

Casualties of
War in Iraq
4,046
as of April
24, 2008

El Editor

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Lubbock, Texas

Visitor's Center Controversy between Klein and DeLeon Escalates

The current controversy to build a new Lubbock visitor's center escalated to an all out war of words between District 3 Councilman Todd Klein and District 1 Councilwoman Linda DeLeon this past week.

The latest public comments by DeLeon concerning the March 27 council decision to spend over 6 million dollars of hotel and motel occupancy tax money (HOT) to fund the center did not sit well with Klein. He has steadfastly maintained his opposition to the center and has repeatedly implored the rest of the council to find a more innovative and creative way to market the city's events and tourist attractions. He has suggested the use of kiosks at various locations throughout the city and has been a proponent of using the internet as a marketing and advertising tool to attract visitors to the city.

The most recent public debate was a result of a television interview on April 18. DeLeon told an interviewer from a local television station that Klein was "misinforming" the public about the center. The DeLeon interview prompted Klein to issue a statement from the city to "set the record straight" to correct what he calls "four inaccurate statements" made by DeLeon in the interview.

According to Klein, DeLeon told the in-



terviewer that "Todd Klein and others are misinforming the public that this (money to pay for the visitor's center) is coming out of the general fund."

Not so says Klein. He says that he has

"always been clear on where this funding is coming from and the accusation that I am misinforming the public on that matter is simply baseless."

Klein references the news story which aired on April 18 to substantiate the additional 3 inaccurate statements; here is how the additional 3 statements made by DeLeon were contradicted by Klein in his statement released by the city:

1) Ms. DeLeon stated: "This is money coming from hotel/motel... it's their money."

Klein says that "It is the public's money, which is derived from a limited use public taxation."

2) Ms. DeLeon stated: "It's a fact that Todd Klein is supporting Tom Martin."

Klein says: "I have publicly stated countless times that I do not intend to endorse a candidate in the Mayoral race. At this time, it remains my position."

3) Finally, DeLeon stated: "Todd Klein needs to find another issue, and I am sure that next week he will find another ridiculous issue to address."

Klein says: "The people's business is never a 'ridiculous' issue. The overwhelming response that I have received from the citizens, as well as my recent conversations with Councilman Leonard, made me realize this issue must be considered, and to assert that this is a ridiculous issue, is in my view, highly inappropriate."

But Klein is not the only one who is questioning the wisdom of the council's approval of at least \$6.7 million to build a new center. That figure is already up from an initial \$1.3 million which was appropriated in March when the council allocated that amount to buy the property which once housed the South Beach Nightclub. \$340,000 of that money was to have been used in case the building needed repairs.

But since that vote, city officials have determined the building is not too many repairs to make it feasible and now the original plan is essentially being scrapped.

On Wednesday, District 5 Councilman John Leonard joined Klein in his effort and agreed to support a resolution Klein will offer at the April 24 city council meeting.

In a Wednesday morning news conference, Leonard says he regrets his vote in favor of the center and has had second thoughts after receiving emails from his constituents which said they were "disappointed" in his vote. Leonard says his primary concern is the increased cost of the center and will now support Klein in his effort to put a hold on the project.

What we have wondered about is whether it is completely accurate that Lubbock taxpayers will not have to foot the bill for the center. In almost every story reported in the media, it is stated that funding will come from taxes paid by people who stay at local hotels and motels, which collect an occupancy tax which is a fixed use tax and can only be used on certain tourism related projects or expenses.

According to Mayor David Miller, that is indeed the case and will continue to be so after the center is built. Miller responded to an inquiry about the centers operational costs this way: "The ongoing operations of the Visitors Center will be paid for out of the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT). Maintenance, staff, utilities, etc. will be paid for with HOT which is authorized by state

District 2 Candidates Debate Differences

Although it wasn't as exciting as the animated grudge match between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, more than a few verbal shots were fired Monday night during a 2 hour debate that featured candidates for the District 2 City Council seat, incumbent Floyd Price and his top challenger Armando Gonzalez. The third candidate Gilbert Salinas may as well have been a show.

The debate was sponsored by the Sons of Allen of the Bethel African American Church and included a mix of about 100 persons from District 2 and 1; including District 1 Councilwoman Linda DeLeon.

The forum was moderated by a 3 person panel which included El Editor Publisher Bidal Agüero, the Rev. D.A. Smith who wrote a column for the Lubbock Southwest Digest and Avalanche Journal reporter Andrew Taylor.

Candidates participated in a pre-debate drawing to see who would deliver their opening statement first. That opportunity fell to incumbent Floyd Price who used his time to remind those in attendance of his accomplishments while in office.

