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Lubbock, Texas

Clinton's 3 State Primaries Including Texas; Embarks on Comeback Tour

Ohio voters decided who they would throw Hillary Clinton a lifeline. Texas supporters and especially Hispanics in Texas threw her a life vest; and she did the rest.

Election Results Stories March 2, 2008

Gutierrez Loses County Commissioner Democratic Nomination Race to Flores

If there are any certainties in politics, it's that most of the time incumbents enjoy several advantages over challengers. But in the case of the race for Precinct 3 County Commissioner between incumbent Ysidro Gutierrez and challenger Gilbert Flores, it seems that incumbency did not prove to be an advantage after all.

The number of votes separating the two political adversaries was 441 with Flores winning the hotly contested nomination race with 2,781 votes to Gutierrez's 2,341.

In the end, Flores' campaign against a better financed Gutierrez campaign proved to hold more of an appeal for Precinct 3 voters.

With all votes counted, Flores defeated Gutierrez: 54% to 46%; although results were unofficial according to the County Elections web site. But voter totals surpassed expectations and predictions.

According to county precinct numbers, the biggest vote difference between the two candidates in the city alone were at Chris Harwell Elementary, precinct 35, where Flores had 120 votes to Gutierrez's 85. Outside of Lubbock proper, that distinction belonged to Idalou voters in precinct 72 where Flores gained 187 and Gutierrez 115. Those two locations made up the bulk of the 441 vote difference; almost 25% of the margin.

For Flores, it is now on to November and his race against Republican Frank Nye.

When not unopposed in the Republican Primary.

In other local races, Pam Brink bested attorney Charles Dunn in the race for Lubbock County Democratic Party Chair. Dwight Fullington defeated Rufus Mark in their race for the Democratic nomination to see who will face off against Republican Randy Neugebauer in the general election in November.

In the Republican primary, the race for Lubbock County Tax Assessor - Collector was won by Ronnie Keister with 67.28% of the votes. Challengers Veronica Lujan and Molly Ramos came up short in their bid for the office. And there is no Democratic opposition for Keister; so for all practical purposes he has won the office outright even though this was a primary only.

and comeback from the brink of defeat.

Late Wednesday night, results showed Clinton had won the state of Texas with 51% of the vote compared to Obama's 47%. She also captured the races in Ohio and Rhode Island.

And although she won the popular vote; her drive to reach the 2025 delegates needed to secure the nomination still remains an elusive task.

But as late as Wednesday night, it was still unclear how many delegates each candidate had won. But the Clinton campaign sent out a press release claiming that she had won more delegates than Obama; and criticizing him for claiming otherwise. "We believe we won more delegates in Texas and could be up by as many as five when all is said and done", according to Clinton's Texas Communications director Adrienne Elms. She continued:

"Given all the reports of irregularities we received yesterday, it's no surprise that the Obama campaign is trying to end this process before it's over. We suggest they show more respect for the caucus process and let the votes be counted. We feel great about our victory (Tuesday) in Texas and are looking forward to the final results which we believe will confirm Sen. Clinton's victory in Texas. Tuesday's Obama campaign is trying to call an end to this race prematurely."

Taking into account Clinton's wins in Rhode Island and Ohio, according to CNN, the delegate count stood at 1,520 for Barack Obama and 1,424 for Hillary Clinton. That number includes pledged super delegates.

A total of 2,025 delegates are needed to win the Democratic nomination; and the delegate count is not expected to change much when Texas results are finalized.

Rather it was the 3 victories at this point which meant more to the Clinton campaign and gave her campaign new life after 11 straight losses to Obama.

Her victories showed that her campaign is still viable and gives her the push she needed against the Obama campaign if she is to have a chance to succeed in her race for the Democratic nomination.



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In the Republican nomination race, John McCain achieved his 12 year mission of capturing the nomination with wins in all 4 states; Rhode Island, Vermont, Ohio, and Texas. Late Tuesday, Mike Huckabee conceded the nomination to McCain and dropped out of the race.

On Wednesday, McCain was received by President Bush at the White House where he was congratulated and endorsed by his former political rival.

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News Briefs Armando Gonzales Announces Candidacy for District 2 Council Seat

On Wednesday, District 2 resident Armando Gonzales announced his intention to seek the city council seat held by Councilman Floyd Price.

"At a 2:00 PM news conference, Gonzales spoke about his desire to make things better and to be a problem solver for the residents of District 2."

Price announced his intention to seek reelection a few weeks ago; and it was expected that Gilbert Salinas who resides in the District would also seek the seat.

Gonzales has been in the spotlight for the past year. He was the primary spokesperson for the group who tried twice to elect District 1 Councilwoman Linda DeLeon. Both recall efforts failed.

But Gonzales told El Editor that that was then and this is now. "This about solving the issues that are important to District 2 residents; it's a failure on Mr. Price's part to address the issues like the lack of economic development in East Lubbock, inadequate housing, poverty and education. He has had 4 years to address those of these issues and as far as I can tell he has done absolutely nothing to advocate for the needs of the residents who live in District 2. I will not let this race be expected to generate a lot of interest among District 2 voters."

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Democrats Elect New Party Chair; Pam Brink

The very gratified by the support I received for my campaign.

With that statement, new Lubbock County Democratic Party Chair, Pam Brink expressed her gratitude to voters who elected her to be the new official voice for Lubbock County Democrats.

"Brink replaces outgoing chair Susan Barnick who was appointed Chair late last year but decided not to seek the position. Barnick defeated Charles Dunn who received 43% of the vote. Brink received 57%."

El Editor asked Brink to share her thoughts on her win and the election. She issued the following statement:

"Over 100 committed Democrats and Independents supported me with financial help and many more made phone calls, put out my signs, and responded to my appeals for help when I needed it. I met many new people, renewed many old friendships, and learned about a thousand valuable lessons I will have the opportunity to apply in my new position."

I ran on my long track record of working for the Lubbock County Democratic Party, and I thank people responded to the evidence I presented showing that I have the ability to build the party, raise funds, and help elect viable candidates. Most people understand that every job requires basic training. I have trained long and hard to gain an understanding of the complexities of building a political party. People have put their confidence in my abilities, and I will try very hard to meet up to their expectations."

I am absolutely thrilled with the turnout for the Lubbock County Democratic Party. In this one primary, we tripled the number of people who want to exercise their vote through the values of the Democratic Party. It is a new political era in West Texas. I look forward to helping make this one-time primary vote into a longterm commitment of new people and party leaders to keep growing the party and winning elections for years to come."

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Third Recall Effort against DeLeon Fails

They say the third time is the charm, but not in this case.

The effort waged by a group led by Roger Settler in an effort to force a recall election against District 1 Councilwoman Linda DeLeon has failed a third time. Last year, 2 separate recall efforts failed when the city secretary ruled that not enough valid signatures had been submitted.

This time, organizers turned in over 700 signatures. City Secretary Betty Garza ruled that once again not enough signatures could be validated either because signers did not live in District 1 or did not qualify for one reason or another. She reported that only 208 signatures had been validated.

Settler said that his organization would continue their efforts with another recall petition. The city responded by emphasizing that each recall effort was costing taxpayers additional money and that this last effort has cost over \$1,300 dollars in overtime and supplies.

