

El Editor

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Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"

Lic Benito Juarez

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Lubbock, TX USA

North Lubbock Residents Ask for Equity

Scores of North and East Lubbock crowded the City Council Chambers on Thursday to ask for equity. "We are here today to ask for equal treatment and we are here to try and make you realize that Guadalupe neighborhood is what to you is Lakeridge, Tech Terrace or any other neighborhood in which you live," said Benny Brito as he addressed the City Council representing the West Texas Organizing Strategies.

Brito pointed to scripture to convince the Council that that should take into consideration the needs of all the people regardless of stature. In response City Councilpersons Linda DeLeon and Floyd Price also quoted scripture that said that those that need the most help should be cared for.

At the center of issue that citizen address were the spending of money that was left over from a bond referendum 1999 for Canyon Lakes Dam #4 Capital Improvement Project in Northeast Lubbock. The project fell through because it required re-engineering several times due to the discovery of

historical artifacts. City Administrators deemed the location as undesirable. Therefore, recommendations for the project were, recommending about \$2.5 million remaining.

The majority of those addressing the Council called for using the money to rebuild Guadalupe Center and renovations to the Northwest Little League park.

Other community leaders addressing the City Council were Fathers Martin Peña and Andres Mendoza pastors of San Jose and Our Lady of Guadalupe Churches, Mike Garcia and Lisa Vergara of Northwest Little League, Mary Vines of Guadalupe Center, Ruben Albares LULAC President, July Crumbley-Williams chair of

Guadalupe Parkway Center and Individuals Calvin Davis, Teri Frazier, Veronica Lufjan and Mary Vines.

Not action was taken by the City Council on the request by citizens attending.



PRIME SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE WONDROUS SANTA SUIT CALL 741-0371 SEE PAGE 4 FOR INFO

Community Voices

This week, "Community Voices" publishes the press release sent out last week by the national LULAC office in Washington, DC.

U.S. Supreme Court to hear LULAC v. Perry

Washington, DC - The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) will get its day in court as the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case of the controversial Texas congressional redistricting map. LULAC filed a lawsuit challenging the Texas legislature's redistricting plan, which was spearheaded by former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, on the grounds that it violated the Voting Rights Act of the Latino community in Texas.

LULAC has an unyielding policy that justice should not be blinded at the expense of American citizens. Decisions by political officials should be based on legal facts that protect the interests of all Americans, particularly disadvantaged minority groups. The redistricting plan is retrogressive and if not overturned will roll back Latino political gains in Texas.

"We're elated to know that we still have another opportunity to challenge what we consider to be a blatant, illegal and partisan maneuver to weaken the Hispanic and black vote," said Hector Flores, national president of LULAC. "However, we remain appalled at the political gerrymandering that occurred in 2003 and the conscious effort by political appointees to divert justice by overriding the recommendations of those most knowledgeable in the field of the voting rights law."

Flores continued: "The disingenuous promoters of the redistricting plan have made no secret of the fact that this is a flagrant attempt to increase their numbers in Congress at the expense of the voting rights of the Latino community in Texas. Attempting to gloss over these partisan motivations with dubious claims of increased Hispanic representation is offensive, misleading and cynical."

Career attorneys from the Justice Department ruled that the plan illegally diluted the Hispanic and black voting power in two congressional districts, as well as eliminate several other districts in which minorities had a substantial influence in elections. After political appointees overruled six lawyers and two analysts from the Justice Department, the plan passed through the Legislature and shifted the partisan balance in the state's congressional delegation from a 17-15 Democratic majority to a 21-11 Republican majority after the 2004 elections.

This decision resulted in Texas Republicans gaining five seats in the U.S. House in the 2004 elections and solidifying GOP control of Congress. Supporters of the plan emphasize that the redistricting map helped to elect one additional black congressman. Although LULAC applauds the election of a minority leader, it remains certain this decision has limited Hispanic representation. LULAC will appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and ask the court to overturn this unprecedented decision.

"We have a fervent hope that when the Supreme Court revisits this issue, they will act prudently and impartially, as well as recognize that the political actions stimulated by DeLay and his cronies are illegal and are not in the best interest of Texas or our country," said Luis Vera, general counsel of LULAC.

"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. Your comments may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive or distasteful content. Mail your comments to CommunityVoices, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comments to acruvsc@aol.com

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Exploding the Immigrant Healthcare Myth

Edward Barrios Acevedo

Myths were meant to be shattered.

A recent study examining the use of medical services by U.S. immigrants does just that.

Contrary to claims you may hear repeated ad nauseam on Lou Dobbs, today's recent arrivals are half as likely to use emergency rooms or seek any healthcare at all compared to native-born residents.

In fact, most have not seen a doctor of any kind in the last two years.

That's the conclusion based on the study by the University of California and the Mexican government's National Population Council - and an analysis by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The overwhelming majority of recent immigrants work in industries such as agriculture and construction where physical injuries are most likely to occur.

Does this mean they have fewer accidents or get sick less frequently than the general native population?

Hardly.

In fact, recent immigrants - mostly poor, less educated and working menial, labor-intensive jobs - would be expected to need substantially more medical attention.

So, why then the discrepancy in service rates?

Simply, the majority of immigrants do not come to the United States to see a doctor.

Financial resources, lack of health insurance, and the inability to communicate with medical professionals are important barriers forcing them to pass up healthcare. Some who are living in the shadows perhaps do not want to jeopardize their cover for fear of deportation.

Yet, immigrants continue working in the fields, construction sites, and janitorial jobs, often exposed to toxins, pesticides, and chemicals that may lead to chronic illnesses, such as respiratory diseases.

Think the study is a fluke? As recently as

last August, the American Journal of Public Health reported that while immigrants represent 10.4 percent of the population, they only account for 8 percent of total healthcare spending.

For immigrant children the situation is more disparaging.

While native-born children used on average \$1,059 in healthcare related services during the survey period, immigrant children only used approximately \$270 in costs, according to the AJPH study.

Using data on immigrants - legal and undocumented - the study also dispels the myth that immigrants have a sense of "entitlement."

In fact, according to the latest study, most immigrants arrive much healthier than people already here.

The numbers tell us another thing. Today's working immigrants - mostly young and healthy - who pay Medicare and payroll taxes are essentially subsidizing native-born healthcare.

Immigrants generate as much as \$8.5 billion annually in Social Security and Medi-

Hora hay Un Trio en el Senado

Musica Para el Oido Latino

Alex Meneses Miyashita

Después de tres años sin un solo hispano entre sus 100 representantes, el Senado de los Estados Unidos agregó a tres en tan solo un año. El más reciente en sumarse al exclusivo club es Robert Menéndez de Nueva Jersey. Asumirá su cargo el 17 de enero, completando el último año del término de seis años de Jon Corzine. Corzine seleccionó a Menéndez como su sucesor el 9 de diciembre al ser elegido gobernador de Nueva Jersey en noviembre.

Menéndez, de 51 años, se unirá a otro demócrata, Ken Salazar, de 50, de Colorado, y al republicano Mel Martínez, de 59, de Florida en la cámara superior. Los dos últimos juramentaron en enero, tras ser elegidos en noviembre del 2004.

Si bien los cubano americanos son menos del 4 por ciento de la población hispana de los Estados Unidos (los mexicano americanos son dos tercios de la población), dos de los estadistas son de ascendencia cubana. Menéndez nació en Nueva York de padres cubanos inmigrantes. Martínez nació en Cuba. El tercero, Salazar, es mexicano americano cuyo arraigo familiar en Colorado data cuatro siglos.

Menéndez ha servido siete términos en la Cámara de Representantes y actualmente dirige el Caucus Demócrata de la misma, una de las principales posiciones del liderazgo del partido. Sirve en los comités de Relaciones Internacionales y de Transporte e Infraestructura.

Así Corzine no le hubiera dado la ventaja de ser titular cuando hace campaña para un término completo de seis años en el Senado el año que viene, su intelecto y habilidad política ya lo señalaban como dispuesto a subir los escaños políticos. Ya cuenta con más de \$4 millones en fondos de campaña que puede dedicar a su lid el próximo año.

Según la edición del 8 de diciembre de la publicación Roll Call, que cubre el Capitolio, "La combinación del apoyo de Corzine, los fondos de Menéndez y la geografía política de Nueva Jersey será lo suficiente para disuadir a demócratas de renombre a desafiarlo en la primaria, creen la mayoría de

los peritos del estado". Las primeras encuestas lo tienen igual o más adelantado que su probable rival republicano en noviembre. Analista político, condecorador de Washington, Andy Hernández, ahora profesor universitario en San Antonio, dice que la selección de Menéndez "indica mucho sobre su propia posición dentro del partido demócrata".

Añade, "Hay un puñado de congresistas latinos 'nacionales', y él es uno. Promoverá el diálogo sobre temas latinos hacia posiciones menos moderadas, más progresistas".

Son notables las asenciones de los tres latinos por tres razones en particular.

Ninguno proviene de estados con las poblaciones más numerosas de hispanos (California, con 12.4 millones, Texas, 7.8 millones, y Nueva York, 3.0 millones).

