

Casualties of
War in Iraq
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Lubbock, Texas

New Mexican American Chamber of Commerce Formed for Lubbock Area

By Abel Cruz

The paraphrase of an old American western saying, "There's a new Chamber in town".

A group of long time Lubbock Hispanic leaders, led by former Lubbock City Councilman Victor Hernandez, have created the Lubbock Area Mexican American Chamber of Commerce, a new business chamber to address the many needs which exist within the Hispanic business community, and perhaps the Hispanic community in general.

Hernandez says that the Texas Secretary of State's office issued a certificate "evidencing the filing of the organization's articles of incorporation" and that Efrén Villanueva, Jaime Garcia, Emilio Abeyta, Diana Chaps, and Chris Gonzalez, along with Hernandez have agreed to serve as directors of the new organization.

Hernandez also serves as Chair, with Villanueva serving as Chair-Elect, Grace Quintana as Secretary/Treasurer, and local Attorney Emilio Abeyta serving as legal advisor.

Hernandez told El Editor that the new chamber already has 150 members and that all are "Hispanic and of African American owned small businesses ranging from restaurant to hair services", to business professionals.

One question which is sure to be debated within the business community and perhaps the Hispanic community in general is



whether the new chamber was started as a result of the recent controversy surrounding the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber's possible merger with the Lubbock Chamber.

In an interview on Lubbock's Fox 34 newscast on Tuesday, Mike Arismendez, Chairman of the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber, told the station's Alicia Grifaldo that "it was unfortunate that a new group of Hispanics decided to part ways".

But according to Hernandez, the past controversy surrounding the LHCC did not play a role in their decision to go ahead with a new chamber. Hernandez told El Editor that "the issue of creating a new Mexican American Chamber has been kicked around

for years with serious discussions being started approximately 5-6 months ago" and that the final decision to organize was made around mid-January.

Hernandez says that they consider the Lubbock Chamber a "sister organization".

"Some of our members have active memberships in LHCC" and "we are committed to being supportive of LHCC and (the Lubbock Chamber's) efforts in general and hope they will be supportive of our efforts as well. LAMACC will continue to exist regardless of any decision by LHCC to merge or not merge with LHCC".

Although a formal mission statement has yet to be adopted by the membership, Hernandez says the group's focus will be on "following, opportunity, advocacy, family, tradition, and education". The items to be focused on would seem to indicate that the new chamber will try and extend its scope beyond the traditional Hispanic business issues and incorporate families into the organization's activities.

Aside from the controversy surrounding the LHCC's merger with the Lubbock Chamber, are questions over whether there are enough Hispanic businesses in Lubbock to financially sustain both chambers and whether an additional chamber is a good idea.

One of the original founders of the original chamber, Comerciantes Organizados Mejico Americanos, or COMA, El Editor Publisher Bidal Agüero says that he is not quite sure what the effort "I don't know if a new chamber is the answer. Of course I would like to see all Hispanic business under one umbrella organization that would probably be a strong advocate for our community".

Agüero said that many things must be taken into consideration when starting a new organization. "Now days it takes a lot of resources to effectively run an organization that will serve business owners in all the needs that they require," Agüero added that when the original Chamber (COMA) was started, they too started with a general business providing free office space but it soon became evident that they needed a paid staff to fulfill the daily needs of a business organization.

Agüero says that as one of the original founders, he does not like to see the dissolution within the Hispanic business community. But he says he understands why the new chamber was formed and hopes that they will be able to succeed in their original mission and "stay true to their original intent".

Business owners or person's wishing to learn more about the new chamber are invited to a mixer which will be held at the Depot Cotton Club on Friday the 4th at 5:30PM. To find out more about the organization, contact Hernandez at 765-5481 or email the organization at: LAMACC.Lubbock@aol.com

Murders and Drug Wars Replace Mariachi Music and Nightlife in Juarez

Many Lubbock residents might remember those crazy weekends of their youth when they would pile into the car late Friday evening and make the 6 hour drive west to El Paso. There they would cross over into Juarez for the weekend and greet the morning sun in the city of cheap brand name liquor bottles, cold Tecate beer, Mariachi music and 24 hour parking.



Back then, the exchange rate was 12 pesos to one American dollar and visitors could bring back bottles of name brand Tequila, some Mescal, or perhaps a bottle of Juarez's own Waterfall and Frazier.

Many people would also take advantage of inexpensive dental work at a fraction of the price paid here or go to buy prescription medicines; some which could be bought over the counter. Others would enjoy the burter for Mexican handmade goods in the "Mer-cado" or simply enjoy a cold Dos Equis beer at one of the food vendor's, both like "el chifladro" Tony's place while having their shoes shined. All the time being offered a deal on a countless number of items like Mexican music cassette tapes, Mexican blankets,

table clothes, and \$10 dollar carts of American brand cigarettes.

But as the old saying goes; that was then and this is now. And the "now" says that going into Juarez to enjoy the sounds of "el mariachi" may involve risking your life.

According to media reports, Mexico's President Felipe Calderon recently announced a "military surge" resulting in more than 2,000 federal troops being assigned to "Cadaid Juarez", just across the border from El Paso. At stake may be who ultimately wins up with control of the city, city officials or drug traffickers? Nearly 200 people have been killed since January 1 of this year, 30 in the week prior to "Operation Chihuahua, the name assigned to the military operation. Federal troops will be joined by 425 federal agents and intelligence experts according to media reports.

