

Casualties of
War in Iraq
4,113
as of July
3, 2008



El Editor

Celebrating
31 Years of
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"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez

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Lubbock/West Texas Region

City Plans to Spend \$30 Million on West Lubbock Streets, East Lubbock Streets Remain Unpaved

One of the issues that surfaced during the recent City Council race for District 2 was the never ending unpaved streets in East Lubbock. Now the Mayor and City Councilpersons are proposing that

\$30 million be spent on two west Lubbock streets. The streets being considered for widening and paving are Indiana Avenue and Quaker Avenue from 98th Street through Farm to Market road 1585.

Mayor Tom Martin told reporters from KCBT that he is very excited

about the project of expanding the streets.

According to Mayor Martin the expansion of the streets will be paid from a percentage taken from resident's utilities, cable and phone bills. The money now goes into a separate City account called the

Gateway Fund. The Gateway fund had been originally established to be spent on the beautification of Regis Street from the Airport to and MLK Blvd to downtown Lubbock. Later in 2004 the City Council expanded the fund to be now called the Gateway Streets Project Fund. The funds were set up by the Council to receive a portion of the city's income from fees paid by utility companies. The money is supposed to be used to improve thoroughfare access to hard-to-reach areas of town.

During one of his terms as city councilman now Mayor Martin said that the fund would "greatly open access to East Lubbock, it will pull this community together, it will open up development, add to the tax base and help the schools," Martin said.

The fund also had a possible goal of a flyover or interchange from MLK to west Lubbock. The Mayor said then that "the construction of an interchange or flyover ramp on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard at South Loop 289 and U.S. 84, would improve access to East Lubbock.

According to reports another project of the Gateway fund could be the extension of Slide Road from north of Fourth Street to Ursuline Street. The Council said then that

the roadway would cross North Loop 289 and provide better access to Northwest Lubbock. (AJ, Feb20, 2004)

While City fathers consider the spending of Gateway funds in west Lubbock, two east Lubbock leaders questioned why so much attention was being placed in west Lubbock "when the real need is in east Lubbock". Eddie Richardson, co-publisher of the Southwest Digest suggested that the Council should debate the use of Gateway Funds and how they should be used based on need.

T.J. Patterson, former Council member asked "When the city is using Gateway Funds for infrastructure of one part of the city and leaves the other parts of the City out, then there is something wrong. The funds need to be spent equitably" stated Patterson.

Councilman Paul Beane told El Editor in an email that the money would be used to further development. Costs mentioned by the Mayor estimate that a one mile stretch

would cost \$1 million per mile for engineering and design to get the project ready to bid.

"The more businesses and rooftops we add to the tax rolls, the more opportunity we have to hold the line on taxes and possibly, even reduce our current tax rate," said Beane.

"I imagine that for \$30 million a whole lot of streets in east Lubbock could be built," stated Richardson

Marsha Reed with the City has provided information to El Editor that says that a residential mile of paving including engineering, curb and gutter and a finished street would cost \$1 million per mile.

"The issue needs to be discussed in open session. Why both our north and east Lubbock representatives on the Council are not speaking out is also a question that needs to be asked" stated Patterson.

Editor's note: Councilman Floyd Price and Mayor Martin were asked to comment on the issue and a Press time we had not received an answer to our questions.



Presidential Candidates, Latino Leaders to Gather in Washington for LULAC National Convention

Washington, D.C. - Presumptive presidential nominees Senators Barack Obama (D-IL) and John McCain (R-AZ) will speak at the League of United Latin American Citizens during the organization's national convention at the Washington Hilton Hotel on July 8th. Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY) will appear at the organization's Presidential Banquet on Friday, July 11th. All three Senators under-

score the importance candidates are placing on the Latino vote in the upcoming election.

McCain will speak at LULAC's Diversity Luncheon at noon on July 8 in the International Ballroom of the Hilton at 1919 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Obama will speak at an "Open Dialogue with Obama" Forum on the same day at 4:30 p.m. in the International Ballroom. Senator Clinton is scheduled to address the

convention's Presidential Awards Banquet at 7 p.m. on July 11.

The Presidential candidates Senator Obama and Senator McCain will appear before hundreds of Latino leaders from across the country, community, political and business leaders at the 79th annual convention of the nation's oldest and largest Hispanic advocacy group. "The candidates are vigorously vying for the Latino vote," said Rosa Rosales, LULAC National President of the 115,000-member organization.

"Our voting power has been an important factor in the last decade and it is becoming more critical with each election, particularly in key battleground states such as Florida, Ohio, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Florida. At least 9.2 million Latinos will cast their votes this November."

LULAC, a nonpartisan civil rights organization, is participating in a nationwide voter registration drive aimed at significantly increasing the Hispanic vote in the Nov. 4 election. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, "Hispanics constitute

a sizable share of the electorate in four of the six states that President Bush carried by margins of five percentage points or fewer in 2004 -- New Mexico (where Hispanics make up 37% of the state's eligible electorate); Florida (14%); Nevada (12%) and Colorado (12%). All four are expected to be closely contested once again in 2008."

The theme of LULAC's convention, America's Latino Community Center Stage, highlights the importance of Latino voters in determining the next president. "Every year the LULAC national convention draws attention to the challenges facing Latino," said Ms. Rosales. "This year will be no exception as we focus on such issues as voter participation, education, immigration and health care reform and the need to increase Latino representation in the highest levels of government and corporate governance. We are delighted that Senator Obama, Senator Clinton and Senator McCain will be joining us as we work on these critical issues.

As Presidential candidates speak at La Raza Convention, Hispanic voters are carefully weighing their Words

By Janet Murguía
Health care, home ownership and immigration are top voter concerns this election season.

For the past year, these issues have saturated newspaper headlines, taken over radio and television broadcasts, and dominated conversations in living rooms across the United States.

This month, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), this nation's largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization, is focusing on these issues and their impact on the Latino community at NCLR's 2008 annual conference in San Diego, July 12-15.

It is an exciting and crucial time for Latinos, as they will help elect our next president in this historic election. Keynote addresses by presumptive presidential nominees John McCain's and Barack Obama will cover the significance of the Latino community in building a stronger union.

It is also an historic year for NCLR, as we celebrate 40 years of serving Latinos.

Senators McCain (R-Ariz.) and Obama (D-Ill.) have a unique opportunity at our conference to listen to Latino voters and discuss the issues that will drive them to the polls in November. Approximately seven million Latinos voted in the last presidential election. We expect Hispanic voter turnout to reach historic levels—upwards of nine million—this time.

Members of the Vargas family are among those weighing the candidates' words this year. They traveled from Wisconsin to volunteer at our conference, as they have done for more than ten years. This family—which one year brought 13 family members—uses its vacation time to help others, learn more about issues important to the Latino community, and take inspiration from the leaders who address us. Gary Vargas credits NCLR's an-

nual conference with inspiring him to go back to school and earn a college degree.

Latinos are strengthening their political voices and engaging in campaigns, voter registration and citizenship drives in unprecedented numbers. As they prepare to cast their votes Nov. 4, they are asking tough questions and holding elected officials accountable.

At the forefront of national priorities are the rocky economy that results in the loss of jobs; the mortgage crisis and the foreclosures that leave families without homes; the growing numbers of working uninsured who lack access to basic health care; and the broken immigration system that tears families apart and places many in legal limbo.

What the presidential candidates and other policymakers must understand is how deeply these issues resonate among Hispanics. Despite having the nation's highest workforce participation rates, our community suffers disproportionately from these problems. For example, 40 percent of U.S. children who do not have health insurance are Hispanic, double their representation in the child population. Latino families, many with parents who work multiple jobs and saved many years to buy a home, are more likely to be caught with subprime mortgage loans and face a higher rate of foreclosure. The soaring costs of fuel and food have led to even more financial insecurity in our community.

These issues have motivated Latino voters to become actively engaged in the upcoming election, and they will cast their ballots for those who offer real solutions to the concerns of our community.

(Janet Murguía is president of the National Council of La Raza in Washington, D.C. Email: leadership@nclr.org) ©2008

ACLU Calls on Congress to Investigate FBI's Reported Racial and Ethnic Profiling Plan

Washington, DC - In light of tomorrow's Senate Judiciary Committee oversight hearing on the U.S. Department of Justice, the ACLU urges Congress to investigate the FBI's reported racial and ethnic profiling plan. Although the guidelines do not require congressional approval, Congress has the authority to stop the Justice Department from finalizing guidelines that will open the door to racial and ethnic profiling of American citizens and legal residents during national security investigations. The Associated Press reported last week that among the factors that could make someone the subject of an investigation are travel to regions of the world known for terrorist activity; access to weapons or military training; and a person's racial or ethnic background. Caroline Fredrickson, director of the ACLU Washington Legislative Office, said, "We urge Congress to require Attorney General Mukasey to disclose details about the draft FBI guidelines when he testifies this week. Are the Department of Justice and the FBI planning to open investigations of American citizens and legal residents based on their racial or ethnic background without any evidence of wrongdoing? If so, how then do they plan to earn the trust of those same racial and ethnic communities in

intelligence gathering efforts? "In 2001, former Attorney General John Ashcroft called the practice of racial profiling an 'unconstitutional deprivation of equal protection under our Constitution.' President Bush condemned profiling individuals based purely on their race or ethnicity, calling it 'wrong in America.' These proposed changes to the attorney general guidelines do not seem to live up to and honor the commitments against racial and ethnic profiling previously pledged by this administration. "We cannot let the Department of Justice selectively apply the presumption of innocence. Treating all Arabs and Muslims as suspects is not just illegal, it is also an ineffective and counterproductive way to conduct terrorism investigations. "These changes to the attorney general guidelines seem suspiciously like FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's domestic spying program known as COINTELPRO. Throughout the 1950s and '60s and before it was shutdown in 1971, the program wasted law enforcement resources targeting people like the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Like Hoover's racial profiling program, the draft guidelines seem more like a baseless fishing expedition than smart law enforcement." Law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal levels must

be able to work in partnership with local communities. These guidelines could hinder the ability of the FBI and other federal agencies to work in cooperation with the Arab, Muslim and South Asian communities.

