

# El Editor

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## As Senate Prepares to Tackle Immigration

# Diverse Groups Renew Call for Reform

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

As the U.S. Senate plans to address immigration reform in the next couple of weeks, a mixed panel of Hispanic, religious, labor, civil rights and business groups gathered at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Jan. 12 to press their case for legislation offering a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants.

The groups included the National Council of La Raza, National Immigration Forum, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, AFL-CIO, Service Employees International Union, American Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Tax Reform and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The White House endorsed an enforcement-only immigration bill by Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisc.) prior to its passage by the House last month. It would stiffen penalties for immigration violations, boost border enforcement, approve the construction of a \$2-billion border wall, but offer no guest-worker program.

Sending a mixed message, President Bush restated at the same time support for a temporary guest-worker program in a town hall style meeting in Louisville.

All groups on the press club panel opposed Sensenbrenner's enforcement-only bill.

"The real question is which faction of the Republican Party is the White House going to side with?" La Raza vice president Cecilia Muñoz told Hispanic Link News Service. "(Bush) is saying they want a more comprehensive immigration reform but they strongly support the Sensenbrenner bill - and you can't have it both ways."

Christina DeConcini, immigration policy director for the National Immigration Forum, says the Senate Judiciary Committee could start mark-up of a comprehensive immigration bill as early as Feb. 2.

"That would be very hopeful in terms of moving something forward," she says. "But it is an election year. There are a lot of other issues, and it's hard to totally be the crystal ball."

A Senate bill will most likely include a guest-worker program on top of its enforcement provisions.

The National Immigration Forum and La Raza maintain they will oppose any proposal that doesn't consider some form of permanent legal residency. A proposal without it "would really create a second-class of workers in the country, and that's unacceptable," Muñoz says.

All groups on the panel except for the AFL-CIO reaffirmed support for the bipartisan Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, by Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and John



McCain (R-Ariz.). Their bill would create avenues for permanent residency for foreign nationals, including undocumented immigrants.

The AFL-CIO supports legalizing undocumented workers already in the country, but claims more discussion is required on the use and benefits of a guest-worker program.

Explains Ana Avedaño, AFL-CIO director for the immigrant workers program, "It's not about creating this whole new society of guests with no rights. If we have a long-term labor shortage, let's fill it with workers with full rights so that all workers have the same ability to bargain."

The other pending Senate proposal, by Republicans John Cornyn (Texas) and Jon Kyl (Ariz.), would temporarily legalize undocumented workers and create a guest-worker program, but it does not include avenues for permanent legalization.

Sensenbrenner's bill has received support of

pro-border control groups such as the Federation for American Immigration Reform, whose president, Dan Stein, claims in a statement it "could begin to put some teeth in our immigration law and send the message that the United States will not tolerate rampant immigration lawlessness."

But the panel groups raised concerns on several aspects of it, such as deputizing police to enforce immigration law and approving construction of a border wall.

"The whole approach they're taking is making (undocumented immigrants) lives very, very hard," argues Angelo Amador, immigration policy director for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "If you create a system that works, you wouldn't need to spend all this money on a wall."

(Alex Meneses Miyashita is editor of Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. He may be reached by e-mail at alex@hispaniclink.org.)

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## Grupos Diversos Renuevan el Llamado por la Reforma de La Inmigración

Alex Meneses Miyashita

En lo que el Senado de los Estados Unidos se plantea hacer frente a la reforma del sistema de inmigración en las próximas semanas, una panel diverso de grupos hispanos, religiosos, de trabajo, derechos civiles y comercios se reunieron en el Club Nacional de la Prensa, en Washington, D.C., el 12 de enero para publicitar su caso por aprobar legislación que ofrezca un camino a la legalización para inmigrantes indocumentados.

Los grupos incluyeron el Concilio Nacional de La Raza, National Immigration Forum, Conferencia Estadounidense de Obispos Católicos, AFL-CIO, Service Employees International Union, American Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Tax Reform y la Cámara de Comercio de los Estados Unidos.

La Casa Blanca apoyó un proyecto de ley que enfoca sólo el cumplimiento de la ley del representante James Sensenbrenner (republicano por Wisconsin), antes que la Cámara de Representantes lo aprobara el mes pasado. La ley haría más severas las penalidades por violaciones de inmigración, aumentaría las fuerzas del orden en la frontera, aprobaría la construcción de un muro con un costo de \$2 mil millones, pero no ofrecería ningún programa de trabajador temporal.

Contradiéndose, el presidente Bush volvió a declarar, al mismo tiempo, apoyo por un programa de trabajador temporal en una reunión estilo reunión municipal en Louisville.

Todos los grupos del panel en el Club de la Prensa se oponían al proyecto de ley, con enfoque sólo en las fuerzas del orden para el cumplimiento de la ley de Sensenbrenner.

"La verdadera pregunta es, ¿con qué facción del partido republicano se irá la Casa Blanca?" le expresó vice presidenta de La Raza, Cecilia Muñoz a Hispanic Link News Service.

"Lo que dice (Bush) es que quieren mayores reformas del sistema de inmigración pero que respaldan fuertemente el proyecto de ley de Sensenbrenner - pero es imposible tener ambos programas".

Christina DeConcini, directora de políticas de inmigración para el National Immigration Forum, dice que el comité judicial del Senado podría empezar a considerar un proyecto de ley de inmigración comprensivo para el 2 de febrero.

"Eso nos daría mucha esperanza en términos de hacer progresar algo", dice. "Pero es un año electoral. Habrá muchos más temas que considerar, y cuesta predecir el futuro".

Es probable que un proyecto en el Senado incluya un programa de trabajador temporal además de las provisiones de cumplimiento.

El National Immigration Forum y La Raza mantienen que se opondrán a cualquier propuesta que no considere alguna forma de residencia legal permanente. Una propuesta sin ello "crearía de hecho una segunda clase de trabajadores en el país, y eso no es aceptable", dice Muñoz.

(Sigue a la Pagina 6)

## Lawmaker: Alito's record detrimental to Hispanics

By SAMANTHA LEVINE

WASHINGTON - Hispanics have fared poorly under Judge Samuel Alito's judicial philosophy and likely would continue to do so if he were confirmed to the Supreme Court, U.S. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, testified at the judge's confirmation hearings Friday.

Gonzalez, a former district judge who chairs the Congressional Hispanic Caucus's Hispanic Judiciary Initiative and its Civil Rights Task Force, said Alito has an alarming record on issues of import to Hispanics, including constitutional protections for illegal immigrants, civil rights and employment discrimination.

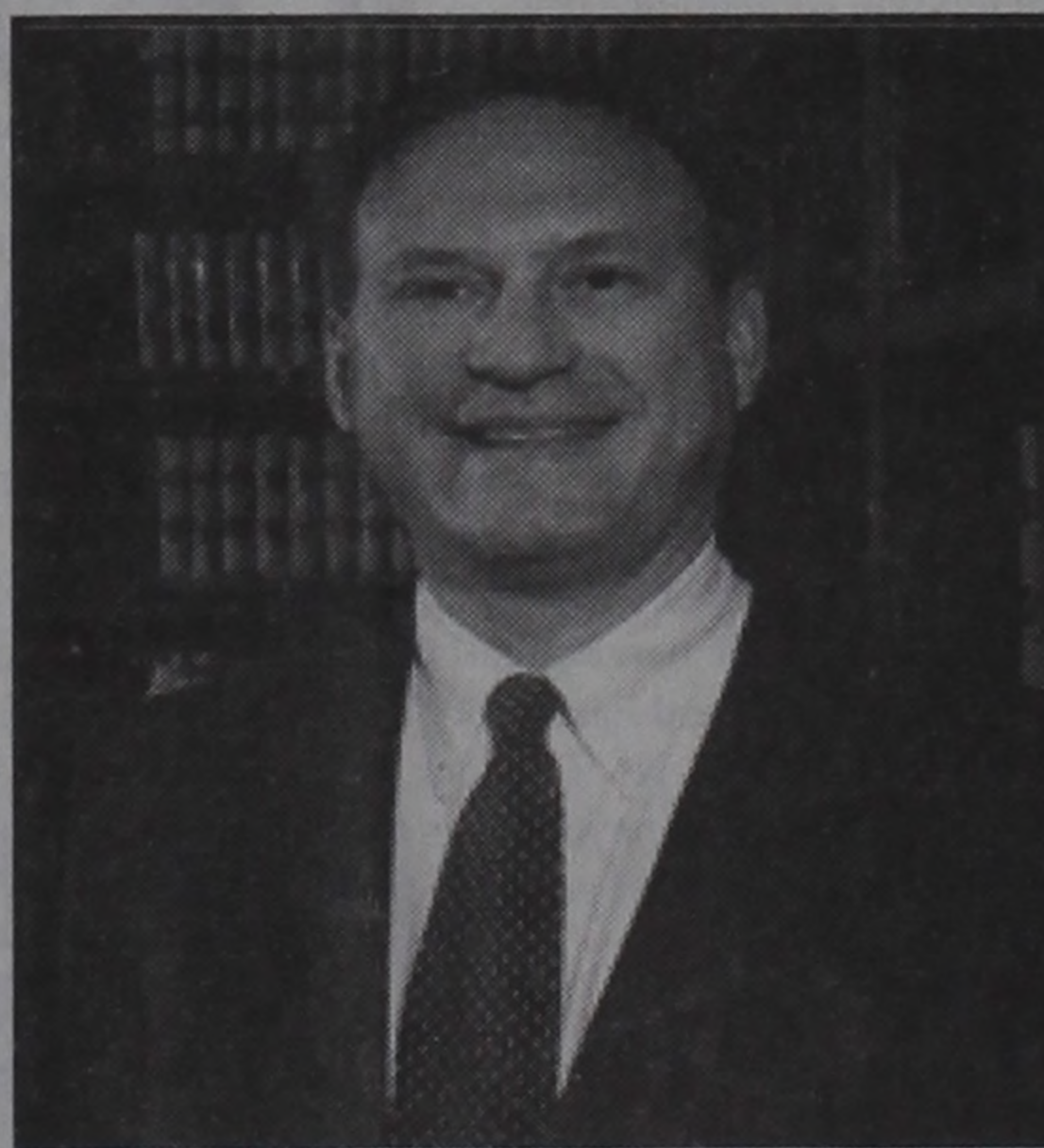
Alito's judicial philosophy "reflects an approach that can conveniently ignore precedent and favors strained readings of the law to the detriment of individual rights," Gonzalez said.

He added that the Hispanic caucus has found it hard to comprehend how President Bush "could not identify a single qualified Hispanic judge to be nominated to the Supreme Court."

Gonzalez noted Alito's legal writings. In a 1986 memo to FBI Director William Webster, Alito, then an attorney in the Reagan administration, wrote that U.S. case law suggests that "undocumented immigrants have no claim to nondiscrimination with respect to nonfundamental Constitutional rights."

Rep. Gonzalez said such an opinion contrasts with an earlier ruling from a Texas case that upheld immigrants' rights to education as a nonfundamental right.

Alito's "restrictive and aggressive legal analysis raises concerns regard-



ing the extent to which he might, as a Supreme Court justice, permit the government to mistreat both nonresident aliens outside of the United States and undocumented immigrants within the United States," he said.

Alito is supported by some Republican Hispanics in Texas, however.

"If he is the president's choice, then I will support the president," said Reggie Gonzalez, who chairs the Texas chapter of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly.

Also on Thursday at the hearings, Peter Kirsanow, of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, called Alito's record "exemplary" and said his opponents have mischaracterized the judge's past decisions and writings.

## Community Voices

With the local political scene about to shift into campaign mode, "Community Voices" posed a question to our readers about the upcoming city council District 1 election; but first some brief history.

As a rule, Council members are elected to 4 year terms. But in 2004, then Councilman Victor Hernandez surprised District 1 residents by resigning his council seat; two years before his term expired. Consequently, Councilwoman Linda DeLeon was elected in a special 2004 election held to fill the remaining two years of that term.

Last week, El Editor confirmed that Hernandez is seriously considering running for the seat he once held. Presently, Ms. DeLeon has not announced her candidacy for reelection, but all indications are that she will run for a full 4 year term.

Here's what readers had to say about a possible Hernandez run for city council and in response to the question: what do Hispanics have to do in order to advance in the area of politics?

