

El Editor

Casualties of
War in Iraq
3,608
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2007

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Lubbock, Texas 79401

Independent Audit Reveals Recall Petition Could Have Succeeded

By Abel Cruz
The ongoing political battle between organizers of the Linda DeLeon recall effort and Councilwoman Linda DeLeon and her supporters heated up some more this week with local television station NewsChannel 11 hiring a petition expert to examine the petition signatures submitted by organizers but rejected by City Secretary Becky Garza.

On Wednesday, Armando Gonzales told El Editor that he was informed that the petition expert from Austin had concluded that the petition was "just 9 signatures short of the required 494 signatures needed".

While the city secretary concluded that petitioners had come up short by 41 signatures; the Austin firm of Texas Petition Strategies, Inc., hired by NewsChannel 11 concluded that their examination showed that 485 signatures should have been validated. Petitioners needed 494 signatures to force a recall election. Gonzales says that he is "pleased" with the findings even if they came up short. He says they confirm the organizer's contentions that City Secretary Becky Garza used overly stringent guidelines in validating the signatures.

According to Gonzales, he received a copy of the final analysis part of which he says concludes that the "city of Lubbock should review its policy on validation and determine a more reasonable approach to accepting signatures particularly when the date of birth and date signed are the stated reason for denial".

Gonzales also told El Editor that the petition experts found 11 signatures "which could have been valid but were not counted due to incorrectly filling out the form or inconsistent information. He says the report concludes that "some

of the signatures could have been from registered voters". Had these 11 been complete, the recall effort would have been successful.

Gonzales and his group have consistently maintained that City Secretary Garza arbitrarily disqualified valid signatures from people who had signed the petition in good faith. Garza says she followed city charter election code law and depended on state law concerning recall petitions to conduct her count and recount. Although, the reason why Garza's initial count determined that petitioners were short by 22 signatures and the recount determined they were actually short by 41 signatures has never been fully explained by the City Secretary.

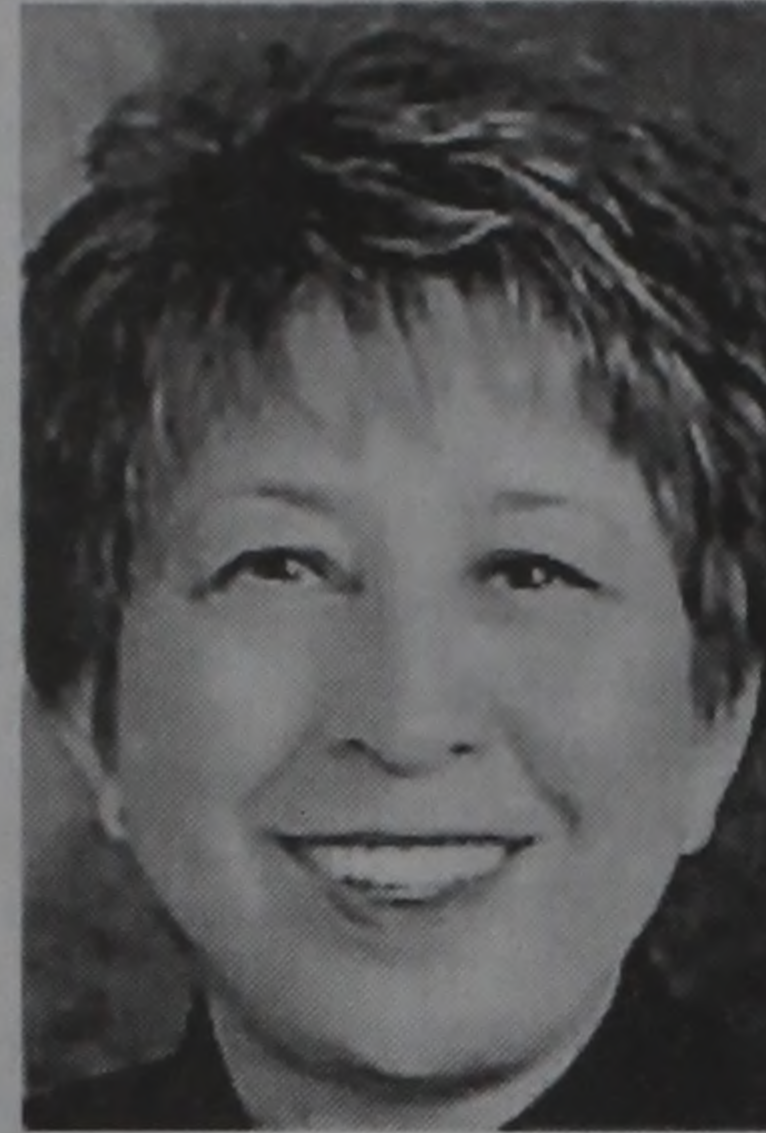
Gonzales claims that the expert's finding "shows many inconsistencies and mistakes on the part of the city". Said Gonzales, "We stand by our count of 510 valid signatures that we verified; we are now acquainted with the way the City operates and we will initiate a new Recall effort against Linda DeLeon again very soon". He also says that organizers are contemplating legal action against the city.

One point of contention between the 2 sides has been how the signatures were obtained. Gonzales says that all people who were asked to sign were explained the reason for the petition and told explicitly that it was an effort to recall DeLeon. But DeLeon has maintained that she has received calls from people from the beginning telling her that they were being misled into signing the petition. So far, 6 people have come forward and provided signed affidavits saying that they were either misled or misinformed as to the reason for the petition.

The affidavits along with data compiled by organizers which seem more and more to support their case

that there have been inconsistencies has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice. Gonzales turned to the DOJ after he had run out of options as they sought ways to contest the ruling by Garza that they had an insufficient number of signatures to force a recall.

In an effort to determine what



people were told when asked to sign the petition, El Editor contacted a resident who lives in District 1 and was approached to sign the petition. We agreed to not reveal their identity and will refer to the person as "they" for purpose of this report.

They say that since they signed the petition, they have been scolded by some family members for getting involved. They say in Spanish, "ya me regañaron y me dicen que porque me metí en estas cosas"; or, "they scolded me and asked me why I got involved in these things". They say they don't want to get in any trouble over this matter; but feel they have a right to do as they see fit.

And they also say they were well aware of the reason for the petition.

They say they first heard about it from a nephew who said that

Councilwoman Linda DeLeon was trying to get South Beach Nightclub closed down. When organizers came to the door, they told our interviewee that they were trying to get DeLeon removed from office. They say they signed the petition willingly and did so because they are concerned about codes enforcement coming to their home and asking them to repair things they may not be able to afford to fix. In Spanish they state; "si uno no tiene el dinero pa componer lo que le digan, que hace uno"; or "if a person does not have the money to fix what they tell one to fix, what is one supposed to do"?

They say they find it hard to believe that DeLeon has that much "poder" or power; enough to be able to close down a nightclub. In Spanish they add; "nosotros tenemos que defendernos, Linda esta metida con los bolillos, y no se porque, su papa era de Méjico". Translated into English this means; "we have to defend ourselves, Linda is in with the Anglos and I don't know why; her father was from Mexico".

El Editor did not confirm if in fact DeLeon's father was from Mexico or purely speculation by the person interviewed for this story.

Another aspect to this story involves a letter sent by former District 1 City Councilman Victor Hernandez to people who had signed the recall petition. In the letter, (the complete text of which can be found in last week's El Editor print edition or at www.leditor.com. Hernandez alleges that DeLeon and her supporters are intimidating people who signed the petition by approaching them and asking them to explain why they signed the petition in the first place.

DeLeon vehemently denies that is the case and was quoted in the local media last week as saying, "I guess he (Victor Hernandez) wants to have a reaction from people out in the community. But I think this will open the eyes of those who supported me in this last election that voted for me instead of Victor that he's involved in this situation too." (Source: NewsChannel11 July 3, 2007).

Whatever the case may be, more and more, it seems like petition signers are the ones caught in the middle. Perhaps the elderly resident summed it up best when they told El Editor: "me discriminaron, no valió la firma que les di"; which when translated means "They (the city) discriminated against me; my signature was deemed to be worthless".

Email: acruzts@sol.com

Martinez Drops Lawsuit against City and 3 LPD Officers

Bacilio "Ben" Martinez, who in 2006 was allegedly beaten and Tasered by 3 Lubbock police officers, has dropped his lawsuit against the city of Lubbock and the 3 police officers involved.

Earlier this year, the attorney for Martinez, Mathew Hawkins alleged in the lawsuit that his client had been tackled to the ground causing him to hit his head on the pavement; had been beaten while handcuffed and Tasered as he was being put into the police cruiser.

Martinez's injuries were severe enough to require medical attention at UMC. It was there that one of the LPD officers is heard telling a UMC nurse: "If you maybe can inflict some pain that would be great".

El Editor was unable to find out just why Martinez had decided to drop the lawsuit.

Léa
El Editor
PRIMERO

Our Immigration Debacle

What's the next step for the Latino community?

By Javier Rodriguez

The defeated Senate proposal and the one waiting to be addressed in the lower house, the Strive Act, are neither pro-immigrant nor pro-worker immigration reform. Both fall far short of the human rights standards set forth by the United Nations International Covenant for the Protection of Migrant Workers.

Under both proposals, the legalization offer is a torturous, expensive process of a 10-to-15-year wait for the coveted "green card." Combined with a guest worker program, a destruction of the family unity concept for a point system and, of course, the so-called national security framework which endangers civil and human rights standards. The latter makes mass persecution and the criminalization of immigrants sound palatable.

The two proposals are gross corporate-designed legislations that if approved will maintain undocumented immigrants in suspension of their basic human rights, leaving them brutally exploitable.

More than ever, the challenge of what is to be done comes to the fore. Either the people and their organized forces conform to the crumbs on the negotiating table or fight back.

In the base, the millions of immigrants themselves are in a quandary.

But for the future of family unity and the millions more to come, the well-being of this nation's whole working class and our civil and human rights as a society, the stakes are very high. The result will set the path for a standard of living for all for years to come.

Apologists for the dead Senate bill have been saying the proposals are not perfect to "fix" the broken immigration system but under present conditions "it's the best we can get". Additionally, that it has to be this year because the presidential campaign will take precedence and there will not be another opportunity for years.

It's imperative to look at history. From 1982 to 1986, until President Ronald Reagan signed the amnesty law, the masses of undocumented immigrants, then an estimated six million, organized and demonstrated militantly. We mounted the massive effort for amnesty into the historic "Jesse Jackson for President" campaign of 1984. It was this campaign through California's Democratic primary, which I was directing in the Latino community.

On May 19 of that year we held the largest yet street protest for immigration rights, 10,000 in downtown Los Angeles. Jackson and my brother Antonio Rodriguez led it. It was for legalization, no raids or deportations, and against the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill.

We then tactically had Jackson stay at the home of Carmen Lima, an undocumented immigrant female leader of the Los Angeles grassroots movement. That was a radical and highly symbolical move by the highest African American leader of the time.

From there we catapulted to the San Francisco Democratic National Convention, where several hundred Latino delegates frenetically demanded from the leadership to kill the bill. But what put the icing on the cake was civil disobedience. The offices of the top gurus of the National Democratic Party, the law firm of Mannat and Associates in Beverly Hills, were taken by 30 undocumented immigrants and leaders and held for several days.

The Simpson-Mazzoli bill was killed and replaced by IRCA 1986, the Simpson-Rodino law. Although it introduced employer sanctions and set four years of residency in the country to qualify, it was a generous amnesty. It empowered millions with "a permit to work, a one-year wait to get the green card and six total to gain citizenship and vote."

