

El Editor

Casualties of
War in Iraq
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Lubbock, Texas 79401

Comentarios

de Bidal Aguero

I t's been a while since I've written this column but with the leaving of Abel Cruz as a featured writer of El Editor, I guess it's time for this old man



to get the old ballpoint pen out and get to work.

I want to thank Abel for his work at El Editor and wish him success at whatever lies down the road for him but we are sure that the itch of writing will tickle him now and then and we will see his comments every once in a while in the future.

I can't say that there is little to write about and I guess I could, in this column, write about the many important things that are reported on the local news such as the weather, the Texas Tech games, the weather, robberies, the weather, wrecks, property taxes, the price of gas, the weather or, I could write about my dog Pinta. Pinta is 13 or 14 years old now. I guess that would make her about 91 in dog years. You can bet that she has plenty of things to talk about.

You can be assured that some of these things will be included in my weekly column but I'll try to also include some politics and some other topics that are not written about in local media.

First this week I must give my compliments to the organizers of "Las Fiestas." You will notice that our "Community Voices", which by the way has been moved to page 2, features comments by local readers about the the yearly event.

Although most of the comments were positive, some have pointed out the cost of attending. Perhaps this is because most of the entertainers are those that are commonly heard on radio and make regular appearances in the area. It might be time for the Fiesta committee to begin thinking about new faces that might be featured at "Las Fiestas." Faces such as Shakira, Pedro Fernandez or even Ricky Martin might begin to give more of an incentive for people to attend. But now, what can we really expect for a \$5 entry fee.

The talk of the town today is Hugo Chavez and his reference to President Bush as "el diablo". In all truth, when we analyze the cuts in health services, housing, social welfare programs and benefits for the 'have-nots', we are surprised that others within our community are not calling him the same thing.

The visit by Democratic candidate for governor, Chris Bell, last week gave us a glimpse of issues that will be addressed by his administration if he is elected in November. It was like a breath of fresh air to hear that something other than property taxes and cutbacks might be the focus of the people in Austin.

Hopefully other will ask to come and speak to our community but don't hold your breath waiting on any of the current officeholders who by the way are also up for election in November.

Keep sending us your comments and suggestions to editor@sbcglobal.net

Fiesta Crown New Miss Hispanic Lubbock

Lubbock's Fiestas del Llano claimed over 8,000 persons attended this year's event that featured entertainers, food vendors and the traditional Miss Hispanic Lubbock pageant.

Twenty year old Melenie Robles claimed this year's crown at the pageant that featured 5 contestants. Miss Robles is daughter of Ernest and Frances Robles and attends South Plains College and Texas Tech University. She is a communications major and as her platform addressed "Promoting the importance of higher education for Latino children."

Fiesta Chair Robert Narvaiz said that he and the committee were pleased with overall fiesta and that he was also please with the attendance. "All we can say is 'thank you' to all the people that attended," said Narvaiz



Melenie Robles and 2005 Senorita Amberly Gomez

Hugo Chavez calls Bush "the devil"

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez took his verbal battle with the United States to the floor of the U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday, calling President Bush "the devil."

"The devil came here yesterday," Chavez said, referring to Bush's address Tuesday. "He came here talking as if he were the owner of the world."

The leftist leader, who has joined Iran in opposing U.S. influence, accused Washington of "domination, exploitation and pillage of peoples of the world."

"We appeal to the people of the United States and the world to halt this threat, which is like a sword hanging over our head," he said.

He also said the U.N. "doesn't work" in its current system and is "antidemocratic." He called for reform, saying the U.S. government's "immoral veto" had allowed recent Israeli bombings of Lebanon to continue unabated for more than a month.

"Venezuela once again proposes today that we reform the United Nations," he said. He drew tentative giggles at times from the audience, but also some applause when called U.S. "imperialism" a menace.

Chavez lambasted Washington for trying to block Venezuela's campaign for a rotating seat on the U.N. Security Council. He said if chosen over U.S.-favorite Guatemala in a secret-ballot U.N. vote next month, Venezuela would be "the voice of the Third World."

The U.S. government warns that Chavez, a close ally of Iran, Syria and Cuba, would be a disruptive force on the council.

Chavez ataca a Bush, lo acusa de ser 'el diablo'

DIEGO A. SANTOS

El pueblo estadounidense tiene "al diablo en casa", dijo hoy el presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, en referencia a su homólogo estadounidense, George W. Bush, señalando que un día después de su presencia en el recinto todavía "huele a azufre". Armado con un libro de Noam Chomsky—"Hegemonía y Supervivencia"—, Chávez centró la mayoría de su discurso ante la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas en criticar al gobierno de Estados Unidos y su política internacional.

"La pretensión hegemónica del imperio americano pone en riesgo la supervivencia de la especie humana", advirtió Chávez, un enemigo declarado del gobierno estadounidense. El mandatario invitó a los presentes a leer el libro del intelectual y lingüista Chomsky, uno de los más famosos disidentes de Estados Unidos, ya que "la amenaza la tienen en su propia casa. El diablo está en casa".

"Ayer vino el diablo aquí", dijo Chávez en referencia a la presencia de Bush la víspera en la tarima de la Asamblea General desde la que hablan los líderes mundiales. "En este mismo lugar huele a azufre todavía".

Chávez continuó con su guerra verbal contra Bush y su gobierno, a quienes acusa de crearse los dueños del mundo.

"Hacemos un llamado al pueblo de Estados Unidos y al mundo para detener esta amenaza, que es como la espada de Dámocles", dijo el mandatario venezolano.

El principal asiento estadounidense en el salón de la asamblea permaneció vacío mientras Chávez hablaba. Pero había un "joven tomando apuntes" allí, como suele hacerse "cuando hablan go-

biernos como ese", señaló John Bolton, embajador estadounidense ante la ONU.

Bolton dijo que Chávez tenía derecho a dar su opinión, y consideró que era "una lástima que el pueblo de Venezuela no tenga libertad de expresión".

"No voy a comentar al respecto, porque sus afirmaciones simplemente no merecen una respuesta", afirmó Bolton. "La gente sería puede escuchar lo que él tenía que decir, y si lo hacen lo rechazarán".

En su discurso del año pasado, Chávez mantuvo un tono confrontacional contra Washington, pero no utilizó el término de "diablo" para definir a Bush, al que lo ha tildado anteriormente de "asesino, genocida... un verdadero loco, una verdadera amenaza para este mundo".

Dijo que la comunidad internacional debe impedir la propagación de la hegemonía estadounidense y modelo de democracia, "impuesto a bombazos, invasiones y cañonazos".

Acusó a Washington de tildar de extremistas a todos aquellos que no comulgan con sus políticas internacionales y económicas.

"No es que somos extremistas, lo que pasa es que el mundo está desesperado", señaló el líder venezolano.

"Yanquis, go home", dijo Chávez que sería la frase que le dirían a Washington los pueblos de Afganistán e Irak, entre otros, si pudieran hablar.

"Yo tengo la impresión, señor dictador imperialista [en referencia a Bush], que usted va a vivir el resto de sus días como una pesadilla, porque por donde quiera que vea, vamos a surgir nosotros, los que insurgimos contra el imperialismo norteamericano", agregó.

Chávez ha acusado públicamente a funcionarios del gobierno estadounidense de estar apoyando a grupos opositores, quienes dice conspiran para

Chicago's 'Illegal Woman in the Church'

By Esther J. Ceped

More than just "the illegal woman in the church," as some brand her, Elvira Arellano has a name and a story. But like current U.S. immigration law, it's complicated and colored in shades of gray rather than black and white.

The 31-year-old single mother was to report to the Chicago office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation one Tuesday morning in mid-August.

Instead, Arellano took her seven-year-old, U.S.-born son Saúl and only the clothes on her back to St. Adalberto, the West side storefront church she has called her spiritual home since arriving in Chicago six years ago. There she claimed holy sanctuary.

Her odyssey began in August 1997. She quit her \$30-a-week market job in central Mexico to search for work that would enable her to provide adequate medical care for her parents, both of whom had become debilitated by illness. She traveled north, bought a fake ID, and attempted to cross the U.S. border. She was detained and returned to Mexico.