And in a story reported on NewsChannel 11, Councilwoman Linda DeLeon is quoted as saying:

"I think people in my district know that I wake up every day to work hard on their behalf. They're feeding on it. I am not a person defined by the Roger Settler or Armando Gonzales' and even our County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez and others that may be involved with this effort."

The latest effort also prompted Mayor David Miller to suggest that it might be time to take a look at the city charter and determine whether the number of times a recall effort can be lodged against a city official should be limited. Miller told local channel Fox 34: "It seems to me (we) might want to put some limitations. The question is how often attempts can be made that are reasonable and fair to both the petitioner as well as the officer held."

Miller also called the additional recall attempts a "distraction" and questioned their legitimacy. "I think the first one was (legitimate)," Miller told the news channel. Email: elditor@sbglobal.net

Confusion at Democratic Precinct Conventions

The day after the primary election, El Editor heard from individuals who used the words "confusion" and "disorganized" to characterize the precinct conventions after the polls had closed on Tuesday.

And it does seem that a lack of volunteers made it very difficult for the local Democratic Party to make sure that things ran smoothly.

Late Tuesday evening, an email was sent to local Democrats asking that recipients contact precinct conventions. In a response to that email, one respondent characterized the caucus they attended as a "mess."

Part of the email described it this way: "I found one Hispanic couple in the voting line (had been in line for 45 minutes) that thought they had to be there to 'vote twice!' They had waited early and didn't realize they needed to be in the convention holding area - election workers didn't ask the right questions. Another couple (was) in the holding area and needed to be in the voting line - they ended up being the last two people to cast ballots at 9PM. What a mess!"

El Editor sent an email to Lubbock County Democratic Chair Susan Barnick seeking comment but we did not hear back from her. Barnick did acknowledge in local media reports that two thirds of precinct chairs; there are 91 Democratic precincts; are vacant and that fact alone contributed to the confusion.

One fact that is not at issue is that participation in precinct caucuses exceeded expectations and it was difficult to predict the amount of people who would show up and to marshal the necessary resources to make everything go smoothly. But in some precincts, participation was in the double digits whereas there might have been 2 or 3 people show up in previous primaries. Consequently, a majority of precinct locations which had seen just a handful of voters participate in past elections were overwhelmed with voters this year. And although final numbers are not yet available, according to the county elections office, over 24,000 people voted in the Democratic presidential primary.

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Miller to Announce Run for Reelection

Will we see a repeat of 2006 in 2008? Will the results be the same or will it be the year when incumbents on the city council lose their seats?

On Thursday, Mayor David Miller announced his intention to run for reelection for the Mayors job he first won 2 years ago. With just 4 days before the filing deadline, Miller has made his intention clear that he will seek another 2 year term.

Will the controversy we've seen at city hall; lawsuits; red light cameras; a water crisis this past summer, etc, become campaign issues in the Mayor's race? Or will we see a different kind of campaign from Miller and his primary challenger, former City Councilman and Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Martin?

One thing seems clear, the mayoral campaign will be an expensive undertaking; perhaps the most expensive campaign city voters have ever seen.

Martin filed the first day of the filing period and in a previous communication to El Editor said that this time around he will "mount a grassroots effort throughout Lubbock to win" the mayoral election. Also, on February 29, Martin opened his campaign headquarters in central Lubbock.

In an earlier email to El Editor, Martin expressed a desire to reach out to voters; "I am meeting with individuals and groups throughout the city and I take to heart what I have heard" and he says that he is reaching out to "all sections of Lubbock with more vigor."

He also sent questions to Mayor Miller. Miller responded that he would respond at a later date; saying that his schedule was "extra hectic this week."

He did say that he would comment on the race at a later date. City elections are scheduled for May 10.

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Clinton sees new race; Obama talks tough

Hillary Rodham Clinton declared Wednesday that her primary victories in Ohio, Texas and Rhode Island had reordered the Democratic presidential race in her favor. A resident Barack Obama countered with fresh pledges of support from superdelegates and said his

One day after his worst showing in a month, Obama blamed negative attacks by the former first lady for his defeats and quickly made good on a promise to sharpen his criticism of her.

Returns from Texas caucuses showed Obama reclaiming some of the ground in the delegate competition that he lost Tuesday night as Clinton's victories piled up. Overall, she showed a gain of 12 delegates for the contests on the ballot, according to The Associated Press count, with another dozen to be awarded. In all 370 were at stake. Texas Democrats were still counting ballots from the Tuesday night caucuses.

Input on Democratic Precinct Conventions Needed

Lubbock County Democrats are seeking input from voters who attended caucus meetings after the polls closed last Tuesday night. If you have a comment about your experience at the caucus, log on to www.lubbockcountymocrats.org and fill out the comment form that is posted there.

El Editor would also like to hear about your experience if you attended the caucus in your precinct, good or bad. Email your comments to elditor@sbglobal.net

Lubbock County Primary Election Results

Here are some of the Primary Election results for some of the contested races in each party. Numbers are final but unofficial. All numbers are Lubbock County numbers.

Democratic Primary US President Hillary Clinton - 52.66% Barack Obama - 45.86% United States Senator

State Representative Rick Noriega won in Lubbock County with 55.0% of the vote and will have to face Gene Kelly who won 31.2% in the county in a runoff election since neither candidate won a simple majority. The winner will face Republican Senator John Cornyn in November.

District 19 Congressional Nomination Dwight Fullington - 61.88% Rufus Mark - 38.12% Lubbock County Commissioner Precinct 3 Ysidro Gutierrez - 46.98% Gilbert Flores - 53.06% Lubbock County Democratic Party Chair Pam Brink - 57% Charles Dunn - 43%

Republican Primary President McCain - 58.3% Mike Huckabee - 35.53% United States Senator John Cornyn - 85.19% Larry Kilgore - 14.81% State Representative District 83 Delores Jones - 59.12% Joe DiHasek - 40.88% Lubbock County Tax Assessor/Collector Molly Ramos - 24.14% Veronica Lujan - 8.88% Ronnie Keister - 67.28% Republican Party Chair

This race ended up in a run off between Chris Wain with 48.03% of the vote and Bill Franklin who received 31.38% of the vote. The run off election will be held on April 4.

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El Editor Now Celebrating 31 years

# Editorial Who Won?

# Texas Doesn't Decide After All

By Robert Ricketts

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

Larry, Curly and Moe

In our opinion; voters got involved in the political process last Tuesday; and consequently we all won.

For many, many years, we have been waiting for a day like we have seen in Lubbock and in the state. We had been waiting for people to get to the point where they cared enough about their future and who they would select to represent them; and vote according to their political affiliation for the candidate of their choice.

On Tuesday, we came nearer than we have ever come before. Over 50,000 people cast their vote either during early voting or on Election Day. That had not been seen around here in quite a long time; if ever.

The Democratic Presidential nomination race and local races like the one for Precinct 3 County Commissioner generated plenty of excitement and voters responded accordingly at the polls.

We have long felt that although we live in a fairly conservative area, we do not live exclusively in a one political party area. We have always felt that there is an undercurrent which runs throughout the Lubbock County and Lubbock region electorate. And that if the right candidate comes along; political races could have a distinctly different outcome than in the past.

But before we get too carried away with Tuesday's numbers, we recognize that a lot of voters still stayed home. In Lubbock County there are over 130,000 registered voters so we can easily see that we still have quite a ways to go before we achieve the desired results of a larger voter turnout.

