

# El Editor

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

Casualties of  
War in Iraq  
3,897

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Lubbock, Texas

## Commentary and Analysis

# Will the Sleeping Giant Ever Wake Up?

By Abel Cruz

**W**hen it comes to the 2008 Presidential election, the question looming over the potential Hispanic vote should not be whether registered Hispanic voters are capable of influencing the final outcome, but whether they will or not?

Will 2008 be the year the "sleeping giant" finally awakes from years of hibernation and lumbers to the polls to manifest itself as the powerful swing vote most people agree that it can be? Or will we see only a marginal percentage of Hispanic voters; only those who are motivated to vote because of issues like immigration and healthcare?

Although we have made great strides in voter registration efforts throughout the country, registration rates among Hispanics remain mostly unchanged according to voting data by the United States Census Bureau. And even though Hispanics represent the fastest growing demographic, especially in the southwestern United States; come election time the Hispanic electorate usually fails to live up to its full potential as a major political influence and power vote.

And according to the Pew Hispanic Center, "This gap between the very substantial growth of the Hispanic population and much more modest growth in Hispanic electoral clout has been developing for a generation but has widened considerably in recent years". Will 2008 be any different? Depending on who will be leading the charge; the possibil-

ity exists that it will; if candidates finally learn how to connect with the Hispanic electorate.

### Greater Power in Greater Numbers

In 2000, when George W. Bush was first elected President; although some still say when he stole the election; approximately 1.6 million registered Hispanic voters stayed home according to US Census Bureau data. Were the ones who voted influential in Bush getting elected; yes, but had they voted in greater proportionate numbers for Al Gore, they could have turned the election completely around and we would have been calling Al Gore President. Now that is real influence and power!

And imagine how much more strides Hispanics would have made had we been able to lay claim to being the voting bloc responsible for electing Al Gore and completely changing the face of American history?

In politics; greater numbers reflect greater power. The more money one gives; the greater the access to those in power one has. Likewise; the greater the number of votes; the greater the influence in policy making decisions; in formulation of legislation; in economic funding for things which are important to the constituency; and in guaranteeing that a place at the decision making table is reserved for that particular group.

If you need an example look no further than the Christian based coalitions like James Dobson's group; Focus on the Family. Recall how Vice President Dick Cheney even consulted Dobson on several high profile decisions before the final decisions were made. Now that is influence. Politicians know that Dobson can deliver votes at the polls and consequently treat him accordingly.

Most recently we can point to Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee's recent surge in the polls. He finally got the evangelical Christian's attention and all of a sudden he has whisked past Giuliani and even Romney in some national polls. What he did is manage to appeal to a particularly large voting constituency

and harvest their support. And if he is successful at winning the Republican Presidential nomination and subsequent election, the Christian coalitions will surely come calling; demanding their reward in the form of policy changes,

this issue will be heard long after Election Day.

### Why Hispanics Don't Vote

And while issues do matter; they do not matter as much as who is stating the issue and leading the charge. They also

do not matter as much as who is delivering the message.

We all agree that if we voted at a higher percentage rate we could influence much more than an election. So the question becomes why don't we vote in greater numbers?

There are no easy answers. Perhaps it is a cultural tendency which we have to work

overcome? But if that were true, then one could argue that if people in Latin and South America turn out in such large numbers to vote in their elections; why not here?

Some people have even speculated that it is a certain degree of cultural or political intimidation. It is hard to believe that in 2007, Hispanic voters are intimidated at the ballot box. Within the demographic that usually votes, most people can speak English, most have at least a rudimentary understanding of what they are voting on, and most are capable of defending themselves from any type of verbal or non verbal intimidation on the part of election officials. And while the language difference may be a semi-legitimate argument, only 2.6% of registered voters pointed to their "difficulty with English" as their reason for not voting.

In the US Census report, researchers found that "The characteristics of people who are most likely to go to the polls are a reflection of both the racial/ethnic composition of the citizen population and the attributes of people with the biggest stakes in society: older individuals, homeowners, married couples, and people with more schooling, higher incomes, and good jobs.

(continued on page 6)



conservative Christian Supreme Court appointments, and conservative based legislation; and they will get it.

That's what we have come to; call it the politics of "voter rewards".

The bottom line is that greater numbers reflect a greater influence, not only at election time, but throughout of the rest of the winning administration's tenure. It is then after all when legislation is forged and passed. And if Hispanics can be a force at the ballot box, then an increase in voters will yield a bigger stick.

### Issues Matter; But the Message Matters More

In 2004, Bush lost about 7 to 10 percent of the Hispanic voters who had voted for him in 2000. Why he lost the votes is anybody's guess, but some have speculated that most of those lost were due to voter discontent with anti immigration Republicans who had been hell bent on demonizing undocumented immigrants.

Back then, xenophobic anti immigrant sentiment was beginning to burn stronger; fueled by people like Colorado's Tom Tancredo, Wisconsin's James Sensenbrenner and Lou Dobbs' constant, and still ringing of the illegal alien bell, the anti-immigrant, anti-Mexican, anti-Latino, well you get my point. New anti immigrant legislation was being concocted in right wing Republican's minds; ready to burst forth at the first sign of a willing electorate ready to embrace it.

But Hispanic voters must be a multi issue constituency instead of focusing on single issues which most clearly impact Hispanics. And in order for a candidate to successfully motivate Hispanics to go to the poll, they must be able to define these issues clearly and concisely; show Hispanics how they are affected by them, and make them feel that their voices on

## News Briefs

### Lubbock County Jail Food Service Contractor under Indictment

One story which was overshadowed by the reports of police cameras in some city alleys and an assistant city manager's absurd decision concerning a piece of artwork; was the report about Sheriff David Gutierrez and whether there was anything inappropriate about inviting a Lubbock County contractor who is under criminal indictment in Potter County to the Sheriff's home for a Christmas party. Potter County is one of the County Seats in Amarillo.

The story which was first reported on NewsChannel 11 has received very little air play and absolutely no ink in the local Avalanche Journal.

What may be more disturbing to county residents though may be the fact that a company known as Mid America company which was awarded the food services contract for the Lubbock County Jail by county commissioners this past summer has been indicted; along with the President of the company. On October 11 of this year, the Texas Attorney General's office issued a press release announcing the indictments.

According to that document; the state is charging that Robert Wayne Austin, Jr., Mid America's President "did unlawfully with intent to establish, maintain and participate in a combination, said combination consisting of the defendant and two or more other persons, commit the felony offense of bribery on or about and between July 15, 2002 and April 27, 2006".

Referring to the charges as "public corruption charges", a similar indictment also was issued against Mid America Services.

In simpler terms, the state is charging that Austin enticed Potter County Sheriff Michael C. Shumate with "valuable inducements" or bribes "to obtain contracts with the county".

According to the AG's press release. "The investigation that led to today's indictments began with the FBI, which referred corruption allegations to the Office of the Attorney General. Evidence obtained by the FBI indicated that Shumate and Austin were engaged in an illegal scheme to ensure Mid-America was awarded and retained the county's jail food service and commissary contracts".

Based on what Gutierrez told a NewsChannel reporter, the jail contract was awarded to Mid America this past summer and went into effect on October 1. It was just 17 days later that the Attorney General's office issued the press release outlining the indictments.

Does the fact that the County is doing business with a company under indictment and represented by someone who has also been indicted bother Lubbock County Commissioners or will they take any steps to review the contract now that they have found out?

Precinct 4 County Commissioner Bill McCay told NewsChannel11 that "commissioners weren't aware of any alleged criminal activity when the contracts were approved".

We sent Precinct 3 County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez our request for his comment on the story; but did not hear back from him before going to press.

Aside from the fact that Austin attended Gutierrez's Christmas Party at his home is the fact that he provided the food for the Christmas get together which Gutierrez holds every year.

When Gutierrez was asked by the news reporter why Austin was invited considering "the storm around this company", Gutierrez's responded this way: "Well it wasn't just this individual. At my home I have a Christmas party to invite my top command and friends that I have and I've been doing this for years".