The ACLU also renews its call for Attorney General Mukasey to appoint an independent special prosecutor to fully examine any possible criminal wrongdoing or obstruction of justice that occurred in the authorization and use of torture against detainees held by the United States. This is the first time the attorney general has gone before Congress since the release of the Department of Justice Inspector General report on FBI involvement in interrogations, which revealed that there was knowledge of the use of torture and abuse at the highest levels of government. Congress should continue to press the Department of Justice for an unbiased and transparent process to get to the bottom of the illegal use of torture.

result of his vote. "John Cornyn has an opportunity to correct the disastrous mistake he made in blocking the Medicare Improvements Act," said Noriega. "But, he is so deeply in the pocket of special interests, that he cannot see how this vote will jeopardize access to millions of Texas families

Noriega Calls on Cornyn to Protect Healthcare for Seniors, Disabled and Military Families

As Senate gears up for Medicare Vote, Cornyn Continues to Protect Insurance Companies Instead of Texans

Houston, TX - John Cornyn needs to stand up for Texans instead of special interests, said Rick Noriega today. Cornyn is expected to once again ally himself with special interests over working Texas families, seniors, and veterans when the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 comes to the Senate floor later today. Though the bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and has received broad-based support from doctors, seniors, and patient advocates, Cornyn cast the deciding vote to block the bill which would fix Medicare reimbursement rates and protect millions of Texas families from reduced access to medical care.

Senate Candidate Rick Noriega has repeatedly urged Cornyn to make the right decision and vote in favor of legislation that would prevent a cut in Medicare payments to doctors by 10.6 percent. Unfortunately, Noriega's appeals have fallen on deaf ears, and Cornyn has told Washington DC newspaper Roll Call that he does not plan to change his vote. The newspaper also reported that Cornyn appeared unfazed and a bit irritated by the outside political pressure to change his vote, which drew the ire of seniors groups and Texas doctors. The American Medical Association has specifically blamed Senate Republicans for the measure's failure and the Texas Medical Association withdrew its support from John Cornyn as a



- including seniors, baby boomers nearing retirement, the disabled and our service members and their families. Texas families already face a daily struggle against mounting medical costs. My opponent's continued disregard for Texas families is appalling."

If the Senate fails to pass the Medicare Improvements Act, a recent survey conducted by the American Medical Association found that 60 percent of physicians would have to limit the number of new Medicare patients they treat - an ominous figure for the millions of Americans at or nearing retirement. Additionally, according to the Pentagon, approximately 8.9 million military service members and their families could face reduced access to medical services. Past cuts to Medicare have greatly reduced the number of Medicare providers, which in turn limits access to affordable healthcare.

"There is no more fundamental government responsibility than to provide our men and women in uniform with adequate medical care," said Noriega. "Senior citizens, the disabled, veterans and enlisted troops in our communities deserve nothing less than the best care we can provide. When John Cornyn uses obstructionist tactics to block legislation that has widespread bi-partisan support, it is evident that he is out of touch with the needs of the people of Texas."

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 passed the House of Representatives with a bipartisan vote of 355 to 59, and was blocked in the Senate. The Senate is scheduled to vote on the Bill again later today.

El Editor
Now Celebrating
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Editorial

“Why aren’t our representatives speaking out?” was the question that former City Father T.J. Patterson asked when asked to comment on the inequitable use of Gateway Funds in our City.

And that is the question that we too are asking. When Floyd Price and Linda DeLeon took office we can be sure that they were elected by the majority in our community to look out for the best in their community.

Now as the City is proposing using \$30 million of those funds that were intended to be used equitably in our City, on an area that has already received millions of dollars to improve streets but yet East and North Lubbock remain with unpaved streets, we can not imagine that any resident of the North and East Lubbock communities would approve or think that it was the best for north and east communities.

But apparently both DeLeon and Price have no opinion or at least have not voiced their disapproval by speaking out.

Can it be that they are not aware of the rationale of the Gateway funds or can it be that now that they have been elected see no need in trying to work for the best in the communities of their constituents.

Whatever the reason, we at El Editor can only continue to ask as Mr. Patterson asked “Why aren’t our representatives speaking out?”

What Latinos want from their president

Any candidate who wants to attract this crucial voting bloc must address racial equality.

By Alberto R. Gonzales
Sen. Barack Obama’s presidential campaign has reignited an examination of race relations in America. It has led some to question how deep the divide is between black and white Americans. From my perspective, the question ignores the reality of our diverse society. We must also consider the divide between the majority from another group, one that I happen to belong to: Latinos.

According to the Pew Research Center, Latinos are the nation’s largest minority group, at 42 million people and 14% of the population. By 2050, that population will triple, to 128 million, which will be 29% of the American population.

Those numbers are already having a political impact. Just how strong it may be could become clear in November. In a close presidential election, the Latino vote could decide the outcome. For example, in the closely contested strategic states of New Mexico, Florida and Colorado, Latinos make up, respectively, 37%, 14% and 12% of eligible voters.

The conventional wisdom is that Latinos vote Democratic. But not necessarily. In 1999, according to a Pew Hispanic Center report published in 2007, Democrats enjoyed a 33% advantage over Republicans in partisan allegiance among Latino registered voters. However, in 2003, a sufficient number of Latinos voted for Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger (over a respected Latino Democrat) to make Schwarzenegger the governor of California. In 2004, President Bush won a historic percentage of the Latino vote (more than 40%). By 2006, again according to the Pew Hispanic Center, the Democrats’ edge in partisan allegiance had dropped to 21%.

Pew’s numbers now show that Latino voters are heading back into the Democratic fold, but the message in these voting patterns and in the demographic projections is that neither party can afford to take the Latino vote for granted.

The great diversity within the Latino population presents a challenge for both parties. Mexican Americans in Texas, Cuban Americans in Florida and Puerto Rican Americans in New York do not agree on every issue. But – while I can’t speak for all Latinos – I be-

lieve there are issues that resonate for us all.

Among them, of course, is immigration. Latino support will swing to the political party that has the courage and fortitude to put forward a specific immigration solution that is effective and efficient in securing our borders, that supports the economic interests of the nation and that is compassionate in a way that is consistent with the character of a nation of immigrants.

Beyond immigration, both parties need to forge closer relationships with Latino voters. They need to connect with and make use of surrogates, as the Democrats have done with L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. They need to make more contact, an effort both parties launched last weekend, when they spoke to a conference of Latino elected and appointed officials in Washington. More important, they need to embrace policies from the Latino point of view.

What is that point of view? For starters, we may now wear suits on Wall Street or Main Street, but we know the experience – personally or from our parents and grandparents – of working in the fields, on the docks and in the kitchen. We want a job, not a handout. We value opportunity over more government. We are risk takers, willing to bet on ourselves and start a business. We want a society that recognizes and rewards us based on our hard work and ingenuity, not our skin color.

We are unabashedly proud of America, and we are prepared to enlist, fight and die for this country, sometimes even without the right to vote for its leaders. We believe an education represents freedom in America, and we are willing to work multiple jobs so our children can go to college.

Finally, although we know that America strives to be a fair country, the harsh reality is we are not one nation with liberty and justice for all. And yet equal opportunity – to a job, to capital and to credit – is a cornerstone of American success. The promise of equal opportunity is what drew our parents and grandparents and what still draws immigrants to the U.S., and it is what firmly knits them into the country once they are citizens.

As we move to the next phase of the presidential campaign, some people may try to discourage discussion about race relations in favor of issues they say are of greater importance: the war against Al Qaeda, the cost of energy, the sub-prime

El Hijo Del Alacrán

(The Son of the Scorpion)



Back in the 70’s and 80’s “El Alacrán”; “the scorpion that stings with his tail” was a regular guest on the pages of this newspaper. Many years have passed, “El Alacrán” has now retired his poisonous pen; but now along comes his son...and as they say; “The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree”.

“El Que Pica con la Cola”

Parece que hay bastantes Republicanos en la Convención de LULAC ya que escucharon bastantes aplausos y actual gritos mientras el candidato McCain daba su discurso. Este Alacrán no sabe si algunos de los LULAC local fueron a la Convención pero se oye por hay que hay mas Republicanos Chicanos aquí en Lubbock que realizamos.

Y hablando de Republicanos, Pancho Gutierrez quien va estar en la boleta este proximo noviembre como candidato pa’ Comisionado dice que el piensa hablar con bastante gente dentro de esta fecha y noviembre pa’ hacerlos realizar que el sería un mejor comisionado que el demócrata Gilbert Flores. Pues seguramente estaremos platicando mas sobre esto en el futuro.

Es bastante interesante la historia que escribio Bidal esta semana ya que verdaderamente estamos viendo donde va gastar el Consilio el dinero de todos en unos cuantos;

Pues ya es todo lo que platicaremos esta semana pero no se descuiden porque este Alacrán sigue por las rendijas pa’ escucharlos cuando menos esperen! Hasta la próxima!

The “BIG” Two

By Ysidro Gutierrez

Perhaps it’s not the proper time to dare a prediction about voter sentiments with four months remaining to the November election. In politics four months is an eternity. However it is reasonable to speculate on the BIG issues which will influence the voter’s choice in November. They are the economy and the war. This election year the two are inextricably tied to each other.

James Carville, the famous Democratic strategist, won his place in the “Hollowed Halls of Political Pundits” in 1991, when he pasted a huge sign on the walls of the Bill Clinton campaign Headquarters that read: “IT’S THE ECONOMY STUPID.” Many experts argue that it was Carville’s mantra that kept the Bill Clinton campaign focused and helped elect him in 1992.

On the flipside, a strong case is made by other analysis that it was the third party candidate Ross Perot, with 19% of the popular vote, that elected Bill Clinton. This view is supported by the fact that Bill Clinton is the only President in History elected with less than 50% of the popular vote. He won with 43 percent in 1992 and made history again in 1996 with only 49 percent.

November 2008 may be déjà vu all over again with “The Economy” as the main motivating factor for voters. None of the third party candidates this year are expected to garner enough votes to swing the election in favor of either candidate. That leaves voters hard hit by the price and gas, food, medicine, and the specter of layoffs to decide the outcome.

Historically Americans vote against the party in power when the economy is in a slump. Under the George Bush administration, families must chose between food, medicine and gasoline. Every American pocketbook is feeling the pain. Under “Dubya” the economy is not just in a slump – it’s a train wreck. This commentator contents that “Dubya’s” failed policies made Obama possible.