Tampoco proviene ninguno de uno de los cinco estados con el porcentaje más alto de residentes hispanos (Nuevo México 43%, California 35%, Texas 35%, Arizona 28%, y Nevada 23%).

¿Qué hay, entonces, con la alegación que los hispanos no pueden llegar a la cumbre política sin el apoyo de un gran voto étnico? Colorado y Florida tienen aproximadamente un 19 por ciento de población hispana cada uno; Nueva Jersey, 15%.

Por otro lado, ¿qué hay con los estados con un tercio o más de residentes hispanos que no están representados en la cumbre legislativa?

En realidad, Nuevo México ha enviado a un total de tres latinos al Senado entre las décadas veinte y setenta, y cuentan actualmente con un gobernador latino, Bill Richardson.

Las hojas de té y los analistas de política latina dice que el nuevo trio latino del Senado podrá tener la compañía de otros de California, Texas y/o, otra vez, Nuevo México de aquí a una o dos elecciones.

(Alex Meneses Miyashita es editor de la publicación noticiosa Hispanic Link Weekly Report, con base en Washington, D.C. Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: alex@hispaniclink.org.)

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Now There is a Trio in the U.S. Senate

Music to Latino Ears

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

After 28 years without a single Hispanic among its 100 members, the U.S. Senate has added three in the space of a year. The latest to join the elite club is Robert Menéndez of New Jersey. He will take office Jan. 17, completing the final year of Jon Corzine's six-year Senate term. Corzine chose Menéndez as his successor Dec. 9 after being elected in November as New Jersey's next governor.



Menéndez, 51, will join fellow Democrat Ken Salazar, 50, of Colorado, and Republican Mel Martínez, 59, of Florida in the upper chamber. The latter two were sworn in last January following their elections in November 2004.

While Cuban Americans make up less than 4 percent of the U.S. Hispanic population, (Mexican Americans make up two-thirds), two of the solons are of Cuban heritage. Menéndez was born in New York of immigrant Cuban parents. Martínez was born in Cuba. The third, Salazar, is Mexican American with family roots in Colorado dating back four centuries.

Menéndez has served seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and currently chairs that chamber's Democratic Caucus, one of the top positions in the party's leadership. He's on the International Relations and Transportation & Infrastructure committees.

Even if Corzine hadn't given him the advantage of incumbency when he runs for a full six-year Senate term next year, his intellect and political acumen already had him pegged as ready to move up the political ladder. Already he has more than \$4 million in campaign funds that he can use for his election bid next year.

According to the Dec. 8 edition of the Capitol Hill publication Roll Call, "The combination of Corzine's support, Menéndez's cash and the political geography of New Jersey will likely be enough to dissuade big-name Democrats from challenging Menéndez in the primary, most insiders in the Garden State believe."

Early polls show him even with or slightly ahead of his likely GOP rival come November. Washington-savvy political analyst Andy Hernández, now teaching in San Antonio, says the selection of Menéndez "says a lot about his own stand within the Democratic Party." He adds, "There are a handful of 'national' Latino congressmen, and he's one of them. He will move the dialogue about Latino issues away from moderate positions to more progressive positions."

Three things make the ascensions of the three Latinos particularly remarkable. None come from states with the greatest Hispanic populations (California, 12.4 million, Texas, 7.8 million and New York, 3.0 million.)

And none come from any of the five states with the highest percentages of Hispanic residents (New Mexico 43%, California 35%, Texas 35%, Arizona 28% and Nevada 23%).

(Continued on Page 6)

El Editor, Week of December 15-21, 2005

Engaging citizen's practical wisdom is invaluable in constructing a city that is just

By Christy Martinez-Cafela, freelance writer

With interview and contributions by Teresa Davis B. D. of Covenant Presbyterian Church and Clergy Co. Chair of WTOS. On Thursday morning leaders of member institutions of the West Texas Organizing Strategy (WTOS) along with other concerned citizens of the community will once again go before the Lubbock City Council to request that bond money be used to rebuild the Guadalupe Neighborhood Center and the Northwest Little League press box and bathrooms.

The bond money in question was intended for the 1999 Canyon Lakes Dam #4 Capital Improvement Project in Northeast Lubbock. The project fell through because it required re-engineering several times due to the discovery of historical artifacts. City Administrators deemed the location as undesirable. Therefore, recommendations for the project were closed leaving about \$2.5 million remaining.

You may recall that the first time the citizens spoke before the council on this matter the council responded by imposing stricter guidelines during the public commentary times.

These are the issues: Citizens are calling for the City to rebuild the Guadalupe Neighborhood Center, a cultural landmark in one of Lubbock's oldest neighborhoods which was condemned last year and demolished early this year, thus leaving the after school program for the children of the neighborhood in temporary quarters.

Many senior citizens that also live in the neighborhood would benefit from having a community center, which could offer programs to them. Additionally, the building could be used to house a workout facility with exercise equipment and treadmills both of which are largely unavailable in north and east side neighborhoods.

Second, the Northwest Little League press box needs modernizing to serve the needs of its volunteers and families. Additionally, the ballpark is in desperate need of safe and accessible restroom facilities. They deeply understand the tendency of cities to neglect older parts of the community.

Because they have been told for years that no funding was available for these improvements these citizens have worked together through their churches, which are member institutions of WTOS, to identify the funding and create a voice of solidarity.

WTOS teaches the practice of democracy through individual and house meetings and through organizing for action using the "Iron Rule: Never do for others what they can do for themselves."

The political process is engaged in non-partisan ways in order to bring the perspective of ordinary families from ethnically and economically diverse backgrounds, to the tables where decisions are made that affect their lives.

The practical wisdom that comes from the neighborhoods where people live, work, and play is invaluable in constructing a city that is just, for all citizens.

It brings practical wisdom to bear in helping the city protect children (like the construction of a fence at a park next to a North Loop access road) and in saving the city money (like negotiating with the railroad to provide a safe and adequate track crossing into the Guadalupe neighborhood).

It sets agenda items and enlists allies as it has done with its "Healthy Families" initiative and the major healthcare institutions of the Lubbock community.

Perhaps a Biblical example can explain why some elected public officials react with harsh negativity in the public debate created by ordinary citizens who offer such practical wisdom for the decision making process.

In churches across Lubbock during this Advent season we read from chapter 61 of the prophet Isaiah about the vocation of restoring community and rebuilding the city. The spirit-anointed speaker announces good news to the oppressed, the brokenhearted, the captives, those who mourn, and declares that they shall repair the city.

Those who have been marginalized and rendered powerless by economic and political pressures within the community will now be the agents of promised rebuilding.

When our Lord Jesus claimed this Isaian vocation for himself (Luke 4:16 ff.), those in power were filled with rage and ran him out of town and tried to throw him off the cliff. Nevertheless, the spirit of God was not quenched, and it endures today in the ordinary families and citizens of WTOS.

Pew Hispanic Center Report:

Unemployment Plays Small Role in Spurring Mexican Migration to U.S.

Washington, DC - December 6, 2005 - The vast majority of undocumented migrants from Mexico were gainfully employed before they left for the United States, according to a Pew Hispanic Center report released today. The report suggests that failure to find work at home does not seem to be the primary reason that the estimated 6.3 million undocumented migrants from Mexico have come to the U.S.

Once they arrive and pass through a relatively brief period of transition and adjustment, migrants have little trouble finding work, according to the study. Family and social networks play a significant role in this; large shares of migrants report talking to people they know in the U.S. about job opportunities and living with relatives after arrival. They easily make transitions into new jobs, even though most find themselves working in industries that are new to them. Also, many are paid at minimum-wage levels or below, and it is not uncommon for these workers to experience relatively long spells of unemployment.

The demand for labor appears to play a strong role in shaping the economic destiny of Mexican migrants. Regardless of their background and origin in Mexico or their year of arrival, migrants are concentrated in the same handful of industries in the U.S.—agriculture, hospitality, construction and manufacturing. However, there are also signs of change in the characteristics of migrants and the nature of the demand for them. The more recently arrived and younger migrants from Mexico are better educated than their predecessors (though their education levels remain low by U.S. standards). They are also increasingly coming from a greater variety of regions in Mexico and making homes in new Mexican-migrant settlement areas in the U.S., such as New York and Raleigh, N.C. The latest arrivals are less likely to be farm workers and more likely to have a background in other industries, such as commerce and sales. More and more, Mexican migrants are being hired in the construction

and hospitality industries in the U.S.

These findings emerge from the Pew Hispanic Center's Survey of Mexican Migrants. The survey provides detailed information on the demographic characteristics, living arrangements, work experiences and attitudes toward immigration of 4,836 Mexican migrants who completed a 12-page questionnaire as they were applying for a matricula consular, an identity document issued by Mexican diplomatic missions. The survey was not a random sample of foreign-born Mexicans but one designed to generate the maximum number of observations of migrants who were seeking further documentation of their identity in the U.S. Fieldwork was conducted in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, Raleigh and Fresno, Calif., from July 12, 2004, to Jan. 28, 2005. While respondents were not asked directly to specify their immigration status, most are believed to lack authorization to work in the U.S. Thus, the survey provides a unique opportunity to study the economic status of a population that is otherwise very difficult to measure.