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Democrat to Challenge Neugebauer for District 19 Congressional Seat  
Dwight B. Fullingim announced his intention to seek the Congressional seat now held by Republican Congressman Randy Neugebauer. According to a news release sent to media and local Democrats, Fullingim "is a public affairs consultant to international clients and provides pro bono communications counsel to non-profit organizations".

Fullingim announced his decision to challenge Neugebauer for the 19th Congressional District House seat at the press conference held at the Lubbock Club on Thursday morning.  
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### Richardson Campaign to File for Texas Ballot

SANTA FE, NM-- The Richardson for President campaign announced that New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson's name will be put on the primary ballot in Texas on Thursday December 27. The filing will take place at 2 P.M. Thursday at the Texas Democratic Party office in Austin, and will be performed by former State Comptroller John Sharp and Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector and former State Representative Sylvia Romo.

"Bill Richardson is the most qualified candidate to be our next President," said Sharp, "he possesses unmatched foreign and domestic policy experience and knows how to bring our country together. I am proud to support him and will work to promote his candidacy in Texas."

Richardson issued the following statement; "I am proud to be on the primary ballot in my neighbor state of Texas. Texas and other states in the southwestern United States will play a vital role in my run for the Presidency. I would like to thank my staff and grassroots volunteers in Texas for their hard work in making this happen."  
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### Hispanic College Fund Call for Applicants

Scholarship Applications for the 2008-2009 academic year now available  
Washington, DC--(HISPANIC PR WIRE)--January 8, 2007--Scholarship applications for the 2008-2009 academic year are available online at <http://www.HispanicFund.org>. Scholarship amounts range from \$500 - \$10,000 and are for one-year only. All scholarship recipients must re-apply each year. The average scholarship awarded is \$3,000.

Applications are ONLINE and require an essay, resume and letter of recommendation. We do not accept any paper applications. Deadlines for our scholarships vary from February 1st, 2008 to March 15th, 2008.

The Hispanic College Fund offers several scholarships through its scholarship program. You must plan to attend a college or a university as a full-time student for the entire academic year in order to be eligible for a Hispanic College Fund scholarship. Only students who are U.S. citizen or permanent resident residing in the United States or Puerto Rico and have a minimum GPA of 3.0 are eligible.

In 2007 the Hispanic College Fund awarded over \$1.8 million in scholarships to 615 students.

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## LPD Cameras; Coming Soon to an Alley Near You

**As if red light cameras weren't enough to raise the indignation level of Lubbock motorists and residents, we now learn that the Lubbock Police Department has placed at least 7 cameras at undisclosed Lubbock residential alley locations in an effort to catch thieves in the act and be able to solve residential burglaries.**

But questions over constitutional rights, privacy rights and the use of Orwellian tactics by the LPD have arisen since the cameras were revealed in a report last week on NewsChannel 11.

Last week, Lt. Greg Stevens of the LPD held a press conference to try and deflect some of the criticism stemming from the revelation of the cameras.

According to Stephens, "2649 burglaries have been reported as of October. Burglary is one of only two Part 1 crimes to have increased over last years totals in the City of Lubbock, Part 1 crimes being those of a more serious nature".

Which directly contradicts the assertions made just this past fall by LPD Chief Claude Jones that Lubbock remains a safe place to live and that crime is down compared to last year.

What has some residents perplexed is just what lengths, or how far the police

department is willing to go in the name of catching burglars? Are they willing to trample over resident's privacy rights in the name of law enforcement?



Based on some inquiries made by this newspaper, most people are not yet aware of the cameras. But when told about the cameras, most people are concerned that the police may be going too far in trying to catch thieves and there is uneasiness that privacy rights may be in danger of being violated.

Another aspect of this story reported last week by NewsRadio 1420, is the fact that at least 3 Lubbock City Council members were not aware that the LPD was using the surveillance devices. Apparently Councilmen Todd Klein, John Leonard, and Jim Gilbreath were not aware of the cameras. Conversely, both Mayor David Miller and Councilman Floyd Price both

told NewsRadio's James Clark that they knew about the cameras. According to the report, Miller says he doesn't remember the exact date when he found out, but that

"it's been several months ago".

As for Councilman Price, he was also quoted in the local media that he didn't think there was anything wrong with the cameras being used and that he wished that police could put one up in every alley. Not surprising considering that Price is an ex police officer and has blindly supported the LPD whether they are right or wrong; regardless of the issue.

And where are the cameras located? While the city made it a point to tell citizens at what intersections red light cameras would be placed; they have not been forthcoming with the locations for the 7 cameras. This would seem to indicate that in the case of the red light cameras, police are more focused on deterring red light runners. But in the case of the alley cameras, they may be only interested in catching thieves at any cost as opposed to discouraging home burglaries; no doubt; something that has not escaped some Lubbock residents.

And although Stevens of the LPD says that "officers will be respectful of the constitutional rights of all citizens and endeavor to protect those rights at all times", only time will tell whether that proves to be true or not.

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# Editorials

## Happy New Year!

With less than a week before we bring the curtain down on 2007 and greet 2008, we want to reflect on the past year and give you our rear view perspective about the news we covered over the past year.

On the local scene, the year was definitely news filled. We had something for every social and political taste; water restrictions caused by inept city management, a huge loss of revenue for local landscapers and this city's taxpayers, red light cameras installed in the name of public safety but really done for the revenue, bond election cheerleaders designed to listen and lobby citizens; to which Lubbock residents turned a deaf ear to; the ongoing drama at City Hall; allegations of City Council Open Meetings Act violations; a Civic Lubbock Board member replaced for no reason at all; and of course who can forget the Linda DeLeon Recall effort and all the drama that produced?

These were not all by any stretch of the imagination; these are just a few that come to mind. And the list does not include stories from the national scene like the Iraq War, Congress, and the unending missteps of the Bush administration and the exodus of administration officials who have resigned under a cloud of controversy.

As we close out the year, we are looking forward to 2008 with great enthusiasm and excitement. The upcoming city and county elections will surely produce some fireworks between Miller and Martin and Gutierrez and Flores.

On the national scene, the potential that a woman has a chance to become president should she win the Democratic Primary will be one of the top stories of 2008. Or perhaps the winner will be the first African American or the first Hispanic?

Thanks to you, our readership and web site audience has grown and continues to grow.

One of our New Year's resolutions is to continue to provide an alternative to other local print and internet media. We are proud of the job we have done during the past year and we will try and continue that trend in 2008. We hope to be able to cover the stories of 2008 from a different perspective and through a more introspective lens than other print media.

And we hope to add our contributions to the city's upcoming Centennial celebrations.

Thank you to all of our readers, advertisers, guest commentators, letter writers, editorial contributors and supporters for a very successful 2007!

As we say in our culture, Salud y Feliz y Prospero Año Nuevo!  
Happy New Year!

## Our Very Own Spy Gate

The White House had their Spy Gate; The NFL's New England Patriots had theirs too. And now Lubbock has its own version; and we continue to digest the revelation that the Lubbock Police Department has quietly placed surveillance cameras at no less than 7 city residential locations.

And although police officials deny that they are spying on anybody; we have to wonder just what is going on.

We agree with their objective; we too don't like to see city resident's homes burglarized. But we strongly disagree with their tactics.

Their tactics verge on the variety which Orwell wrote about in his book "1984" and we reference that in a story this week in our news briefs section.

Another disturbing aspect is that the LPD does not seem to have been very forthcoming even after Lt. Greg Stephens of the LPD held his news conference. Plus we don't like the fact that the only reason the news conference seems to have been held was to offer some kind of explanation only after NewsChannel 11 had reported the story. We doubt it would have been held if the story had not been reported and we salute NewsChannel 11 for their investigative reporting.

Over the past few months, we have been told by LPD Chief Claude Jones that crime is down. And we have heard Lubbock District Attorney Matt Powell say that Lubbock is still a safe place to live despite the number of murders and other crimes that Lubbock has experienced this past year.

