mexico, Central and South America, and Spain."

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Study: Texas blacks, Hispanics doing better at math

Poor and minority students are performing better on reading and math tests — but they still lag far behind their peers — five years after President George Bush led efforts to close the achievement gap, according to a national study released today.

In Texas, black, Hispanic and low-income students are improving in math at most grade levels, but their reading gains are spotty, the report from the Center on Education Policy found.

"Even with the narrowing of the achievement gap in Texas with math and nationally, the gaps are still very, very wide," said Jack Jennings, president of the Washington, D.C.-based center, "and it's going to take a very great effort to close the gaps."

In 2006, for example, only half of Hispanic 10th graders in Texas knew basic math skills, compared with nearly 75 percent of white students. In 2005, the gap between the scores was 4 percent-

age points greater.

The Center on Education Policy, a non-profit that advocates for better public schools, analyzed test scores for all 50 states to find out whether student achievement has increased



since the federal No Child Left Behind Act took effect in January 2002. The bipartisan law requires annual testing in reading and math in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Schools

must show that all students — no matter their race, ethnicity or income level — meet certain standards, or the campuses face consequences, including being forced to close.

The report authors emphasized that it was "very difficult, if not possible" to know whether No Child Left Behind caused the rising test scores. But U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings issued a statement immediately after the report's release, urging

Congress to reauthorize the law.

"This study confirms that No Child Left Behind has struck a chord of success with our nation's schools and students," she said. "In five short years, we've seen encouraging results, especially in our elementary schools. Students are making remarkable gains in reading and math, and the achievement gap that once seemed intractable is now narrowing in many of our nation's schools."

Hispanic Students in Need of College Planning Assistance

In an effort to shed light on the unique challenges facing Hispanic students, the National Research Center for College and University Admissions (NRCCUA) today joined with the Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF), the Hispanic College Fund and Excelencia in Education to release new data illustrating the discrepancy between young Hispanic students interested in higher education and the actual

number that pursue a degree. The findings were unveiled today at a press conference with Senator Joe Lieberman (IN-CT) and Congressman Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX).

"We need to reach out to Hispanic students earlier in their high school careers to ensure they have accurate information about the college planning process," said Don Munce, President of NRCCUA. "The reality is that many Hispanic

students are the first in their families to explore higher education. As a result, they cannot rely as often as some other ethnic groups on parents or family members to give them direction. They are more likely to rely on third party resources to aid them in their college search, application and financial aid processes. That is why it is so important to disseminate information to these students about higher education opportuni-

ties and bolster the work of key groups to open doors for Hispanic students into the higher education community."

According to results of the NRC-CUA-HHF College Preparation 2007 study, nearly 98 percent of Latino high school students say they want to attend college and nearly 95 percent say they realistically believe that they will graduate from college. These results mirrored those

of high school students across all ethnic groups. However, according to U.S. Census Bureau data, Latino students attend college significantly less often than their peers in other ethnic groups with Latino student enrollment in higher education only reaching 25 percent in 2004. White student enrollment has remained steady around 40 to 41 percent while black student enrollment remained in the 31 to 32 percent range

during the same time period.

"We need to embrace the unique needs and challenges facing today's Hispanic students and make certain that they have all the tools at their disposal to pursue higher education," said Munce. "Reaching out to these students in the early stages of their education decisions is vital in creating an environment where they can be successful in their higher education endeavors."

LUBBOCK KIDS LEARN THAT HOLIDAY CHEER CAN BE SPREAD ANY TIME OF YEAR

LUBBOCK, June 2007—Kids can do much more under the summer sun than splash in the pool or play on the beach. This year, many Lubbock-area families are using the days out of school to demonstrate their compassion for children around the world.

They are getting involved in Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas gift project, which is preparing to collect and deliver millions of personalized shoe box gifts to children in over 100 countries around the world. It's a massive, year-round effort that includes local families, churches, businesses, schools, scout troops, and civic organizations willing to help regardless of the season.

"Summer vacation is when kids typically have plenty of free time on their hands and parents are looking for ways to keep them busy," said Steve Melson, Operation Christmas Child Regional Director. "This is a great way to get kids involved in a fun and rewarding project that helps to make a real difference in the lives of millions of hurting children."

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, the international Christian relief organization headed by Franklin Graham. It starts with a simple shoe box filled with toys, school supplies, personal necessities, candy, and hand-written notes of encouragement. These gifts are delivered worldwide to children

suffering from poverty, disaster, disease, war, terrorism, or famine.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has hand-delivered shoe box gifts to some 54 million hurting children, including 7.6 million this past year.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:
PACK A SHOE BOX, PLAN A PARTY—Now is a great time to get started, rather than waiting until National Collection Week (Nov. 12-19, 2007). Step-by-step instructions for packing shoe boxes are available at www.samaritanspurse.org Host a summer shoe box packing party, stock up on filler items, or collect empty shoe boxes for friends and family to use.