Three days later, Arellano walked through an exit turnstile separating the border towns of Mexicali and Calexico. She made her way to Washington State, found a job as a nanny and for three years sent money home to her parents. There she met her son's father and gave birth to Saúl. When their relationship dissolved in 2000, Arellano made her way to Chicago.

She was happily working as a cleaning lady at O'Hare International Airport when the 9/11 terrorist attacks set off the chain of events that again put her in contact with La Migra.

"In December of 2002, eight federal officers came to my apartment. They asked me if I had guns, if I knew any terrorists," Arellano recounts in Spanish. She speaks English now, but is most comfortable talking in her native tongue. "They said I had to go with them because I had been arrested and deported before. They put me in handcuffs right in front of Saúl and dragged me away."

Over the next four years, with help from U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Barack Obama and Congressman Luis Gutiérrez, Arellano successfully obtained three stays of deportation. It bought her more time to continue working, pay taxes, help her parents and cover extra medical expenses for Saúl's attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder.

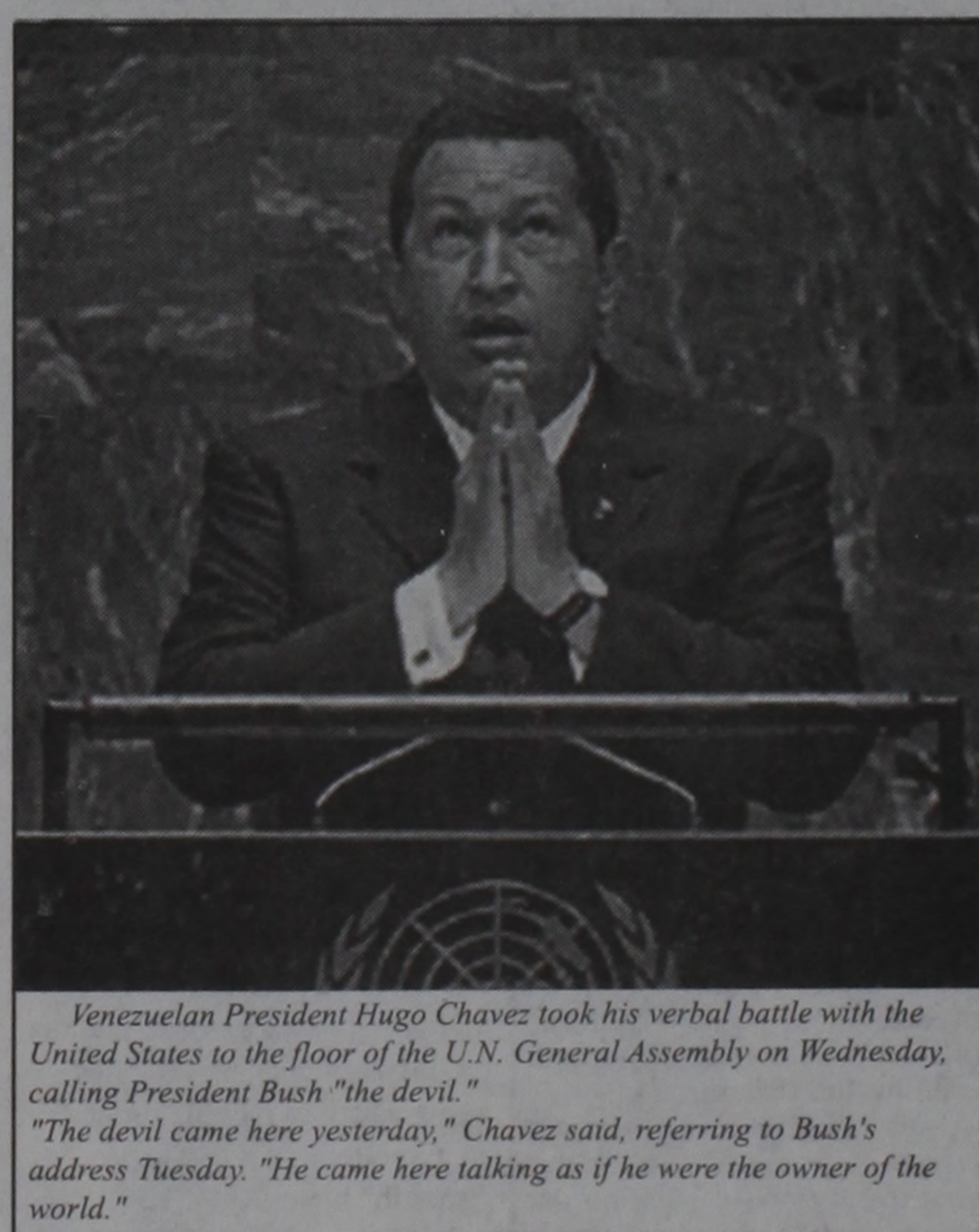
Her dearest wish was that it might also buy more time for federal regulations to change. In March of 2003 she was convicted of working under someone else's Social Security number, effectively barring her from being eligible to become a U.S. citizen unless the penalty was relaxed.

Today, from her tiny second-floor room, Arellano says she hasn't lost that hope. She has become an advocate not just for her own family's future but for this country's estimated 11-12 million undocumented immigrants who are beginning to emerge from the shadows.

"I am just one woman but I'm standing up to say these laws are unfair and have to be changed. We can't keep tearing families apart."

For Arellano, it's a dangerous waiting game. ICE officials have repeatedly said they will certainly arrest and deport her "at a time and date in the future."

continued on page 4)



Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez took his verbal battle with the United States to the floor of the U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday, calling President Bush "the devil."
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caces, de atención y resolución de conflictos; la supresión inmediata del "mecanismo antidemocrático" del veto en las decisiones del consejo de seguridad y fortalecer el papel del secretario general de la ONU.

Hizo un llamado a los miembros de la Asamblea General a apoyar la candidatura de Venezuela al Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU y acusó a Estados Unidos de haber iniciado una campaña para descarrilar esa opción.

"El imperio le tiene miedo a la verdad, a las voces independientes", comentó.

Se despidió recordando que seguía oliendo a azufre en la tribuna de la Asamblea, "pero Dios está con nosotros".

CANDIDATE'S FORUM

This Week's Candidate: Chris Bell Candidate for Governor running against Rick Perry, incumbent, Carole Keeton Rylander; Independent and KinkyFreedman; independent.

Chris Bell submits the following statement of position on border security and immigration reform

The debate over immigration reform and border security is among the most divisive issues in the current political discussion. Cynical politicians are treating immigration as nothing more than a wedge issue to win votes and play to voters, fears instead of proposing real, common sense solutions.

Rick Perry, s answer is to turn border security into an online video game. Others argue that the answer is to spend billions of dollars that we don,t have on a 20-foot-high wall that won,t accomplish anything but create a huge market for 21-foot-high ladders. It,s time for a new discussion about border security and immigration reform, a discussion that rejects the dead-end politics of division and instead seeks out common sense solutions to the challenges we face along the border.

Securing our Border

The very first priority in addressing illegal immigration needs to be securing our border. The simple truth is that federal government has failed in this mission, and Rick Perry has been far less aggressive then other border governors in meeting this challenge. It,s time for Texas to step up and restore order on the border.

That,s why Chris Bell supports the deployment of the National Guard to the border. Chris called for Texas to take this step months before President Bush echoed his call. Chris has pointed to the example of states like Arizona, where Democratic Governor Janet Napolitano took the initiative and committed the Arizona National Guard to the border while Rick Perry sat around and did nothing.

Local law enforcement agencies in Texas border cities will be the first to tell you that they have plenty on their plate without having to serve as full-time border control agents as well. If the federal government won,t provide the manpower to secure the border, then we ought to turn to the National Guard for backup, not local law enforcement.

Cracking Down on Illegal Hiring: There are already federal laws on the books that make it illegal for business to knowingly hire undocumented workers. But too often in Texas, these laws are not enforced. What,s worse, the federal government actually ties our hands so that the state of Texas can,t aggressively prosecute companies that exploit undocumented workers.

