

El Editor

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Ajeno es la Paz"**
Lic Benito Juarez

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Latino Elected Officials Host Summit to Explore New Strategies to Stem Dropout Flow

By Rosa Ramirez

In the face of statistics that continue to show dropout rates as high as 50% in many communities with dominant Hispanic populations, Hispanic school board members, municipal officials and state legislators have proposed a set of policies to close a seemingly intractable educational gap.

They shared about a dozen recommendations directed mainly to themselves Oct. 13 during the first-ever such summit on the "State of Latino Education." The sessions, held in Washington, D.C., were sponsored by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund. Some 50 Hispanic officeholders participated.

Lourdes Ferrer, NALEO's deputy director of constituency services, called it a one-of-a-kind institute to explore different strategies.

Key among their priorities were:
* Educate parents, policy makers and educators on the concept of "P-20," which is based on the idea that children should make a seamless transition from preschool through middle school, high school and later college. The concept calls on Hispanic children, at an early age, to commit

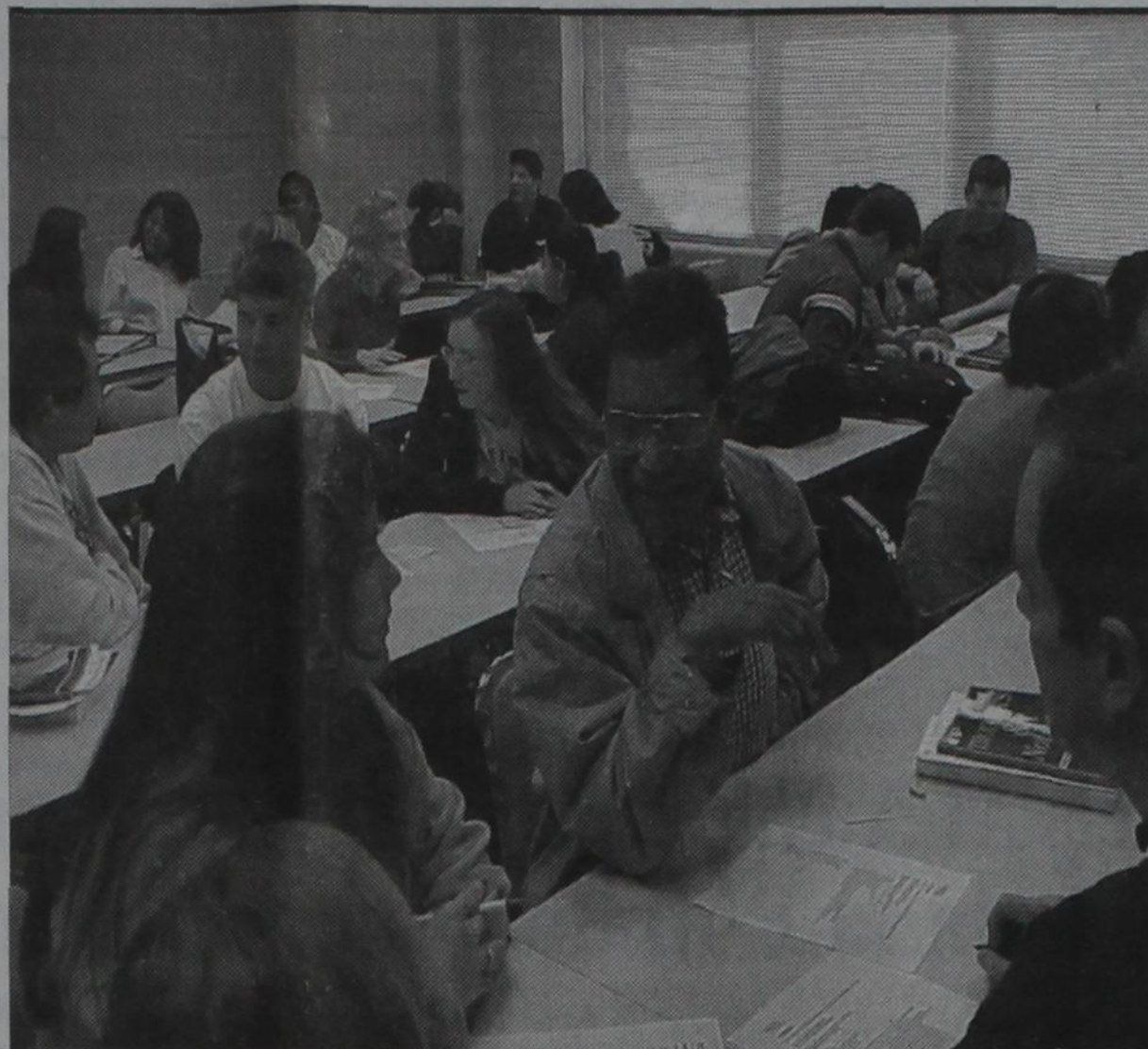
not only to finishing high school, but also to complete graduate or professional school.

- Make better use of community resources, non-profit organizations and faith-based entities to push forward the agenda of Latino excellence in education.
- Create a clear strategic education plan for each school district and monitor its progress. Share those models with other conference participants.
- Break down data on high school retention, dropout rate and graduation rate for students based on age, ethnic group, socioeconomic status and English language proficiency to show state and federal policymakers the rate in which each group is graduating or dropping out.

Oscar de la Torre, a board member with the Santa Monica Malibu Schools in California, told participants that by breaking down data by such groups, school board members and education advocates can establish better preventive programs.

He also urged that school districts organize symposiums where students, including those who have dropped out, discuss what worked or didn't work for them while attending public schools.

Deborah Santiago, vice president for



policy and research with Excelencia in Education, a Washington, D.C.-based research group that analyzes data on Latino education, addressed one of the major barriers for Hispanics: access to college.

"We have to start with parent education to feed the entire pipeline," she said, adding

that some Hispanic organizations and education advocacy groups have been quite successful in pinpointing the obstacles that hold back Hispanic students.

Part of the conference was aimed at sharing models and programs that have been successful.

Refugio Rodriguez, co-chief executive officer at Partnerships to Uplift Communities in California, is the founder of a charter school in downtown Los Angeles that has implemented a learning model to prepare students for college-level courses. Last year 500 of the charter students took English 101 courses by the time they reached 11th grade, Rodriguez told participants.

"I'm tired of remediation," he said. "We need to stop giving students excuses."

A variety of topics were covered, including President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act, increasing college costs, and challenges faced by English language learners.

Testing students to assess educational achievement, an issue that has generated criticism by some educators and Hispanic advocacy groups, was also part of the discussion.

"We should not lie to the students and tell them that tests don't matter," said Paul Ruiz, principal partner at the Washington, D.C.-based Education Trust. If they are going to be lawyers, "they're going to have to pass the bar (exam)," Ruiz said, adding that too many educators do a disservice to Hispanics, especially those who are the first in their family to attend college, by expending less from them than their more affluent counterparts.

"We need to stop the pobrecito syndrome," he said.

Cumbre de NALEO Explora el Flujo de Casos de Ejercicio Escolar

Rosa Ramirez

Ante estadísticas que continúan mostrando los índices de deserción escolar tan altos como un 50% en varias comunidades con poblaciones predominantemente hispanas, miembros de comités de juntas escolares, funcionarios municipales y legisladores de estado hispanos han propuesto una serie de políticas para cerrar la, aparentemente, intratable brecha educacional.

Compartieron una docena de recomendaciones dirigidas, mayormente, a ellos mismos, el 13 de octubre de este año durante la primera cumbre de este tipo sobre el "Estado de la Educación Latina". Las sesiones, llevadas a cabo en Washington, D.C., fueron auspiciadas por el Fondo Educativo de la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Electos y Dirigidos (NALEO por sus siglas en inglés). Unos 50 funcionarios participaron.

Lourdes Ferrer, subdirectora del servicio de circunscripción electoral de NALEO, la llamó "una institución única en su clase para explorar las diferentes estrategias".