The polls this week favor Obama to win in November, barring any unforeseen development such as occurred in 2004 when Americans placed “Family Values” above the economy and the war. Every expert was surprised. No one predicted voter sentiments.

In 2008, Barack Obama is vulnerable on the issue of “Family Values” as millions of evangelicals and Catholics understand and define the issue. Obama’s record on abortion is clear. He supports and promotes abortion including the horrendous partial birth abortion. But more alarming to pro-life Christians is Obama’s extreme ultra-leftwing liberal position that goes beyond the horrendous partial birth abortion issue. Obama voted against a bill to protect children born alive. Pro-life Christians are horrified by this and feel they have a moral obligation to defend the life of innocent babies.

This week’s polls still favor Barack Obama but without the comfortable margin of last week. The race is tightening this week and should signal the Obama team that last week’s attempt to move to the Conservative side of the political spectrum did not work. The polls indicate that voters question Obama’s authenticity. If the polls hold true, Obama is in big trouble.

Yet one must not forget that November is still 4 months away. It’s imprudent to be premature. The more prudent course is to wait for the expected “Bump” which is a more accurate indicator of Obama’s chances. The “Bump” I speak of is the rise in the polls expected after the national party convention. Thus the true test for Obama will be seen in August

following the Democratic Convention in Denver.

The other “BIG” issue this year is the war on terror. There have been huge developments this week that DO NOT help Obama.

Obama is generally considered weak on defense this week’s test firing of 9 Iranian long-range nuclear-capable missiles will likely shift the polls to McCain’s favor. One must wonder if Iran believes they exist in a vacuum. They must certainly understand that test firing missiles and other saber rattling will go unnoticed by the American electorate. John McCain’s is already significantly ahead of Obama on defense. Iran firing of its missiles is likely to give him a boost. Next weeks polls bear much watching.

The second development this week on the war issue is the Congressional move to redefine or rewrite “The War Powers Act.” It is clear that the Democratic majority in Congress is attempting to aid Obama but the Congress is not known for its effectiveness. They are more apt to fuddle the whole thing and make a bigger mess of it. This commentator believes that the US Constitution is the only legitimate war powers act and Congress should neither add nor take from its provisions.

The third development this week is the Iraqi request to set a time table to withdraw. The Iraqi request DOES NOT help Obama. A time table set by the Iraqi government takes all the wind out of Obama’s sails.

Barack Obama wants to get out of Iraq within 16 months of taking office. “I intend to end this war,” he said. “... we can bring our troops out safely at a pace of one to two brigades a month ... that pace translates into having our combat troops out in 16 months’ time.” The Iraqi request muddles Obama’s ace in the hole.

More in line with voter sentiments is John McCain’s policy to defeat the enemy before bringing the troops out. “If we leave Iraq now,” he said (paraphrased), “Terrorist all over the world will consider it an American defeat. A defeat would put Americans in greater danger than ever.”

McCain’s position includes both a victory and a withdrawal. Americans have given mixed signals about this. About 90% of Americans believe the strategy in Iraq is flawed but they blame “Dubya” for it. Some say the “Surge” is working. T.V.’s Bill O’Reilly speaking of its success put it this way: “We don’t want to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.” Americans are beginning to believe this is what Obama would do.

Both candidates realize that Americans are ambivalent about the war. They want to get out now but they don’t want to lose the war. Obama, by his own hand, has placed himself in a no win position on this one.

Americans believe that the first responsibility of the American President is to preserve protect and defend America. The vote in November will indicate which of the two candidates is perceived to be weak on defense and who they believe is more capable of making America safe. Traditionally, Democrats are considered weak on defense. It does not help the Obama campaign when they suggest that John McCain is not a true war hero because the American people know that he is.

There is much more to come in the next 4 months. In political terms, four months is an eternity. Anything can change – everything can change – except perhaps the big issues: “The Economy and The War.”

“Freedom of Expression”

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

Submitted to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Ya Estoy Cansada!

As much as I love my family, there are those occasions when I just wish, that they would leave me alone. I don’t mean forever, just long enough for me to recharge my battery and begin to miss them again.

I sometimes think that I could use at least a week alone. No, not with my husband either. I love him too but, I mean some real alone time. Go check into a luxurious hotel in some city, far away enough to not be bothered, but close enough to run home in an extreme emergency. And, I do mean extreme emergency. Sorry mijito, a stomach ache doesn’t qualify.

And yes, my husband will have to assume 100% responsibility for everything. I don’t care if the kids go out to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner but he has to feed them. He has to make sure they’re bathed and in bed on time. He has to make sure they brush their teeth and have clean clothes. And no, he cannot stack the dishes and the dirty clothes for me to do when I get home. He has to go grocery shopping and stay home every night – no babysitters and no compadres over drinking beer.

Now don’t get me wrong, my kids help around the house and my husband helps alot. But, I want a week to myself.

As to what I would do? I would go to a nice hotel. One with a spa and a swimming pool. One with a restaurant and movies I could rent in the room. I would have my nails done, I would have my hair cut. I would get up late and have a nice fruit plate for breakfast. I would get a massage and a tan. I would rent a movie that would make me cry and laugh. I would go for a leisurely swim and then soak in the sun besides the pool. I would read a book and walk the mall. I would go shopping for some nice clothes.

Sitting here writing this is already making me miss my kids. I keep thinking they can go swimming with me. I always enjoy a movie with my husband next to me and my kids playing on the floor besides me. I really don’t have the money to rent a room much less do my nails and hair. And I certainly don’t have the money to be ordering room service. Not only that but, a stomach ache does qualify for me to give my kids attention. And to rely on my husband to do the clothes and dishes? Nombre, I’d have to buy new clothes and dishes.

I guess it’s good to be wanted and needed. It’s good that I have a good husband and good kids. And yet ... RMS

Helping those that help us

There is one newspaper in the Lubbock area that periodically carries union and (TSEU) Texas State Employees Union articles. This newspaper has also printed our TSEU resolutions for the upcoming legislative session. Sometimes they also print some of our events or articles in their paper, and even attend some of our functions. They support us, and the Lubbock Central Labor Council whom we are affiliated with 100%. There is no other newspaper in this part of Texas that does this for us! Now they need our help to maintain their website. Please take time out at least once a week and access their website to help them keep their website running. I am talking about www.eleditor.com <<http://www.eleditor.com>>, Lubbock’s original and first Hispanic owned Newspaper! Thank you. Miguel Torres, TSEU Region III Executive Board

Honoring those that Passed

Bidal, respectfully and with sadness in my heart, due to the lost of three icons in such a short time. First Maria Richardson and then Richard Lopez and now Carlos Quirino Sr. I would like to pay tribute with all respect for their contributions in our struggles for the betterment of our community. The lost is hard to replace. “Thank You” for all your work throughout the years, “because you are also included in that class”.

Blas Mojica Jr.

Candidates wise to court Hispanic vote

By Ruben Navarrete Jr.
Whether the code word of the day is “patriotism,” “liberation theology” or “working-class voters,” some will continue to cast this presidential election in the tired old paradigm of black and white. But, I’d ask Barack Obama and John McCain to look beyond all that and consider: What can brown do for you?

The candidates seem eager to find out. Next week, both will come to San Diego to address the 40th annual Conference of the National Council of La Raza, the nation’s largest Latino advocacy organization. The group doubles as a convenient piñata for cable news demagogues and other fear mongers who frame the immigration debate in the divisive parlance of “us vs. them” – something that helps give it a distinctive anti-Hispanic flavor.

That is something that, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, Hispanic voters are likely to have stuck in their craw in November. In a normal election, that would be just one issue. But with the mood in this country souring against Hispanics, many of those voters are itching to say: “No mas.”

There are 46 million Latinos in the United States. And, contrary to what the nativist fringe thinks, that figure refers to U.S. citizens and legal residents. Illegal immigrants are, shall we say, off the books. At least 9 million Latinos are expected to cast ballots in the fall, but that number could go as high as 10 million. They could have a disproportionate influence on the election because they’re swing voters concentrated in battleground states.

And because this year, neither Obama nor McCain has a lock on Hispanic voters, even if it appears otherwise at the moment. Polls show that among Hispanics, Obama is leading by a 2-to-1 ratio. The presumptive Democratic nominee benefits from what is for most Hispanics, with the exception of Cuban-Americans, a

near-hypnotic loyalty to the Democratic brand. That’s poetic since Obama spent the last several months being pummeled by Hispanics’ affection for the Clinton brand.

But don’t count out McCain. Hispanics will vote for the right kind of Republican, i.e. one who doesn’t pick on them to score political points. As the presumptive Republican nominee himself noted in Colombia last week, he has done very well with these voters, earning as much as 70 percent of the Hispanic vote in Arizona in his 2004 re-election. Six years earlier, it was 65 percent.

I saw McCain’s 1998 re-election up close, since I was in Phoenix at the time, writing for the Arizona Republic. It wasn’t just McCain’s moderate views on immigration that did the trick. Many Hispanics in Arizona told me that they appreciate McCain’s independence and the courageous way he is willing to challenge members of his own party when he thinks they’re wrong, as they often are, for example, on – wait for it – immigration.

McCain doesn’t need to match his Arizona performance in November. Political strategists will tell you that because the Hispanic vote normally goes to Democrats, a Republican can usually get elected president if he carves off 35 percent. McCain has a good chance of doing that, especially if Obama unwittingly gives him an opening. After all, Obama’s support among Hispanics is softer than Hillary Clinton’s seemed to be.

Obama and McCain are addressing the NCLR because they think the organization is an entrée to Hispanic voters. It is, and it isn’t. Mostly, it’s an opportunity for the next president – no matter who he is – to show a little respect to a community of Americans that hasn’t experienced much of it lately.

Why didn’t you say so? In that case, senators, welcome to San Diego. Bienvenidos.



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'Enough is Enough,' LULAC Rallies to Reverse Dropout Rates

More than 40 percent of Latino students drop out of high school each year, in large part because of the education policies that do not hold high schools accountable for graduation rates. The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) - a founding member of the Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE), a leading coalition of civil rights organizations striving for stronger education policies - said Enough is enough today during a town hall meeting at its National Convention & Exposition. At the meeting, LULAC launched its national Parent Involvement Initiative to engage Hispanic parents in education reform.