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I do not think Victor should run against Linda DeLeon but if Linda decides to run for State Representative then, Victor should run for the City Council. Hispanics need to organize. One way to get trained in "community organizing" is through training through the Industrial Area Foundation (IAF) out of San Antonio. Perhaps, our Hispanic politicians need to get this training together soon by putting on a fundraiser to bring in IAF and then... urge the local media to publicize it!

Patricia Romo, Lubbock Via-Email

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Victor Hernandez should not run against Linda DeLeon.

As councilman, Victor was consistently right on all the controversial topics he brought up. He was a valuable asset to Lubbock as a whole, and his district in particular.

In fact, Victor brought up things in Lubbock politics that had never been discussed before, such as the racist nature of the city manager search, and the racism inherent in the basketball coach fiasco.

Linda DeLeon stood in the doorway of our schools and said to the rich and powerful: "you will not take away our schools, and if you do, I will meet you in court, and I will win." And win she did.

Thus Victor and Linda are the two best advocates we have had. Each one had a different way of going about it.

But for them to run against each other would be a catastrophe. It would send the message to the power brokers: they could only draw the conclusion that the powerless and underdogs in Lubbock can only fight among themselves and that therefore the powerful can continue to get away with murder [pun intended].

C. James, Lubbock Via-Email

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The residents of District 1 need a strong Hispanic councilmember to continue the fight we are in against other council members. The people need someone who has their best interest at heart. I believe that Linda DeLeon has a passion for helping the residents of District 1 win the fight for equality and to have our voices heard as citizens. Mrs. DeLeon has motivated the people to get more involved in issues and fight for what we believe in. We need to continue to show our support for Linda DeLeon as District 1 City Councilwoman and keep our strong Hispanic representation in place. We owe Linda our respect, because she could have abandoned us to run for (State) Representative.

As for Victor Hernandez, he has already represented our district as a city councilman and abandoned the people of his district to unsuccessfully run for another political position. Victor Hernandez is just looking to gain more political recognition and support from the people to later run for a higher political position again. I do not think Victor really cares about the people's interest or the issues we are fighting for as citizens. If Victor really cared he would have stayed on as City Councilman.

We have all seen what has been going on at city council and how Hispanics have been constantly at a disadvantage. The only way we Hispanics are ever going to advance in Politics is if we go out and educate each other on the political process. We need to get out and inform the Hispanic residents on candidates running for political office. Hispanics need to unite against issues that affect us all and form action teams to have our voices heard by government.

Most importantly, we need to go out to the polls and vote on May the 1st.

Modesto R. Rodriguez, Lubbock, Via-Email

(editor's note: In the Jan 12, 2006 edition, Modesto Rodriguez was referred to as Treasurer of LULAC; Mr. Rodriguez is Secretary of LULAC Council 263. El Editor regrets the error.)

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The Hispanic community needs to find new leaders, new faces with new ideas and ways of doing things. Victor did a good job when he was there but we need new blood.

Chevo M, Lubbock, Via-Email

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No, he shouldn't. Unlike Linda, He turned his back on the Hispanic community when we needed him most by resigning on 01-22-04. Linda has done a great job by maintaining her professionalism in the face of adversity and thinly veiled racial hatred from other City Council members to include the Mayor.

I personally witnessed their shameful actions how they ignored Linda DeLeon, Christy Martinez, and others during the city council public meeting. Later that day City Council publicly justified their censorship actions by hiding behind council rules like little boys in a tree house inventing new club rules, amazingly Floyd Price played along with them! Let's hear it for solidarity amongst minorities! The vote was 6-1. The First Amendment is more powerful than their flimsy attempts at censorship. Linda has constantly voted for the Hispanic people and the interests of north Lubbock.

First of all, Hispanics need to stop fighting among themselves. The reality is that the situation will not get better unless Hispanics agree to help each other regardless of social status, financial situation, or political affiliation. Hispanics need to run for office in all elections and all districts. Never again should there be political races in Lubbock where a Hispanic candidate is not included.

Also, we should consider a possibility: a Hispanic Mayor.

We have enough Hispanic votes to do it! Hispanics in east Lubbock should also replace Floyd Price with a Hispanic.

Floyd has forgotten who put him in office, not just African Americans but the majority of Hispanics in his district. District 2 is located in eastern Lubbock, with population of 32,800 - 49.2 % Hispanic, 28.5 % African-American, and 21.4% Anglo. If you shame one of us, you shame all of us: Victor Hernandez, City Council Club, Floyd Price, and anyone else who denies our quest for political equality in Lubbock.

Censor this Marc "W." McDougal, Tom Martin and Gary Boren. Bask in my First Amendment Rights! OK Floyd, you can start listing your excuses now the news camera is off.

Signed: "The Giant Side of Texas: The Hispanic Voting Majority"

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As for the question as a "whole", it is my 1st amendment opinion, that: "Due to the thousand and/or hundreds of thousands of dollars spent, for local elections, many qualified Hispanic American fear that without the "BIG" money backers, (this I have witnessed, has come out strong against a (Continued on page 2)



# CARTAS Dear Editor



## A Warning to Practice what we Preach

Re: Community Voices, January 12, 2006 Edition  
Recently, Cowboy Fred Ortiz came under attack for a letter he wrote to another publication. Unfortunately, as a result of what he believes in, his work and dedication to youth was scrutinized, which is unfair. Mr. Ortiz cares for these youth and does not dictate what they believe, but rather advocates for them to go to college and nurture their belief in themselves.

Many figures in history including Jesus, Gandhi, Cesar E. Chavez, and Martin Luther King Jr. were often attacked for what they believed in. Nevertheless they advocated for issues and for the rights of others. While I am not comparing Mr. Ortiz to the aforementioned, this man is entitled like those attacking him, to write and say what he believes.

And while some times we agree and sometimes we don't, we should be entitled to say or write what we want. The true battle that we face as a community is not having dialogue and dismissing the thoughts of others.

A warning to practice what we preach. If we're for free speech, make sure we are not preventing it.

In the famous words of French author, and humanist, Voltaire: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Respectfully,  
Christy Martinez-Garcia, Lubbock, Via-Email

## Hunker Down, Take Cover, and Breathe Slowly

Perusing ElEditor.com I came across (the) column (*Looking Back Provides Hope for Future, Jan 5, 2006*) about learning from the major events of 2005 and how your readers responded to those events in relation to the community and the New Year.

Well, it got me thinking about how I perceive my role in my new community. Citizens of all communities I think act or react to local issues in large measure by how they perceive and accept the leadership in the larger government entities.

If the main players in a democratic government gradually (almost stealthily) become irresponsible, self-centered and dishonest then the community oriented individual eventually may gravitate towards skepticism, i.e., (to revise your metaphor) the glass may start to run out of fluid and eventually become empty.

I'm thinking of a President who lies to the people under the guise of security, "leaders" in Congress who concentrate exclusively on the acquisition of more power for themselves, Supreme Court justices who hide behind antiquated notions of "original intent" and even appointed independent commissioners who pursue their own political agendas instead of objectively regulating the public's business. In such an atmosphere of deceit, any reservoir of optimism in a local community may start to dissipate. Individuals may seek directions geared towards self-preservation.

Notwithstanding Tip O'Neil's dictum that all politics are local, the Federal Government sets the tone. It seems axiomatic that expending energy and human lives willy-nilly on foreign wars and external "nation building" actually detracts from our real security.

(Maybe the President's actual purpose in Iraq was to try out his new war toys before a real, direct threat to our nation actually materializes.) It also seems (by definition really) that a representative in Congress should represent the people first.

Secondary goals, such as the acquisition of power, could accrue together with good works — what a novel idea! And what about the Supreme Court justice; does he or she live in an abstract world, or, a real, tangible one: one that is called The United States of America perhaps? One that has sounds and smells and, well, people. One in which the people may expect that their private property should not be subject to public acquisition after covetous, politically connected developers start to salivate (refer to SC decision *Kilo v. City of New London*).

Almost forgot about the independent commissioner. Well, can the head of the FDA release pills into the public domain when studies indicate that there is doubt about their safety?

Not to knock your "hope for the future" sentiments, but I'm more inclined to hunker down, take cover and breathe slowly — the big folks are using up more and more oxygen.

Whoops! Sorry, didn't mean to get into global warming.  
Garney Cope, Alexandria, VA., Via-Email  
(Editor's Note: The letter writer retired from *The Washington Post* in 2004 and presently resides outside Washington, DC in Alexandria, Va. He plans a move to sunny Tampa Bay, FLA. in the very near future)

## A Higher Low for Hernandez

Last week Victor Hernandez announced via a local TV news station that he is "THINKING" about running for his old seat on Lubbock City Council. As I reflect on his 10 years on the council, I can think of a dozen reasons why Mr. Hernandez should run for office.

Mr. Hernandez hasn't been sued since September 1998 by a bank or since November 2002 by Fiestas del Llano. He has not had to resign as Executive Director of any nonprofit organization since December 2001.

Since he has been out of office, Mr. Hernandez has not resigned an elected office 2 years before his term is up. If elected he would have a new 4 year term and a new opportunity to resign again. But this poses a dilemma, how will he be able to resign as Mayor Pro-Tem again?

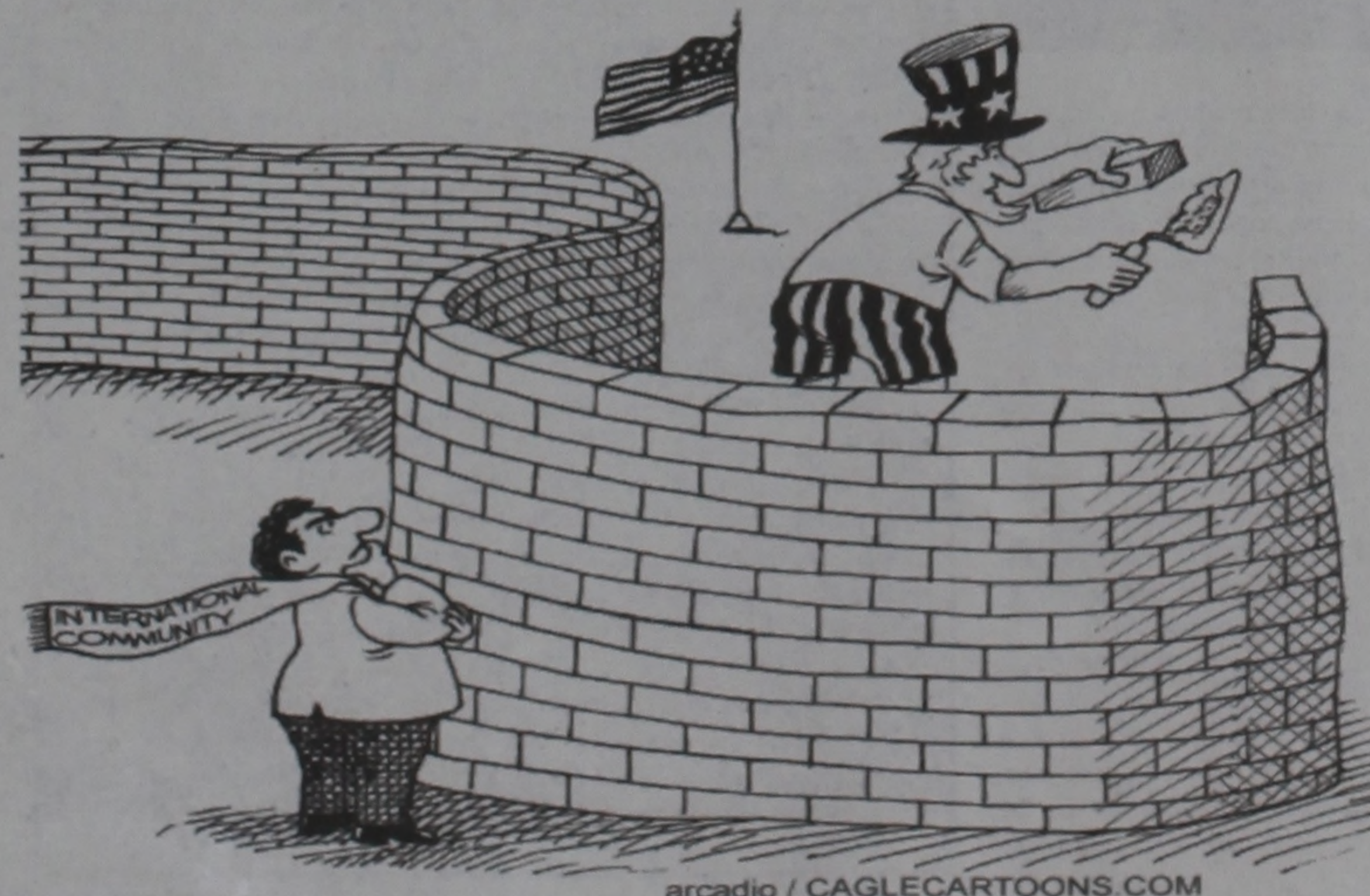
However there are certain disadvantages to returning to the old place on the council.