Las claves entre sus prioridades fueron:

- Educar a los padres, a los legisladores y a educadores sobre el concepto "P-20", que está basado en la idea de que los niños deben hacer una transición sin trabas de la escuela preescolar hacia la intermedia, la escuela secundaria y luego la universidad. El concepto invita a niños hispanos, a una edad temprana, a comprometerse no sólo a terminar la escuela secundaria, sino a completar escuelas graduadas o de profesión.
- Hacer mejor uso de los recursos comunitarios, organizaciones sin fin de lucro y entidades basadas en la fe para avanzar la agenda de la excelencia latina en la educación.
- Crear un plan de educación estratégico y claro para cada distrito escolar y monitorear su progreso. Compartir esos modelos con otros participantes de conferencias.
- Desglosar la información sobre la retención en la escuela secundaria, el índice de deserción escolar y el índice de graduación de estudiantes en base a edad, grupo étnico, estatus socioeconómico y competencia lingüística en inglés para mostrarles a los legisladores estatales y federales el índice en el que cada grupo se gradúa o deserta.

Oscar de la Torre, un miembro del comité de las Escuelas de Malibu en Santa Mónica, California, señaló a los participantes que mediante el desglose de información de tales

grupos, los miembros de comités de juntas escolares y líderes educativos pueden establecer mejores programas de prevención.

También argumentó que los distritos escolares deben organizar simposios donde los estudiantes, incluso aquellos que desertan, discutan acerca de lo que funcionó para ellos o no mientras asistían a las escuelas públicas.

Deborah Santiago, vicepresidente para políticas e investigación con Excelencia en Educación, un grupo de investigación establecido en Washington, D.C., que analiza la información acerca de la educación de latinos, se dirigió a una de las grandes barreras para hispanos: el acceso a la universidad.

"Tenemos que comenzar con la educación de los padres para pasar por todas las etapas educativas", dijo, añadiendo que algunas organizaciones hispanas y grupos de líderes educativos han tenido éxito en señalar los obstáculos que retrasan a los estudiantes hispanos.

Parte de la conferencia se dedicó a compartir modelos y programas que han tenido éxito.

Refugio Rodriguez, director ejecutivo de Partnerships to Uplift Communities, es el fundador de una escuela independiente en el centro de Los Angeles que ha implementado un modelo de aprendizaje para preparar a los estudiantes para cursos de nivel universitario. El año pasado 500 de los estudiantes de esta

escuela habían tomado cursos de Inglés 101 cuando llegaron al grado 11, compartió Rodriguez con los participantes.

"Estoy cansado de las remediaciones", dijo. "Necesitamos dejar de darles excusas a los estudiantes".

Se cubrió una variedad de temas, incluso la ley "Que Ningún Niño Quede Atrás" (NCLB, por sus siglas en inglés) del presidente Bush, el aumento de los costos universitarios y los retos que enfrentan las personas que aprenden inglés.

Evaluar a los estudiantes para determinar su logro educativo, un asunto que ha generado críticas de varios educadores y líderes de grupos hispanos, también fue parte de la discusión.

"No debemos mentirles a los estudiantes y decirles que las pruebas no importan", dijo Paul Ruiz, socio principal del Fondo Educativo, con sede en Washington D.C. Si van a ser abogados, "van a tener que aprobar el examen de derecho", dijo Ruiz, añadiendo que muchos educadores hacen un daño a los hispanos, especialmente a aquellos que son los primeros en sus familias a asistir a la universidad, al esperar menos de ellos que de sus homólogos con mayores ventajas económicas.

"Necesitamos detener el síndrome de pobrecito", dijo.

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Comentarios de Bidal Agüero



Iwent to eat breakfast this morning at a local Chicano Restaurant. As I sat reading my newspaper, a young Chicano couple walked in and asked the counter attendant for job applications. When I first walked in, I had noticed the help wanted sign on the door and remembered the many times that I had applied for jobs in restaurants while I was going to school.

The young couple looked to be around 18 or maybe younger. The girl carried a baby carrier and the young man wore a t-shirt and jeans and I couldn't help but notice his tattooed arms and face. Although I didn't speak or listen to them as they sat in the booth across from me, I couldn't help but notice that both had faces of what we might call desperation. I can only imagine what both were going through in these times of high utility bills, gas prices, high rental prices and to top it all off, NO JOB.

The underlying problem to all of their problems is probably dropping out of school. It is really sad that kids have to go through this at so young and age but unfortunately the dropout problem still plagues our community.

We continually see organizations working toward raising money for scholarships but most time we tend to ignore the needs of those kids that have dropped out and need our help. This might be and should be a good project for someone.

The war continues and the casualties keep growing and are starting to definitely affect our community. To date we have seen at least a half dozen casualties from the Lubbock area. We can be assured that this figure will grow. The upcoming "Día de los Muertos" might be a good time for our community to try and raise their voices against the unjust war in Iraq. Maybe we can take a little time

write away from planning Halloween parties and plan some type of action.

Orale Raider - Show 'em how a West Texas TOP TEN TEAM can play!
write to Bidal at eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Report card mixed for Texas students

Students beat national peers in 3 of 4 areas, but achievement gaps fail to improve

By JASON SPENCER

Texas students beat the national average in three of four categories on the so-called "Nation's Report Card" issued Wednesday, but the state's blacks and Hispanics made up no ground on their white classmates.

Overall, scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress given to more than 300,000 fourth- and eighth-graders in math and reading didn't change much from the last time it was administered in 2003. Eighth-grade reading scores dipped slightly, though, causing alarm for state and federal officials.

"We absolutely have to turn our attention to that," said U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings. President Bush has proposed expanding the testing requirements mandated under the No Child Left Behind law in high schools.

For Texas education leaders, the results are mainly positive, though some problems persist.

On one hand, Texas students of all races and income levels scored better than the national average for their respective groups. Black fourth-graders in Texas scored better on the reading test than black students in all but seven other states, for example. Only Alaska's Hispanic eighth-graders did better at math than those in Texas. And Texas' white fourth-graders posted the best math scores in the country.

Yet while blacks, Hispanics and low-income students in other parts of the country gained ground on white and wealthier students, that didn't happen in Texas. The state's black fourth-graders are now 26 points behind whites, four more than in 2003. Hispanic eighth-graders fell one point further behind whites in math and the gap now stands at 24 on the test's 500-point scale.

"It's definitely a cause for concern because one of the purposes of our entire accountability system is to close the gap and improve performance of all students," said DeEtta Culbertson, spokeswoman for the Texas Education Agency.

BY THE NUMBERS
Texas students performed above the national average on the National Assessment of Educational Progress exams, but minority students' scores continue to lag:

	Texas		U.S.	
Gap between white and black students				
Fourth grade				
	2003	2005	Change	
Math	22 27	26 26	4 -1	
Reading	25 31	26 29	1 -2	
Eighth grade				
Math	30 36	31 34	1 -2	
Reading	25 28	24 27	-1 -1	

	Texas		U.S.	
Gap between white and Hispanic students				
Fourth grade				
	2003	2005	Change	
Math	18 21	19 21	1 0	
Reading	22 29	22 27	0 -2	
Eighth grade				
Math	23 29	24 27	1 -2	
Reading	25 27	22 24	-3 -3	

Note: The Nation's Report Card uses a 500-point scale.

"Why the achievement gap is increasing will be something we will be looking at very closely. We do have a lot of work still to do."

Texas was one of the first states to implement high-stakes standardized testing in the early 1990s and served as Bush's model for No Child Left Behind, which requires all states to do the same. In the earlier years, minority students in Texas made big progress in narrowing the achievement gap. But that progress has stalled in recent years and the gap now seems more stubborn.

"In most measurement areas, the earliest gains are the easiest to get," said Darwin Winick, a Dickinson business consultant who chairs the National Assessment Governing Board, which administers the exam. "It's easier to bring the bottom up and that's what we did in Texas. As you get better, it gets tougher."

Every group improving
Texas' minorities managed to narrow the gap on the eighth-grade reading exam, the only test on which Texas students on the whole did worse than the national average.

Though the disparity between scores posted by minorities and whites is disconcerting, it's worth pointing out that performance is improving for every group, said Sandy Kress, a former education adviser to President Bush.

"It's not because our minority kids aren't doing better," said Kress, now an Austin lobbyist for business groups advocating education reform. "The reason is that our white kids are doing better. ... The answer is not to slow down improvement for white kids."

Instead, Kress advocates bonus pay for teachers in schools that manage to raise achievement for poor and minority students and more swift action against schools that consistently under-perform.

"We just can't let schools continue to operate sub-par year after year without being fixed, restructured or taken over," he said.

(Continued on Page 5)

Murders of Six Mexicans in Georgia Expose Dangers Facing Entire Immigrant Population

By Rosa Ramírez

The recent murders of six Mexican workers in Georgia underline various social issues facing immigrants, including inadequate housing and a lack of trust of financial institutions and local authorities.