Price mainly went over the north east developments of the city council including the funding for the West Texas Fiber Optics Corp and the building of a number of houses in East Lubbock; he surprisingly took credit for other accomplishments including the O'Reilly Warehouse, something that Councilman DeLeon has also cited as one of her accomplishments in the past; the planned business that has replaced the Frito Lay plant and cited other "accomplishments" as his own.

Price was caught off guard when he was asked if he could do something about weeds in 19th and MLK. Price responded that the streets were State highways and were out of his jurisdiction; an answer which surprised some of those in attendance including his main rival.

When Gonzalez's turn came up, he raised his voice to voice his opposition to Price saying that if Price did not have the influence to call the State and get weeds cut, Price had no business representing the people in East Lubbock. "You can bet that if I am elected and I get a call complaining about the bad weeds, I will get on the phone and get those weeds cut."

Price responded by saying: "Mr. Gonzales does not understand, the City Council cannot tell the State anything. They do what they want to when they want to and if you want something done that involves the City you must call and talk to the right people and give them your complaint." As the debate progressed, Price seemed to use that particular reasoning; basically that "residents had to call the right department" as the same answer to many of the questions asked.

Price surprised those in attendance when he said in his closing statement that Armando Gonzalez was basically being bought by the Parker Garage. "If you read the AJ it states that M. Gonzales was given \$4,000 by the Parker Garage and another \$2,000 by the Parker Garage Party. Who do you think is Mr. Gonzalez really going to represent on the Council?" asked Price.

For the record, Gonzalez reported in his last campaign finance report that the \$4,000 dollars from the Parker Garage was a loan to his campaign.

In response Gonzalez brought up the fact that Price has continually backed every project the McDougal's had brought up to the Council. "Mr. McDougal is now saying that he is interested in working on Downtown Lubbock. "Who do you think Price is going to vote for to do the project?"

One of the questions asked by Publisher Agüero had to do with Price's apparent refusal to answer email inquiries from El Editor. Price responded to the question by saying that he remembered only one email sent to him with this newspaper. But according to El Editor, Price has not responded to at least 4 emails sent to him on a variety of issues since he took office.

Another question from one of those in attendance regarded the lack of African American police officers on the Lubbock Police force. Price responded that there were now 3 officers and then referred to the city's recruiting efforts as he has often done in local media when asked the same question.

As for the third candidate in the race; Gilbert Salinas "brought absolutely nothing to the debate" according to one of the participants.

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After almost two long years, the lawsuit which the city has fought to keep from going to trial in a closing number of ways appears to finally be headed to a courtroom.

U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings ruled that the case would be tried before a jury instead of granted a motion for summary judgment brought forth by the city.

Throughout the two years since Juan Manuel Nuñez was named by Lubbock police officer Matt Doherty and resulting in his death, attorneys representing the city have tried a variety of legal maneuvers in an attempt to avoid a trial.

In his latest move called a motion for summary judgment, city attorneys argued that in reviewing the evidence which the city has gathered and which the Nuñez family's attorneys have presented, the city feels that a "reasonable jury looking at the same evidence could only decide the case one way" in favor of the party making the motions. In this case the city.

If Cummings had ruled in favor of the city's motion, it would have ruled that a trial is unnecessary, thereby

ending about the trial moving forward. Cummings ruling results in the trial going forward and it is scheduled to begin on May 5, having clear out numerous circumstances.

But it wasn't a complete pre-trial victory for the Nuñez family. Cummings ruling included dismissing a claim that Doherty failed to attend to the victim Nuñez's medical needs after Doherty had threatened him.

The family has always maintained that Nuñez was not negligent nor did he represent a threat to the officer. Yet according to local media reports, the whole event took less than 30 seconds; with the officer Taunting Nuñez for 31 of those 39 seconds.

This case has been a back and forth between the city and the Nuñez family since Nuñez's death in April and 2006 and even included the revelation that former LPD Chief Claude Jones had tried to somehow throw away a memo related to the department's Taunting policy; so as to not represent the case in a negative way.

For now at least, it seems that the family will finally get their day in court.

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News Briefs

Guadalupe Neighborhood Association to Host 5 de Mayo Celebration

The Guadalupe Neighborhood Association will host its first 5 de Mayo celebration on May 3, 2008.

According to Lile Medina de Quirino, president of the Barrio organization, plans are underway to make this gathering an annual event which will offer thanks to the community residents, supporters, volunteers, churches and businesses who have helped in this past year's efforts and projects. In particular, the association is especially grateful to all the people who have volunteered for the "Arroyo Clean-Up Campaign".

The "Arroyo" Clean-Up Campaign has gone so well that members of the association decided that a family oriented festival was merited to celebrate this success. Because of logistics and safety concerns in the "Arroyo" area itself, the celebration will be held at the Guadalupe Park located at 1st Street and Avenue E.