Victor will forfeit the opportunity to be rejected by the school board should a position become vacant. And he will have to leave his very successful law practice to attend City Council meetings. But the biggest problem for Mr. Hernandez is that most Hispanics feel Tom Martin has been disrespectful of our community which puts him at odds with our own people. Mr. Hernandez told me that he likes Tom Martin. He thinks Tom Martin is a nice guy and that he supports Tom Martin. It seems Mr. Hernandez will enjoy the added benefit of (a) fresh tongue lashing from Mr. Martin as he "Race Baits" new issues and reminds us that God alone knows a man's heart.

Finally, Mr. Hernandez lost the last election by 65%. I think he should have the opportunity to get a higher low. You Go Guy!!!!

Ysidro Gutierrez  
Lubbock County Commissioner, Pct 3

Ps. My compliments to El Editor on your new feature column, "Community Voices". CV appears to be very popular and is gaining new readers each week.



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## VICTOR HERNANEZ v. LINDA DeLEON

by Roger Quannah Settler "El Indio"  
I was delighted to see this topic in El Editor this week...I had been planning to write on this subject for months...or rather, the Linda DeLeon question. On Primary Filing Day, I saw Victor and he told me of his plans...and right away, I realized that his long tenure on the City Council, and Linda's even longer tenure on the School Board, would make this potential contest a historic one.

I must preface my remarks by saying that minority representation in Lubbock must be measured against the high standard of Ysidro Gutierrez. Only Eliseo Solis has reached that high plane...a minority representative who is a man of the people, a political leader who is also a community activist.

When the community needs a voice, Ysidro is always there...be it a news conference, in El Editor, or out on the streets...Eliseo was there for us like that.

After a lifetime of fighting for Civil Rights and La Causa with Bidal Agüero and Nephtali DeLeon and Eliseo Solis and many others, I realize that our City Councilmen and County Commissioners and State Representatives need to be larger than life...otherwise, their voice is lost amid the noise of the oppressive majority...and in Lubbock, that oppressive majority is VERY loud.

For the rich and affluent folks of Southwest Lubbock, our neighborhoods are out of sight and out of mind...benign neglect at best, overt racism at worst. We have seen the face of that racism too often for our liking...Frank Morrison chiding our neighborhood folks in Council chambers, Tom Martin talking down to Linda DeLeon, and Marc McDougal shutting down dissent with his gag rule.

Thus our spokesmen must be strong AND loud...and never give up the fight. Ysidro and Eliseo are the exceptions...from Froy Salinas to Maggie Trejo to Gilbert Flores, the spokesmen for El Barrio often are as silent as stones, ignoring the neighborhoods which they often don't even live in. Our Black representatives, one and all, have always been quiet, for whatever reason. If Maggie Trejo had helped Eliseo fight the "Marsha Sharp Freeway", we might have been able to stop it.

If Froy Salinas and Ron Givens had been more effective, we might still have a "minority" State Representative District. If Gilbert had fought harder, salaries and fees might be more equitable in Lubbock County.

But there are three times as many Chicanos and Indios in the Barrio, and our ability to speak out should be greater. In the beginning of their terms, Victor and Linda were quite different...Victor started off quiet, and Linda was a lion, fighting for Carroll Thompson with vigor and passion.

But things change, as they must...after awhile, Victor found his voice...and in the end, he spoke out forcefully and eloquently against Eminent Domain, and assisted in Code cases against the McDougal Companies. Linda, who had been so fiery, suddenly fell quiet...her voice was silent as schools in minority neighborhoods were closed, Chicano concerns about curriculum and testing were ignored, Overton North was torn down and hundreds of Chicano families displaced, and Eminent Domain was used and abused to force families to sell.

One must ask, "Why?" What happened during these terms to energize Victor, and cause Linda to fall so silent?

And now, her Council term is checked at best: 1) she still refuses to speak out about Overton North; 2) when dozens of Chicanos went to Council Chambers to protest the shifting of Bond monies which most of us had voted for to a handicapped park in...you guessed it...Southwest Lubbock, Linda spoke out...but then voted for the park; 3) when WalMart came before the Council, Linda voted for WalMart, knowing that many small businesses might die as a result; 4) Linda has never voted against the McDougals on any code issue; 5) Linda and Floyd Price spearheaded the Code inspectors being placed with the police department; 6) Linda has fought for more police, while the community has asked for neighborhood policing; 7) Linda proposed a new Guadalupe Center, but then failed to speak out against the "secondhand" Center Council decided to "give" us, other than to say that the Catholic Family Service building had rats; 8) Linda met with McDougal, Martin, Boren and other City officials about the closing of Guadalupe Elementary...El Editor reported that a "consensus" was reached to close the school, and once again Linda did not call a press conference to speak out against such a closing; 9) Linda placed her cement plant right by the Guadalupe neighborhood over the objections of the residents; 10) Linda has not spoken out forcefully for new softball fields in El Barrio; 11) nor has she asked about why the "Gateway" is so small; and 12) she has been silent about the utility bills and taxes that hit our community especially hard.

I could go on and on...but while Linda sometimes talks a good show, her votes are almost always with the other side.

When it comes time to meet with neighborhoods...let me give you and example...Overton South [SORCA] invited Linda to a question and answer session...she came late, passed out flyers, and left early, without giving residents a chance to interact with her. Months later, Gary Boren was invited to do the same thing, and he spent two hours answering questions...quite a difference...and he didn't represent the District, but came anyway.

Our Council member for District One is going to be in for FOUR YEARS...during this upcoming term, O.L. Slaton and Guadalupe are likely to be targeted for closure...the Guadalupe neighborhood itself might be under attack from developers...like the McDougals...so that a "Riverwalk" might be built...and many other vital issues are likely to come before the community. It is imperative that we have a VIGOROUS, STRONG City Council member to speak for our side of town.

I began to worry about Linda as a Councilman when I saw her signs up on the McDougal properties...only Linda and Erik Medina were allowed to have signs up...everyone else was forbidden. I then saw Marc McDougal on the news at the opening of the cement plant, and I definitely worried. The late Senator Ralph Yarborough, one of my heroes, used to say, "A man should leave office no richer than when he came in." Linda was a telephone lineman when she was elected to the School Board twenty years ago...and her husband was a policeman. Now she has a million-dollar cement plant, and her family lives in a big house in O'Neill Terrace with the rich Anglos...does that tell you something?

I have long said that I wish we could clone Ysidro Gutierrez, and have a Councilman like him...but his leadership is rare. I wish that we could have Bidal Agüero on the City Council, but his work here in El Editor is vitally important. Whatever flaws or shortcomings Victor Hernandez may have had in the past, I now believe that he would be much more vigorous than Linda in going before the media, the Council, the Commissioner's Court, and the Legislature. Linda has had two years to prove herself...and her vote almost never matches her words. If the silent Linda of today is our representative for four more years, a lot may happen to our community, and very little of it good.

We cannot sit by and let Southwest Lubbock build all of the new Community Centers, the new softball fields, the new health centers, and then say, North and Central and East Lubbock are declining...the neighborhoods need to be "redeveloped". No, Lubbock, we don't need that...we simply need our fair share of what we pay in taxes and utility fees, and a fair and level playing field for everyone. If we settle for less, we have only ourselves to blame!

### EL EDITOR

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# Living the Dream

By Abel Cruz

Martin Luther King had a dream. That in itself is not that unusual. We all have had dreams; some of us have even suffered through a few nightmares.

But Dr. King's dream was different. What is extraordinary about Dr. King's dream was that he had an ability move a country and a people to action by simply sharing his dream with a people who shared his vision for equality. And most importantly, he had ability to eloquently express himself, and simply made his dream come alive.

Channeling the energy that surrounded him, he led a civil rights movement that eventually changed this country's social fabric and will forever remain as one the most important events in American, if not world, history.

And in return, each year we dedicate a day to remember his contributions to the struggle for equality and civil rights. Unfortunately, it is not enough to relive the dream for only one day.

Which leads me to conclude that for the most part, some dreams have value; but only if we are able to communicate them to others and share the vision that dreams seem to inspire; but only if we live them.

There is no doubt that this country has a way to go before we realize the full meaning of equality, but the dreams that we were left with by Dr. King, by great leaders like Cesar Chavez, have given us all a good starting point: unless we choose to look the other way and ignore the lessons that they taught us.

And sometimes, that's the easy road to take.

It is especially easy if a person no longer suffers the indignities of inequality. Or the humiliation of poverty; or lives with the dehumanization of their entire culture; as happened with the Native American people for example.

It's easy if our bank account tells us that we have finally reached the economic mountaintop. It's easy to do if we are made to feel like we belong when it suits the needs of others. It is easy if we turn our backs on the less fortunate of this world, and deny that we were ever one of them 3 times before the rooster crows twice.

What is hard is to continue the struggle that a dream like Dr. King's inspired; a struggle that is not over. Yes, it may be over for some, but as long as inequities exist among us, it remains our responsibility to bring them to light, to make sure that the dream continues to live.

Continuing to live a dream, may be as simple as speaking out when it matters; even though we may think no one is listening. Or it may be as difficult as taking an unpopular stance and being ridiculed for it. And sometimes, it may even mean losing one's life as Dr. King did; not so many years ago.

The challenge for us today is to realize that the goal that Dr. King and people like Cesar Chavez inspired remains a moving target; similar to the way Lucy snatches the ball away just when Charlie Brown is about to kick it.

If Dr. King's sole objective was to gain civil rights equality, then to a certain degree we could all say that has been achieved and we could all pack our bags and go home. But we cannot, not yet.

For at any moment, when we think that we've arrived, we would do well to remember those that we have left behind.

The capacity to dream and the vision that a dream inspires lives within all of us.

It would be a shame to let that go to waste.

Email: [acruzts@ao.com](mailto:acruzts@ao.com)

## Community Voices

Continued from Front Page

non-Anglo, in a predominately "Anglo precinct" candidate), the Hispanic American will not attempt to run".

The chances of getting on the ballot, (due to lack of signatures), which a candi-date must have in order to file within their precinct, would not have a chance in h. of even getting started. In Lubbock, we have a ways to go.

However, Lubbock continues to evolve and I believe in the power of the Lubbock community as a whole, and thus some changes have taken place. Lubbockites continue to grow, politically and culturally. With this growth, responsible behavior is necessary. I have seen more and more cultural involvement. I have witnessed works of various people of color in many more community activities (outside our own comfort zone), working, playing, developing Lubbock into a healthier "color" participation.

So Lubbockites, we can do it, continue to lead for positive change with dignity. We shouldn't need more laws in this "Christian community", to continue to treat one another with respect, and hold open the door, for one another. All this translates to "political, community involvement," in a city willing to take the lead in many facades of a growth.

Ernestine Omega Cantu, Lubbock, Via-Email

I do not think that Victor should re-enter the race for city council. He has already been there and he needs to move on to other things. Linda needs the Hispanic support more than ever and she is doing the best that she can for our community. The fact is that we have Discrimination and Racism at its best and the Good

Ole Boys aren't used to dealing with someone with the experience and integrity that Linda has. They want her to go away so that they can continue to treat the Hispanic community as if it were not there. They could care less what the Hispanic Community wants and only want to carry on with their own agenda which does not include north Lubbock. The inside word is that the Anglo city council members contacted Victor to run against Linda and agreed to provide him with lots of campaign money to do so. Come ON! Who do you think you are fooling Victor?

The Anglos could decide to throw in another candidate and cause our Hispanic votes to split and there goes our seat that was fought for in a battle for single member districts.