The major findings of this study are:

- Unemployment plays a minimal role in motivating workers from Mexico to migrate to the U.S. Only 5% of the survey respondents who have been in the U.S. for two years or less were unemployed while still in Mexico.
- Unemployment in the U.S. is above normal only for respondents who have been here for less than six months. Nearly 15% of the latest arrivals reported they were not currently working. But only about 5% of respondents who migrated more than six months ago reported they were unemployed in the U.S.
- Immigration status has little impact on the likelihood of unemployment in the U.S. Respondents who reported that they have a U.S. government-issued ID had the same employment experiences as those who do not have any documents making them eligible for legal employment.
- Family networks play a key role

In Time of War, Immigrants Face Two Fronts

By Robert Miranda

The price our Latino men and women are paying for freedom in Iraq is high. In fact, Latinos are leading all other ethnic minorities in the total number of dead, according to the latest data provided by the Department of Defense.

As of the end of November 2005, Latinos in the United States Army, Marines, Air Force and Navy fighting the war in Iraq accounted for 11.13% of all deaths.

According to the Website, Iraqi Coalition Casualty Count, the total number of Latinos killed in the war is now 235. Of those 235 Latino dead, 138 Latinos were killed serving in the Army; 90 in the Marines; 3 in the Air Force and 1 Latino serving in the Navy.

African-Americans are second in the minority death count. As of November 2005, 219 (10.37%) African-Americans have died fighting the war in Iraq. Over half of them died while serving their tour in the Army.

In total, America's ethnic minority communities combined have lost 26.39% armed forces personnel during this war, while whites have lost 73.61%.

As of this week, over 2100 U.S. service personnel have lost their lives fighting in the Iraq War.

Latinos are dying in Iraq. They're dying so that, as Bush tells us, "Iraqis can live in freedom". The price they're paying to ensure victory for Bush's war is being paid for with the blood of Latino immigrants who believe in freedom, and wish to live in freedom as well as

LETTERS CARTAS

Dear Mr. Bidal
Let me compliment you on your coverage of the Hispanic community. Your articles by Abel Cruz, Community Voices and City Watch plus your Comentarios, are excellent and provide the type of coverage that is needed and lacking for so long from hispanic media. I would only hope that other media would learn from your example. It doesn't do any good to be talking chismes and about having parties all the time. Keep up the good work!
Juan Rosales

spread that freedom to other parts of the world.

Yet, back at the home front, immigrants are being targeted by public policies designed to make their lives harder. Roll backs in public funding for education, health care needs and food stamps are placing many Latinos across the country in desperate living situations. Our civil rights and liberties are being challenged by draconian laws such as the Patriot Act.

The attacks coming from the far right-wing against immigrants, who have always been the backbone of this nation's economy, comes at a time when America is demanding that we send our brothers and sisters and our mothers and fathers to fight a war built on lies and deception.

Latinos are ordered to go to war to fight an enemy many of them know little about, so that freedom can ring in an ancient nation that has for over 5000 years known little about peace, let alone freedom.

Latinos fight the "war against terrorism" and yet are called "wet-backs" by radio commentators and accused of engaging in massive voter fraud. Latinos have joined in the campaign to free Iraq from the grips of a "merciless dictator", yet are looked upon as social leeches of our public resources by the very political forces that have called upon them to serve, fight and die.

They come from Mexico, Central and South America to take part in our free society and to contribute in any way they can to maintain our way of life. They come in the same manner as those Northern and Western European immigrants who arrived in the 1700s and 1800s, before Ellis Island and the establishment of immigration laws such as the National Origins Act passed by Congress in 1924. This law eliminated immigration from Asia and sharply reduced immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe—an historic example of racism and discrimination.

Immigrants have fought our wars and joined in the cause for economic growth, civil liberty and global stability. They do this because they believe in our democracy.

And what is the manner in which they are repaid for their sacrifice? They are accused by right-wing extremists of violating our voting laws. Laws are introduced to take away their ability to have a license so that they can not drive to work. They're seen as terrorists about to do harm to our county. And now, the National Council of La Raza just announced that House Republicans have introduced legislation to eliminate birthright citizenship to babies born to undocumented parents living in the U.S.

If this legislation passes, no longer would a baby born in the United States to an undocumented couple automatically obtain U.S. citizenship. This is horrendous racism at its most vicious manifestation.

It appears that the time will come, and come in our day, when work camps will be built to house the undocumented rounded up by our government. Those caught up in this dragnet will await their fate behind barbed wire fences—to be deported back to their native lands or granted permission to stay—and put to work under the watchful eyes of federal employees who once owned small family farms, but were forced out of business because of the encroachment of corporate mega-farms. And the public will be none the wiser to the insidiousness of this policy, because the right-wing and corporate America will promote the idea under the mantra: JOBS.

235 Latinos have given their lives to a cause that many are questioning. Their deaths symbolize Latino resolve to stand for an idea that is larger than Bush, the GOP or the Democrats. It's not that they fight because of the misinformation passed onto them by their Commander-in-Chief; they stood for the cause of a free and civil society, and they stand for notions born out of thousands of years of human struggle for dignity.

Immigrants have stood shoulder to shoulder with their brothers-in-arms, because they believe in this nation's principles of freedom, democracy and justice. The attacks against immigrants have done a disservice to those dreams they believe in—but still they believe.

Robert Miranda, a frequent contributing columnist to Hispanic Vista.com is a national award winning columnist, Latino community activist and Editor-in-Chief of the Milwaukee Spanish Journal. Email at: rmiranda@wi.rr.com

Some Say Holiday, I Say Christmas

By Abel Cruz

In a tragic event, that is symptomatic of a larger problem, a mother and her son died in a fatal fire last week. According to fire department personnel, the family of 7 may have had time to get out of their home safely, if only the home had been equipped with a smoke detector. The only problem with that is that it sounds too simple a solution to be the only thing that is wrong in this horrible situation.

I'm not familiar with this family's personal situation, but I do know that the uninstalled wood burning stove they were using to heat their home indicates that they may have had trouble heating their home in a more conventional way. But sometimes, our economic situation forces us to do things that we normally wouldn't do in order to survive. In this case, it may very well be that this family's unusual efforts to survive the cold weather resulted in their heartbreaking loss.

As I think about this unfortunate event that ended the life of 21 year old Brittany Lily and 3-year old Devin, I cannot help but wonder how many other residents of this city are being forced to survive by using unsafe open space heaters and improperly installed heating equipment. I also wonder how many people are forced to live without heat all together because they cannot afford their high heating bills. I wonder how many people are forced to choose between heating their home and buying groceries.

All this, in the world's richest country

At least 16 Lubbock city residents were scheduled to appear before the council during this past Thursday's city council meeting. Most of the residents live in the Guadalupe neighborhood while others are members of West Texas Organizing Strategy. Their requests will revolve around funding for improvements to northwest little league fields in northwest Lubbock and funds to build a new community center at Guadalupe Park.

Whether the council as a whole listens to these concerns and acts positively towards them is anybody's guess. On Wednesday, Fox channel 34 (who has by far had the best and sometimes only coverage on this issue) was reporting that Councilman Gary Boren had acquired funding for park improvements to Wagner Park located in Tech Terrace. But my guess is that the funding requests presented by the residents from Guadalupe will encounter some opposition. In the very least, it seems unlikely that a new center will be built. Chances are that funds will be allocated for the little league fields, but my guess is that a new community center is not in the Guadalupe neighborhood's stocking.

In a prime example of corporate greed, Atmos Energy has served notice that it will raise its rates by an average 8% to try and recoup reinvestment costs associated with their investment in equipment. According to Councilman Gary Boren, Atmos wants their customers to "pay for infrastructure, they defined as 40 batteries, sofas, and lap-top computers for their Amarillo call center".

Sounds to me like Atmos wants to fatten their bank account as fat as a Christmas turkey, while the rest of us and families like the Lily's, are left turning down the thermostat to try to survive the winter. With gas prices creeping back up, consumers are already being stretched.

But, this time the "majority" on the council has gotten it right in denying Atmos a rate increase. Reminds me of an old saying, something about even a blind squirrel finding an acorn every once in a while.

Aw come on, just kidding, just a little humor, a little Christmas cheer to see if anybody out there is paying attention

Politically correct or not, I am celebrating Christmas. I know that some people have gone off the deep end of the political correctness scale and tried to do away with the word Christmas so that people who don't celebrate Christmas will not be offended. That, my friends, is one of the most ridiculous things I have ever heard.

Some people in this country have lost their grip on reality; along with their politically correct mind!

Email: acruzts@aol.com

We Support Our Troops Bring them Home Soon!



Jim Hightower

BUILDING A PROGRESSIVE FUTURE

Here's an idea: What if instead of waiting for a progressive political future to be delivered to us by a magical someone on a big white steed galloping down a bright beam of sunlight - we actually went to work to build our own future from the ground up?