The rampant crime scene seems to be a result of the ongoing turf war between two of Mexico's drug cartels. The operation is intended to control "all access in and out of the city and monitor communications". The initial military presence though seems to have no effect on the violence and by this past Monday 4 more people had been killed. Roster's news service reported that "drug hit men tortured and killed four men, wrapping their heads in black garbage bags". The report described the bodies found as being "badly burned, handcuffed, hall-nailed and dumped on the streets".

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News Briefs

Council Approves Additional Street Name Changes

It was welcomed news for the many people who have been engaged in a long-drawn-out political effort with the Lubbock City Council to resume Canyon Lakes Dr. recognition of former labor leader activist and United Farm Workers (UFW) union pioneer organizer Cesar E. Chavez.

By a vote of 4-3, the council voted to approve the resolution introduced by District 1 Councilwoman Linda DeLeon in favor of additional street name changes.

According to a news release issued shortly after the council meeting by the Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Committee, council members said the committee is "pleased with Mayor David Miller, District 1 Rep. Linda DeLeon, District 2 Rep. Floyd Price, and District 4 Rep. Phyllis Jones who voted to connect portions of streets already named Cesar E. Chavez Dr."

"It has been a long road, but one worth the journey, according to the committee's chair person Christy Martinez Garcia.

Streets affected this time around are portions of North Ave U; Cornell Street, North Ave N; Baylor Street, North Ave. K, and First Street to which is now Cesar E. Chavez Dr.

According to the press release, "almost 100% of the homeowners on the abutting streets supported the street renaming by signing a mandated petition".

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Gonzales Criticizes Price's Political U-Turn

While proponents of the Cesar E. Chavez street name changes welcomed Councilman's Floyd Price's change of position; his primary opponent in the city council District 2 race sees it as a sign of political convenience.

Was Price "pandering unashamedly to the Hispanic voter", as District 2 candidate Armando Gonzales sees it? The answer to that question, according to whether Price changed his long standing position to win over Hispanic voters who supported the street name change may never be known.

But what voters will know for certain when they go to the polls in May is that District 2 Councilman Floyd Price made a political u-turn on his publicly stated position against changing street names for any reason and voted for a street renaming resolution at the March 27, 2008 Lubbock City Council meeting.

Armando Gonzales, one of 3 candidates for the seat now held by Price and considered to be Price's major opposition, told El Editor that "his (Price's) decision to betray his principle (which was a good one in regard to street renaming) is guided entirely by his selfishness to be councilman again".

Gonzales also says that Price's decision also means that "Price cannot be trusted" and "does not mean what he says"; since Price has previously gone on public record saying that he is adamantly opposed to any street renaming of any kind.

In the past, Price voted against the first Cesar Chavez street renaming and the Ave G to Crickets Ave name change. He also voted against the name change involving a small side street west of All Saints Episcopal School, Hartford, to All Saints Way.

Gonzales says that Price's about face shows Price's "insincerity and shows that he is being surrounded by special interests and people like Linda DeLeon and Christy Martinez Garcia".

"District 2 needs someone who is firm to the will of the people, not someone who does flip flops when it is politically convenient," said Gonzales.

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Singer Emilio Navaira Still in Critical Condition

The latest news out of Houston is that Emilio Navaira remains in critical condition at a Houston area hospital. The Houston Chronicle reports that Navaira had undergone a medical procedure to repair what is known as a "pseudo aneurysm"—a contained rupture in an arterial wall—in Navaira's right lung.

The Grammy Award winning Tejano music star was driving his tour bus early Easter Sunday morning when it crashed into traffic barrels just outside of Houston. The band had played in a Houston nightclub and was believed to be going to San Antonio when the crash occurred.

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Volunteers Needed for Arroyo Cleanup

The Guadalupe Neighborhood Association is in need of volunteers for its "5th Arroyo clean up campaign". Persons interested in helping the organization complete the clean up of the area north of Arzlan Park in the "Barrio Guadalupe" are encouraged to volunteer their time in this worthwhile environmental clean up effort.

The clean up is scheduled for Saturday April 12 starting at 8:30AM. Organizers are seeking volunteers to meet at Arzlan Park at 1st Street and Ave J north of the mural.

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Jurors to Rosendo Rodriguez: "Death by Lethal Injection"

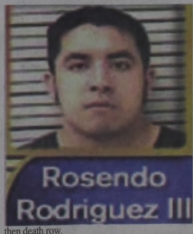
By Abel Cruz
We may never know exactly how it happened, but in 2005 Rosendo Rodriguez somehow wound up taking 29 oz of Summer Baldwin in his hotel room at the Holiday Inn Towers on Ave Q in Lubbock.

By the time the series of events resulting from that encounter are all over, Summer Baldwin's body and that of her unborn baby will have been found in the Lubbock landfill stuffed in a suitcase; and Rodriguez will find himself in the role of "dead man walking" into Texas' death chamber.

This past week, after finding Rodriguez guilty of capital murder, jurors deliberated less than 4 hours before coming back with the same fate for Rosendo Rodriguez which he forcibly and violently imposed on his innocent victim Summer Baldwin, death.

After a week long trial which was moved to Canyon on a change of venue, Rosendo Rodriguez learned that his fate will be the same fate as 29 year old Summer Baldwin suffered of his hands.

Rodriguez's next stop: a Lubbock County courthouse where he will have the sentenced pronounced on him by Judge Jim Bob Darnell and



then death row.

But there are still a series of appeals available to all death row inmates which Rodriguez might take advantage of before finally being put to death by lethal injection.

According to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the average wait time for defendants awaiting execution on death row is 10.26 years; a considerable amount of time which will only add

to the ordeal Baldwin's family has had to endure.