If in fact crime is down like the Chief says; then why the need for surveillance cameras?

While we recognize that increasing crime in this city deserves the LPD's utmost attention and focus; we also recognize the fact that there are laws in this country which protects a citizen's right to privacy. And it is incumbent on all of us to continue to ask the hard questions of our elected officials and police officials until we find out just what this surveillance program is all about.

Our question is how will the LPD monitor this program? And how do they plan to guarantee that resident's rights to privacy will be protected? And perhaps the most important question is why they won't not make the locations of the cameras public.

And one of our greatest fears is that some overzealous police officer will cross that line into constitutionally protected territory.

This is an issue that warrants our utmost attention and focus. We agree with our guest commentator Charles Dunn when he says that "for some reason, when Lt. Stevens tells the public that our civil liberties are not in jeopardy, I'm not reassured.....Neither are we.

Editorials express the views of El Editor's Publisher and our editorial writer Abel Cruz. The views expressed here are strictly our own and in no way reflect the views of our advertisers.

## Guest Commentary

By Charles Dunn

### Nursing Mothers, Hidden Cameras and Floyd Price

In the past week, Lubbock citizens have been witness to an amazing display of incompetence and bureaucratic doubletalk. It all began when Assistant City Manager Scott Snider refused to allow local artist Lahib Jaddo to exhibit her pencil drawings of a nude pregnant woman and semi-nude nursing mother to be shown during December's First Friday Art Trail at the Buddy Holly Center. The same drawings had been shown in the lobby of a local church. Vince Martinez, an experienced private investigator and Lubbock native who is the President of the local chapter of the ACLU, began asking questions regarding the legality of the censorship. As almost everyone other than highly paid Lubbock assistant city managers know, nude art works are shown in public buildings all over the United States. Our state has long had a law allowing mothers to nurse their infants in public. Apparently unaware that the First Amendment applies in Lubbock, the assistant to the city council solemnly told the Lubbock Avalanche Journal that she couldn't comment because she had no knowledge of the incident. She also said that neither Snider nor City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld would publicly comment. Both issued vaguely worded written statements attempting to justify their "no nudes" policy. As has been the case under the Miller regime, the Mayor seemed clueless about the First Amendment applying to taxpayer funded venues and the requirement that there be written guidelines regarding what the City of Lubbock deems appropriate rather than the unwritten "no nudes" policy cited by Snider. Of course, at some point in time the three thousand dollar a month public relations consultant must have awakened from his slumber in horror at the looming public relations disaster and began burning up the phone lines in attempt at damage control. Within the space of twenty four hours, after the announcement by Martinez of a mass demonstration of nursing mothers at the Buddy Holly Center, Snider called Jaddo and invited her back to show at a later date. Although Dumbauld issued a written statement which included an apology to Jaddo, the artist stated that no one at the city had personally apologized to her, including Snider. Why am I not surprised?

Before the city's public relations consultant could go back into hibernation until the first of the month when his check comes in the mail, the story broke regarding the City of Lubbock purchasing surveillance cameras and hiding them throughout the city without telling anyone. According to Lt. Greg Stevens of the LPD, seven cameras have been up and running in residential areas since February but that the cameras only capture images from a "public vantage point" and have solved several crimes since they have been put up. This statement is from the same Greg Stevens who ridiculed defense attorneys who complained about Fourth Amendment violations in the arrest and ticketing of Tech students by the now infamous LPD party patrol. His statement was that the attorneys were "crying to the media about technicalities knowing that we police officers can't respond" (while at the same time calling a press conference to respond). He went on to dismiss the defense lawyer's allegations as nothing more than guilty students trying to avoid prosecution. His statement to the media was that "Everyone I ever arrested told me that they were innocent". Of course Greg Stevens was the supervising officer on the scene who authorized the Chippendales arrest that was so lacking in merit the district attorney refused to even file charges. Stevens was also the supervising officer for the team of officers who arrested a 19 year old college student for having sex toys in her intimate apparel store. In that case Stevens also threatened to get a felony arrest warrant for the owner of the store who was not even present at the time of the arrest. Again, the charges were so lacking in merit that the district attorney refused to even file them. This is the same Lt. Stevens who was the supervising officer of Marsh Blackmore who was captured on video tape viciously tasing an unarmed black man who offered no visible resistance. Despite the fact that the district attorney refused to press charges of resisting arrest against the arrested victim, Stevens cleared Blackmore of any violation of police procedure and put him back on the street to arrest again. As for the party patrol tickets, defense attorneys tell me that they are being dismissed when reached for trial to avoid the facts of the tainted arrests from being made public. For some reason, when Lt. Stevens tells the public that our civil liberties are not in jeopardy, I'm not reassured.



## "El Que Pica con la Cola" El Hijo Del

Alacrán (The Son of the Scorpion)



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

Pues ya llegó el año nuevo y como dice la canción, "No quiero comenzar el año nuevo con estos mismos chismes de todos estos políticos"; ¿Que es que? que hace no va, oh, pues a mi haci me la contaron. Sera que aveces me falla mis orejas y no escucho muy bien. Pero no se apuren que este hijo del Alacrán esta listo pa' el nuevo año de política y parece que va estar bastante interesante. Ya el proximo miercoles se llega el ultimo día en el cual se pueden fijar candidatos. Para la proxima edición de El Editor vamos a saaber todos los que tienen ganas de recibir el chequeosote de Ysidro. Andan con las manos bien estradadas y las sorizas listas pa' enseñarsela a los votantes.

Y todavia se escuchar por alli que el Gobernador Bill Richardson va venir pa' Lubbock a un banquete de una organizacion local. Sigán leyendo El Editor pa' más información.

Los otros candidatos se siguen peliando en Iowa y New Hampshire. Pero no le estan poniendo ninguna atención a el voto Latino de dichos estados. El voto ya se les aproxima.

Bueno, hasta la proxima, no vemos y no se desciuden que este hijo del Alacrán se mete por donde quiera se mete.

reassured. My feelings are not shared by Floyd Price, however. Although he represents a portion of the city with the highest crime rate, highest unemployment rate, highest number of low performing public schools, highest number of unpaved streets, lowest income and lowest number of businesses, his representation on the city council has had no more impact on changing these depressing statistics than if a potted plant had taken his place. Before arguably the most important vote of his tenure on the council regarding the recommendation of a bond election this spring, he was asked for his opinion of the issues on the day before the vote. His response was that he didn't know how he was going to vote because he needed to study the issue. In a recent council meeting attended by Abel Cruz of this newspaper, he showed an appalling lack of even a rudimentary knowledge of the internet during a discussion of a city proposal to provide wireless internet service city wide. As a former police officer who worked for many years with Chief of Police Claude Jones, Price has been a head in the sand supporter of the police. He was asked by the Avalanche Journal to comment on the hidden cameras and his response was vintage Floyd Price. Not only were the cameras not an invasion of privacy, he wished that they would put cameras in every alley of the city. Big Brother lives in the mind of Floyd Price.

Sooner or later the conservative business owners, bankers and real estate developers who hold the real power in this city will take action to change the city council, its city manager, its assistant city managers and the police chief. If nothing else, the looming specter of the national press covering a mass nursing mother's demonstration at the Buddy Holly center and the resulting ridicule should do the trick. If so, the citizens of this city owe a debt of gratitude to Vince Martinez. He gets my vote for citizen of the year. Mr. Dunn is an attorney who practices Personal Injury Law in Lubbock, Texas <http://www.charlesdunn-law.com/>

## Assimilation - "What Happened in the Colonies?"

By Cecilio Morales  
With the new year arrives a perfect moment to reconsider the anti-immigrant demand that newcomers assimilate.  
The verb to assimilate has five meanings. Physiologically, it means to consume and incorporate nutrients into the body after digestion. Figuratively, it refers to absorbing knowledge into the mind. The word also means to cause something to resemble another.  
In linguistics, it refers to altering a sound, as happens when a language adopts foreign words (for example, the Spanish lasso, which became the English lasso).  
The fifth meaning, also figurative, is what people have in mind in the immigration debate: to absorb immigrants, or any culturally distinct group, into the prevailing culture. Yet in all the meanings of "assimilate," something is consumed, absorbed, incorporated (literally, to become part of a body) after some process of digestion and alteration.  
All of this means that "B" becomes somehow enmeshed in "A."  
In the case of the United States, what is that "A" and why does it deserve preeminence?  
The answer is more complicated than it sounds.