Responding to these and other atrocities, a class action lawsuit was filed Oct 18 in Los Angeles on behalf of hundreds of undocumented immigrants living throughout the United States. The suit was directed at Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, pressing them to issue visas to immigrant victims of violent crimes who have cooperated with investigations or prosecutions of such crimes.

Five years ago, congress passed a "Victims of trafficking and violence protection act", which permits some undocumented immigrants who were crime victims to remain lawfully in the United States for humanitarian reasons. To date, Chertoff has "flouted and violated this important law," according to the suit.

Gabriela Lemus, policy analyst for the League of United Latin American Citizens in Washington,

D.C. says there is spreading anecdotal evidence that numerous crimes of this type are not being reported, particularly in emerging communities where Hispanic infrastructure has not developed.

"The overarching immigration policy is very confusing. People don't know what their rights are," Lemus contends.

According to Luz Martí, a Hispanic advocate in Georgia's Tift County where the latest killings occurred, inadequate housing likely contributed to the immigrants' vulnerability.

"The doors (of the trailers where the victims lived) were not strong. There were no working windows. In some trailers, windows were (covered) with towels or sheets," she says.

Martí says the crimes, which police maintain are not racially motivated, should serve as a wake-up call to Hispanics, law enforcement and the public of the gamut of challenges facing immigrants.

The victims have been identified as Mateo Gómez, 54; José Luis Tías, 20; Felipe Mauricio Esparza, 32; Armando Pérez Martínez, 25; Mauricio Florindo and Guadalupe Sánchez. The ages of the latter two

are unknown.

On Sept. 30, four trailer parks heavily populated with Hispanics, including two parks known as Little Mexico and La Lomita were targets of the series of mobile home invasions that resulted in the six Mexican men being beaten to death, one woman raped and six other men wounded.

"We think these people were targeted because they carry a lot of cash," Martí says, adding that some immigrants keep their savings at home or carry cash when making payment transactions.

Four people have been charged with six counts of murder each, according to David Haire, public information officer with the sheriff's office in Tift County.

While the murders have shocked the local immigrant community, the Southern Poverty Law Center, based in XX, has produced several intelligence reports detailing attacks on Mexican immigrants throughout the whole country. One on 'vigilante violence' offers a sampling of nine reported apprehensions of migrants by private citizens in southern Arizona.

Among bolder actions, three North Carolina officers with the Mount Olive Police Department

were caught in a sting operation stealing money from the wallets of immigrant Hispanic motorists after stopping them on trumped-up traffic violations.

In other instances occurring in states ranging from California to New York to South Carolina immigrants have had their homes torched, been severely beaten by teenagers on a lark, and kidnapped and tortured.

In Georgia's Tift County, three home invasions that involved Hispanics were reported in the past 90 days, Officer Haire said, adding that the motives also appeared to be robberies.

According to Luz Martí, a recent town hall meeting designed to educate the largely unbanked immigrant community about opening bank accounts using the matricula consular, the Mexico-issued identification card accepted by some banks, was a learning forum for banks as well.

"Some banks didn't even know about the cards, how they can be used, and the security involved," Martí says, adding that for many of the immigrants, asking questions directly to the police about their concerns was a big step.

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Yes, I Do Believe He Said Juice-Toe?

By Abel Cruz

Talk about dropping the hammer on somebody.

Tom DeLay, who goes by the nickname "The Hammer", and who has been indicted on felony charges of money laundering and conspiracy by Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, will have to turn himself in to police authorities to be booked and fingerprinted just like any other person who has been charged with a crime. A warrant for DeLay's arrest was issued this week with bail set at \$10,000 dollars.

I suggest that DeLay autograph his mug shot and auction it off on EBay to raise funds for his political action committee.

Courtesy of a local Fox channel newscast

I recently saw the Bush Library video presentation produced by the West Texas Coalition to promote West Texas as the site for the Bush presidential library. I was extremely disappointed that there was no representation of this area's diverse community and population.

There was a quick scene of the token Mexican fiesta dancer and at the end of the video we see former city councilman T. J. Patterson, but that was it. Maybe for some people it's no big deal, but it is certainly annoying and disheartening when people from the minority community are completely ignored; as is usually the case. Unless it's election time and local candidates are looking for votes.

Make no mistake about it, this area that is so high on promoting itself as the cradle of West Texas heritage would not be what it is today without the contributions of the large diverse population that the area enjoys. I mean come on; even the President recognizes diversity. Why do you think he at least made the effort to learn Spanish when he was Governor of this state?

I Do Believe He Said Juice-Toe?

And speaking of annoying, what will it take for news anchors around here to at least try and pronounce Spanish surnames correctly? Note to Channel 7 news anchor Bryan Mudd regarding your report involving the name Justo Mendez:

In the Spanish language, the letter "J" is pronounced like the letter "H". It does not produce a "jay" sound as it does in the word "juice". Therefore, the name "Justo" is pronounced "Husto" with the "h" sound and not with the English "jay" sound. Otherwise the name comes out sounding like "juice-toe".

See, now wasn't that easy?

High Gas Prices Because of Hurricanes?

Several news organizations are reporting that the major oil companies will report that their oil profits are up by 40 to 50% for the last 3 months alone. By some estimates, profits could be up in the range of \$80 billion dollars. This proves that all the hype about a limited supply and higher priced crude oil causing the consumer to pay \$3 a gallon at the pump is just another deceptive practice used to line their corporate pockets.

Fighting the War on Terror?

I've long believed that the phrase "fighting the war on terror" frequently used by the current Bush administration, is nothing more than a made up, sound good phrase designed to arouse people's fears and sense of national patriotism. Of course, any sane person would wish that terror didn't exist.

But terror has been around as long as mankind has existed. Who are we to think that we can defeat it merely by invading a country under false pretenses, without a clear mission and without an exit strategy?

Fighting terrorists groups and fanatic organizations that use terrorist's tactics is a totally different concept. Although that too, is a war that probably can never be won because there will always be someone else or some other group waiting in the wings to take up their cause and die for their own political agendas.

I for one am tired of hearing the same old worn-out lines about "staying the course" and "if we don't defeat them over there, we'll have to fight them here".

Those are just slogans, and slogans don't mean much when at least 1,976 of our young men and women have died in this pointless war.

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Asesinatos de Seis Mexicanos en Georgia Exponen Peligros Para Toda la Población Inmigrante

Rosa Ramírez

Los asesinatos recientes de seis trabajadores mexicanos en Georgia realzan varios problemas sociales que enfrentan los inmigrantes, entre ellos la falta de vivienda aceptable y de confianza en las instituciones financieras y en las autoridades locales.

En respuesta a ésta, y varias atrocidades más, se entabló un juicio el 18 de octubre en Los Angeles de parte de cientos de trabajadores indocumentados por todo Estados Unidos. El juicio se dirige al secretario Michael Chertoff, del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional, y al Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de los EEUU, instándoles a otorgar visas a los inmigrantes víctimas de delitos violentos quienes han cooperado con las investigaciones o con procesos judiciales de tales delitos.

Hace cinco años el Congreso aprobó una ley de protección a las víctimas - "Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act," la que permite que algunos inmigrantes indocumentados que han sido víctimas de crímenes se queden legalmente en los Estados Unidos por razones humanitarias. Hasta hoy, Chertoff se ha "burlado y violado esta importante ley," según el caso entablado en su contra.

Gabriela Lemus, analista de políticas para la Liga de Ciudadanos Unidos Latino Americanos en Washington, D.C., indica que existe cada vez más evidencia que no se están reportando numerosos delitos contra inmigrantes, en particular en las comunidades emergentes en las que no se ha desarrollado aun una infraestructura hispana.

"Es muy confusa la política de inmigración en general. La gente desconoce sus derechos", asevera Lemus.

Según Luz Martí, defensora de los hispanos en el condado de Tift, en Georgia, donde los asesinatos más recientes ocurrieron, lo probable es que la falta de vivienda aceptable contribuyó a la vulnerabilidad de los inmigrantes.

"Las puertas (de los vagones en los que vivían las víctimas) no eran fuertes. No había ventanas que funcionarían. En algunos vagones, las ventanas estaban cubiertas de toallas o sábanas", describió.