After the verdict is rendered, the case will automatically be appealed to the Court of Criminal Appeals whether the defendant wants to appeal the verdict or not.

If Rodriguez loses that appeal; then he has the option of appealing his case to the following courts; the Texas Supreme Court, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and finally the Supreme Court. He chooses not to appeal his case (which stops the heartbeat) is injected into Rodriguez's body, the final act in this tragedy can't come soon enough for the Baldwin family.

And although they may have to wait for the combination of drugs which cost an average of \$86.06 to travel through Rodriguez's veins; they may find some comfort in knowing that once the process starts, on average, only 7 minutes is all it takes for the drugs to take effect and the offender to be pronounced dead.

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Commentary The Race Game in the Race for President

By Abel Cruz

As much as we like to pretend that we have come a long way and have healed the wounds left over from past racial inequalities and put them behind us; we are nowhere near where we think we are; collectively as a nation that is.

The issue of race in the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination has inevitably reared its head and crept in from where it has been lurking in the shadows since Barack Obama announced his decision to seek the presidency.

I'm not surprised, it was bound to happen; that's the reality of the society we live in.

Another reality is that conversations and discussions about race make most people feel uncomfortable; especially in mixed race company. And they do because race is not something we talk about on a daily basis.

The problem is that race related issues is something that our every day still grapple with in their every day lives and those experiences sometimes make how people feel about their life as it relates to society in general. These may very well be the things which gave life to the comments Barack Obama had to address in his recent speech in Pennsylvania about race.

Our personal history and personal experiences; how we were raised, our cultural environment, and ultimately our economic achievement or non-achievement, may have more to do with our view about race than we realize. Consequently, those factors probably formed our view of the Obama speech on the issue of race as he tried to undo the damage done to his campaign by a man he has called a friend, pastor and mentor for 20 years; Rev. Jeremiah Wright. (For story on Rev. Wright see <http://eleditor.com/news.php?id=1125> or see www.eleditor.com)

Whether he succeeded or not in minimizing the damage to his campaign has yet to be seen. Although the furor over Wright's comments seemed to have died down; you can rest assured that they will be resurrected in the general election should Obama win the nomination.

What was not so hard to see is that things were no different after the speech; with most legitimate news-casts being very careful about how the event was reported. The coverage spanned the full spectrum from being overly politically correct to the ridiculous on national cable news outlets like Fox News which Obama win the nomination.

Based on how the national media reported the story, it proves the point that those in charge of the coverage are a) uncomfortable with the topic and are not quite sure how to handle it, or b) use it for their own personal or corporate agendas.

To many people today, especially a younger generation, the issue of

race is not an issue until, they are treated differently or until they experience some kind of social injustice; whether real or perceived.

And when they finally are forced to confront it, if at all, my guess is they tend not to believe it. They immediately mentally go through a list of reasons why a particular situation has happened to them and come to the conclusion that if it's not for any other reason then it must be because of the color of their skin.

That then opens the door to the statements we hear, similar to; "we'll when all else fails; minorities always play the race card" comment from those who may also feel that it's about race from the beginning but would rather deny the truth so as not to risk being labeled a racist.

Of course this is a generalization and may or may not apply to every situation. But from my experience, in these types of situations, people usually wind up taking the position which most reflects their beliefs about race and from their final view based on how they feel about race to begin with.

It is the two headed monster which manifests itself when people suddenly find themselves staring at racial reality; even though up to that point the reality has been suppressed by a genuine desire to look beyond skin color. We all see and it, and it forces the belief that it is never about race until it is.

And even though a person may not have ever encountered racism before; if the like pornography, you may not be able to define it but you know it when you see it; to use a phrase first coined by the late US Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart.

In the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination; the issue of race coming up was inevitable. The gender issue was inevitable when Hillary Clinton announced her intention to run and skin color was not far behind with Obama's announcement.

It started with blacks questioning whether Obama was "black enough" and it progressed to the point where almost 90% of blacks voters are voting for Obama. That to me is proof enough that for some black voters, race has played a major role in their decision to vote for Obama.

Isn't that being racist you might ask? No, I see it as a political reality and a reflection of racial sentiments being expressed. Same thing for Clinton and the gender issue; some people will vote for Hillary Clinton just because she's a woman.

But inevitably race has trumped gender. And ultimately reality has trumped idealism.

Take a look at the words spoken in 2004 by Barack Obama when he gave the Democratic convention's keynote speech as a Senate candidate from Illinois; a young ide-

alist new generation politician. Here's what he said: "There's not a black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America; there's just America."

Wonderful words right; but how realistic is it to believe that we all will buy into that and most importantly practice it in our institutions and society in general? It's not and if the Obama speech proved anything, that was it. It seems that Obama was forced to set his idealism aside and deal with the reality of race relations in this country.

If his speech resonated with anyone it is the mostly black voters and younger voters of all races who have voted for him in unprecedented numbers because they so desperately want to believe what Obama envisions. One group, blacks, because they are sick and tired of the racial inequalities they have to face and desperately desire society's affirmation of their skin color in a positive way. Perhaps they think that their skin color is the only African American is elected President."

Although Obama didn't say it; it was clearly a rude awakening that although he believes, wholeheartedly that we should live in a color blind society, we are many, many years removed from that; if we ever get there at all.

The speech was well crafted and calculated; although some people would criticize it for being too calculated; and designed to do no further harm to his campaign. But at least the man had the political and personal guts to go out before the 24 hour news cycle and tell us how he felt about the issue.

Contrast that to typical politicians who never answer the question or address the real issue and try and bamboozle us with their political rhetoric and doublespeak.