Families are encouraged to bring their tables, chairs, and Bar-B-Q pits and make it a fun day for all between the hours of 12 noon and 6 pm, on Saturday May 3, 2008. Music will be provided by Julian Escamilla and D.J. Production's. A special presentation will be made by Ballet Folklorico Aztlan at 5:00 pm.

Other activities will include a cake decorating contest (all decorated cakes should be brought to Guadalupe Park by 12 noon on that Saturday), and prizes will be given for the best decorated bicycle with streamers in red, white, and green.

The Guadalupe Neighborhood Association also wishes to commemorate the historical significance of this special day when Mexican forces defeated the French in Puebla, Mexico. Also, the association recognizes the importance of our environment and poses its work in the "Arroyo" as a testament of this community's commitment to a legacy of harmony with nature.

Source: Guadalupe Neighborhood Association Press Release.

Email: leditor@sbcglobal.net

LAMACC to Kick Off 5 de Mayo Celebration

Lubbock, Texas, April 24, 2008 - The Lubbock Area Mexican American Chamber of Commerce will be conducting its Cinco De Mayo Weekend Kick-Off Celebration on Friday, May 2, at 5:30 pm at El Jefe's Restaurant and Bar located at 1901 W. Loop 289.

An art exhibit entitled Bidal Agüero's art collection of "Vida y Cultura" by Andre DeLeon will be showcased. In addition, three current LAMACC members will showcase their businesses. The businesses are Great Plains Distributors, Wells Fargo Bank, and Highland Oaks Golf Club.

Candidates running for local public office have also been given an open invitation to have a meet and greet with attendees. Current members and potential members are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to network with individuals in a variety of work industries, get to know fellow members and promote your business.

The Lubbock Area Mexican American Chamber of Commerce is a newly formed Hispanic chamber. LAMACC partners up with individuals, young professionals, non-profits, small businesses and corporate businesses to become a part of the Hispanic's business community's best resources.

Source: Lubbock Area Mexican American Chamber of Commerce

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MALDEF Celebrates 40 Years of Championing Latino Civil Rights at Anniversary Conference

Founded in 1968, MALDEF, the nation's leading Latino legal organization is celebrating its 40th year of existence. The organization which "promotes and protects the rights of Latinos through litigation, advocacy, community education and outreach, leadership development, and higher education scholarships will host a special conference in commemoration of its 40th anniversary at the organization's headquarters, San Antonio, Texas.

The day-long conference will be held at the University of Texas, San Antonio Downtown Campus, and will feature MALDEF attorneys and past and present Board members to focus on the organization's historic legal contributions and current and future agenda in voting rights, immigration, education and employment.

MALDEF President and General Counsel John Trivelpy and past MALDEF president and general counsel who are organizing members, followed by panel discussions and a video presentation highlighting MALDEF's remarkable history.

The organization was founded in 1968 during one of America's darkest hours with the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, two of this nation's greatest civil rights advocates. MALDEF sought to fulfill the critical needs for the nation's growing Latino community through litigation, advocacy and leadership development on issues that affect children and newcomers. MALDEF's victory in the historic, voting rights case White v. Regener, significantly raised the value of the Latino vote by safe-guarding communities from at-large redistricting systems.

In another landmark case, MALDEF attorneys successfully secured free public education for all school children, regardless of their parents' immigration status.

"Our community has experienced tremendous growth, currently at 48 million, making Latinos the largest and fastest growing minority in the nation. MALDEF must build and grow just as the community has grown," said MALDEF President and General Counsel John Trivelpy. "Following the legacy of our founders, MALDEF is committed to comprehensive immigration reform, access to quality education, fair opportunities to employment and equal political representation for all and the next generation of Latinos."

"MALDEF has a proud record of landmark litigation and community efforts to protect all immigrants and their children," said MALDEF Board Chairman Frank Quereño. "MALDEF will continue to be at the forefront of immigrant advocacy, from local levels of government to the U.S. Congress and White House. The need for MALDEF's leadership has never been greater."

Compiled from MALDEF Press Release

Magic 93.7

KXTQ FM

Numero Uno Tejano Hit Station

Lubbock
Fair
Grounds

5 DE MAYO

May
3&4

Festival and Concert

featuring



**Jimmy Gonzalez
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LA CONQUISTA



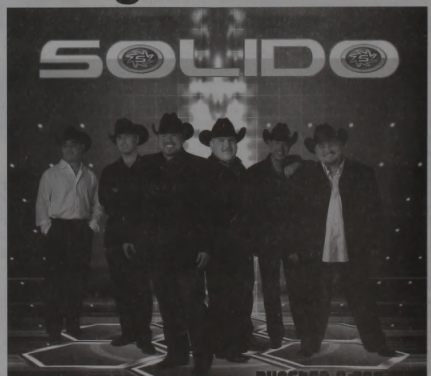
Shelly



Peligro



**La Mafia
May 3 & 4 Fair Grounds**



**46
TELEMUNDO**

Indiana Jones se ahorra los sueldos

Tito Trinidad: los golpes no le enseñan

i que no es verdad Tito. Di que no es cierto que vas a subir al ring para enfrentarte a Jermain Taylor, que sólo es un rumor sin mucho fundamento, una idea que no tiene ningún sentido y que alguien, sin querer, ha echado a rodar.