SPREAD THE WORD—Encourage friends, neighbors, churches, and community-minded organizations (including schools, scout troops, Vacation Bible Schools, and businesses) to become involved in packing shoe box gifts for children overseas.

SIGN UP TO HELP—It takes over 100,000 volunteers to operate 2,000 collection sites spanning all 50 states, plus the six processing centers where shoe boxes are sorted and prepared for overseas shipping.

For information on Operation Christmas Child, call (817) 268-1411 or visit www.samaritanspurse.org. National Collection Week is Nov. 12-19, 2007; however, shoe box gifts are accepted year-round.

Estudio de March of Dimes revela el costo de tener un bebé

De acuerdo a un estudio divulgado en el día de hoy por la Fundación March of Dimes, para las mujeres aseguradas a través de los planes privados de los grandes empleadores, el costo promedio de tener un bebé en Estados Unidos durante 2004 fue de más de \$8,000.

"Tener un bebé es el evento sanitario más costoso que las familias pueden experimentar durante sus años de fertilidad, y el seguro de salud resulta fundamental para obtener los servicios de maternidad imprescindibles para la salud de la mujer y el recién nacido", manifestó la Dra. Jennifer L. Howse, presidente de la

Fundación March of Dimes. "Un embarazo saludable sin seguro médico puede resultar una presión financiera sobre las familias jóvenes, y una

catástrofe en el caso de un parto de alto riesgo".

"Está ampliamente documentado que la falta de atención prenatal está asociada a nacimientos con complicaciones, incluyendo

los bebés prematuros y el bajo peso al nacer, y que los diversos gastos pueden desalentar a las mujeres para obtener la atención que necesitan", continuó la Dra. Howse.

En el estudio, "Los costos de

asistencia médica para tener un bebé", conducido por Thomson Healthcare, se analizaron los reclamos de más de 10 millones de empleados y dependientes afiliados a planes privados. Se combinaron los costos de atención prenatal, parto, alumbramiento y cuidado posparto durante los tres meses siguientes al nacimiento. Thomson concluyó que el seguro basado en los empleadores cubría aproximadamente el 95% del costo de la maternidad.

Entre las conclusiones más relevantes se incluyen:

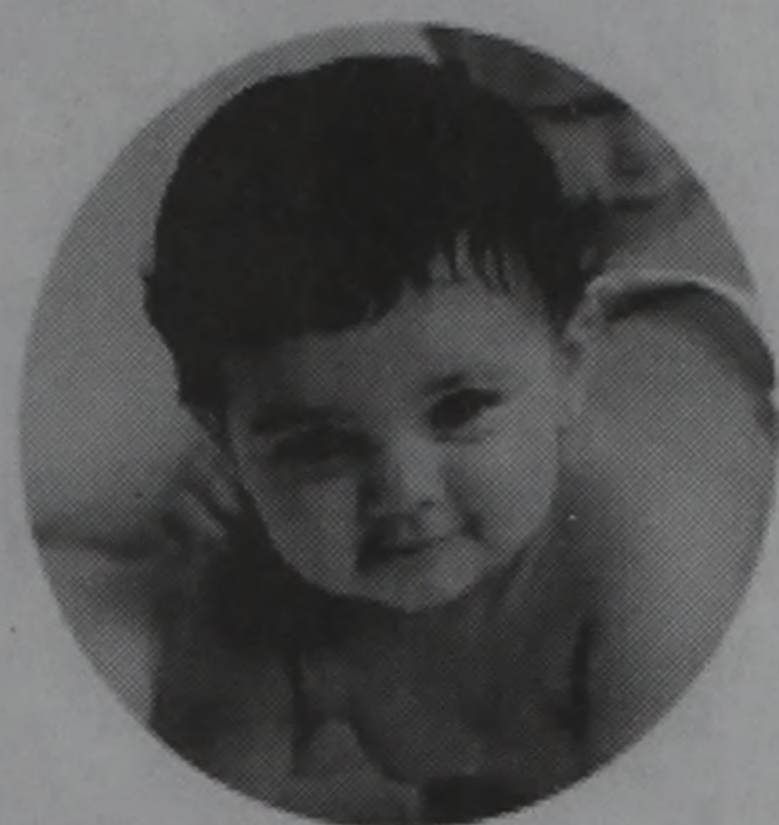
*Los desembolsos promedio para la asistencia de la maternidad fueron de \$7,737 en los partos vaginales; donde unos \$7,205 fueron pagados por los planes de salud privados y \$463 por la familia.