Nevertheless, we congratulate the voters. We congratulate the winners. And we congratulate the candidates who came up short for participating in the political process.

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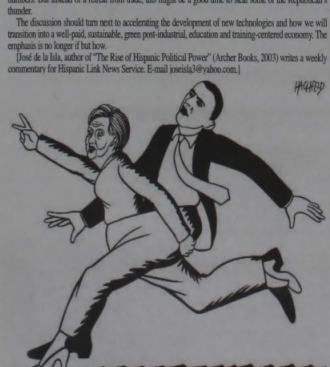
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# GOING GREEN

By José de la Isla  
 ...the national economy has grown 5.1 percent since 1993. More than 25 million jobs have been created. Average unemployment dropped from 7.1 percent in 1994 to 5.1 percent by 2007. All U.S. manufacturing averaged nearly 4 percent gain during that period, almost double the previous 14 years.  
 But what's changed we believe is Obama's campaign theme: Change! How did the country recover by thrice as fast? For starters, combine who ran first and third largest trade partners? What purpose does that serve if the jobs are already gone?  
 Someone is not leveling with us on this one. And that's the problem. Scope-creating Canada and Mexico might feel good for a while, but that's not going to bring us long job gains.  
 A year ago, Hillary Clinton told Time magazine the belief in the "general principles of NAFTA." She narrowed the problems down to enforcement, saying, "I believe we need tougher enforcement of the trade agreements we already have." She claimed the Clinton administration brought more trade enforcement actions in the year than Bush had in his entire term.  
 Enforcement is a reasonable claim. But a stimulus, as she asserted later, is a different matter. Obama's assertion to renegotiate NAFTA opens up the proverbial can of worms that many experts already think head long for.

In the first ten months of 2007, trade between the three of our North American countries was \$726.45 billion. Bilateral trade with Mexico was \$200.38 billion, resulting in a \$67.1 billion surplus in Mexico's favor. NAFTA has produced a large and growing trade deficit with Mexico. The effects on Ohio and other industrial states have been overwhelmingly negative. In 1993, the year before NAFTA started, the U.S. had a positive \$2.4 billion trade balance from Ohio's cars, trucks, and auto parts manufacturing. By 2007, it had turned into a trade deficit of \$12 billion.  
 The Economic magazine presented to NAFTA correctly says, "Trade hurts some people but helps many more."  
 The art of the deal isn't what's treating to cut and run where it doesn't work well but to figure out how to spread the pain and benefits and turn it into a winning hand. Telling voters they need to take night school courses for a new career can be helpful but looks like a Band-Aid for a heart attack.  
 Secretary Gearty's blunt about trade is no comfort for those on the short end of those trade numbers. But instead of a retreat from trade, this might be a good time to steal some of the Republican's tactics.

The discussion should next turn to accelerating the development of new technologies and how will transition to a high-tech, sustainable, green, post-industrial, education and training-centered economy. We will emphasize it is not a long pull, it is a long haul.  
 Joe Foweraker and the "El Editor" (Pamela B. Berman) (Author: Bob) writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. Email: pfoveraker@yahoo.com.



Four years ago, only one person showed up at the Democratic caucus in our precinct. Last night, (Tuesday, March 3) voters were lined up for blocks! It was a first! I went to caucus with a neighbor who has considered herself a staunch Republican all her life. Things are certainly different this year.

The enthusiasm is contagious out there. I can remember many years going to the polls in November and not seeing any Democrats on the ballot in key races. Last night, we had a number of contest primary races. Congratulations to Gilbert Flores, Pam Briuk, and Dwight Fullington. And to Ysidro Gutierrez, Charles Dunn and Rufus Mark, who got your running. It's tough to lose, but the real winner last night was the democratic system, and the Democratic Party. Our turnout has been spectacular. And that is encouraging because it is the only way to get people to make things change.

As it turns out, Texas did not cast the deciding vote in this year's Democratic primary. From all accounts, it looks like Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama leave last night's primaries in Texas, Ohio, Rhode Island and Vermont with about the same number of delegates. Here in Texas, she won the most votes, but she lost the vote won the caucuses by about 12 points. Since two-thirds of our delegates are awarded in the primary and one-third in the caucuses, he will probably receive a vote that exceeds delegates than she will. She will pick up a few more delegates than he did in Ohio, while Rhode Island and Vermont offset one another. So it's going to be up to another state to decide who will be the Democratic nominee, and likely the next president. For while the primary race has yet to be decided on things like the Republican caucus, it is already over - this caucus is ready to change. We are heading into the sixth year of a war that was supposed to last for six months. Worse yet, while the Republican party has been sending our best and bravest into harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan, they have been passing tax cuts for their wealthy supporters back home. They say that freedom isn't free, but they're not willing to pay for it. Surely that will change in 2009.

On the economic front, we're heading into what may turn out to be a very severe recession. Unemployment is on the rise, and the national debt is skyrocketing, while the value of the dollar is crashing. Concerns about the availability and cost of healthcare have reached a boiling point. The Republican answer has no solution for any of these problems. Indeed, they've made most of them worse. While it's true that government can't solve all our problems, the answer is not government to simply turn its back. If nothing else, the last 7 years have shown us that that approach doesn't work. Hopefully, we can get things started again, and change through November. If not, by the time we get another chance in 2012, things may be worse than we can now imagine.

Mr. Ricketts is an professor at Texas Tech's Banks College of Business as the Frank M. Rutledge, Executive Director, Executive Programs. He has as the Democratic candidate against Republican Randy Neugebauer for the 19th Congressional District.

# The myth of the Latino vote bloc

By John Brown

When Barack Obama's charge in the Democratic primary race earned in earnest after his good showing on Super Tuesday, many suggested that he would eventually be tripped up by the supposed tension between Latinos and African Americans. But, just as African Americans deserted Hillary Clinton when he began to see a winner in Obama, so it appears that Latinos are also trending towards him, sensing that the juggernaut is gathering steam. The latest results may have delayed a decision until the convention in Denver, but all that they show is that the Democratic Party is still undecided about whether a black man or a woman is best suited to represent the Republican nation.  
 Just eight years ago, when George W. Bush was running for president, Republicans could safely rely on about 40 percent of Latinos supporting them. Now, with politics, and indeed political interests, being less well-defined, with so many still finding a home in both parties (anyone for religion-friendly Republicans and Democrats?), voters are voting blocs, such as they are, have become much more fluid and unpredictable.  
 If Latinos can be seen to make up a single voting bloc, they would be the largest minority, at about 15 percent, and make up more of the electorate than African Americans (12 percent) or an even more disparate bloc, Asian Americans, who make up only 5 percent of the electorate. However, until last night's Texas primary, an often-heard and well-deserved cry has noted that they rarely vote, in great numbers, least of all in primaries. With significant presence in some key states, gaining widespread support among Latinos could mean the difference between victory and defeat, both for Obama over Clinton and for the current Democratic nominee.

In many important states - most notably Florida, Florida, Obama's home state of Illinois, and Texas - the Latino vote is a vital one to win. According to the New Democratic Network, a liberal think tank that focuses on Latino voters, they make up almost twice as much of the electorate as they did in 2000, up to 12 percent from 7 percent. By some estimates, one in three Americans will be Latino by 2014. By some estimates, one in three Americans will be Latino by 2014.