The inequalities that exist in the current U.S. education system are appalling at best, said Rosa Rosales, president of LULAC. In our communities, with the full support and involvement of parents, is where we will see change happen so that more of our young people graduate from high school prepared for college, work, and life. Working with CHSE, LULAC will engage its strong grassroots network to create a future for Hispanic students that is based in academic success.

The Initiative will be piloted in 18 cities, including several that are home to dropout factories - schools where no more than 60 percent of entering freshmen make it to their senior year three years later. These include Los Angeles; Philadelphia; Chicago; Kansas City, Mo.; Dallas; Houston; and Milwaukee. Dropout factories make up only about 12 percent of all high schools, but they produce approximately half of Americas dropouts and two-thirds of all African American and Hispanic dropouts.

In each city, the Initiative will enlist a core team of parents and family members who are already active in their schools and districts and prepare them to take their efforts to the federal level, advocating for substantial reforms to education policy. In turn, this group of parents will empower others to join in a

rallying cry to take charge of the situation and change the course of federal education policy for Hispanic students and all students of color.

At the town hall meeting, Rosales was joined by federal, state, and local policymakers, as well as education advocates, to discuss and identify community-based solutions to the challenges in education policy that leave many Latino youth without academic opportunities.

Panelists, including Dr. John Arnold, chair of the National LULAC Education Commission, and CHSE members Peter Zamora of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP's Washington Bureau, addressed strategies for strengthening the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to better serve students of color. CHSE members called for federal policy reforms that: 1) make all students proficient and prepared for college and work; 2) hold high schools accountable for student success; and 3) redesign the American high school.

Other panelists at the town hall meeting included Holly Kuzmich, deputy chief of staff for policy, U.S. Department of Education; Dr. Joel Gomez, associate professor of educational leadership, The George Washington University; Roberto Rodriguez, senior education advisor, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee; and Dr. Emma Violand-Sanchez, a parent and candidate for the Arlington County School Board. The group addressed necessary policy changes that will ensure equitable learning conditions, as well as federal program initiatives that will encourage parental and community involvement in U.S. high schools and strategies for redesigning high schools so that all students graduate prepared for college, work, and life.

Talking back to Alberto Gonzales

By Raul A. Reyes

As a fellow Chicano, I read former Atty. Gen. Alberto R. Gonzales' recent Op-Ed article, "What Latinos want from their president," with interest. I can assert with confidence that he remains hugely unpopular in our community. Latinos have called him everything from a token to a sellout to a "Pancho" - a derogatory term for a Mexican American who exists only to serve a white man.

Also, as a fellow attorney, I was curious to read what Gonzales had to say now that he has been out of office for nearly a year. His tenure in the White House and the Justice Department was stormy to say the least, culminating in his leaving of office in disgrace. I wondered if Gonzales, like former Bush spokesperson Scott McClellan and a host of other Bush administration refugees, might provide new insights into his role in history.

I admit to having reservations about Gonzales presenting himself as a commentator on Hispanic issues, because there is little in his career to evince interest in any Latino other than himself. His Department of Justice failed to pursue violations of civil rights and voters' rights laws. He has been at best a lukewarm supporter of affirmative action.

Still, I felt that I owed it to

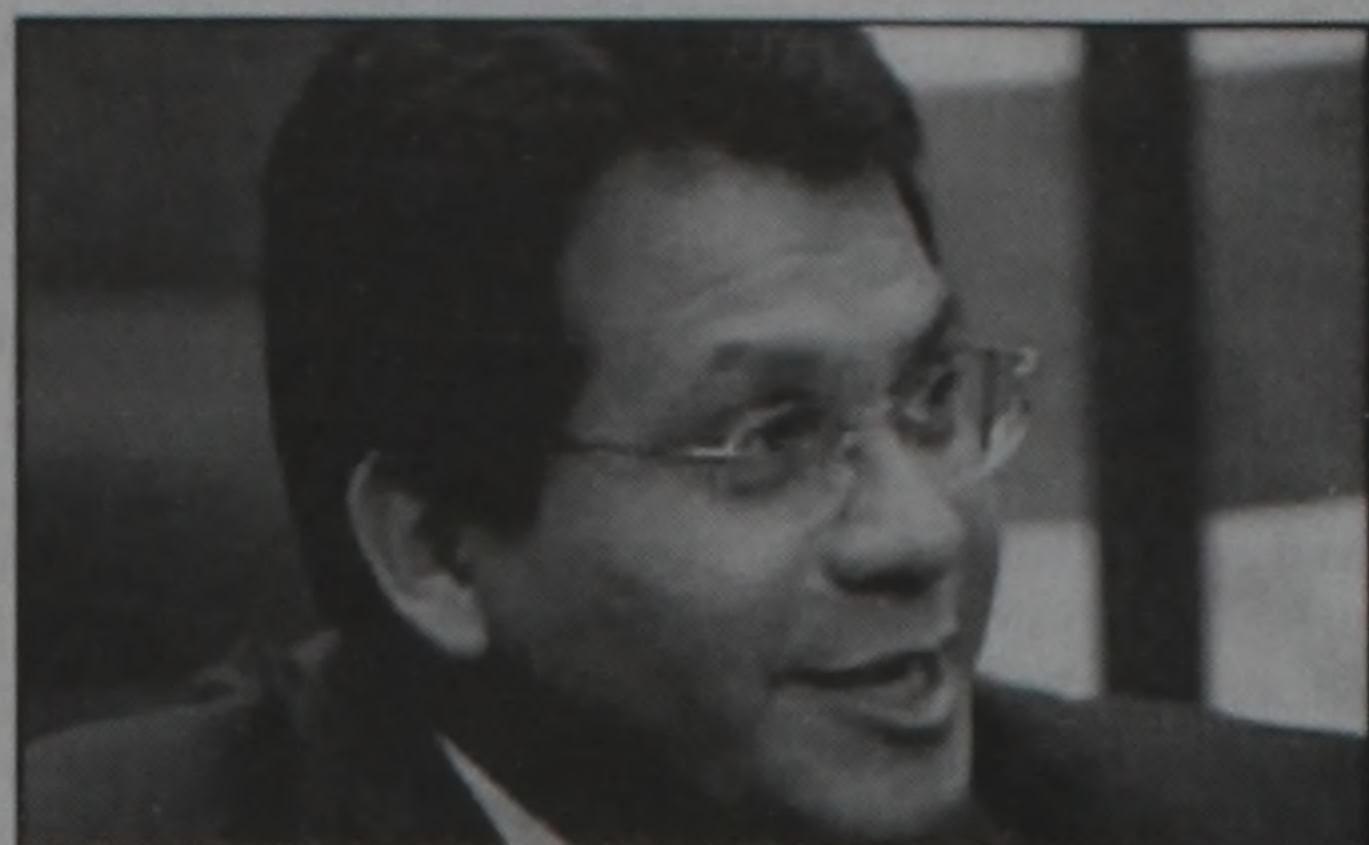
Gonzales to read his words with an open mind - if for no other reason than the fact that, at one time, he was the most powerful Latino in the country. In his Op-Ed article, however, Gonzales offers only the most basic analysis of Latinos and the presidential vote.

And reading his Times essay, it struck me repeatedly that Gonzales is simply not a credible voice on justice and equality. "Although we know America strives to be a fair country," Gonzales writes, "the harsh reality is that we are not one nation with liberty and justice for all." Was he not aware of the irony of these words? As attorney general, Gonzales was America's lawyer, in an extraordinary position to work toward precisely these aims. Yet he continually placed his loyalty to President Bush above all else, to the detriment of our constitutional separation of powers and civil liberties. Gonzales supported the USA Patriot Act, which greatly expanded the powers of the executive branch. He defended warrantless wiretapping of ordinary citizens. He also condoned the use of harsh interrogations and torture in the war against terror. Who can forget his calling certain provisions of the Geneva

Convention "quaint"?

Gonzales had the audacity to maintain that "equal opportunity - to a job ... is a cornerstone of

that Gonzales might be the first Latino on the Supreme Court. Then he let all Americans down with his misplaced devotion to the



American success." Considering that he has yet to fully explain his role in the apparently politically motivated firings of federal prosecutors, I found this assertion breathtaking. Weren't fired U.S. attorneys David Iglesias and Carol Lam deserving of equal opportunity?

If I seem hard on Gonzales, maybe it's because - like so many other Latinos - I feel a profound personal sense of disappointment in him. His early accomplishments at Harvard and as a lawyer exemplify the American dream, and President Bush gave him the opportunity of a lifetime by appointing him White House counsel. I myself once had hopes

president and willful undermining of our justice system. For Hispanics, it's precisely because we once grasped Gonzales' seemingly limitless promise that today we view him with such deep anger and shame.

Finally, I most especially took issue with Gonzales' closing statement that most Latinos want "a chance to succeed." A chance is a possibility or a probability, dependent on fate or the generosity of others. Thank you, but this Latino does not want a chance. I would much prefer having my full constitutional and civil rights, por favor.

Raul A. Reyes is an attorney in New York City.

McCain y Obama prometen arreglo migratorio

En la búsqueda del voto latino, los aspirantes presidenciales John McCain y Barack Obama, republicano y demócrata respectivamente, prometieron ante una audiencia hispana que la reforma migratoria será una prioridad si obtienen la presidencia.