*Los desembolsos promedio para la asistencia de la maternidad fueron de \$10,958 en los partos por cesárea; donde unos \$10,324

fueron pagados por los planes de salud privados y \$523 por la familia.

*La zona más costosa para tener un bebé se ubica en el noreste del país, mientras que la zona sur es la más barata.

Más del 40% de las mujeres dependen de Medicaid y en el Programa Estatal de Seguro de Salud para Niños (SCHIP, por sus siglas en inglés), pero para enrolar en el SCHIP a las mujeres a partir de los 19 años de edad, elegibles de acuerdo a los ingresos, se requiere de una exoneración federal, una medida que resulta engorrosa para los estados. La Fundación March of Dimes está trabajando con un grupo bipartidario del Congreso para agregar una disposición al proyecto de ley de reautorización del SCHIP que permita a los estados enrolar a las mujeres embarazadas en el programa, sin que sea necesaria una exoneración.



Key To Losing Weight Is Calorie Density

Eating smart, not eating less, may be the key to losing weight. A year-long clinical trial by Penn State researchers shows that diets focusing on foods that are low in calorie density can promote healthy weight loss while helping people to control hunger.

Foods that are high in water and low in fat - such as fruits, vegetables, soup, lean meats, and low-fat dairy products - are low in calorie density and provide few calories per bite.

"Eating a diet that is low in calorie density allows people to eat satisfying portions of food, and this

may decrease feelings of hunger and deprivation while reducing calories" said Dr. Julia A. Ello-Martin, who conducted the study as part of her doctoral dissertation in the College of Health and Human Development at Penn State. Previously, little was known about the influence of diets low in calorie density on body weight.

"Such diets are known to reduce the intake of calories in the short term, but their role in promoting weight loss over the long term was not clear," said Dr. Barbara J. Rolls, who directed the study and who holds the Helen A. Guthrie Chair of Nutritional Sciences at Penn State.

"We have now shown that choosing foods that are low in calorie density helps in losing weight,

without the restrictive messages of other weight loss diets," explained Ello-Martin, whose findings appear in the June 2007 issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

The researchers compared the effects of two diets - one reduced in fat, the other high in water-rich foods as well as reduced in fat - in 71 obese women aged 22 to 60. The participants were taught by dietitians to make appropriate food choices for a diet low in calorie density, but unlike most diets, they were not assigned daily limits for calories.

At the end of one year, women in both groups showed significant weight loss as well as a decrease in the calorie density of their diets. However, women who added

water-rich foods to their diets lost more weight during the first six months of the study than those who only reduced fat in their diets - 19.6 pounds compared to 14.7 pounds. Weight loss was well maintained by subjects in both groups during the second six months of the study.

Records kept by the women showed that those who included more water-rich foods ate 25 percent more food by weight and felt less hungry than those who followed the reduced-fat diet. "By eating more fruits and vegetables they were able to eat more food, and this probably helped them to stick to their diet and lose more weight," said Ello-Martin.

"Choosing foods that are low in calorie density helps to control hunger and is a healthy strategy for losing weight over the long term" said Rolls. Practical information on incorporating foods with a low calorie density in daily diets can be found in Rolls' books "The Volumetrics Eating Plan" (2007) and "The Volumetrics Weight-Control"

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Nadal denies Federer again, claims French Open title No. 3