The class action law suit, then the mass upsurge, the street heat, the presidential campaign, civil disobedience, militant tactics and a radical leadership did it.

In this potentially last stage of the present struggle for the empowerment of the millions of undocumented workers, conditions for a more creative expression to fight back have to be analyzed and logically placed into practice.

In 2006 came the country's largest-ever mass movement. Today's gigantic struggle for immigration reform is rich in its political and organizational expressions and legacy. The immigrant rights movement and the immigrant worker have generated respect and solidarity here and worldwide. In Los Angeles alone, the May 1 National Great American Boycott stopped a whopping 75 percent of production in almost all

the industries where Latino immigrants labor was critical.

Latest polls clearly indicate majority support for legalization. The millions who marched in 2006 and 2007 did so to demand empowerment, not near



slavery.

We need to push the right buttons. Set the network of forces on the chosen targets which could give premium political results, essentially to force the political establishment to concede.

All targets in the political arena are fair game, including the Republicans, the Democrats, the Latino Establishment and brokers. The fundamental tactics of mass expression include street demonstrations, the boycotts and civil disobedience that exist in our political memory and our history.

(Political strategist Javier Rodriguez was the initiator for 1.7 million digitally counted mass protest of March 25, 2006 in Los Angeles. E-mail him at rhd@att.net.com © 2007)

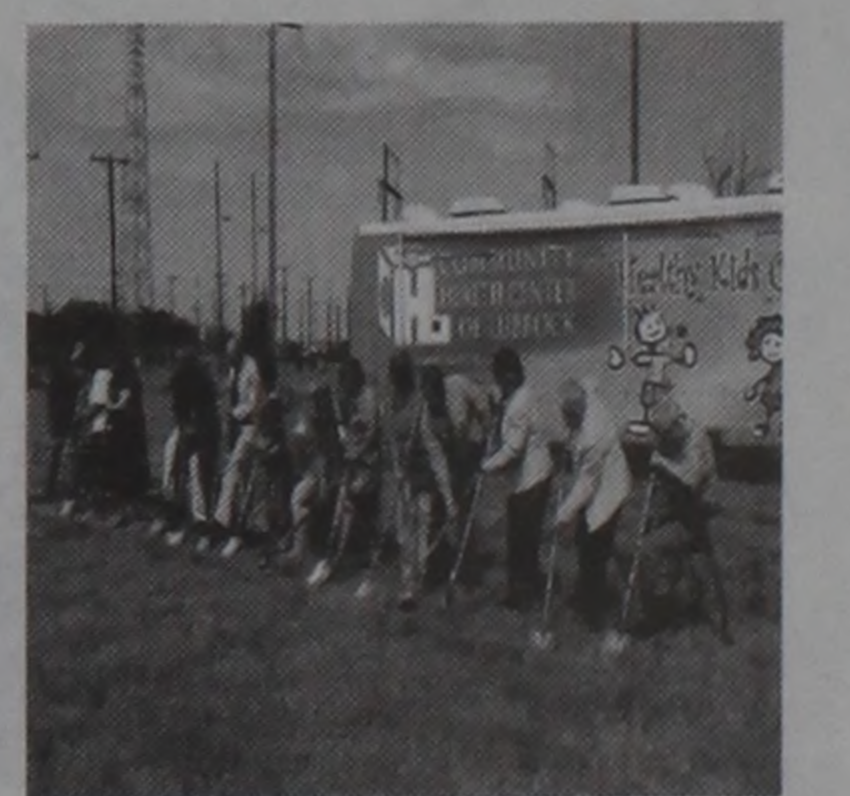
Community Health Center of Lubbock Breaks Ground for New Arnett Benson Medical and Dental Clinic

By Abel Cruz

By early 2008, Arnett Benson neighborhood residents will have a new clinic in their neighborhood which will provide quality primary and preventive health and dental services to the many families who live in the Arnett Benson area and surrounding Lubbock neighborhoods. That bit of good news according to Christina Brito-Cavarrubio, Community Outreach Coordinator for Community Health Center of Lubbock (CHCL); a federally and state funded organization.

On Wednesday July 11, 2007, the organization broke ground on a new clinic which will provide much needed medical and dental services to people who qualify for medical assistance. The new clinic will be located at 3301 Clovis Road.

Ms. Cavarrubio tells El Editor, "We are excited to expand medical and dental



care to an area of the community where there is an immense need. Because we are a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center, we are located in the Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) of the city. In this area, statistics state that their should be roughly 12 full time dentists for the MUA in Lubbock, which includes Arnett Benson, and CHCL will be at 5 full time dentists when the Arnett Benson clinic is opened".

According to a press release issued by the center, the organization has been operating since it was founded in 1992 by the Lubbock Indigent Healthcare Coalition; with the goal of responding to "the growing needs of (the) medically underserved".

According to Ms. Cavarrubio, "services will be provided on a sliding fee scale, based on federal income guidelines of family income and size. All sites also accept Medicaid/CHIP, Medicare, and private insurance". No one is refused service at the clinics for an "inability to pay" and other programs are available for those who are unable to pay.

This should be comforting news to many Lubbock residents who are unable to afford healthcare insur
(Continued on Page 3)

News Briefs

Congress Issues Subpoenas in Attorney Firings Probe; Bush Invokes Executive Privilege

By Abel Cruz

Invoking executive privilege, the Bush administration has officially told Congress that it will not turn over the documents, including emails, related to the 8 fired U.S. Attorneys in 2006. By doing so, President Bush has decided to disregard congressional subpoenas issued by both the Senate and House Judiciary committees.

In addition to the documents, both houses want to hear testimony from former White House counsel Harriet Miers and a former Bush political aide, Sara Taylor. Both these individuals are considered to have played a key role in the firing of the 8 U.S. Attorneys. Congress has been investigating the firings for months; it is now at the point where they want to get more information from the administration; more information than the Bush administration is willing to turn over.

The announcement by the White House came in the form of a letter from White House Counsel Fred F. Fielding, counsel to the president, to Democratic Senator from Vermont, Patrick Leahy, and Rep. John Conyers, Democrat from Michigan.

According to the content of the letter, Fielding charges both committees of prejudging before they have the "benefit of the information" and refutes that the assertion of executive privilege by Bush "was performed without good faith".

In the past, Presidents have used executive privilege to shield their aides and advisors from having to testify before Congress. Richard Nixon did it during the Watergate scandal in the early 1970's and most recently former President Bill Clinton exerted it when Congress wanted to take testimony from some of Clinton's aides in regard to Monica Lewinsky.

In both cases, the Supreme Court ruled that executive privilege did not apply.

And the Supreme Court may be where this latest situation on separation of powers between Bush and Congress leads. Congressional leaders contend that it is well within Congressional powers to ask for the information and issue subpoenas to anyone they want to hear testimony from. The President on the other hand says that the constitution allows a President to exert executive privilege to protect certain Presidential aides from having to testify.

To be sure, executive privilege is not mentioned anywhere in the U.S. Constitution; but presidents

have long argued that aides and advisors to the President must have some sort of protection in order to be able to give a president honest and candid advice on matters. In the Nixon case, the court noted that "the valid need for protection of communications between high government officials and those who advise and assist them in the performance of their manifold duties" exists; thereby leaving the door open to further interpretation by future courts.

For now, the standoff between the White House and Congress continues. The next step would be for Congress to vote on referring contempt of Congress citation and forward it to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. It is highly doubtful though that a U.S. Attorney would move on the citation since they were originally appointed by the President.

The questions still remain: Was the White House directly involved in the firings and to what extent? Did Harriet Miers overstep her role as then White House Counsel and is she responsible for the firings?

And the big question; why is Attorney General Alberto Gonzales still Attorney General; and why has he not resigned or been fired?

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Republican Senator David Vitter: "Very serious sin in my past"

Republican Senator David Vitter of Louisiana confirmed this past week that he had been a client of a Washington, DC escort service; long suspected of being a cover for a Washington, DC prostitution service.

The service which was operated by Deborah Jeane Palfrey is accused of profiting nearly 2 million dollars over a 13 year period beginning in 1993; she has been referred to as the "DC Madam" in the media.

The Senator's spokesperson, Joel Digrado, sent an email to the Associated Press in which he quoted Vitter: "This was a very serious sin in my past for which I am, of course, completely responsible." Several years ago, I asked for and received forgiveness from God and my wife in confession and marriage counseling. Out of respect for my family, I will keep my discussion of the matter there — with God and them. But I certainly offer my deep and sincere apologies to all I have disappointed and let down in any way."

Since the scandal first broke, another White House official has also been forced to resign after his name appeared in Ms. Palfrey's "little black book".

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EDITORIAL

The Forgotten Hispanic Cultural Center

A few weeks ago, we published an editorial concerning the un-finished, un-completed, and forgotten Hispanic Cultural Center; asking why it has taken so long to complete this project. And just who or whom is responsible for not completing this project?

Our hope was that someone at city hall or perhaps someone directly involved in this project from the city, or Fiestas Del Llano Board Members, or even District 1 Councilwoman Linda DeLeon, whose district the building is in, would read our editorial and look into the situation.

Well, a few weeks later and the building still sits empty and we still sit waiting for something to happen.

The completion of this project has taken too long. The neighborhood associations, Arnett Benson and Jackson, which transferred their beautification funds to the center, deserve an explanation. The residents of these communities deserve an answer; the taxpayers of this city deserve an answer.

Each week, and month that passes by is lost time. Here we are only 65 days away from observing another Fiestas Del Llano "Diez y seis de Septiembre" and the building which was supposed to be the site for some celebratory events sits empty and unused; 4 years after the project was kicked-off.

Once again, we are calling on the people responsible for this forgotten project to provide some answers. Send out a press release, send us an announcement, anything; something is better than nothing.

Our hope is that maybe the new communications consultant recently contracted by City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld will impress upon city management that communicating with the Hispanic community and the Lubbock community as a whole about these matters of importance to the community is way past overdue.

Editorials and commentaries are strictly the opinions of El Editor's editorial board which includes Publisher Bidal Aguero, Business Manager Olga Aguero, and contributing columnist and editorial writer Abel Cruz. Opinions do not represent the opinions or views of El Editor's advertisers.

Guest Commentary by Johnnie Jones

Justice For All?

I. Lewis Libby, former Chief of Staff for Vice-President Cheney, was convicted of four felonies: obstruction of justice, making false statements to the FBI and two counts of perjury.

These are serious crimes.

Shouldn't he pay for these crimes?

Last week President Bush commuted the 30-month jail sentence given to Libby. Don't be mistaken; President Bush did not pardon Libby. His conviction stands and he can continue to appeal that conviction. Since he was not pardoned, Libby may use his fifth-amendment right against self-incrimination and refuse to testify if called by a Congressional committee.

This allows Libby to continue to protect the Vice President, President and other members of the Administration. If Libby had been pardoned, he could be forced to testify or face contempt of Congress charges.

Bush stated, "I respect the jury's verdict. But I have concluded that the prison sentence given to Mr. Libby is excessive."

Did the President say Libby was innocent? No, he did not.

Did the President say Libby was wrongly convicted? No, he did not.

Did the President say the sentence for everyone convicted of these crimes was too harsh? No, he did not.

He said the sentence was too harsh for his friend. Not for anyone else convicted of the same thing.

Does this add another factor to all criminal sentencing now? Does the judge use the federal sentencing guidelines given? Or does he use the new guidelines given by the President - the one with two columns: one for the wealthy and well-connected and one for everyone else?

Our country deserves better than this.