Los senadores McCain y Obama hablaron, por separado, ante la conferencia anual de la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Electos y Designados (NALEO), y

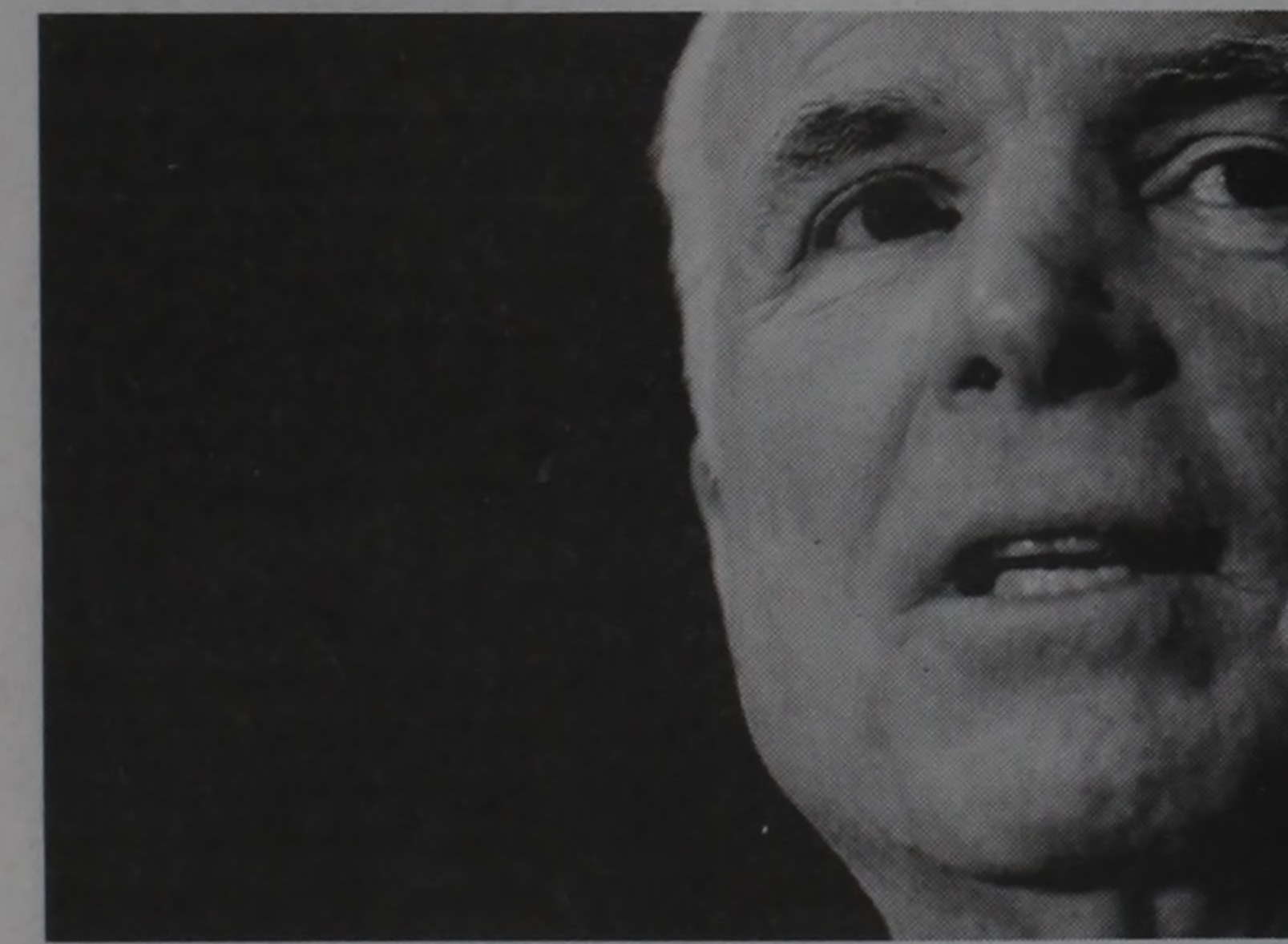
El senador de Arizona fue coautor de un plan de reforma integral que fracasó en el Senado demócrata y que nunca ha sido considerado en la Cámara Baja de mayoría demócrata. Cuando McCain comenzó a buscar la nominación presidencial, se apartó del tema para atraer a la base conservadora republicana que cataloga el plan de amnistía.

Prioridad

con vítores y gritos de "Obama, Obama". El senador salpicó su discurso con dos o tres frases en español y cuando le preguntaron sobre inmigración dijo que siempre admiró a McCain por ser defensor de la reforma migratoria pero después "dio marcha atrás en su compromiso".

"Dijo (McCain) que no votaría por su propia legislación si volviera a ser sometida a votación. Si vamos a resolver los retos que enfrentamos, no podemos vacilar y cambiar dependiendo de nuestras políticas", indicó Obama.

Empero, esa reforma fracasó en el Senado por la oposición de republicanos y de varios demócratas, y la Cámara Baja demócrata no la ha debatido por la división interna entre demócratas que enfatizan la seguridad y quienes abogan por el plan



de legalización. respondieron a las mismas preguntas recabadas de foros previos que NALEO condujo a través del país para conocer las preocupaciones de la comunidad latina: economía, Irak, salud, educación e inmigración.

Interrupción

La intervención de McCain se vio interrumpida por cuatro manifestantes que en diferentes oportunidades criticaron al senador de Arizona por su política de mantener el curso en la guerra de Irak. Tres mujeres y un hombre, éste último sentado en el área reservada para la prensa, fueron removidos del salón por agentes de seguridad.

Al final de la intervención de McCain, Arturo Vargas, director ejecutivo de NALEO, pidió disculpas al senador de Arizona indicando que los manifestantes no pertenecen al grupo, "no representan nuestros valores ni a nuestros representados".

Aunque NALEO dijo que la inmigración ocupa el último puesto en una lista de cinco prioridades para los hispanos, sigue emergiendo como el tema favorito de los demócratas en sus ataques a McCain.

Ahora McCain enfatiza la seguridad fronteriza antes de ponderar planes de legalización.

Pero a la pregunta de si la reforma será una de sus prioridades en los primeros 100 días de su potencial presidencia, McCain indicó que "será mi principal prioridad ayer, hoy y mañana".

Admitió, empero, que el tema "no ha sido popular con algunos en mi partido", "pero será mi prioridad porque tenemos la obligación de resolver un asunto federal desde el punto de vista federal".

Según McCain, la reforma fracasó porque los estadounidenses no creyeron que se garantizaría la seguridad nacional "y no tendremos éxito hasta que convenzamos de que podemos asegurar la frontera".

Pero afirmó que hay que buscar una solución a la situación migratoria de los 12 millones de indocumentados porque "son hijos de Dios".

Obama, empero, no fue favorecido por los hispanos en las primarias y sus adherentes admiten que no pueden subestimar a McCain en la lucha por el voto latino.

"He criticado ese proceso y lo sigo criticando porque demuestra una falta de llevar algo al pleno (cameral). Entiendo que es importante ganar, pero como mínimo deberíamos considerar algunos pedacitos de esa propuesta de ley", indicó Raúl Grijalva, congresista demócrata de Arizona que apoya a Obama.

Ambos candidatos se disputan una tajada del voto latino que, según dijeron, podría decidir esta elección. Obama indicó que según él es el primer afroamericano en lograr la nominación de cualquier partido, en la audiencia podría estar el primer hispano en lograr esa nominación algún día.

McCain fue reelecto al Senado con más de 70% del voto hispano en Arizona, pero algunos sondeos lo colocan por debajo de Obama en la preferencia del voto latino.

Obama, empero, no fue favorecido por los hispanos en las primarias y sus adherentes admiten que no pueden subestimar a McCain en la lucha por el voto latino.

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Training camp battles: AFC North & South

This AFC North look is the second of our division-by-division breakdowns of the training-camp battles for all 32 teams:

Baltimore Ravens
Kyle Boller vs. Troy Smith vs. Joe Flacco, quarterback
Troy Smith is an interesting wild card in Baltimore. Troy Smith is an interesting wild card in Baltimore. When Steve McNair suddenly retired, it left the Ravens in a scramble to find a starter. Boller has experience starting, but has he ever showed enough to warrant another chance? Smith has raw ability and has impressed the coaches, but he's on the small side. The Ravens craved Flacco enough to trade back into the first round to get him in April. They love his arm.

Edge: Boller. He's done it before.
Opening day starter: Boller. But he will have a short leash. Smith will push him hard and the Ravens coaches liked what they saw from him during the offseason.

Cincinnati Bengals
Marvin White vs. Dexter Jackson vs. Chinedum Ndukwe, safety

Two of these three will start. Jackson is the veteran of the group, a former Super Bowl MVP with Tampa Bay, but the Bengals love the youth with White and Ndukwe. Both played well as rookies last year. Both are big hitters. Jackson gets by on his smarts and range.

Edge: Hard to say.
Opening day starters: White and Ndukwe. You can never have enough youth on defense.

Cleveland Browns
Andra Davis vs. Leon Williams, inside linebacker
Both Davis and Williams saw quality time last year, but only one can start. Davis has been the starter the past four seasons and has been underrated. But Williams is more athletic.

Edge: Davis. He's got the experience.
Opening day starter: Williams. It will be hard to keep his athletic ability on the bench.

Pittsburgh Steelers
Lawrence Timmons vs. Larry Foote, inside linebacker
Foote, the incumbent, complained during the offseason that the coaches wanted

Timmons to take his job. There's one way to fix that: Outplay him. Foote is a good player, but Timmons has a chance to be a great one. He was an explosive player at outside linebacker at Florida State but didn't play much as a rookie last season.

Edge: Foote. It will be hard to get him off the field.
Opening day starter: Foote. He's steady, if not spectacular. Timmons might take it by the midway point, though.

This AFC South look is the third of our division-by-division breakdown of the training-camp battles for all 32 teams:

Houston Texans
Ephraim Salaam vs. Duane Brown, left tackle
Can Ephraim Salaam 'top' Duane Brown in Houston?

Can Ephraim Salaam 'top' Duane Brown in Houston?
After Tony Boselli didn't pan out, the Texans have been scrambling to find a left tackle every year since. Salaam did a nice job starting last season, but he is a stopgap at best. The Texans took Brown in the first round this year in large part because he has great athletic ability.

Edge: Salaam. He started all last season, while Brown is a rookie.

Opening day starter: Brown. Salaam, who I've called "The Spinning Top" in the past, can't hold up for the long term. Why wait to play Brown?

Indianapolis Colts
Charlie Johnson vs. Mike Pollak, right guard

When Jake Scott left to sign as a free agent with the Titans, the Colts needed to plug a hole on their line. They've done that with guards in the past and not missed anything. That's the Bill Polian way: You can always find guards.

Edge: Johnson. He's the more experienced player. Pollak is a rookie moving from center to guard.

Opening day starter: Pollak. Johnson is a nice player to have around as a backup, but he isn't what the Colts need starting. Pollak is that player. He has the smarts to fit in on the Colts line as a rookie the way Tony Ugoh did last season.