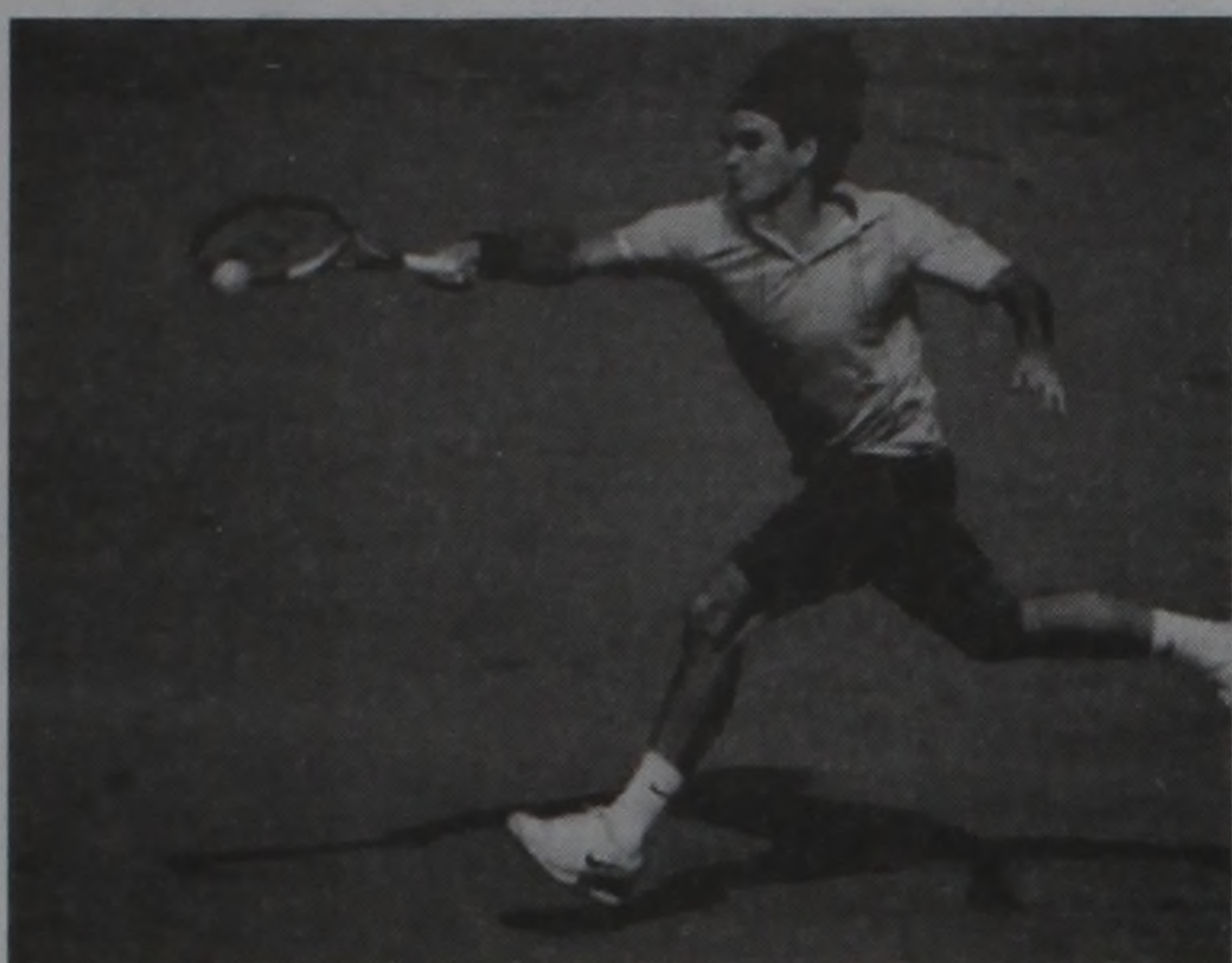
Roger Federer's bid to complete a career Grand Slam was foiled again Sunday by nemesis Rafael Nadal at the French Open.

Nadal earned his third Roland Garros title in a row, saving 16 of 17 break points to beat Federer 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

"I am very happy," Nadal said during the trophy ceremony. "But I am really sad

five-set matches on clay.

On the warmest day of the tournament, spectators in the sun were fanning themselves from the outset, and both players began to look weary in the pivotal third set. But the dogged Nadal kept chasing down shots all over the court, sprinting after one drop shot and flicking a winner nearly three



for Roger. He is a friend and I know he is a great champion, whether he wins or loses."

For the third consecutive year in Paris, the top-ranked Federer sought to become the sixth man to win all four Grand Slam events. Nadal defeated him in the semifinals in 2005, and in the final last year.

"Of course I'm a bit sad, a bit disappointed," Federer said. "I hope to one day win it."

The latest loss also spoiled Federer's bid to win a fourth consecutive major title, something last done by Rod Laver in 1969.

With a sequence of brilliant shots, Federer won many of the highlight-reel rallies, but squandered chances doomed him. He failed to convert his first 11 break-point chances, putting pressure on his own serve by repeatedly allowing Nadal to hold.

While losing serve only once, Nadal broke four times in 10 chances. He had 27 unforced errors to 59 for Federer.

Rooting for history, the crowd was pro-Federer and occasionally chanted "Ro-ger! Ro-ger!" But when Federer's final shot landed long, fans roared for Nadal as he collapsed on his back to the clay in jubilation.

"It's a dream for me," Nadal said. "I worked very hard to be the best."

For Federer, the story was all too familiar: since the beginning of 2005, he's 4-7 against Nadal and 199-7 against everyone else. He fell to 1-6 lifetime against Nadal on clay.

The second-ranked Nadal made a little history of his own, becoming the second man since 1914 to win the tournament three consecutive times, and the first since Bjorn Borg in 1978-81. Still only 21, Nadal improved to 21-0 at Roland Garros and 34-0 in best-of-

hours into the match.

Nadal relentlessly probed his opponent's weaker side, sometimes forcing Federer to hit half a dozen backhands in a rally. But Federer's usually formidable forehand might have hurt him more -- the shot misfired several times on potential putaways and sailed long.