The system is broken, and we, ll never make progress curbing illegal immigration unless we address the economic incentives that draw workers across the border. That,s why Chris Bell supports legislation by Congressman Charlie Gonzalez of San Antonio to allow Texas to start cracking down on companies that knowingly and repeatedly break the law. Rick Perry may not be willing to lift a finger, but Chris Bell will be a leading national advocate for stricter enforcement of hiring laws.

Real Immigration Reform: Securing the border needs to be a top priority, but we can,t talk about border security without having a meaningful discussion about immigration reform. Common sense says we need to reject policies that drive immigrants even further underground, while also rejecting policies that provide further incentives to enter the country illegally.

Amnesty is not the answer. Giving blanket amnesty would undermine our efforts to secure the border and discriminate against immigrants who come to country legally. At the same time, our goal is to know as much as possible about who is crossing our borders, which is why we need to avoid policies that will drive undocumented immigrants even further underground.

Offering a pathway to earned citizenship would satisfy this goal while ensuring that no one gets a free ride. Residents would be required to pay a fine, pay all back taxes, and learn English before they would even be allowed to apply for citizenship AO without cutting in line.

We need to secure the border, we need to crack down on companies that break the law, and we need a serious debate about immigration reform. After six years in office, it is clear that Rick Perry isn,t up to the challenge. We need bold vision and new leadership to secure our borders.

El Editor invites candidates to submit their position statements on issues that they feel need to be expresses to our readers. Space is limited. Mail to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Government Leaders' Toxic Lies and Deceits After 9/11

By Juan González

The very leaders who failed to protect countless New Yorkers from the toxic pollution after Sept. 11 are now trying to blame each other. What they should be doing is owning up to their lies and deceptions.

In the weeks after the World Trade Center collapse, I repeatedly warned in my New York Daily News column repeatedly that federal, state and city leaders were all hiding the true extent of environmental hazards in lower Manhattan.

Instead of admitting the truth, city and federal officials attacked those columns as alarmist and irresponsible - and they exerted enormous pressure on the Daily News to stop publishing them.

Some samples of the supposedly "irresponsible" work:

* On Sept. 28, 2001, I reported that testing of dust samples around lower Manhattan by the New York Environmental Law and Justice Project had revealed more widespread asbestos contamination than Christie Whitman, then the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, had led the public to believe. I also reported that city officials were not enforcing the use of proper safety equipment by workers at Ground Zero.

* On Oct. 9, 2001, I reported that private testing done by a widely respected Virginia environmental firm had revealed unusually high levels of asbestos inside two office buildings near Ground Zero. Many of the fibers had been pulverized into such unusually microscopic size by the towers' collapse that they went undetected by much of the equipment federal agencies were using.

* The story accused of being the most "alarmist" ran on the front page Oct. 26, 2001. Its headline: "A Toxic Nightmare at Disaster Site." I revealed for the first time that hundreds of pages of the EPA's own tests showed the agency had detected such toxic substances as dioxins, PCBs, benzene, lead and chromium in the air and soil around the WTC site - sometimes at levels far exceeding federal standards.

The EPA's regional administrator immediately blasted the report as "one of the worst kind you can write." He conceded there had been some "elevated readings" near the site but the agency's overall testing "indicates people are safe."

"Sometimes the odor is terrible," former Mayor Rudy Giuliani said then, "but what I'm told is that it is not dangerous to your health."

That column led furious City Hall aides and federal officials to pressure The News to stop these reports.

The next voice on this subject belonged to Whitman, who wrote an op-ed piece for The News defending her agency's response to air-quality monitoring.

But there were too many complaints from sick residents and workers to ignore, and The News continued to publish more of my reports challenging the

official story. Five years later, there is a mountain of evidence that all levels of government issued misleading information and outright lies about air quality in those early days.

Whitman now wants to blame Giuliani for lack of safety enforcement at the WTC site. The city was in charge of Ground Zero and the EPA "didn't have the authority to do that," she says.

Another deceit.

Yes, Giuliani and the city failed miserably to enforce federal safety rules at the site. For weeks, the city did not ensure that every worker used proper respirators and decontamination methods - something federal inspectors noted in a highly critical report on Oct. 6, 2001.

But Whitman's agency had the legal power to step in at any time and take control, under a 1998 presidential directive that puts the EPA in charge of cleaning up contamination sites after a terrorist attack.

More importantly, it created a false sense of security among rescue workers and the public after 9/11. Whitman herself said the agency's early testing of air and dust showed "no reason for concern."

That reassuring message had its roots in the White House.

Three years ago, the EPA's inspector general revealed that White House aides rewrote the agency's initial press releases to lull both the public and rescue workers into thinking everything was okay.

For example, in an EPA draft of Sept. 13, 2001, press statement, the White House removed the following words - "Even at low levels, EPA considers asbestos hazardous" - and inserted a more benign statement: "Monitoring and sampling...have been very reassuring about potential exposure of rescue crews and the public to environmental contaminants."

City Hall, however, didn't need the EPA or the White House to reveal a major contamination problem.

A city Department of Environmental Protection spokesman told The News on Sept. 17, 2001, that "no levels of asbestos or any pollutants that raise concern" had been found.

Another lie.

In February 2002, the agency finally released the results of its own early testing. It turned out that 27 of DEP's first 38 outdoor tests detected asbestos levels higher than the agency's safety threshold.

You'd think that five years after that horrible day, our leaders - from the White House on down - would stop the lies.

Abel Cruz is the Man! by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

Abel Cruz is the Man!

I always enjoy the offerings of my fellow El Editor columnist. But last week, he really nailed it! He said, succinctly and eloquently, many of the things I have been trying to communicate for quite awhile.

Writing about the recent City tax hike, he said:

"Perhaps we would all be better served if all council members had a serious discussion about the issue of "growth" and whether this city should continue its policy of allowing unrestrained growth and annexation of areas which only lead to higher city maintenance costs. Maybe it's time that we put the brakes on the pro-growth bandwagon and truly examined what it will mean for the residents of this city. Perhaps we should examine the TIFS like the North Overton one which siphons new growth revenue and pumps it back in only to the area receiving the increased tax benefits. There is a price to pay for unrestrained and unregulated growth, and tax paying residents are the ones being asked to pay the piper."

Excellent, Abel! The "growth" bandwagon has needed to be derailed for a long time...Lubbock, sitting on the High Plains with a VERY finite position for water, is in no position for untrammelled, exponential growth...folks should realise that before it is too late.

Every time I drive down the strangely-named "Glenna Goodacre Boulevard" [what's with these street names, anyway?] I see the FOREST of new street lamps and think, "Couldn't this money be better spent elsewhere, like the city budget deficit, for example...would we need to

raise taxes, then?

Abel really nails it here: "What are we getting in return? Are our city parks in better shape? Are we safer because of increased police force staffing? Are our streets in better shape than they were even a couple of years ago? Are neighborhoods in North and East Lubbock, in District 2 for example, any better off economically than they were before? "

Yes, the hysteria which drives our elected "leaders" to hire more...and more...and MORE police...to what end? Arresting hordes of non-violent offenders to people our extravagant new jail?

Then Abel addresses District Two Councilman FLOYD PRICE: "(Maybe Mr. Price should remember that one of the reasons he was elected was because of a low voter turnout and apathy in District 2 and that there may be some people praying that his first term will be his last.) "

I agree, but would add

District One Councilwoman LINDA DeLEON to that paragraph...why give her a free ride? I suspect that many people are praying that this term will be her last. Our two North and East Lubbock representatives voted to tax the people, especially the poor, with this rate increase...not to mention EVEN HIGHER "user fees" [i.e. garbage charges, sewer charges, "drainage" charges..."drainage"?]. For all of us to have to scrounge up these taxes and fees...we say, "ENOUGH ALREADY!" Don't we have enough idle police, overpaid bureaucrats, fancy council chambers...and the list goes on and on. REMEMBER these names, folks...the people who voted "heavy burdens on the poor"...and VOTE THEM OUT the next time you have the chance! ***** If you plan to attend the Panhandle-South Plains Fair this weekend, check out the KINKY FRIEDMAN booth...perhaps I shall see you there! "Governor...how hard could it be?!" - Kinky Friedman



COMMUNITY VOICES

This week El Editor asked about your impression of "Las Fiestas."