Martí dice que los delitos, que la policía mantiene no tenían motivación racial, deben servir de alerta a los hispanos, autoridades del orden y el público sobre la gama de desafíos que enfrentan los inmigrantes.

Se identificó a las víctimas - Mateo Gómez, de 54 años; José Luis Tías, de 20; Felipe Mauricio Esparza, de 32; Armando Pérez Martínez, de 25; Mauricio Florindo y Guadalupe Sánchez, cuyas edades no se conocen.

El 30 de septiembre, cuatro estacionamientos de vagones con una gran población hispana, dos de los cuales conocidos como Little Mexico y La Lomita, fueron blancos de una serie de invasiones a viviendas móviles que resultaron en el apalamiento mortal de seis hombres mexicanos, la violación de una mujer y lesiones a seis hombres más.

"Pensamos que estas personas fueron el blanco de la violencia por lo que cargan con mucho dinero en efectivo", explica Martí, agregando que algunos inmigrantes guardan en casa sus ahorros o llevan efectivo cuando realizan transacciones de pago.

A cuatro personas les han acusado de seis asesinatos cada una, según David Haire, funcionario de información pública de la oficina del jefe de policía en el condado de Tift.

Si bien los asesinatos han chocado a la comunidad local inmigrante, el centro legal, Southern Poverty Law Center, con base en XX, ha producido varios informes con detalles de ataques contra inmigrantes mexicanos por todo el país. Un informe, sobre "la violencia de vigilantes", ofrece una muestra de nueve capturas de migrantes por ciudadanos privados reportadas en el sur de Arizona.

Entre los actos más descarados, tres agentes de policía de Carolina del Norte, con el Departamento de Policía de Mount Olive, fueron capturados en una operación sorpresa al robar dinero de la billetera de motoristas inmigrantes hispanos después de haberlos detenido por infracciones de tránsito exageradas.

Otras instancias ocurren en estados que van desde California a Nueva York y a Carolina del Sur, en las que a los inmigrantes les han incendiado las casas, dado golpizas severas adolescentes de juega, secuestrado y torturado.

En el condado Tift, de Georgia, en los últimos 90 días se han reportado tres invasiones de casas de hispanos, dijo el agente Haire, señalando que la motivación en estos casos también parece ser el robo.

Según Luz Martí, una reunión municipal reciente con el fin de educar a la comunidad inmigrante que no usa los servicios bancarios, sobre el abrir cuentas bancarias utilizando la matrícula consular que algunos bancos aceptan, sirvió de lección para los bancos, también.

"Algunos bancos no sabían nada de las tarjetas de identificación, ni cómo se usan, ni el nivel de seguridad que suponen", dijo Martí, quien añade que para muchos inmigrantes, hacerle preguntas directamente a la policía sobre sus inquietudes suponía un gran paso.

Cartas Dear Editor



If Lubbock is the giant side of Texas, then east Lubbock is its loathed back yard. Example, when driving, the residences have to swirl around flotsam and jetsam of broken furniture, but no one bothers to pick it up, except me. It took about a minute out of my life to clear a broken Christmas tree off of Guava Ave. I had passed it several times while en route to a friend's house. It stayed there for about a month; it rolled to a neighbor's curb and stayed there slumbering. Even during cook-outs, the home dwellers did not throw it away to provide parking for their guess. Kids in slow motion, cross the street and stepped over it.

Taking a drive around, the neighborhood is depressing and gloomy. The buildings are new but indolent and their parking lots are always crammed with litter. The only thing that's novel and glittery is

the one hundred dollars shoes and thousand dollars bikes that west Lubbockites exercises in when they circle Jim Bertram park.

Is the problem the residences liability? Do they have insensibility or apathy? Or is it a lack of tax dollars that could be invested in community centers or an extreme makeover like a theme park, without depleting the remains of Eastside essence, which are the home owners.

I am certain the Housing Authority's personnel have driven around and seen the damage to the properties; Hummers are oversized and have lots of windows. Maybe it's on some one's "to do later" list. Doesn't Mr. Price lives down from Guava Ave? He has to take that route to work as our representative in city hall. I have to wonder if he saw the Christmas tree? He did not. If he had, he would have stopped to pick it up. Right?

If East Lubbock doesn't look great, then Lubbock doesn't look great.

Fernando (elisdee)Perez -- Eastsider

Hispanics Lose 117,000 Jobs in September

By Andrea Lehman

The unemployment rate for Hispanics rose to 6.5% in September, according to data released today by the U.S. Department of Labor. The unemployment rate among Hispanics increased from 5.8 percent in September, further increasing the gap with the overall U.S. unemployment rate of 5.1 percent, which increased from 4.9 percent in September.

These numbers include the impact of Hurricane Katrina, but at this point the national survey reflect an overall decrease of 17,000 jobs and an increase of 270,000 unemployed people (the original CBO estimate was a loss of 400,000 jobs). What the survey does not capture is job changes, so it may be the case that, while a larger number of people were displaced, some of them have been able to find new positions. Reconstruction will certainly include a demand for workers.

Hispanics lost 117,000 jobs in September. The number of Hispanics considered unemployed increased by 144,000, from those that lost their jobs in addition to 27,000 new Hispanic entrants to the labor market that have yet to find work. These new workers came from an increase in the U.S. Hispanic population of 97,000, which included 70,000 Hispanics that did not join the work force. On an annual basis, employment of Hispanics has increased by 565,000 jobs, bringing the Hispanic unemployment rate down from 7.0 percent in September 2004 to the current 6.5 percent.

The seasonally unadjusted overall Hispanic unemployment rate for September was slightly lower at 6.2 percent, an increase from 5.7 percent in August. Hispanic men 20 years and over tend to have the lowest unemployment rates among the Hispanic population, though their unemployment rate also increased to 4.8 percent from 4.1 percent in September. This was caused by a loss of 66,000 jobs, as well as an increase in the labor force of 17,000 Hispanic men that did not find work, which increased the number of unemployed by 83,000.

Hispanic College Grads Outpacing Hispanic Adult Population Growth

In the metropolitan markets surveyed by The Media Audit From 2002 to 2004, the Hispanic adult population increased by 16 percent while the number of Hispanic college graduates increased by 22 percent.

Bob Jordan, president of International Demographics, Inc., said "The number of Hispanic college graduates increased by 806,000 from approximately 3.6 million to 4.4 million. The 4.4 million includes more than 1.3 million with advanced degrees." In the markets surveyed there are approximately 48.3 million adults, 35 percent of the adult population, with one or more college degrees.

The Hispanic college graduate is significantly younger than college graduates in the general population. In the general population 38.4 percent of college graduates are age 50 plus. Among Hispanics just 23.0 percent of college graduates are age 50 plus.

The media habits of the Hispanic college graduates are also significantly different. Just 21.5 percent of all college educated adults are heavy radio listeners (180 minutes or more per/day) while 26.8 percent of college educated Hispanics are heavy radio listeners.

Twenty percent of all college graduates are heavy readers of newspapers (1 hour or more per day) and 18.9 percent of college educated Hispanics are heavy newspaper readers. However:

- more than 50 percent of the Hispanic graduates read a newspaper on an average weekday
- 39.6 percent read a newspaper on an average Sunday, compared to 41.0 percent and 31.4 percent among all graduates.