"I could not do what I wanted to do from the back of the court," Federer said. "I was always trailing. It was not easy."

Federer repeatedly had chances to take command. In the first set Nadal fell behind on his serve 15-40 twice and love-40 once, but each time the Spaniard rallied to hold.

Federer took a 3-2 lead but became dispirited when he failed to convert five break points in the next game, and Nadal won five consecutive games.

Federer broke for the only time to go ahead 4-3 lead in the second set. Even then he needed five set-point opportunities before he closed out the set to pull even.

It was the only set Nadal lost in the tournament, and he bounced back quickly, breaking in the second

game of the third set en route to a 3-0 lead. Nadal broke again for a 2-1 lead in the fourth set when Federer dumped a weary shot in the net, and the Spaniard never wavered from there.

In the final two sets, Nadal faced only one break point, saving it with a big forehand.

He won \$1.34 million, while Federer received \$670,000 -- small consolation for a player who has dominated the other major events, winning Wimbledon four times and the U.S. Open and Australian Open three times each, all since 2003.

Duran, Whitaker head Boxing Hall of Fame

Roberto Duran turned his "hands of stone" into palms raised skyward in thanks for a remarkable boxing career.

"I want to thank America. You opened your heart so I could enter. Thank you everybody who lives in the United States, who saw me grow into becoming a world champion," Duran said Sunday through a translator as he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. "My country is being inducted as well. The country where I was born, where I live, and where I will die. I'm happy, proud."

Duran, a world champion from Panama in four weight divisions over a career that spanned five decades, joined Olympic gold medalist Pernell Whitaker, another four-division champion. Duran and Whitaker were chosen from the modern era, along with undefeated Mexican straw-weight (105 pounds) champion Ricardo "Finito" Lopez, who held his world crown for more than a decade with a string of 21 successful defenses.

Also among the class of 2007 were Argentine trainer Amilcar Brusa, longtime WBC president Jose Sulaiman and artist Leroy Neiman. Honored posthumously were heavy-weight George Godfrey, light-weight Pedro Montanez, light heavyweight Kid Norfolk, manager/match-maker Cuco Conde, newspaper cartoonist TAD Dorgan, and 19th century boxers Young Barney Aaron and Dick Curtis.

The three modern-era fighters were chosen in their first year of

eligibility following a minimum five-year retirement. Members of the Boxing Writers Association and a panel of international boxing historians chose the inductees.

"This is unbelievable. It's a wonderful feeling, an honor, a dream come true," Whitaker said afterward as he toured the museum alone. "I knew it would come. I just didn't think it would come this soon. It puts a period at the end of 29 great years."

Sulaiman's speech was so long he received a standing ovation tinged with boos as he promised he was near the end.

"I'm deeply touched," Sulaiman said. "There are people who say I do not deserve this honor in boxing. I have only tried to be of service to the sport I love. I began in boxing since the age of 10, and 66 years later I'm receiving, perhaps undeservedly, the highest honor."

Whitaker followed Sulaiman to the dais, and he began with a smile after having sat through Sulaiman's acceptance, which rambled on for more than 15 minutes and caused trainer Lou Duva to nod off.

to be standing because that seat was killing me," Whitaker said as the audience roared. "First of all, I want to thank my mom and dad. For one day they had passionate love for one another, and here I am. These last four days have been the best four days of my life. At least I don't have to wait until I'm 80 years old (to get inducted)."

Duran, now 55 and a boxing promoter, grew up poor in Panama with little education. He started boxing for money, turning professional in 1967 at age 16, and fought until he was 50, finally forced to stop by injuries from a 2001 car accident.