Until Super Tuesday, most considered that Senator Hillary Clinton had the Latino vote sewn up. Despite Obama's surprisingly good showing overall, some commentators argued that in California and the south-western states of Arizona and New Mexico, Latinos might tip the balance in favor of Clinton. But that may change as the race heads towards the convention.

A CNN poll before the latest round of primaries had Clinton leading Obama 68 percent to 17 (a ratio of 4:1) among Latinos trending towards the Democratic Party. Exit polls taken after the Wisconsin vote showed Obama had cut Clinton's lead to 55-41. In the Latino vote, Clinton's lead was 68-28. Clinton's presumed hold on the Latino vote was, like her hold on every other voting bloc, slipping fast. However, early results from Texas showed Clinton leading in Obama and winning two-thirds of the Latino vote.

As a voting bloc, the Latino vote was historically seen as somewhat of a Spanish language media. But what the campaigns have figured out is that 79 percent of the 18 million eligible Latino voters consume media in English. (44 million voters who also speak Spanish want to see a wedding ring. Someone wants to see a commitment that you are going to do something.) As with so much of his promises, Bush never delivered for Latinos, just as he never delivered for the anti-abortion lobby or seniors who wanted affordable healthcare, leaving him with almost historically low approval ratings for a sitting president.

It is, however, the interethnic war in the Republican Party over immigration that has many analysts arguing that the Republican's harsh rhetoric will likely destroy any significant level of support it might have got this time around. Characterized recently as "the party of the unimpaired" (less than 15 percent of demagoguery) (D), the Republicans certainly seem to have lost their way. But all is certainly not lost. The fluidity in political affiliation means that much can change, perhaps not overnight, but certainly in the long months before November. The fact that John McCain has won the Republican nomination and sought to steer a center line on immigration, despite the fact that he has lost his own party, is important. In fact, it is his stance on immigration that has left many on the night of the party seemingly unwilling to support his candidacy.

Earlier this month, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reported that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) made a \$1.1 billion error that's right, BILLION DOLLAR accounting error which, coupled with additional federal funding losses, will cause two Lubbock projects to be suspended (LAJ 02-04-08 and 02-10-08). But what are the two projects? First, TxDOT is suspending studies on Lubbock's outer loop project. The outer loop would encircle Lubbock on Loop 289. Actually, the AJ only reported a half-truth. The proposed outer loop isn't a full loop at all, but rather, a semi-circle. Of course, the outer loop will be completed in northwest Lubbock, and going counter-clockwise, the loop will continue into west Lubbock, southwest Lubbock, south Lubbock and even into portions of southeast Lubbock. But the loop WILL NOT go all the way around northeast Lubbock. Should we care then, if our funding for this partial loop has been suspended? Well, I think we might, if we pause to think in time to try to convince TxDOT and our local elected officials to reinsert their position on only doing a partial loop and instead, focus on constructing a complete loop that encircles Lubbock.

Second, and most importantly, TxDOT's billion dollar mistake will impact the Hispanic community directly because the other project which will, in all probability, be suspended is the "proposed walk at Marsha Sharp Freeway and Fourth Street" (AJ 02-10-08). Talk about a kick in the head! It's enough that our part of town is where the last part of the Marsha Sharp Freeway is to be completed? Now, we have to endure the mess, the disruption to our neighborhoods and business community a lot longer because some fool down in Austin can't count?  
 In their February newsletter, put out by Strategic Partnerships, Inc., it says, "In a memo to all TxDOT employees this week, Saenz [head of TxDOT] explained that the accounting error... put many of our district employees in a very difficult position of having to inform local officials and citizens that projects were going to be delayed." Probstons. You feel sorry for them because they have to explain how stupid your agency really is?

Now comes the injury added to the insult. Where's Senator Bob "Book" Duncan, Representative Carl "Crass" Leth and Representative Delwin "Dead" Jones? "Book" comes out in the AJ smiling and saying, "We're in good shape". That's right, he's talking about the Anglo community who has their portion of the freeway already funded and under completion. And "Crass" and "Dead"? Not a chirp from them "thar" birds.  
 RMS, Lubbock

# READ EL EDITOR ON THE INTERNET WWW.ELEDITOR.COM

Mc Cain advocates are now asserting that Latinos are only interested in immigration, with the aim of ensuring that McCain's vaguely reasonable stance on immigration issues will ensure that he captures a decent share of the Latino vote. However, that may be a dangerous ploy, as any reminders about (successful) Republican demands for a wall to the south border, the fact that many Latinos have many Latinos saying "enough". So, while many Latinos, like African Americans, support many of the Republican Party's more conservative policies on other issues such education, social policy and developing a strong military, and while many want secure borders, a physical wall represents a step too far and is wholly unacceptable demands to reappropriate undocumented immigrants as alienable labor.

The alleged tensions between Latinos and African Americans are summed up by author and political analyst Earl Ofan Hutchinson, author of the forthcoming book, The Ethnic Presidency: How Race Decides the Race to the White House. He argues that the "survival" between many Latinos and African Americans could hurt Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.  
 He is also not in presenting such an conflict. Academic and social commentator Richard Rodriguez has said that the argument between Latinos and African Americans is largely a political creation of the census bureau, which asserted in the 1980s that the white world to replace African Americans as the largest minority. This is despite the fact that many Latinos are themselves black and are more similar culturally than racially. (A cursory look at the up line of any baseball team will show this to be true.) Rodriguez argues: "The prediction nonetheless set up a competition between blacks and Hispanics. African Americans argued that they were entitled to their place within the American racial dialectic. Since the Irish came to the country in the nineteenth century, the typical pattern for immigrant groups was to advance by distinguishing themselves from blacks. The competition grew most intense where it was economic. At the hotel hiring-office or the construction worksite, Hispanic newcomers, particularly those who had arrived illegally, were willing to undercut working-class wages and to work with Third-World fury."  
 Rodriguez has a point, in that racial tensions tend to be manipulated to serve the interests of the political hierarchy, rather than emerging from any inherent tensions between people. But, as he notes, other factors also play a role, including the economic hierarchies, that exist in their place within the American racial dialectic.

Obama's recent gains among Latinos suggest that many have moved on from this particular conflict. There is a burgeoning Latino middle class, especially among second-, third-, and fourth-generation Latinos. Many more speak English as their first language, and one commentator suggests that the millions of dollars that have been poured into the Latino vote have been spent incorrectly. Maria Teresa Petersen, executive director of Voto Latino, a non-partisan voter registration organization, said: "Candidates are spending tens of millions of dollars trying to capture the attention of Latino voters, mostly in the Spanish language media. But what the campaigns have figured out is that 79 percent of the 18 million eligible Latino voters consume media in English. (44 million voters who also speak Spanish want to see a wedding ring. Someone wants to see a commitment that you are going to do something.) As with so much of his promises, Bush never delivered for Latinos, just as he never delivered for the anti-abortion lobby or seniors who wanted affordable healthcare, leaving him with almost historically low approval ratings for a sitting president.

It is, however, the interethnic war in the Republican Party over immigration that has many analysts arguing that the Republican's harsh rhetoric will likely destroy any significant level of support it might have got this time around. Characterized recently as "the party of the unimpaired" (less than 15 percent of demagoguery) (D), the Republicans certainly seem to have lost their way. But all is certainly not lost. The fluidity in political affiliation means that much can change, perhaps not overnight, but certainly in the long months before November. The fact that John McCain has won the Republican nomination and sought to steer a center line on immigration, despite the fact that he has lost his own party, is important. In fact, it is his stance on immigration that has left many on the night of the party seemingly unwilling to support his candidacy.

