

Casualties of War in Iraq 4,744 Afghan 2180 as of Nov. 11, 2010



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Military broadens U.S. push to help Mexico battle drug cartels

The U.S. military has begun to work closely with Mexico's armed forces, sharing information and training soldiers in an expanding effort to help the country battle its violent drug cartels, according to U.S. and Mexican officials.

U.S. military officials have been hesitant to discuss publicly their growing ties with Mexico, for fear of triggering a backlash among a Mexican public wary of interference. But current and former officials say the U.S. military has instructed hundreds of Mexican officials in the past two years in subjects such as how to plan military operations, use intelligence to hunt traffickers and observe human rights.

The Pentagon's counterterrorism funding for Mexico has nearly tripled, from \$122 million in 2008 to more than \$34 million in 2010, according to estimates by the White House and the U.S. Department of Justice. While that is a small fraction of the Mexican anti-drug money provided by the State Department, the funding is significant because of the history of chilly relations between the two militaries.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton recently reflected U.S. alarm over the Mexican cartels, saying that in some cases they were "morphing into or making common cause with what we would consider an insurgency." The comment was phrased

across front pages in Mexico, and President Obama hastened to assure angry Mexicans that he did not

their own personnel. In addition, more Mexicans are being trained at various U.S. military bases, officials

through the State Department. It has provided about \$1.5 billion for Mexico over three years.

U.S. officials emphasize that the military assistance is part of a government-wide effort to assist Mexico on security. U.S. law enforcement agencies have also dramatically increased their cooperation with their Mexican counterparts, even embedding U.S. intelligence specialists in a Mexican command center.

"There clearly is a role for the U.S. military, but it is as a supporting player," said Roberta Jacobson, acting principal

senior Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, said in a recent speech.

But some U.S. analysts are skeptical. Mexican President Felipe Calderon has faced increasing criticism over his decision to battle the cartels with troops, who have been accused of thousands of human rights abuses.

"It's better to have a military that's better and more accountable. That said, I'm not sure the military is the right response. I think the deployment of the military has been done very badly" in Mexico, said Vanda Felbab-

Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr., the chief of the Northern Command, has called the partnership with Mexico his "number one priority." He declined an interview request.

In the past, U.S. military training teams rarely wore Mexican analyst. But Remart said that small U.S. teams have been visiting the Mexican military academies, as well as regional military commands. Increased training is also occurring in the United States, officials say.

In addition to providing intelligence and human rights courses, U.S. military instructors are teaching Mexicans how to use and maintain equipment provided through the Merida Initiative, such as helicopters and night-vision goggles.

Among those traveling to Mexico to give seminars to the military are staff members from the Joint Special Operations University, a sort of "college" for U.S. Special Operations forces.

The U.S. army has stationed a permanent liaison officer at the Northern Command, which is based in Colorado. And for the first time, a Mexican officer is serving as assistant commander at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation

at Fort Benning, Ga., formerly known as the School of the Americas.

Information-sharing between the two militaries has improved "immensely," said Mexican Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan.

The Northern Command has become a valuable clearinghouse on the U.S. side, ensuring all the disparate U.S. agencies are working together, ensuring that information is reaching those who need to have it in real time - so we can provide the endgame," he said.

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The Pentagon will also foot part of the bill for the 1200 National Guard troops that Obama recently decided to send to the border with Mexico. Those forces are under state control.

Alarmed by the soaring drug violence, some U.S. lawmakers are urging the Pentagon and intelligence community to do more to help Mexico. "These might include new ways to jointly deploy aviation, surveillance and intelligence assets," Sen. Richard G. Lugar (Ind.), the

United States, which took half its territory after the mid-19th century Mexican-American War. Cooperation began to increase in recent years with the collapse of Mexico's one-party political system. But it is the growing threat from drug traffickers that has prompted the biggest change. Drug violence has claimed at least 30,000 lives in Mexico in the past four years.

"President Calderon wants us in," said the senior U.S. official, adding: "We have to be respectful, obviously, and make clear we take responsibility for part of the problem and are supporting, not telling Mexico what to do."

En acusatos futuro de la reforma migratoria en el Congreso

Así, la sesión del "lame duck" podría ser un "ahora o nunca" para el "Dream Act" porque, con un estrecho margen de maniobra, es poco probable que salga a flote el próximo año.

En septiembre pasado, los republicanos, entre ellos el senador John McCain, otrora defensor de la reforma, torpedearon en el Senado el debate de una medida de justicia de la semana durante una brevíssima sesión postelectoral, marcada por la acrimonia de siempre sobre el futuro de los inmigrantes indocumentados en EE.UU.

La reforma migratoria, sea en formato de forma integral, afronta un futuro camino en la 112 sesión legislativa que comenzará en enero de 2011, debido al desmoronamiento de republicanos en la Cámara de Representantes que, presionados por su base conservadora, sólo quieren mano dura contra la inmigración ilegal.