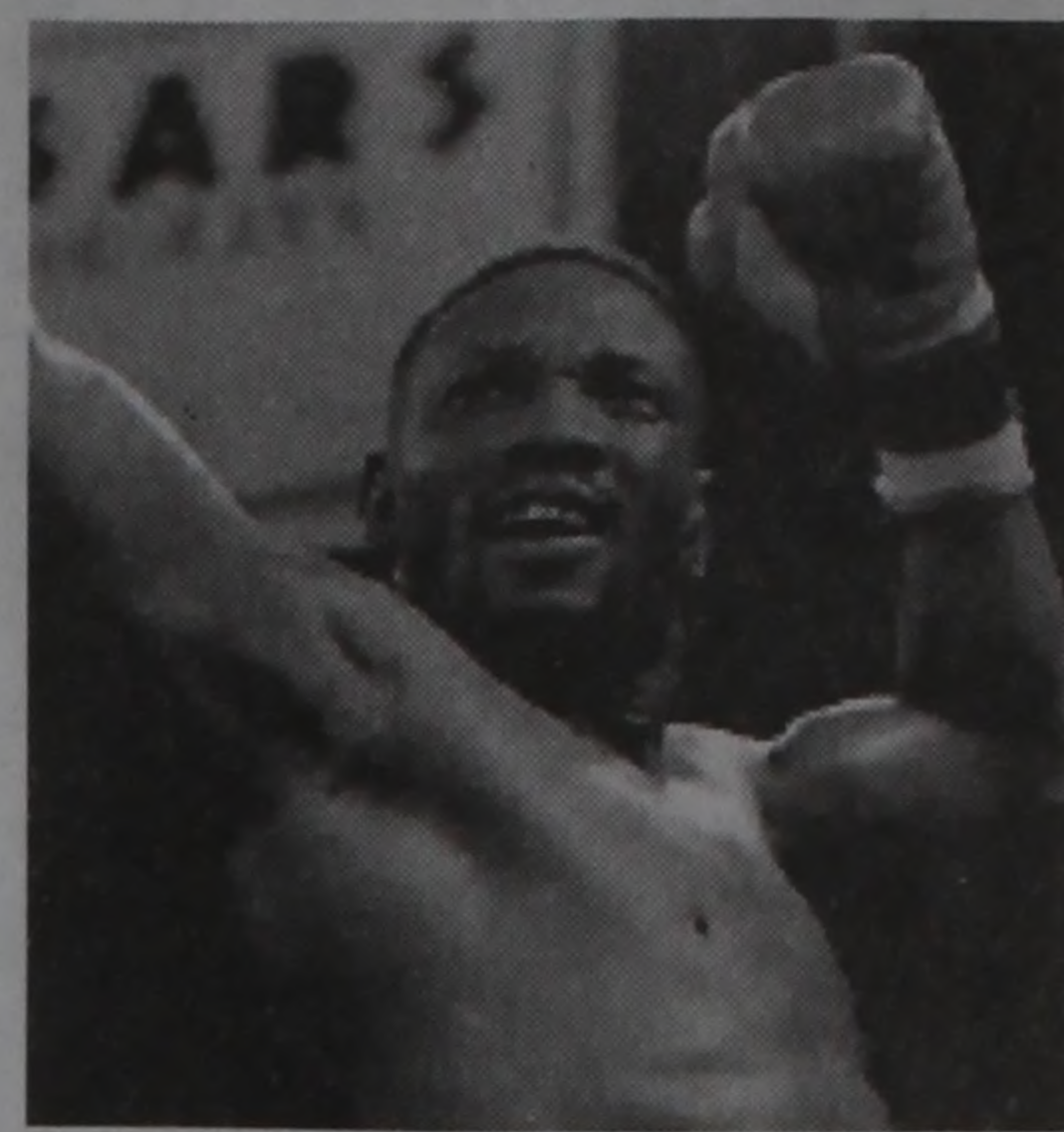
Over five decades, the man with the "manos de piedra" compiled a 103-16 record, with 70 knockouts, and won world titles as a lightweight (1972-1979), welterweight (1980), junior middleweight (1983), and middleweight (1989-1990).

Duran's opponents included a half-dozen Hall of Famers. His most famous fights were with Sugar Ray Leonard, whom he fought three times in the 1980s.

Duran defeated an unbeaten Leonard in Montreal in June 1980 to claim the WBC welterweight title, then lost a rematch five months later in the infamous

"No Mas" fight, in which Duran inexplicably quit before the eighth round. Leonard also won a rubber match in 1989.