Just as other voting blocs have done, Latinos seem to be only too happy to support the political hierarchy, if not majorities, of voters don't blindly vote for whom they are expected to vote.  
 The reality is that there is no Latino voting bloc. Yet Latinos are exercised over immigration, but Latinos in California are concerned about different issues than Latinos in New York, just as Cuban-Americans in Miami, despite the demise of Castro, also have concerns about immigration. We can't know now whether immigration will be a defining issue in November, but the Democrats are going to try their level best to make sure it is, along with the economy and the war in Iraq. All these are issues that rank highly on every voter survey. Latino or otherwise.  
 The fact that large minorities do not prove very effective at getting much done in the past few years, Rodriguez argues that they have succeeded in one area: "The Republicans have managed to turn Hispanic voters into a Hispanic vote, which isn't necessarily going their way."  
 It's always easy to write in shorthand, to depict the African American voter or the Latino voter as a monolith. It's easy to say, "They vote one way or another" and reality is always more complex; we can see trends, but unless we know what will be the defining issue of the election, we can't say how any constituency will vote. Latino voters are as diverse as any other, and need to be courted and inspired like any other voter should be.  
 A competition between Clinton and McCain, they will have to choose between much of the same old, same old. The wife of a former president (which is how people view Clinton, whatever accomplishments she may have of her own) and the over-promising politician who wants to stay the course in Iraq (I find a compelling choice). Obama, despite an apparent lack of strong principles and politics, appears to represent some sort of change, so many voters, Latino and otherwise, are flocking to him. That itself can change, of course, especially as there is no single compelling issue around which voters are coalescing. And in an election with no issues, it can boil down to who you want to give your own money, or who you believe to be better at representing the aspirations of any given voter - for Latinos as well as the rest of the electorate.

# Viva el Mariachi, el Ballet Folklorico y Viva Aztlan

By Bidal Aguiero

Viva Aztlan simply stated means "our heritage lives!" For fourteen years the Viva Aztlan Dance Festival brings the blare of trumpets and the stopping of little feet that highlight Mexico's traditions into the Lubbock community for all to enjoy. The initial concept: to involve all communities in an exciting way.

The festival is a competition for ballet folklorico groups which will be held at the Civic Center Theatre March 14-15. For the fourth year Mariachi a Mariachi concert and workshops will be held for a taste of spicy Mexican ballads and corridos.

The added bonus for participating Mariachi groups is being conducted for local Mariachi students by members of the nationally known "Los Arrieros from El Paso/Juarez. The founder of Viva Aztlan, Bidal Aguiero, is very excited about the 13th Annual Anniversary because it brings back memories from 1994. When he envisioned a bigger future for the folklorico groups in Lubbock. "Thirteen years ago I saw a surge of folklorico groups being formed in Lubbock. I felt the only way these groups could expose themselves and enhance their skills was to bring in other folklorico groups from other cities." Since most folklorico groups in Lubbock did not have the money to bring master instructors from Mexico, Viva Aztlan creates this opportunity.

Aguiero and his devoted committee members then asked folklorico groups across the United States to participate in the competition. To much of their surprise they hosted groups from New Mexico, Colorado, Illinois, Texas, and as far away as Mexico. The first year of the competition was a great surprise to all the committee members because the kids evolved around the word "competition". The charisma they manufactured while performing was not to win a trophy, nor was it a manufactured entity. The charisma came from the naturalness of their soul.

Ballet Folklorico has a tradition that runs deep within Mexico's culture. When a dance is taught to a group of dancers they will learn the steps, the movement, the grace and persona that is coupled with that particular dance. Since every song has a different meaning students also learn the origin of the song and also learn why costumes differ from song to song.

When asking Marisol Aguiero, a dancer for Ballet Folklorico Aztlan in Lubbock, why she enjoys dancing folklorico at the Festival she said, "I like to see groups of dancers coming together to learn about our heritage." She continued saying that the most enjoyable part of dancing included meeting people from all over the United States. "We are all get so close and we laugh so much."

Zenaida Aguiero Reyes, committee chair of Viva Aztlan, said the festival has also become a close-knit collaboration of dancers, groups, and instructors. "It's not about awards anymore. It's a chance for groups to network and educate themselves." Over 500 students participate in the competition and special workshops that are given by the master instructors each year.

The festival is a competition and groups come to win. This year 16 groups will compete in categories ranging from Best Costumes to Best Overall Dance Troupe. Each year the Best Overall Dance Troupe from the previous year is invited to return to present a showcase at the awards ceremony. But this year, the committee decided to bring in a professional company for the "showcase" for the groups and public to enjoy. The Roy Lozano Ballet Folklorico from Austin Texas was chosen to make the special presentation for the delight of the audience. The festival is open to the public and tickets can be purchased at the door. Ticket for the Mariachi concert:

Showcase will be \$5 and tickets for the competition will be \$3 each day.

"We are here to build a competition, but the greatest award is the pride each group has in our heritage," Said Aguiero "Que Viva Aztlan!"

This year, Lubbock Centro Aztlan and the Ballet Folklorico Aztlan announced that this year's Festival Viva Aztlan has been accepted as part of Lubbock's Centennial Celebration. The 12th annual production of the event will be presented at the Lubbock Civic Center on March 14 and 15 and will feature the performance of Mariachi and Folklorico groups from throughout the U.S. and Mexico. The program also invites dance, orchestra and band students to hands on workshops in mariachi music and Mexican folklorico dancing.

Besides the workshops and competition, the event will feature two special presentations including a Friday night concert by the world renown Los Arrieros of El Paso. The mariachi recently appeared at the Mariachi Conference in Tucson Arizona and have conducted mariachi workshops throughout Texas. They are working to promote mariachi music among young people in the public schools.

Also during the Festival, the winners of last year's Best of Festival Award will be featured in a Folklorico Showcase in which the Back of the Yards Ballet Folklorico from Chicago will present traditional dances from many different states in Mexico and also different eras in history of Mexico. The folklorico group

has promised to present its celebrated "Los Concheros" set which presents dances dating back to the time of the Aztecs

The event is sponsored by Civic Lubbock Inc., The Lubbock Area Foundation Sybil Harrington Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission of the Arts and El Editor Newspapers. Viva Aztlan Dance Festival is funded in part by grants from Civic Lubbock Inc, the Sybil B. Harrington Endowment for the Arts of the Lubbock Area Foundation, and the Texas Commission for the Arts. Additional help is also given by Univision, Tri-color Magic 93.7, La Ley, Coca Cola and El Editor Newspapers. For ticket and more information Contact Zenaida Aguiero Reyes at 252-2828 or Bidal Aguiero 741-0371



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# Festival Viva Aztlan

Presentado Por Lubbock Centro Aztlan

Competition Featuring Folklorico Groups from throughout the U.S.