In my speeches around the country, I'm invariably asked, who's going to be "our" presidential nominee? My titillating answer, whispered confidentially, is that it'll be someone the audience hasn't even heard of yet. Ooooooh, goes the audience - an obscure congress person, a movie star... who?

No, I mean even I haven't heard of our nominee, because I'm not looking to 2008, but 2012 and beyond. Yes, we can nominate a "Not-Bush" in '08, but getting to a true progressive for president takes a political movement that's deliberately developing a broad and deep farm team of grassroots progressive talent. "Our" nominee is not yet another U.S. senator playing kissy face with corporate lobbyists in Washington but a committed progressive who's now running for city council, county commissioner, or state senate.

The good news is that this grassroots movement-building is already flourishing, propelled by such hard-nosed, determined groups as Progressive Majority. Recognizing that Americans overwhelmingly hold progressive views on issues - yet rarely encounter candidates with the will and skills to win on those issues - PM is at work to recruit, train, and back local candidates who connect to this winning progressive base.

Here's the important news: They're winning! In this year's elections - despite being outspent and despite right-wing smear tactics - Progressive Majority's candidates won two-thirds of their races for school board, city council, county commissioner, etcetera in places like Colorado Springs, Tucson and Snohomish County, Washington.

This is Jim Hightower saying... To plug in to this realistic progressive future, call Progressive Majority: 202-408-8603. www.progressivemajority.org

EL EDITOR

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Desmintiendo el Mito de Servicios Medicos al Inmigrante

Edward Barrios Acevedo
 A los mitos hay que desmentirlos. Un estudio reciente que examina el uso de servicios médicos de parte de los inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos hace precisamente eso. Al contrario de reclamos que habrá oído hasta hartarse en el programa de Lou Dobbs, los que recién llegan hoy como promedio se sirven de servicios de emergencia o cualquier otro servicio médico en un 50 por ciento menos que los que han nacido en los Estados Unidos. En realidad, en los últimos dos

años la mayoría no ha visto a un médico de ningún tipo. Así se concluye con base en el estudio de la Universidad de California y el Consejo Nacional de la Población, del gobierno de México, además de un análisis del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los Estados Unidos. La gran mayoría de los inmigrantes recientes trabajan en industrias tales como la agricultura y la construcción, en las que las lesiones físicas son muy probables. ¿Implica esto que sufren menos accidentes o se enferman con menos frecuencia que la población general nacida aquí? Para nada.

En realidad, los inmigrantes recientes, en su mayoría pobres, con menos educación formal, que se desempeñan en trabajos meniales y arduos, podrán requerir de mucha más atención médica. Entonces, ¿a qué viene la discrepancia en índices de servicios? En términos sencillos, la mayoría de los inmigrantes a los Estados Unidos no vienen para ver al médico. Las barreras que obligan a los inmigrantes a pasar por alto los servicios médicos son la falta de recursos económicos, de seguro de salud y de comunicación con los profesionales de salud. Algunos

que viven en la penumbra tal vez prefieren no perjudicar su economía por temor a la deportación. Sin embargo, son los inmigrantes los que trabajan en los campos, en la construcción, en la limpieza de edificios, muchas veces expuestos a toxinas, pesticidas, y sustancias químicas que pueden llevar a enfermedades crónicas, por ejemplo las respiratorias. ¿Le parece improbable la veracidad del estudio? Hace poco, en agosto, la revista American Journal of Public Health informó que si bien los inmigrantes son el 10.4 por ciento de la población, representan sólo el 8 por ciento del gasto nacional en servicios médicos. Para los niños inmigrantes, es aún peor. Los niños nacidos aquí utilizaron un promedio de \$1,059 en servicios con relación a la salud durante el periodo en que se realizó la encuesta. En cambio los ni-

ños inmigrantes usaron sólo aproximadamente \$270 en costos, según informa el estudio. Al usar datos sobre los inmigrantes - con y sin documentación legal - el estudio también desmiente el mito que los inmigrantes se sienten con derecho a valerse de los servicios médicos. En realidad, según indica el estudio más reciente, la mayoría de los inmigrantes llegan en condiciones de salud mucho mejores que las de los que ya viven aquí. Los números revelan más. Los inmigrantes obreros de hoy - la mayoría jóvenes y saludables - que contribuyen a Medicare y a impuestos de planilla en efecto están subsidiando el servicio médico de los que nacieron aquí. Los inmigrantes generan hasta \$8.5 mil millones por año en rentas del Seguro Social y Medicare, lo cual entra al "earning suspense file" (archivo de rentas en suspenso) el que recibe el dinero generado de números de Seguro Social

falsos. Al comenzar a jubilarse la gran oleada de personas nacidas entre 1946 y 1964, queda claro que se necesitará a más inmigrantes para sostener las listas crecientes de Medicare. Como quiera que se vea, la inmigración es parte de la solución, no del problema. Sin embargo, no muchos inmigrantes se quejan de su contribución, pero me imagino que tampoco les gusta servir de chivo expiatorio. Por desgracia, son demasiados los que incitan el miedo y del que viven grandemente, con sus ataques retóricos al inmigrante. Al convocar a sus allegados, ¿podrán más estudios, añadidos a la verdad histórica que los inmigrantes a esta nación siempre han contribuido más de lo que han recibido, detenerlos? He ahí la interrogante, ¿Se detendrán alguna vez lo suficiente para escuchar?

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Minority Access to Computers Limited

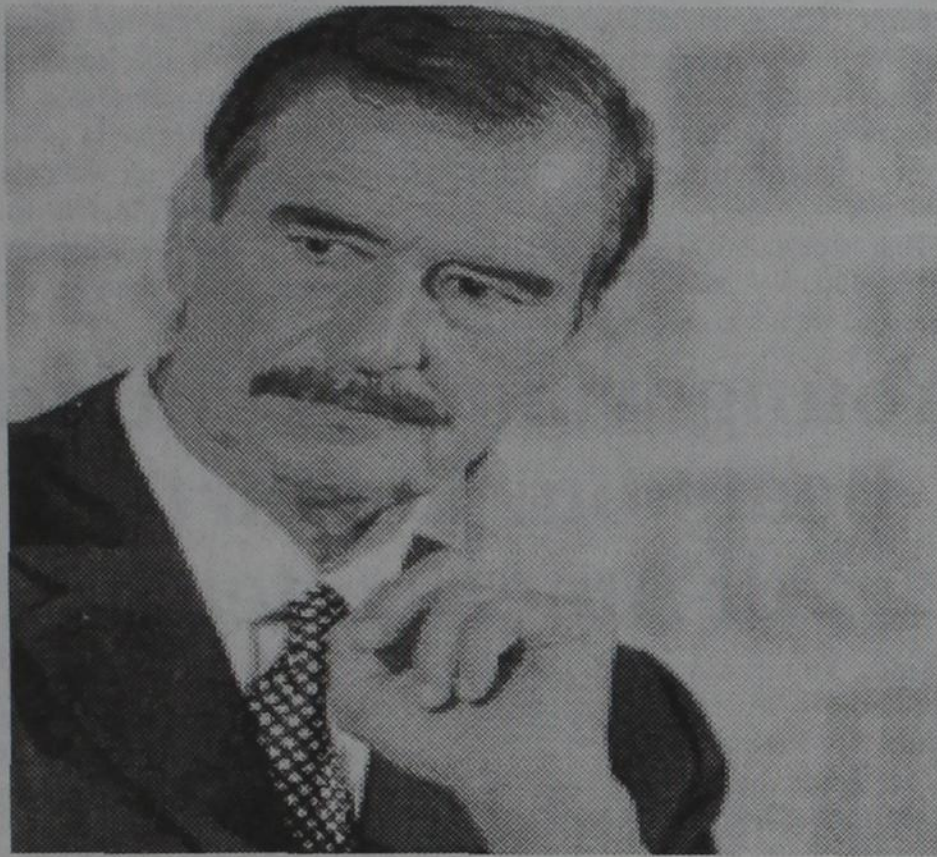
Access to a home computer increases the likelihood that children will graduate from high school, but blacks and Latinos are much less likely to have a computer at home than are whites, according to a study by a researcher at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). The study also found that the so-called "digital divide" is even more pronounced among children than adults. The study's findings, which have important implications for schools, seem to confirm the value of computer take-home programs--such as one-to-one school laptop

initiatives, or donating old machines to students' families as they are replaced--as an effective instructional strategy. The study shows the persistence of the digital divide and suggests it has a profound impact on educational outcomes, even when factors such as income and parental education are taken into consideration, said Robert Fairlie, associate professor of economics at UCSC. His findings appeared in the October issue of the Economics of Education Review. "The digital divide is large and persistent, and black and Latino

children are particularly hard-hit," said Fairlie. "The digital divide has important implications for educational and economic inequality in the United States. These findings should be a wake-up call for policy makers." Although many studies have explored the impact of computers in schools, and the federal government has made computer access in schools a priority, few studies have assessed the impact on youth of having a computer in the home, Fairlie said. Among the key findings of his

continue on page 6

Liberties are not Suppressed in Mexico, Fox



Mexico keeps developing and human rights remain untouched, President Vicente Fox Quesada stated during the presentation of

the First Report of Human Rights National Program. The Head of State stressed that in this country "we do not sup-

press liberties nor allow abuses from government employees against any person, family or the society".