Jacksonville Jaguars
Khalif Barnes vs. Richard

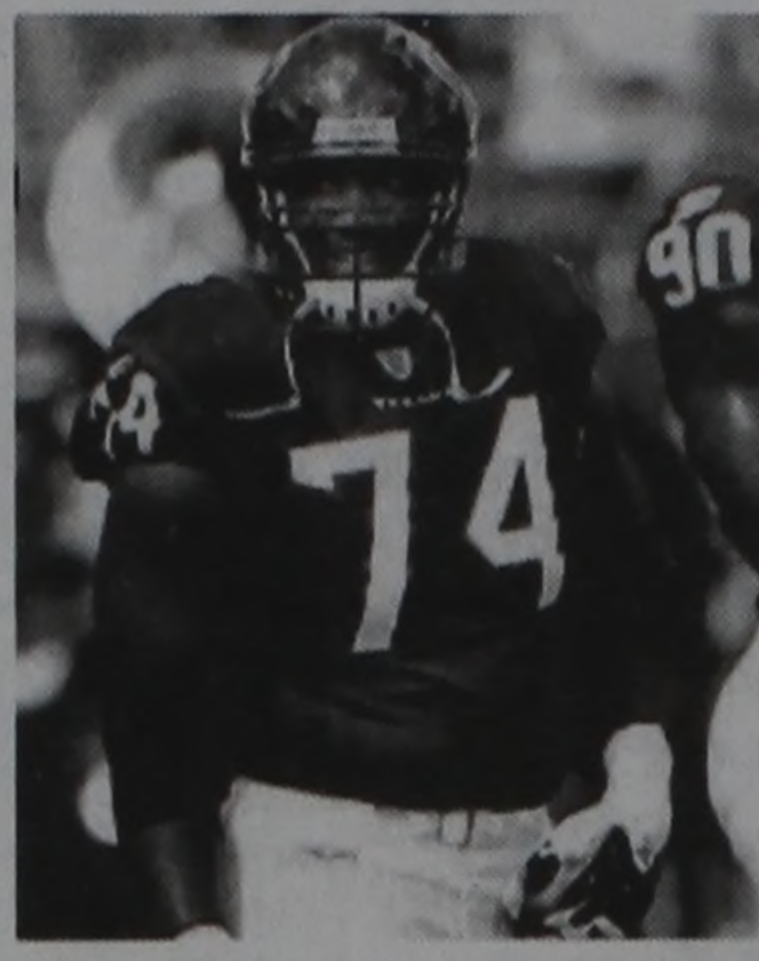
Collier, left tackle
The Jaguars love their physical offensive line, but the left tackle spot remains somewhat of a concern. Barnes has been the starter the past two seasons, and he has ability. But the Jaguars have had issues with his off-field troubles. Plus, he's entering the final year of his contract. Collier is a huge third-year player with good feet. He has trimmed his body down, and appeared quicker this spring.

Edge: Barnes. It's his job to lose.

Opening day starter: Barnes. He's a battler and the competition will bring out the best in him.

Tennessee Titans
LenDale White, Chris Johnson and Chris Henry, running back

Will it be the power of White or the speed of Johnson or Henry? White is a plodder, but he can move the chains. The worries with him



are that he's coming off knee surgery and he tends to get fat. Johnson, this year's first-round pick, can be an explosive runner. Henry has that type of speed as well.

Edge: White. He got the bulk -- bad word? -- of the carries last season.

Opening day starter: Johnson. They used the first-round pick to get him for a reason. White has had issues with his weight. Johnson has take-it-to-the-house speed. The reality is all three will play.

Nadal afirma que le falta aún para ser el mejor del mundo

Rafael Nadal pidió "calma" a los que lo consideran como el número uno del tenis mundial tras su victoria sobre Roger Federer en la final de Wimbledon.

El tenista español todavía ocupa el segundo puesto en el ranking de la ATP, detrás de Federer, aunque cerró aún más la brecha y si continúa con el excelente paso que lleva este año podría destronar al suizo antes de que termine el 2008.

"Sigo siendo el número dos del mundo. Simplemente tengo que seguir jugando bien y así tendré opciones de ser número uno", expresó Nadal en declaraciones al programa "El Larguero" de la cadena SER en España.

Nadal señaló que la medalla de oro en los Juegos Olímpicos de Pekín es otra de sus metas esta temporada.

"La presea es otro reto", afirmó el también campeón del Abierto de Francia.

Aseguró que por ahora quiere descansar y "disfrutar el título en Wimbledon". El malloquín afirmó que no piensa mucho en datos históricos como ser el primer hombre desde Bjorn Borg (1980) que gana Roland Garros y Wimbledon el mismo año.

"Son datos para analizar cuando termine mi carrera", expresó sonriente.

La paraguaya Rossana de los Ríos sorprendió ayer 6-4, 6-1 a la tercera preclasificada Aravane Rezaï en el torneo de Palermo.

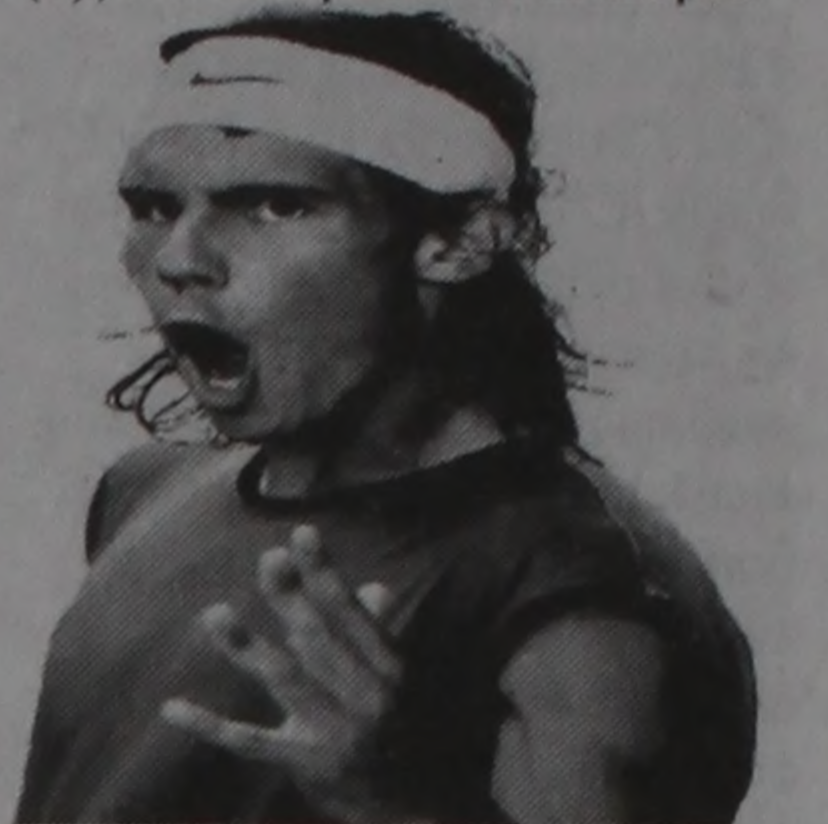
De los Ríos enfrentará en la segunda ronda a la ganadora del partido entre Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova y Roberta Vinci.

La española Lourdes Domínguez también avanzó al derrotar 5-7, 6-3, 6-0 a la británica Katie O'Brien.

El argentino Sergio Roitman tuvo un debut y despedida en el Abierto de Suecia al ser eliminado 6-4, 6-2 por

Jarkko Nieminen en la primera ronda del torneo.

Por su parte, el ruso Marat Safin se recuperó de una desventaja de 3-0 para superar 7-6 (6), 7-5 al español Marc López



y avanzar a la segunda ronda del torneo que se disputa en canchas de arcilla.

El argentino Agustín Calleri derrotó 7-6 (3), 6-4 al austríaco Jurgen Melzer y avanzó a la segunda ronda del torneo de Stuttgart.

Calleri chocará con el uruguayo Pablo Cuevas, quien eliminó en su debut al colombiano Santiago Giraldo.

Mejora la condición de Ginóbili

Buenos Aires - Los progresos en el proceso de recuperación del baloncestista Emanuel Ginóbili, lesionado en un tobillo, atenua la máxima preocupación argentina de cara a los Juegos Olímpicos de Pekín.

Sin que su participación en el equipo albiceleste esté confirmada para la cita olímpica, la estrella de los San Antonio Spurs de la NBA sale airoso, de momento, en los ejercicios de rehabilitación a los que es sometido por el médico de la selección, Diego Grippo.

En las últimas horas Ginóbili efectuó dentro de una piscina y con el agua hasta la cintura "todos los movimientos posibles de un jugador de baloncesto durante un partido

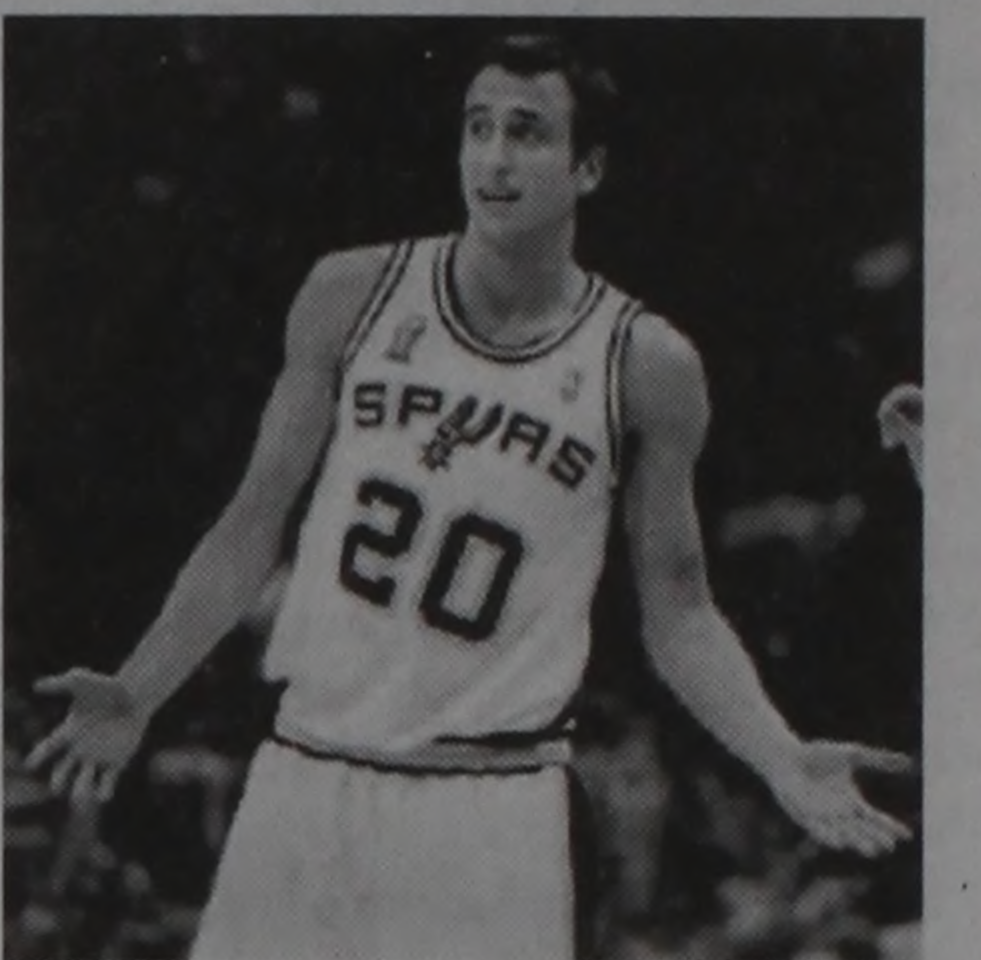
sin sentir molestias ni dolores" en su tobillo izquierdo, dijo Grippo a la prensa.