Starting at 3 pm Friday and continuing to the Showcase on Saturday at 7:30 pm  
Grupos Folklorico Presentando lo Mejor en Danzas de Mexico

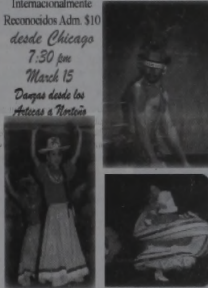
Folklorico Showcase by  
Back of the Yards Ballet

Internacionalmente  
Reconocidos Adm \$10  
desde Chicago  
7:30 pm  
March 15  
Danzas desde las  
Andes a America

March 14 - 15

Lubbock Civic Center

Children's Groups  
March 14 Starting at 3 pm  
Adult Groups starting  
March 15 at 1 pm  
Admission \$7 per day



**Folklorico Groups - In Competition**  
March 14 to 15 All Day Starting at 3 pm  
Folkloricos from Texas, New Mexico, California, Chicago & Mexico Dancing to the music of various Mexican states and times in history for your enjoyment

The Festival will also offer Folklorico and Mariachi Workshops starting Friday and Saturday Mornings

Viernes - Friday - Marzo 14 Presentando

# Fiesta El Mariachi



**Live 15 piece World Renown Mariachi from El Paso**  
Lubbock Civic Center Theatre Concert Admission March 14 - Adm \$10  
Folklorico Showcase Saturday Night - \$10 each, Seniors and Students \$5  
Entrada Admission to Competition - Call 252-2828 for Prices  
Children under 5 Free

March 14 and 15 featuring mariachi and folklorico workshops at the Civic Center. For more information call 806-252-2828  
Viva Aztlan Dance Festival is funded in part by grants from Civic Lubbock Inc as recommended by the City of Lubbock, the Sybil B. Harrington Endowment for the Arts of the Lubbock Area Foundation, and the Texas Commission for the Arts. Additional support given by Magic 93.7, Coca Cola, LUSD and El Editor Newspapers.





# Barrera no descarta su regreso

# De La Hoya Jumps Into New Arena

**Campión, ¿qué hay en concreto sobre tu regreso?**

"En concreto, nada, vine a Los Angeles para ver la pelea entre Israel y Rafael, pero no estamos en plan de promoción ni nada por el estilo".

**Acepta que la posibilidad de una pelea por un título mundial lo haría pensar en dejar el retiro tras su derrota por puntos ante Manny Pacquiao en octubre del año pasado.**

"Hay una plática preliminar con la empresa Golden Boys, pero no tenemos definido nada", señaló el famoso "Barreta".

**Al respecto, Richard Schaefer, jefe de finanzas de Golden Boys Promotions, ratifica que hablarán con Barrera, que él quiere volver y que le buscan un rival que podría ser... Israel Vázquez.**

**Las trilogías en peso puebleros las pusieron arriba la contienda Barrera-Morales.**

"¿Qué significa para ti el haber abierto una puerta grande para los mexicanos especialmente?"

"Para mí significa, que bueno que ahora no es sólo Barrera o Morales, sino que ellos también

demuestran que pueden dar grandes peleas".

¿Acostumbraron usted y Erik a los empresarios a pagarle bien a los pesos pequesos?

"Más importante que eso es que la gente entendió que los boxeadores de nuestro peso también podíamos dar específicamente y la gente quiere verlos".

**Vino a hacerle fuerza a Vázquez y lo vio ganar en el Home Depot Center.**

Para muchos, la verdadera música de fondo es que los apoderados están teniendo un regreso de Barrera como desafiante del "Magnífico" Vázquez.

**¿Es verdad que se está considerando una pelea Barrera-Vázquez?**

"No. De eso no hay nada. Son muchas cosas que a veces pone la prensa, pero oficialmente no hemos hablado de

eso".

Frank Espinoza, mánager de Vázquez, tampoco lo niega.

"Por ahora vamos a hacer descansar mucho a Vázquez, luego hablaremos de sus próximos".



mas peleas... No queremos hablar ahora de nombres". Aunque Espinoza sí reiteró que quiere que Vázquez busque el título de las 126 libras.

**¿Y qué dice Vázquez?**

"Sería un honor pelear con Marco Antonio Barrera".

La gente lo rodea. Lo aplaude a rabiar. Recuerdan sus memorables batallas, pero muchos también recuerdan que combatió sus últimos dos combates: ante Juan Manuel Márquez (3-17) y ante Manny Pacquiao (10-06-07), y que ya lleva a cuestas 34 años de edad.

**¿Consideras que hay gente que no quiere que regreses?**

"La mayoría de la gente quiere que vuelva, pero siempre hay personas, familiares, amigos, que te hablan, te dan consejos, y eso también es muy importante".

**¿Los escuchas después de perder las dos peleas que hiciste en 2007?**

"Sí. Pero lo que pasa es que los boxeadores nos quedamos con las victorias, no nos quedamos con las derrotas".

**Con 34 años y un glorioso resumé de 63-6 y 42 KO's.**

Todavía se quedan ganas. Nadie olvida las exhibiciones. Nadie olvida que ganó contra Erik Morales, sus batallas con Pacquiao, ni su enorme victoria sobre Naseem Hamed, pero Marco Antonio Barrera quiere más.

The former Olympic gold medalist and world champion often sent a small but vocal crowd into a frenzy, tossing fans autographed red boxing gloves to end the festivities and telling them he couldn't wait to stand and cheer alongside supporters of the two-time defending MLS Cup champion team at Robertson Stadium in the coming season.

"I can't wait to be at those home games, beating the drums with El Bullador and the Texian Army," De La Hoya said.

He praised team president Oliver Luck and his staff, and reiterated his commitment to "face up his gloves and fight" to help the two-time defending MLS champions secure a stadium deal with the city of Houston.

The night De La Hoya and Co. got right to work, meeting with Houston Mayor Bill White and agreeing to set an April 1 deadline to work out a deal.

His partner, team investor-operator Anschutz Entertainment Group and fellow MLS newbie Brenner International Group, couldn't have pictured it better.

After all, that seems to have been the plan from the onset, to have De La Hoya be the face of the Dynamo's ownership and garner support for a stadium.

"Oscar's going to be the face, Oscar's going to be the voice (of the team ownership)," said AEG president and CEO Tom L. Lincecum, who said the team will look at options in the suburbs if a deal with the city can't be worked out.

Lincecum declined to discuss which Houston suburb would be in line for negotiations, but said the team could have a deal done there "tomorrow, if we wanted to."

Substantial stake As first reported Monday, De La Hoya, 35, and Golden Boy Promotions shareholder Gabriel Brenner, who did not attend the festivities but had a representative on hand, has each bought a 25% stake in the team.

With the Dynamo's price tag estimated at more than \$40 million, their combined initial investment is said to be at least \$20 million, although neither De La Hoya nor AEG disclosed the actual figure.

"It's a very substantial stake, let's put it that way," De La Hoya said with his trademark smile.

"We will be very hands-on; we just want to make sure the fans are happy."

Back-to-back MLS titles aside, Houston's market size, its growing Hispanic/Latino demographics and vibrant soccer and boxing communities were key selling points that drew De La Hoya, White and president of Golden Boy Promotions, and Brenner, head of Brenner International and a major shareholder in De La Hoya's company to invest in the Dynamo as opposed to another MLS franchise.

"This is a great city, and I jumped at the opportunity," said De La Hoya, who also plans to bring boxing events to Houston.

"Boxing and soccer are my passions; these are the passions of Latinos, so for me I almost had to be part of MLS."