I always enjoy the Fiestas but when the weather is in the upper 80s and 90s as it was Saturday it is depressing.

I was sitting at a table from 4-7:00 p.m. to register voters at Table for the League of Women Voters in a Tent some 20 yards—from the next group-south of the Main Tent Sheltering the Audience which was—I think—interested in staying out of the heat and listening to the music. A young man—probably Mexican American—was sitting at a table in front of me—with information on ESL (English as a Second Language Programs) sponsored by the College of Education at Texas Tech University and he finally got up and left at 6:00 p.m. although he left several folders of information for anyone interested.

No one stopped by to pick up any of the ESL material and no one stopped by the League of Woman Voters table to either ask about voter registration, to sign up for receipt of the Voters Guide or to pick up any other brochures that were there.

I was also told Sunday that no one stopped by the League Table Friday.

I do not know what attendance was Friday and Saturday compared to last year.

There were other musical and artistic activities in the downtown area Saturday such as the Walk of Fame ceremony, the Joe Ely concert and dedication of the Stubblefield Statute.

Thus it is difficult to draw conclusions and make comparisons with other years although I do not think we had so many parallel activities last year or 2004.

Nevertheless, it might have made attendance at the Fiestas a little more enjoyable if some of the concerts could have been held inside and some people might have registered to vote, picked up material on ESL or information from some of the other civic groups there.

Neale Pearson via e-mail

I always enjoy the fiestas. I think that the food is great but the entertainment could be worked on. and more tables for eating. I always think that there is always room for more fun family activities

Christina Perez via e-mail

This was my first year working at Las Fiestas. I worked at a game that the Hispanic Association of Women had for the children. Two weeks prior to the Fiestas we could not even get any information on where to set up, how to get our volunteers in and we didn't have a tent. Saturday afternoon was hot. We couldn't get people to return our calls or respond to our e-mails. We finally got some information from one Fiesta board member to the next Fiesta board member at the last minute. I think that there should be some guidelines set out and given to the organizations before hand. I know we are a non profit organization and we were not charged for our booth. But you asked and I am replying.

When I got to the ticket booth it wasn't surprising to get treated the way we got treated. We didn't have all the information we needed to get in. One lady told us that someone in the organization had wrist bands for us and named that person. When that person got there and we asked for our wrist bands — the lady working the booth took off. There were no wrist bands given to the HAW person that was mentioned. We finally got some very nice service from Dolores Harper. She was very patient with us and extremely helpful. The food and music were great!!!!

Ruby Vidaurre via e-mail

The Fiestas..... I only got to attend on Sunday, but I didn't hear very many people say anything about going. It kinda reminded me of the Fair (which will be here next week). I can say that the past two or three years the Fiestas seem to be dying down and not many families/people are attending. Money could be one of the factors, but I guess everyone has money issues. I personally didn't enjoy it this year, sorry..... to improve?..... I'm not sure what to say

Juanita Lujan via email

Funny you should ask that question I just happened to drive by the civic center grounds tonight 9-15-06 and man let me tell you that place was empty for a friday night and I dont know who was on stage but man let me tell you I could have sounded better and I am not a musician. It's to bad Little Joe will headline Saturday night. If saturday is gonna look like Friday he may want to play to the duck audience at canyon lake instead. He may have a better turn out. Horale patos locos I brought you some tex-mex bread que vole mi nena

unsigned via email

As usual, I did not attend Fiestas this year. Why? I went the first two years I was in Lubbock, 1996 & 1997. All it is, is a way to spend money I don't have. Food & drinks are too expensive! How can you improve it? Have something else to do other than spend money on food & drinks while you listen to music. I can listen to 106.5 or 93.7 and stay home and eat and drink for a lot less and be comfortable on my soft, cushionny couch. And I can go in & out of my house at no cost. I could go on & on but I won't... Thanks,

Lupe via email

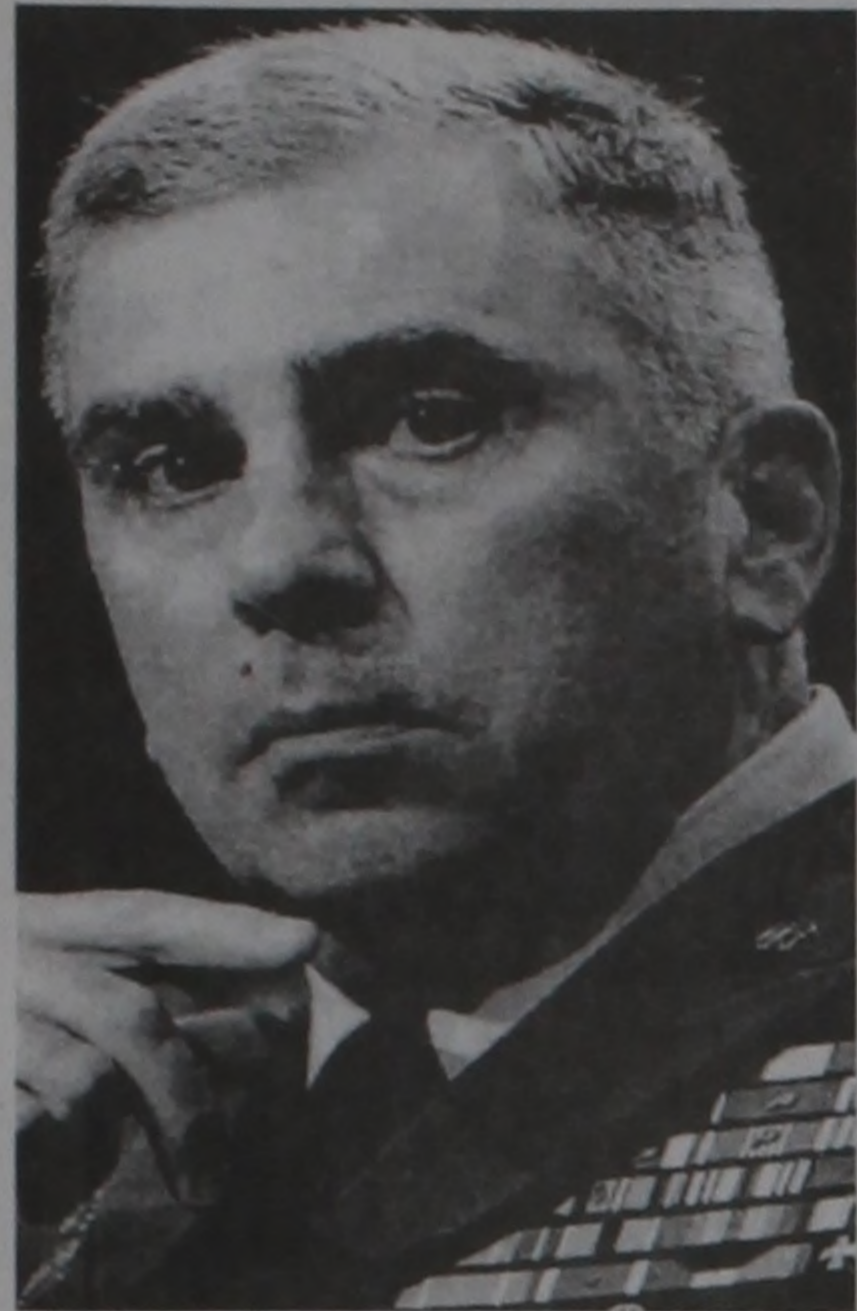
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Mantendrán número de tropas de EEUU en Irak



Se espera que Abizaid, el secretario de Defensa Donald H. Rumsfeld y el jefe del Comando Conjunto de las Fuerzas Armadas, general Peter Pace, se reúnan esta semana con miembros del Congreso. A fines del año pasado, los jefes militares expresaron sus esperanzas de reducir el número de soldados a alrededor de 100,000 para fines de este año.

Pero Abizaid expresó ayer que la creciente violencia sectaria y el lento progreso del gobierno iraquí hacen este propósito imposible.