The writer is Lubbock County Democratic Party Chair

On the Internet -www. eeditor.com

El Editor (vía e-mail only)

Attn: Bidal Aguero

Publisher

Re: Response to Guest

Commentary of Clyde

"Chico" James entitled

"United We Stand - Di-

vided We Fall" in El

Editor, Volume XXX,

Number 39, week of

July 5 - July 11, 2007

Dear Bidal:

Normally, I never respond to at-track articles as the one written by Clyde "Chico" James. Today however, I think it prudent to do so.

The main crux of Clyde's letter seems to be that I am engaging in divisive tactics as between the Hispanic and Anglo communities. The letter which I wrote, (and which is printed next to Clyde's letter in El Editor) and sent out, to 388 households and 521 individuals, never once mentions Hispanics or Anglos. In fact, the letter was sent out to every single person who signed the recall petition and whose name was not thrown out because they did not live in the district or because the name and/or address could not be read. It was sent out to all individuals regardless of race, gender or ethnicity.

The purpose of the letter I sent out was to thank those who participated in the democratic process (recall) and to tell them to "take heed" against those who would try to intimidate or threaten them in any manner.

The other purpose of the letter was to encourage people to do what they believe is right and just. The purpose was not and is not to tell them to do as I tell them. I believe people have the right to agree or disagree with their elected representatives without fear of intimidation. I also believe that I have the right to disagree with Councilwoman DeLeon even if she is Hispanic. I do not and have never taken an opposite position merely because the individual is of another race, ethnicity, gender or any other difference. I am not doing so now. I am taking this position because Linda is wrong, and I would be as equally wrong to "not tell the Emperor she has no clothes".

I wish we could all stand united, as we have done many times in the past. But I cannot and will not stand united with someone who intentionally and maliciously attacks those who merely have a different opinion. After all, to do so would not be good government, would not be very Christian, and would not be in the best interest of true "Unity."

In closing, I would tell Clyde to stop trying to scare people. Justice, true justice is not a commodity to be bought and sold. Justice is not an idea which only a few have the insight on. Justice is universal and the citizens of District 1 know when we are being sold something less than the real deal.

Sincerely,

Victor Hernandez

The writer is a former District 1 Lubbock City Councilman and an attorney practicing law in Lubbock.

Victor Hernandez
1114 10TH STREET
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El Editor

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Commentary

When Stop Means Go

By Abel Cruz

What can one say to this city's elected officials who are elected by a majority of the people's vote but then turn right around and refuse to represent that same majority's wishes when it comes to voting on issues?

And what do you say about the July 5, 2007 AJ editorial titled "Give red-light cameras chance to work"?

Frankly we don't think we can say anything to Mayor David Miller and the rest of his gang of 4 plus one that will be heard; they obviously stopped listening to their constituents a long time ago; they obviously don't care to listen to what anyone has to say; unless of course one happens to agree with them.

Over the past few months, the red light camera issue has brought out differing viewpoints depending on who you listen to or what you read. But one thing has been made abundantly clear, and that is that the majority of Lubbock residents are not in favor of red light camera enforcement; period!

Even though Mayor David Miller thinks the local media is the enemy, all he and the others have to do is listen to local talk radio or watch local TV newscasts to hear what residents are saying.

For example, on radio talk shows, like "Pratt on Texas" (KFYO 790AM; www.prattontexas.com); listeners consistently weigh in on the subject in emails to the show's host, Robert Pratt, and the majority are against red light cameras. In surveys like the one recently conducted by KCBD NewsChannel 11, results showed that over 77% of respondents are against the cameras, and even our own reader poll has shown that the majority don't want cameras replacing old fashioned traffic cop enforcement.

This popular view is even evident in letters to the AJ editor; on Wednesday the 11th, 2 letter writers point out that they emailed Councilwoman Phyllis Jones to voice their opposition to the cameras; they say they received no response.

Yet when Jones voted against Councilman John Leonard's resolution she cited an email sent to her by a Lubbock resident endorsing the cameras. Unfortunately, Ms. Jones is once again using "sleight of hand" tactics to make her case. And unfortunately the editors at the AJ don't recognize that the majority of the letter writers to their own publication are opposed to the cameras and continue to favor camera enforcement.

I mention these other media outlets to point out that this issue cuts across all lines; partisan and otherwise. It is not so much a conservative or liberal issue; as it is a common sense issue and it is the opinion shared by the majority of reasonable people that the cons outweigh the pros.

In addition, as I have repeatedly said, it was the way the council sneaked around to get this done that bothers the majority of Lubbock residents. It's clear that people want their elected officials to fulfill their "elected duty" in an above board and open manner; and not play politics with important issues such as these.

To clarify, some people differ on why they are opposed to the cameras; but most people agree that enforcement of red light traffic violations by camera is just not the way to go; that is the common denominator. And everyone seems to acknowledge that except those council members who continue to go against the majority's wishes; and the local newspaper which long ago stopped reflecting the views of the majority of its readers.

How city officials can continue to ignore the majority's wishes, while continuing to say that they "serve with humility" is beyond me. How can humility be confused with arrogance?

On Tuesday June 26, 2007 during the Lubbock City Council meeting, 5 members of the council completely disregarded the will of the people and voted to continue this farce.

Credit goes to Councilman John Leonard who offered a resolution to do away with the cameras, and to newly elected member Todd Klein who true to his word, joined Leonard and voted in favor of Leonard's resolution.

The AJ editorial claims that Mr. Klein further politicized the issue by keeping his campaign promise and voting in favor of the resolution. So, Mr. Klein wins a run-off election, possibly because he came out against the red light cameras during his campaign; he then votes accordingly the first opportunity he gets; and that doesn't sit well with the AJ editorial board?

What would the editors at the AJ have him do; ignore the majority's wishes like the rest of the council minus John Leonard? At least give Mr. Klein credit for fulfilling his promises; unlike the Mayor who ran on a no new taxes platform then immediately flip-flopped faster than a flapjack while in the air and voted to increase the property tax rate.

Alas, Mayor Miller, and council members Linda DeLeon, Floyd Price, Phyllis Jones, and Jim Gilbreath continue to live in a big brother state of mind and they continue to go against popular wisdom. Plus in some way they continue to seem to say, "Take that, we'll show you who's boss" to Lubbock residents.

The question is why; the answer is probably because there is more to this story than meets the eye. There has been just too much obfuscation of the facts; too many inconsistencies; too many contradictions; to just chalk this up to another chapter of "local leaders gone wild".

Just a couple of points to illustrate: When the council voted to delay the camera installations earlier this year, City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld quickly issued a hiring freeze because the expected revenue from the cameras would not be available; or so she said. But then, Governor Rick Perry signed legislation which caps the violation fine at \$75 and requires cities to share the revenue with the state and to direct the revenue to fund trauma centers. This will surely impact the amount of revenue the city will make.

Where is the hiring freeze now? Doesn't the loss of substantial revenue warrant another hiring freeze? As we all suspected the first freeze was just a political and PR move by Ms. Dumbauld in order to try and scare people into buying into the charade. Since that freeze, the council has appropriated money for new baseball fields in North Lubbock and has spent millions of dollars on other projects.

Just doesn't add up does it?

Another disturbing aspect has to do with how American Traffic Solutions ended up with the contract to manage the red light cameras. According to a story first reported on NewsRadio KJDL 1420 AM, www.newsradio1420.com, American Traffic Solutions illegally lobbied members of the city council and in particular Councilman Jim Gilbreath in order to gain favor and win the contract with the city. According to the report, the city has exposed itself to a possible lawsuit by a Canadian firm, Redflex Traffic Systems since that company suspects that the bidding process was somehow tainted or perhaps rigged, and cost them potential revenue.

On a motion made by Councilman Jim Gilbreath during a council meeting early on in the process, the council voted to go against city staff recommendations and restart the bidding process; even after city staff had recommended Redflex be awarded the contract. Here's an excerpt from the KJDL story:

"Public records indicate that ATS hired a law firm called Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott. The firm will presumably act on behalf of ATS as the collection agency to go after people in Lubbock who don't pay their Red Light Camera fines on time. Our sources tell us one of the lawyers at Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott lobbied city council in secret. Staff was going to recommend a company called RedFlex because it scored higher in the bidding process. But staff was completely ignored because the law firm lobbied in favor of ATS. And so the best company did not get the bid. Instead, the company that broke the rules got the bid."

Now does that sound like the type of city government we were told we would get by then candidate David Miller when he was seeking our votes? Does it sound like the type of leadership we want from elected officials whose primary responsibility it is to represent "US"?