Victor's bid does nothing for the Hispanic community -only his self serving attitude is evident as he has not been at the forefront of any battles since he lost his bid for Municipal Court Judge, by the way that was when he resigned his city council seat.

Our Hispanic community needs to realize that having Victor in there doesn't help us change a thing. We are dealing with issues that are much deeper, that smack of out and out racism and that warrant the Justice Department's eye.

WE NEED to STAND BY LINDA and give her all of our support!!! She has a proven record of true commitment to our Lubbock Hispanic Community. We can't let the Tom Martin's, Jim Gilbreath's, Gary Boren's and Marc McDougal's of the world take our Seat at City Hall buy dividing us. Victor Give it UP and for once do something that is more important to the Hispanic Community than seeing yourself in the Lime light. Don't be a Vendido!

Signed: A Concerned Citizen

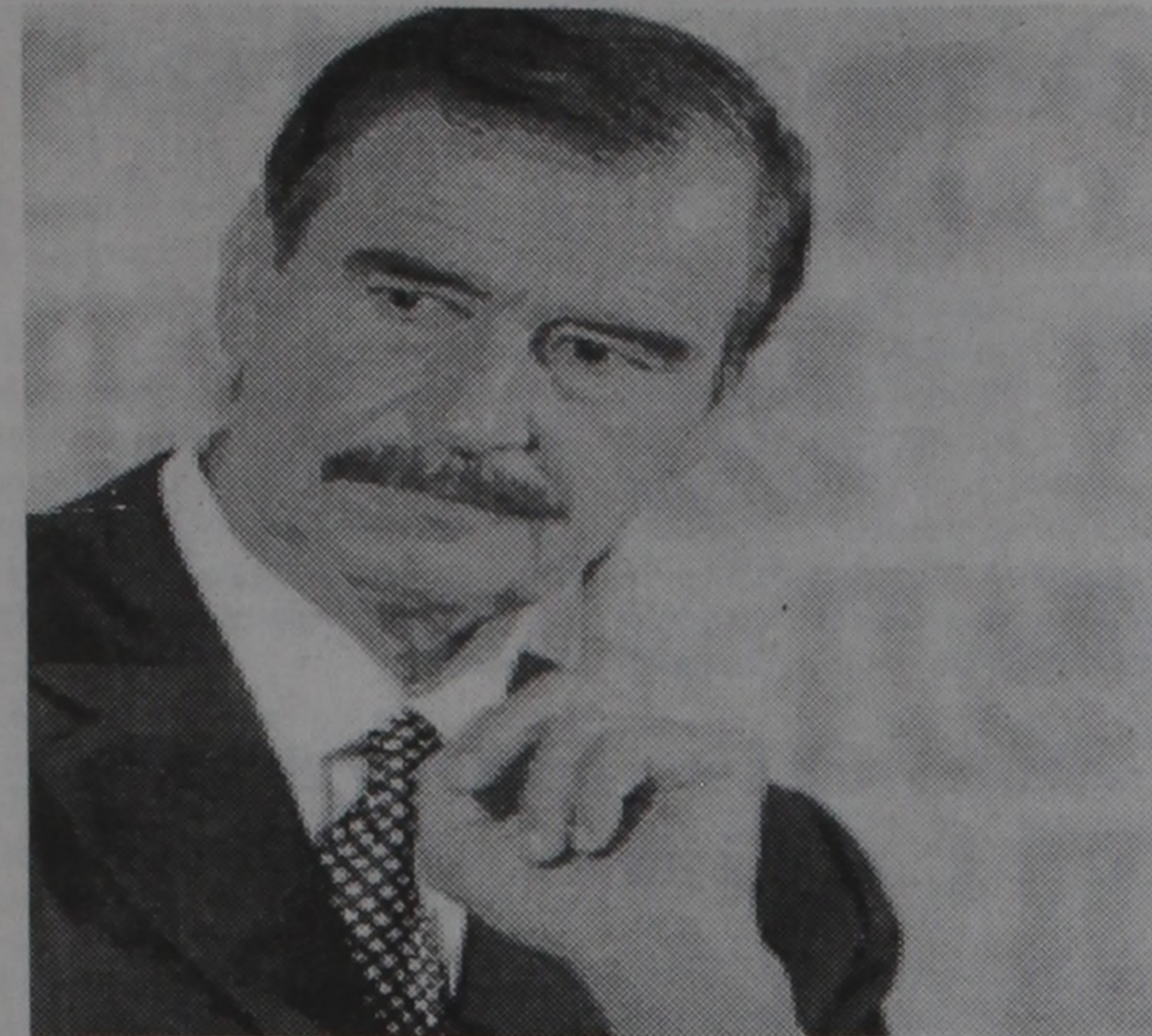
When I first came to Lubbock in 2002, I started watching the news and reading the *Avalanche-Journal*. I noticed that Victor Hernandez was quite active, and spoke out on a number of issues. I didn't hear about Linda DeLeon until she ran for the City Council.

I have been active in SORCA, my neighborhood association. One time, our members were interested in discussing politics with our Council representative, and we invited Linda to our meeting. She didn't stay very long, and the members were upset that they didn't get to ask questions. Overton is on the chopping block, and our residents are concerned. Linda acted like she was afraid to answer any questions. Later, Gary Boren came out and discussed things with us at length, even though he doesn't represent us. I wish that Linda had taken us more seriously.

"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. Your comments may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive or distasteful content. Mail your comments to *Community Voices*, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comments to [acruzts@aol.com](mailto:acruzts@aol.com). All comments in the *Community Voices* section are strictly the opinion of the writer and do not represent the opinions or views of this newspaper or its advertisers. "Community Voices" is offered as a public service by El Editor to provide an alternative forum, to mainstream media, for readers to express their opinions and comments.



# One Year into Second Term, Bush Faces Hard Road



## Critican a Vicente Fox por descartar giro a izquierda

Las declaraciones del presidente Vicente Fox en cuanto a que no prevé que la izquierda llegue al poder en México en las elecciones de julio próximo, provocaron críticas del principal partido izquierdista y cuyo candidato presidencial encabeza las preferencias.

El portavoz del Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD), Gerardo Fernández, calificó de "gravísima" la declaración, porque implica que el Presidente realiza proselitismo en contra del candidato y el ex alcalde capitalino Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

"El presidente Vicente Fox insiste en hacer proselitismo y tratar de descalificar a nuestro candidato... no es que nos pongamos el saco, (pero) el único candidato de izquierda que hay conteniendo con posibilidades para ganar la presidencia de la república se llama Andrés Manuel López Obrador", dijo Fernández la vispera.

Adelantó que debido a las declaraciones, el PRD no firmaría un

## Voices, Hearts and Hands

The Covenant Heart Institute will host the third annual Family Care Symposium, Saturday, Jan. 21, from 8 am to 1 pm, at the Lubbock Civic Center.

The symposium will consist of free health screenings by Covenant staff, exercise and cooking demonstrations, and door prizes provided by Lubbock vendors.

As a special focus on childhood obesity, youth screenings will consist of strength and fitness tests, as well as free immunization shots.

Rachel Riddle, the coordinator for the Women's Cardiac Services, said Dr. Holly Hanson, a pediatrician, will be at the symposium to answer questions and to provide information.

"For people who don't have a doctor or see one regularly, screenings and the education that comes with them is a great way to start out," Riddle said.

For more information contact at 1-866-6WOMENS.

There will be a Las Vegas Night on Sat., Jan. 21 at 6:30 pm at the Knights of Columbus clubhouse located 1/2 mile east of Slide Rd on FM 1585. There will be door prizes, drawings, food and fun. The cost will be \$20 per person, which includes \$1,000. in chips to begin, and additional chips can be purchased as needed throughout the evening.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 747-5264 or 745-4563

Donations/checks made out payable to: COTA for Ashley ReNell R. (COTA=Children's Organ Transplant Asso). Ashley Reese is a 16-year old liver transplant recipient from New Deal High School who needs your help!

All proceeds raised go to Ashley to defray her transplant related expenses. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Olivier Knox  
US President George W. Bush heads into a Congress campaign year with a corruption scandal hounding his Republicans and headaches over Iraq, Iran and North Korea.

Just one year after his second term officially began, national public opinion surveys suggest that opposition Democrats could dent or even erase his party's majorities in this November's elections for the House of Representatives and the Senate.

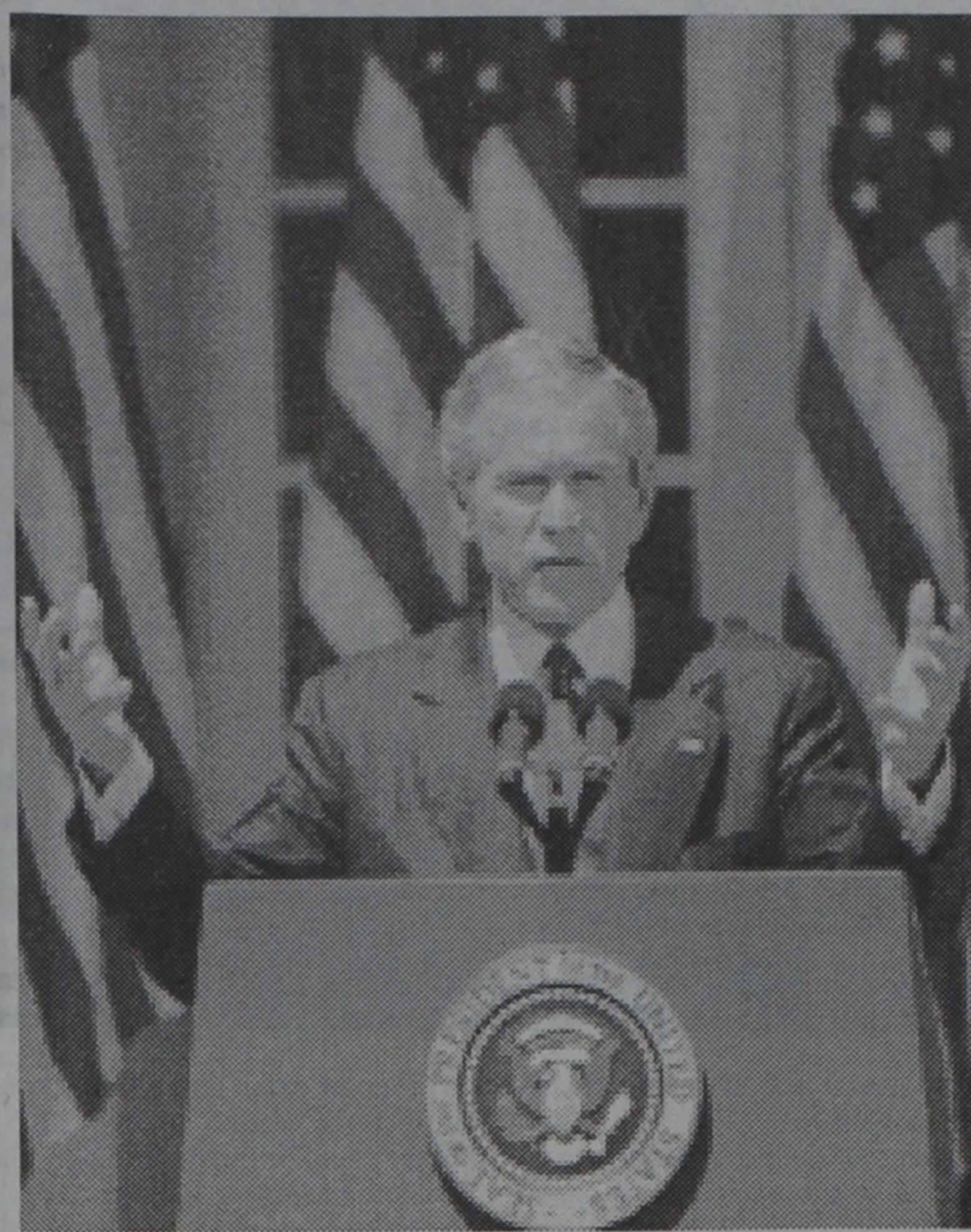
And Bush's poll numbers, up slightly from their worst levels, have stagnated in the low 40 percent range, battered by the poor response to Hurricane Katrina and growing unhappiness over how he has managed the war in Iraq.