No te hace falta pelear con Taylor. No te hace falta pelear más y punto, como no necesitas intercambiar golpes con Roy Jones Jr. en un pelea que no le agregó nada de positivo a tu carrera, que es sin duda merecedora de estar algún día entre los inmortales del Salón de la Fama.

Desde que perdiste con Bernard Hopkins todos supimos bien que si todavía vivías en ti el espíritu del campeón, ya te habías abandonado los reflejos y la estamina para volver a serlo.

Esto no debe demeritar en nada lo que has logrado, ni rebajarte a los ojos de millones de seguidores tuyos que seguirán acompañándote para siempre, incluso en la decisión de regresar al cuadrilátero. Pero ten la seguridad que lo harán más por el aprecio de lo que fuiste, por lo que significa así el apellido Trinidad, que por la convicción de saberse

vencedor.
Sin embargo, eso es lo de menos. Si Hopkins y Jones Jr. te castigarán, entonces qué puedes esperar de Taylor? A diferencia de esos dos, también

dado cuenta que la perdió por un porcentaje bien cerrado, y es que ha tenido la mala suerte de toparse con la horma de su zapato.
Salvo Pavlik, Taylor tiene

¿Y tú, qué quieres? Supuestamente ya lo tienes todo, o todos los que te preciamos estamos bajo la impresión de que ya lo tienes todo, cariño, fama, dinero...

Si la decisión de volver es enteramente tuya, reconsidera: si es de Don King deséchala por completo. El promotor se le va a casa sus ganancias, pero tú cargarás en el cuerpo con los golpes.

Para todo hay un final, Tito Trinidad, pero eso muchas veces significa el comienzo de algo nuevo. Sucede que a veces el ocaso de un periodo o una carrera suele confundirse con el vacío total. No creo que este sea tu caso.

Recuérdalo, hay vida después del boxeo.
his hit "Lola." Complemented by sensual choreography and awesome special effects, the Puerto Rican star earned a standing ovation for the song. Fireworks and Chayanne's "Fiesta en América" were a fitting end to the exciting show.

Steven Spielberg, George Lucas y Harrison Ford han decidido, en una atrevida apuesta, renunciar a todas sus ganancias por la cuarta entrega de Indiana Jones si la taquilla no supera los 400 millones de dólares.

De esta manera, los ingresos iniciales por la venta de entradas para ver Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull irán a parar exclusivamente a las arcas de Paramount Pictures.

En esta época poco boyante para la industria de Hollywood, el elevado costo del filme llevó a los artifices de la cinta a acordar posponer sus ingresos, normalmente un porcentaje de la taquilla, hasta que Paramount recupere su inversión en el proyecto.

Las grandes productoras son cada vez más prudentes a la hora de involucrarse en largometrajes multimillonarios ante las nubes negras que se ciernen sobre Hollywood, donde se palpa una crisis en el ambiente.

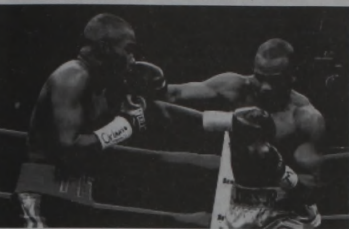
Cada vez es más caro hacer una película y ni las taquillas

ni los DVD garantizan a los estudios amortizar la inversión, por lo que los armos de la industria buscan cubrirse las espaldas, especialmente después de una huelga de guionistas y un posible paro de los actores.

Según fuentes, Paramount aportó 185 millones de dólares para la realización de la cuarta entrega de Indiana Jones y al menos 150 millones de dólares para su promoción en todo el mundo.

Un ejemplo similar fue el acuerdo alcanzado entre Walt Disney, el productor Jerry Bruckheimer y el actor Johnny Depp para la saga de Pirates of the Caribbean, o el firmado por esos mismos estudios, Bruckheimer y Nicolas Cage en National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007), si bien todos ganaron dinero con los proyectos.

A priori, Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull es una apuesta segura y se espera que arrase en los cines cuando llegue a las carteleras de todo el mundo el próximo 22 de mayo.



sombras de un pasado que se aferran al último soplo de energía. Taylor se encuentra en el mejor momento de su carrera.
No te dejes engañar por sus dos derrotas ante Kelly Pavlik. Si viste la segunda te habrás

todo el talento para dominar a quien se le interpone en su camino. No lo recoras, no te conviertas en el próximo peleonero que le permita volver a los planos estatales. Eso es lo que él quiere.