"Creo que este nivel probablemente tendrá que ser sostenido durante la primavera" septentrional del 2007, manifestó a la prensa militar.

"Pienso que tendremos que hacer todo lo que sea necesario para estabilizar a Irak y Afganistán y usar la capacidad militar de Estados Unidos para poder hacerlo", acotó.

Abizaid advirtió que la solución a Irak --tanto sectaria como de los insurgentes-- "no es necesariamente enviar más unidades norteamericanas a combatir el problema".

En vez de eso, indicó que es vital que el gobierno iraquí mejore las condiciones políticas y económicas en el atribulado país, como parte de un esfuerzo por sacar de las calles a los "jóvenes furibundos", aseveró.

El general Abizaid agregó que se hará más énfasis en los grupos de militares estadounidenses que se encuentran entrenando al ejército y a la policía iraquíes.

Actualmente hay 147,000 soldados estadounidenses destacados en Irak, un incremento de más de 20,000 respecto a junio.

El secretario de Defensa amplió en ese mes el emplazamiento de una brigada con sede en Alaska, inicialmente de un año, como parte de un esfuerzo para responder a la creciente violencia sectaria en Irak.

Abizaid expresó que podría considerarse el ampliar la presencia de otras unidades militares en la nación islámica.

El Ejército de Estados Unidos en Irak, cuyo contingente actual asciende a más de 140,000 soldados, mantendrá ese mismo nivel al menos hasta el primer trimestre del próximo año, dijo ayer el comandante supremo en el Medio Oriente.

El general John Abizaid, del Comando Central de Estados Unidos, aseguró que el actual número de soldados representa "niveles prudentes de fuerza" para lograr el deseado efecto militar en el país.

"Si fuera necesario hacer eso porque la situación militar en el terreno lo requiriera, lo haremos", afirmó.

"Si tenemos que llamar a más fuerzas porque de acuerdo con nuestro juicio militar necesitamos más, lo haremos".

Sus comentarios fueron formulados mientras los políticos continúan enfrentando el menguante apoyo del público para la guerra en Irak y se preparan para las elecciones legislativas y a gobernador del 7 de noviembre.



EL EDITOR

"SNL" Drops Sanz, Parnell, Mitchell

After nearly a month of speculation regarding the fates of several Saturday Night Live castmembers, comes confirmation from NBC: Regulars Chris Parnell, Horatio Sanz and Finesse Mitchell will not be returning to the late night staple.

The non-announcement was made by simply omitting the players' names from a press release touting the start of the show's 32nd season, though a rep for the network denied there was any bad blood between the M.I.A. cast and svengali producer Lorne Michaels, or that their



Darrell Hammond, whose 11 seasons on the show mark a series best, is also in the clear, returning to the show despite murmurs that he, too, may have performed his last impression.

The triple departure adds to something of a mass exodus from the show of longtime cast, though the others, at least from the outside, appear to be slightly more voluntary.

Diaz says photographer tried to run her over



Cameron Diaz filed a police report Wednesday accusing a photographer of assault with a deadly weapon for allegedly driving his car at her, police said.

Diaz and her boyfriend, Justin Timberlake, were leaving a friend's home in Hollywood just after midnight Wednesday when a photographer who had been hiding in the bushes jumped out and tried to snap a picture of the pair, said police Officer April Harding.

The couple chased the photographer "a short distance," she said.

"The photographer got into his car and drove toward Diaz and Timberlake, causing her to jump out of the car's way," Harding said.

No one was immediately arrested and no suspects have been identified.

"The investigation is in its initial stages," Harding said.

A law that took effect this year holds photographers who engage in criminal behavior to get a picture liable for three times the damages they cause, plus loss of any profits the published photo might generate.

departure was the result of a firing.

"I believe there were mutual choices made," NBC rep Marc Liepis told E! Online. "When you're on the show for eight years, I don't think you look at it as a firing."

Parnell, Sanz and Mitchell, who have been part of the show for eight years, eight years and three years, respectively, have yet to comment on their non-return, though if past remarks are any indication, the decision to part hardly seems mutual.

"I haven't been approached with anything that's led me to believe I won't be back," Sanz told the Chicago Sun-Times less than a month ago. "I definitely enjoy the job and would like to stick with it."

As for Mitchell, his alleged axing is the most surprising, as speculation up until now has pegged fellow cast member

Kenan Thompson, who will return this fall, as the third man out.

Over the summer, Tina Fey and Rachel Dratch confirmed that they were leaving the show to star in the NBC comedy 30 Rock, set behind the scenes at a SNL-like variety show produced by Michaels and costarring fellow alum Tracy Morgan.

Of course, some of the departees are bouncing back quicker than others.

According to NBC's Website, Parnell, whose "Lazy Sunday" rap with Andy Samberg was one of last season's highlights, is currently shooting the sitcom Thick & Thin for the Peacock net. As for the Peacock and Sanz, no new projects appear to be in the works.

While Rockefeller Center will be without five of its most familiar faces this fall, there are no current plans to fill the gap.

According to a statement from NBC, no new regular players have been added to the late night mix, though several of the remaining funnymen and women will see various changes to their on-screen roles.

Texas Researchers, CDC fear diabetes crisis

New figures are sounding an alarm about a growing number of Americans with diabetes. It's a problem that's particularly evident in South Texas.

Diabetes is a disease that patients have to deal with daily, by regulating their blood sugar to ward off horrible complications like kidney failure, heart disease, blindness and amputation.

New projections by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that by 2050, almost 50 million Americans will suffer from diabetes - three times the current number. It's a dire forecast that doesn't surprise Dr. Nicholas Musi, a researcher at the Texas Diabetes Institute in San Antonio.

"We have all these situations, all these elements that combined, are leading to an increased incidence of diabetes and all of them are work-

ing together," Musi said.

Researchers blame an increase in obesity and an overall sedentary population for the greater diabetes risk, as well as a number of genetic factors that put minorities at risk.

The number of diabetes cases among Hispanics alone is predicted to jump by more

than 400 percent.

"The burden and cost to the society and the health care system are enormous," Musi said.

While research at places like the Texas Diabetes Institute is helping to create better tests and drugs, it's going to take a hallmark change in attitude to fight the disease.

"I think it's going to take a very profound modification or change in the way that we are educating the people in our community," Musi said.

Many diabetes researchers say Americans need to be aware that all of these different risk factors are converging in a perfect storm, creating this widespread health crisis.

