

Iraq - Portrait of War 2604 American Military Deaths as of August 17, 2006

El Editor

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

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America's growing diversity has reached nearly every state

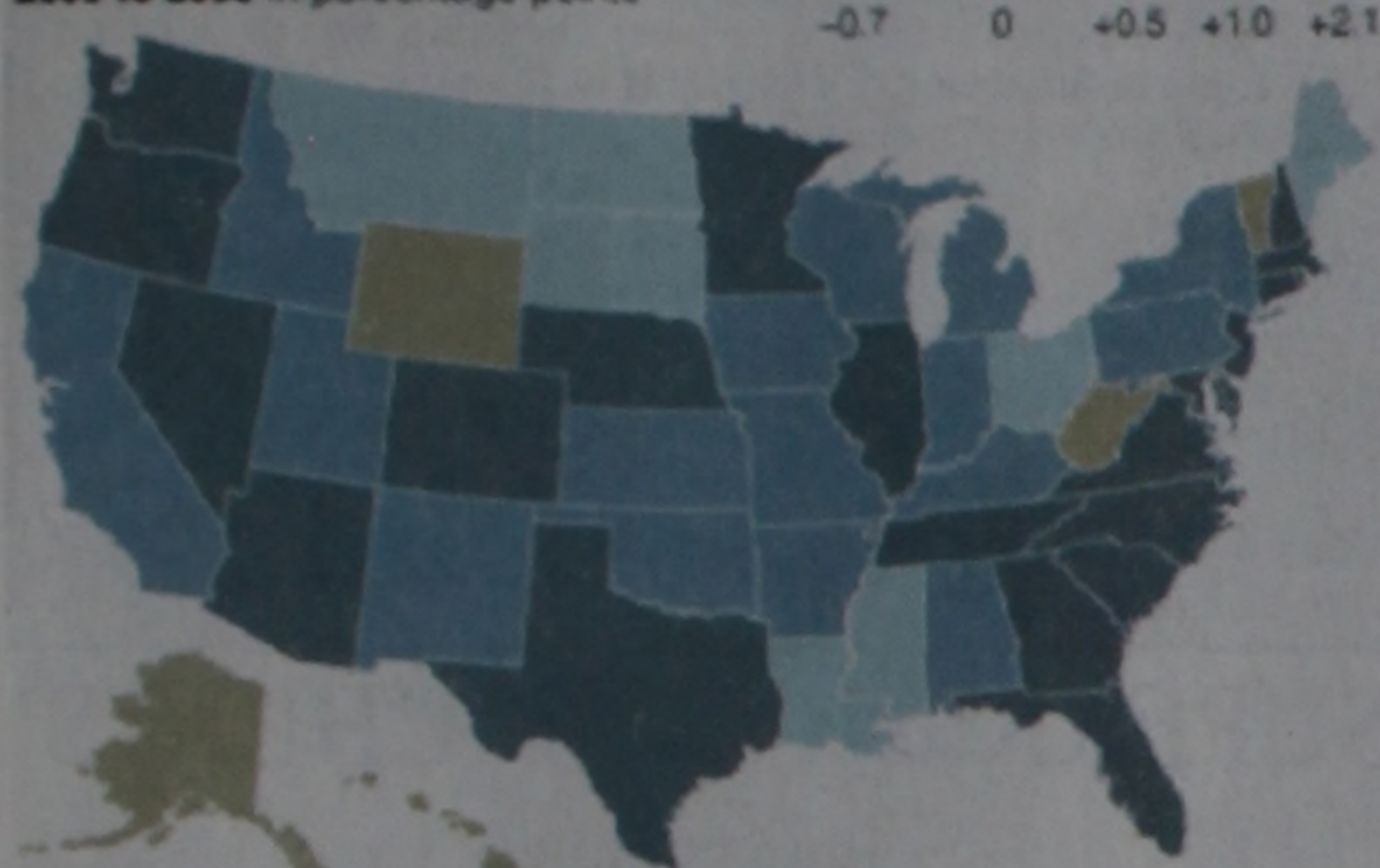
Washington - From South Carolina's budding immigrant population to the fast-rising number of Hispanics in Arkansas, minority groups make up an increasing share of the population in every state but one, according figures Tuesday by the Census Bureau.

"This is just an extraordinary explosion of diversity all across the United States," said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "It's diversity and immigration going hand in hand."

West Virginia is the exception, with its struggling economy and little history of attracting immigrants.

The Foreign-Born Population

Change in foreign-born population, 2000 to 2005 in percentage points



Foreign-born as a percentage of total population, 2005



Table with 4 columns: Country of Birth, 2000 population, 2005 population, and Percent Change. Lists top countries like Mexico, China, Philippines, India, Vietnam, El Salvador, Korea, Cuba, Canada, Dominican Republic, United Kingdom, Guatemala, Germany, Jamaica, Colombia, Haiti, Poland, Italy, Honduras, and Peru.

Frey said states that attract large numbers of immigrants can consider it a "badge of economic success." There have, however, been backlashes.

"In some places it will be awhile before they are accepted by the locals," Frey said. "All we have to do is look at this immigration debate."

Immigration policy is a big issue in this year's midterm congressional elections, and the new data help explain why. Immigrants, legal and illegal, make up a growing portion of the population in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, they went from 11.1 percent of the population in 2000 to 12.4 percent last year.

The 2005 figures are from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, which is replacing the "long form" on the 10-year census. Starting this year, the annual survey of about 3 million households provides yearly data on communities of 65,000 or larger. By 2010, it will provide annual multiyear averages for the smallest neighborhoods covered by the 10-year census.

The data released Tuesday cover, race, immigration, education and age characteristics. Economic and housing data will be released in the coming weeks.

The survey, which cost \$170 million in 2005, has limitations. For example, only people living in households were surveyed. That excludes the 3 percent of people who live in nursing homes, hospitals, college dormitories, military barracks, prisons and other dwellings known as group quarters.

Also, the numbers for Gulf Coast states do not reflect the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which scattered hundreds of thousands of people last year.

Among the findings:

Education levels increased in every state from 2000 to 2005. Nationally, the share of adults 25 and older with at least a high school diploma increased from 80 percent to 84 percent. The share of adults with at least a bachelor's degree increased from 24 percent to 27 percent.

Every state is getting older. Nationally, the median age, the one at which half the population is older and half is younger, went from 35.3 in 2000 to 36.4 last year.

Hispanics increased their hold as the country's largest minority group, at 14.5 percent of the population, compared with 12.8 percent for blacks.