With regard to income differences:

- 63.5 percent of all college graduates have an annual income of \$50,000 or more
- 63.2 percent of Hispanic college graduates have annual incomes of \$50,000 or more.
- 42.8 percent of all college graduates have incomes of \$75,000 or more
- 41.7 percent of Hispanic college graduates have incomes of \$75,000 or more
- 26.7 percent of all college graduates and 24.1 percent of Hispanic college graduates have household incomes of \$100,000 or more.
- 11 percent of all college graduates and 8.4 percent of Hispanic graduates earn \$150,000 or more annually
- "It's important to note that some of the markets with the greatest number of Hispanics have enormous differences in the percentage with a college education," says Jordan.
- 22.0 percent of Hispanics in New York City have a college degree
- 15.3 percent of Hispanics in Los Angeles have a college degree
- 33 percent of the Hispanics in Miami have a college degree
- 31.7 percent of those in Chicago have at least one college degree

EL EDITOR

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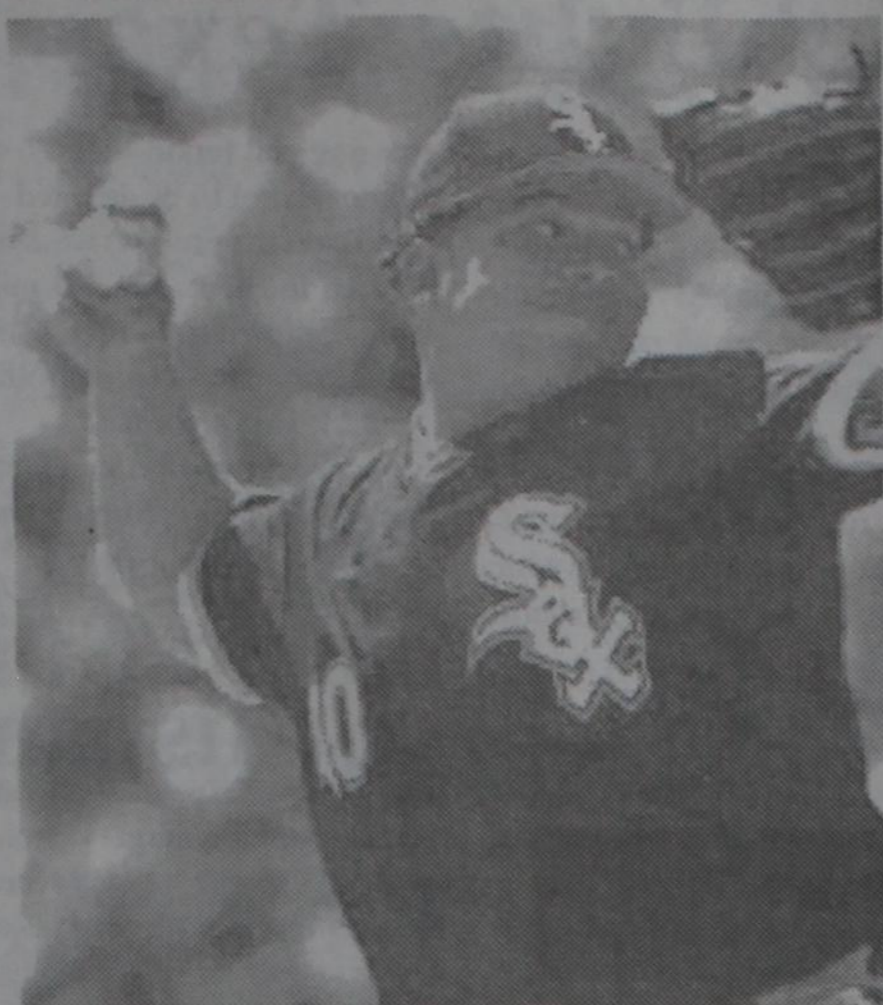
White Sox make it to the World Series after 46 years

The Chicago White Sox are hopeful to smash the streak without a pennant at the Major Leagues, a year after the Boston Red Sox did the same thing, by defeating the Los Angeles Angels 6-3 and moving on to their first World Series in 46 years and 88 years since their last title.

During the fifth game of the American League Championship, the "pale feet" earned 4 runs at the last 3 innings to go on to the "Fall Classic". Then they will wait for their rival, which will result from the National League game between the Houston Astros and the Saint Louis Cardinals.

Chicago won the Series 4-2 and moved on to the 2005 Major League World Series.

Jon Crede became the team's hero alongside with the Cuban pitcher José Contreras, since the first batted an infield hit which broke the 3 run tie at the



top of the eighth.

On the other hand, Contreras threw all the way into being the winning pitcher, and took his team to their first World Series since 1959, where they fell before the -then- Brooklyn Dodgers.

The last time the White Sox won a Major League title was back in 1917, when they defeated the New York Giants, for which the manager Ozzie Guillén, will try to overcome

the curse the team has been dragging since 1919, when the famous "Black Sox" took a dive at the World Series against Cincinnati.

Besides batting in the winning run, Crede shot a solo home run through the entire center field to tie the score at the seventh and give life to a team which was ahead throughout the entire season, and considered as surprising since the beginning.

NBA star would be product of a Chinese genetic experiment



Gigantic basketball player Yao-Ming, an NBA star, could be the product of a genetic experiment carried out by the Chinese communist government aimed at creating super athletes, all of this according to a new book about his life.

In "Operation Yao-Ming", to hit bookstores in the U.S. this month, American author Brook Larmer states the the more than 9-foot player was the product of a Chinese governmental program in times of Mao Zedong.

The book affirms that the parents of the Houston Rockets pivot, two renowned basketball players, were "presented" by the government of China and suggests that both their marriage, as well as the product of it, were the product of an

continued on page 5

Hodges Named SBC Big 12 Player of the Week

Cody Hodges is the fourth quarterback in as many years to direct the Texas Tech offense, perhaps the football equivalent of being handed the keys to dad's sports car.

Cody Hodges has the Red Raider offense clicking on all cylinders this season.

"Dad" in this case is Mike Leach, the architect of an offense habitually at or near the top of most NCAA passing categories. Hodges is enjoying his turn at the wheel, leading the nation in individual total offense at 410.8 yards a game. In the 59-20 win Saturday against Kansas State, he threw for a career-best 643 yards, the sixth-highest single-game passing total in NCAA history. The victory kept the eighth-ranked Red Raiders undefeated heading into this week's big test at No. 2 Texas. (Related item: Red Raiders off to a passing start)

"I'm having a blast," Hodges says. "It's great being 6-0, and we've gotten better as an offense every week. We want to continue that trend."

Hodges also appreciates the mechanic that has kept the whole machine operating smoothly for the last four years, running back Taurean Henderson.

"He's really the captain," Hodges says of his teammate in the backfield. "Just the fact that



he's started there for four years gives me a lot of confidence."

Hodges isn't the only one who appreciates Henderson's contributions. Leach called his versatile back "the most multidimensional player I've ever had" after the K-State game, in which Henderson had five touchdowns and 167 all-purpose yards. His 10 receptions in the game brought his career total to 272, a I-A record for a running back. He is also the active career leader in touchdowns with 61 — 43 by land — and is tied for second in the nation in scoring at 14 points a game.

"It's the toughest position in our offense to play," Leach

says. "You're called on to rush the ball, to catch the ball and to block and protect. That can be tough to sort out because he has to make reads on his own. He's given us the versatility to do all that."

"It was a great feeling," Henderson told reporters Saturday of breaking the receptions record. "But the thing that is most important to me is as long as we win the ballgame. Coach Leach says every day to go out there and do your job. That is what I try to do every time I get the opportunity to touch the ball."

And even when he doesn't. "He has two blocking reads to make even before he can think

continued on page 5

EXTRAVAGANZA MEXICANA

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Community Centers to host Halloween Events

Prepare to be scared as Copper Rawlings Community Center presents its second annual Haunted House on October 29 from 6 to 11 p.m. Admission for the haunted house is three cans of food or \$2 per person.

This event is sponsored by the City of Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department, and all cans of food will be donated to the South Plains Food Bank. For more information, call 767-2704.

Copper Rawlings Community Center is located on 40th Street and Avenue B.

The Parks and Recreation Department will hold its 11th Annual Halloween Carnival on Friday, October 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Maggie Trejo Supercenter, located at 3200 Amherst. Youth of all ages can enjoy food, games, door prizes and a costume contest.

The carnival will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m., with the costume contest ending the event from 7:30 to 8 p.m. Admission for the carnival is two cans of food or \$1 per child. All canned items will benefit the South

Plains Food Bank. For more information on this safe and fun Halloween tradition, call 767-2705.

The event is made possible thanks to the support of the following sponsors: Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Zeta Phi Gamma, LULAC Youth Council 1014, Tech Council on Family Relations, Tech Phi-U College of Human Sciences, Tech School of Nursing, County Commissioner Isidro Gutierrez, La Ley, Magic 93.7, Wal-Mart, United Supermarkets, Tinsel Town, McDonald's, Burger King, U.S. Postal Service, Joel's Rio Grande Cafe, Ci-Ci's Pizza, Brady's Dairy Queen, Krispy Cream Donuts, Dave's Donuts, Donut Depot, Rise & Shine Donuts, Putt-Putt Golf, Rosa's Cafe, Taco Bueno, and the City of Lubbock Health Department.

For further information about the Cooper Rawlings Haunted House, contact Herminia Martinez at 767-2704. For more information on the Halloween Carnival, contact Olivia Solis at 767-2705.