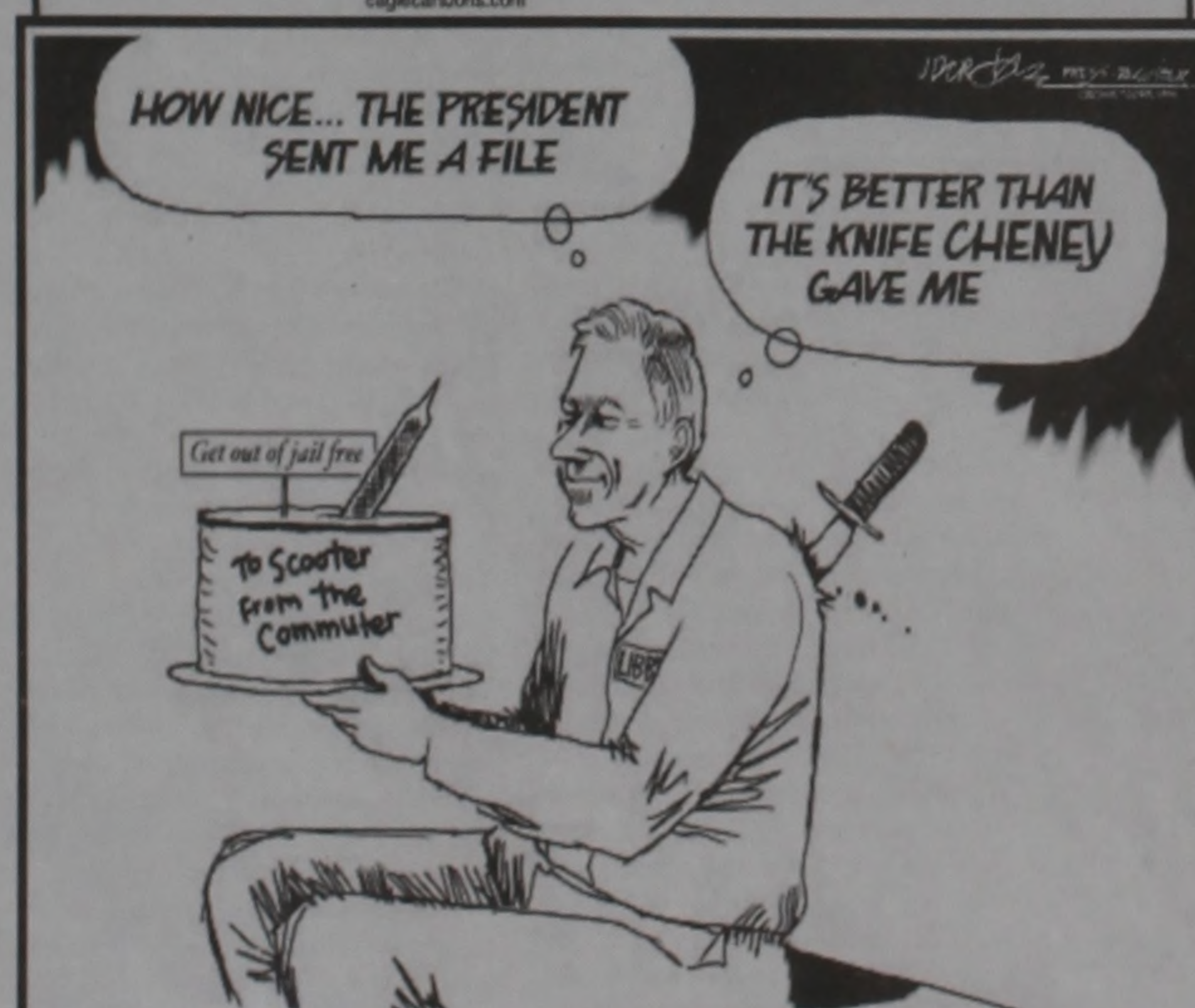
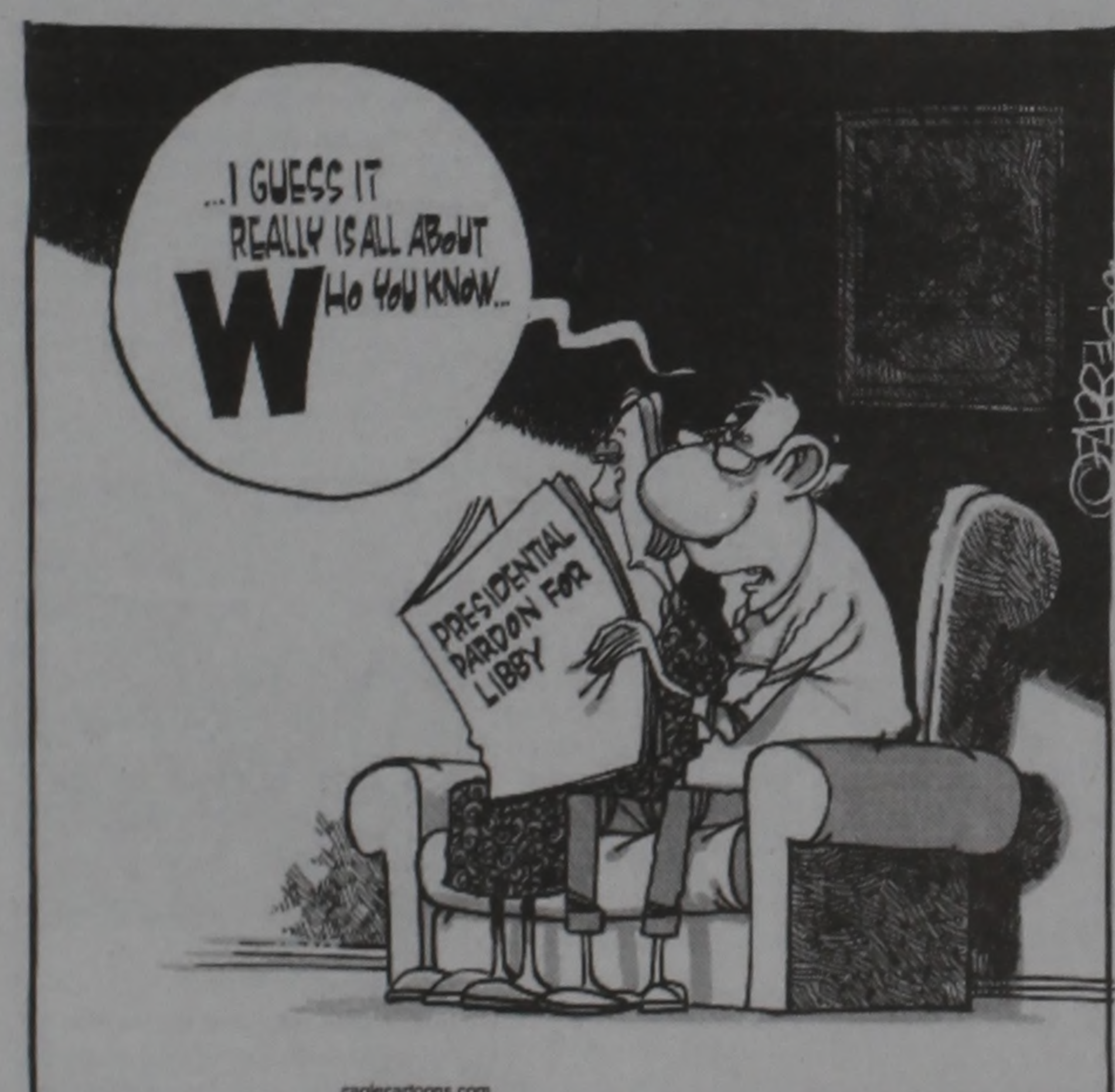
One last suggestion, perhaps the Mayor and the rest of his gang of 4 plus one would like to brush up on the "I" in the acronym SPIRIT which he has listed on his Mayor's page on the city's web site which says that the "I" in SPIRIT stands for "Integrity to be forthright and honest in our dealings with the public, other organizations, and each other."

In the case of the red light cameras the letter "I" may just as well stand for "Ignore"; as in pay no mind to the voters who are responsible for us being here in the first place.

So there you have it, the latest chapter in the red light camera saga; a chapter that will only end next year where it began; at the ballot box.

The one place elected officials cannot "ignore" the will of the people.

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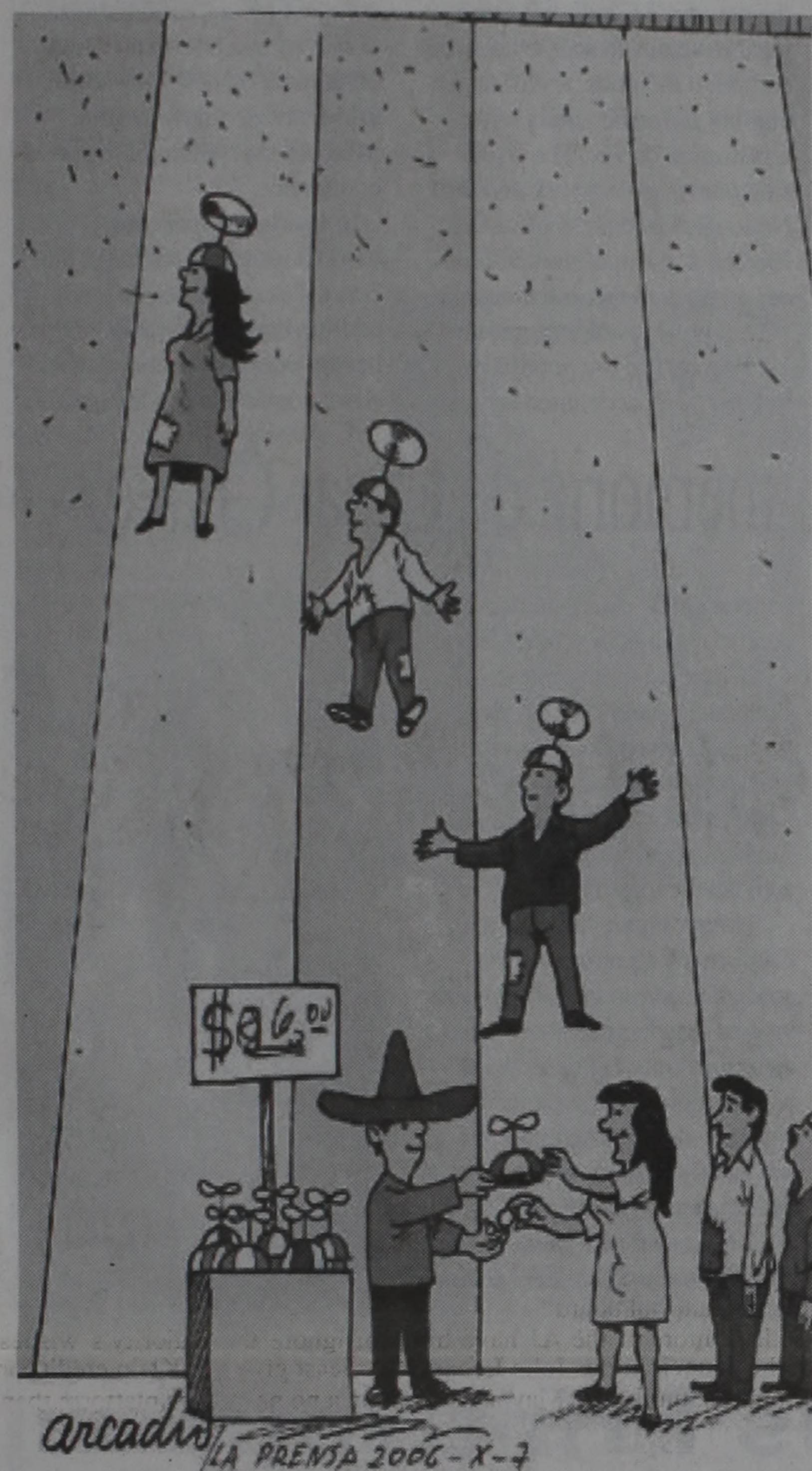
The other day, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa was forced to admit he was romantically involved with a TeleMundo reporter assigned to cover city politics in her role as a news reporter for the Spanish language network.

Can any Hispanic politician with national name recognition and potential for higher office keep his pants zipped up long enough to get elected to a national office?

First there was San Antonio's Mayor and Health and Human Services Cabinet Secretary Henry Cisneros; now we have Antonio Villaraigosa acting more like Antonio Banderas playing the role of a leading man in a romantic tele-novela.

Ok, there's still New Mexico Governor and Democratic Presidential Candidate Bill Richardson. Let's hope there are no skeletons in his closet!

Abel Cruz



CHINESE WISDOM CAN GUIDE IMMIGRATION'S FUTURE

By José de la Isla

HOUSTON — With the U.S. Senate's refusal to act on an immigration reform bill this year, the old Chinese definition of "crisis" seems appropriate. "Crisis" in translation is generally held to mean "danger" and "opportunity."

The danger is quite obvious. The National Conference of State Legislators reported in April that nearly 1,200 pieces of immigration legislation had already been introduced at the state level this year, more than double last year's total. By year's end, possibly every state in the union will be looking at "remedies" to restrict activity and movements by immigrants.

Such actions may appease assorted nativists and others who are just plain frustrated by federal inaction, but it's a long way from a solution. It comes with plentiful "shoot-yourself-in-the-foot" dangers.

Immigrants and their children will account for all U.S. workforce growth between 2010 and 2030. As an example, Central Florida's economic growth is tied to its fast-growing Hispanic population (many of them immigrants).

Many countries with homogeneous populations and little immigration (such as Germany, Italy and Japan) don't grow as fast economically as other developed countries. The same is true of regions within the United States.

Particularly disturbing here are the values and public attitudes that restrictive measures engender. Even if and when federal immigration reform comes about, ethnic-conflict jargon will have set up xenophobic, polarizing mindsets that could last generations and take decades to overcome.

Restrictive policies will contribute to making a nation that's already gripped with fear about terrorism reach a new level of suspicion concerning the people within it. Some current proposals compete with the Jim Crow law of segregation days. It's like the '50s all over again.

A polarized nation led by

a large but shrinking, grumpy white population will emerge as Hispanics become 17 percent of its people by 2020 and 24 percent by 2050.

It's still a long while before 2009, when hopefully a new Congress will act responsibly in the national interest. Meanwhile, local "reforms" based on emotion can cripple law-abiding working families, many of whom are U.S. citizens.

Now, the opportunities are much less visible, hidden behind dismal, disconcerting statistics in Mexico.

Mexicans make up roughly 60 percent of the unauthorized immigrants in the United States. Much of our immigration pull stems from the huge discrepancy in the standards of living between us and our neighboring countries. It's one of the widest in the world.

But anyone who thinks emigration is good for Mexico is mistaken. It only makes things worse. In June, the United Nations Program for Development reported the main contributor is "inequality and not poverty."