The White House has rejected calls for a complete US withdrawal, but predicted a draw-down of US troops over the course of the year as Iraqi security forces improve -- a move critics say is tied to November's vote.

On Iran, which he accuses of seeking nuclear weapons, Bush has backed Europe-led diplomacy and a Russian compromise meant to keep atomic weapons from Tehran while pushing for possible UN sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

The White House, which says military force cannot be taken off the table, has run into resistance from Russia and China but insists that there is total agreement that Iran cannot be allowed to get the bomb.

Bush also faces difficulties with North Korea -- which he famously



lumped with Iran and Saddam Hussein's Iraq in an "axis of evil" -- which has said that the price for resuming six-nation talks aimed at ending its nuclear program is an end to US financial sanctions imposed last year.

Washington has countered that Pyongyang must return without preconditions to the negotiations, which group North and South Korea, Russia, China, Japan, and the

United States.

Bush faces a domestic political landscape that is likewise clouded with obstacles and challenges.

The soaring US deficit threatens his tax overhaul plans; his prescription drug plan for the elderly is off to a rocky start; and his decision to order spying on Americans without court approval has sparked a major controversy.

The Republican chairman of the

Senate Judiciary Committee, Arlen Specter, has promised to hold hearings into Bush's use of the National Security Agency to intercept Americans' electronic mail and telephone calls to overseas.

Democrats -- who last year sank the president's major second-term domestic initiative, partial privatization the Social Security pension program -- have stepped up pressure on Bush over Iraq and attacked what they call the Republican "culture of corruption."

Already, one of Bush's top allies in the House, Representative Tom DeLay, has been forced to give up his post as majority leader in the face of legal charges he broke campaign finance laws in his home state of Texas.

And Democrats have taken heart over the possibility that prominent Republicans could be ensnared in a growing scandal over Republican lobbyist and power-broker Jack Abramoff, the central player in a federal corruption probe.

Abramoff has pleaded guilty and is reportedly cooperating with investigators.

Still, Bush has one major victory within reach: Confirmation of Judge Samuel Alito to a lifetime term on the nine-seat US Supreme Court, the president's second successful bid to fill a vacancy with a conservative.

The first vote on Alito will come January 24 -- and with Republicans solidly behind him, Democrats seem unlikely to prevent his accession to the high court by using a parliamentary delaying tactic known as a filibuster.

# Rechazan a los Minuteman

El comité de relaciones intergubernamentales del Concejo de Los Angeles ayer aprobó unánimemente una resolución donde condena la existencia de grupos vigilantes como el Proyecto Minuteman, e hizo un llamado a una reforma migratoria que legalice a los millones de inmigrantes en este país.

"Al igual que los doctores o policías, debemos dejar que los profesionales hagan su trabajo", dijo el concejal Herb Wesson al apoyar la moción presentada por sus colegas Eric Garetti y Ed Reyes.

Dennis Zine, quien representa al Valle de San Fernando, encabeza un grupo de trabajo que estudia soluciones a la inmigración ilegal como miembro de la Liga Nacional de Ciudades.

"Estos grupos pueden causar problemas no solo para la Patrulla Fronteriza, sino para los inmigrantes que están tratando de cruzar la frontera", dijo Zine, cuyos padres llegaron en barco a Nueva York desde El Líbano.

"Cuando el gobierno no hace bien su trabajo, es cuando hay más probabilidades de que grupos como estos surjan", indicó Zine.

Por esa razón, apoyaron dentro de la misma moción las propuestas de ley AB 930, una iniciativa estatal que haría permanente el Programa del Servicio de Naturalización, que asiste a personas que solicitan la ciudadanía navegar el proceso; y las propuestas federales HR 2330 y S 1033, en la Cámara de Representantes y el Senado, respectivamente, para facilitar la naturalización a través de visas de trabajo.

"Hay tanta injusticia contra personas que quieren lograr el sueño americano", dijo Zine, "y es solo cuestión de tiempo antes de que ocurra una tragedia en la frontera".

"Es un tema muy importante y la comunidad aprecia su apoyo", dijo Rupal Patel, activista con el Centro

Legal de Asia del Pacífico.

Aunque tiene carácter simbólico, la moción deberá ser aprobada por el pleno del Concejo y firmada por el alcalde para ser efectiva, y será incluida en la estrategia de cabildeo del municipio para este año.

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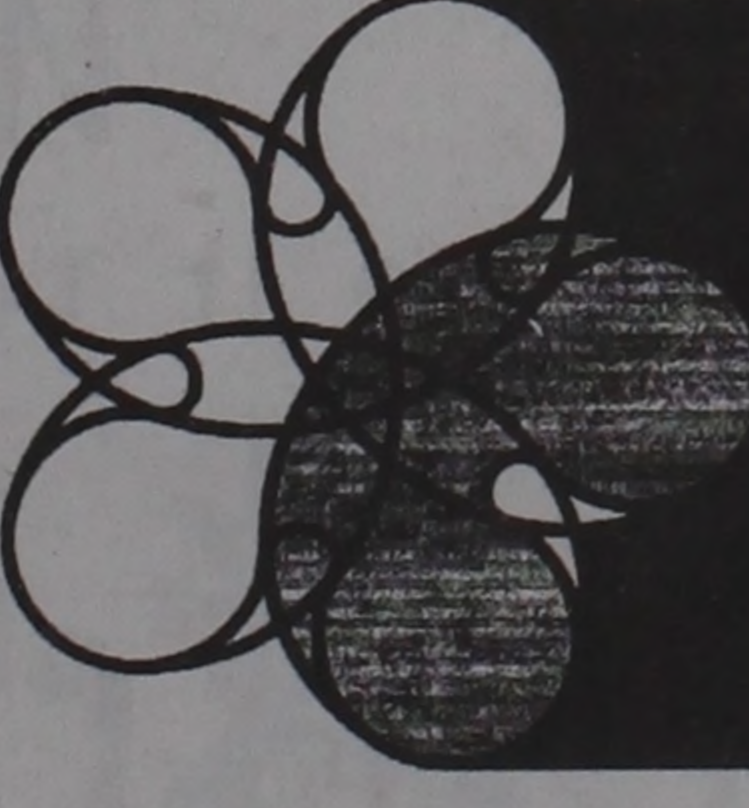
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## Probationary Police Officer

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CLOSING DATE: March 3, 2006  
REPORTS TO: Police Department

The City of Lubbock, TX (population 201,212) will be accepting applications for Probationary Police Officer. All completed applications for this exam must be turned in to the Human Resources Department by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 3, 2006 or at Frenship High School from 7:00 am - 8:00 am on Saturday, March 4, 2006. Applications may be picked up at two locations: the Human Resources Department at 1625-13<sup>th</sup> Street, in Room 104, Monday - Friday. Or, at the front desk of the Lubbock Police Department, 1015 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Monday - Friday after 5:00 PM, and all day weekends. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO MEMORIZE ANY MATERIAL FOR THIS EXAM.** The test consists of **Mathematics, Reading Comprehension and Grammar.** Applicants must be 21 years of age; and not have reached his/her 45<sup>th</sup> birthday at the time of entrance into the Police Academy. The Police Entrance Exam will be given on Saturday, March 4, 2006 at Frenship High School located at 82<sup>nd</sup> and FM 179 in Wolfforth, TX at 8:00 AM. All applicants should plan to arrive at 7:30 AM. For more information please call 775-2311 or 1-800-621-0793. **The City of Lubbock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**



# El 2005 Trajo Musica Al Oido Latino

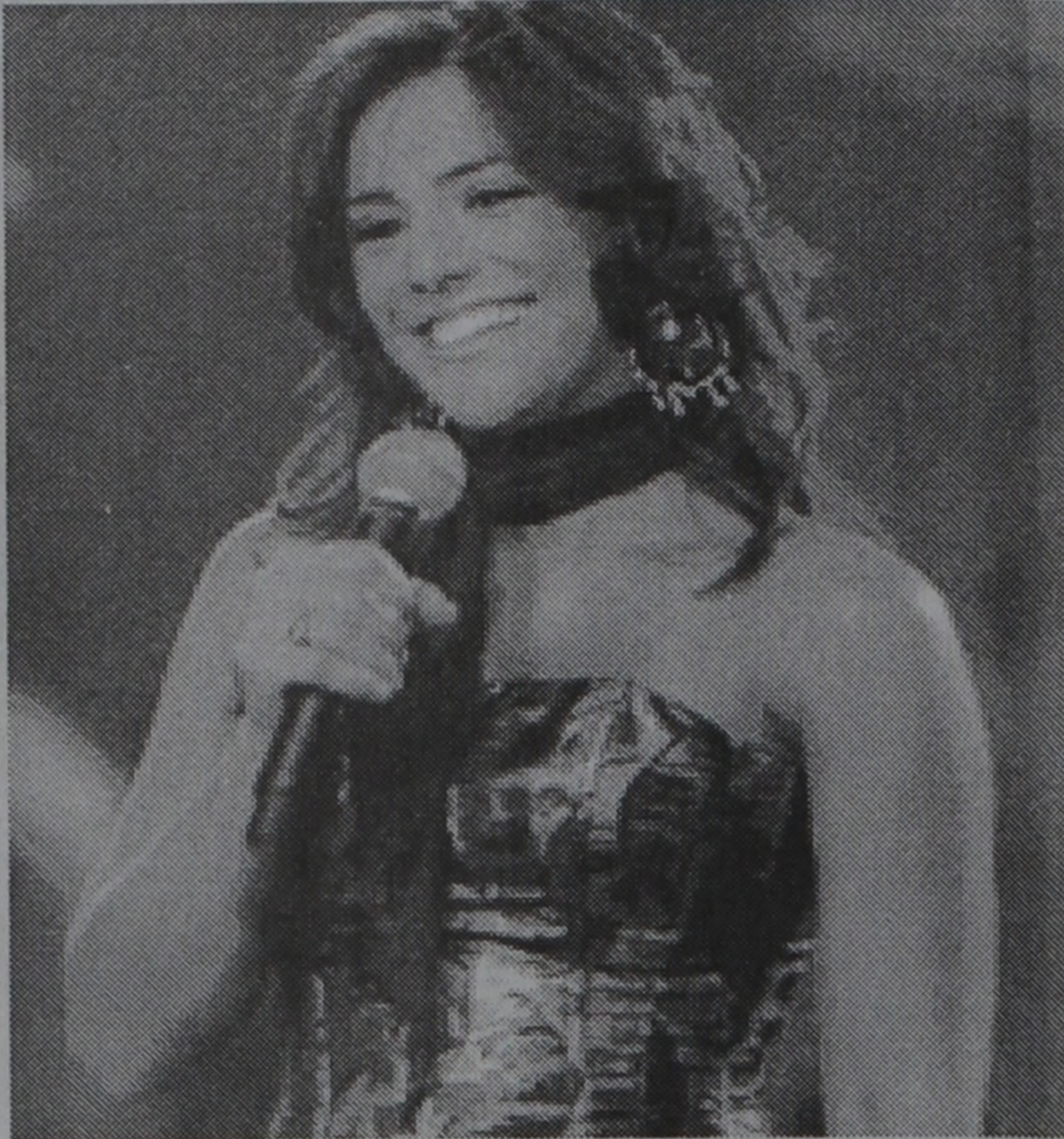
Antonio Mejias Rentas

Para los músicos latinos el 2005 fue un año muy bueno. A continuación algunos de los momentos más destacados:

Un par de cantautores colombianos llegaron a nuevas alturas, el reggaeton solidificó su encanto para los públicos y la muerte de un superestrella tejano se conmemoró en el año que acaba de pasar.

Pocos músicos hicieron tanto ruido en el 2005 como Juanes, el rockero colombiano que salió en la lista de "Las 100 personas de mayor influencia en el mundo", de la revista Time. Se le honró por su lucha contra las minas terrestres en América Latina en cerró el año con dos emisiones internacionales de gran importancia - la lotería para la Copa Mundial 2006 y el concierto en honor al ganador del premio Nobel de la paz. Entre tanto, Juan Esteban Aristizabal continuó de gira en apoyo de Mi sangre, que dio fruto a un tercer hit número uno consecutivo este año. La camisa negra.