Minute highlights Texas governor

Anti-immigrant group Minuteman's leader, Chris Simcox, highlighted today the measures taken by Texas' governor, Rick Perry, to tighten the security at the border with Mexico with the inclusion of additional funds.

"Governor Perry shows how serious he is about the country's capital lacks with this proposal", Simcox explained.

With the initiative announced last Wednesday, three million dollars are being used to hire additional officers for the bordering counties. Three more millions for salaries and 3.7 millions to buy communication equipment, among other things.

Simcox said that New Mexico's governor, Bill Richardson, and Arizona's, Janet Napolitano, declared the state of emergency in their borders. They fail in taking effective measures, it would be good if they emulate

Perry's plan.

The anti-immigrant leader stated through a communiqué "Perry's plan should be an attention call for President (George W.) Bush, from his republican mates in Texas.

"Unfortunately, after four years of the 9-11 terrorist attacks, our borders remain wide open to anyone wanting to harm our country," he stated.

Simcox assured that "as result of Minuteman's volunteer citizens, state and federal governments were forced to recognize the border crisis."

We agree with governor Perry's declaration, Texas can not wait for the federal government to implement the needed security measures in the border", the leader said.

Minuteman are on their second border patrolling called "Secure our borders", in order to detect the undocumented

crossing and report them to the Border Patrol to be arrested.

In Texas the group is watching an area located some 60 miles from Falfurrias' border. Other volunteers are also patrolling New Mexico's border.

According to Border Patrol's spokespeople, Minuteman's

strategy has been barely effective in discouraging the undocumented from crossing. However, the group has started to have echo amongst Washington's political circles.

"Minuteman will continue serving at the border until it is a safer place", Simcox stated.

Breast Cancer Treatment Guide Aimed at Hispanic Women

A new Spanish-language booklet explains surgery choices to U.S. Hispanic women recently diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer.

The booklet is the Spanish version of Surgery Choices for Women with Early-Stage Breast Cancer, recently published by the AHRQ and the U.S. National Cancer Institute.

Breast cancer is the leading form of cancer among U.S. Hispanic women. An estimated 11,000 Hispanic women in the U.S. were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003, according to the American Cancer Society.

"Most women operated on for early-stage breast cancer will

lead long, healthy lives. But the type of surgery a woman chooses can affect how she looks and feels," AHRQ director Dr. Carolyn M. Clancy said in a prepared statement. "This tool helps the Spanish-speaking women decide, with her surgeon, the type of procedure that is best for her."

The booklet features side-by-side comparisons of questions and answers for each type of surgery.

More information Here's where you can find the Spanish-language booklet (www.ahrq.gov) and the English version (www.ahrq.gov).

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Foster Care Becomes Priority Issue Among Latinos

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

Government officials and child welfare advocates are urging policymakers to pay attention to the disproportionate number of Hispanic children in foster care.

This issue was brought up during the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's 13th annual public policy conference held in Washington, D.C., Sept. 12-13. The event drew some 800 participants from across the nation.

It marked the first time foster care was given priority attention at the summit event. The Democratic Hispanic members of Congress reviewed 14 issues with experts to develop policy recommendations to benefit the Hispanic community.

There are some 91,000 Hispanic children in the foster care system, representing 17% of more than 500,000 foster care children in the United States. In New Mexico, 56% of children entering the foster care system are Latino; in Connecticut, 32%; in California and Texas, 31%; and in Arizona, 27%, according to Casey Family Programs.

"This is a fabulous opportunity to do more for our young people," said Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-Calif.), who chaired a panel of five experts on child welfare.

Cardoza, who is an adoptive father of two children, introduced the Military Adoption Act in the current congressional session. The bill would provide paid leave to members of the military who decide to adopt children.

In 2004, 21.9% of Hispanics lived in poverty. Ernesto Loperena, executive director of the New York Council on Adoptable Children, told Hispanic Link News Service that poverty, drug use and mental illness are the main reasons that lead to the neglect of children.

Casey Family Programs vice president Adrienne Hahn urged the panel to support all education initiatives that further the advancement of Latinos, including the re-authorization of the Higher Education Act.

"That's the only real stepping stone out of poverty," she said. "We all know what a higher education can do for you."

Hahn stressed the need to keep federal resources flowing, and not to cut programs such as Medicaid, which is the main source of health assistance for these children. She emphasized the importance of the summit:

"It says now we're taking the issue seriously. That's the message to the larger general public, that we care about this, and now we're willing to start making policy recommendations that drive the initiatives forward," she said.

Another summit held for the first time was on banking and Latino access to credit.

Chaired by Rep. Loretta Sánchez (D-Calif.), the panel called for funding credit education programs, making easier the sub-prime to prime loan transition, and increasing information on Latino financial services.

Among the summits that drew large attention was one on immigration chaired by Rep. Luis Gutiérrez (D-Ill.), and paneled by members of Hispanic, labor, civil rights and religious groups.

"Democrats and Republicans in the House and the Senate have a concerted dialogue, and they want to move these measures forward to bring immigration reform to this country," Gutiérrez said.

He is co-sponsor of a bipartisan bill that would create a foreign guest

worker program and open the possibility for the legalization of undocumented immigrants. An identical bill is currently pending in the Senate, sponsored by Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.).

Other summits addressed concerns in fields another world oil industry blow foreseen with new hurricane. The threat of hurricane Rita on the Gulf of México forced this week to clear the main oil facilities of the area, which could create once again disturbances in the world's oil industry.

A month after the pass of hurricane Katrina, which forced to the close-down of 95% of the activity in the Gulf of México, huge oil firms such as British Petroleum (BP) or Royal Dutch Shell were forced to repeat identical

safety measures.

According to what a BP spokesman told Notimex, the British giant and biggest European oil company has evacuated some 750 workers from the platforms located at the center and east of the Gulf, where it has a working staff close to 1500 people.

"We've relocated the employees whose presence was not essential at the facilities, to guarantee their safety for the imminent pass of the hurricane", assured the British firm spokesman.

The Anglo-Dutch company Shell also enforced similar measures, with the withdrawal of nearly 600 workers from the zone of the Gulf of México.

Through a statement, Shell announced that the company, for now, will keep "monitoring the situation in

detail", to "respond according to the turn of events".

Companies such as Anadarko Petroleum Corporation announced likewise the shutdown of its facilities, while Rita -now Category 4-, threatens to reach the Texan coast (U.S.) with the same force as the devastating hurricane Katrina did.

Exxon Mobil Corporation, Marathon Oil Corporation and Conoco Phillips have also cleared their personnel and close-down its facilities, for which 60% of the oil production at the Gulf zone could be compromised.

Specialists fear that the oil activity at the Gulf of México (where nearly 30% of American crude oil and 24% of gas production is centered) could face strong disruptions once again.

This threat makes the recent decision of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to offer 2 million additional barrels per day for the next October to December,

in order to stabilize prices, to have little impact at the stock markets.

The light crude oil from West Texas Intermediate (WTI) added this Wednesday -during the European afternoon- 2.07 dollars, or a 3.13%, for a total of 68.27 dollars per barrel, after reaching in last August 30 the record number of 70.85 dollars per barrel.

For the experts, this rise is due to the high unpredictability of the industry, since the real issue is located at another spot of the production chain, at the oil refinery sector.

Currently, Texas has 26 oil refineries at the Gulf of México, with capabilities to refine 4.6 million barrels per day (26% of the total U.S. oil refinery capabilities).

The oil refinery sector could be the most disrupted one, after Katrina affected 10% of the total oil refinery capabilities in the U.S., which created havoc at the international markets of

oil and derivatives.

According to statements from oil analyst Adam Sieminski, from Deutsche Bank, made in London, "the damage caused by Rita could even be stronger than the one created by hurricane Katrina".

This is due to the closeness of Rita to the Texas state's coast, where there are bigger concentrations of oil refineries than Louisiana (the most affected area by Katrina), stressed the analyst.

"Therefore, Rita will be more of a problem to refineries than to (crude) oil production", he assured; precisely the area that presents a bigger supply and demand tension nowadays.

Hurricane Katrina forced the shut-down of 95% of the oil activity and 88% to gas extraction related activities at the Gulf of México zone.

According to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) from Miami -U.S., Rita could reach the american coast in the next 3 days.