Hispanic is a term for people with ethnic backgrounds in Spanish-

Immigration prompts heightened political attention for Hispanics

The hot-button immigration issue caught the attention of Hispanics and in turn has prompted extra interest in the niche voting bloc in border and non-border states alike.

Hispanic throughout the U.S. will be watching the immigration debate this fall in midterm congressional elections and campaigns for governor in 36 states. Republicans are defending 22 governorships and Democrats 14.

Hispanics offer a sometimes puzzling demographic for politicians: They represent the fast-growing segment of the American population, currently 14 percent, but their share of the electorate is half that. Forty percent are illegal immigrants ineligible to vote.

Still, even small voting blocs can represent the difference between winning or losing in a sharply divided electorate, and politicians are paying attention in Ohio, Pennsylvania and other states.

The issue is before Congress, and many states are moving to tighten illegal immigration rules.

Mass demonstrations last spring reflected a determination to fight tough immigration restrictions. "In another sense, it sends them underground" fearing legal reprisals over their immigration status, Perez said.

speaking countries. Hispanics can be of any race, and most in the U.S. are white. When demographers talk about the shrinking percentage of white people in America, generally they are talking about whites who are not Hispanic.

Such whites are a minority in four states, Hawaii, New Mexico, California and Texas, and the District of Columbia. The share of white people fell below 60 percent in three other states, Maryland, Georgia and Nevada. Nationally, non-Hispanic whites make up about 67 percent of the population, down from 70 percent at the start of the decade.

California, New York, Texas and Florida have the nation's largest immigrant populations. The new data show that immigrants will travel beyond those states if there are jobs available.

South Carolina's immigrant population grew by 47 percent since 2000, more than any other state. Hispanics grew by 48 percent in Arkansas, the most of any state.

Michael MacFarlane, South Carolina's state demographer, said immigrants and Hispanics were attracted by a healthy economy that offered jobs requiring few skills.

"They are in all sorts of construction, food processing, service jobs, the whole spectrum, where they used to be primarily in agriculture," MacFarlane said.

West Virginia, meanwhile, was one of only two states in which the percentage of white people grew. The other was Hawaii, where whites are an increasing minority.

COMMUNITY VOICES

This week El Editor decide to poll teachers and educators on the question of test scores in public school.

Question of the week: Recently one of Texas' largest teacher's unions called for an overhaul of standardized testing. The president of the Texas Federation of Teachers said that the state's emphasis on scores is "destructive" and takes away from students learning critical thinking. What is your opinion? What is the impact on Hispanic students; are they being negatively affected?

It is the opinion of this office that scores are important to determine successfulness of the education. The real issue with students learning and using critical thinking skills is parents are not working with their children to help them gain knowledge, i.e., assuring homework is completed so when they go to class they can handle the class work. Parents have to take interest in their child's early educational class assignments to develop a good attitude toward learning. Parents of Hispanic students need to get involved in helping their children learn. Parents can not just let their children do what they want to do with their personal time, i.e., play all the time. They need guidance from the parents.

Class room teachers are teaching well, but students have to take on the attitude of wanting to learn.

Thank you.

Mike Jackson, Lubbock via Email

My question first of all is what kind of overhaul of standardized testing is the union thinking of doing? I think the State of Texas really needs to take a real close look at this. If students are being taught right in the schools, there would be no need to have all the "extra" testing that is going on. Teachers have to take time off from their regular teaching to "prepare" students for the tests that are mandated. Teachers and students get stressed out because they know that they are expected to pass the tests. We did not get the preparation time that students have now to make sure they do well in their tests. We did well on our achievement tests because we had teachers who cared and taught the lessons they were supposed to. This is what prepared us for the tests we took every 2 years. It was very rare anyone flunked those achievement tests. I think the State needs to look at the basics of teaching the subjects that are required for students to learn. Has the union ever bothered to ask the teachers and educators what they think? Apparently, they haven't because you still hear of teachers getting stressed out because of the tests they have to prepare their students for.

Minerva Alaniz, Lubbock via Email

All students will be negatively affected! Just because some in the state public school system wish to ignore standardized test scores doesn't mean that colleges will ignore the scores. Students will be forced to think critically after they have failed to enter college due to their inadequate educations. They would conclude that they were cheated of a quality education as a result of empty-headed "feel good" New Age teaching philosophies. Students failing college entrance exams would be a major impact.

Hispanics and other minority students would fare the worst if scores were ignored as minorities are constantly struggling to meet academic expectations compared to other groups. With these expectations removed, the thinking is that somehow everyone will have an equal understanding of the curriculum.

Many people are not aware that seventh graders in Bangladesh have a better understanding of Calculus than most U.S. Seniors graduating with in our current educational system. With grade expectations removed, it guarantees that our children will become excellent subordinates to their Indian, Asian, and European bosses in the American workplace. Americans are not aware that the higher paying jobs are not only being shipped overseas, however many higher paying jobs in the continental US are being taken by ultra-educated foreigners moving to the US due to the absence of college educated American employees, especially in the American computer technology and nuclear science job sectors.

Thus begs the question, why does the Texas Federation of Teachers really want to change focus away from scores? Because of the TAKS test. The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) is taken by most Texas public school students in spring of each year during grades 3-11. Teachers are held personally accountable for TAKS test scores. Teachers have lost jobs as a result of students failing the TAKS test.

Naturally all teachers want to keep their jobs so what better way to stay employed than to ignore standardized tests and pass students regardless of their critical inability to think (this is what is meant by critical thinking mentioned earlier). This attitude demonstrates the apathy and the desperation of educators in Texas. Many value their own jobs over the futures of the students they teach.

Without standardized tests to compete against foreigners, Texas students will lose their place in global society and be denied the pursuit of engineering, computer science, or math careers. This has been happening for some time already, but it only has been made more evident as the Texas school system fails to deliver qualified college candidates and more high-tech high paying American jobs are increasingly moving out of reach of Americans due to the poor quality of public education.

Out of all this bad news, there is hope.

It was once asked of famed high school Calculus teacher Jaime Escalante, "Is there someone who influenced you as a child -- someone that changed your life?" he responded, "My mother and a teacher that told me, 'I'm going to teach you something that you will remember all your life...'"

(continued on page 2)

Pro-Immigrant Groups Plan New Round of Massive Marches

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

Immigrant, labor and religious groups nationwide are gearing up for a new round of massive marches beginning the first week of September to press Congress once again to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

The We Are America Alliance, comprised of more than a dozen national and local pro-immigrant groups, is coordinating marches with other national and local organizations that will take place in such metropolitan areas as Washington, D.C., Chicago, Phoenix and Los Angeles.