Otra rockera colombiana, Shakira, hizo su propio ruido con dos álbumes altamente anticipados. El de Fijación oral Vol. 1, enteramente en español, salió en junio y su seguimiento enteramente en inglés, Oral Fixation Vol. 2 - todas canciones nuevas - salió en noviembre. Shakira logró más emisiones por radio con la canción La tortura, un dúo con el cantante español Alejandro Sanz.



en la que figuró el sonido ubicuo del reggaeton.

Por todo el país varias estaciones de radio enteramente en español cambiaron de formato para acomodar el hip-hop latino y el reggaeton.

El rey sin disputa del género fue el cantante puertorriqueño Daddy Yankee, cuyo álbum del 2004 Barrio Fino llegó a platino y se con-

virtió en el disco compacto latino de mejores ventas en el 2005. Daddy Yankee hizo gira por los Estados Unidos y Latinoamérica, llevándose premios por todo el año y cerró el 2005 con una versión en vivo de su álbum de mejores ventas, Barrio Fino: en directo, y un contrato de varios años con Reebok para lanzar la colección DY de zapatos y ropa deportiva.

Una de las giras más comentadas del año tuvo de estrellas a tres artistas pop latinos muy distintos: el mexicano Alejandro Fernández, el puertorriqueño Chayanne y el nuyorquino Marc Anthony. Juntos los tres se lanzó en San Antonio en agosto y visitó 15 ciudades de los Estados Unidos hasta mediados de septiembre.

El décimo aniversario del asesinato de Selena se conmemoró en el 2005 con la salida de varias copilaciones de disco compacto y DVD y un concierto el 7 de abril en el estadio Reliant, en Houston - que Univisión pasó en vivo - en el que varios artistas importantes cantaron canciones de la difunta estrella tejana.

El vigésimo quinto aniversario de los premios Música Tejana se marcó en marzo con la primera

ceremonia nunca realizada fuera de San Antonio - en Eagle Pass, Texas - en la que ganaron David Lee Garza y Los Musicales los premios principales.

Otro aniversario musical importante lo marcó en el 2005 el pianista, compositor y arreglista nuyorquino, Eddie Palmieri. Su quincuagésimo año en la música se celebró con un concierto el 30 de

abril en Bayamón, Puerto Rico, que lo reunió con varios vocalistas que habían trabajado con él a lo largo de su carrera.

En Houston un concierto de Juan Gabriel en noviembre terminó antes de tiempo cuando el cantautor mexicano se resbaló, cayéndose del escenario y perdiendo la conciencia por un momento, aparentemente. Juanga - como le dicen le-

giones de admiradores - sufrió de una muñeca rota y tuvo cirugía en un hospital en Texas.

(Antonio Mejias Rentas es editor de la sección de entretenimiento del diario en español, La Opinión. Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: [lataino@aol.com](mailto:lataino@aol.com))  
(c) 2006, Hispanic Link News Service

## The Year 2005 Brought Music to Latino Ears

By Antonio Mejias-Rentas  
For Latino musicians, 2005 was a very good year. Here are highlights:

A couple of Colombian singer-songwriters reached new heights, reggaeton solidified its hold on audiences and the passing of a Tejano superstar was commemorated in the year that just ended.

Few musicians made as much noise in 2005 as Juanes, the Colombian rocker who made Time magazine's list of "The 100 Most Influential People in the World." He was honored for his fight against land mines in Latin America and closed out the year with two major international broadcasts - the lottery for the 2006 soccer World Cup and the concert honoring the Nobel Peace Prize winner. In between, Juan Esteban Aristizabal continued touring in support of Mi sangre, which yielded its third straight number one hit this year. La camisa negra.

Fellow Colombian rocker Shakira made noise of her own with two highly anticipated albums. The all-Spanish-language Fijación oral Vol. 1 came out in June and the English-language follow-up, Oral Fixation Vol. 2 - with all new songs - came out in November. Shakira had the most air play with the Spanish-language single La tortura, a duet with Spanish-singer Alejandro Sanz that featured the year's ubiquitous sound of reggaeton.

Around the country, several Spanish-language radio stations changed their formats to accommodate Latin hip-hop and reggaeton.

The genre's undisputed king was Puerto Rican singer Daddy Yankee,

whose 2004 album Barrio fino went platinum and became the top-selling Latin CD in 2005. Daddy Yankee toured the U.S. and Latin America, cleaned up at award shows throughout the year and closed out 2005 with a live version of his top-selling album, Barrio fino: en directo and a multi-year deal with Reebok to launch the DY collection of shoes and sporting apparel.

One of the year's most talked about tours starred three very different Latin pop artists: Mexican Alejandro Fernández, Puerto Rican Chayanne and Nuyorican Marc Anthony. Juntos los tres launched in August in San Antonio and visited 15 U.S. cities through mid September.

The ten-year anniversary of Selena's assassination was marked in 2005 with the release of several CD and DVD sets and an April 7 concert at Houston's Reliant Stadium - broadcast live by Univisión - where several top recording artists performed hits by the late Tejano star.

The 25th anniversary of the Tejano Music Awards was marked in

March with a first-ever ceremony outside of San Antonio - in Eagle Pass, Texas - where David Lee Garza and Los Musicales were top winners.

Another important musical anniversary was marked in 2005 by Nuyorican pianist, composer and arranger Eddie Palmieri. His 50th year in music was celebrated with an April 30 concert in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, that reunited him with several vocalists who worked with him throughout his career.

A November concert in Houston by Juan Gabriel ended early when the Mexican singer-songwriter slipped and fell off the stage and apparently passed out momentarily. Juanga - as he is known by legions of fans - suffered a broken wrist and underwent surgery in a Texas hospital.

(Antonio Mejias-Rentas is entertainment editor of the Los Angeles Spanish-language daily La Opinión. He may be reached by e-mail at [lataino@aol.com](mailto:lataino@aol.com).)

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**Luis Miguel's new single to be released this week**  
Luis Miguel's second single, from his album "Grandes Exitos," will be launched next Wednesday January 18.  
This date also sets the first concert given by Luis Miguel at the National Auditorium in Mexico City. According to the record company Warner Music, the single will start to be in radio stations nationwide that same day.  
The song "Misterios del amor" was released on October 24, 2005 as the first single of Luis Miguel's album "Grandes Exitos," which hit stores on November 22. So far, it has some half-a-million copies sold, and it is in the first place in radio popularity charts.  
In addition to these two new songs ("Misterios del amor" and "Si te perdiera"), "Grandes Exitos" also has pictures and a collection of some of the singer's music videos.  
Luis Miguel will take up again his tour "Mexico en la piel," which began on September 13 in the US.  
The second stage of the tour will start in Mexico City. There are 26 concerts confirmed, which sets a new record of Luis Miguel's presentations at the National Auditorium in Mexico.

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# Steelers like circuitous route to the Super Bowl

There's no way to sugarcoat it: The Pittsburgh Steelers, under coach Bill Cowher, have choked away chances to get to the Super Bowl.

How else can you describe losing four AFC Championship Games in the past 12 years, winning just once?

Denver is undefeated at home, but Cowher's Steelers relish the role of underdog (AP) Under Cowher, the Steelers have lost at home in the title game as the top seed three times, including last year to New England. They've lost as the second seed once, and won as the second seed in 1995, the only Super Bowl year under Cowher.

But this team has a different feel to it. For starters, these Steelers are the underdogs, a role they seem to relish. They're also road warriors, winning two playoff games against higher seeds on the road, setting up Sunday's AFC Championship Game against the Broncos at Denver.

Beware of this group. This is when they're at their best.

The Broncos are 9-0 at home, but in talking to Steelers players after they beat Indianapolis, they're all for it.

The way they see it, the pressure is all on Denver. That's a change that the veterans on this team say is a good thing.

In the past, it's always been on them.

"We've tried that home thing in a championship game before and it didn't work," Steelers linebacker Joey Porter said. "Maybe this is the way to go."

If the Steelers beat the Broncos, they will be the first six seed in history to make it to the Super Bowl.

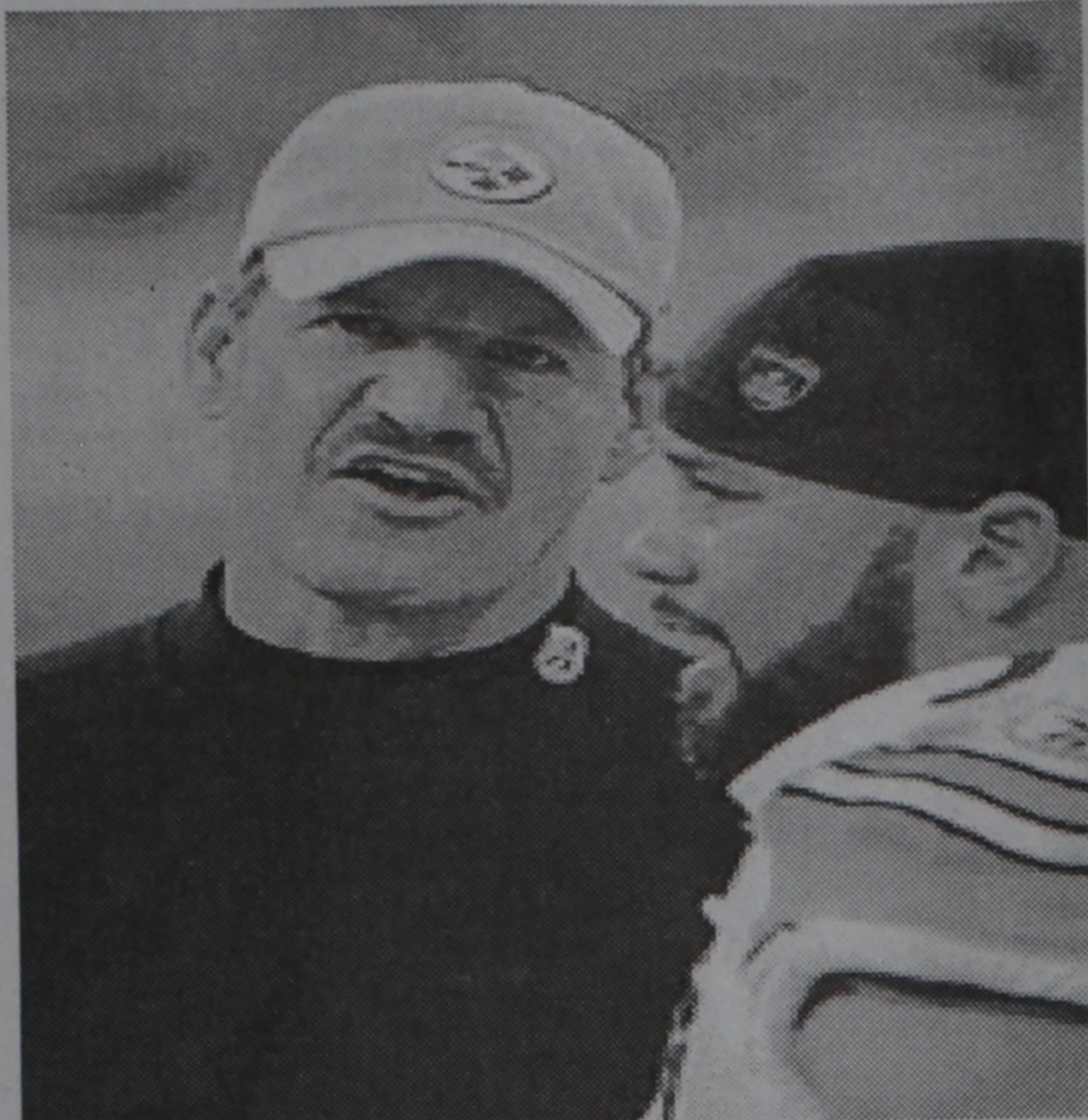
"Let's go make some history," safety Chris Hope said.

The Steelers have that charmed feel. You can sense it. There's always a team in the playoffs that seems to get it going at the right time, and they usually are tough to stop. The Baltimore Ravens were that team in 2000 when they won it.

Inside their locker room, you get that same feeling from the Steelers.

They Steelers are big on playing the nobody-thought-we'd-do-it-card. As they ran into the locker room, half the team screamed at media about them not believing before the game.

"Jump on now," one player said. "Go ahead, jump on now."



The veterans offered theories as to why playing on the road as a lower seed might be to their advantage.