The deal leaves AEG with a 50% interest and operating duties in the Dynamo. The company, which also owns the Los Angeles Galaxy, has sold three other teams in recent years as the MLS has pushed for single-team ownership.

Leiwake said AEG has no plans to rid itself of the Dynamo.

"These guys would have been happy to buy the whole thing; it was our choice to stay in," Leiwake said. "We want to stay in long-term. This is (AEG owner) Phil Anschutz's favorite asset and my favorite and I'm sure if I sold this team I'm fairly certain I would be selling hot dogs at the new stadium, so I don't think we'll be selling this team in the near future."

The newly formed partnership will be a benefit to the Dynamo, Leiwake said, because it brings into the fold two owners who will keep a close eye on the team and maintain a visible role with the fans, something AEG has been unable to accomplish, because of the nature of its business as an entertainment conglomerate.

"Sometimes in AEG's world, maybe the Dynamo isn't front center with us, and I know occasionally people accuse us of being conflicted out with the Galaxy and the Dynamo," Leiwake said. "With Oscar and Gabriel and Richard (Schaefer, CEO of Golden Boy), I think there will be much more of a focus and energy because this is a high priority for them. Unlike us, who have lots of things going on all over the world, it's not like Oscar's not busy, he is, but he's really passionate about this."

Call for stadium Predictably enough, an event that was meant to introduce the new co-owners to the fan base ended up sounding more like a rally for a stadium, with everyone from De La Hoya and Leiwake to coach Dominic Kinnear and team captain Wade Barrett calling for an agreement.

"We'll keep the boots on, we'll get Oscar to put his gloves on and work to bring a new stadium to Houston and the Dynamo family, we'll work our hardest to bring home another championship," Barrett said.

Despite ongoing AEG is hoping the infusion investment from Brenner and particularly De La Hoya will help reach a favorable agreement with the city for the construction of a soccer stadium just east of U.S. 59 and downtown. AEG reiterated its commitment to finance much of the project but wants the city to contribute a significant share toward the building of the \$70 million to \$90 million facility.

White has been reluctant to commit public money for the proposed project, although he recently said if the city does commit public funds, it will do so cautiously.

De La Hoya said he and Brenner are prepared to invest "substantial" amounts of money into the project but want more support from the city.

"We just don't want to be at an economic disadvantage to other teams in the market," said Leiwake.

# Green Bay Packers QB Brett Favre retires after 17 seasons, says he's 'tired'

Another Super Bowl, another crowd, another roar from the crowd—none of it was enough.

Brett Favre couldn't stomach the thought of forcing his battered body and mind through another year of tedious practices and merciless hits, only to have another chance at a championship yanked away in an instant.

So the 38-year-old turned his back on a promising young team Tuesday, telling the Green Bay Packers he is finally in tired enough to retire.

"I know I can still play, but it's like I'm told my wife, I'm just tired mentally," Favre told ESPN. "I'm just tired."

With that, Favre walked away from a wild 17-year ride marked by fist-pumping highs and head-shaking lows owning every quarterback record worth having.

But he's leaving on a sour note: His interception in overtime of the NFC Championship game, a mistake that set up the New York Giants' field goal that sent the Packers home instead of to the Super Bowl.

And he leaves most folks feeling he had at least another good year left in him.

"I think he could have played again at the level that he just played this past season," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "The film reflects that. The statistics reflect that. I thought he played at a very high level this year and definitely had a lot left in his tank."

This certainly isn't Favre's first flirtation with retirement. He's made speculation about his football future an annual rite of winter in Wisconsin for several years running.

So is Favre just crying wolf, only to get the itch to return this summer?

"He seemed to be pretty good, at peace with his decision," Packers

general manager Ted Thompson said. "But as I've also said, it's a very complicated decision pro-

re-signed with the New England Patriots—wasn't a factor. Thompson and McCarthy spoke

He 160 career victories.

He also holds the more dubious mark of 288 interceptions.

Brett's career accomplishments will be measured among the greats of the game for the balance of time," said Seattle Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren, Favre's former coach in Green Bay. "He truly was as gifted a player as I have ever seen, and as proud and amazed as I am of what Brett has accomplished on the playing field. The thing that impresses me the most is what kind of a man and leader he has become off the field since I have known him."

But perhaps Favre's most telling legacy will be his quarterback-record streak of 253 consecutive regular-season starts—illustrating his trademark toughness. Add in the playoffs, and Favre's streak stands at 275.

"Of all the records he holds, and he holds some magnificent records, the one that impresses me the most is he was there every single Sunday to play," Packers chairman emeritus Bob Harlan said. "I think that's huge."

And it made his departure all the more surprising.

"I was surprised when I heard of this morning," former Packers general manager Ron Wolf said. "He played with such a great passion. He must have figured he no longer had that passion, and it was time to get out."

Even Favre's teammates didn't see it coming.

"He played at such a high level every year, I think every body to a man thought he was coming back," McCarthy said.

Former Packers coach Mike Sherman, now the head coach at Texas A&M, said he always figured Favre would go out with his own fanfare.

"I always envisioned his teammates carrying him off the field, Sherman said, "and his arm falling off as he left."

Associated Press Writer Ron Harris in Jackson, Miss. and sports writers Amie Stapleton in Denver, John Wavrov in Buffalo, N.Y. and Brett Marel in Hattiesburg, Miss., contributed to this report.

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cess that he has go to through on this. I guess you never say never, but I wouldn't anticipate that."

Favre accompanied his youngest daughter on a field trip to Jackson, Miss., according to a woman who identified herself as someone who works for Favre. She spoke to an Associated Press reporter through a security intercom.

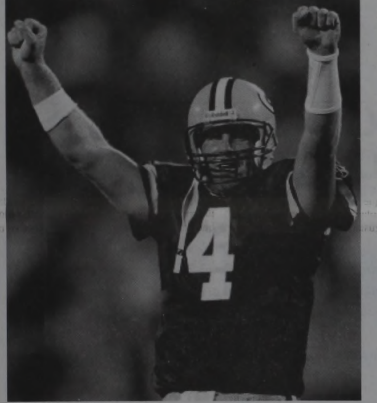
"I know the fans are absolutely devastated today," Thompson said. "The Packers will move forward, but certainly we have all been blessed to see this man play this game the way he played it."

Green Bay Packers coach Mike McCarthy said.

AP - Mar 4, 5:30 pm EST The three-time MVP walks away with most of the NFL's significant passing records—most career touchdowns passes, most career yards passing and most career victories by a starting quarterback—and a victory in the 1997 Super Bowl.

Favre retires with 5,377 career completions in 8,758 attempts, with 61,655 yards and 442 touchdowns.

The Packers also said their lack of interest in player receiver Randy Moss—a wide Favre publicly libbed the Packers to sign last offseason but who



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# How Clinton Won Texas: Hispanic Media Weigh In

Editor's Note: To understand Clinton's continued popularity among Latinos in Texas, one need only read the Hispanic press, which has been following Clinton's campaign closely.

Hillary Clinton won the Texas primary, and she has Latino voters to thank. The reasons, according to Spanish-language media, have more to do with politics and name recognition than racial prejudices.

Clinton proved that she still commands an overwhelming lead over Barack Obama among Latino voters, who made up nearly one third of Texas voters in Tuesday's record-breaking turnout. According to CNN exit polling on March 4, Latino voters in the Texas primary supported Clinton over Obama by a two-to-one margin.