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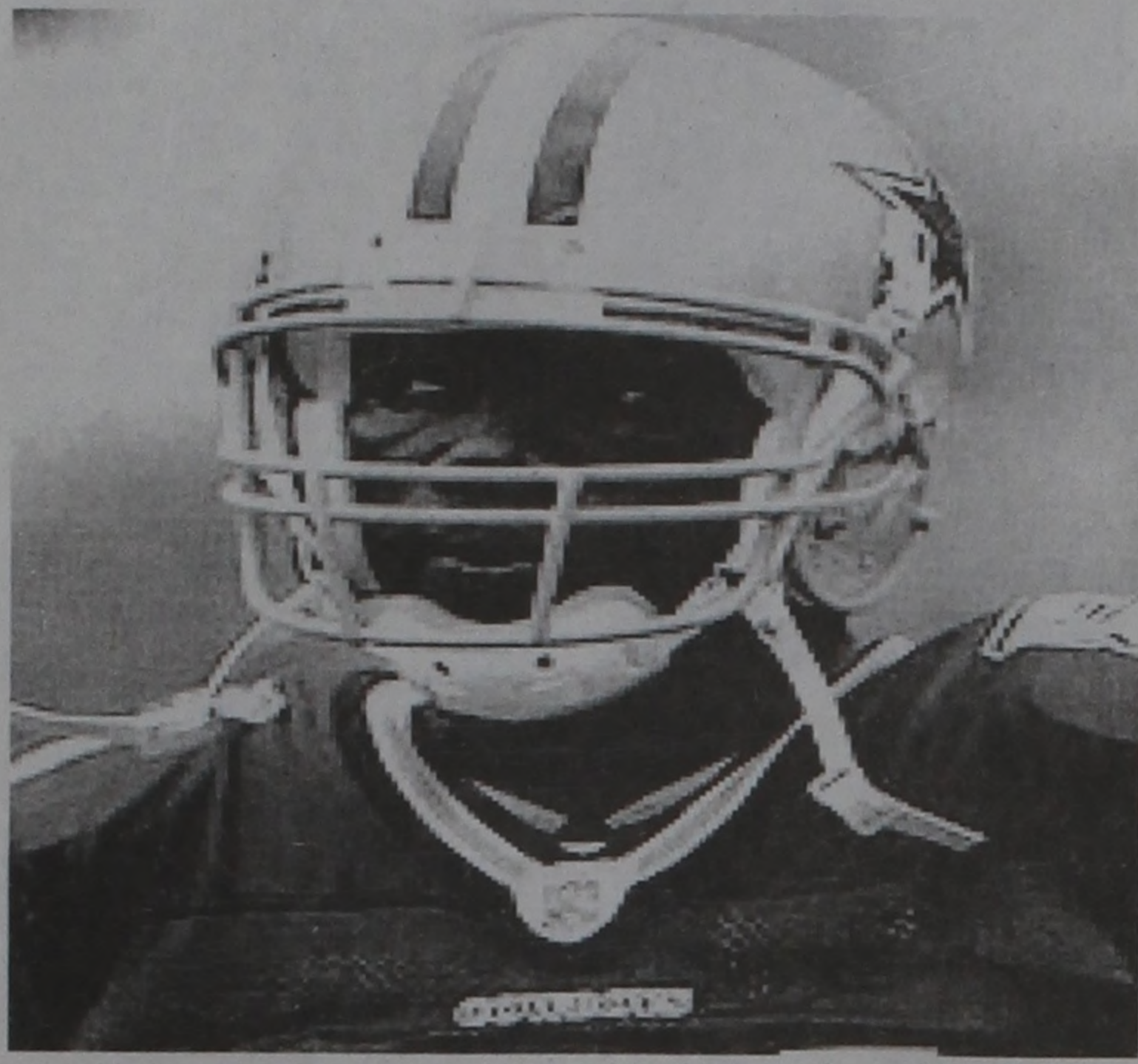
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Plate could stabilize T.O.'s finger, hasten return, Parcels says



Terrell Owens played in a Super Bowl for Philadelphia seven weeks after getting a plate and several screws put in his ankle. Now he's hoping another plate and three more screws in his right hand will enable him to play against the Eagles on Oct. 8. Owens had a plate screwed

into his broken right ring finger during an operation Monday evening. His recovery time is estimated at two to four weeks, but he's likely to do all he can to rejoin the Dallas Cowboys in 20 days for his much-anticipated return to Philadelphia. "Most of those injuries,

when they put a plate in there, which I think they might do, that pretty much fixes it," coach Bill Parcels said Monday before the surgery. "Once they put that in there, it's not going anywhere, you're not going to displace it again. It's a matter of if you can get it functional."

The Cowboys are off this Sunday, then play at Tennessee before the game against the Eagles.

If things go well, perhaps Owens plays against the Titans. If there are any setbacks, it's possible he doesn't return until the game after Philadelphia, Oct. 15 at home against Houston.

T.O.'s Cowboys have a bye week, followed by a game vs. Tennessee.

"I feel like I'm a quick healer," Owens said Sunday night. "I'm going to try to get back as fast as I can."

You have to figure Owens will do all he can to be on the field against the Eagles,

hoping to get revenge against the team that banished him midway through last season only months after he helped them reach the Super Bowl.

And he does have a history of overcoming injuries faster than doctors expected, especially when motivated by a comeback game -- as evidenced by that Super Bowl against the New England Patriots. Owens caught nine passes for 122 yards in a loss.

"I'll bounce back," said Owens, adding he'll use his healing-inducing oxygen chamber to speed his recovery. "I'll pretty much be in there throughout the clock."

Owens was slow to heal from a preseason hamstring injury, but the stakes were certainly different. As it turns out, his long layoff benefits the Cowboys because raw backups Jamaica Rector and Sam Hurd got extra work that could now pay off.

Parcels said that because

of the off week he wouldn't decide who takes Owens' place, if needed, until next week. He added that he's not interested in signing a veteran fill-in, opting to go with his youngsters.

"I'll be more hopeful that these guys come along," Parcels said. "We put them on the team for a reason and, here you go, it's your opportunity."

Another side effect of the injury is another interruption in the budding relationship between Owens and quarterback Drew Bledsoe. Parcels said Owens "still has a little work to do" to fully grasp the offense.

"But this is not an injury that's going to prohibit him from running and doing a lot of things that could really set him back conditioning-wise," Parcels said. "So I think once he gets this thing in, he'll be pretty good to go physically, other than maybe the utilization of the hand for a while."

Owens said the injury was a "fluke thing" that happened while blocking during one of the first few plays of Dallas' 27-10 victory over Washington on Sunday night. He caught three passes for 19 yards, all in the first quarter, but also had several drops, including one in the end zone, and two penalties.

Parcels said he doesn't believe Owens' drops can be pinned on the injury, although he knows from experience how uncomfortable the receiver felt -- and perhaps why he didn't ask to have it examined until midway through the fourth quarter.

"I've had six bones broke in my own hand at one time, so I kind of have an idea what it is," Parcels said. "You don't really know, first of all, that something is broken. You just know it's something hurting. You think maybe it's something else. You just go."

Red Raiders report: Strategy and Personnel



THIS WEEK'S GAME: Southeastern Louisiana at Texas Tech, Sept. 23 - Listening to Texas Tech coach Mike Leach rip his "soft" team ever since the 12-3 loss at TCU on Sept. 16, one would imagine the Red Raiders might try to hang a hundred on Southeastern Louisiana. This isn't the best time for a Division I-AA opponent to pay a visit to Lubbock, though it's probably not good for Texas Tech to establish any false hopes either after its offense sputtered against TCU. The conference opener at Texas A&M is looming as a tough test on Sept. 30.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Graham Harrell - Although passers at Tech normally lead the country, Harrell hasn't established himself yet atop the chart. More disconcerting than his

yardage, however, is a quarterback efficiency rating that ranks eighth in the Big 12, despite a .655 completion percentage and two interceptions.

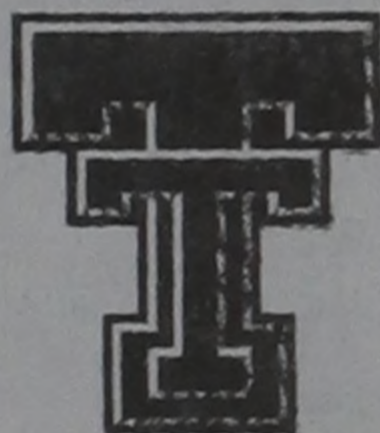
FL Joel Filani - Thus far he is the Red Raiders' most explosive receiver, averaging 12.6 yards per catch while leading the Big 12 with a 92.7-yard average per game.

DE Keyunta Dawson - Leads all defensive linemen in the Big 12 with an average of 6 tackles per game, though has yet to record a sack.

ROSTER REPORT: Texas Tech coach Mike Leach sounded discouraged over the prospects of regaining WR Jarrett Hicks, who is trying to restore his eligibility through an appeal with the NCAA.

OL Louis Vasquez suffered an apparent injury to his right knee against TCU and left the game twice. He wore a lengthy brace on his leg, but was walking on his own after a Sept. 17 practice.

SS Anthony Hines played for the first time this season, six weeks after a July stabbing incident.



Mother: 'I'm showing my son what it means to fight for your rights'

By Esther J. Cepeda (Second of two parts)

In the weeks since Elvira Arellano took refuge in a Chicago church to avoid deportation, she has both inspired those who desire comprehensive immigration reform, which would eventually allow an estimated 11-12 million undocumented workers to become U.S. citizens and succeeded in ticking off everybody else.

The 31-year-old single mother is ineligible for U.S. citizenship because she was convicted of re-entering the United States illegally and worked under another person's Social Security number. From the beginning, her passive-aggressive resistance to broken immigration laws has drawn mixed reviews.