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### Singing the Jailhouse Blues

In baseball, after the third strike, you're out. I wonder if the same is true in politics? Here we are folks, bottom of the ninth inning, bases loaded, and look who's coming to bat? Yes, it's that singing virtuoso Lubbock County Sheriff David Gutierrez. There goes the pitch, and...

STRIKE ONE, also known as the "The Exploding Tassels". This "unintended mistake" (LAJ 10-09-07) began after the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office revoked Boom Boom Cabaret's "license to operate his sexually oriented business" (LAJ 10-09-07). Do note, it's the Sheriff's Office's who processes the applications. Seeing the error, a federal judge issued the Cabaret a temporary permit to operate. The county called the whole thing a "misunderstanding" (LAJ 10-09-07) and paid Boom Boom owner, Charles Ault, \$50,000 to cover lost revenue and attorney fees" (LAJ 10-09-07). I didn't hear David singing, "The Buck Stops Here" did you? SEEMS STRIKE ONE BOOM BOOMED IN HIS FACE.

The runners on first, second and third are getting a bit anxious after that first strike, but they're still poised to dash off to home base. The pitcher throws, and...

STRIKE TWO, also known as "Sheriff, I'd Like to Redeem My 'Get Out of Jail Free' Card." Joseph Luis Gonzales Jr., who was being held at the Lubbock County Jail for aggravated assault, aggravated assault on a public servant, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, and the list goes on and on, was mistakenly released by the Lubbock County Jail, back onto our streets, just last month. Seems "human error and possibly negligence" ((LAJ 11-22-07) were to blame, according to the Tin Foil Star Sheriff. This time, the Sheriff was determined to put his foot down, as he was heard saying, "this will not go unnoticed" (LAJ 11-21-07). Although those tough words are warming and reassuring, I'm not sure the Sheriff wasn't referring to the escaped prisoner as being the object of what was to go unnoticed. SEEMS STRIKE TWO HAPPENED WITHOUT THE PLAYER EVEN BEING PRESENT.

Now the runners are scared that the game will be lost. Yet, they still wait for the home-run. The pitcher looks to the right, to the left, leans back, throws, and...

Oh, no!! STRIKE THREE, also known as "Hors d'oeuvres anyone?" The News-Channel 11 reporter asked, "Did he (Mid-America) provide the food for your Christmas party?" "Everything that was provided at my Christmas party was paid for," answered the Sheriff. Helllllloooo, is anyone home? I think the Sheriff has laced his cowboy boots a little too tight! That wasn't the question they asked you, now was it?

Seems Mid-America Services, a company which holds the contract for food service at Lubbock's current and future jails, provided the food at the Sheriff's Christmas party this year. Also, seems the President of Mid-America was at that same party. Unfortunately, President Robert Wayne Austin, Jr. has been indicted for organized crime and bribery in Amarillo along with current Potter (Amarillo) County Sheriff Michael Shumate for public corruption charges stemming from allegedly accepting bribes from Austin and Mid-America.

The NewsChannel11 reporter then asks the Sheriff, "Why was this guy [Austin] ... invited?" The Sheriff responds, "Well, it wasn't just this individual. At my home I have a Christmas party to invite my top command and friends that I have and I've been doing this for years." Doing what for years Sheriff? And why won't you answer the question? In case you forgot, the question was, "Why was this guy ... invited?"

SEEMS STRIKE THREE WAS CONSUMED BY THOSE WITH A HAND BEHIND THEIR BACK. AND I AIN'T TALKING ABOUT THE PITCHER EITHER.

Soon, we'll see if Lubbock County Sheriff David Gutierrez is out or merely benched for a while. But in the meantime, I have a bit of advice for David. You could have saved yourself a lot of negative publicity and embarrassment if you had just had your Christmas party at Boom Boom Cabaret, catered by Mid-America with wait staff Robert Austin, Jr., Potter County Sheriff Michael Shumate, and all other escaped prisoners including Joseph Luis Gonzales Jr. In that way, only one negative story instead of three in the past two months.

Oh, and by the way, those little weenies smothered in barbecue sauce are to die for. Could you get Robert to get me two cases? I hear they're only \$5 a case. Nice.

RMS, Lubbock via Email: [robertmorales@msi.com](mailto:robertmorales@msi.com)

### SORCA Neighborhood and Street Lights

In his latest letter, Roger Settler spoke of the streetlights in South Overton. In the letter, he gave credit where credit is due in naming the SORCA neighborhood association as the organization that originated the drive to fix, replace and repair the streetlights in the neighborhood. SORCA board members put together a complete catalog of all missing and defective polls and lights throughout the neighborhood. We also counted the total number of streetlights in the half square-mile area of South Overton. To our surprise and shock, we found that the city was paying for the lighting of twice the number of lights in a three-block area of "Macdougalville" [North Overton] as in ALL South Overton.

I would like to point out that our original approach was to contact LPL and request that the poles be replaced and repaired, and that the lights and globes be fixed. We were told that our distinctive decorative lights were no longer being made anywhere in the nation, and thus that we would have to settle for the ugly standard street lights replacing the decorative ones that are missing or defective.

We then asked Councilwoman Linda DeLeon to intervene for us. LPL told her the same thing. It was only because of SORCA's determination and Linda's persistence that we were able to locate the company and the exact style of light pole used in South Overton. After Linda repeatedly asked the city to do so, LPL acquired the proper polls, and replaced the broken ones. They also replaced many broken and defective globes and lights, and painted all the poles in the neighborhood. Our neighborhood's thanks were offered to Linda DeLeon for good constituent services at a general meeting of SORCA held last spring. I am sorry that Roger missed that meeting.

C. James, Lubbock via Email

### USDA Anti-Smuggling Hotline

Smuggled poultry and other agricultural products increase the risk of introducing agricultural pests and diseases like avian influenza into the United States. If you are a merchant who imports products, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance Program needs your help.

Some poultry products are restricted and can enter the U.S. under certain restrictions while others are simply prohibited. To find out which products are prohibited or restricted, or to anonymously report a business illegally importing poultry products, call the USDA's Anti-Smuggling Hotline at 1-800-877-3835.

Scott M. Sanner, National SITC Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service U.S. Department of Agriculture, via Email

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## Assimilation - "What Happened in the Colonies?"

History tells us that the first so-called New World inhabitants were the Indians. The European colonists did not assimilate into Indian society. Are anti-immigrant advocates suggesting that we at last show some respect for the native inhabitants? Somehow, I think not.  
What is today the United States, history also tells us became the colonial territory of three European powers: England, France and Spain. Which one of their cultures deserves to be first? On what grounds? Let's try history again.

In 13 of the North American English colonies, a civil war broke out in the 1770s. The population was so divided that an estimated 100,000 loyalists fled abroad at the end of the conflict. At that time, cultural roots among whites were about evenly divided between England and Germany to the point that choosing a national language for the new nation was deferred as too divisive.