To use a sports metaphor, the speech may have served the purpose of moving the ball a few yards on the football field towards the goal. But in the game of race and life in America he moved it relatively little; and we still have a long way to go.

As long as we affirm labels to people; as long as we see people's skin color first; we will never transcend the generational attitudes which all people have been brought up to. Perhaps it is only to those not yet born to transcend those barriers and finally move the ball past the goal line.

Perhaps that's too idealistic? Next time you stop to ponder what this all means and contemplate about these issues and ask yourself if skin color matters ask yourself this question:

Obama has a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas; why then is Obama seen as not a black man who is part white, and not a white man who is part black? Email: acruze@soi.com

Should Latinos Vote for the Independent Candidate?

By José Armas
Should Latinos vote Republican again?

Just kidding. Without question, today's Latino voter has become a much more sophisticated constituent.

Having been disillusioned with the Democrats for a long time, in the 2004 presidential election a record 40 percent of Latinos voted Republican.

Without the additional five percent of Latino support, Bush might still be riding on a wave of momentum.

Latinos voted they could make a difference at the polls and we waited patiently to see if our Latino agenda would finally get action and we'd finally stop being labeled the "Invisible Minority."

After all, Latinos are a vibrant, growing community on the move. We contribute to society, demonstrate an unpassioned work ethic, are patriotic, and have great family values. But despite our contributions, we face major challenges.

We have the largest percentage of working poor; schools are failing to educate our children and our health disparities are growing. If white folks shifted the magnitude of our problems, politics long ago would have called for a state of national emergency. Surely the Bush administration would take action for us...

Alas, eight years later our problems are worse, and with the demonizing of the Latino immigrant population all Latinos are being victimized with the increase in hate crimes. No politics is confronting this surge in racism against us.

We've surpassed blacks in population. Now we have the dubious distinction of being this country's "Largest Invisible Minority."

Every president since John F. Kennedy — Democrat and Republican alike — has appointed a Latino to top positions than the previous administration. But to paraphrase Stanford professor Debra Rusk: "Giving a Latino a position of power is not the same as empowering Latinos."

What's the big deal about this being a history-making election? It isn't about a White Woman or Black Man or even another White Man becoming president. This is about us. Who is finally going to act on our specific concerns?

The Latino/Black divide is real. And Senator Obama contributes to it when he says — as he did after a recent primary: "I saw scrambling schools that are stealing the future of black children and poor white children."

If Obama can see us only when we're directly in front of him, do you think he'll see us behind the doors of his Oval Office?

Latino voters are going to vote Republican in anywhere near the numbers of the last election, but that doesn't mean we're returning to the Democrats' hat-in-hand. A December poll by Impeachment.com alert for all politicians.

It reports that in the top five Latino states, 58% are registered Democrats and 20% are registered Republicans. The poll also shows that with a record number (15%) have now registered as Independents or members of another party. Even more revealing is that 37% do not report a preference for either a Democrat or Republican candidate. This is big time!

Our sophisticated voter today is becoming more pragmatic. We're fed up with voting for the lesser of two evils.

The record number of Latino Independents brings us to Ralph Nader and his VP mate, Matt Gonzalez. Yes, Nader's hated — by the Democrats — but no one puts him on the head and shoulders plinth of the 2008 Democrats may sound dismissive, but they're terrified of him. That gives Latinos a place for leverage.

Nader is a player. What about Gonzalez? He is a lawyer and a former public defender. He was a longtime member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and a key leader in raising the minimum wage. Gonzalez is not a heavyweight too.

It will certainly take "cojones" for a majority of Latinos to vote for them. But we also know that Nader is an uncompromising champion of the disenfranchised and isn't controlled by big special interests.

Are we throwing away our vote if we vote for Nader? No more than we have on the 2008 president.

Isn't it time to talk to Nader and Gonzalez and find out if we see us? (Dr. José Armas is an award-winning journalist and author of the book "The Road as Reached at Armas.com." ©2008)

"Freedom of Expression" An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

My Views Pertaining to the Lubbock County Democratic Convention

Okay, the words of wisdom that I heard Mr. Dean Ruzio say to me, makes a lot of sense. "Instead of all these Democrats fighting each other and kicking back and forth, it is time to make Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama realize that it is time to close ranks and start working together to unity to beat the Republicans and John McCain in the fall this next November."

If Hillary would have been the Vice President of the United States, she would have the very real risk of losing the whole damn and not being on the ticket, had it be per se that Barack Obama (and Obama's wife) would be recovering on the field and accept the Vice President's spot; then her dream of being the first woman president would live on to be realized and captured at a later date.

But clearly, when even her own party's officials are robbing her of delegate votes (as it clearly happened at the Lubbock County Democratic Convention) she has her doubts.

I would urge Hillary's Campaign to go into some serious negotiations with the Obama camp and let's unify the Democratic Party and win a November. The Democratic Party does not need any more in-fighting and at each level that is what is taking place.

What appears to be a preview of the concert attraction for the National Democratic Convention in Denver, Colorado.

One Person's View on LAMACC The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reported today (April 2, 2008) that a new Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has been formed. The name? The Lubbock Area Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce. Now, I've said before (and it says all too true, that they distasteful Victor Hernandez offer, would his key light, and have his light on Lubbock once again. This time however, he seems to be focusing on using his talents on organizing Hispanic owned businesses, and Lubbock and surrounding towns, into a formidable force. A force that will not sit on economic power in a very different manner, so it seems.