Arellano's divisive story roared out of control when she invoked the name of civil-rights legend Rosa Parks as a source of personal inspiration in her plight. She garnered the national headlines she and her support team, desired, but the fallout threatened to stop cold the sympathetic momentum her story had begun to build.

Talk radio stations, letters to the editor pages and internet blogs thrummed with the same comments over and over. Local news outlets, bored with the sanctuary angle, provided little opportunity for Arellano to respond.

How could she compare herself to Rosa Parks? "I didn't, I said I've learned from Rosa Parks," says Arellano, "I could never compare to her."

Why isn't she fluent in English? "I work every day on it but I'm still most comfortable speaking in Spanish," says Arellano.

She doesn't even know who the kid's father is and who paid for his medical care? "Saúl knows his father and that he's loved by us," says Arellano, "I've always been a responsible woman, I paid for Saúl's birth with money I had saved and I've never been on Medicaid."

Meanwhile, as the days turned into weeks Arellano and Saúl settled into a pattern of sorting through donated clothes, food and toys every day in order to clothe and feed themselves. Both give near-constant radio, TV and newspaper interviews and greet the steady procession of well-wishers while ignoring angry protesters and telephoned death threats.

Both have gotten used to living with the constant presence of photographers, helpers and a round-the-clock cameraman, ready to videotape an angry government confrontation if immigration officials chose to violate the sanctity of the church to arrest her.

It took only six days of

the crushing schedule, combined with little sleep, to knock both mother and son out with the flu. There, in the small room above St. Adalberto church, Arellano came to feel the strain of literally living life in the spotlight.

Arellano has had to thicken her skin to criticism. As a mother crusading to offer the U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants a shot at a decent life, she's faced stinging charges from the public court that she's using her son as a pawn in her strategy to stalemate the federal government into giving her the same pass 11 million other people want.

Is it true? Can it be that in her desire to do right by her son, Arellano is actually hurting the second-grader by exposing a child with a history of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder to the one-two punch of zero home stability and constant media glare?

Her words, "He feels good we're together [at the church] and happy we won't be separated there," say one thing but her actions another.

Three weeks into her stay, seven-year-old Saúl, an old hand at being a mini-activist at his mother's side, retained lawyers to file a petition on his behalf to stay his mother's deportation on the grounds that if she is deported, effectively he would be deported, thereby violating his civil rights.

The same week both were down with the flu, Saúl was flown to Miami to do appearances on the popular daytime talk show "Christina" and various other local TV and radio stations. He returned for a week, long enough to take a course of antibiotics, before taking another trip to California for more press junkets.

Even as she recounts anxieties about the toll this upheaval is taking on Saúl, Arellano makes no apologies: "I'm showing my son what it means to fight for your rights," says Arellano, "I know it's hard on him but he has to learn these lessons. He has to know America was made by immigrants and they fought for their rights, and he has to grow up to fight for their rights, too."

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Photos left to right: Fiestas del Llano cutting ribbon ceremony held at the civic center; Velez family were the grand marshal for the parade; Fiestas del Llano parade was held on Saturday morning down Broadway avenue; local cadets; Fiestas del Llano candidates wave to people during the parade; los Charros also participated in the parade; El Editor newspapers were throwing t-shirts during the parade in celebrating 30 years of continuous publishing the bilingual publication in a weekly basis; Lubbock County Commissioner Pct 3 Ysidro Gutierrez with pageant candidates and friends. All photos were taken by John P. Cervantez.

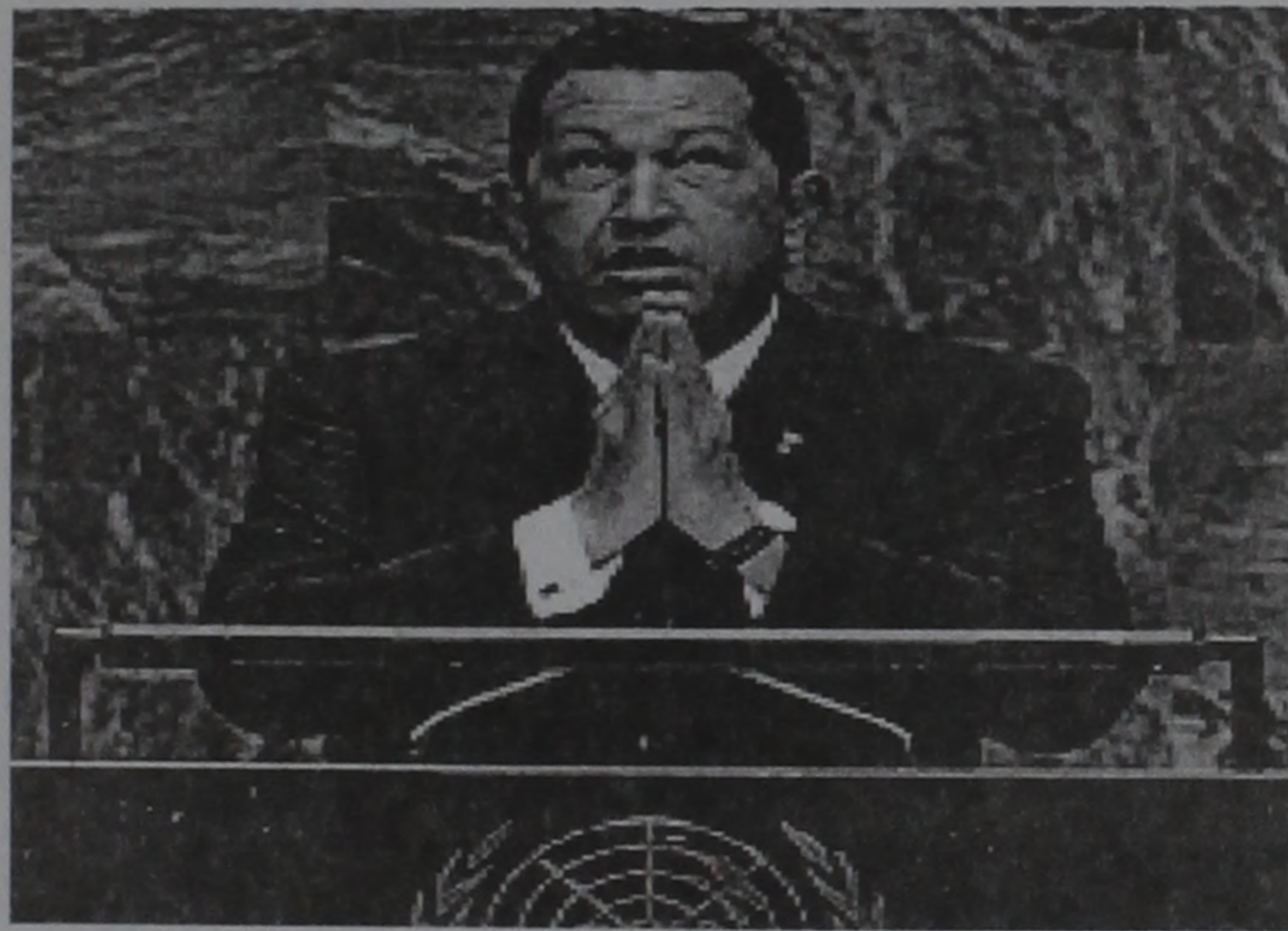
Hugo Chavez calls Bush "the devil"

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez took his verbal battle with the United States to the floor of the U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday, calling President Bush "the devil."

"The devil came here yesterday," Chavez said, referring to Bush's address Tuesday. "He came here talking as if he were the owner of the world."

The leftist leader, who has joined Iran in opposing U.S. influence, accused Washington of "domination, exploitation and pillage of peoples of the world."

"We appeal to the people of the United States and the world to halt this threat, which is like a sword hanging over our head," he said.



He also said the U.N. "doesn't work" in its current system and is "antidemocratic." He called for reform, saying the U.S. government's "immoral veto" had allowed recent Israeli bombings of Lebanon to continue unabated for more than a month.

"Venezuela once again proposes today that we reform the United Nations," he said. He drew tentative giggles at times from the audience, but also some applause when called U.S. "imperialism" a menace.