AMERICAN G.I. FORUM GOLF TOURNAMENT

Two man lowball

Place: Stonegate Golf Tournament
Date: Sunday, April 27th, 2008
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Entry Fee: \$50.00 per person
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Why questions about age, name could pose problems for Tejada

When ESPN's Tom Farrey confronted Miguel Tejada last week with his actual birth certificate and a two-year discrepancy in Tejada's claimed age, Tejada walked out of the interview. The exchange was shown on "E:60" Tuesday.

Tejada's age, what he said when he signed his first baseball contract and what he has told Major League Baseball ever since raise legal questions about his immigration status in the U.S. They also raise the possibility that any deceit might be added to a perjury investigation of Tejada -- an investigation requested by a congressional committee looking into the use of performance-enhancing drugs in baseball. Here are some of the questions and their answers:

Houston Astros shortstop Miguel Tejada admitted last week that he is 33, rather than 31 as listed in the Astros' media guide and other baseball records. He made the admission to the Astros after "E:60" correspondent Tom Farrey asked him about the discrepancy in his birth certificate records. The "E:60" report on Tejada airs tonight at 7 p.m., ET, on ESPN.

Is it a crime to lie about your age when you enter the U.S. and apply for a green card or a work visa?

Yes. It is technically a crime to lie to immigration authorities. But before any criminal charge is made against Tejada, federal investigators must determine exactly what Tejada said in his immigration paperwork and whether any lie is "material." Tejada now claims he lied to MLB but told the truth in all immigration matters. We'll see. The FBI will examine all of Tejada's immigration applications. He also might have lied about the spelling of his name. The "E:60" report shows that his actual name is Tejada, not Tejada. If he lied about his date of birth and his name, federal investigators must determine whether the deception was material.

They will ask: "How important is the lie?" In most cases, a false birth date or a one-letter change in the spelling of a name is not enough to file charges. Such discrepancies are not material to the more important purposes of an immigration inquiry. Federal prosecutors would need more before they would undertake a court case.

Can the lies about his birth date and his name cause any other problems for Tejada? Yes. They can cause serious problems and put Tejada into a position in which he must make some difficult decisions. Tejada already is under scrutiny for possible perjury in statements he made to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. FBI agents are determining whether Tejada lied to committee investigators. With this new revelation, investigators have additional leverage over Tejada and could lean on Tejada for additional information about drugs and other players. If he is not forthcoming, the agents would say, he could face perjury and immigration charges. Tejada was in a bad spot before the recent revelations, and now it's much worse. Art Leach, a former federal prosecutor in Atlanta, told "E:60" that the agents investigating Tejada might use the new revelations to "breathe his immigration"

status and to "put the squeeze on Tejada" to "get more information up the line" on other players. If Tejada cooperates, he would be informing on other players. If he refuses to cooperate, he could face criminal charges, possible jail time and even deportation back to the Dominican Republic.

How could they report Tejada if he is here legally and has a green card?

The process of obtaining a green card includes a question on drug use. The fact that Tejada has a green card indicates he denied drug use in his application. If federal authorities can show he was using steroids, he would be guilty of a false statement at the time of his most recent green card application. In contrast to an erroneous birth date or a one-letter change in the spelling of a name, drug use rises to the level of material in the process. Exposing drug use is one of the

prime objectives in immigration inquiries. A lie on drug use would be enough to initiate a process that would eliminate Tejada's green card and result in his deportation.

of making false statements to federal agents.

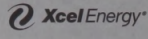
Is there any way out of this for Tejada?

There might be, but he won't like it. It is clear from the wide-ranging inquiry under way that agents are looking for additional evidence of drug use by other players. If Tejada cooperates with federal prosecutors and offers them something they don't already have, he might be able to settle with them and continue a great baseball career. It would be a difficult thing to do and would violate baseball's code of clubhouse omertà. Piatt and Andy Pettitte cooperated with investigators, admitted drug use and walked away without charges. Tejada should take a se-



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High school senior writes winning Ruben Salazar essay

An high school senior writes winning Ruben Salazar essay To mark the release of a U.S. postage stamp in honor of reporter and columnist Ruben Salazar, The Times sponsored an essay-writing contest at Ruben Salazar Continuation High School in Pico Rivera. The students were asked to assess Salazar's legacy and lasting influence. The winner, senior Janine Perez, 17, is pictured below. She will receive a \$500 scholarship and her school will get \$1,000. (An earlier version of this post said Janine would receive a \$100 scholarship. Her scholarship is for \$500.)

Angles during the 1960s. His participation created controversy and attention by his opposition, which some researchers may argue could have led to his untimely death by a police officer, who had shot him in the head, during a march in 1970. His strong commitment to ensuring civil equality not only for his "people" but also for others who had been discriminated against, stereotyped, segregated, and civilly mistreated has echoed over time, more importantly, provided a small dominant Mexican American community, Pico Rivera, an alternative school for struggling students like myself.

ation High School. Honestly, most of my "party friends" had attended Salazar High School. So, I associated the school with everything else but acquiring a meaningful education.