Apparently, Victor is on the speaker's circuit, having made appearances (via telephone) to the Jim and Randy show (AM59) this morning; and the Armando and Ysidro rotation; the afternoon (AM50) show.

Victor is beautiful not to talk about what he calls their sister organization, the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (LHCC). But knowing Victor, it's only a matter of time before another microphone is left on and let us know what he really thinks of Mike Armas (and in my opinion, that crew of "vendidos").

Speaking of Mike Armas (and I'm told that he's especially ticked off at Victor and the new Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce) because of this little jab by Armas (Mike Armas) chances of being hired by the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce (LCC) and head of the soon to be formed "Hispanic division" of the LCC.

What the future holds for the Lubbock Area Mexican American Chamber of Commerce and the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will time will tell. But for one comment I would have a choice in it who can best represent me and my business.

RMS: Lubbock "Freedom of Expression" is a weekly feature of El Editor. We invite readers to submit their letters, commentaries and opinions for publication. All submissions will be subject to our editorial policies and practices; and may be edited due to space limitations. Submissions may be sent via email to eleditor@sbglobal.net

Las señoras de mi Auto-

dirección opuesta, agenda Manhattan. Sin la primera, la segunda mujer no podría irse de casa. Había que preparar comida, limpiar platos, ordenar mis víveres para el día o la semana siguiente. La mujer dueña de casa, en no podía dejar de lajaja de perder tiempo en tales "labores" Son las profesionales de "cuello blanco" en los rubros del comercio, las finanzas y la administración pública. Son las gerentes y supervisoras en un sinnúmero de empresas; algunas son dueñas de su propia empresa. Algunas son médicas, dentistas y psiquiatras, cocineras pacíficas las esperan en sus consultorios en Manhattan. Cada una depende de las demás para que el ciclo funcione.

Las señoras que cruzan cada mañana el río Hudson son tan esenciales a la economía de Manhattan como lo es Donald Trump o Michael Bloomberg, aunque poco se conoce de sus historias personales. El autobús con más peso cruzó el puente, viró de la carretera principal a una comunidad de clase media. En cada parada, las mujeres se bajaban o salían de a dos. La mayoría se chocaron o alegres se despedían de sus compañeras en lo que se bajaban del autobús. Rápidamente se hizo obvio que estas mujeres eran las que limpian las casas, que cocinaban o que cuidaban niños, participantes de la economía informal que iban como a sus trabajos esenciales para las familias modernas de los profesionales de Nueva York. Tan pronto cada mujer llegaba a su destino, la mujer profesional que vivía en la casa se iría, encaminándose en el auto.

El Hijo Del Alacrán Back in the 70s and 80's "El Alacrán," the "horror" strip that stars with his anti-hero is 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" Y quien quisiera de la carrera encima Mario Ybarra y Laila Chavez siguen. Chismes dicen los chismes que ya haber bastantes divos ya que en todas las yardas se miran dos signs uno de Mario y uno de Laila. Puesa sera que uno de los amos de casa va votar por Mario y el otro por Laila? Quien sabe.

Y parece que ya se hicieron dos Camaras de Comercio y andans todos excitados. Este Alacrán sabe muy poquito y entiende menos pero como es? Primero se pelearon porque no querian que se uniera una de las camaras con la camara principal por luego habia haber dos. Y luego se hicieron dos. Que tiene mi raza?

Y nos cuenta el o el RMS que Victor Hernandez es el principal de la nueva Camara. Se me hace que no sabe a que se metio. Hasta la proxima!

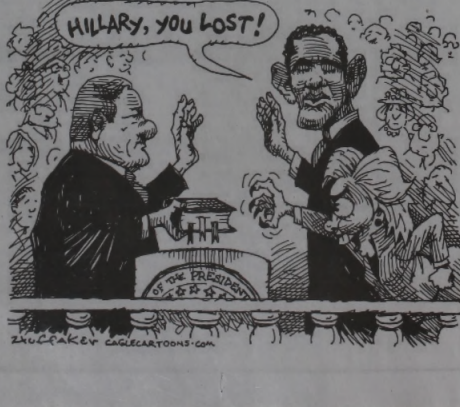
Léa El Editor en el Internet www.eleditor.com o escribanos al eleditor@sbglobal

El Editor

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Lubbock Democratic County Convention pass 28 resolutions

Below are the resolutions passed by the Lubbock Democratic County Convention which was held on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at Lubbock High School. During the Convention, 28 resolutions were passed as a package on behalf of the Resolution Committee and an additional 16 were introduced from the floor and were passed. The resolution that received the most discussion was Florida & Michigan Constitutional Voting Rights which was submitted by Pct. 128. Obama delegates were the main opponents saying that Texas should not be involved if delegates from Michigan or Florida should be seated. Another resolution that created discussion from the floor was an immigration that was introduced from the floor. The resolution mainly said that all immigrants should be treated with respect and dignity in all aspects of immigration. The delegate objected that the resolution in its entirety had problems. Although, when she was asked in what area her concern was, she could not be specific. All delegates were also selected to attend the state convention; 41 delegates were for Hillary Clinton and 23 for Barack Obama. Ten at-large delegates were also selected all for Obama.