To understand the candidate's continued popularity among Latinos in Texas, one need only read the Hispanic press, which has been following Clinton's campaign closely.

In his article, "Mexican Tastes Do Not Include Obama," Raul Lowery Contreras writes in Spanish-language newsweekly Hispanic-Vista.com that the Latino vote is no monolith.

Obama may have done well with the Virginia "Hispanic vote," Contreras writes, but that was no indicator for Texas. "Virginia Hispanics are mostly Salvadorans," he notes. "With few exceptions, Salvadorans came here to escape the civil war that Salvadoran leftists lost to right-of-center conservative forces. They carry with them leftists that have no embodiment in American politics other than in Obama, the most liberal senator

in the Senate."

Contreras predicted that most Mexican Americans in Texas, like the Mexicans in California and Arizona, would not vote for Obama.

Despite differences in the Hispanic populations of California and Texas — the Texans are largely Mexican-Americans born in the state, who speak English well, in addition to Spanish — both groups solidly backed Hillary.

Hispanic voters gave Clinton the win in California, according to a Feb. 29 article in Spanish-language La Opinión, a Los Angeles daily newspaper.

"Latinos have kept alive Hillary's campaign," said Andy Hernández, a Houston, Texas Democratic activist and Clinton supporter, in La Opinión. If Obama wins 40 percent of the Latino vote in Texas, he said, he will have gained much ground on his opponent.

CNN exit polls gave him 32 percent. The 36-percent-Latino population of Texas brought the Hispanic vote into the spotlight before the state's primary. Along with it came a story of tension between African Americans and Latinos.

"It is a reality that we cannot hide: You see it on the streets, in schools, and in prisons," wrote syndicated columnist Jorge Ramos in his Feb. 29 column, "New Rule: Latinos Decide."

The friction comes from economic and political competition between two groups looking for "the same thing, a better way of life and more representation." Ramos insists, though, that Hispanics would vote for African-American candidates,

citing previous Latino support for New York's black Mayor David Dinkins, Dallas' Ron Kirk, and for Obama in Virginia and Arizona.

"Reality" supports the idea that Mexican voters look beyond race, wrote Gustavo Arellano in his comedic "Ask a Mexican" syndicated column.

"Mexicans largely ignored the presidential run of New Mexico governor Bill Richardson and have supported black politicians," Arellano said, "from the days of Vicente Guerrero (the mulatto Mexican president who outlawed slavery in 1829) to big-city mayors like Tom Bradley and Harold Washington."

As for Obama, Arellano says, name recognition and politics have more to do with the issue than skin color.

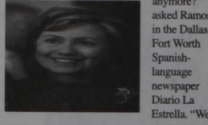
When asked by a reader, "Why won't Mexicans vote for a black man?" Arellano responds sarcastically: "Heaven forbid Mexicans support a nationally known personality with whom they're more familiar instead of a first-term senator from a flyover state. And anyone ever think Mexicans are more inclined to vote for Clinton because they like her centrist policies more than Obama's liberal promises?"

But as Democratic candidates campaigned in Texas, the larger story in the Latino media was the candidates' unprecedented bid for Hispanic votes.

Columnist Jorge Ramos heralded the arrival of these politically powerful Latinos who will form one-third of the United States

population by 2050.

"Have you noticed that no one talks about the Hispanic vote as a



sleeping giant anymore?" asked Ramos in the Dallas-Fort Worth Spanish-language newspaper Diario La Estrella. "We are more

awake than ever. We are many and we will be even more."

The Democratic candidates' Feb. 21 debate in Austin, Texas, broadcast in English and Spanish — which Ramos moderated — proved the relevance of the Latino vote, Ramos said.

San Antonio's Spanish-language Rumbo newspaper, which was recently bought by ImpreMedia, deployed reporters throughout the state before the election. Last week, it published two exclusives: an interview with Clinton and a commentary by Obama.

A host of lighter stories also filled Latino newspapers, including a look at the music campaigners used to attract votes.

"The Democratic candidates now want to get to Latinos' hearts through their music," wrote Liliana Vargas-Lemons in Al Día, a Spanish-language publication of the Dallas Morning News Co.

The group Amigos de Obama, or Friends of Obama, contracted a mariachi band and produced a "Viva Obama 2008!" The commercial and music video praises Obama's humble roots, activism in Chicago and dedication to service.

## Gov. Perry Appoints Caldera and Hernandez to Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Committee

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry appointed Yvonne M. Caldera of Lubbock and Teresa Hernandez of San Marcos to the Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Committee. The committee is part of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, which serves Texas families with infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays.

Caldera is a professor of development and family studies at Texas Tech University. She is past president and founding member of the Latino Faculty and Staff Association and a member of the Society for Research in Child Development. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Tulane University in New Orleans, and a Master's degree and Doctorate degree from the University of Kansas. Caldera replaces John D. McCloy of Katy for a term to expire Feb. 1, 2011. Hernandez is a program specialist with the Department of Aging and Disability Services. She also volunteers at the Austin State School. Hernandez earned a Bachelor's degree from Texas State University. She replaces Lori Roberts of Austin for a term to expire Feb. 1, 2011.



Congratulations to the LHS JV Westerners on the 2nd Place award from friends, family and fans. Job well done!

## Free speech prevails

A relatively minor conflict last year between an Esmeralda County School District bus driver and two Hispanic high school students led to a rule banning Spanish from being spoken either at school or on the buses.

The bus driver's response to the conflict had been to complain to the district superintendent that the two students began speaking to each other in Spanish, which he didn't understand. The superintendent, Robert Aumaigher, followed up by telling parents their children should speak only English.

Suddenly the conflict wasn't so minor anymore, because the state and national offices of the American Civil Liberties Union told the superintendent the rule was unconstitutional.

The issue is important because free speech, a constitutional right, is involved.

After Las Vegas Sun reporter Timothy Pratt wrote about the superintendent's action in December, we sided with the ACLU in opposition to Eng-

lish-only policies.

The bus driver who brought the complaint takes about 30 students from Dyer, on the California border about 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, to the nearest high school — in Toponah, about a 70-mile drive.

The superintendent faced limited options because, with Dyer being such a small community, if the bus driver should quit there is no one to take his place.

Fortunately, the district reacted reasonably after it entered a dialogue with the ACLU. As Pratt reported Saturday, the ACLU and the district have worked out a compromise.

While speaking Spanish is no longer forbidden, students will be encouraged to speak English during the bus ride's first 45 minutes, which is an academic period supervised by a tutor.

The compromise works because it protects the students' free-speech rights while helping them learn English, a skill that can only help them after they leave school.

## COMMISSIONER YSIDRO GUTIÉRREZ

*The job of County Commissioner includes the budget, the improvement and upgrade of County roads, jail and law enforcement but it also includes helping people in whatever problems they encounter. I do that every day because I believe in people and believe every person and especially elected officials have an obligation to help people.*

*De day las gracias a toda la gente que voto por mi en la ultima eleccion.*

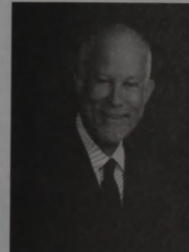


# Thank you - Ysidro

Paid for by the Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez Campaign, Magdaleno Hernandez Treasurer P.O. Box 875, Lubbock, TX 79508

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### Gracias por Su Apoyo en la Ultima Eleccion Primaria



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