Fox explained that the democratic transition marked the beginning of a new stage in the national life, as well as a new State's policy, which put the individual in the center of the public work, dignity and the protection of rights.

The President said that problems have changed, "which were hidden in the past" and the denial for international observers in the human rights field, "now we take care and receive all of them, we listen to them and together propose solutions".

At Los Pinos' Adolfo Lopez Mateos Hall, Vicente Fox also clarified that his administration is not afraid of being under scrutiny, to show the numbers and to be evaluated in all the government work.

'PanchoClos Is Coming to Town'

Pancho Clos will be arriving at the Maggie Trejo Super Center, Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2:00 pm in a low rider automobile provided by the West Texas Low Rider Club. The Pancho Clos project is sponsored by the American GI Forum and the Lubbock Area Foundation. Lubbock Power & Light is also one of our co-sponsors. These sponsors make it possible for Pancho Clos to come to Lubbock from the South Pole by donating funds to buy fruit and candy for the bags that are given out by Pancho Clos. This project was started in 1971 and we are now celebrating our thirty fourth anniversary. Pancho Clos will also be visiting kids from the ECI Debt Program and Family Protective Services and other programs that usually request Pancho Clos to visit their kids. We also want to thank Girl Scout Troop #73 for helping with the bagging of the goodie bags for the needy kids of the Lubbock community.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Pancho Clos Project can call Robert Narvaiz at 781-6277.

Pancho Clos Is Coming to Lubbock



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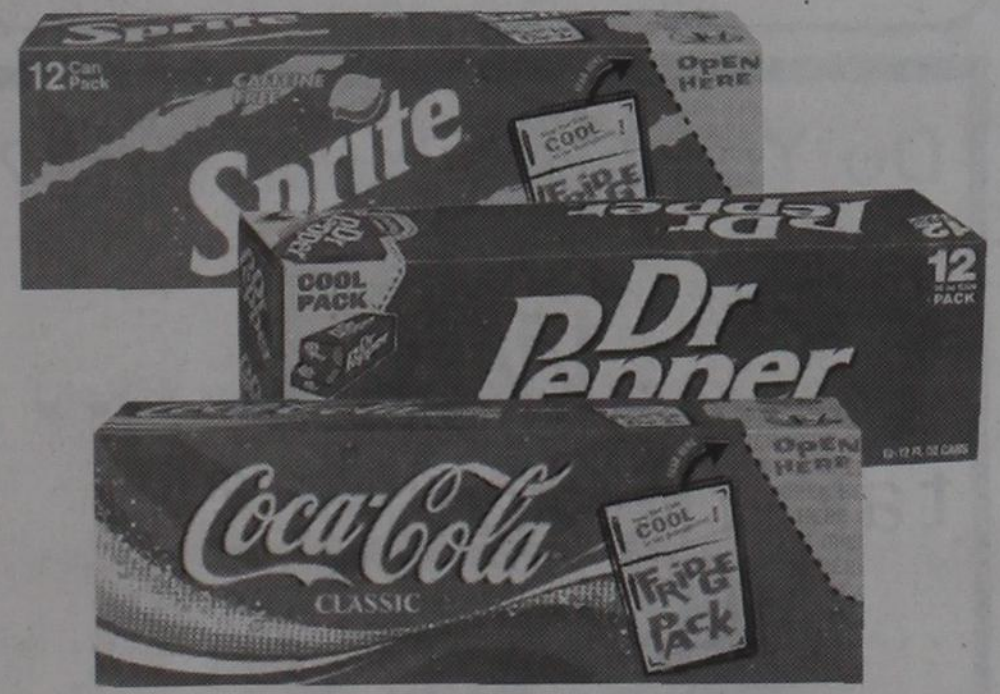
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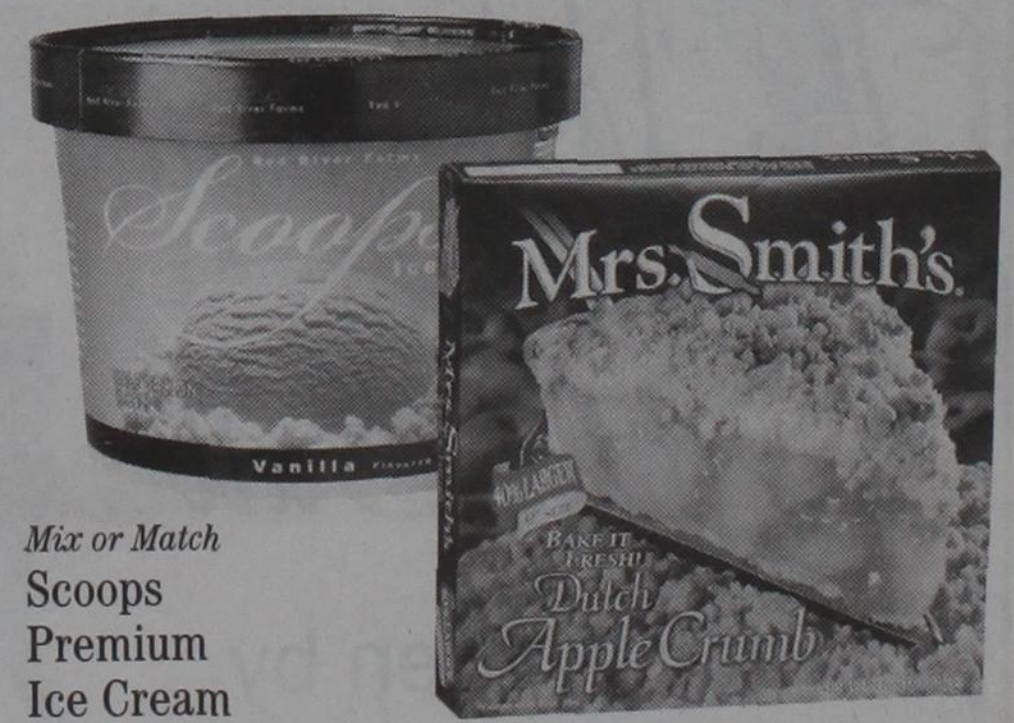
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Prince praises Salma Hayek's Work in his new Music Video



Eccentric singer Prince praised the work of the Mexican actress Salma Hayek, which was in charge of shooting the music video of his new album's first single, "She is quite clever and attentive". The video entitled "Te amo corazon", premiered last Tuesday in VH1 and its affiliated networks and in several websites, it is an advance of the album "3121", which will be distributed by Universal Records. The most recent album of the singer will hit the music stores early next year. "Salma listened to the song and created the original concept. Salma is the cleverest and most attentive director I have worked with. A to-

tal enjoyment", Prince stated through a communiqué, he repeated it during a press conference in Los Angeles. "Te amo corazon", was shot in Marrakech, Morocco and is starred by the Argentinean actress Mia Maestra, who has already worked with the Mexican in the film "Frida". This is Hayek's first incursion into music video direction, even though she has been behind the camera in "El Milagro de Maldonado". Prince, 47, one of the musicians who has sold the most albums worldwide, had not launched a new album since 2004, when he released "Musicology".

Look for El Editor's X-Mas Edition Next Week!

Clama tras ejecucion de Stanley Williams

La vida sigue igual en Los Angeles después de la ejecución de Stanley "Tookie" Williams. Aunque las autoridades manifestaron ayer que no hubo necesidad de reforzar la vigilancia policial en las calles para prevenir disturbios, este resultado ser solo un anécdota innecesario. Si bien el Departamento del Sheriff decretó la alerta táctica que permite cancelar temporal-

mente las licencias y redoblar el personal en algunas de las estaciones, y el Departamento de Policía de Los Angeles (LAPD) desplegó unidades adicionales en ciertas áreas de la ciudad, en ningún momento hubo indicios de alteración del orden público. En la víspera de la consumación del ajusticiamiento, personas y grupos opuestos a la pena de muerte organizaron veladas

pacíficas en distintas ciudades del estado para protestar contra el gobernador, Arnold Schwarzenegger, que unas horas antes había denegado el peticion al expandilero. Williams dejó de existir ayer a las 12:35 de la mañana en la penitenciaría de San Quintín, en San Francisco. Según un reportero que presenció el acto, tomó 36 mi-

nutos y 15 segundos desde el momento en que el reo entró a la cámara de ejecución y la declaración oficial que lo dio por muerto. El epílogo fue el silencio. Acabaron de golpe las intensas jornadas que casi por un mes se manifestaron en las calles y en todos los foros posibles, para pedir que se dejara vivir a Williams y para denunciar la supuesta inalidez. *continúa en la pagina 5*

Cuatro de la 'Housewives' nominadas al Globo de Oro

A diferencia de otros galardones, los Globos de Oro conceden premios tanto en el campo del cine como de la televisión, dividiendo en ambos casos sus categorías, un total de 24, entre el drama o la comedia y el musical. Este año, cuatro de las protagonistas de la serie de ABC Desperate Housewives fueron nominadas en la categoría de Mejor Actriz de una serie Comica o Musical de Televisión, incluyendo a Felicity Huffman, que postula, además, por un premio en la categoría de Mejor Actriz en una Cinta Dramática, por Transamerica. Incluyendo su nominación como Mejor Serie Comica o Musical, Desperate Housewives obtuvo cinco candidaturas, el mayor número en categorías de televisión anunciado ayer. Además de Hoffman, las "amas de casa desesperadas" pero nominadas son Marcia Cross, Terri Hatcher y Eva Longoria, quienes compiten además con Mary-Louise Parker, por Weeds de HBO. ABC dominó la categoría principal de Mejor Serie Dramática con tres postulantes: Lost, Commander in Chief y Grey's Anat-



omy, que compiten con Prison Break de Fox y Rome de HBO. El canal de cable HBO obtuvo 17, el mayor número de nominaciones en el rubro de televisión, seguido por ABC con 16, NBC con cinco y CBS y Fox con cuatro cada una.