One was the rust factor. A year ago, the Steelers finished 15-1 and clinched the No. 1 seed early enough that they could rest players down the stretch. That made it tough to get it going again, Hope said.

Cowher's Steelers are winners in six straight, including four of five on the road. (Getty Images) "It's tough when you don't play and then it's time to get back in the swing of things," Hope said. "We won 15 games last year and the starters didn't play much at end. That was tough to get back into the flow. We've had four or five games this year that mattered down the stretch, which is why we're playing well."

The Steelers didn't clinch the sixth seed until the final week with a victory over the Detroit Lions. At one point, the Steelers were 7-5, which meant they had to win their last four to even have a shot.

They've been playing playoff football for a while.

"It kept us sharp," Hope said. Another theory as to why the Steelers are good in this role is they cherish it.

"When we do it like this, it makes us focus even more," Porter said. "When you're on the road, all you have is the team. You don't have anybody else. It's just us, and we seem to play a lot better on the road."

For years, it was considered impossible for a six seed to make it to the Super Bowl. But here we are one upset -- a small one at that -- from having it become a reality. Are you going to count them out?

"We love the challenge of it," Hope said. "It's when we play our best football. Guys are more focused. We can go in there and take the crowd out of it. We like that pressure. It allows us more attention to detail."

The best thing: There's no chance of choking a Super Bowl berth away.

That's why they're so dangerous Sunday.

## What is your Super Bowl Prediction? Hint: Not Dallas

# Who Dies When Teens Drivers Crash?

The majority of people killed in teen driver crashes are people other than the teen driver themselves, according to a recent analysis of ten years of crash data by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

The new analysis shows that young novice drivers comprise slightly more than one-third of all the fatalities in crashes in which they are involved, whereas nearly two-thirds of those killed are other vehicle users and pedestrians. AAA says these new data provide new urgency to its advocacy efforts to strengthen graduated licensing laws (GDL).

"It's clear from this analysis that we have to approach the issue of teen driver safety in a different way," said Robert L. Darbelnet, AAA President and CEO. "We need to focus on the effects teen driver crashes have on others in addition to the teen drivers themselves."

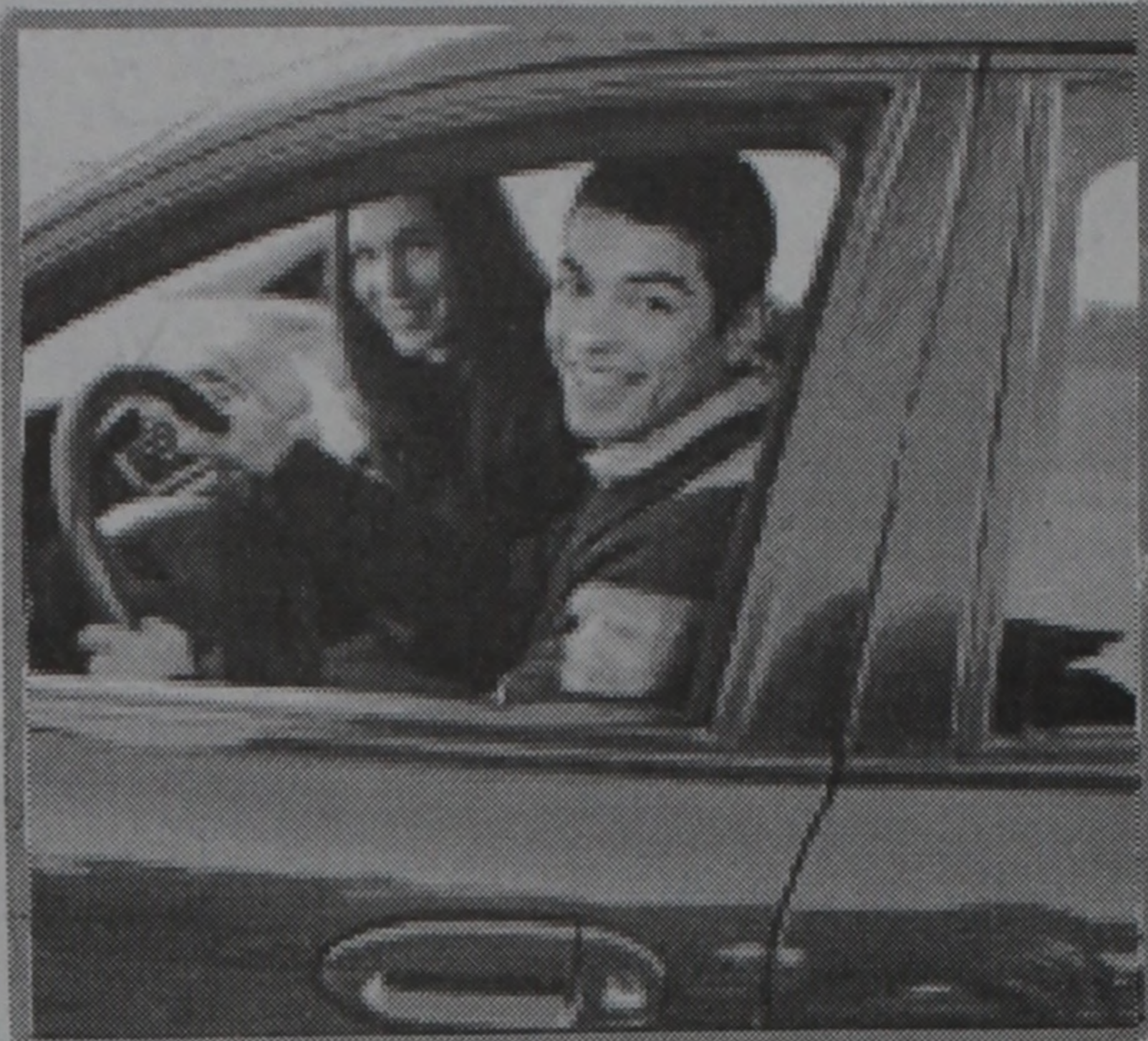
This analysis shows that between 1995 and 2004 crashes involving 15-, 16- and 17-year-old drivers claimed the lives of 30,917 people nationwide, of which 11,177 (36.2%) were the teen drivers themselves. The remaining 19,740 (63.6%) included 9,847 passengers of the 15-17-year-old drivers, 7,477 occupants of other vehicles operated by drivers at least 18 years of age, 2,323 non-motorists and 93 others/unknowns.

"The tragedy of teen driver crashes goes well beyond the teen driver and their teen passengers," said Darbelnet. "These crashes also kill pedestrians and people in other vehicles -- that's someone's mother, child, brother, or grandmother."

The analysis also shows that while 12,413 of these fatalities occurred in single vehicle crashes involving only the vehicle operated by the teenage driver, the remaining 18,504 deaths occurred in crashes involving multiple-vehicles and/or non-motorists. Of these, more than half of the fatalities were either occupants of vehicles driven by adult drivers (7,477, 40.4%) or non-motorists (2,323, 12.6%). In addition, nearly four out of five of these drivers of other vehicles, their passengers, and non-motorist deaths were at least 21 years of age.

"We view this report as a wake-up call for everyone who uses our roadways to get involved by contacting their state legislators, urging them to strengthen their state GDL law," said Darbelnet.

While AAA says comprehensive GDL laws are the best way to in-



crease safety for all road users, the organization also says parents play a critically important role in enforcing passenger restrictions.

"Regardless of what the state law says, parents should not allow their teen to ride with other teen drivers, nor should they be allowed to transport other teens in the first year of driving," said Darbelnet. "It's tempting to be lured by the convenience of having other options for getting kids to and from school and practices, but the risks are just too great."

Recognizing that parents may feel awkward about enforcing rules other parents are not enforcing, AAA unveiled a new parent discussion guide to help parents work as a team in ensuring teens gain driving experience in the safest driving environment possible during that first year.

"Parents who understand the risks recognize that it is important to keep teens from riding with other teens, even if it means playing 'chauffeur' for one more year," said Darbelnet.

In addition, the AAA Foundation released an updated version of one of their popular educational tools for teen drivers, Driver-ZED(TM) - an interactive, risk-management DVD. For more information on this program, other teen driver safety tools and how to get involved by contacting your legislator go to <http://www.aaa.com/publicaffairs>.

With car crashes being the leading cause of death for teenagers, AAA set an ambitious goal in 1997 to pass GDL laws in all 50

states and the District of Columbia. The goal was achieved with both Wyoming and Montana enacting laws in 2005. These legislative efforts have helped save lives by requiring teens to get more supervised behind-the-wheel driving experience and phased-in driving privileges during low-risk times until a full license is granted. However, not all GDL laws are comprehensive. AAA Clubs are now focused on strengthening the state GDL laws by adding or improving passenger and nighttime restrictions, and fine tuning other elements to make the laws more comprehensive.

The teen driver crash data analysis was conducted by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. The Foundation analyzed data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) from 1995 through 2004, identifying and describing all fatal crashes involving 15-, 16- and 17-year-old drivers of passenger vehicles.

As North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides nearly 49 million members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security for all travelers.

NOTE: The AAA Parent-to-Parent Teen Driving Discussion Guide can be downloaded at: [http://www.hispanicprvire.com/Parents\\_Discussion\\_Guide\\_E.doc](http://www.hispanicprvire.com/Parents_Discussion_Guide_E.doc)

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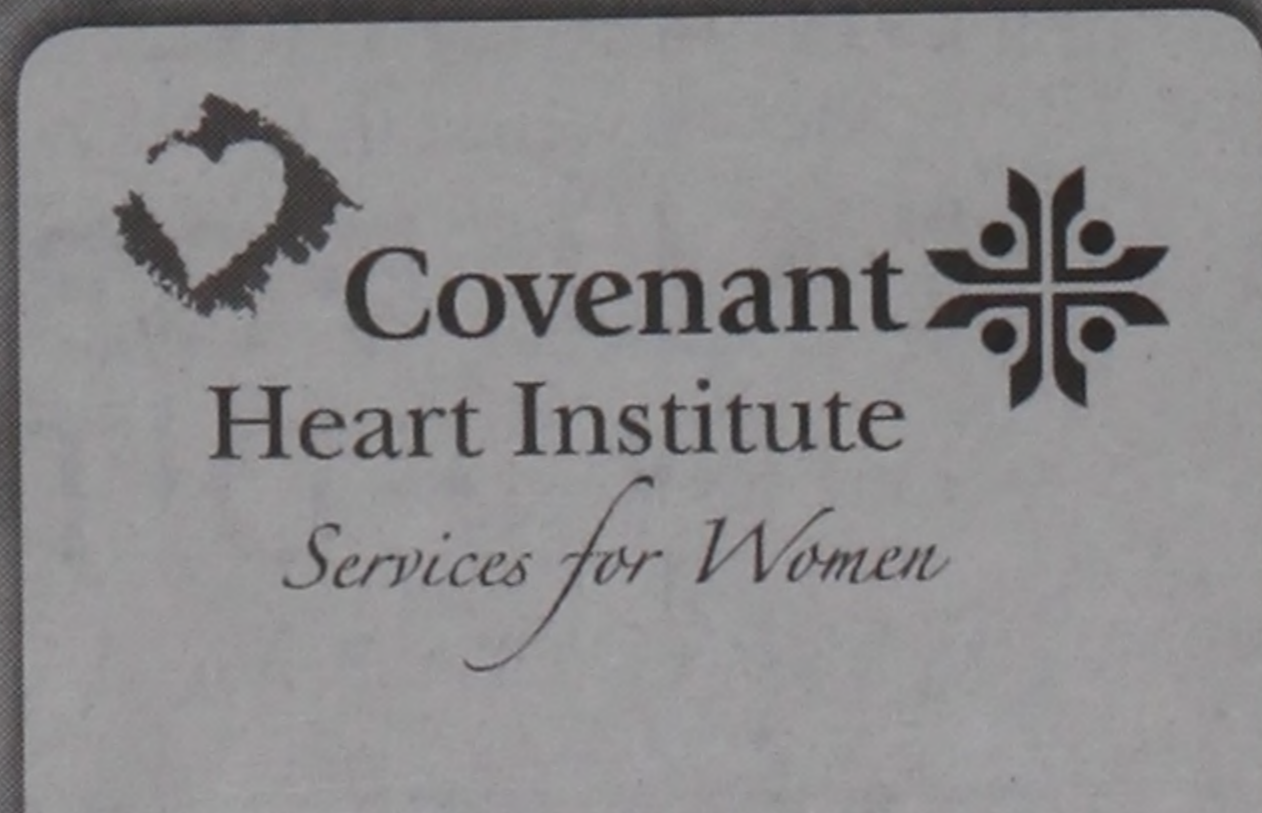
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# Big Brother is Testing Latinos' Sense of 'Family'

By Marisa Treviño

Whenever my daughter is asked how many are in our family, without hesitation, and with a straight face, she answers, "About sixty."