The Washington, D.C., event will be coordinated with the National Capital Immigration Coalition, which organized the huge pro-immigrant demonstrations held nationwide April 10.

The September rallies will renew the call for the legalization of all 12 million of the estimated undocumented immigrants residing in the United States. They are scheduled during Labor Day week when Congress returns from recess.

However, some groups such as Latino Movement USA, which were instrumental in the national May 1 boycott, are moving cautiously. "It's not too clear how effective these will be," Latino Movement USA director Juan José Gutiérrez told Hispanic Link News Service. "Everybody wants to make symbolic calls."

Gutiérrez said his group is still reviewing and finalizing how it will engage in mobilization actions in September. "You don't want what happened on May 19," he said, in reference to a National Mall rally which brought together for the first time major mobilization leaders from Washington, D.C., and California. At that point, the leaders were still trying to reach consensus on structure, purpose and strategies to coordinate their efforts effectively. That rally, which some predicted could draw tens of thousands, barely attracted one thousand.

But Cheryl Aguilar, a spokesperson for the Center for Community Change, told Hispanic Link that more than 40 local grassroots organizations nationwide are rousing their communities to join the march in the nation's capital on Sept. 7.

Aguilar said the coalitions are aiming to gather as many as one million undocumented immigrants and their supporters. The demonstration at the National Mall on April 10 drew about 500,000 people.

(Continued on Page 5)



Wal-Mart Opens in North Lubbock

North Lubbock residents joined together on Wednesday to welcome a new Wal-Mart to the Community. Present at the ribbon cutting were Lubbock elected officials including Councilperson Linda Deleon, Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez and Mayor David Miller.

Store manager Wazul Murray welcomed the crowd that enjoyed free gifts and grand opening cakes during the ribbon cutting.

"We hope that this Wal-Mart SuperCenter will only be the start of many good things that will happen in the future here in North Lubbock" said Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez.

Vicente Fernandez Orgullosamente Latino Awards Nominee

Vicente Fernández, Gilberto Santarosa, Omara Portuondo, Johnny Ventura and Caetano Veloso are the nominated artists in the Latino Life Achievement category of the "Orgullosamente Latino" Awards, granted by the Ritmoson TV channel.

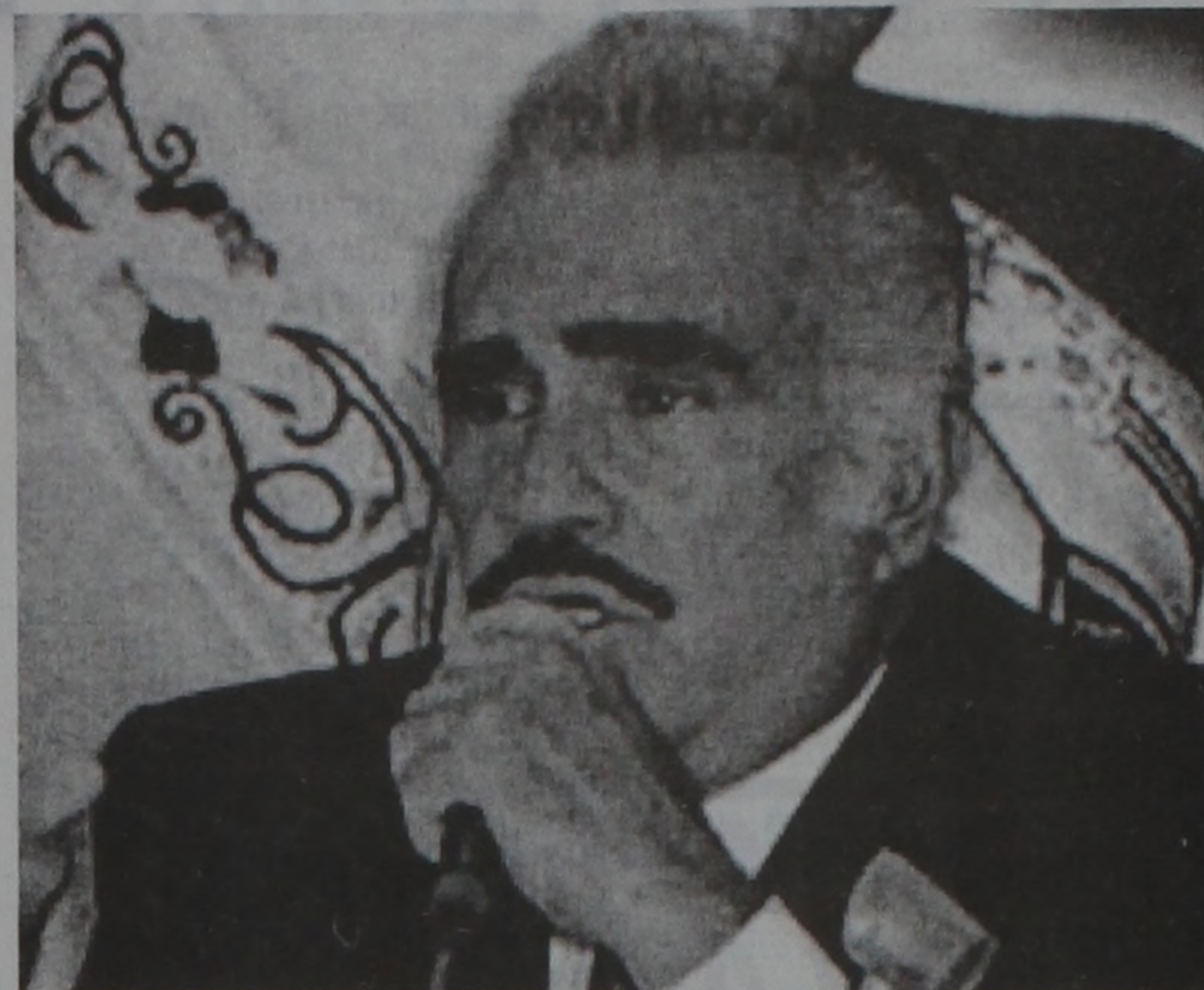
In a press conference, producer Alexis Nuñez affirmed that for this third edition of the 2006 Orgullosamente Latino awards, voting will be from August 21 until September 4 to pick the winning Latino artists in the following categories:

Latino Song of the Year, Latino Album of the Year,

Latino Video of the Year, Latino Female Solo Artist of the Year, Latino Male Solo Artist of the Year, Latino Band and Latino Life Achievement Award. Everyone can see them by accessing the webpage www.ritmosonlatino.com and pick their favorite artists.