However, when I realized that my initial perception of Salazar was not accurate, I knew the possibility of graduating was real if I applied myself at Salazar High. Interestingly, the teachers at Salazar were there supporting me and the rest of the students, which I had not anticipated.

I have been attending Ruben Salazar for two years now. Within that time I have made a complete turn around in the right direction. I have joined the

Associated Student Body and become more interested in my education and, more importantly, my future. Honestly, I had not even considered life after high school until I actively participated at Salazar High School.

Contrary to what people think of continuation schools, my experience has been positive and worthwhile. Not only have I gained new skills but I have also matured as a person, which I largely owe to the teachers and staff at Ruben Salazar High School.

If I could say one thing to Ruben Salazar today I would thank him for paving the way for young students who needed another chance in life. I truly appreciate where I am today and I attribute much of my success in school to the effects of Ruben Salazar's vision that he had on my culture as well as my community. I can proudly say I am a Mexican American who was given another chance in life and truly appreciate the opportunities provided to me by those who had not been as fortunate.

After learning more about Ruben Salazar I have a better ap-



Being of Mexican American decent has never been much more than two ethnic terms clumped together to define me on paper for surveys and job or school applications.

I am not trying to oversimplify my heritage but rather demonstrate how I have taken it for granted. I had never really paid much attention to the leaders within my culture and community who have paved the way of justice and equal treatment in school.

Without much thought, my peers and I enjoy the rewards afforded to us by Ruben Salazar. Ruben Salazar was a man with a vision and hope for civil justice among all people, especially among his culture in mainstream society. He fought for the unjust treatment of Mexicans and desegregation in schools, parks and public institutions. His untimely death in 1970 has not overshadowed his legacy. He was a big part of the Chicano Movement, a social movement to provide equal treatment for Mexicans in Los

preciation for my school and for the commitment to making positive changes for his culture and the multicultural communities surrounding me. Prior to attending Salazar High School, I had attended two other high schools just doing the bare minimum to get by. Further, I was seriously unmotivated, lacked interest in my education, and felt disconnected to my teachers and the learning material.

All I knew was that I needed to pass the high school exit exam or not graduate. That was a new kind of pressure I had not experienced, which made me almost consider dropping out of school. However, my last stop in El Rancho Unified School District was a small school named Ruben Salazar Contin-

Experts apply high-tech tools to a Spanish altarpiece, peering back 500 years to solve a mystery

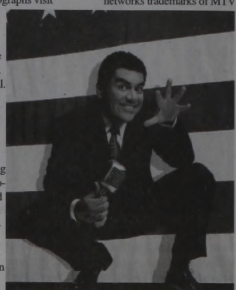
Hola, comedy fans! George Lopez stars in the Network Television Premiere stand-up special, "America's Mexican," premiering Sunday, May 4 at 9:00 p.m. The encore presentation of "America's Mexican" airs Sunday, May 4 at 10:30 p.m. He may have his hands full as the mayor of Reno in this season of "Reno! 911," but George Lopez will always find time for stand-up comedy! In his second televised comedy special, Lopez performs with all-new material before a live audience at the Dodge Theater in Phoenix. Creating new slang for critics of immigration and effeminate dog walkers, while tackling topics such as race, family and modern beauty, "America's Mexican" proves Lopez is about as American as apple pie. Tune in and get ready to laugh!

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Shakira heaps praise on 'smart' PM

Gordon Brown may be suffering from the polls and taking fire from the Labour backbenchers, but when it comes to the sultry Colombian diva vote it appears he's got it sewn up.

Pop star Shakira, famous for songs such as Hips Don't Lie, heaped praise on the PM, saying he is "very smart" and "brave" with "wonderful intentions".

The unlikely pair came together on a conference call to discuss education in the Third World, with the world's media listening in.

In the call, which also featured World Bank president Robert Zoellick, the PM and the singer spoke of their backing for the Global Campaign for Education which aims to have every child

the world in school by 2015. Then Shakira was asked if she feared she was being "used" by politicians like Mr Brown to



boost his popularity, and she leapt to his defence.

"Absolutely not," she said. "I think he is a man with wonderful intentions and who is also very proactive and who has been working very hard for this issue of education.