CRATIC PARTY
2008 RESOLUTIONS
FIRST SUBMITTED THROUGH
PRECINCT CONVENTIONS
FOLLOWED BY THE COUNTY RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
AND CATEGORY CHILD CARE ISSUES

CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE
PRECINCT 118
WHEREAS Texas children are uninsured at more than 1.5 times the national rate according to the U.S. Census Bureau,
WHEREAS National Institutes of Health have reported that children without insurance are less likely to receive timely care than their insured counterparts;
WHEREAS untreated illness leads to lost days of school for children;
WHEREAS African American and Hispanic children are more likely to be uninsured than Anglo children, putting them at an educational disadvantage;
WHEREAS untreated illness constitutes a threat to all children in group situations such as classrooms;
WHEREAS lack of timely and appropriate treatment for children's illnesses leads to missed work, lost wages, and lost employment for parents, threatening family financial security;
WHEREAS timely and appropriate care is less costly to individuals,

insurance companies and the public than emergency room care;
WHEREAS inappropriate use of emergency room care due to lack of insurance saps emergency room capacity, threatening the health of insured individuals in true emergency situations;
WHEREAS widespread lack of insurance threatens the health care infrastructure in many local communities in Texas;
WHEREAS Texas' Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is a cost-effective source of children's health insurance;
WHEREAS many other states have expanded health insurance to children by allowing families with no access to private insurance to purchase coverage but existing state-sponsored child health insurance;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas urges the legislature to pass legislation authorizing subsidized and full-cost buy-in options for the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for families with no access to private insurance.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD
Precinct 15
WHEREAS Texas' renewable power standard (RPS) has been highly effective in increasing the supply of renewable power available to Texas consumers;
WHEREAS Texas leads the nation in potential for renewable power production;
WHEREAS the renewable power industry has already provided more than 2,500 new jobs in Texas and \$12 million in revenue for the state;
WHEREAS establishing a national renewable power standard would increase demand for Texas-generated renewable power;
WHEREAS increasing the share of electricity in the US that comes from renewable sources helps protect the environment and reduce the pollution that causes smog and global warming;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas urges the Congressional Delegation to pass legislation establishing a national renewable energy standard (RES) requiring at least 20 percent of electricity generated in the United States to come from safe, clean, renewable resources.

CREATE A TEXAS SOLAR REBATE
Precinct 15
WHEREAS Texas has the greatest solar resource potential in the nation;
WHEREAS the Legislature helped create a boom in wind power in Texas;
WHEREAS the price of solar panels has declined dramatically over the last two decades, but it is still not cost-effective for most homeowners and businesses;
WHEREAS solar power is pollution free and unlike coal or nuclear power, has no water requirements; and
WHEREAS by 2012 a modest statewide solar rebate program would eliminate 5000 tons of smog pollution, eliminate 3 million tons of global warming pollution, and conserve 11.6 million gallons of water; and
WHEREAS air pollution hurts Texas consumers because it makes people sick, increased in local property taxes to pay for uncompensated health care and increase health insurance costs for everyone; and
WHEREAS Austin's municipally owned utility has a very successful solar rebate program that has helped hundreds of homeowners, schools and businesses install solar panels, but this rebate isn't available throughout the rest of Texas; and
WHEREAS a small investment now could bring billions in investment to the state over the next decade;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas calls upon the legislature to pass legislation establishing a statewide solar rebate program.

CATEGORY HEALTH/HUMAN SERVICES ISSUES
HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING, STAFFING, AND TRIZARE
Precinct 5
WHEREAS The Texas Health and Human Services Commission continues to make plans to privatize human services eligibility services in Texas; and
WHEREAS The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has not fully utilized authority granted by the Texas Legislature to hire staff and take other steps to restore the eligibility system based on local offices; and
WHEREAS The Texas Health and Human Services Commission continues to add new cases and take other steps to commit Texas to its new THERS computer system despite the fact that the Texas State Auditor has determined that the system is not adequately used;
WHEREAS the continuing degradation of the human service eligibility system, as indicated by worsening performance as measured by several mandated indicators, has

crossed a worsening crisis that can be described as a "melt-down" of the system; and
WHEREAS Texas faces the prospect of loss of federal funding, federal penalties, and other costly problems if steps are not taken to rebuild the system; and
WHEREAS continuing efforts to privatize components of our state's child and adult protective services programs constitute a threat to the integrity of services to abused and neglected children and elders; and
WHEREAS the privatized "AccessHR" human resources system is a failure that has crippled many functions in the five human services agencies while costing millions of dollars paid to the contractor;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas urges the Texas legislature, and the Texas Health and Human Services commission to take the following steps:
 1. Immediately abandon plans to continue the failed privatization/call center experiment.
 2. Suspend all input or conversion of cases into THERS until the future of the system has been decided and if it is decided to keep THERS, until the system is fully functional.
 3. Hire additional staff and upgrade staff training services to fully staff all HHS field offices.
 4. Cancel all plans to privatize any part of child protective services or adult protective services.
 5. Cancel the AccessHR contract with Convergys Inc. and rebuild in-house human resources functions.
SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Precinct 5
WHEREAS Texas residents with developmental disabilities need and deserve top quality services;
WHEREAS Texas ranks near the bottom among the states in funding for services to persons with developmental disabilities; and
WHEREAS a full continuum of services is essential to meet the needs of all Texans with developmental disabilities;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas urges the Legislature to adopt policies and approve funding to support a full continuum of care system for all Texans who need services; a system that:
 1. As fully funded and staffed based on service needs;
 2. Provides top quality care in the least restrictive setting appropriate for each person,
 3. Provides a continuum of care that includes:
 A. A state school option for indi-