Whitaker, now 42, was a south-

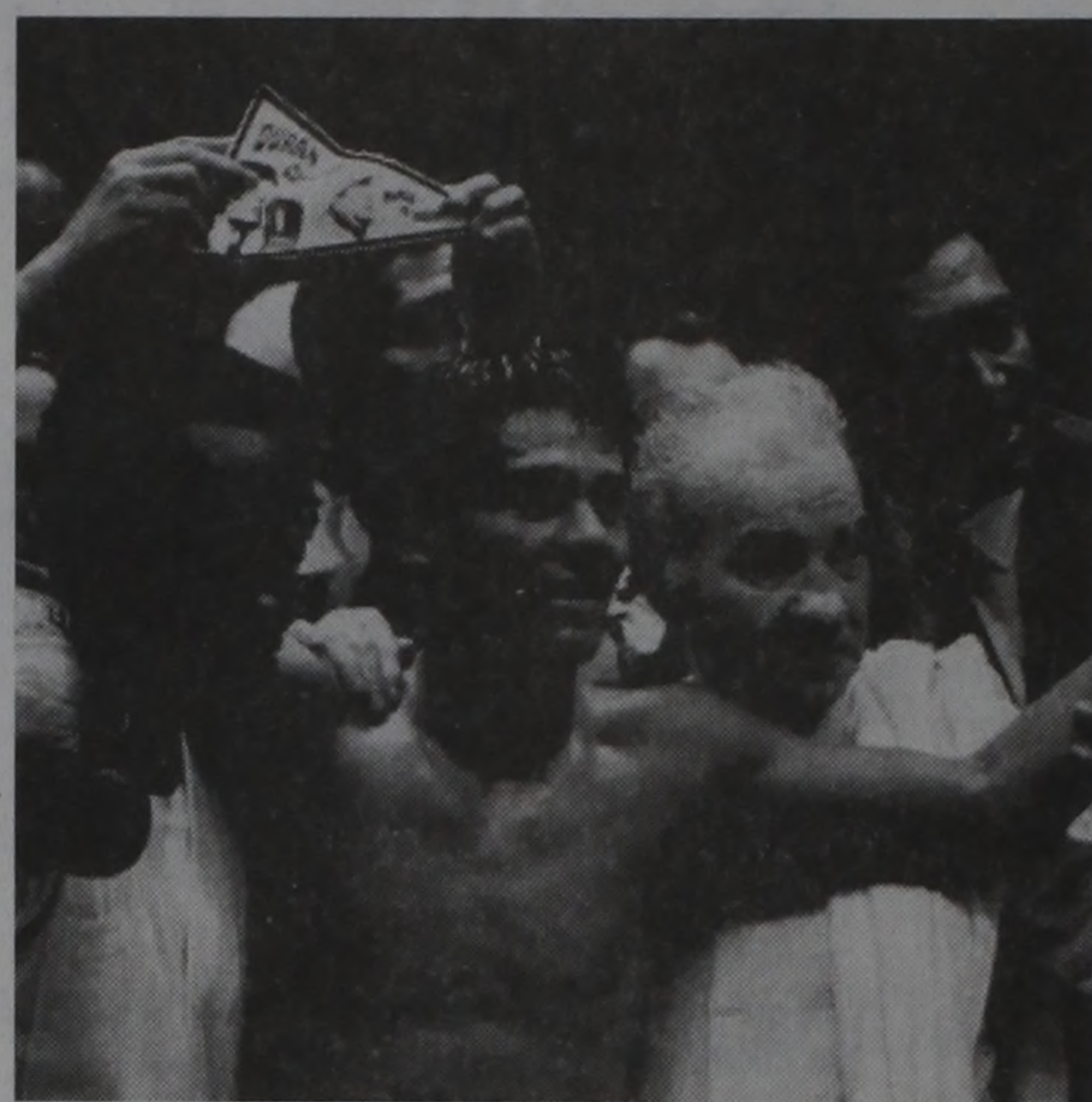


paw with a stinging right jab who won more than 200 amateur fights and lost only 14 before capturing a gold medal at the 1984 Olympics and turning professional. He praised all of his trainers, especially Georgie Benton.

"Georgie taught me the science of being a professional fighter. He taught me the tricks of the trade, that the best defense is a good offense," said the man dubbed "Sweet Pea," who won the IBF lightweight world championship in 1989 with a 12-round decision over Greg Haugen and later that year added the WBC belt by beating Jose Luis Ramirez. "I just didn't like to get hit. If I can hit you and not get hit, then it's a good day."

Whitaker unified the lightweight championship by taking the WBA title from Juan Nazario in August 1990 and captured world titles as IBF light welterweight champion (1992), WBC welterweight champion (1993-1997) and WBA light middleweight champion (1995). Whitaker retired in 2001 with a 40-4-1 record, with 17 KOs.

The Mexican-born Lopez was one of the most dominant champions in ring history, finishing with a career record of 51-0-1, with 38 KOs. The only blemish on his record was an eight-round technical draw against Rosendo Alvarez in March 1998, an outcome he