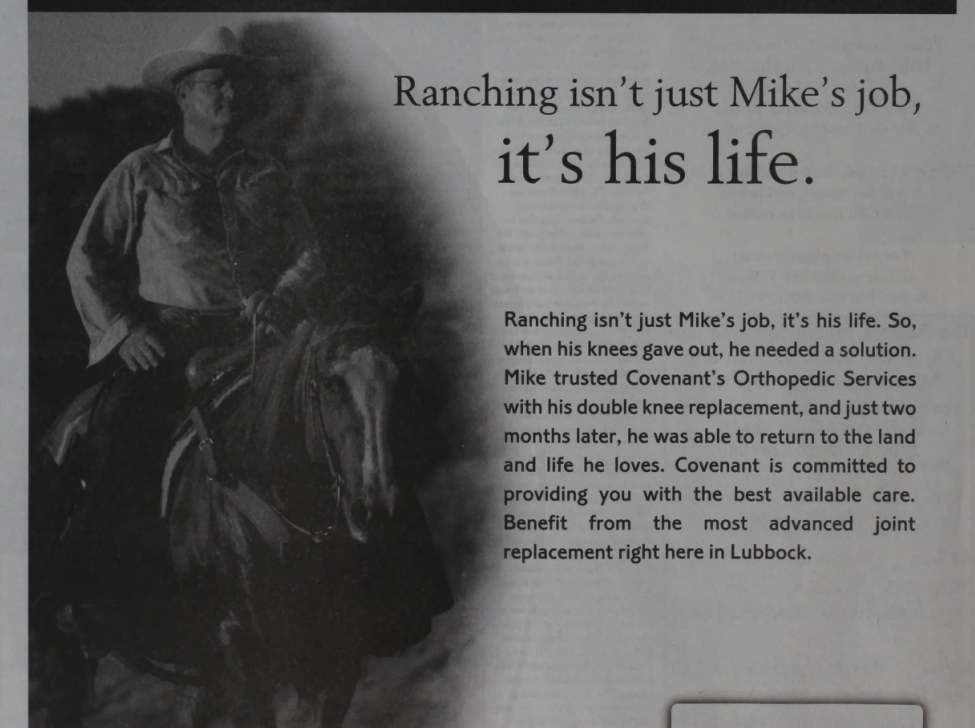
"I applaud his work and ap-

plaud the fact that he is brave enough to talk to celebrities like me. I think we are all on the same boat trying to get to the same shore, and trying to provide education for all children in the world," she said.

During his campaign for the Labour leadership Mr Brown appeared to distance himself from the world of celebrity.

He said: "I have never believed presentation should be a substitute for policy. I do not believe politics is about celebrity."

But the PM, who in recent weeks has met Hollywood star George Clooney to talk about Darfur and appeared on the US version of Pop Idol to talk about mosquito nets, said that celebrities have a role in boosting public support for good causes.



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The Latino Health Crusader Who's Not Insured

By Janet Margula

Hispanic Link News Service
"I work. I am a productive citizen. But when it comes to insurance, what is out there for me?"

Any of the 15 million Hispanics in the United States who lack health insurance could have spoken these words, but it is even more poignant to hear them from Marytza Sanz, president of Latino Leadership, Inc., a community-based organization in Florida. Ms. Sanz's top priority as leader of Latino Leadership is to support Central Florida's Latino community by increasing its access to preventive health services through improved awareness. Yet in spite of her long-standing mission, Ms. Sanz, who is diabetic, cannot even obtain for herself the quality health care she is making accessible to so many others.

Ms. Sanz's situation exemplifies the struggles that members of countless Latino families endure. Without regular access to such essentials as insulin, supplies, and regular check-ups, Ms. Sanz cannot easily manage her diabetes. This inability to regulate one's own health condition is the reason that Latinos suffer a higher risk of developing chronic medical conditions — such as obesity and diabetes — in the first place.

Studies show that language barriers and low health literacy widen the health disparity gap, preventing patients from understanding their doctor's instructions, leading to dangerous, even fatal, complications as a result of medical error.

Chronic disease sufferers face other barriers to accessing care. For example, most insurance programs would immediately reject someone like Ms. Sanz.

legislation to make critical health services more accessible to the Latino community. The Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007, championed by Rep. Hilda Solís (D-Calif.) and the Congressional Tri-Caucus, would drastically

mental to the heart of our national values: the tradition of protecting everyone's rights by empowering the most vulnerable members of our society. While such legislation would be good news for Marytza Sanz, it would also significantly contribute toward achieving the goals of her organization, which prioritizes the health needs of children. Currently, legally residing immigrant children and pregnant women are barred from Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for five years after their arrival in the United States. If passed, this bill would increase health program access for these women and children. We know that a strong, healthy foundation is essential in giving children the best physical, mental and emotional start in life, so we should embrace those measures that bring this reality to more of this country's youth.

The sacrifices by individuals such as Ms. Sanz for the welfare of underserved communities should not go unrewarded. For her service as a crucial link to health care, she deserves proper coverage so that she may perform her job more effectively, and, most importantly, so she can live her life without constant concern for her own condition. When providers themselves go uninsured, we know it's time to address health care's inequalities. This bill is a golden opportunity for Congress to truly champion the cause of making health care accessible to those who need it most.