The program's Thierry Lema-resquier points out it is neither the richest nor the poorest who leave. Instead it is those in the middle. This is precisely the group that Mexico most needs for its own development.

That correlates with another recent revelation. Quoted in the Mexico City daily El Universal, Mexico's Secretary of the Public Interest (Función Pública) stated that in the last five years, 35 percent of potential direct foreign investments decided against entering Mexico because of the perception of the country's corruption and lack of transparency.

The vicious cycle is one that pushes people out and discourages investment within. It is a formula for slow growth and stagnation — consequently more emigration.

Between now and 2009 is a good time for inter-parliamentary commissions, immigrant hometown associations, Latino chambers of commerce, civic groups and transnational interests to demand that Mexico clean up its act.

President Felipe Calderón and the parties that make up Mexico's Congress need to hear it from every direction. It's a better solution than the ludicrous convulsion taking place in the United States, stemming from our own lack of reform.

So that's the danger and the opportunity. Just as in the Chinese word for "crisis."

[José de la Isla, author of "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (Archer Books, 2003) writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. E-mail joseisla@yahoo.com] © 2007

Arnett Benson Clinic

(From front page) The latest U.S. Census data shows that close to 20% of the city's population currently lives below the federal poverty level and most likely uninsured.

And although universal healthcare for every American citizen is a topic of discussion in national political conversations; there doesn't seem to be any definite plan to help those who are most in need of good quality healthcare. The new clinic will represent an immediate and tangible resource.

For many residents, organizations like the CHCL provide the only access to affordable healthcare. Many families are forced to go without proper medical treatment; either because they cannot afford it or they do not meet certain federal or state program requirements; the new clinic should fill that void.

No doubt, that for many Arnett Benson neighborhood residents the clinics projected completion date of early 2008 can't come soon enough.

Email: acruzts@aol.com

Another City Management Bureaucratic Blunder

By Abel Cruz

Just when I think I can take a break from "communicating" to you about city management staff and their bureaucratic blunders; along comes another one.

How in the world does a person get the job of managing a city of over 200,000 people; receive close to \$250,000 per year in salary and not be able to figure out how to effectively communicate with the residents she works for?

I must admit that the latest news coming out of city hall has left me speechless; well almost.

This is no knock on public relations consultant Tony Privett; I'm sure he is a fine gentleman, good at what he does, and that's how he makes his living. But it is mind-boggling that City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld has to contract with an outside source to instruct her and other city managers how to do a better job of communicating with and communicating information to this city's residents.

Does the phrase "just use your common sense" make any sense to these people?

Or is this an orchestrated attempt to market the message; to use communication and PR tactics to make us believe that all is well behind the curtain of silence that exists at city hall?

Sadly that's what it sounds like to me.

It floors me that a person can be viewed as qualified to manage a city of this size; have countless of employees and lawyers under her supervision and not find a single soul who can provide the same services in-house as a consultant can provide.

Don't we pay city managers enough money to expect that at least one of them would have some knowledge of how to create an effective communications model?

This falls in the category of you have to see it to believe it; it qualifies as a case study of how not to manage a city.

No wonder this city is in the shape it's in.

And I thought Lou Fox was bad?

Is Lubbock as Safe as it Once Was?

"It's rare that you see a stranger on stranger homicide in Lubbock, it just doesn't happen" — Lubbock County District Attorney Matt Powell quoted in several local media outlets after the stabbing death of Lubbock resident; retired Air Force Colonel, Don McCullough this past Monday

Correct me if I'm wrong, didn't this kind of "stranger on stranger" homicide just happen to 21 year old Chase Pendleton just a few days ago outside a convenience store at 3802 34th St?

Although Mr. Pendleton's death did not receive near the amount of coverage Mr. McCullough's murder has; it still qualifies as a "stranger on stranger" homicide. There is no evidence the two men knew each other even though media reports said that there was some kind of confrontation; there wasn't.

A suspect by the name of Mitchell Erin Wachholtz, 36 has been charged with Pendleton's murder and is being held without bond.

Here's an eye opener for you; the city of Austin, TX has a population of 710,000, over 3 times the population of Lubbock which has 209,000 residents. The city of Austin just registered its 14th homicide of the year 2 days ago; Lubbock just registered its 9th; 2 in the last 10 days; a difference of only 5. One would think that if our trend of 9 per 209,000 in the first 6 and a half months was the basis for an average, then based on population figures Austin would have 30 murders by now.

Does it sound to you like District Attorney Matt Powell was right when he was quoted in a recent news story as saying that Lubbock is still a safe place to live? It might be safer than other cities; but I wouldn't qualify it as safe as it was once.

Powell goes on to say that we have lost a little bit of our innocence; I say that some people who live in certain areas of town where crime has become a part of every day life lost that innocence a long time ago.

And of course, people are shocked because when it happens in certain parts of town, which up until now have been immune to these types of horrible crimes in their neighborhoods, they cannot believe this kind of thing happens in Lubbock; Lubbock is not that way.

Well Lubbock is that way; the new Lubbock is; the Lubbock which has seen unprecedented population growth and commercial development in just a few short years is.

Population growth brings a new set of problems; it's no longer people from the surrounding small towns moving here, but rather people from all over the country. In this case, the man charged with murdering Mr. McCullough happens to be from Louisiana. Robberies, assaults, and other crimes are becoming a daily occurrence. In time, murders will become more and more common.

No, sadly Lubbock is not that small town with a big city feel anymore; and it surely isn't anywhere close to becoming the model city we hear so much about.

With these two senseless murders, we probably lost a whole lot more than a "little bit of innocence".

We may have also lost whatever sense of security we may have had left...

They Buried the "N" Word

They came together to bury the word that has been around for centuries; but just because they buried it doesn't mean that it died.

In case you missed it, the NAACP held a public symbolic burial ceremony during its recent annual convention. A procession was held and a wooden pine box was decorated with artificial black roses as convention delegates participated in the funeral procession.

While I applaud the NAACP for its symbolic gesture, words like the "N" word have been around since blacks were first brought here against their will many, many years ago. It is wishful thinking to hope that a symbolic ceremony is all it will take for people to stop using hurtful and demeaning words.

What we should be discussing is the mentality that motivates people to use words which are designed to insult and denigrate people who are different; people who are of a different skin color.

Councilman Floyd Price is quoted in an AJ/Associated Press story as saying: "The thing I would like for my Anglo brothers and sisters to understand (is) that African Americans have done that to each other all the time, but when they do it, it is not a slur. It's not anything racial, because I cannot racially discriminate against another African American." What about his Hispanic brothers and sisters; does he have any words for us?

I presume that Mr. Price says he cannot discriminate against another African American because they are both black. I say not true.

I would remind Mr. Price of the term high-yellow, often pronounced high-yella, which is a term used by African Americans to differentiate dark skinned blacks from lighter skinned ones. It is also considered to be a derogatory term. Another one is "redbone" also used to describe lighter skinned blacks. For years, it has been a common belief that dark skinned individuals are discriminated against by lighter skinned persons of the same racial make-up. And yes, it also happens within Hispanic cultures.

Racial discrimination exists in all ethnic groups; the words use to perpetuate it are alive and well in our vocabulary; that's something we can't forget. But it will take more than symbolic ceremonies; it will take real and honest dialogue.

Symbolism is great; but what is needed here is a large dose of reality. Email: acruzts@aol.com

El Editor

The Newspaper of Record



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Léa
El Editor

CULTURE, HISTORY, EDUCATION AND FUTURE

Pageant instills culture and promotes higher education

Young women from Lubbock County and the surrounding area are encouraged to submit applications to compete in the Miss Hispanic Lubbock Scholarship Pageant, held in conjunction with Lubbock's 16th of September celebration.

Single women of Hispanic or Latin decent, between the ages of 17 through 24-years-old, who are currently seniors in high school or enrolled in a college or university, are invited to experience an opportunity of a lifetime.

Training sessions for the pageant contestants include the following topics:

- Public Speaking
- Dining & Business Etiquette
- Health & Beauty
- Modeling & Image Analysis
- Financial Responsibility

The 2007 pageant production will be held Thursday, September 13, 2007 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theater and will kick off a week of festivities

in conjunction with the 16th of September celebration. The community wide event allows Lubbock residents to embrace Mexican-American culture, and encourages community wide participation.

Interested individuals can request an online application at www.fiestasdelllano.org or by calling the Pageant Director:

Participants will be required to submit their completed applications and a \$150 entry fee at a mandatory contestant orientation, to be held Saturday, August 4, 2007, at 1:00 PM, in the Auditorium (Room 169) of the College of Human Sciences, located on the Texas Tech campus. (easily accessible from the 15th Street and University Avenue entrance)

For more information, please call Rosa Salazar, Pageant Chair/ Director, at (806) 793-0300 or email at rosa.g.salazar@ttu.edu.

National Hispanic Group to Launch Voter Drive

Hispanics are the nation's fastest-growing group, but community leaders worry that with low voter turnout rates, that growth could mean little at the polls.

Hoping to spur Hispanic participation this November, the National Council of La Raza will launch a national citizenship and voter turnout drive at its annual conference, scheduled for July 21-24 in Miami Beach.

Democratic presidential hopefuls Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama are among the keynote speakers scheduled to appear at the annual event, leaders of the country's largest Hispanic advocacy group announced Tuesday at a news conference in Miami's Freedom Tower. Other speakers will include Gov. Charlie Crist, Republican U.S. Reps. Lincoln Diaz-Balart and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Miami, Wal-Mart President and CEO Lee Scott and the Rev. Al Sharpton.

The conference, which typically draws key political figures, business leaders and Hispanic power brokers, will be at the Miami Beach Convention Center. It will focus on



citizenship and building Hispanics' political clout through voting.

An estimated 23,000 participants are expected to generate \$5 million in revenues for the city.

Organizers invited Republican presidential contenders Arizona Sen. John McCain, Rudolph Giuliani and Mitt Romney, but all three declined, said La Raza president Janet Murguía.

"If they don't see us as their base, that's a mistake," Murguía said.

The organization's campaign, announced Tuesday, is "Now is the time, 2008!" a grassroots and multi-media effort to encourage the country's 6 million Latino legal residents to seek citizenship and go to the polls. It will target eligible Hispanic voters with registration drives. The Univision television network and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials are partners in the initiative.

Though Hispanics represented 14.3 percent of the population in 2004, they accounted for just

6 percent of the votes cast in the 2004 presidential election. The low number was due in part to the community's large number of children and non-citizens and a 47 percent turnout rate among eligible Hispanic voters, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

"If we've learned nothing else from the immigration debate that ended in a disappointing failure, it's that we need to make our voices heard and hold elected officials accountable," Murguía said.

At the conference, organizers will hold a naturalization workshop for 500 non-citizens.

"Once they go through the complex process of naturalization, they can take action and participate in their own future," said Univision news anchor Maria Elena Salinas at the press conference.

In a series of speeches, workshops and town halls, the council's conference also will address homeownership, child health, nonprofit management, education and juvenile justice.

Aprueban proyecto de ley en memoria de César Chávez

WASHINGTON, D.C.— La Cámara Baja aprobó ayer un proyecto de ley que autoriza al Departamento del Interior a realizar un estudio sobre terrenos y lugares que fueron significativos para el activista César Chavez, a fin de honrar su trayectoria y aportaciones históricas, agregándolos al sistema nacional de parques.

Se trata de la medida H.R. 359 de la congresista demócrata de California, Hilda Solís.

"Me enorgullece que la Cámara haya reconocido la importancia de honrar la labor [de Chávez] y de diversificar nuestro sistema nacional de parques al aprobar esta legislación", indicó Solís.