We might be singing "O, sagt, könnt ihr sehen" on the Fourth of July had the Deutsch, or "Dutch" prevailed, but then we're forgetting the "other Persons" of the Constitution, who were African and spoke multiple languages. Then there's the purchase of land from France

(the Louisiana territory) and Spain (Florida).  
By the 1840s and '50s, what was to become the third major European group of the early United States arrived: the Irish. They were certainly not English.  
So remind me, again, in this mix of Africans, English, French, Germans, Irish and Spanish, by what reason was the culture and language of the English to be accorded legal supremacy, when even the English dared not debate it for fear they would lose a vote?  
But wait. There's the entire Southwest and West, stolen outright by war and conquest. Its predominant language and culture was not English. Why should the territory from Texas to California have to assimilate the culture and language of the last and most unlawful newcomers, the Anglos?  
Much the same question could be raised about almost any corner of the Earth. People have the inalienable right to their own language and culture. Asserting that right is in the best tradition of the United States (even though in many chapters of the nation's history it was not observed), as it is of the United Nations and of Lady Liberty, whose powerful gaze watches over both from her island. (Cecilio Morales is executive editor of the weekly Employment & Training Reporter in Washington, D.C. Reach him at [Cecilio@miipublications.com](mailto:Cecilio@miipublications.com).) ©2007



# To get to the White House, go through 'el Barrio' Health Care and Iraq Preoccupy Texas Voters

In spite of the anti-immigrant climate that has been sweeping the nation, a Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll says 60 percent of Americans are still in favor of a legalization plan for law-abiding illegal immigrants. Other polls say two Republican presidential candidates are surging, and they happen to be the only ones who

support Republicans had gained in the past few years among Hispanic voters now has gone back to the Democrats. It found that 57 percent of Latinos align themselves with Democrats and 23 percent favor Republicans -- a 34-point gap that has not been seen since the late 1990s. Is the pendulum making an

against granting driver's licenses to illegal immigrants and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., failing to give a clear explanation of his position on that issue, Democrats are not doing too well, either. Most of the Republican candidates have tried to out-tough one another regarding immigration. But the Democrats -- instead of tackling

The political season has kicked off in southwest Texas as those seeking election announce their candidacies, raise funds and take the pulse of the region. Texans say health care and Iraq are their top domestic and foreign concerns, and candidates are responding.

cal views and economic classes, advocated a greater government role in health care. Amanda Garcia of the League of United Latin American Citizens summed up the views of many: "We have to push for universal care. We, the most powerful nation, are being outdone by England, by France and Spain. They have it. Why can't we have it?"

the weekly San Antonio Current newspaper the objective is to support the troops, but not the war.



Republicans head-on and exposing their often destructive, divisive and downright racist attitudes -- have tried to play down the issue. Instead of showing how Latinos have been used as guinea pigs to score points for Republicans on the immigration issue and speaking out

"Health care continues to be the main issue, with the exception of those international issues such as Iraq," says Representative Ciro Rodriguez, incumbent Democratic Party congressman of the Texas 23rd Congressional District. "Health care continues to be the Number 1 issue that we, as a country, need to come to grips with."

Rodriguez reminded a recent breast cancer awareness forum in San Antonio that one-quarter of Texans have no health insurance. That percentage of uninsured in its population is higher than in any other state.

However, Rodriguez told USINFO the United States is probably not ready for a government-run, universal health care system.

"It depends on who the next president is, but it will be difficult to pull that off," he said. "I'm really convinced that if you get everyone to participate, the private sector and everybody coming together, that's the only way [to succeed]. Otherwise, it's so easy to pit one against the other."

Health care also dominated discussions at a San Antonio seminar organized by the AARP (formerly called the American Association of Retired Persons), the nation's largest advocacy group for senior citizens. Several area politicians sent staff members to the event.

"We want our elected representatives to know that we don't want to live in a country or a state where any one of us is just one catastrophic illness away from bankruptcy," said Joe Sanchez, associate Texas state director of AARP.

Most of the speakers, who represented a cross section of politi-

have shown some compassion for the people who already pick our crops, mow our lawns and wash our cars and dishes. And yet another poll says immigration has become a much more important issue to Latino voters.

This could become the ultimate issue that determines who will be our next president. The winner, however, will not be chosen by those who bash immigrants but by those who are tired of xenophobic rhetoric.

The immigration pendulum has swung so far to the right that now it has no choice but to swing left.

For several years, pollsters told us immigration was not a significant issue to Latino voters. They said there were other issues Latinos found far more important.

However, perhaps because most Latinos recently have felt the often racist sting of the anti-immigrant movement, one poll has found that 79 percent of Hispanic voters now say immigration is a very important issue in the presidential race, up from 63 percent in June 2004.

According to the same survey, by the Pew Hispanic Center, the

about-face? With 18 million potential Latino voters going to the polls next year, many of whom happen to be positioned in key Electoral College states that could swing an election, Latinos can decide who will be the next president.

Without the support of at least 30 percent of Latinos, no candidate can make it to the White House. And without some compassion for illegal immigrants, no candidate can win that kind of support from Latinos.

Luckily for Republicans, the two candidates who are now surging in the polls -- Sen. John McCain and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee -- are the ones who still could win a significant portion of the Hispanic vote. Perhaps even Rudy Giuliani could win enough Latino votes to become president -- but only if he comes to his senses and stops pretending that he is an immigration hawk. The rest of them have no chance to win the Hispanic vote.

And with Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., flip-flopping and turning

in defense of the millions of people who live among us -- undocumented but filling many jobs that keep our economy going -- the Democrats rather would duck than fight.

Democrats figure Latinos will have no other choice but to vote for them. And for that reason, they figure they have no need to be strong advocates for Latino issues right now. Why should they alienate the anti-immigrant zealots when they don't have to? Republicans have done such a good job of alienating Latino voters that Democrats figure they don't have to do anything -- nada!

But with the immigration pendulum changing direction and compassionate GOP candidates surging in the polls, Democrats could end up taking the Latino vote for granted -- just enough to lose the race for president.

Bottom line: If Latinos vote in a significant bloc, they will determine who will be the next American president.

And candidates who flip-flop on immigration, bash illegal immigrants or hope to win by default will not make it to the White House.

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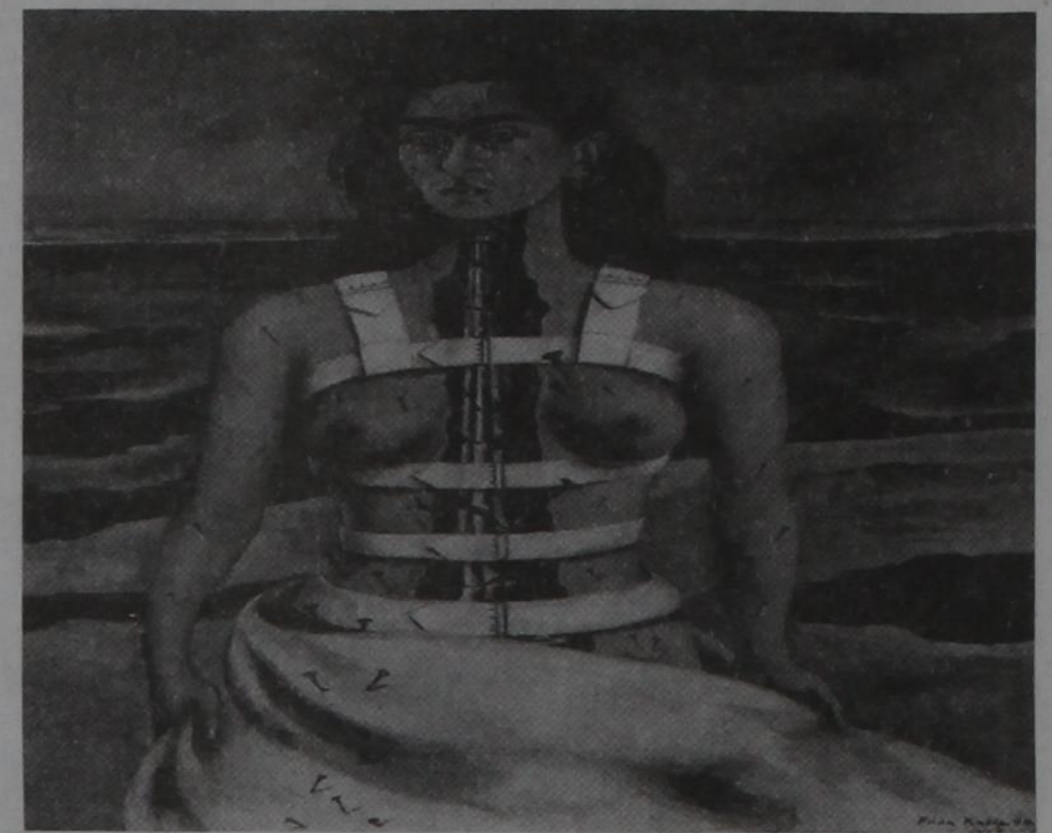
# Museum to Present First Major Frida Kahlo Exhibition in February 2008