La competencia de Desperate Housewives en la categoría de comedia o musical la constituyen Weeds (Showtime), Everybody Hates Chris (UPN), Entourage y Curb Your Enthusiasm (de HBO) y My Name is Earl (NBC). Los nominados a Mejor Actor

por un drama de televisión son Patrick Dempsey por Grey's Anatomy, Matthew Fox por Lost, Hugh Laurie por House, Wentworth Miller por Prison Break y Kiefer Sutherland por 24. El padre del último actor, Donald Sutherland también logró un par de nominaciones: como mejor actor en una mini serie o película televisiva, por Human Trafficking, así como actor de reparto por Commander in Chief. Los otros nominados en esta última categoría son Kenneth Branagh por Warm Springs, Ed Harris por Empire Falls, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers por Elvis y Bill Nighy por The Girl in the Cafe. Las nominadas a Mejor Actriz en un Drama son Geena Davis por Commander in Chief, Glenn Close por The Shield, Polly Walker por Rome, Kyra Sedgwick por The Closer y Patricia Arquette por Medium. Los ganadores de la 63 edición de los Globos de Oro se darán a conocer el próximo 16 de enero en una ceremonia que tendrá lugar en el hotel Beverly Hilton de Los Angeles.

Rodriguez most likely representing Dominican Republic in WBC

Alex Rodriguez probably will play for the Dominican Republic in next year's inaugural World Baseball Classic. When the commissioner's office and the players' association announced commitments from players last week, Rodriguez's country was left blank. The New York Yankees third baseman, who last month won his second AL MVP award, was born in New York but his parents are Dominican. "That seems to be pretty much where I'm leaning," Rodriguez said of the Dominican team during an interview Tuesday on WFAN radio. "I think it's going to be the team I'm going to represent, kind

of like what (Mike) Piazza's doing with Italy." Rodriguez said staying healthy was key during the tournament, which is being played by 16 teams from March 3-20. "It's going to be a lot of fun. I'm excited about it and a little nervous, too, about obviously getting guys injured that time of year," he said. "You pull a hamstring, you're out for three or four weeks, that really may impact your whole season. I mean, you may have some type of ill effect going into even June or July." Rodriguez predicted the U.S. team might be less motivated than other countries.

"I think the Latino teams are going to have a major advantage," he said. "I think that American team might take it more like an exhibition and these guys are kind of playing for their religion down there, the pride of their country." Rodriguez also addressed the possibility that the Yankees would sign free agent Nomar Garciaparra. Manager Joe Torre told New York reporters at a function Tuesday that he had called Garciaparra to express the team's interest in having him come join the Yankees. "That would be kind of weird," A-Rod said. "I remember almost 10 years ago we made the cover of GQ.

us three as the premier shortstops in the game coming up. And now all of us may be in the same infield. I think that's kind of funny." Rodriguez's spokesman, Steve Fortunato, said the decision will be made by Major League Baseball and the commissioner's office. "Alex's comments are based on discussions with the tournament organizers," Fortunato said. "The organizers are ultimately going to recommend what team Alex should be placed on, and he would follow that. We're waiting to see what that is. He wants to do whatever is best for tournament."

Young wins this round, beats out Leinart on All-America team

Vince Young can claim at least one victory over Southern California this season. The Texas quarterback was selected to the Associated Press All-America team released Tuesday, relegating USC's Matt Leinart to the second team. Young was runner-up in the Heisman Trophy voting to Trojans tailback Reggie Bush and was one of four Longhorns on the first team. Bush was one of three All-Americans from top-ranked USC and a unanimous first-team selection. The real test for No. 2 Texas comes Jan. 4 in the Rose Bowl, when the Longhorns and Trojans play for the national title. Young didn't hide his disappointment when Bush won the Heisman in a landslide on Saturday

night. "This should give me a little bit more edge to show the world what a good team the University of Texas is," he said. Always dynamic on the move, Young proved he could topflight passer this season. He leads the nation in efficiency rating (168.8) with 2,769 yards and 26 touchdown passes. He also leads the team with 850 yards rushing. Texas offensive tackle Jonathan Scott also made the first team, along with teammates Michael Huff, who won the Thorpe Award as the nation's best defensive back, and defensive tackle Rodrique Wright. Dwayne Jarrett and safety Darnell Bing were the other USC All-Americans.

Come and Enjoy the Laughs, Fun, Drama and Excellence of The Wondrous Santa Suit Saturday December 17 - 511 Ave. J Louis Hopkins Underwood Center Icehouse Starring Ysidro Gutierrez, Zenaida Aguero Reyes, Tomas Guillen, Maria Lopez Strong and Rodger Auannah Settler Written by Bidal Aguero Directed by Hershell Norwood

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Thousands of pilgrims parade before Guadalupe Virgin

Thousands of pilgrims have paraded at the feet of the "Morenita del Tepeyac" to express her faith and join the traditional "mañanitas" singing in the 474 anniversary of the Guadalupe Virgin's appearance.

Without worrying about the distance or the expenses to travel to the "Basílica of Guadalupe", faithful ones of all ages, even foreigners and complete families got ready to sleep outside the sanctuary.

With candles, flowers and surrounded by songs and prayers, the pilgrims achieved their objective, some of them on bicycles and many others in buses or their own vehicles.

Adán, 16, from Zumpango, State of Mexico, explained that this is the fourth year in a row that he makes the pilgrimage to the Guadalupe Virgin's house, as he is catholic for tradition and conviction.

Along with three other youngsters, Adán stated that the Guadalupe Virgin has made him several favors, so he comes to thank her, but he does not know his requests

for next year yet.

Naveli, 19, arrived yesterday from Puebla, after taking a ride on bicycle with her friends: "I wanted to come and thank her. I am thankful (with the virgin).

Maria Isabel Castañón, housewife from Mexico City, explained that since her grandmother invited her to celebrate the Guadalupe party, her faith was consolidated, she has not missed a single year.

Dozens of "boy scouts", who arrived to offer their services to the pilgrims during the celebration, also visited the Guadalupe Virgin, considered as Queen of Mexico, and Empress of America.

Most of the pilgrims participate in the "mañanitas" singing for the Guadalupe Virgin, but most of them also stay to watch the performance of several catholic artists.

Among the singers that participated after the "mañanitas" are Lucero, Marco Antonio Solís, Maria Victoria, Queta Jimenez "La Prieta Linda", Aida Cuevas, Guadalupe Pineda, Pablo Montero, the Mora Arriaga Bros and Angeles Ochoa.



Also some singers from the reality show La Academia such as Yahir, Victor Garcia and Miriam.

At midnight a mass was celebrated by the "Basílica of Guadalupe's" rector, Diego Monroy Ponce.

PRECINCT CHAIRS NEEDED!

By Roger Quannah Settler "El Indio"

We are now in the middle of the filing period for various elective offices. Most of us are familiar with the public offices, such as Congress, State Senator, State Representative, County Commissioner, Sheriff, etc. However, Party offices are also open for filing: County Chairs and Precinct Chairs.

Some of our Chairs have served for many years... Joe Carrillo [Jackson, 4], Julia Carrillo [Guadalupe, 5], John Cervantes [Alderson, 6], Conrado Cavazos [Lou Stubbs, 21] were first elected in the 1970s... others have come and gone. But when a precinct is vacant, the voters of that neighborhood lose one of their important voices... the Precinct Chair!

Recently, North, East and Central Lubbock has been under assault in a number of areas: the Overton North neighborhood was uprooted and bulldozed by the McDougal Companies; the Guadalupe Neighborhood Center was torn down without a replacement facility being provided for; bond money was approved for Northeast Lubbock and then taken away by the City Council to be spent in Southwest Lubbock; O.L. Slaton and Guadalupe Elementary have been put on the chopping block for closure by the Lubbock Independent School District, and in many areas, the State Legislature has favored corporations over neighborhoods, particularly in the area of utility fee and rate increases.