En el Senado hay un proyecto al respecto de los senadores Ken Salazar y John McCain, demócrata de Colorado y republicano de Arizona, respectivamente.

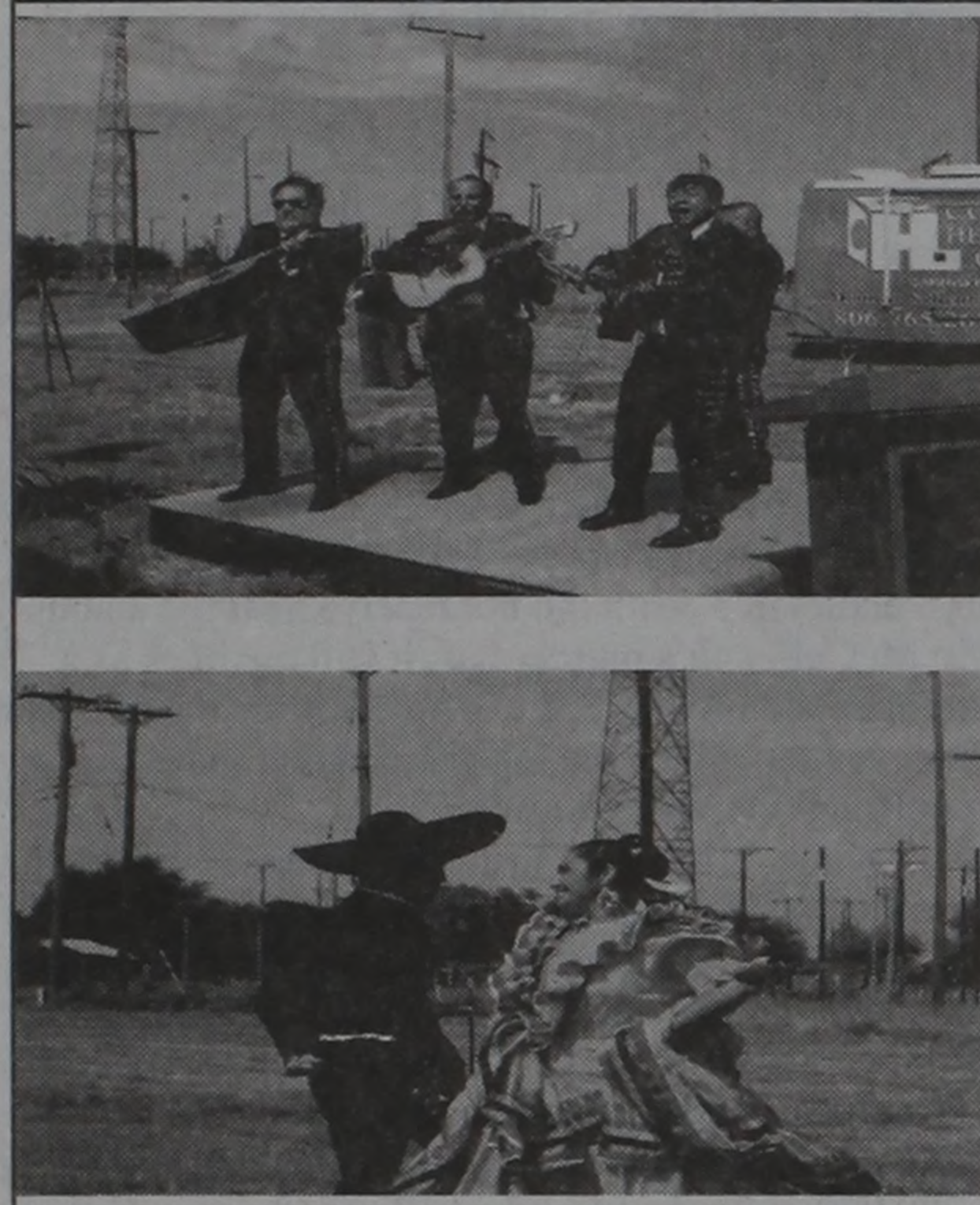
El estudio determinará los lugares que fueron significativos en la vida de Chávez para buscar la forma de honrarlo, ya sea a través de un sendero, un parque tradicional o algún punto histórico.

Chávez no sólo es reconocido por su labor en defensa de los trabajadores agrícolas, sino por defender causas ambientales, como por ejemplo reducir el uso de pesticidas, entre otras cosas. "El H.R. 359 es un poderoso vehículo para que una nueva

generación de estadounidenses conozca la vida de César Chávez y la historia del movimiento sindical agrícola", indicó, por su parte, Arturo Rodríguez, presidente del Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas (UFW), fundado por Chávez junto a la activista Dolores Huerta.

"Honrar lugares en Arizona, California y en otros estados asociados con su vida mantendrá vivo su legado vital y servirá de ejemplo a futuros líderes enseñándoles que con determinación y trabajo duro pueden mejorar sus vidas y la de sus comunidades", agregó Rodríguez.

Chávez nació en Yuma, Arizona, y murió en 1993 en San Luis, cerca de Yuma.



Mariachi Amigos & Ballet Folklorico Aztlán performed at Community Health Center of Lubbock's groundbreaking celebration for their new Arnett Benson Family Medical and Dental Clinic on July 11th.

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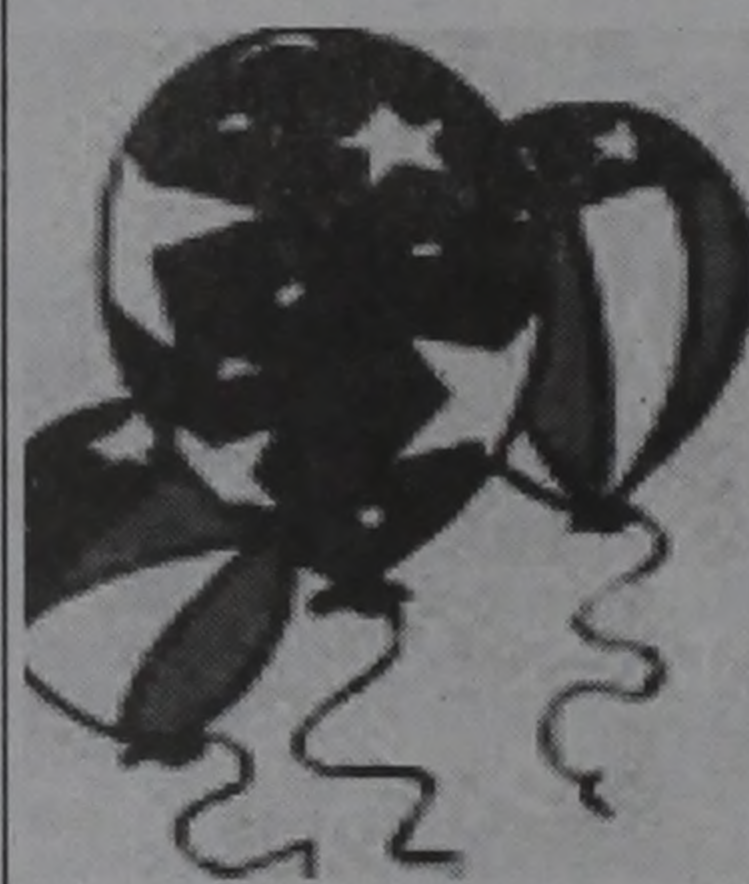
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Bonds not worried about summer agendas

Barry Bonds simply doesn't care: Bud Selig can be wherever he wants when Hank Aaron's home run record falls.

The commissioner still hasn't said whether he plans to be in the ballpark when and if Bonds hits No. 756. Selig's indecision has drawn a lot of criticism. Oddly, he finds himself with an unusual ally in this matter — Bonds.

"Does it matter to me? I think it's just terrible the way it's gone down, that's all," the San Francisco slugger said Monday, a day before the All-Star game.

"That's up to Bud, it's not up to me. I'm going to do my thing anyway. I have to go out and play for my teammates. That's up to Bud. Bud is his own man. And I respect him. Whether Bud shows up or doesn't show up, I'm going to still play baseball that day," he said.

Bonds has 751 homers, four short of matching Aaron. The Hammer has made it clear that he won't attend the milestone and Bonds doesn't blame him.

"No one can determine when that's going to happen, and Hank has a life, too," Bonds said. "You could go weeks. You expect this man to just travel all over this continent for weeks?"

"It's just not fair to him. That's just all it's about. If you can predict what you're going to do and he can get there and like OK, bam, it's going to be this day and this time, that's a different scenario."

"Hank's a great ballplayer. He's the home run king. He will always be the home run king in our hearts. We respect him. We love him. Hank, if you want to stay home, stay home, brother," he said.

The 42-year-old Bonds earned a starting spot for Tuesday night's game in his home ballpark. It was Bonds' 14th All-Star selection and first in three years.

Bonds had a big bash with hip-hop mogul Jay-Z planned for Monday night regardless of whether he'd been picked for the team.

"It's a dream. You dream about going to a World Series," Bonds said. "I had that opportunity and unfortunately we lost. I've seen All-Star games in everyone else's city. To be able to have it in your own city is great. I want a ring and to win, but if it doesn't happen I've had the opportunity to experience it. Then I've had the opportunity to experience this at home."

"I've pretty much had the opportunity to experience almost everything you can actually experience in the game of baseball. And I've also had the opportunity to experience it with one of the greatest baseball players to ever live in Willie Mays, and I had to be with him my entire life. I've lived a dream my whole entire life regardless of what anybody says."

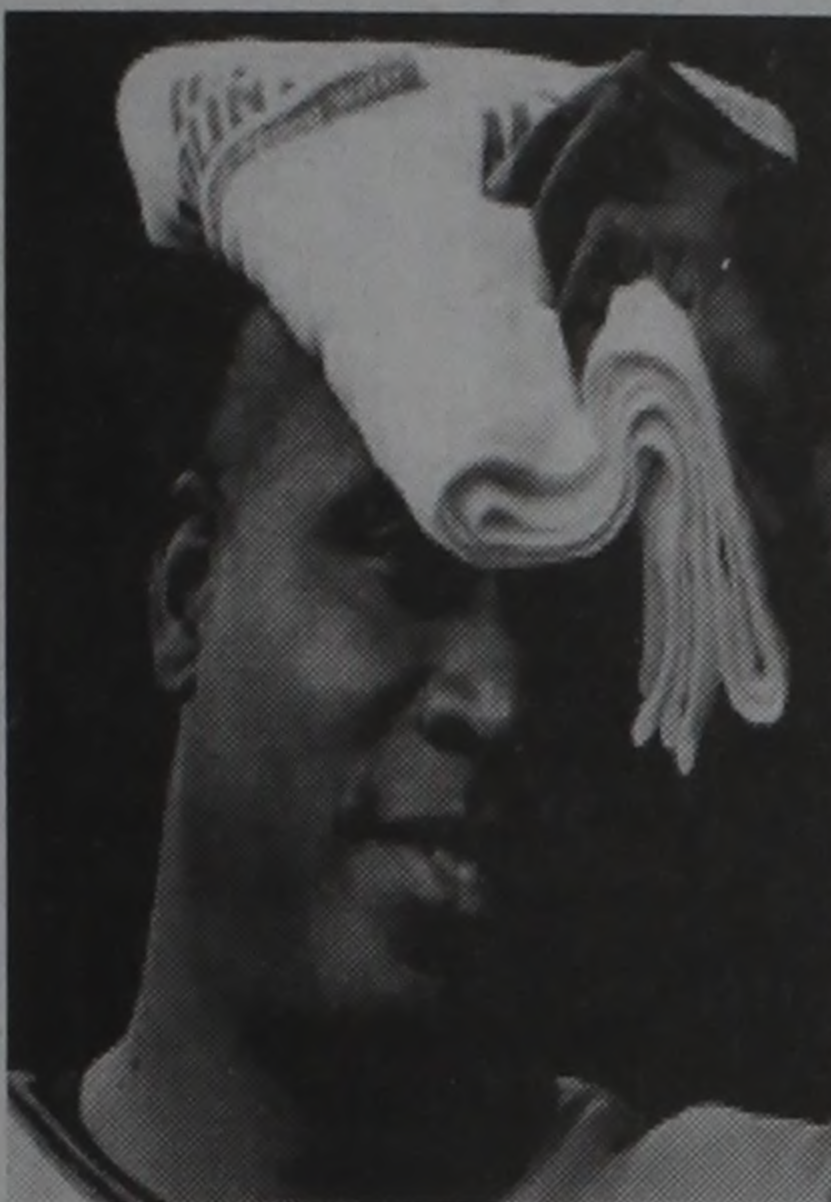
Bonds has been hitting about

one homer a week recently after connecting for 11 homers by early May. He has 17 this year and only six since getting his 745th off the Mets' Tom Glavine on May 8.