The Philadelphia Museum of Art will be the only East Coast venue for the first major exhibition in 15 years to be devoted to Frida Kahlo in the United States. Frida Kahlo (February 20-May 18, 2008) examines the art of one of the most influential artists of the last 50 years. The exhibition includes more than 40 of the Mexican artist's self-portraits, portraits, allegorical and symbolic paintings and still lifes, among them paintings that have never been exhibited before and others that will be seen in the U.S. for the first time. The exhibition is drawn from more than 30 collections in the U.S., Mexico, France, and Japan. Two of the most important and extensive collections of Kahlo's work – the Museo Dolores Olmedo in Mexico City and the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection of Modern and Contemporary Mexican Art, Cuernavaca – have lent many of their

most treasured Kahlo paintings. Generally small in scale, Kahlo's distinctive, jewel-like works are vividly detailed compositions often filled with powerful personal symbolism. In her iconic self-portraits the artist assumes multiple identities and reflects upon pivotal periods in her life, painting painful and often difficult subject matter, including an unprecedented depiction of a miscarriage she suffered. In *The Broken Column* (1944) the artist shows herself standing in tears in a vacant landscape after surgery, her injured spine an exposed crumbling column, with nails piercing her body in a manner that recalls the martyred Saint Sebastian. Some paintings reflect the artist's notable wit. In *Self-Portrait on the Borderline between Mexico and the United States* (1932), which Kahlo painted during an unhappy period in Detroit, she wears a long pink dress and lace gloves – proper attire for an American society woman at

the time – but she also subversively holds a cigarette and a Mexican flag, evidence of her resistance to accepted codes of conduct in the U.S. Other highlights include two works that have never been exhibited in public before: *Me and My Parrots* (1941) and *Magnolias* (1945). Other iconic pictures, *The Two Fridas* (1939) and *Diego and Frida 1929-1944* (1944) have not been exhibited before in the U.S. In addition to the self-portraits and portraits of friends, the exhibition includes Kahlo's animated and often autobiographical still lifes, which the artist called *naturaleza viva* (alive nature). In *Still Life with Parrot and Fruit* (1951), Kahlo shows fruit cut open, a possible reference to the surgeries she endured throughout her life. The abundance of fruits and flowers in these paintings reflects the obsession of the artist, who was not able to bear children, with fertility. An avid student of the history of

art, Kahlo drew from many sources, including Italian Renaissance and German *Neue Sachlichkeit* painting, and a range of Mexican art. *Still Life* (1951), which includes a Colima dog, and *My Nurse and I* (1937), in which the nurse's face is fused with a Teotihuacan stone mask, among others, exemplify Kahlo's deep interest in and knowledge of pre-Columbian art. Paintings such as *The Suicide of Dorothy Hale* (1939) are based on Mexican *ex-voto* paintings, which are devoted to saints and typically rendered on metal with written inscriptions. In *Frieda and Diego Rivera* (1931) Kahlo announces her marriage to the famous Mexican muralist in a ribbon over her head, a feature borrowed from colonial painting. Kahlo painted *Portrait of Dr. Leo Eloesser* (1931) in a style that recalls 19th-century Mexican portraiture by such artists as José María Estrada, whom she greatly admired, in addition to paintings by German modern



artists such as Christian Schad. Over 100 photographs from Kahlo's personal collection complement the paintings in Frida Kahlo. They include images by preeminent photographers such as Carl Van Vechten, Gisèle Freund, Tina Modotti, and Nickolas Muray, as well as by the artist's father, Guillermo Kahlo, a professional photographer who was instrumental in his daughter's career. Personal images of Kahlo with her husband, as well as family and friends, including such cultural and political luminaries as Leon Trotsky and Surrealist André Breton, will also be on view. Kahlo inscribed many of the photographs with dedications, effaced others with self-deprecating marks, and even kissed one, leaving a lipstick trace. Juxtaposed with her powerful self-portraits, these photographs give heightened immediacy to her life, her home and studio, her husband and friends, and contribute to reflect on the ways in which the artist manipulated her own image and reinvented herself throughout her life. Organized by the Walker Art Center in association with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Frida Kahlo is curated by the world-renowned Kahlo scholar and biographer Hayden Herrera, and the Walker's associate curator, Elizabeth Carpenter. At the Philadelphia Museum of Art, it will be co-curated by Michael Taylor, the Muriel and Philip Berman Curator of Modern Art, and Emily Hage, Mellon Curatorial Fellow. About Frida Kahlo - Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) is one of the most respected, beloved, and captivating artists of the 20th century. She was born on July 6, 1907 in Coyoacán, a southern suburb of Mexico City. She began painting in 1926 while recuperating from a near-fatal bus accident and continued to paint throughout her life. At a time when Mexican artists Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and Rufino Tamayo were internationally known for their large-scale public murals, Kahlo painted small, highly detailed compositions, about 200 works altogether. Her paintings earned her the respect of Marcel Duchamp and André Breton who declared her to be a self-made Surrealist when he came to Mexico in 1938. Although she rejected this designation, her paintings are highly symbolic, at once introspective and theatrical. In 1929, she married Diego Rivera. The relationship was tumultuous, and Kahlo recorded its ups and downs in paint. In her work, she also illustrated the misery of her deteriorating health: the orthopedic corsets she was forced to wear, along with numerous spinal surgeries, miscarriages, and therapeutic abortions. Such painful subject matter is somewhat mitigated by the small scale of her works, and by her sardonic humor and extraordinary visual imagination. Politically active, Kahlo espoused Communism, and identified herself with indigenous Mexican culture. On the occasion of her first exhibition in Mexico in 1953, Kahlo defied doctor's orders and attended the opening, receiving guests while reclining on a four-poster bed. Although sickness prevented her from creating the highly detailed paintings she had created in earlier years, her late still lifes and self-portraits exhibit her continued creativity throughout her life. She died on July 13, 1954.

## Mexican Rockers Cafe Tacuba Just Wanna Have Fun

Cafe Tacuba, Mexico's premier make-the-mold-and-break-it Latin alternative band, has made a career out of surprising and often confounding people. But perhaps nothing the band has done in 15 years of recording has been as surprising as its latest release, "Sino" (which, in typical sly Tacuba fashion, can be translated variously as "however" or "yesno" or "except"). It's their most joyously and straight-up rock 'n' roll album ever. It's got The Who, Rush, punk, prog rock, and even a brief salute to the Supremes. "Sino" is a return to Tacuba's teenage years in a Mexico City suburb, before the four band members set out on a mission to re-make rock a la Mexicana, incorporating Mexican music and themes and breaking with every rule for success in Latin pop music.