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- Este juego de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas termina el 7 de abril de 2008. Tienes hasta el 4 de octubre de 2008 para canjear cualquier boleto de este juego:
- #765 Monthly Bonus (\$3) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.61
 - Este juego de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas termina el 14 de abril de 2008. Tienes hasta el 11 de octubre de 2008 para canjear cualquier boleto de estos juegos:
 - #767 Mega Stars (\$3) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.63
 - #768 Delta 7-11-21 (\$2) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.12
 - #10000 Crossover Cash (\$1) Probabilidades son de 1 en 17.3
 - #1001 X's & O's (\$3) Probabilidades y ganancias son de 1 en 3.1
 - #1010 Lottery Texas (\$3) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.87
 - #1014 Stocking Stuffer (\$1) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.05
 - #1015 Merry Money (\$3) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.52
 - #1016 Holiday Lucky Times 10 (\$10) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.38
- Este juego de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas termina el 21 de abril de 2008. Tienes hasta el 18 de octubre de 2008 para canjear cualquier boleto de este juego:
- #769 Fantasy 5 (\$5) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.65

Las probabilidades mostradas aquí son las probabilidades generales de ganar cualquier premio. Los premios mostrados aquí son los premios que se ganan al ganar cualquier premio. Los premios que se ganan al ganar cualquier premio son los premios que se ganan al ganar cualquier premio. Los premios que se ganan al ganar cualquier premio son los premios que se ganan al ganar cualquier premio.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Los premios de raspar pueden ser vendidos únicamente cuando todos los premios mayores a \$1000.00 han sido vendidos. Los premios de raspar pueden ser vendidos únicamente cuando todos los premios mayores a \$1000.00 han sido vendidos. Los premios de raspar pueden ser vendidos únicamente cuando todos los premios mayores a \$1000.00 han sido vendidos.

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WHEREAS a small investment now could bring billions in investment to the state over the next decade;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas calls upon the legislature to pass legislation establishing a statewide solar rebate program.

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Lubbock Democratic County Convention pass 28 resolutions

OPPOSITION TO "SUPER PRECINCT" VOTING SYSTEM

WHEREAS recent implementation of "Super Precincts" in Lubbock as an experiment resulted in a lower than anticipated voter turnout; and

WHEREAS "Super Precincts" separate the election process from neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS Texas election officials should be encouraging grassroots participation at the neighborhood level, including the election of Precinct Chairmen for the various parties; and

WHEREAS Texas election officials should be encouraging grassroots participation at the neighborhood level, including the election of Precinct Chairmen for the various parties; and

WHEREAS "Super Precincts" pose difficulties in reorganizing the current precinct system and precinct conventions, thereby discouraging involvement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas disapproves of the implementation of the "Super Precinct" system and supports the current neighborhood precinct system of voting and the re-organization of the neighborhood precinct system, and would urge the Texas Legislature not to adopt this system in the State of Texas.

SUPPORT FOR SUPER PRECINCTS

Precinct 18, 126

WHEREAS voters in the past have had limited voting locations for the primary;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas propose the use of "super precincts", such that any voter in a metropolitan area can vote in any precinct for that primary.

FLORIDA & MICHIGAN CONSTITUTIONAL VOTING RIGHTS

Precinct 126

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the citizens of Florida and Michigan present preferences at the National convention either by the vote already made at their primaries, or by some other method."

HAND COUNTED PAPER BALLOTS

Precinct 8

WHEREAS the advent of electronic voting machines has created substantial doubt in the integrity of the voting process; and

WHEREAS the possibility of hacking and computer error is rife within

electronic voting systems; and

WHEREAS hand-counted paper ballots, at the neighborhood precinct level represent the only sound and proper method for voting; and

WHEREAS electronic voting systems centralize voting authority in the hands of a few, and accountability is limited to only high-tech individuals, resulting in a loss of checks and balances which are necessary to true democratic processes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas strongly supports hand-counted paper ballots, and the elimination of electronic voting machines

CATEGORY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN TEXAS

Precinct 66

WHEREAS the Lubbock County Legislature is committed to equal justice for all persons according to the Constitution of these United States; and

WHEREAS it happens time and again that justice is prejudiced by racial and class bias and arbitrateness; and

WHEREAS the death penalty is not a deterrent to murder;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas petition the legislature to pass laws to abolish the death penalty in the State of Texas.

CATEGORY: INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NON-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION

Precincts 15, 28

WHEREAS we believe every Texan is entitled to the right to participate fully and equally in society and enjoy its benefits and freedoms; and

WHEREAS protecting vulnerable members of our state from unwarranted discrimination is fully consistent with the goals, aspirations and values of the Texas Democratic Party and Texans in general; and

WHEREAS Texans of different sexual orientation or gender identity suffer pervasive discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and education because of homophobia and a lack of legal protections; and

WHEREAS non-discrimination laws help to ensure that all people, including those people of different sexual orientation or gender have equal access to the same

opportunities and protections granted to others, such as the ability to work in an environment where people are judged by their job performance, not by their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression; and

WHEREAS the state of Texas does not have a statewide, non-discrimination policy covering sexual orientation and gender identity or expression;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas supports the passage of comprehensive non-discrimination legislation that would make discrimination based upon sexual orientation, gender identity or expression illegal in employment, housing, insurance, education and public accommodations.