NL manager Tony La Russa of the World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals will bat Bonds in the second spot, rather than his usual cleanup slot.

The Giants completed a three-game series in St. Louis on Sunday at Busch Stadium, and La Russa discussed his plan with Bonds there.

"I was really worried about not having a chance to talk to him and he would find out from somebody that he's hitting second. I wanted to tell him myself," La Russa said. "I usually don't talk to the visiting guys too much but I was talking to Bruce (Giants manager Bochy) during BP and I saw Barry and so I had a conversation with him. I let him know, as I



mentioned, you know, damage in that second spot is something that I've always thought made sense."

Bonds was jeered in St. Louis, as he is in opposing ballparks. Fans often hold up signs reading "CHEATER" or "Baroid" or placards showing an asterisk, suggesting Bonds' accomplishments are tainted because of steroids allegations.

"I'm not treated bad on the road," he said. "My thing is that I feel disappointed in some of those fans that were influenced by a third-party judgment and have not (taken) the opportunity just to know me."

"People in San Francisco know me. The fans here know me. Fans outside the city only get to see me three days. To judge me based on a third party, that is what disappoints me ... when actually I've done nothing wrong to you," he said.

Some of Bonds' All-Star colleagues took time Monday to defend him.

"I don't think it's fair," Minnesota outfielder Torii Hunter said. "He hasn't been found guilty of anything. If you find something on him, then I'll be right there with you guys. But you haven't found anything. Hank Aaron should be there. Bud Selig should be there. This is big. They should celebrate it."

Ichiro's magic gives AL home field again

It's surprising that, while he was here, Ichiro Suzuki didn't solve this city's homeless problem, make the Bay Bridge congestion permanently disappear and close the BALCO case, too.

My goodness, you could feel the large exhale all the way from Washington when word broke just before the 78th All-Star Game that Seattle's favorite imported son had all but signed a \$100 million contract extension that will keep him a Mariner through 2012.

Then the guy goes 3-for-3 and leads the American League's latest trampling of the National League, this time 5-4, by belting the first inside-the-park home run in All-Star Game history.

Ichiro always has had a flourish, from his slicing singles to his philosophical wanderings. The AL trailed 1-0 when he stepped up in the fifth, at which point everybody was waiting around to see how the NL would blow it this time. It hasn't won one of these Midseason Jamborees since the game was in Philadelphia during the Constitutional Convention.

OK, it only seems like that long ago. Actually, it was in 1996. And the NL is 0-10-1 since then.

And in a related story, the AL seized home-field World Series advantage for a fifth consecutive October.

"I don't know," Cubs first baseman Derrek Lee said. "I have no idea why. It's fluky. Eleven years."

"They've got a great team over there. They hit the ball out of the ballpark, and they had a little more offense than us tonight."

If something doesn't change soon, commissioner Bud Selig may want to take mercy on the NL and consider awarding the World Series home-field advantage to the winner of the Home Run Derby. Except, oh, the Angels' Vladimir Guerrero won that this year.

So ... how to get the NL home-field advantage in October. Hmm. Winner of the Celebrity Softball Game, anyone?

"There are some things that are unexplained, and you can't put a finger on them," Phillies center fielder Aaron Rowand said.

As far as All-Star Games go, this one fell somewhere between a trip to the recycle center and a rerun of any of the past decade's

worth of games. The only difference was that Giants fans thumbed their noses at the rest of the nation by wildly cheering Barry Bonds*. But, psst, you know ... flowers in their hair and all that.

Seriously, San Francisco mostly put on a memorable show, what with the pregame Willie Mays tribute, a knockout ballpark, terrific weather and lovely hospitality.

A far better show than NL manager Tony La Russa provided.

La Russa used nine pitchers an inning apiece. Granted, he was attempting to ensure that everybody went home healthy. But since the pitchers made the effort to fly all the way here, you'd like to think they could have thrown more than a handful of pitches.

San Diego's Jake Peavy earned the start for a reason, yet he only pitched the first inning. So he became only the fifth starting pitcher in All-Star history to throw one scoreless inning and get the hook.

Thanks for coming, Jake. Fly home safely.

Well, strange and memorable things tend to happen when the All-Star Game comes to San Francisco.

It was here that a gust of wind blew little Stu Miller off of the mound in 1961 at Candlestick Park, causing a crucial balk that played into the AL's two-run ninth to force a 10th inning (the NL won that day 5-4).

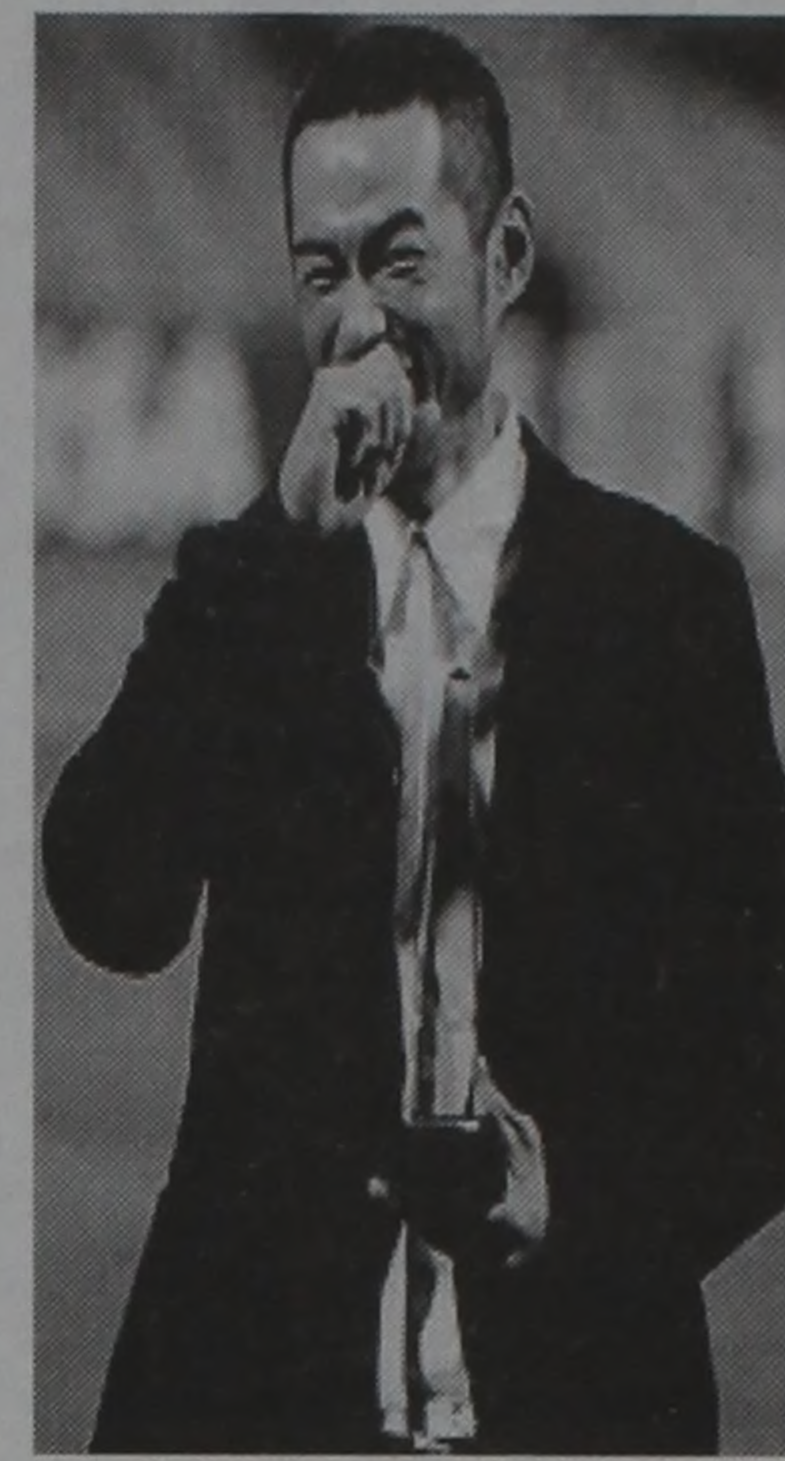
It was here in 1984 that Dwight Gooden (19) became the youngest player to start an All-Star Game, and it was here Tuesday night that Bonds* (42) became the oldest player to start an All-Star Game.

And into San Francisco All-Star lore, you can add Ichiro running like the wind to Miller getting knocked off the mound.

Not only had an inside-the-parker never happened in a Midsummer Classic, Ichiro, as fleet as he is, had never accomplished the feat, either.

But with Brian Roberts on first and one out, Ichiro lased a Chris Young pitch deep into right-center field, and as Ken Griffey Jr. gave chase, the ball smashed into an odd-angled part of the fence. As Griffey was on a dead run from right to center, the ball came off the fence and squirted directly toward the right-field foul

line. That's when the fun began. "I saw that and said, 'Watch this, boys, this is going to be an inside-the-park home run,'" AL



coach Ron Gardenhire said.

What kind of thoughts went through the head of Griffey, who already had scooped up Ivan Rodriguez's single an inning earlier and launched a perfect strike to the plate to nail Alex Rodriguez?

"It's a four-letter word, and 'Oh' is in front of it," Griffey said. "Figure that one out."

Oh ... shoot?

Close enough. Roberts, meanwhile, was churning his little legs as quickly as he could in fear that Ichiro would lap him around the bases.

Ichiro? "It looked like his feet weren't touching the ground," the Cubs' Lee said. "That dude flies. It's fun to watch him run."

"It's like he glides, he's so smooth."

Indeed, everyone was impressed.

"He's an artist with the bat, a wonderful baserunner, outfielder ... the guy is a complete player, and there's no place to go to get him out," La Russa said. "You just try to get him to hit the ball at somebody, so he had a great day."

You might say, as both Ichiro and his financial advisors surely will acknowledge. Eventually.

He played coy about his impending contract extension, and who knows when it will be announced. The Mariners are very sensitive to the agreement coming so close on the heels of Mike Hargrove's resignation as manager, and you can't blame them.

"If they had come to me and said it was me or Ichiro, I would never have left voluntarily," Hargrove told John Hickey of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer on Tuesday evening. "They would have had to fire me, flat-out fire me. But that was never the case."

"I left on my own terms that had nothing to do with (Ichiro's contract)."

Meanwhile, one of the other folks with a vested interest in Seattle's investment was right there in the clubhouse with Ichiro. Minnesota center fielder Torii Hunter is eligible for free agency following this season, he hopes to stay in Minnesota and now has a comparable contract to cite in talks with the Twins.