In part, "Sino" is Tacuba's return to the innocent, rebellious adolescent energy that originally inspired them, and a break with the complex, painstaking experimentation of their mature music. "It's been really fun," says Ruben Albarran, Tacuba's brilliant, diminutive frontman and songwriter, who adopts a different name for each album (he's currently Xixxi Xoo, the name of an Aztec god), as well as a different image (he currently sports a white bowler hat pulled down to his nose, with holes cut out for the eyes). "It's been very fluid. It's nothing more than letting the music come out and take its own form. It was also about letting out many influences from youth, when we listened more to rock. And letting it out without looking to make it more complicated or sophisticated." That may be, but "Sino" is far from simple. "They've gone back to conventional models of rock," says Josh Kun, a professor at the Annenberg School of Communication in Los Angeles. "But in doing the conventional they sound weirder than ever before." With Tacuba's four members hitting or nearing 40, they found themselves wanting to evaluate their 20 years of music making. "We're seeing where we are and where we've been," says Rangel. "It's something natural at our age, that this is a moment when one starts to look back," says Albarran. It's a measure of how Latin alternative music has grown that a band as strange as Tacuba has found a solid place as a re-

vered pillar of the genre. While Tacuba has never had great commercial success, they've had great artistic influence, and have garnered enormous critical respect in both Latin America and the United States. Their 1994 release "Re" was compared to the Beatles' *White Album*. 1999's "Reves/Yosoy," a double album with a disc of spacy instrumentals, won a Latin Grammy and comparisons to Radiohead, but didn't exactly light up the sales charts. "Sino" has been eliciting four-star reviews across the United States, while Tacuba's concerts have been packing venues like New York's Central Park Summerstage and L.A.'s Hollywood Bowl. "Tacuba is a model for a level of artistic integrity hard to find in contemporary Latin music," says Kun. "They're a band who openly defy the expectations of the marketplace and have never played to the formulas of genre." But for all their dense ideas about stylistic and cultural fusion, for Tacuba rock 'n' roll is still a vital form of music. "Rock is like a universal expression that has more to do with the times than with anything geographic or cultural," says Albarran. "It has to do with the speed with which we live, with the technology that we manage." Where they used to focus on creating a distinctively Mexican style of alternative music as a way of rebelling against the

dominance of U.S. culture, now Tacuba believes in a universal revolt that transcends borders – the fight-the-power anger that has fired music from the anti-war '60s to punk to hip-hop. "We started in a search for Mexican identity, and now we think totally differently, that we're Mexican because that's the name the bosses of everything gave us," Albarran says. "Those who have power give you something. And the only thing they give you is the illusion that you belong to something. In reality you belong to mankind." "There's a lot of things that make me angry," Albarran says. "And that gives me energy to keep going." But so does blowing it up in Tacuba's famous live shows – even at 40. "You can stay young mentally," Albarran says. "Fortunately it seems like we've still got energy. Going out on tour is the most fun part of our work ... it's immediacy, spontaneity, sharing what we're working on with the audience. It's really fun."



Since releasing their first album in 1992, they've created the template for much of what's since come to be called Latin alternative: a fusion of international pop and rock with Latin American national styles and perspective, with a determined cultural independence from Anglo pop music. You can trace Tacuba's influence in everything from the cumbia-flavored rock of superstar Juanes to the electro-Mex of dance music hipsters Kinky. But back in Mexico in the 1980s, rock was music to rebel against traditional culture, a barely audible shout amid a world of boleros and ranchera. "We were not in the majority in what we liked," says bassist Enrique Rangel. "We were into new wave, and before that classic rock - Led Zeppelin, Rush, progressive rock. After this we started not exactly rejecting that, but Cafe Tacuba tried to do something different, something from Latin America, something Mexican."

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# Washington hopes for a win against rival Dallas Cowboys

Since Thanksgiving, the Washington Redskins have seen their record drop to 5-7, one of their best defensive players murdered and their quarterback suffer a season-ending injury.

But still, with a win on Sunday at FedEx Field against the rival Dallas Cowboys, the Redskins can clinch a playoff spot for just the second time since the 1999 season.

"After all we've been through, we're still in position," Washington running back Clinton Portis said, "so we have to finish it out."

The Redskins (8-7) are in control of their playoff fate because of an unlikely three-game winning streak, capped by a 32-21 win at Minnesota last Sunday. That drew them into a tie with the Vikings for the final NFC wild card spot and earned them the head-to-head tiebreaker over Minnesota, meaning a win against the Cowboys (13-2) earns them a playoff matchup at Seattle next weekend.

Washington could still make the playoffs if it loses, but would need both Minnesota and New Orleans also to lose. The Vikings visit Denver on Sunday while the Saints play at Chicago.

The Redskins last qualified for the playoffs in 2005, when they won their final five games to earn

the NFC's final playoff spot. "Everything that we've worked for, for 15 weeks, goes on the line this weekend," Washington coach Joe Gibbs said.

Such a scenario seemed highly unlikely four weeks ago, when the Redskins, playing for the first time since safety Sean Taylor was killed in his Florida home, dropped their fourth straight game, a heartbreaking 17-16 home loss to the Buffalo Bills.

The next day was Taylor's funeral. The next week, starting quarterback Jason Campbell went down for the season with a dislocated kneecap in the first half. But backup Todd Collins came in and led the Redskins to a 24-16 win over Chicago, then two straight road wins against the New York Giants and Minnesota.

"I don't know of a team - I haven't been a part of one - that's overcome this much," Gibbs said. "It's almost like they're going to overcome whatever's out there. It's also caused a certain camaraderie and chemistry."

Collins, who until this month had not started a game since 1997, has completed 60.8 percent of his passes and thrown for four touchdowns without an interception in the three wins. He's coming off perhaps his best game of the three, going 22-of-29 for

254 yards and two touchdowns against Minnesota.

Portis also has played well, with at least 124 yards from scrimmage in each of the three games. He even threw a touchdown pass to Antwaan Randle El on a trick play against Minnesota.

Last week, the defense held the NFL's best rushing offense to 87 yards, including just 27 for rookie phenom Adrian Peterson.

Of course, shutting down the Cowboys has been a tough task this season, but it could be made easier this week if Dallas decides to rest some starters considering it has the No. 1 seed in the NFC wrapped up.

Terrell Owens will not play due to a high ankle sprain, but Cowboys coach Wade Phillips has not confirmed he will sit any other starters or limit their playing time, saying he will play to win for "the integrity of the game."

"Regardless of what's going on with them, we can't worry about that. We've got to take care of us," Washington wide receiver Santana Moss said. "Regardless of if they're playing nobody, we've got to go out there and win the game."

Phillips pointed out Dallas would set a franchise record for regular season wins if it can beat the Redskins, having already

matched the 1992 team record. The Cowboys also haven't lost a road game this season, as they and the New England Patriots will look to become the first teams to go 8-0 on the road since the 2001 St. Louis Rams.

"There's a lot of considerations and we'll consider them all," Phillips said. "But we're still approaching the game to win the game."

Dallas has done that eight of its last nine games, and clinched home-field advantage throughout the playoffs last week by virtue of Chicago's win over Green Bay, but the Cowboys have hardly looked a dominant team of late. They barely outlasted Carolina 20-13 last week, when Owens was hurt in the first half.

One week earlier, they gained a season-low 240 yards in a 10-6 home loss to the Philadelphia Eagles, and the week before that it took a 13-point fourth-quarter comeback to beat the struggling Detroit Lions 28-27.

Quarterback Tony Romo has been battling a thumb injury suffered against the Eagles and seems unlikely to play the entire game, meaning backup Brad Johnson could be the first Cowboy other than Romo to attempt a pass this season.

Romo may play at least some

of the game to get on the same page with wide receiver Terry Glenn, who is expected to see action after missing the first 15

from his first 1,000-yard season.

Washington will be happy not to see Owens, who caught eight passes for 173 yards and



games while recovering from knee surgery.

"It won't be a full game, but I'd like to get him playing, get him back in the rhythm of it, catch some passes," Phillips said. "If he wants to start, he can start."

For Dallas, Jason Witten is six catches away from joining Kansas City's Tony Gonzalez as the only tight ends in NFL history with 100 receptions in a season. Running back Marion Barber, meanwhile, is 19 yards away

four touchdowns in the teams' meeting at Dallas on Nov. 18. The Cowboys needed all of his scores as they held on to win 28-23, but the Redskins have won the rivals' last two games at FedEx Field.

"It's going to be a great game, because it's a rivalry, it's Redskins-Cowboys, it's at our place," Redskins linebacker London Fletcher said. "I guess you can't really write a better script."

## For New Cowboys Stadium, a Diverse Group of Players

At the new Dallas Cowboys stadium, the roof steel is provided by a Hispanic firm, the electrical wiring is from a business owned by women, and the fire-protection systems are provided by an African-American company.