WORKERS RIGHTS - REPEAL RIGHT TO WORK IN TEXAS

Precinct 22, 52

WHEREAS the so called "Right to Work" law in the state of Texas has done only damage to the blue collar workers, who are the back bone of the economy, as well as all the working class in Texas;

WHEREAS the so called "Right to Work" law has enabled the wealthy companies in Texas to keep wages in Texas far below the national average

WHEREAS the so called "Right to Work" law has made it difficult to organize the working class, in order to improve wages, benefits and working conditions for workers in the state of Texas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas supports the repeal of the current "Right to Work Law"

CATEGORY: STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

STATE EMPLOYEE PAY RAISE

Precinct 5

WHEREAS average state employee salaries have fallen below 20% since 1978 relative to the cost of living;

WHEREAS poor compensation is a major factor in the high employee turnover that reduces the effectiveness of state agencies and universities and cost millions of dollars each year in additional training costs;

WHEREAS university employees were excluded from even small raises approved by the Legislature in 2005 and 2007;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas urge the legislature to approve significant pay increases for state employees in 2009, with the following provisions:

1. That the pay raise is "a flat amount" across the board to ensure that employees on the bottom pay scale get a raise

that makes a difference

2. The University employees are included and that each University gets the raise adopted by the legislature

STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE & PENSION PLAN

Precinct 5, 8

WHEREAS The state employee health plans are one of the few components of the benefit packages that remain competitive with the private sector and

WHEREAS "consumer based" or defined contribution health plans reduces costs for employers by individualizing risks for employees and their families. These plans, often referred to as "health savings accounts" provide specific amounts of cash for each employee to be used to purchase needed health care. Once the allowance or "account" is exhausted the employee is responsible for further costs until

the plans that generally have very high deductible kick in. As reported by the general accounting office and a Harvard Medical School study.

Such plans are particularly unfair to women and families with children for whom costs increase and access to healthcare is reduced. AND,

WHEREAS defined contribution pension plans are essentially variations on 401K type plans. Under these plans the employee provides a specific amount, often as a match with employee contributions, the employee invests the funds and the employee's retirement depends on the wisdom of their investment decisions and the state of the stock market. In contrast, under the defined pension plan that state employees do not have, the amount of the pension is determined by a formula based on the employee's salary history and their years of service. The pension

system. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Texas urges the legislature to defeat any proposals to introduce "defined contribution", "consumer based", or "health savings accounts" programs into the state employee and university healthcare system.

TUTION INCREASE

Precinct 15

WHEREAS The Board of Regents of Texas Tech University recently increased tuition rates; and

WHEREAS this increase is one of many in recent times, and places an unconscionable burden upon the students of Texas Tech; and

A Full list of all resolutions passed can be found on www.eleditor.com

Kindergarten Orientation



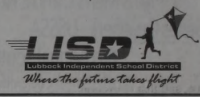
All children who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2008 are invited to bring their parents to kindergarten orientation at the LISD elementary campus in their neighborhood.

Wednesday, April 9, 1:30 p.m.

All LISD elementary campuses

Parents are encouraged to bring the following items: ★ a copy of their child's original birth certificate, ★ their child's social security card, ★ their child's up-to-date immunization records and ★ proof of address.

For more information visit www.lubbockisd.org or call 766-1600 (hablamos español).



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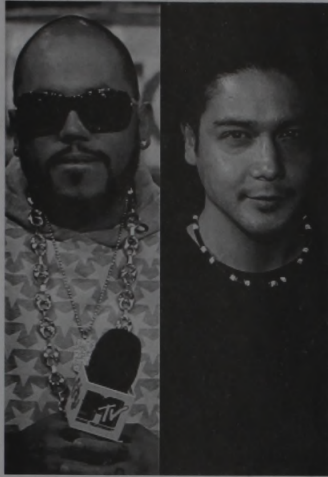
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Chris Pérez Is Not Leaving Kumbia All Starz

For weeks, rumors have been flying that members of the group Kumbia All

tinues to be a member of Kumbia All Starz," Quint-



Starz haven't been getting along. The band's latest controversy concerns 37-year-old guitarist Chris Pérez — ex-husband of deceased Tejano star Selena —, who many claim is planning to leave the group. But lead singer A.B. Quintanilla told the press that the rumor is not true.

"In response to recent rumors that our guitarist Chris Pérez is leaving the group, we want to explain that these rumors are not true, and that Chris con-

tinilla told the press. The 44-year-old also announced that the group is promoting their new CD Planeta Kumbia, and confirmed that they will perform during the Billboard Latin Music Awards April 10 in Hollywood, Florida.

Recently, the former Kumbia All Starz vocalist Pee Wee left the group because of differences between him and Quintanilla. 31st spot might be on the defensive side of

Family and friends of Emilio Navaira can rest a little easier now that the Tejano singer is no longer in a coma. Navaira had been unconscious at a Texas hospital after his tour bus collided with traffic barrels on a Houston highway last weekend. "His family was happy, crying tears of joy. He opened his eyes and the doctor told him if he understood what he was saying, that he should squeeze his hand, and he did," radio host Raúl Brindis — who was with the family when Navaira woke up — told the program El Gordo y La Flaca (Univisión).

"The most exciting thing was that his daughter Emily, who turned 9 yesterday, was there at his side," he added. Doctors are optimistic about the future of the 46-year-old singer, who is still in critical condition, but is stable.

Navaira is considered by many to be one of the leading musicians of the Tejano music genre. In 2003, he won a GRAMMY for his album Acuérdate. This isn't the first car accident the artist has experienced. In 2005, he was arrested for driving under the influence after crashing his car in San Antonio.



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Learn about water wise plants, irrigation and gardening techniques from area landscape architects, irrigators and certified City of Lubbock Staff

Saturday, April 5th
9am - 11am
Little Red Riding Hood Nursery
4006 34th Street

Saturday, April 26th
9am - 11am
TG Trees
118th & South Frankford



water.ci.lubbock.tx.us

Registration fee \$10. Upon completion of the workshop you will receive a \$25 gift certificate toward the purchase of water wise plants or water saving devices.

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