Though our immediate family only numbers four, admittedly my daughter gets a kick out of shocking people who can't wrap their minds around a concept that looks at extended family members as the same as immediate relatives.

Such is our sense of family where distinctions are not made among siblings, first or second cousins, aunts or great-aunts. In fact, in Spanish, first cousin is referred to as prima hermana or primo hermano.

The literal translation means cousin sister/cousin brother.

Even people not blood related are traditionally absorbed into our families, either because they are our children's godparents, were in our wedding parties or they are people with whom we've established such strong bonds that the rest of the family welcomes them without hesitation.

Behaviorist researchers who study Latino families chalk up our open-door policy to the fact that we have such an ingrained sense of duty to family and friends that it goes against our character not to lend a hand when they show up on our doorsteps.

Whatever it may be, if there is one thing that has not changed through generations of assimilation, it is the fact that family doesn't necessarily mean related by blood or refers only to immediate members.

Our concept of family and the importance we place on it are well-known. It's familiar fodder for Latino comic routines as well as a common theme employed by politicians campaigning for our votes.

But in the first of what I fear are many more knee-jerk responses from cities wanting to get tough with illegal immigration, our sense of family is being tested.

The city council in Manassas, Va., passed a zoning ordinance last month in response to the increasing number of Hispanics living within its borders. Now they make up about 15% of the town's population of 40,000. The ordinance basically redefined family, making it illegal for more than one person who was not "immediate family" to live within a single household.

In essence, if abuela, primo, tio or comadre needed a roof over his or her head, even because of financial hardship or health concerns, by Manassas law they would be evicted. They failed to meet the local definition of family. So much for "mi casa es su casa."

City officials said they adopted this new ordinance to deal with

"broad-based community concerns about overcrowding." Yet, Vice Mayor Harry Parrish went on record that the law was also aimed at stemming illegal immigration. Following up on anonymous tips, a municipal "overcrowding hotline" already had led to city raids that caused the eviction of 400 persons, mostly Latino, in a year's time.

Fortunately, the outcry over the December ordinance was swift and loud. Threatened with civil rights lawsuits, the city fathers repealed it Jan. 11.

What's still scary is the real possibility that more communities will yield to this growing anti-immigrant furor and adopt similar ordinances, or worse. Already, Amnesty International reports that other local authorities are arbitrarily enforcing zoning ordinances targeting communities where Latinos live.

Our allegiance to family could be sorely tested if such efforts spread or if the U.S. Senate passes an immigration bill similar to the one approved in the House, making felons out of undocumented immigrants and criminalizing anyone who assists or houses them.

It bodes for a frighteningly Orwellian future for the millions of us for whom "family" transcends borders, blood and citizenship status. Duty to family or duty to country? How are we to decide between the place we call home and the people that make it home for us?

Whenever critics justify their call to get tough with undocumented immigrants, they refer to them as lawbreakers in the same way they talk about rapists and serial murderers. Real lawbreakers steal, kill and maim without respect to another's quality of life.

People who work our jobs deemed menial are not threatening anyone's quality of life. Yet we're being asked to suspend belief and see their actions as fitting the definition of a crime so heinous that it warrants imprisonment to family, friends and neighbors who dare to help someone considered illegal, and incarceration and deportation for those whose only crime is a hard-work ethic.

If it were another era, this would be seen as hysterical paranoia. Instead, we call it civic duty and immigration reform.

(Marisa Treviño is a contributing columnist with Hispanic Link News Service and author of the blog LatinaLista, found at <http://latinalista.blogspot.com>.)

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# Appointee's On-the-Job Training can be Risky for Nation

By Raul Reyes

For thousands of Hispanics, January 6th marked Three Kings Day and the end of the Christmas season. Also known as Epiphany, el día de los reyes commemorates the biblical story of the three wise men arriving in Bethlehem bearing gifts.

This year Three Kings Day had barely passed when our president, acting like a king, gave the nation one especially dubious gift. Using his recess appointment power, George W. Bush made Julie L. Myers the head of the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement. In doing so, he not only bypassed a potentially embarrassing confirmation process, he proved once again that political patronage is alive and well.

The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the successor to the former immigration and customs services, which are now part of the vast Department of Homeland Security. Among its myriad responsibilities, encompassing everything from airline security to child pornography prosecution, ICE is charged with preventing terrorists and weapons from entering the country.

Yet the president handed over leadership of this bureau to a 36-

year-old lawyer with extremely limited immigration, customs or law enforcement experience. For her ICE position, she met the bare minimum of the statutory requirement of five years work in both management and law enforcement.

In a previous stint at the Department of Commerce, Myers oversaw 170 employees and a \$25 million budget. At ICE, she will be responsible for 20,000 employees and a \$4 billion budget.

However, what Myers lacks in qualifications, she makes up for in connections. She is the niece of the former Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard B. Myers. She worked for Homeland Security director Michael Chertoff, and married his Chief of Staff last year.

Bush originally nominated Myers last June. By September, her selection caused a furor in the wake of the Michael Brown/FEMA fiasco. Both Democrats and Republicans questioned Myers' qualifications, with even the conservative National Review coming out against her. At her initial hearings, Senator George Voinovich (R-Ohio) told her, "I'm really concerned about your managerial experience."

To be fair, Myers is an accomplished attorney, familiar with white collar crimes, certainly an

expert in the commercial and financial sectors. She might have made an excellent candidate for the ICE position in the future. But with our country grappling with both an ongoing war on terror as well as an out-of-control immigration problem, it's not just bad judgment to hire someone with questionable credentials - it's downright dangerous.

For her part, Myers has pledged, "I will work with others who are knowledgeable and who know more than I do." Couldn't Bush have appointed one of those knowledgeable, more experienced "others"?

We have only to look to our recent past for hard lessons. September 11th showed our vulnerability to foreign terrorists. Hurricane Katrina exposed the tragic consequences of cronyism. By now, the administration should have realized that political appointments to such critical positions can be invitations to disaster. By installing Julie Myers at ICE, President Bush shows that he himself is in dire need of an epiphany.

(Raul A. Reyes is a writer/attorney in New York City. He can be reached by email at [rarplace@aol.com](mailto:rarplace@aol.com).)

# En Lo Que el Senado se Prepara a Abordar la Inmigración, Grupos Diversos Renuevan el llamado por la Reforma

viene de la primera pagina

El National Immigration Forum y La Raza mantienen que se opondrán a cualquier propuesta que no considere alguna forma de residencia legal permanente. Una propuesta sin ello "crearía de hecho una segunda clase de trabajadores en el país, y eso no es aceptable", dice Muñoz.

Todos los grupos del panel, menos la AFL-CIO, reafirmaron su respaldo del proyecto de ley bipartidario, Secure America and Orderly Immigration, de los senadores Edward Kennedy y John McCain, de Massachusetts y Arizona, respectivamente. Su proyecto crearía caminos a la residencia permanente para extranjeros, incluyendo a los inmigrantes indocumentados.

La AFL-CIO respalda la legalización de trabajadores indocumentados que ya están en el país, pero alega que se requiere de mayores discusiones sobre el uso y los beneficios de un programa de trabajador temporal.

Ana Avendaño, directora del programa de trabajadores inmigrantes de la AFL-CIO, explica, "No se trata de la creación de una sociedad enteramente nueva de trabajadores temporales sin derechos. Si nos toca una escasez de trabajadores de largo plazo, vamos a suplirla de trabajadores con todos sus derechos para que todos los trabajadores tengan la misma posibilidad de negociación".

Otra propuesta pendiente en el Senado, de los republicanos John Cornyn (Texas) y Jon Kyl (Arizona), legalizaría temporalmente a trabajadores indocumentados y crearía un programa de trabajador temporal, pero no incluye avenidas a la legalización permanente.

El proyecto de ley de Sensenbrenner ha recibido respaldo de grupos pro-control de la frontera tales como la Federation for American Immigration Reform, cuya presidente, Dan Stein, alega en una declaración que "podría comenzar a darle fuerza a nuestra ley de inmigración y mandar el mensaje de que los Estados Unidos no tolerará la anarquía descontrolada de la inmigración".

No obstante, los grupos del

panel trajeron a la mesa inquietudes sobre varios aspectos, tales como facultar a la policía para que pueda hacer cumplir la ley de inmigración y la aprobación de un muro en la frontera.

"Todo su enfoque hace muy difíciles las vidas de los inmigrantes indocumentados", argumenta Angelo Amador, director de políticas de inmigración de la Cámara de Comercio de los Estados Unidos. "Si se crea un sistema que funcione, no habría que gastar tanto dinero en la construcción de un muro".

(Alex Meneses Miyashita es editor de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C. Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: [alex@hispaniclink.org](mailto:alex@hispaniclink.org).)

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**Free Literacy Classes for English as a Second Language Learners**

Texas Tech University and the Lubbock Coalition for Literacy are partnering to offer free ESL (English as a second language) literacy classes to the community. The classes will be taught by teams of TTU students participating in a teaching internship and trained by Texas Tech faculty from the College of Education.

Persons that want to improve their language and reading skills in English are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. The spring classes will meet three hours per week and will begin on January 23 and last through May 2. One class will be offered on the Texas Tech campus on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4:45 p.m. -5:45 p.m. to accommodate Texas Tech employees, especially those from custodial services, grounds maintenance and other departments where English is not their first language.

Another class will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church Activities Center located at 3107 Erskine Street in the Arnett Benson Neighborhood just north of the Texas Tech campus.

Seating is limited. Persons interested in registering for the free classes should contact Raiders Rojas at (806) 742-1998, ext 463 as soon as possible. Registration forms can also be downloaded at <http://english.ttu.edu/ESL/registration.doc>.

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Para que FEMA continúe pagando por su habitación después del 7 de febrero de 2006, usted tiene que comunicarse con FEMA en o antes del 30 de enero para recibir un código de autorización que usted le proveerá a su hotel. Todos los desalojados que se muden de un hotel a otro, en cualquier momento en o antes del 30 de enero deben tener el código de autorización de FEMA.

Si usted aún no ha conseguido su código de autorización, llame e inscribese con FEMA hoy. Además, en esta llamada telefónica FEMA le ayudará a conseguir referidos de viviendas disponibles.

Inscribese con FEMA o solicite su código de autorización para que podamos continuar pagando por su habitación de hotel después del 7 de febrero. Llame al 1-800-621-3362 o para aquellos con impedimentos auditivos o del habla al TTY 1-800-462-7585 de inmediato. No espere hasta el 30 de enero y entregue el código de autorización a su hotel lo antes posible.

Las líneas telefónicas están operando las 24 horas del día.

Si usted fue desplazado de una vivienda a bajo costo pagada por el gobierno o usted no tenía una casa donde vivir antes de las tormentas, el Departamento de la Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD) puede ayudarlo a conseguir ese lugar donde vivir. Llame a HUD al 1-866-373-9509 (TTY 1-800-877-8339).

Además de la asistencia para vivienda temporera, hay una variedad de programas para los cuales usted podría cualificar. Usted no necesita llenar y devolver la solicitud de la Administración de Pequeños Negocios (SBA) para ser considerado en el programa de asistencia para vivienda temporera de FEMA o los dineros para cubrir otras necesidades relacionadas con el desastre que usted esté experimentando.

Más de 700,000 familias han recibido la asistencia de alquiler para pagar por vivienda a largo plazo. Participe en los programas de FEMA al igual que todas estas familias y consiga una mejor vivienda, hoy.

La asistencia de recuperación por desastre está disponible sin distinción de raza, color, sexo, religión, nacionalidad, edad, incapacidad o condición económica. Si usted o alguien que conoce ha sido discriminado, repórtelo llamando al 1-800-621-3362 o comuníquese con Oficina Estatal de Igualdad de Derechos.

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