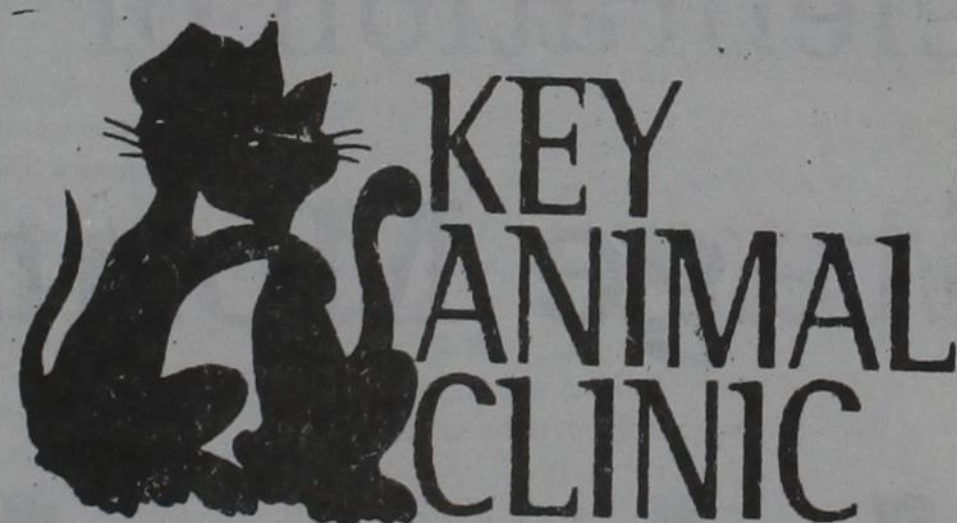
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Red Raiders Face Texas In Top-10 Showdown

RED RAIDERS TRAVEL TO TEXAS IN BATTLE OF UNBEATENS

Texas Tech (6-0, 3-0 Big 12) travels to Austin this weekend to face Texas (6-0, 3-0) in a battle of two of the nation's seven unbeaten teams. The game is the first conference tilt of the season against a Big 12 South Division member. Kickoff is

set for 2:30 p.m. CT at Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium and the game will be televised on ABC.

TECH ENTERS TOP TEN
For the first time since the start of the 1977 season, the Red Raiders are ranked among the nation's top ten teams. Tech enters this week ranked eighth in the USA Today Coaches Poll

and 10th in the Associated Press Poll. The ranking is the highest for a Red Raider team since Sept. 12, 1977, when Tech was eighth in the Associated Press Poll. Tech reached its peak for that season the following week, when the Red Raiders were seventh. The highest ranking in Texas Tech history occurred during the 1976 season, when Tech held the No. 5 position for

three-straight weeks in the AP poll. The Red Raiders began the 2005 season ranked 21st in both polls and have steadily climbed throughout the season. Tech's consistency in the polls this year reflects the first time in head coach Mike Leach's six seasons that the Red Raiders have been ranked every week of the season.



Texas Tech Achieves Top Ten Status



LUBBOCK, Texas - For the first time since the start of the 1977 season, the Texas Tech Red Raiders are ranked among the nation's top ten teams. Tech enters this week ranked eighth in the USA Today Coaches Poll and tenth in the Associated Press Poll.

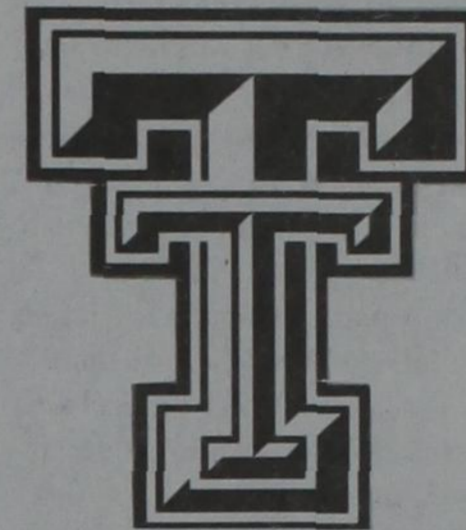
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climbed throughout the season. Tech's consistency in the polls this year reflects the first time in head coach Mike Leach's six seasons that the Red Raiders have been ranked every week of the season.

Tech (6-0, 3-0 Big 12) knocked off Kansas State, 59-20, on Saturday to remain perfect on the season. The Red Raiders face another unbeaten and the nation's second-ranked team when they travel to Austin this weekend to face the University of Texas (6-0, 3-0 Big 12) on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. ABC will broadcast the game.

Texas Tech is currently in the middle of an eight-game winning streak, dating back to last season. The Red Raiders also have won nine of their last 10 games.



**GO
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Player of the Week

From Page 3

about going out for a pass," Hodges says. "He's a smart football player."

Hodges, a fifth-year senior who followed Kliff Kingsbury, B.J. Symons and Sonny Cumbie at the helm, made sure he was ready when his turn came.

"In a way they're all different types of quarterbacks," he says. "I had time to watch them and pick up some things. I worked hard, and when I got my reps I tried to make the most of those reps."

Tech is the highest-scoring team in I-AA, averaging 53.7 points. The Raiders put up big scores against lesser non-conference competition, including two I-AA teams and I-AA newcomer Florida International. Leach says softening the schedule was mainly driven by a desire to get more home games.

"It used to be our non-conference schedule was the opposite of everybody else's in the Big 12. We used to play bowl teams," Leach points out. "We just decided to try out what the other guys were doing."

Texas coach Mack Brown knows underestimating the Raiders' firepower because of their schedule would be a huge mistake.

"Give Texas Tech credit. Those stats are earned," he says. "It's just amazing to see what Mike Leach has been able to accomplish. They're completing 71% of their passes. ... Their receivers are really talented, and they've got some bigger guys this year."

One of those guys is Joel Filani, who set a Big 12 record

with 255 receiving yards vs. K-State and caught the winning TD at Nebraska the week before.

Offense isn't Brown's only concern.

"What people are missing about Tech's success is their defense," he says. "They're just giving up 117 yards rushing (a game)."

Says Leach: "We're older on defense than we've been the last couple years. We had been playing a lot of freshmen and sophomores. Now, we're predominantly juniors."

The Red Raiders hope those improvements will help this week in Austin. The Longhorns thoroughly outclassed Tech 51-21 last season in Lubbock.

"Texas came in here and really whooped our butts," Hodges says. "There's a reason they're the No. 2 team in the country. We respect every opponent we face, but we're not going to fear anybody either. When you take the approach that you're a big underdog, you've already lost."

**El
Editor**

NBA Star Yao-Ming from Page Three

"invitation" made to them by Beijing's communist regime.

The idea was creating a new race of first-class athletes who combined the most outstanding genetic features of famous athletes such as Da Fang, Ming's mother, and Da Ya, his father, both of them members of China's basketball team.

Ming was allegedly born under such program on September 12, 1980 in Shanghai, China's second largest city, and according to the book, his birth unleashed the first rumors on "genetic conspiracy".

The baby weighed more than five kilograms at birth and measured some 61 cms, almost two times the size of the average Chinese baby in that time.

Although his features were not that astounding since his parents were very tall already, 1.88 meters the mother and, 1.85 meters his father, other signs pointed at the same time to the successful result of a genetic experiment.

Some members of the government then would have stated that for those "chosen" to become part of the program, the "one child only" national policy could be spared.

But the opposition of two powerful members of the political elite of those times, one of

them quite influential in sports, never cleared the reason why they did not want this program, which seemed to have been left on stand by, according to Larmer.

If the Chinese government kept experiments made in other sport areas, where characteristics which are evident and nec-

essary in Yao Ming are evident, are less bombastic in other sports, remains unclear so far.

However, Yao became in time a basketball sensation in his country, where he played at the Shanghai team until being "discovered" and seduced by America's NBA and the Nike firm.

The book affirms that Ming, who moved to Houston along with his parents some years ago, is now the owner of a fortune estimated in 150 million dollars from his salary and advertising contracts.

It also reveals that his mother belonged to the so-called "Red Guards" of Mao.

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Ana Gabriel al Iniciar su Larguísimo Show del Domingo

Ana Gabriel parece querer romper los récords de Vicente Fernández, al menos en lo que respecta a la duración de sus shows.

Si el famosísimo "Chente" se ha hecho conocido por unas presentaciones que llegan a veces a las tres horas, la popular "ronquita" no se queda atrás: su más reciente actuación el domingo en el anfiteatro Gibson se inició, aproximadamente, a las 8:20 p.m. y terminó cerca de la medianoche, transformándose en una suerte de maratón musical de carácter personal que fue estoicamente secundada por los miles de asistentes que se quedaron en el local hasta que la última nota instrumental se apagó en el escenario.