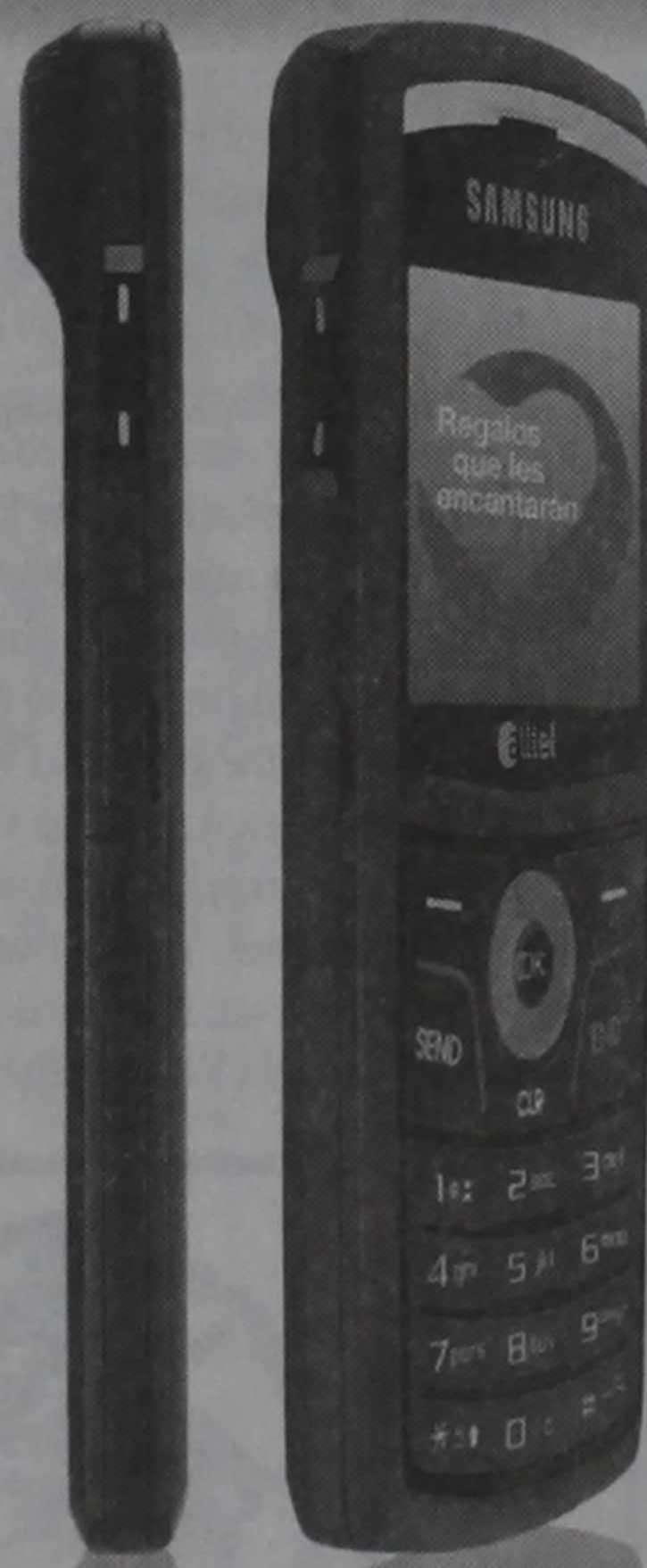
"Before I get started, I'm glad

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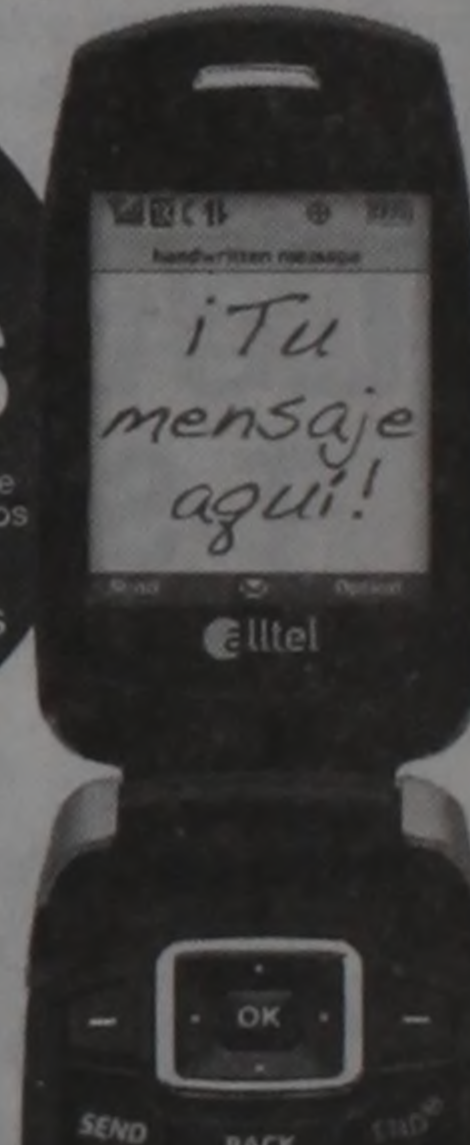
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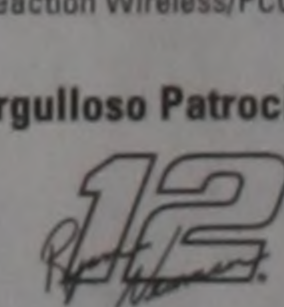
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