Chavez lambasted Wash-

ington for trying to block Venezuela's campaign for a rotating seat on the U.N. Security Council. He said if chosen over U.S.-favorite Guatemala in a secret-ballot U.N. vote next month, Venezuela would be "the voice of the Third World."

The U.S. government warns that Chavez, a close ally of Iran, Syria and Cuba, would be a disruptive force on the council. AP

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Fox doesn't expect leftist opposition

Fox, in New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly, also said Mexico is willing to extradite all drug lords in its custody who are wanted by the United States — his most sweeping commitment yet to send kingpins to face U.S. justice.

The Mexican leader said he did not expect the opposition's rejection of President-elect Felipe Calderon, a member of Fox's conservative party, to destabilize Mexico or hurt its economy.

Supporters of election loser

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador declared him president of their "parallel government" over the weekend. The declaration came at the end of seven weeks of intense protests with Lopez Obrador supporters camped out in the center of Mexico City, clogging the heart of the capital.

Calderon won by less than 234,000 votes, or 0.6 percent of total votes cast. Lopez Obrador's followers claimed election fraud and demanded a full vote recount.

At the beginning of this

month, lawmakers from Lopez Obrador's party seized the floor of Congress and kept Fox from delivering his annual state-of-the-nation address. The president also decided to move last Friday night's annual independence celebration away from Mexico City's main square to avoid protesters. Instead, he delivered his traditional address in a city 170 miles away from the capital.

"I don't see the situation as tense," Fox said. "The opposition and the opposition

candidate have always talked about resistance but peaceful resistance ... that's how things have been until now and that's how we expect them to continue."

Calderon has invited Lopez Obrador's Democratic Revolution Party to a dialogue to end the election standoff.

"What we expect is the integration of all the political forces, including the DRP, in a dialogue," Fox said. "Some people from this party have already said they are in favor of a dialogue."

Fox also blasted Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez for interfering in Mexico's internal affairs. Mexico threatened to sever diplomatic relations with Venezuela after Chavez accused the Mexican government of stealing the July 2 presidential election.

"That we consider an intervention in Mexican matters," Fox said.

Turning to his country's battle against drugs, Fox said Mexico currently has 16 "big leaders" of drug cartels in jail along with dozens of intermediaries such as financiers and money launderers and 75,000 lower level members of various cartels.

"We are fighting hard and

attaining very important results," he said.

The U.S. is believed to have requested the extradition of at least three suspected drug kingpins: Benjamin Arellano Felix of the Arellano Felix smuggling syndicate; Osiel Cardenas, reputed head of the Gulf Cartel; and Hector "El Guero" Palma, a suspected leader of the Sinaloa drug cartel.

"We will extradite all of those who have pending matters with U.S. justice," Fox said.

Mexico extradited its first major drug lord — accused kingpin Francisco Rafael Arellano Felix — to the United States over the weekend. Before that, Mexico had often balked at sending drug kingpins, arguing they should face justice in Mexico and refusing to send anyone to the U.S. who would face the death penalty.

On the contentious issue of Mexican immigration to the United States, Fox said economic growth and strong job creation in his country were stemming the tide of immigrants flowing north of the border.

"We clearly understand in

Mexico that it is our obligation to build up the jobs and promote the growth of the economy to make sure every Mexican citizen has opportunities to raise income for his family," Fox said. "And I can say is that this year, migration has decreased considerably to the United States, and it's not a coincidence that it's a record year of creating new jobs in Mexico."

Mexico's economy is growing about 5 percent on an annual basis this year, Fox said, and close to one million new jobs have been created.

Fox said he had worked hard during his tenure for U.S. immigration reforms designed to create orderly, legal immigration that fully respects human rights.

A bill giving millions of undocumented immigrants a chance at U.S. citizenship was approved by the Senate in May.

"We will both benefit from this initiative," Fox said.

But the proposed legislation still must be approved by the House, which passed a much tougher bill that would make all undocumented immigrants subject to felony charges.

No wait expected for Flu Shots this year

About 75 million doses of flu vaccine should be in most doctor's offices and clinics by the end of October — a near record amount that should prevent flu shot rationing this year, health officials said Wednesday.

Overall, more than 100 million doses are expected over the next several months, beating the 95 million manufactured in 2002.

"There may still be some lines, but we really think this is promising," said Dr. Anne Schuchat, who heads immunization programs for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The best time for vaccination is in October or November, before the flu season typically begins, CDC officials said.

In 2004, production problems at one manufacturer caused severe shortages and hours-long lines for shots. Last September, tight supplies caused doctors to limit shots at first to people at risk of severe complications.

"This year, we're not asking people to step aside or hold off. We think people who want to be vaccinated can be vaccinated right away," Schuchat said.

The last time early-season supplies were as plentiful was 2003, when more than 80 million doses were distributed by the end of October. Last year, about 60 million doses were distributed by that point.

But CDC officials cau-

tioned that some clinics, doctor's offices and other health care providers still may not receive their full allotment until November or later. It depends on which supplier or manufacturer they used and when they placed their vaccine orders, they said.

Between 5 percent and 20 percent of the U.S. population gets the flu each year. The illness leads to about 36,000 deaths and 200,000 hospitalizations each year, according to federal officials.

Vaccine manufacturers this year include Sanofi Pasteur Inc., which projects 50 million doses; Novartis, which is expected to make more than 35 million doses; and GlaxoSmithKline, which is planning roughly 25 million doses.

Glaxo has two flu vaccines; one of them, FluLaval, has not yet been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. But that approval is expected this month, said Jennifer Armstrong, a Glaxo spokeswoman.

If FluLaval is approved, it will mean closer to 110 million total flu shot doses for the nation, Schuchat said.

In addition, MedImmune Vaccines Inc. plans to distribute about 3 million of doses of FluMist, a nasal mist recommended only for healthy people between 5 and 49. It contains live virus, and carries with it a slight chance of causing flu

symptoms.

Federal officials issued a warning letter to Sanofi in June, after FDA inspectors found the company's Swiftwater, Pa., plant wasn't adequately maintaining sterile conditions.

The failures were corrected, and none of the problems affected the purity or safety of distributed products, said Patty Tomskey, a Sanofi spokeswoman.

Sanofi began shipping flu shots two weeks ago, she added.

The CDC's decision to expand flu shot recommendations is influencing production, Armstrong said. "There's an unmet need out there," she said.

This year, the CDC began recommending that doctors give flu shots to children ages 2 to 5 — about 5.3 million healthy U.S. children. Vaccinations were already recommended for children ages 6 months to 23 months, pregnant women, people 65 and older, and people of all ages with chronic health conditions, along with a few other groups.

Overall, about 218 million Americans — or 73 percent of the population — should get vaccine this year.


Only a fraction of the people who should get flu shots usually do. For example, just 40 percent of health care workers get the vaccinations, Schuchat said.

"We have lots of work to do," she said.

Chris Bell Visits Lubbock



El Editor newspapers hosted a reception for the Democrat candidate Chris Bell who is running for the Governor's race for the state of Texas. The event was held Thursday at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Art Center which is located on 511 Ave K. During his visit Mr. Bell addressed issues including education, health and housing that effects Hispanics.



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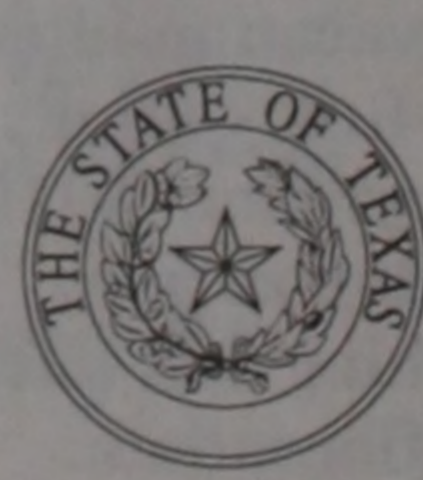
Votar en Texas ahora es más fácil, más rápido y más seguro porque el poder del voto se ha combinado con el poder de la tecnología. Prepárese para las elecciones generales del 7 de noviembre informándose sobre lo fácil que es votar y dónde se encuentran los centros electorales.



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