Y es que la mujer se lo merece. Dueña de un carisma desbordante y de un nivel de energía impresionante que le permitió cantar la última canción de la noche como si fuera la primera, la artista sinaloense cautivó totalmente a sus espectadores, quienes no dejaron de gritar y de corear sus piezas, entre las que se contaron, no sólo pequeños clásicos como Simplemente amigos y Luna, sino también una que otra novedad, como fue el caso del estreno de Sin tu amor, el primer sencillo de un disco nuevo que verá la luz en diciembre.

Pese a la abundancia de material, eso sí, la mayor parte de



las canciones se inscribieron en un estilo de balada romántica que, valgan verdades, resultó bastante pesado al cabo de un tiempo, debido al parecido que tenían entre sí las composiciones -varias de ellas escritas por la misma cantante-, no sólo en el plano musical, sino también en el de las letras, incluso cuando la banda que la acompañaba se vio incrementada con la presencia del Mariachi Herencia Mexicana.

Los únicos momentos en los que Ana Gabriel se salió realmente del molde fue cuando cambió sustancialmente de ritmo para presentar los temas bailables Mariachi con tambor y En la oscuridad (con el que cerró el show) y, sobre todo, cuando interpretó Tú y las nubes y Mi gusto es, dos cortes propios

de la banda sinaloense que podrán corresponder a su lugar de origen, pero que no se prestaron del todo a su rasposo estilo vocal.

Aunque se desvive por prodigarle sonrisas y cariños a la audiencia, Ana Gabriel se transforma en una mujer profundamente sufrida y dramática cuando se dedica específicamente a la interpretación. Ése es el estilo que la ha distinguido siempre y que resulta su mejor carta de presentación, pero es a la vez un recurso que le resta versatilidad a sus presentaciones, llenas de picos dramáticos que no le dan prácticamente espacio a la calma.

Llama la atención que pueda cantar por tanto tiempo con un estilo tan desgarrador, sobre todo si se sabe que se encuentra en medio de una larga y exi-

gente gira. Cuando se la escucha llegar al grito para alcanzar las notas altas de composiciones propias como Dulce y salado y de temas ajenos como Volver, volver, uno se imagina que se está destrozando la garganta. Esto evidentemente no ocurre, ya que canta todo el tiempo con la misma potencia e intensidad. A esto se suma a una actuación que la encuentra permanentemente en movimiento, porque la mujer interpreta sus canciones con todo el cuerpo, luciendo como una esbelta jovencita, a pesar que se encuentra cerca de la quinta década de vida.

Por otro lado, la artista habló muchísimo con su público entre canción y canción, lo que si bien no molestó a nadie en la audiencia, pareció ser muchas veces una estrategia para ganar tiempo, sobre todo cuando ella misma se puso a contar unos chistes que no tenían cabida en un show de este tipo. Pero, de igual modo, la táctica sirvió como contraparte emocional al desborde pasional de las canciones, ya que en estos momentos Ana Gabriel se mostró completamente feliz y satisfecha, a diferencia de unas interpretaciones que se basan casi totalmente en el desamor, el dolor y el desengaño.

Valiéndose en ocasiones de unos recursos excesivos que incluían tirarle sus toallas llenas de sudor a la audiencia,

dividir al público en segmentos para ver quién gritaba más y recibir papelitos con saludos para desconocidos, la vocalista dedicó mucho de su tiempo no a cantar, sino a hablar. Y aprovechó también su verbosidad para darle cierto aspecto polémico a la noche cuando hizo un comentario sobre una pulsera con los colores de la comunidad gay que llevaba en una de sus muñecas.

"Me preguntan si me gustan las mujeres y yo les digo que claro que sí", dijo luego, tanto para prolongar la provocación

como para darle inmediatamente después un giro inesperado. "Empezando por mi madre, mi hija y mis hermanas. Yo al que respeto y quiero mucho es al ser humano, porque mi música no tiene sexo ni nacionalidad".

Con esta inteligente declaración, Ana Gabriel pareció no sólo querer dejar el tema en el ámbito personal, sino que mostró un ingenio y elegancia que no se hicieron tan evidentes en los otros momentos en los que se dirigió a su audiencia cautiva.

AVISO LEGAL

Estos juegos de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas terminan el 30 de noviembre de 2005. Tienes hasta el 29 de mayo de 2006 para redimir cualquier boleto de éstos juegos:

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Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.68 | Juego #497, \$2
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| Juego #462, \$5
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Texas Cash
Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.58 |
| Juego #472, \$2
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Las probabilidades mostradas aquí son probabilidades generales de ganar cualquier premio, incluyendo los premios iguales al valor del boleto. Los expendedores de la Lotería están autorizados para redimir premios de hasta e incluyendo \$599. Premios de \$600 o más deben ser cobrados en persona en un Centro de Reclamo de la Lotería o por correo con un formulario de cobro de la Lotería completado; sin embargo, premios anuales o premios de más de \$999,999 deben ser cobrados en persona en la oficina central de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas en Austin. Llama a la Línea de Servicio al Cliente 1-800-37-LOTTO o visita la página de Internet de la Lotería en www.txlottery.org para más información y la dirección del Centro de Reclamo más cercano. La Lotería de Texas no es responsable por el robo o la pérdida de boletos, o por boletos extraviados en el correo. Boleto, transacciones, jugadores y ganadores son sujetos también, y jugadores y ganadores están de acuerdo en cumplir con todas las leyes que se aplican al caso, las reglas de la Comisión, regulaciones, normas, directivas, instrucciones, condiciones, procedimientos y decisiones finales del director ejecutivo. Un juego de raspar puede seguir vendiéndose aun cuando todos los premios mayores han sido cobrados. Tienes que tener 18 años de edad o más para poder comprar un boleto de la Lotería de Texas. Sé Responsable. Recuerda, es sólo un juego. La Lotería de Texas beneficia a la educación en Texas. © 2005 Texas Lottery Commission. Todos los Derechos Reservados.

México Ya Celebra los Premios MTV

Alrededor de 1,200 personas entre agentes de seguridad federales, estatales, municipales y privados, y personal de apoyo y Protección Civil, resguardarán la entrega de los MTV Video Music Awards Latinoamérica 2005, que se celebrará en la localidad de Playa del Carmen, Caribe mexicano, este jueves.

El parque mexicano de Xcaret acogerá por primera vez, el 20 de octubre, la gala de entrega de estos premios, que cada año se entregaban en Miami a los artistas latinos más destacados del año.

Aunque la velada de concesión de los premios no será hasta el jueves, ayer comenzaron los conciertos y presentaciones de lo más granado del mundo del espectáculo de este año.

La semana estará colmada de espectáculos, con siete previos a la velada del jueves que se realizará en el Teatro Clásico de Xcaret, con capacidad para albergar a más de cinco mil personas.

El jueves es la gala MTV, que será retransmitida por televisión a 400 millones de espectadores de todo el mundo.

Texas Report Card

Texas school districts say they aren't getting enough money from the state to provide an adequate education for all students. They successfully sued the state on those grounds earlier this year, but the case is on appeal.

Highest exemptions

Gauging Texas' academic health with the Nation's Report Card is made more difficult by the fact that it is not offered in Spanish, unlike the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. No state exempted more students from the Nation's Report Card this year because of their limited English skills or learning disabilities than Texas.

Some suggested Wednesday that Congress should consider adding a Spanish version of the test to give a more complete picture of how states with large immigrant populations, such as Texas and California, are performing.

"There really is a growing, if not complete, consensus that it is a flaw," said Dianne Piché, executive director of the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C., and a supporter of No Child Left Behind.

Spellings said the suggestion is worth discussing but wouldn't say as to whether a Spanish exam is necessary.

"That's certainly an issue that I expect Congress to look at," she said.

Scores for local school districts will be released later this year.



A la cita están convocados artistas como Shakira, Ricky Martín, Juanes, Four Fingers, Good Charlotte, Simple Plan, Sean Paul, My Chemical Romance, Belinda y Miranda.

También está previsto que acudan el argentino Diego Torres, la mexicana Julieta Venegas, la colombiana Andrea Echeverri y la cubana Daisy Fuentes, entre otras personalidades.

La cadena musical MTV cerrará una semana de actividades en este balneario mexicano con la actuación, en una plaza pública, el viernes 21,

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