Only five singers previously selected in the first phase of the voting will make it to the second round. One of those artists will be the winner of the online election to take place next September 11-14.

Ritmoson Latino will broadcast next October 28 a special TV show in which the



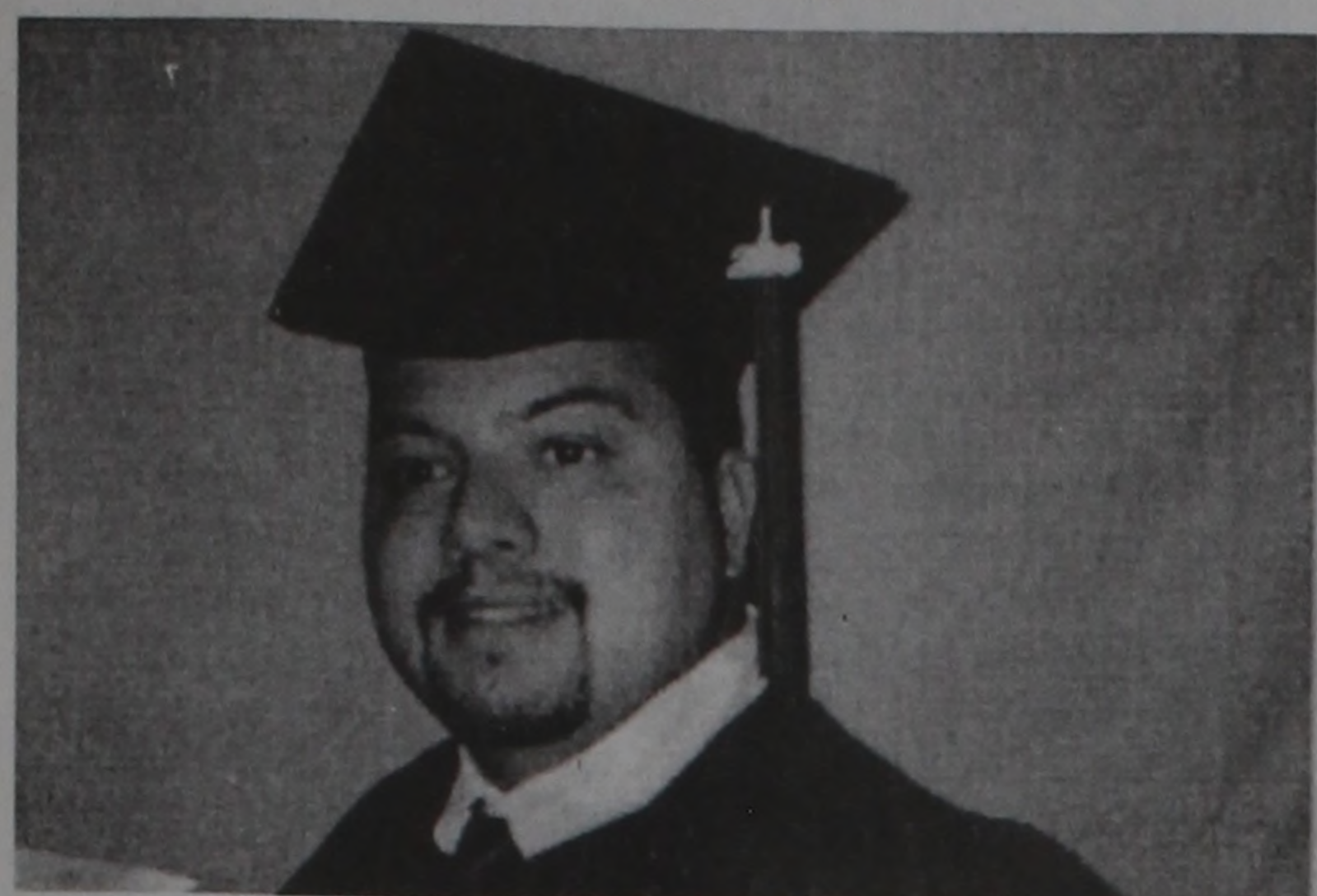
winners will meet their voting fans.

A fan will be eligible to render an award to show their account statements as proof they are legal TV viewers, as well as being of age.

Alexis Nuñez stated there are no previous nominees but some artists included in the

Female Solo Artist category are Shakira, Fey, Laura Pausini and Denisse de Kalafe, among others.

Some of the Male Latino Artists nominees are Alejandro Fernández, Juanes, Joaquín Sabina, Luis Fonsi, Miguel Bosé, Ricardo Arjona and Reily, among others.



David Lee Valderaz graduated on August 12 from Tech with a BA in Biology and Science. He is the son of a very proud Maria Valderaz and the brother of Johnny Valderaz who have both helped David Lee get through school. He plans to continue his education at Tech to possibly become a nurse practitioner. Congratulations from all his family.

A.B. Quintanilla Breaks His Silence



for the first time it was Cruz Martinez who betrayed him within the band he himself created on March 26, 1999, four years after the tragic death of her sister Selena.

He said the money was being managed by the keyboard player and that he asked him for a money transfer on December of that same year. Martinez simply replied: "somebody ripped us off. I will find them. They stole money from me too".

He assured that the stolen amount of money "could be up to one million dollars" but did not specify if he will initiate legal action in Mexico to get back the money or the band's name since it is already registered under his name in the US.

Martinez, who lives in Mexico's northern city of Monterrey with his wife, Alicia Villarreal, denied in a previous interview in the show "Don Francisco Presenta" they have money problems and that he knew

the "traitor" Quintanilla was referring to.

During the interview with Cristina, Quintanilla said Cruz told him he would get the Kumbia Kings name back but he should not cast him out of the band; Quintanilla refused the offer and ruled out burying the hatchet.

"He is not my friend anymore; he is like any other person who tried to harm my family. The sad thing about all this is that he will not be remembered for his good music but for the man who stole money from A.B. Quintanilla's band," he said.

Quintanilla has now formed the band Kumbia All-Stars which hired Kumbia King's frontman, Pee Wee, and launched their first single called "Chiquilla" to compete against their ex-band's song "Dulce niña".

The new band's members include his brother-in-law Chris Pérez, "Bubble" and Gepard, former Kumbia Kings members.