La tarea del médico de Bahía Blanca y amigo de 'Manu' es supervisada por Shad Bergman, el preparador físico enviado por los Spurs a Argentina.

Ginóbili comenzó hoy la etapa de ejercicios en la pista y Grippo cree que "si todo sigue así, los días 13

o 14 podría entrenarse normalmente junto al resto del equipo con alguna posibilidad de disputar el día 16 un amistoso", el último de Argentina antes de viajar a la capital china.

El escolta recibió el viernes pasado de manos de la presidenta argentina, Cristina



Fernández, la bandera con la que el jugador de baloncesto encabezará la delegación de su país en los Juegos Olímpicos.

Tras manifestar su orgullo por haber sido elegido el abanderado de la delegación, 'Manu' dijo que hará "todo lo posible" por competir en Pekín.

De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions to partner up with USA Boxing

Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions announced a strategic alliance with USA Boxing on Tuesday, reuniting the 1992 Olympic gold medalist with America's governing amateur body.

Golden Boy Promotions will lend its considerable industry clout to USA Boxing in marketing, event schedul-

"Unlike the NFL or the PGA Tour, where you may have 100 great alumni that can get engaged, in our sport, you probably can count on two hands the really great, role-model people who are available to support the sport," said Millman, who also has engaged Evander Holyfield in various USA Boxing ventures. "It's something that we



ing and sponsorships, USA Boxing CEO Jim Millman said in a joint announcement with Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer.

De La Hoya also announced plans to spend time working with the Olympic fighters and other athletes in Colorado Springs, where the U.S. boxers are down to their last two weeks of preparation for next month's trip to the Beijing Games.

want to do more of."

Golden Boy plans to use its connections with arena-management giant AEG to get USA Boxing's events in bigger, more visible venues in upcoming years. They'll team up on media production as well, with Golden Boy planning to use Ring Magazine - which De La Hoya recently bought - to provide more attention for the team.

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July 11-13	Texas Youth Fast Pitch State (West Texas State) USSSA	\$250
August 1-3	West Texas Men's D State/Women's State USSSA	\$250
Aug 8-10	West Texas Men's C State/Men's E State USSSA	\$250
Aug 22-24	4th Annual Cotton Pickin' Midwest National (Men's E) USSSA	\$300
Sept 5-7	1st Annual Lubbock Ironman - "Run Til Your Done" (6 Game Guarantee) USSSA	\$300
	(Men's Equalizer and Women's Equalizer)	
Sept 26-28*	8th Fall Cotton Pickin' Fast Pitch Tournament (All age groups) USSSA	\$300
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Diego Luna acepta desafío teatral

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El actor John Malkovich (Dangerous Liaisons, In the Line of Fire) dirigirá en México la obra teatral Good Canary, protagonizada por el mexicano Diego Luna, desveló el sábado el intérprete Daniel Giménez Cacho, parte del elenco.

Giménez Cacho (La mala educación) destacó ante los medios que Diego Luna (Y tu mamá también) fue quien lo invitó para ser parte de la obra, que se estrenará en noviembre próximo en el Teatro de los Insurgentes de Ciudad de México.

"Es una obra peculiar sobre una escritora y yo soy uno de los editores. En el momento en el que ella comienza a volverse muy famosa se comienzan a descubrir ciertas cosas sobre su vida que se desconocían", apuntó el actor mexicano.

La pieza toca el tema de las adicciones, la anorexia, la imagen pública y el éxito, agregó Giménez Cacho. Los ensayos comenzarán en octubre.

"Ya hablé con Malkovich, nos conocimos en España cuando él dirigió una película con Javier Bardem [Pasos de baile]", concluyó Giménez Cacho.

John Malkovich, considerado uno de los actores más destacados del cine, muy selectivo con sus trabajos, estrenará próximamente Burn After Reading, de los hermanos Joel y Ethan Coen (No Country for Old Men).

Diego Luna es uno de los jóvenes actores del cine mexicano con más fama en su país, conocido también en el exterior gracias a sus incursiones en películas como The Terminal y Open Range, dirigidas por Steven Spielberg y Kevin Costner, respectivamente.

El actor fundó con su compatriota y compañero de labores Gael García Bernal la productora Canana Films, con la que recientemente filmó Sólo quiero caminar, del español Agustín Díaz Yanes.

Por su parte, Giménez Cacho tiene pendiente de estreno Arrancame la vida, versión cinematográfica de la novela de la mexicana Ángeles Mastretta.

Aunque son fieles admiradores del legendario Ramón Ayala, Intocable asegura esforzarse por crear su propio camino.

Con un estilo muy particular de tocar e interpretar música tejana, el sexteto asegura que es más gratificante forjar su trayectoria con temas originales. Hasta ahora, todos sus discos han sido inéditos.

"When everything is said and done, [cuando todo ya esté dicho y hecho] y veamos la carrera de Intocable es más bonito recordar y mirar hacia atrás y mirar todo lo que nosotros hicimos de la nada, todos esos temas nos los entregaron, nosotros hicimos los arreglos", dijo Ricardo "Ricky" Muñoz, el vocalista, a La Opinión en una visita reciente a Los Ángeles.

Agregó que tampoco critica a los que los hacen pero que reconoce que el público recuerda a los autores originales mejor que a los que cantan covers.

"No nos satisface o no nos llena tomar una canción que fue de Joan Sebastian que fue un éxito por ejemplo y nosotros hacer un arreglo y tocarla; siempre la van a recordar como el tema de Joan Sebastian", explicó.

Cada vez que graban un disco, Muñoz dijo que se reúnen en el estudio para decidir todo lo que quieren transmitir en el disco.

"A nosotros nos gusta ser creativos, tomar challenges [desafíos], hacer cosas inéditas y arreglos. Todo eso nos encanta hacerlo, no nada más llegar al estudio y 'ora si, qué canciones estuvieron en el top 10 hace 30 años' y grabarlas todas", declaró.

Con 2C, el nuevo disco de Intocable, los originarios de Zapata, Texas, celebran sus 14 años de carrera musical con el mismo sello de originalidad que con la que empezaron. El haber llegado a los más altos niveles de popularidad en la primera semana de lanzamiento del CD, comentaron, los llena de orgullo.

Actualmente ocupan el sexto lugar en dos listas de la revista Billboard: Hot Latin Songs con el primer sencillo Tu adiós no mata, y Top Latin Albums con el disco.

A diferencia de otros álbumes, en el actual incluyeron ritmos tradicionales de la región norte de México y que ellos escuchaban cuando eran niños con sus familiares.

"Siempre habíamos querido hacer eso, grabar una polka y un huapango... con este disco regresamos a nuestras raíces, con canciones nuevas, cosas frescas, con nuevos instrumentos, pero más que nada es más raíces, muy pegajoso eso sí", afirmó el también acordeonista.

Además, antes de realizar cualquier producción discográfica, mantienen muy presente los pedidos de sus fans. Muñoz compartió que con el disco anterior ganaron más admiradores pero los de "hueso colorado" les reclamaron por desviarse de la música norteña que los caracteriza al incluir balada y country.

Con el CD nuevo, nombrado así por ser el duodécimo de su carrera, los integrantes usaron un plan que ellos han llamado Operation Kindergarten.

"Pensamos en canciones como Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, algo que todo el día traigas en tu mente, música bien catchy, [pe-

gajosa] eso estábamos buscando en el nuevo disco", afirmó.

Tal parece que la técnica ha sido fructífera ya que Muñoz comentó que en las presentaciones que han tenido como parte de su gira Unidos Tour, el público ya les pide los nuevos temas.

Durante el recorrido de 40 fechas en territorio estadounidense, los intérpretes de ¿Y todo para qué? y Sueña compartirán escenario con colegas de otros géneros musicales. Este fin de semana compartirán dos fechas con los Horóscopos de Durango en el sur de California.

"Andamos en una gira con Horóscopos de Durango y, aparte, durante esta gira se nos van a unir otros grupos dependiendo en la zona en que estemos", dijo el líder.

De acuerdo con el cantante, la idea de hacer esta colaboración con el grupo oriundo de Chicago surgió debido a que ambas agrupaciones tienen propuestas similares para el público joven dentro de cada ritmo al que pertenecen, además de que "son bien chambadores", expresó Muñoz.

Siguiendo con colegas del ambiente artístico, los texanos aseguraron que el aparatoso accidente que Emilio Navaira sufrió hace unos meses les trajo tristes recuerdos debido a un trágico incidente que sufrieron en 1999 en una carretera, donde dos de sus compañeros murieron.

"Es algo bien difícil, un accidente en el camino; a nosotros lo que nos pasó fue algo muy lamentable en cuestión de que fue un blowout, [explotó] una llanta, ¿no? En el caso de Emilio no andar bien en sus cinco sentidos es algo bien difícil y en la madrugada; obviamente lo sentimos mucho por él porque lo conocemos", dijo.