Each political party has a County Chair, and numerous Precinct Chairs, one Chair for each neighborhood: for example, Arnett-Benson has two, Precincts 1 and 3; Arnett is Precinct 2, Jackson is Precinct 4, Guadalupe is 5; Alderson is 6; Overton North is 8; Overton South is 10; Dupre is 17; O'Neill Terrace is 18; Bean is 19; P.F. Brown is 25, Harvell is 26, Ella Iles is 20, and the old Posey neighborhood is 40. All told, Lubbock County has 89 functioning Precincts, fifteen in North, East and Central Lubbock. Each Precinct Chair has a seat on the Party's Executive Committee: the Lubbock County Democratic Executive Committee, the Lubbock County Republican Executive Committee, and the Lubbock County Libertarian Executive Committee.

It is imperative that the elected leaders of our neighborhoods be active and vocal in such matters. We can't always depend on our City Councilmen, Commissioners and State Representatives to provide such leadership... so the ultimate in grassroots representation is, and always has been, the Precinct Chairs! Imagine how much more powerful our neighborhood voice would be with fifteen Democratic Chairs, fifteen Republican Chairs, and fifteen Libertarian Chairs standing as one to say, we represent our neighborhoods, and WE SHALL BE HEARD!

If our elected Precinct Chairs met together in a non-partisan fashion, they could be a powerful influence on elected officials and public policy.

The filing period opened in October, and comes to an end on JANUARY 2... no fee is required, and the filing form is a one-page notarized document. If you are interested in one of these Chairmanships, of any one of the three political parties, please contact El Editor, or one of the numbers/Email addresses below.

Roger Quannah Settler "El Indio" RQSettler@aol.com (806) 747-1230

fellow at the Brookings Institution, said, "There's no doubt that we are at a high in immigration to the United States." Singer said immigrants are attracted by economic opportunities and social ties to people already living in the United States.

"Look at places where people come from, these are places with very limited economic opportunities," Singer said.

Mexico is the largest supplier of immigrants to the United States, followed by East Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, Central America and South America, according to the report.

A divided House Judiciary Committee approved a bill last week that would enlist military support in border surveillance and set new mandatory minimum sentences on smugglers and people convicted of re-entry after removal. Illegal presence in the country, now a civil offense, would become a federal crime.

The full House is expected to take up the measure this week, before it adjourns for the year.

President Bush has proposed a guest worker program that could allow illegal immigrants to stay in the country temporarily to fill jobs unwanted by Americans.

The guest worker provision is not part of the House bill.

Activists have been arguing for years that America needs to better secure its borders against illegal immigrants, while others argue that the American economy would collapse without the cheap labor provided by undocumented workers.

The Center for Immigration Studies report says that immigrants, on average, are less educated and more likely to live in poverty than people born in the United States.

The Pew Hispanic Center, however, says that education levels are

improving among recent immigrants.

Camarota said the U.S. should work harder to expel people who are in the United States illegally.

"The obvious thing is to enforce the law, at the border and at the work site, and to deny access to bank accounts and driver licenses," Camarota said.

But Angela Kelley, deputy director of the National Immigration Forum, said it would be impossible to deport as many as 11 million illegally immigrants, who make up about 5 percent of the U.S. work force.

"There isn't fairy dust that is going to make the 11 million people go away," Kelley said. "It would be far more sensible to have them come out into the light of day and give them a chance to join the American family on a permanent basis."

Latino Ears

(From Page 1)

So what does that say about the claim that Hispanics can't reach the political ladder's top rungs without backing from a huge ethnic vote? Colorado and Florida are both about 19% Hispanic; New Jersey 15%.

Conversely, what does it say about states with a third or more Hispanic residents that aren't on the highest legislative rung?

Actually, New Mexicans have sent a total of three Latinos to the U.S. Senate in decades from the '20s into the '70s, and currently have a Latino governor, Bill Richardson.

The tea leaves and Latino political analysts are saying that the new Latino trio in the Senate may have more company from California, Texas and/or, again, New Mexico in another national election or two.

US Hispanics criticize passing of immigration initiative

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest US Hispanics' rights defending organization, criticized today the passing of an immigration law initiative after labeling it as "restrictive" and "ill-intentioned".

"Instead of coming up with an effective and integral proposal to the immigration problems, the law project (created by radical Congressmen) is a bundle of ill-intentioned clauses obstructing privacy", the NCLR stated in a press release.

The Judicial Committee of the United States Chamber of Representatives passed this Thursday with 23 votes for and 15 votes against, the immigration reform initiative limited to border security and major sanctions, leaving out a temporary workers plan.

The legislative panel agreed on submitting the Illegal Immigration Control, Anti-terrorism and Border Protection Initiative to the Congress with the purpose of having it voted upon next December 14.

"Nobody is against security or law enforcement, but this proposal is an offense to everyone in the Congress and other legislative entities working to repair our wrong immigration system", the NCLR leader, Janet Murguía, affirmed in the press release.

"Republican Congressmen not only come up with highly punitive and extremely restrictive, as well as tax-spending, laws but also do they go beyond and play with the lives of human beings to earn political renown. This is just unacceptable", she regretted.

The passed initiative combined the Terrorist Prevention and Border Security law proposal passed by the Homeland Security Committee (HR4312) with that of the Border Protection, Anti-Terrorism and Illegal Immigration Control (HR4437).

None of the above mentioned initiatives contemplated the temporary workers plan or the immigration legalization part.

The HR4312 law project would allow the compulsory detention of

thousands of undocumented immigrants with less than 14 days in the country and who are 160 kms from the border.

Such initiative would also fuel the hiring of eight thousand additional Border Patrol agents and one thousand new inspectors at the customs offices in a four years' span. Some 32 thousand beds to detain undocumented immigrants would be added and physical barriers would also be built.

Sensenbrenner's initiative joined that of King's but none of them deal with a temporary workers or legalization plan.

Sensenbrenner added three chapters. The first one makes the presence of undocumented immigrants in the United States a crime or that of those whose visa has expired and become illegal aliens, as well as for those who marry an American citizen to regularize their stay in the country.

"Such extremist proposals do not help in urging a rational conversation over a comprehensive immigration reform", Murguía assured.

Clama tras ejecucion de Stanley Williams

del juicio que lo encontró culpable del asesinato de cuatro personas en 1979.

El parquecito al costado sur del Ayuntamiento angelino, que había sido testigo de innumerables conferencias de prensa en torno a "Tookie" Williams, se miraba desierto ayer en la mañana. Otros asuntos y causas absorbían a los periodistas en el Centro Cívico angelino.

Reacciones La Asociación Nacional para la Defensa de la Gente de Color (NAACP) que abogó hasta el último minuto porque se suspendiera la ejecución, dio a conocer ayer un escueto comunicado deplorando que no se otorgara clemencia en el caso Williams.

"El martes 13 de diciembre perdimos a un gran luchador contra el racismo, la injusticia y la pena de muerte. La ejecución de Stanley 'Tookie' Williams es una atrocidad que no puede ser olvidada o perdonada", dijo el comunicado.

El lunes, este mismo grupo anunció que un día antes se había presentado a los tribunales una declaración jurada de un ex pre-

sidiario blanco que a última hora salió públicamente a desautorizar a uno de los testigos usados por la Fiscalía de Los Angeles para hacer condenar a Williams.

Fue infructuoso. Poco después de la rueda de prensa en que la NAACP presentó a Gordon Bradbury Von Ellerman, el testigo de última hora, el Noveno Circuito de Apelaciones rechazó el amparo para detener la ejecución.

Las manifestaciones más fuertes por la muerte de Stanley Williams se produjeron realmente en la Unión Europea, donde la pena capital fue abolida hace muchos años. En Graz, Austria, el pueblo natal del Gobernador de California, miembros del Partido Verde presentaron una moción tendiente a cambiar el nombre del estadio local, que lleva el nombre de Schwarzenegger.

"Este desenlace no debe sorprender a nadie", dijo Franklin D. Gilliam Jr, profesor de Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad de California en Los Angeles (UCLA) en una entrevista telefónica: "es sabido que el gobernador está a favor de la pena de muerte y así se

ha presentado.

Gilliam no cree que la ejecución del cofundador de los Crips vaya a servir mucho para hacer avanzar la causa de la abolición de ese castigo, considerando que la mayoría de estadounidenses lo aprueban.

Advierte, eso sí, que el caso de Stanley Williams contiene tantos elementos (la desproporcionada presencia de negros y latinos en el corredor de la muerte, el alto perfil del condenado, el concepto de clemencia, el principio de rehabilitación de un condenado, el hecho de que múltiples amparos fueran rechazados por los tribunales) que lo convierten en un hecho complejo que permite varias reflexiones y abre muchos interrogantes.

Los cálculos políticos no se hicieron esperar. Diferentes sectores del Partido Republicano se preguntaban ayer si la eliminación del ex pandillero era o no suficiente para que Schwarzenegger recuperara su prestigio ante la derecha, erosionado después de su decisión de escoger a Susan Kennedy, considerada un cuadro del Partido Demócrata, como su jefe de personal.