American music producer A.B. Quintanilla stated he lost almost \$1 million when

Lubbock Habitat for Humanity

Are you thinking of buying a home? Lubbock Habitat for Humanity wants to help! You are invited to attend one of the following homebuyer workshops but you must bring a photo ID to participate: Saturday, August 26 or Saturday, October 28th, 2006 from 9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m. at the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center on Avenue Q and 34th Street. You must attend one of these workshops to receive an application. Lubbock Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization who helps low income families in need of simple decent affordable housing. If you have any questions please call 806-763-4663.

From Front Page

In Chicago, members of the March 10 Committee, named as such following the rally there on that date which brought 100,000 protesters to the streets, announced a four-day march - the Immigrant Workers Justice Walk - encompassing a 40-mile area starting Sept. 1 and ending on Labor Day.

The walk will conclude at House Speaker Dennis Hastert's Chicago district office. Organizers also plan a hearing which they emphasize will be more inclusive of immigrants' concerns than those being held elsewhere by the U.S. House of Representatives this summer.

In Phoenix, there will be voter registration activities and a march to the state capitol building on Sept. 4.

In Los Angeles, a rally is planned Sept. 9 at a location yet to be announced.

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Amberly Gomez, Miss Hispanic Lubbock 2006



2006 Miss Hispanic Lubbock Pageant Contestants - L to R: Amy G. Gomez, Valeria Martinez, Ashley Preib, Amanda Salazar, Melinda Rojas

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Miss Hispanic Lubbock Scholarship Pageant

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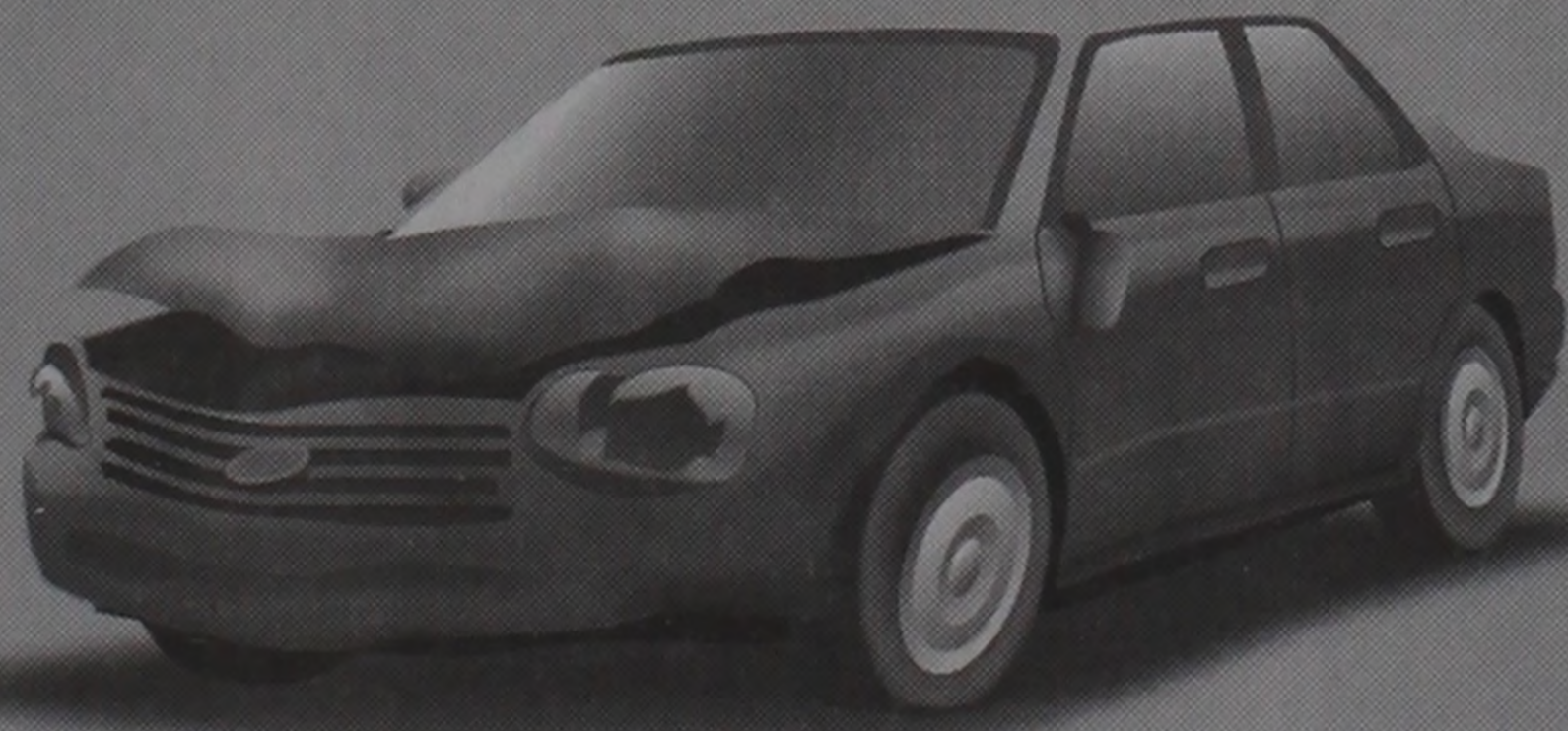
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It's Terrellby Exciting to Watch Tuna-Owens

"With the first preseason game coming up in a few days, I wanted to do everything I could to get ready to play as soon as possible. So when I was asked to go sign the autographs, I said I wanted to go to my scheduled treatment instead. Coach (Andy) Reid didn't like that: He had a system that all of the players follow, and he told me to go over there and sign. I told him I

was going to get my treatment. He lost his patience and told me, 'Just shut up.' I told him that I was a grown man and that he should shut up."

-- Terrell Owens in his book T.O.

You shut up. No, you shut up. You're a jerk. Nope, you are. That is what being around Terrell Owens for an extended period of time does to a man. He forces you to

revert back to sixth grade insults.

When Owens was with Philadelphia, he caused two of the NFL's more tranquil and pacifistic people in Reid and quarterback Donovan McNabb to lose their mind in mini-fits of maddening anger. Now, he is with Bill Parcells, a.k.a. Coach Grumps, who is eternally frumpy and fussy, and has as much patience for an Owens type of player as he does someone tickling his feet.

Now, everyone is watching the clock. Tick, tick, tock.

Everyone knows it is only a matter of time before Coach Grumps and his star pouty receiver, Terrellby Sensitive Owens, are at each other's throats like a snooty flight attendant and a sleepless passenger.

Tick, tick, tock. It will happen. A screaming match or curses tossed and verbal hooks thrown. It will happen. Count on it. Tick, tick, tock.