Para minimizar las posibilidades de un contratiempo en carretera, Intocable emplea a más de un chofer para que diferentes personas tomen turnos en el volante, aunque también Muñoz comentó que, en general, evitan manejar por largas distancias en autopistas.

Al finalizar la entrevista, Muñoz admitió entre risas haber mejorado su pronunciación y conocimiento del idioma español "a base de burlas".

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Shakira could star in her own reality TV show

MTV might document a making-of the singer's new album They say everything Shakira touches turns to gold. Her MTV Unplugged concert was the cable station's first internationally transmitted acoustic concert in Spanish. So maybe that's why MTV has offered the Colombian singer to document the making of her new album on a reality TV show.

The show would be shot in Shakira's home, which houses her recording studio, in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Recently the "La Tortura" singer revealed that it was one of her favorite places in the world. "I love being in this place to write my songs and to prepare for new projects... direct contact with nature is what inspires me, and I need to be around that to work."

MTV is currently in talks with Shakira, and hopes the singer will be up for exposing some her

most intimate songwriting and recording secrets, reports the site labotana.com.



Live Nation offers Shakira a \$70 million contract

The concert promoter that signed Madonna has its own plans for the Colombian singer

Live Nation, one of the biggest live concert promoters in the world, has just offered Shakira a \$70 million contract, as details regarding the agreement are expected to come to light within the next few days.

The New York Post, reports that after 10 months of negotiations, the company is ready to ink

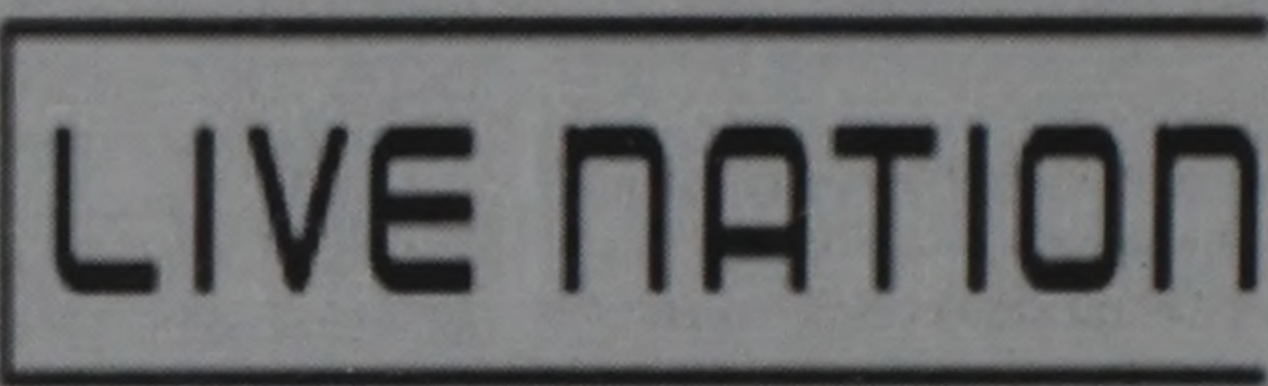
a deal with the 32-year-old Colombian pop star, and will take on the responsibilities of managing her concerts and event recordings, acknowledging her as the most important Latina star of the

moment.

"Live Nation is trying to establish itself in a big way in each genre no matter what the loss leader is going to be on it," said one major label executive.

The "Hips Don't Lie" singer still owes SonyBMG's Epic Records another English-language studio album, expected in the spring 2009, as well as a greatest-hits record.

Last year, Live Nation



seized the pop and hip-hop genres by signing contracts with Madonna for \$120 million and Jay-Z for \$150 million.

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- Use mulch around shrubs and in flower beds to reduce moisture evaporation.
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Veneno Wins 2nd Place - Headed to World



It was an exciting and fun weekend for the Veneno Fast-pitch Softball Club team. The team participated and placed, 2nd Place in the Texas-New Mexico State & West Texas Regional. The tournament was held July 4th weekend

at Berl Huffman. A total of 6 teams participated in the 18 & under fast pitch division. One of the best and exciting highlights of the tournament for the team was the winning against local team Full Throttle. Veneno met and got

defeated by the team the first time around; but the second time was better for Veneno, when it really counted for placing in the winning bracket of the tournament. The win could be attributed for

a final strike out of one of the other teams/s player, to 'Silly' (Celinda Hinojosa) the pitcher and the rest of the team that kept focused and wanting to win made the victory possible.

Veneno will be in this coming weekend State tournament held here. Veneno team is looking forward participating in the World Tournament Series which will be held in Plano the beginning in August for a whole week. The team is working hard and having different fundraisers in helping the trip to be a greater success, said Head Coach Daniel Perez of the Veneno team. "This is neat to see everyone working together for something good for everyone as a team. "This is what playing ball is all about," said Bidal Aguero, founder of Veneno girls soft-pitch club team.

Veneno invites everyone out to Berl Huffman this weekend and to go by their booth for a good sausage wrap burrito or a brisket burrito. Todos bienvenidos!



The Girl Scout Troop #73 girls. Girls in our troop are as follows: Soila Olivarez, Alyssa Guerra, Cindy Medina, Amanda Gonzales, Jasmine Flores, Brandi Vasquez, Jessica Medina, Marissa Guerra who will all be going to Paris/London from July 9th through July 17th. The troop will spend four days in Paris and four days in London are looking forward to visiting the Eiffel Tower, the painting of the famous Mona Lisa, and will be doing some shopping in Paris. They will then travel to London by Eurostar under the English Channel where they will do some site seeing, attend a performance at the Apollo Victoria theatre and visit one of the Girl Scout World Association Girl Guides, Pax Lodge.

Celebration of a Baptism

Congratulations to Aryana Denise Guzman who was baptized on Sat., July 5, 2008 at St. Joseph's Catholic church. Godparents are Joe & Amalia Riojas of Lubbock.

Aryana was born on Mar. 20, 2008 and weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. and was 19 inches long. She is the daughter of Eric & Casandra Guzman who also resides here in Lubbock.



USA Softball Team Makes Pitch with Pre-Olympic Tour

By Vicki Michaels, USA TODAY
The U.S. women's softball team is now about mid point of a 62-game, cross-country trek in the past few months that softball aficionados should view as rock 'n' roll fans do the Van Halen reunion tour with David Lee Roth.

Last chance to see them together? Maybe.

In 2005, the International Olympic Committee voted softball and baseball off the Olympic program for the 2012 Summer Games. The IOC could vote them back in for 2016. Or not.

BASEBALL, TOO: Game wants to get back into Olympics That makes the U.S. women's KFC Bound 4 Beijing tour, which begins Tuesday in Tucson against the University of Arizona, part preparation for this summer's Olympics, part farewell and part campaign.

"We're almost taking it as a way of saying, 'Hey, look at what you're going to be missing,'" pitcher Lisa Fernandez says.

International Softball Federation President Don Porter needs no reminders. He keeps a box on his desk filled with hundreds of letters and printed e-mails from young softball players, exhorting him to do what he can to restore the sport's Olympic status.

"That's why we've got to get this back in," Porter says.

The U.S. team, which has won all three Olympic gold medals awarded in the sport, carries a

sense of urgency as well. "I think the challenge for us is going to be to make a statement — we obviously have so much to prove, and we're so passionate about this sport remaining in the Olympic Games — but to not lose sight of what we're trying to do at the Olympic Games," U.S. outfielder Jessica Mendoza says.

Softball's time as an Olympic sport is relatively short. It was introduced at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

A decade later, the number of Division I softball teams in the USA has grown (to 277 in 2007 from 222 in 1997), as has the number of youth teams (to 86,049 in 2007 from 73,567 in 1995). Mike Candrea, the U.S. Olympic coach and University of Arizona head coach, expects such growth to be affected when softball is no longer in the Olympics.

"I think it will trickle all the way down," he says.

An effort by IOC President Jacques Rogge to make room for new Olympic sports without expanding the program put softball and baseball on the chopping block.

At a July 2005 meeting, IOC members voted 52-52, with one abstention, to cut softball from the Olympic program after the 2008 Games. Softball needed a majority vote to stay. Baseball was also voted out, by a 54-50 count. They were the first sports cut from the Olympics since polo in 1936.

None of the new sports under consideration at the time, a list that included golf and rugby, garnered enough votes to be added to the Olympic program.

That left the door open for softball and baseball to regain their Olympic status. The IOC will consider the Summer Games program again in October 2009.

In the next 20 months, softball officials, players and supporters must work to reverse IOC members' views on two primary factors that led to the sport's ouster:

•A perceived tie-in with baseball IOC members "bundled" baseball and softball, U.S. IOC member Anita DeFrantz says, and baseball got the boot primarily because of doping concerns and the lack of an agreement with Major League Baseball to send the world's best

players to the Olympics. Softball has no doping clouds hanging over it, and the best players do compete in the Games.

"I'm not trying to bash the IOC by any means," Mendoza says, "but if they're going to be making decisions as far as eliminating and keeping people's dreams in and out of the Olympic Games, it frustrates me that they don't have the research."

Porter travels the world to educate IOC members about softball. He also has asked national federations worldwide that govern both softball and baseball to split into separate organizations.

"Many of the IOC members on a number of occasions, including President Rogge, have told me we need to keep our distance from baseball," Porter says.

•Not enough participation globally

In the three Olympics softball has been contested, four countries have won medals: the USA, Australia, China and Japan. That fed an argument that softball doesn't have enough depth of talent worldwide to merit Olympic status.

The ISF is working to put down roots in places where softball traditionally hasn't been played — the Middle East, Africa and Europe — by donating equipment and hosting coaching clinics.

Since the 2004 Olympics, the USA's Mendoza has delivered equipment and conducted clinics in countries such as Brazil, the Czech Republic and South Africa.

"I'm really finding that without it being an Olympic sport, a lot of the progress that was being made

is now going to start to slow down. And that disappoints me more than anything," she says.

For six more months, as they travel around the USA and then to Beijing, the U.S. players will have ready-made audiences for their message. After that, it gets harder but even more urgent.

"I'm going to continue to do what I can," Fernandez says, "in order to get it back where it needs to be, or where it deserves to be — and that's as an Olympic sport."

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