"It was a good day for him," Hunter said before catching himself and switching into snitch mode, indicating that he was not at liberty to discuss any details. "I'm pretty sure if you sign the deal that he supposedly did, you give me that, I'd be happy, too."

Asked whether he's now committed long-term to Seattle, Ichiro replied, "You'll find out sometime."

Yes, what a night for Ichiro, spreading his magic from Seattle to San Francisco and, through the flat-screens, back to Japan and beyond.

"I thought it was going to go over the fence and, when it didn't, I was really bummed," Ichiro said.

Yeah, he sure looked like it, jetting around those bases like greased lightning. By the time Griffey chased down the ball and fired it back into the infield, Ichiro not only had a stand-up inside-the-park home run, but it put the AL ahead 2-1 — a lead it would not relinquish.

"Jim Leyland was racing back and forth in the dugout screaming, 'Get it done, get it done,'" Hunter said. "I was like, 'Man, the All-Star Game is serious.'"

"I went out and had an at-bat like it was the World Series."

Speaking of which, did I mention that it will open at the home of the AL champion in October?

Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation

GESC is announcing the availability of funds to assist with utility, rent, food, clothing, and household items for the migrant and farm working families. All qualified applicants can come by the office at 1502 Erskine between the hours of 9-12 and 1-4.

In order to start the application process we must have: ID, social security card for everyone in the household, proof of residence (light bill, rental agreement, etc.) and proof of income (paycheck stub, etc.). The application process will not be started unless all items are present.

GESC does not discriminate against people because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, political beliefs, religion or disability.

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Aug 17-19	West Texas Hispanic State Men's/Women's/Mixed (World Qualifier)	USSSA	\$250
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ARE YOU READY FOR SOME SOFTBALL!!

Oct 19-21	West Texas Mixed State and Men's Fall State	USSSA	\$250
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Dates of the Fiestas will be September 14th thru 16th, 2007

Aviso Legal

Si Usted es un Conductor con Licencia o si es Propietario de un Vehículo Automotor

Un Acuerdo Propuesto de Demanda Colectiva Podría Afectar Sus Derechos

Para un Aviso en Español, Llame o Visite Nuestro Website

Hay un Acuerdo Propuesto en una demanda colectiva, *Fresco, y otros. v. Automotive Directions, Inc. y otros*, Caso No. 03-61063-CIV-MARTINEZ, pendiente ante el Tribunal de Distrito de los Estados Unidos para el Distrito Sur de la Florida.

El Acuerdo Propuesto afecta a una "Clase", o grupo, de personas que podría incluirlo a usted. Este aviso es solo un resumen de sus derechos. Para obtener información completa visite www.DPPAsettlement.com ó llame al 1-888-279-4224.

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¿Quién me representa a mí?
El tribunal ha designado a abogados para representar a la Clase. Los abogados de la Clase le pedirán al Tribunal que otorgue honorarios y gastos legales combinados por un monto de hasta 25 millones de dólares. Si lo desea, usted puede contratar a su propio abogado. Sin embargo, usted será responsable por los honorarios y gastos legales de su abogado.

¿Cuáles son mis derechos legales?
Si el Tribunal aprueba el Acuerdo Propuesto, usted estará obligado por las decisiones del Tribunal. Usted no podrá demandar a los Demandados Partes del Acuerdo por los reclamos hechos en esta demanda, incluyendo reclamos por indemnización de daños y perjuicios establecida por la ley. Sin embargo, podrá presentar una demanda individual por daños y perjuicios pecuniarios reales. Para mayor información acerca de los derechos a los que renuncia, sírvase leer el *Aviso de Acuerdo Propuesto de Demanda Colectiva*.

Usted puede decirle al Tribunal si no le gusta el Acuerdo Propuesto. Para objetar o comentar, debe enviar una carta matasellada a más tardar el 25 de septiembre de 2007, tal y como se detalla en el *Aviso de Acuerdo Propuesto de Demanda Colectiva*.

¿Aprobará el Tribunal el Acuerdo Propuesto?
El Tribunal celebrará una Audiencia de Aprobación Definitiva el 24 de octubre de 2007, a las 10:00 a.m., para decidir si el Acuerdo Propuesto es justo, razonable y adecuado y para considerar la moción por honorarios y gastos de abogados. Si se han recibido comentarios u objeciones, el Tribunal los considerará en esa oportunidad.

¿Qué brinda el Acuerdo Propuesto?
El beneficio brindado es de desagravio por mandato judicial.

Para información completa sobre el Acuerdo Propuesto, y para obtener una copia del *Aviso de Acuerdo Propuesto de Demanda Colectiva*,
Llame al: 1-888-279-4224, Visite: www.DPPAsettlement.com,
O escriba a: DPPA Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 296, Minneapolis, MN 55440-0296.

Music's the messenger at Live Earth

In a global series of concerts featuring aboriginal dancing, imitation chimpanzee cries and a lot of reunited rock bands, musicians and celebrities called for fans to take action against global warming.

A 24-hour music extravaganza stretching from Sydney, Australia, to New Jersey wrapped up Saturday at Giants Stadium with a performance by the newly reunited The Police after a series of concerts spanning seven continents and showcasing more than 100 musical acts.

The concerts, with shows in London, Sydney, Tokyo, Kyoto, Shanghai, Hamburg, Johannesburg, Rio de Janeiro, were designed to raise awareness about global warming. Organizers described it as the biggest musical event ever staged, even larger than Live 8 or Live Aid.

The events were inspired and backed by Al Gore, who has made educating the world about global warming his main priority since leaving politics after his losing presidential run. Gore appeared at a number of the events, in one form or another.

In Sydney, he talked to the crowd by video. In Tokyo he appeared in a hologram. And in New Jersey, the former vice president took the stage in person.

Gore called on fans to adhere to a seven-point pledge to tackle global warming including demanding more renewable energy and helping to preserve forests.

"Put all of this energy in your heart and help us solve the

climate crisis," said the former vice president, appearing on stage at the end of the New Jersey concert with his wife Tipper.

The theme at many of the concerts seemed to be that fighting global warming was not about sacrifice as much as it was about making little changes such as buying low-energy light bulbs or unplugging electrical outlets when they are not in use.

The musical acts were interspersed with speakers such as actress Cameron Diaz who said the concert was not about "gloom and doom" and primatologist Jane Goodall who greeted the crowd with an imitation chimpanzee cry.

Many at the New Jersey show seemed to focus mostly on the music.

The Police were joined by Kanye West and John Mayer for a rendition of "Message in a Bottle" to wrap up the concert. Except for a few words interspersed into an improvised rap section of the song, they stayed away from making any messages.

Hometown rockers Bon Jovi were introduced by Gore who said they were one of the first acts to volunteer when the concerts were announced. The closest that frontman Jon Bon Jovi got to making a statement was calling on fans to "Let them know what New Jersey is all about." The Giants Stadium show had been billed by concert organizers as a New York event even though it took place in New Jersey.

Rocker Melissa Etheridge pounded out her song "I Need to

Wake Up," which was featured in Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" and won an Oscar for best song earlier this year.

At the London show, the stadium's nonessential lights were turned off before the closing act, Madonna, came on stage, leaving the concert dark except for the glow of exit lights and the flashes of cameras.

"Let's hope the concerts that are happening around the world are not just about entertainment, but about starting a revolution," said Madonna, who sang a song she wrote for Live Earth called "Hey You."

The Beastie Boys wore their feelings on their sleeves, performing a furious set of their hits in tailored green suits and shades when they took the stage at Wembley Stadium.

Besides The Police, the concerts also featured a reunited Genesis and the Smashing

Pumpkins.

The concerts were billed as environmentally friendly with recycling containers dispersed around the stadium, generators running on biofuels and a stage made of recycled tires.

rock stars when it came to the environment, but said it was important to start a discussion about climate change.

"If you want to peg me as not being entirely eco-friendly, you'll win," said John Mayer,

wasn't perfect.

"I'm flawed. Cows fart and so do I," he said, referring to methane gas released by cows that also contributes to global warming.

At other venues around the globe, aboriginal dancers opened the first concert in Sydney, Latin artist Shakira shook her hips in front of a crowd at Hamburg, and Linkin Park entertained fans at a Tokyo concert.

On Rio's Copacabana Beach, about 400,000 people gathered as the sun set to hear Lenny Kravitz, Macy Gray, Pharell Williams and Brazilian superstar Jorge Ben Jor. And in Johannesburg, the concert ended with the artists and audience clapping out SOS in morse code, a reference

to the evening's theme of answering the call to save the planet.

At the New Jersey concert, the crowd was dotted with people who heeded the call to wear green. Many said they were already taking steps at home to lead a little more green lifestyle, and felt the concert wasn't just about music.

"It's cool that whole continents are meeting up. We're all tied to one another," said Katie Juron, 24, of Warwick, N.Y. "Everyone is interconnected."



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Celia ya tiene a su 'otro yo'

La cantante y actriz cubana Xiomara Laugart, ex vocalista del grupo Yerba Buena, fue la elegida para interpretar a la desaparecida Celia Cruz en el musical que sobre su vida subirá a escena el próximo septiembre en Nueva York.



También se confirmó que el coreógrafo y actor puertorriqueño Modesto Lacén será Pedro Knight, el inseparable "cabecita de algodón", como le llamaba cariñosamente Celia Cruz, con quien estuvo casada durante 41 años.

Luego de expectativas en los medios y entre los seguidores de la cantante de quién daría vida a la desaparecida "Reina de la Salsa", en el musical off-Broadway Celia: la vida y música de Celia Cruz, la agencia de relaciones públicas Creative Link informó sobre la elección de Laugart y Lacén.

Laugart, con amplio bagaje como cantante e incursiones en la actuación, ha representado a su país durante años en diferentes escenarios alrededor del mundo junto a los más renombrados talentos y como solista.

Considerada como una leyenda viviente en su Cuba natal, donde ha grabado más de 15 producciones musicales, fue durante varios años la vocalista principal del grupo neoyorquino Yerba Buena, que se distingue por la mezcla de ritmos a los cuales ella impartió su herencia africana y caribeña.

Xiomara es la fusión rítmica y folklórica de la vieja Cuba con la proyección y claridad de voz, las que e-ventualmente se unen a su profunda sonrisa; esta mezcla tan distintiva de elementos llevó al director y productores del musical a elegirla para el proyecto, indica

el comunicado.

Actores y cantantes de América Latina, Puerto Rico y EU se presentaron a las audiciones para el importante papel sobre la vida de una de las leyendas de la música latina, que falleció en julio de 2003, tras una exitosa carrera en la música tropical.

El productor de la obra, David Maldonado, aseguró que Laugart

"cuenta con una impresionante voz que recuerda a una calidad similar a la de Celia".

"Todos los presentes se emocionaron mucho al ella salir de la sala de audiciones. Estamos seguros que Xiomara será capaz de interpretar a Celia con mucha gracia y mucha dignidad", afirmó Maldonado, quien también produjo el musi-

cal off-Broadway Quién mató a Héctor Lavoe que se presentó en el Teatro Rodante Puertorriqueño.

Laugart lanzó recientemente su primer álbum como solista en el que incluyó una colección de viejos y nuevos temas con composiciones originales de Meme Solís, Andrés Levin, Descemer Bueno y arreglos de

Octavio Kotán y Axel Tosca.

Conocida popularmente como "La Negra", Laugart comenzó su carrera de la mano de Pablo Milanes, Silvio Rodríguez y Raúl Torres, entre otros artistas cubanos.

Celia, la vida y música de Celia Cruz se estrenará el 12 de septiembre en Manhattan pero las funciones preestreno se inician el 28 de agosto.

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