"Coach Reid should not have told me to shut up, and I shouldn't have said that back to him. A part of me

hated to get into a confrontation with him. Another part of me, the part that was just waiting for the chance to fight back against 'the man,' would not stand for that kind of disrespect."

-- Owens in his book T.O.
No, Reid should not have told Owens to shut his pie hole. Yet that scene illus-

trates who Owens is more than perhaps any other. Owens sees his standing up to Reid through the prism of defiance, like he is some sort of civil rights leader taking a seat at the whites-only lunch counter. In actuality Owens seems to have as much inse-

continued on page 5

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Yankees Break Ground on \$1 billion stadium, aim for 2009

New York Yankees and politicians broke ground Wednesday on a billion-dollar stadium project across the street from The House That Ruth Built.

In front of a huge rendering of the new Yankee Stadium, team owner George Steinbrenner, Gov. George Pataki, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and others donned Yankees hard hats and plunged shovels into some loosened dirt.

Hall of Famer Yogi Berra, superfan Billy Crystal and dozens of politicians and team officials watched from a small grandstand. Pataki said fans "will be entering an icon" when they come to Yankee games starting in 2009, just as he did when he first visited Yankee Stadium 50 years ago.

Yankees president Randy Levine called the project "the continuation of a great legacy." Mayor Michael Bloomberg said it would "symbolize the resurgence of the South Bronx."

During 90 minutes of speeches, only Steinbrenner, who complained of the heat, was brief.

"It's a pleasure to give this to you people," he said. "Enjoy the new stadium. I hope it's wonderful."

The ceremony came a day after a state Supreme Court judge denied opponents a temporary restraining order that would have blocked construction. He found there was no legal bar to cutting down trees to permit a project that benefits the city

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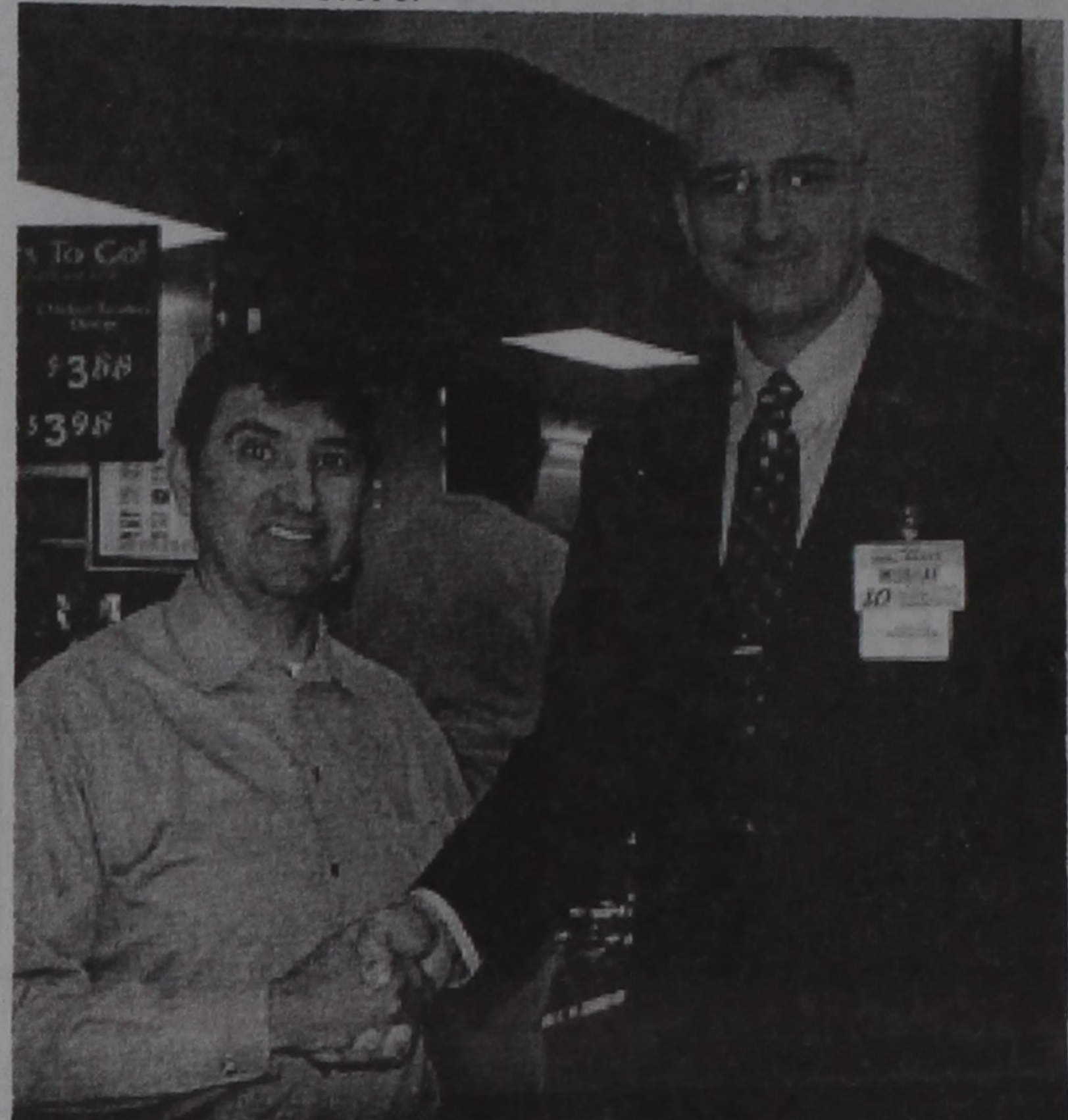
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Wal-Mart Store Now OPEN!



Lubbock's Mayor David Miller and Councilwoman Linda DeLeon were part of the cutting ribbon ceremony that was held at the new Wal-Mart that is located on 4th & Ave Q yesterday morning. In bottom photo stands Lubbock County Commissioner Pct. 3 congratulating store manager Wazul Murray. Murray invites everyone to the new store.



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¡Gracias por jugar!

From Page 4

and the community.

The 53,000-seat, open-air ballpark will replace one of the most famous sports arenas in the world, home to the Yankees since 1923, when it was christened with a Babe Ruth home run on opening day.

The existing stadium, though renovated in the 1970s, is the third-oldest ballpark in the major leagues, trailing only Boston's Fenway Park (1912) and Chicago's Wrigley Field (1914).

The city and state are contributing more than \$200 million to the project, including infrastructure improvements. The Yankees

will pay the rest, financed through both taxable and tax-exempt bonds.