These contracts are part of the team's promise to Arlington leaders to hire local minority business owners. And with construction on the \$1 billion stadium almost half complete, the Cowboys are clearly on their way to meeting their goals for hiring minority- and women-owned business, local minority leaders say.

"I'm pretty pleased," said Daryl Perez, president and chairman of the Arlington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "Of course, anybody would love to see more ... but the numbers are looking good."

According to a Nov. 6 report submitted to the city, 78 minority- and women-owned businesses, known as MWBEs, had been awarded contracts to work on the stadium, which is scheduled to open in 2009. About \$68 million - approximately 22 percent of the \$310 million spent so far

-- has been paid to these firms, records show.

"The process has been going good, and we have a lot of companies involved," said Katrina Keyes, who was hired as an independent contractor to monitor the minority contracts. "We have especially done a great job on the local participation, where of the 80 MWBE firms, maybe only six or eight are out of state."

"Fair share" goals After Arlington voters approved a \$325 million bond package to help build the stadium, city leaders hammered out a master development deal that included minority-participation goals.

Under a fair-share agreement reached with the city, the Cowboys agreed to goals for hiring minority- and women-owned firms. These goals include awarding 25 percent of the construction work and 18 percent of the contracts for goods needed for the project to MWBE firms. The Cowboys also agreed to pay \$100,000 to the city to pay for Keyes' work.

The goals were meant to be guidelines, and no penalties will be assessed if the team does not

meet them.

Earlier concerns Minority leaders had pressed the Arlington City Council to include a minority-participation agreement because there was no such accord when the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington was built in the early 1990s.

When the ballpark was ready to open, community leaders pointed out that few minority firms had worked on the facility. They said they did not want that to happen with the Cowboys stadium project, and the fair-share agreement was signed Sept. 30, 2004.

However, before construction on the stadium had even begun, the Cowboys' commitment to hiring minority firms was sharply questioned. The Rev. Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in southeast Arlington, said Cowboys owner Jerry Jones had promised that he would hire a minority firm or a joint venture that featured a minority business as a general contractor for the project. The City Council refused to pressure the Cowboys to hire a specific firm.

The Cowboys hired

Oklahoma-based Manhattan Construction as general contractor. As part of its winning bid, Manhattan entered into a strategic alliance with two local minority firms, African-American-owned 3i Construction and Hispanic-owned Rayco Construction, which work closely with Manhattan on oversight of the project.

Status report

While the City Council receives quarterly updates from Keyes, no official assessment has been made on whether the Cowboys are on target to meet their goals in the five areas set out under the fair-share agreement.

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# Will the Sleeping Giant Ever Wake Up?

(Continue from front page)

Which if true would indicate that Hispanics lag behind in those categories and therefore not inclined to vote; presuming that their lives will not be greatly affected by the decisions made by those who are elected. And if voting trends show that older folks are more inclined to vote; then a younger Hispanic population, which Hispanics are, would go against that trend.

In an unscientific polling of friends and acquaintances, I found that most people who are registered to vote and physically and mentally capable, simply do not vote. Even though they are qualified to vote in every sense of the word, they neither vote in local, or state, or national elections. Perhaps one of the primary reasons is because no one candidate has given them a reason to go to the polls. Perhaps they have been treated insignificantly or worse irrelevantly.

According to the Census Bureau, 23.5% of registered Hispanic voters surveyed after the 2004 election, say that they were "too busy" to vote; 10.5% said they "were not interested; 7.3% said they "did not like the candidates or issues"; and 6.1% said they "forgot to vote".

While respondents may have answered honestly, perhaps it was the fact that as a group they were not given reasons to vote; they were not reached by the candidates; the candidates and issues did not resonate with them and consequently they did not "make" the time to vote?

Regardless of the reasons, the sad bottom line is that the Hispanic/Latino population increased by 5.7 million between 2000 and 2004; but only produced 2.1 million new eligible voters. The key word is eligible; since most of those eligible to vote probably did not bother to even register. And according to the Pew Hispanic Center, in the 2004 election, "a combination of demographic factors and participation rates meant that 18 percent of the total Latino population (adults as well as children, citizens and non-citizens) went to the polls in 2004, compared with 51 percent of all whites and 39 percent of all blacks".

At those rates, is it any surprise we find ourselves without a place at the decision making table and the door to the oval office slammed in our face time after time?

## A Question of Leadership

Perhaps it is time to admit that most people do not vote because of the candidates who are running or perhaps the candidates have not been successful in motivating them to cast their vote. For too long, we have kept hearing the same old reasons to vote; it is a right; if you don't vote, don't complain; it is our duty, every single vote counts; "su voto es su voz", "si se puede", etc., etc.

The problem with these marketing slogans is that they have not worked very well.

Perhaps all those ideals still hold true, but in the 21st century maybe it's because no one has come along to push the right motivator buttons; the right one which results in someone voting because they have been led to the polls by a real leader. Perhaps Hispanic voters simply do not identify with the candidates and

vice versa?

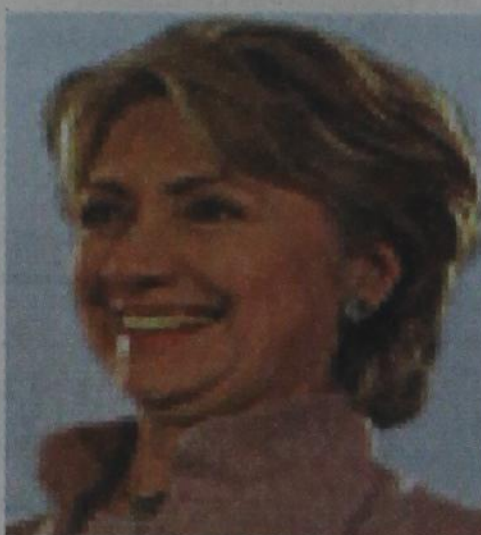
Whether it is at the local, state or national level, the lack of leadership in local organizations and political campaigns surely impacts the number of Hispanic voters who never vote.

But voting only happens after a candidate has invested some time on the electorate.

In other words instead of paying lip service and perfunctory visits to the Hispanic community or the occasional print ad in the Spanish language publications or Hispanic newspapers, candidates nowadays need to invest their time, energy and honesty in the community at the grassroots level; either through their campaign organizations or through the leadership in the Hispanic community.

Leadership is also about defining what is important to the Hispanic constituency and really understanding; really empathizing. Leadership is not only about sharing a common ancestry, language, or surname.

For example, in recent polling, most Hispanics said they would vote for the Democratic Presidential candidate and most would vote for Hillary Clinton even



though one of their own; Bill Richardson is running. Is it that Richardson is not a Hispanic sur-



name or that people do not know that he is Hispanic? Or have we reached the point where ethnicity no longer matters and Hispanics have become somewhat polarized and vote for the person based on who the national polls say is the leading candidate; regardless of ethnicity?

At the end of the day, getting Hispanics registered and to the voting booth is a result of good leadership. It is about inclusion; it is also about showing the potential voter that their vote is appreciated and valued.

Candidates and political parties must be willing to exercise some of these leadership qualities in order to lead Hispanic voters to the polls by exhorting them, by identifying with their needs and desires; and even their fears.

It is also about pointing out the consequences of not voting.

Will the sleeping giant wake up in 2008? If the message is right and the right messenger delivers it; perhaps the giant will wake up long enough to vote and realize just what he's been missing out on all these years?

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**Eleventh Anniversary**  
Carlos Quirino and Lile Medina Quirino celebrated their 11th Anniversary this past week. They re-nued their vows last year at St. Jose Church. Carlos and Lile were two of the major persons involved in the Arroyo Clean-up campaign this past month. They have both been active in the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association since their return from Houston.



**CORRECTION**  
Last week's story on the decorations of the Virgen statue was incorrectly attributed to the Guadalupe Association. The decorations were done by Las Guadalupana of San Jose

Read **El Editor** on the **INTERNET**



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