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For additional information contact the Texas Tech University System Project Manager Paulo Peres.

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Immigrants warned to watch over remittances sent to Mexico

Greg Abbott, Texas' Attorney General, made a call for immigrants to be careful when they send money to Mexico, especially during the holiday season.

Abbott issued a press release to urge people to report money remittance companies that are suspicious to be taking advantage of their clients.

He highlighted that there are cooperation agreements with the Mexican Consumer Federal Office (Profecio in Spanish) and the consumer defense group Texas Appleseed, in order to make sure that the thousands of people sending money from Texas to Mexico get a fair treatment.

Paco Felici, spokesman for the General Attorney office, stated that Abbott meet twice this year Profecio's head, Carlos Arce Macias, in order to talk about this issue.

"We are aware that, although most money remittance companies respect their clients and work in accordance with the law, there are also fraud cases," Felici stated.

The law in Texas states that consignment companies must give their clients a receipt for the amount of money sent, all the tolls, and information about currency exchange, as well as a free number for clients.

The law states that the receipt must be translated into Spanish if the money is being sent to Mexico, or any other Spanish-speaking country.

The Texas Attorney General's office recommended that consumers choose the cheapest money remittance offices with the best currency exchange.

The office gave a list of violation to the Texan laws that may occur in the case of consignments. It called people to report the companies in



case of irregular situations.

For example, if the currency exchange rate announced or in the receipt is different.

As well as if the person receiving the money in Mexico is asked to pay an additional fee the sender did not specify.

It could also be reported if the person receiving the money in Mexico in a store or supermarket is forced to get something in the store instead of the money.

Also, if the consignment is taking much more time than it was told; as well as if the company refuses to give written information about the currency exchange and the transference conditions, or does not give a receipt.

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GRAND OPENING



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Minority Access to Computers Limited

continued from page 3

research:

Teenagers who have access to home computers are 6 to 8 percentage points more likely to graduate from high school than teens who lack access to a home computer, after controlling for individual, parental, and family characteristics.

Only 50.6 percent of blacks and 48.7 percent of Latinos have access to home computers, compared with 74.6 percent of whites.

Only 40.5 percent of blacks and 38.1 percent of Latinos have internet access at home, compared with 67.3 percent of whites.

Among children, slightly more than half of all black and Latino children have access to a home computer, and about 40 percent have internet access at home. By comparison, 85.5 percent of white children have home computer access, and 77.4 percent can use the internet at home.

Asians have home-computer and internet-access rates that are slightly higher than white rates (77.7 and 70.3 percent, compared with 74.6 and 67.3 percent).

Among Latinos, Mexicans have the lowest home computer and internet access rates, followed by Central and South Americans.

Racial disparities in access to computer technology--the so-called "digital divide"--are largely ignored in the latest U.S. Department of Commerce reports, called "A Nation Online," Fairlie said.

"We are clearly not all a 'nation online,'" he said. "Twenty million children in the United States, or 26 percent of children, have no computer access at home, and race is a key part of who's online and who isn't."

The most recent Commerce report on computer access, "A Nation Online: Entering the Broadband Age," was published in 2004. While an appendix contains statistics showing computer and internet access broken out by racial subgroups, there is no discussion of these statistics or their disparities in the body of the report itself.

In previous work, Fairlie said he has found that racial disparities in access to computers at home are highest among eight- to 25-year-olds.

"These patterns are particularly troubling in light of the presumption that information technology is a new prerequisite for success in the labor market," said Fairlie, a labor economist who specializes in minority entrepreneurship. His research is funded by the W. T. Grant Foundation and the Community Technology Foundation of California.

During a recent trip to Washington, D.C., Fairlie presented his report, "Are We Really a Nation Online? Ethnic and Racial Disparities in Access to Technology and Their Consequences," to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. He also took part in a Congressional hearing on the digital divide



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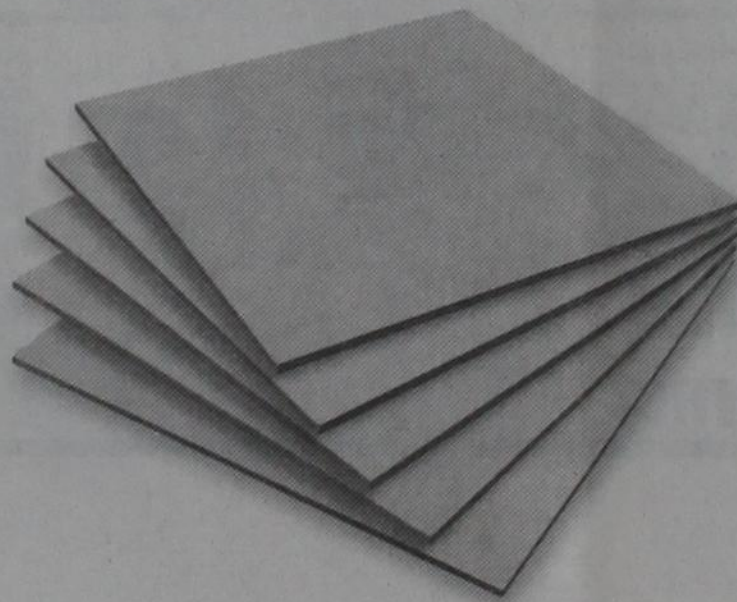
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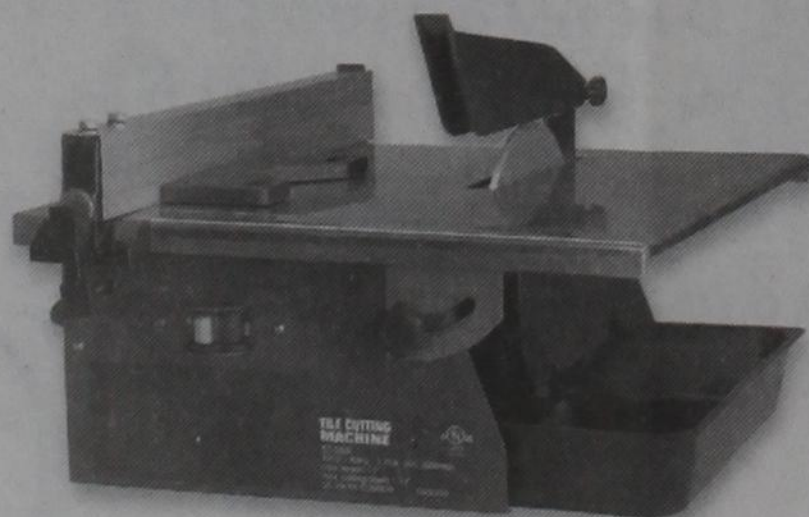
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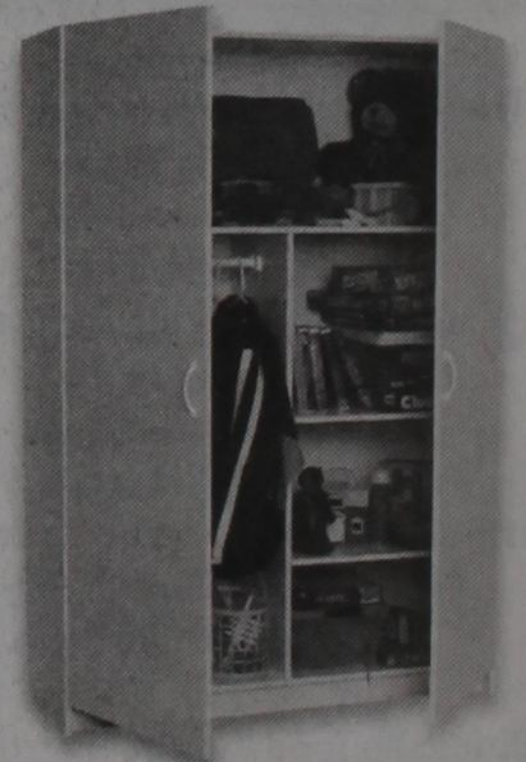
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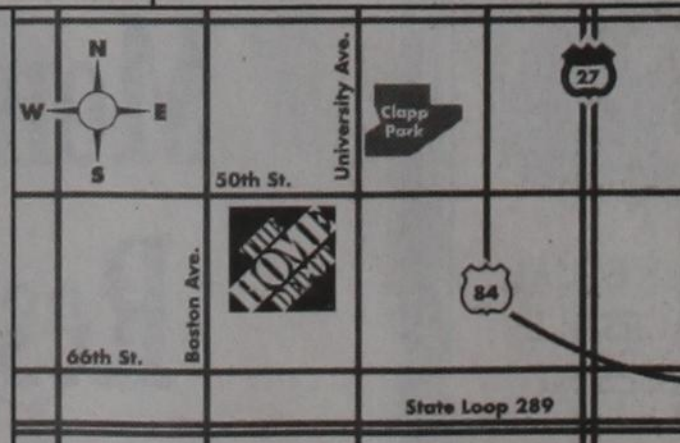
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