Until a dozen years ago, team owner George Steinbrenner had denigrated the neighborhood as dangerous and threatened to move the team to Manhattan or northern New Jersey. But the Yankees expect to draw more than 4 million fans to the stadium this year, making it the eighth consecutive season topping 3 million.

The new stadium will have fewer seats than the current capacity of 57,478, but more luxury boxes.

Construction of the new stadium will involve paving over large portions of nearby Macombs Dam Park and Mullaly Park, and cutting down about 400 mature oak trees. The Yankees are to

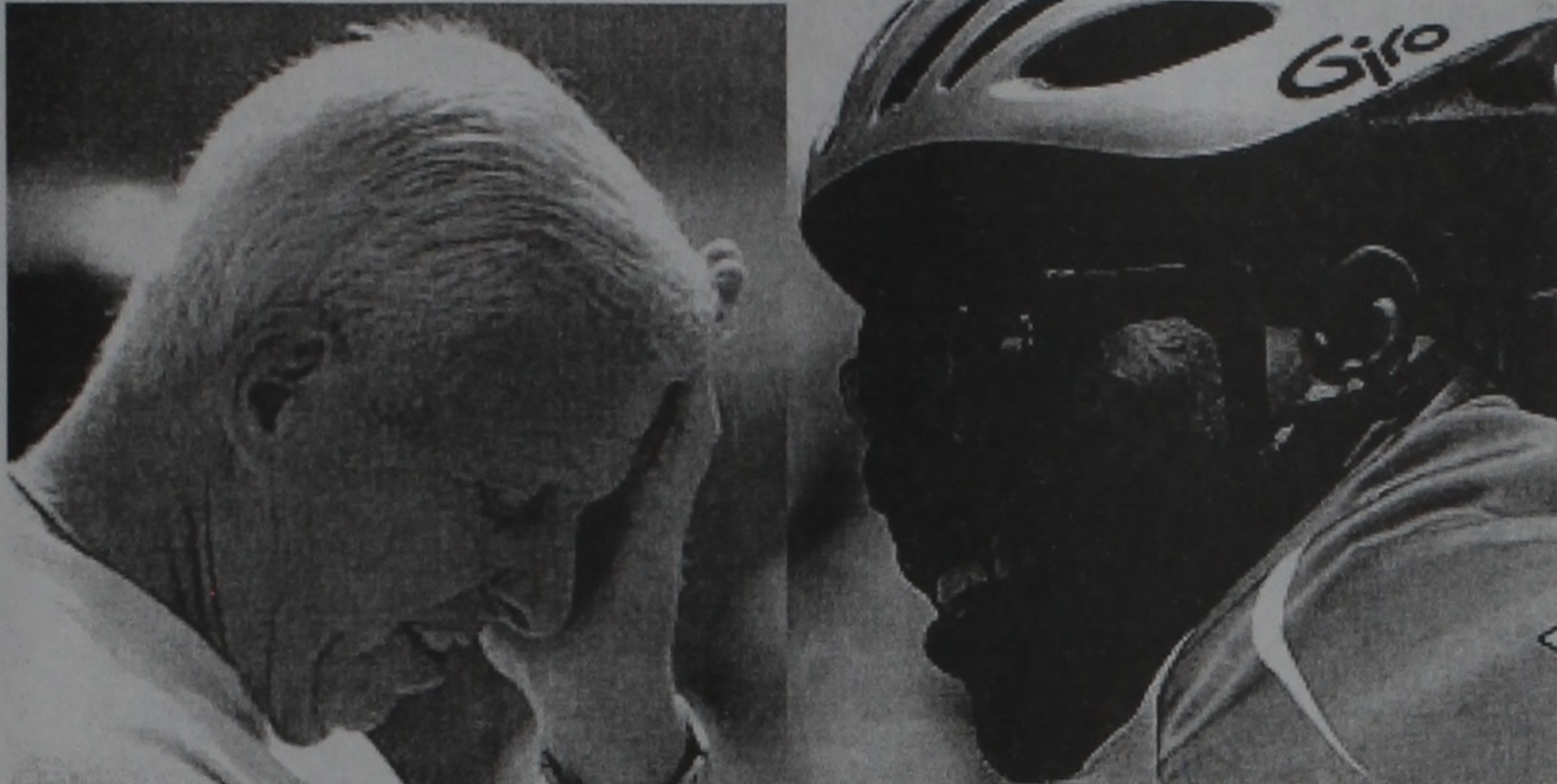
offset the loss of the parks by building new parkland including three ballfields at the site of the current Yankee Stadium.

Bloomberg and most of the city's elected officials are solidly behind the new stadium. Backers say the project will create an estimated 3,600 construction jobs and 900 permanent jobs.

But the plan met with opposition from some South Bronx neighbors and from parks advocates.

Geoffrey Croft, president of New York City Parks Advocates, said the stadium foes would appeal Tuesday's ruling and file a federal lawsuit.

"The Yankees were never required to consider practical alternatives to the taking of park land," Croft said.



Exciting to Watch Tuna-Owens

from page 4

curity as he does bulging muscles.

That is the key to decoding Owens. He is not stout or standing up to "the man" when he rips someone for the 813th time. He is not Rosa Parks. His actions are born more out of selfishness and a level 10 prima donna complex. Terrellby Sensitive Owens wants what's best for Terrellby Sensitive and he lashes out at anyone who im-

pedes his wishes. That's it. That's the story. It's not that complicated.

That is why watching this drama play out in Dallas will be so fascinating. Parcels is the coaching equivalent of Owens. Bill does what is best for Bill. He will instruct players to think only of football and rush them back from dangerous injuries, but will slyly consider another employer while he is with his

current one as he did when in New England before heading abruptly to the New York Jets. As he has done many times before.

When you have two powerful men used to having their way and dominating everyone around them there is bound to be verbal fisticuffs. Two gas giants cannot orbit one another without some sort of apocalyptic collision. Tick, tick, tock.

TAI CHI for Diabetes

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing is recruiting participants for a research project which will measure the relationship between Tai Chi exercise and Type II diabetes. Tai Chi is a form of martial arts that has easy, gentle, smooth, low impact movements with no need for equipment. Benefits to the participant include the following:

- oImproving cardiovascular function
- oImprovement of balance
- oStrengthening the immune system
- oImprove mental concentration
- oImprove circulation

Participants will have the opportunity to attend classes 3 times per week for 12 weeks and will receive a glucose monitor and strips at no cost.

If you are between the ages of 20-70 years old and have Type II diabetes please call 743-3082 or 743-2736 to sign up for pre-screening.