(Janet Margula, president and CEO of the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest advocacy and civil rights organization, writes a monthly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. She may be contacted at opinion@nc.org.)



The ones that offer minimal coverage demand monthly rates of \$800 or more. Many Latinos find it increasingly difficult to pay such astronomical price-tags, effectively barring them from the health care system.

Therefore, it is not surprising that more than one-third of Hispanics do not have health insurance. As a result, many shy away from visiting doctors, obtaining routine health services, and even going to the emergency room. It is clear that we need to overhaul our health care system to ensure that all individuals can enjoy the healthy, productive lives to which they are entitled. This is why the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and a bipartisan group of more than 100 members of Congress support proposed

improve opportunities for Latinos and other communities of color, reducing current disparities in the health care system by diversifying the workforce, instituting new programs at hospitals that serve these populations, and collecting data related to access to health care.

It will improve communication by increasing funding for language interpretation services and community-based health promotion activities that give families access to vital, easy-to-understand medical information. By establishing an Office of Health Disparities within the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights along with civil rights compliance offices within other agencies, this bill taps into an issue more funda-

Diabetes y pies: cómo evitar un mal paso

Una cuidadosa pedicura es esencial para los pacientes de diabetes. La diabetes no sólo es un problema de azúcar, es también uno de sensibilidad. Y esto porqué, además de afectar diferentes órganos del cuerpo, la enfermedad puede ser implacable con los pies.

"La diabetes puede conducir a que el paciente pierda la sensibilidad en los pies, y lo grave es que en muchas ocasiones el cambio puede pasar inadvertido y tener como consecuencia la pérdida de uno de los miembros inferiores", destaca el doctor Elmer E. Huerta, especialista en medicina preventiva y salud pública.

Huerta es además director del programa radial Cita con el doctor, que se transmite de lunes a viernes, las 10 p.m., por Radio Caracol. Los casos de amputaciones no son raros, y mucho menos entre los diabéticos hispanos.

De acuerdo con un reporte de la Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), publicado en el 2007, el número de adultos hispanos a quienes hubo que amputarles un pie o una pierna debido a complicaciones con la diabetes ha aumentado en los últimos años.

Específicamente, el reporte de AHRQ destaca que la proporción de hispanos adultos ingresados en hospitales para amputación a consecuencia de la diabetes aumentó de 63 admisiones por cada 100,000 personas en el 2001, a 80 por cada 100,000 en el 2004.

Los resultados hicieron que la AHRQ emprendiera una campaña para alertar a los hispanos a visitar regularmente a su médico y así poder prevenir y detectar la diabetes en sus comienzos o los problemas relacionados con la enfermedad.

Los altos niveles de azúcar en la sangre, con el tiempo, pueden dañar los vasos sanguíneos y los nervios del cuerpo.

El daño en los nervios puede causar la pérdida de sensibilidad en alguna parte del cuerpo, una condición que se conoce como neuropatía diabética.

A su vez, el daño de los vasos sanguíneos significa que los pies probablemente no reciban un buen suministro de

sangre. "Al disminuir la circulación se produce un cambio en la coloración de la piel y en la sensibilidad de los tejidos", describe Huerta. "El proceso es lento y toma semanas. Primero, los pies se enrojecen y luego la piel se va oscureciendo hasta tender a morir, que es cuando hay que recurrir a la amputación", advierte el especialista.

El riesgo lo corren por igual hombres y mujeres que han padecido la diabetes entre 10 y 15 años; pero es posible que el hombre sea quien sufra mayores consecuencias.

"El hombre tiende a ser más descuidado en la atención de su diabetes y es más reacio a seguir las instrucciones del médico", explica Huerta.

La pérdida de sensibilidad en los pies dificulta, además, que el paciente sepa si tiene una herida o ampolla, las cuales pueden empeorar y convertirse en úlceras o llagas profundas y graves. En esos casos cuando se corre el riesgo de contraer una infección e incluso una gangrena.

"La persona no siente dolor, frío, ni calor, y no puede detectar el peligro", dice Huerta.

El cuadro médico puede ser desolador. Sin embargo, la probabilidad de desampliar tales complicaciones disminuye y hasta se elimina cuando el paciente tiene una buena atención médica y controla adecuadamente la enfermedad.

Huerta cita estudios realizados en el Journal of the American Association, que indican que si la persona diabética controla los niveles de azúcar en la sangre, la presión sanguínea, el peso, y el consumo del cigarrillo, entre otros factores de riesgo, disminuyen las consecuencias de los problemas de circulación.

"Lo mejor para controlar una enfermedad es tener un paciente educado", concluye.

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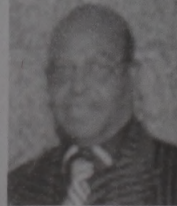
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