Notice of Public Hearing Proposed Citibus Route Changes

On August 22, the Transit Advisory Board will consider making a recommendation to City Council on changes to several of the fixed routes. The recommended changes are intended to help the routes run more efficiently.

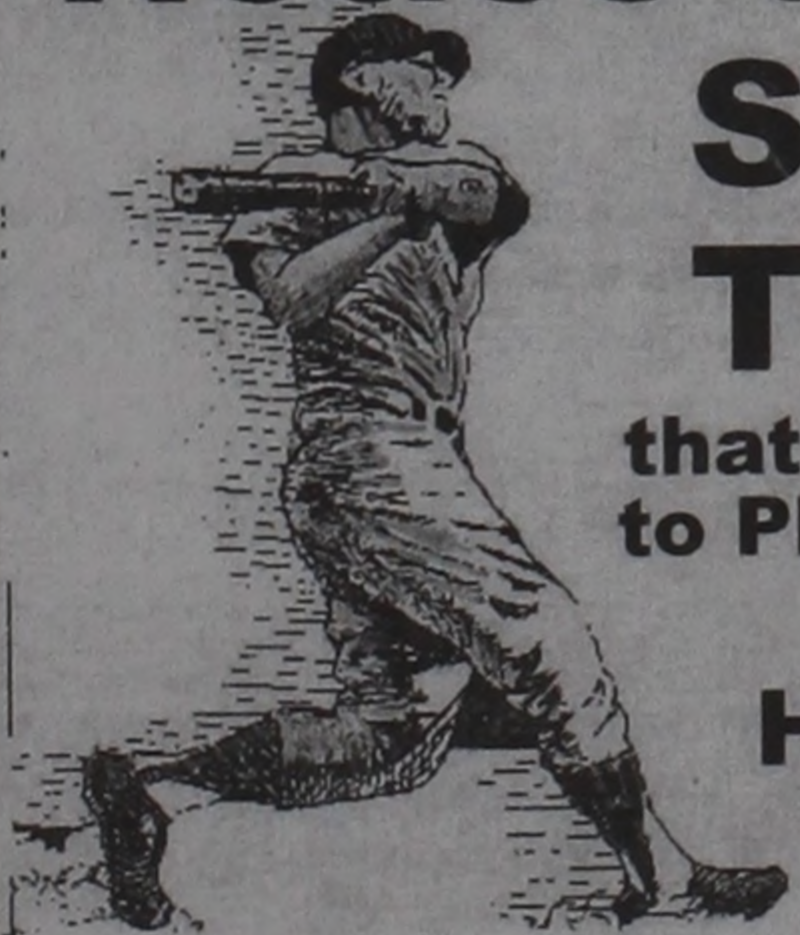
Citibus will host 2 public hearings to discuss route changes:
5:30 pm, August 21, Downtown Transfer Plaza, 801 Broadway Ave.
12 noon, August 22, Citibus conference room, 801 Texas Ave.

PROPOSED ROUTE CHANGES (BY ROUTE)	
Route 1	No change
Route 2	No change
Route 3	Will become part of Route 12 or Route 34
Route 4	Will become part of Route 5 or Route 9
Route 5	Continues to serve S. Loop 289 Wal-Mart. Will also serve South Plains Mall
Route 6	No change in route; now will connect with Route 19 at South Plains Mall
Route 7	Will become part of Route 12
Route 9	No longer serves (via Route 4) South Plains Mall. Includes service on Indiana Avenue between S. Loop 289 and 82nd Street
Route 11	Will become part of Route 12 or Route 19
Route 12	Will include Route 7; will no longer serve South Plains Mall (via Route 11)
Route 14	No change
Route 19	Previously part of Route 25; will serve South Plains Mall
Route 25	Will become part of Routes 19 and 34
Route 34	Previously part of Route 25; will serve South Plains Mall



This meeting is available to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance please contact 712-2000, or write to Citibus at P.O. Box 2000, Lubbock Texas, 79457, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. For questions or comments: info@citibus.com

Important Notice to Softball Teams



that are planning to Play in the World Hispanic Sept. 15-18

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Democratic Web Ad Angers Some Hispanics

A Democratic political ad is under fire from Hispanics who say it unfairly compares Latino immigrants to terrorists.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee sponsored a 35-second ad on its Web site that shows footage of two people scaling a border fence mixed with images of Osama Bin Laden and North Korea President Kim Jong Il.

Pedro Celis, chairman of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly, said in a statement Tuesday that the DSCC should remove the ad because it vilifies illegal Hispanic immigrants and is "appalling."

Houston City Councilwoman Carol Alvarado, a Democrat, sent a letter to DSCC Chairman Sen. Charles Schumer (news, bio, voting record) of New York asking that the ad be pulled. She said it could alienate Latino voters.

"To liken Latino immigrants to bazooka-toting terrorists not only undermines the positive relationship our party has with this community, but also lowers us to a despicable level as breeders of unfounded fear and hatred," Alvarado wrote.

The ad opens with the words "Security Under Bush and GOP?" It features scenes of a masked man with a bazooka, scenes from terrorist attacks and police inspecting a subway train. It also shows

Osama bin Laden, Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and a docked ship as it claims "4 times as many terrorist attacks in 2005."

Then comes footage of a person climbing over a corrugated metal border fence and another preparing to climb it as the words "millions more illegal immigrants" form on-screen. In the following scene, viewers see the words "North Korea has quadrupled its nuclear arsenal" with footage of a tank and North Korea President Kim Jong Il.

The ad ends with the words, "Feel safer? Vote for change."

"Equating these undocumented migrants to the very real threats of terrorism is inexcusable and only serves to fan the flames of anti-immigrant sentiment in our country," Celis said in the statement.

The faces of the people climbing over the fence are not clearly visible and there is nothing in the ad confirming the people in the ad are Hispanic. Such scenes are often captured in footage of the U.S.-Mexican border.

Bettina Inclan, the assembly's executive director, said the people in the ad appeared Hispanic, "not just to us, but to other people who saw the video."

DSCC spokesman Phil Singer dismissed the group's criticism as a Republican

group "trying to gloss over the White House's abysmal record on security."

"This group's time would be better spent pressuring reluctant Republicans to support comprehensive immigration reform," Singer said in an emailed statement.

Inclan said the group was among supporters of the bipartisan Senate immigration bill, which passed the Senate but has been criticized in the House.

The ad drew rebuke from other Hispanics.

"This is the same kind of fear mongering we condemn in the extreme media and now we are seeing it at the DSCC," said Lisa Navarrete, spokeswoman for the National Council of La Raza. "It's appalling."

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