Por ahora, lo único que hay de la promesa del líder de la mayoría demócrata del Senado, Harry Reid, de someter a voto, durante la brevíssima sesión postelectoral conocida en inglés como "lame duck", el "Dream Act" para la legalización de los estudiantes indocumentados.

Los latinos, según siguiendo el consejo del presidente Barack Obama de "castigar" a los "enemigos" de la reforma, le dieron el respaldo de la dala a los demócratas, pero éstos perdieron el control de la Cámara Baja y vieron reducida su mayoría en el Senado.

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Incoming Indian-American South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has been clear she supports SB 1070. "I will tell you that if the Arizona-style immigration reform comes to my desk, I will absolutely sign it," she said in an interview with a SC newspaper, Post and Courier. That's likely to happen, since the State Senate President Pro Tempore Glenn McConnell said he would introduce one next year.

say. The two sides' exchange of information has improved dramatically, officials say.

"The changes in the relationship between the Mexican military and the U.S. military, I believe, historic," Remart said.

The Obama administration is now considering what more it can do for Mexico's security forces.

"We've been directed by the president, at a very high level, to really think hard about how we can up our game, do more to support the partnership with the Mexican government," said one senior U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

One plan under consideration involves using \$50 million in funds from the Pentagon's 2011 budget to improve security along Mexico's southern border, an important corridor for drugs, officials said.

The Pentagon funds are in addition to the Merida Initiative, a package of law enforcement equipment and training run

by the State Department. It has provided about \$1.5 billion for Mexico over three years.

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With GOP Victories, Harsh Immigration Copycat Laws Likely Across the Country

Nebraska reelected Republican Gov. Dave Heineman last week, who put immigration at the center of his campaign, vowing to make it easier for police to arrest illegal immigrants.

Oklahoma is also a state to watch. Republican state representative Randy Terrill was reelected, the man who told reporters he was going to write an "Arizona-Plus" law. Terrill sponsored Oklahoma's HB 1804 in 2007, which sanctioned employers harshly for hiring undocumented immigrants.

Lawmakers in Texas filed 15 immigration-related bills for the legislature to consider in its next term, one of which would make it a state crime to enter the

country illegally. The Statesman reports that similar bills failed to pass in the legislature previously, but now Republicans have a 50-percent majority in the Texas house, up from just a two-person majority - so it's a whole new ballgame.

Mississippi is one of four states that mandate E-Verify, (a voluntary federal program that uses a database to verify a worker's immigration status) for all employers, and being anti-illegal immigration is endemic to GOP politicians in the state. Pressure is growing on the state level, with Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant saying on the radio in August, "I think you are going to see an Arizona-type law here in Mississippi."

Three Republican state senators have told reporters they are working on immigration bills, and Gov. Haley Barbour said he would sign an Arizona-style bill.

It's unclear what the repercussions will be of enacting these measures. We haven't seen the end of the legal wrangling over SB 1070. Oral arguments are currently underway in California's 9th Circuit Court of Appeals over U.S. District Court Judge Susan Bolton's decision to enjoin the law's most controversial provisions. The U.S. Supreme Court will also hear arguments this December concerning another Arizona immigration law, one that sanctions businesses for hiring undocumented immigrants and

to repeat state laws allowing illegal immigrants to get driver's licenses and fire in-state tuition through a scholarship lottery.

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Even so, U.S. military officials see similarities with their own counterinsurgency efforts and are passing on to the Mexicans some of the techniques they have honed, such as analyzing intelligence to track down enemy fighters.

"We have tried to share many of the lessons we've learned in chasing terrorist organizations in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Gen. Victor Remart, who recently retired as head of the U.S. military's Northern Command, which oversees the bilateral cooperation.

Mexico historically has been among the most reluctant countries in the hemisphere to cooperate with U.S. forces, in part because of lingering bitterness over invasions. Mexico still will not permit U.S. military trainers or advisers to deploy there full time.

But U.S. military officials are regularly traveling to Mexico to conduct short courses for their Mexican counterparts, who then train

With GOP Victories, Harsh Immigration Copycat Laws Likely Across the Country

The abundance of Republican victories in the 2010 elections draw a bleak landscape for undocumented immigrants. The success of hard-line GOP governors' net to mention members of state legislatures - many of whom highlighted opposition to illegal immigration in their campaigns - means that press will be at the ready to sign bills like Arizona's SB 1070.

Here's a primer on the states that are likely to pass harsh immigration laws in 2011:

Georgia's governor-elect Nathan Deal might be the first one to bring a copycat bill to the spotlight. In U.S. Representative. Deal was an outspoken proponent of illegal immigration and proposed changing the federal policy on birthright citizenship for the children of undocumented immigrants. Deal means business: he also proposed an amendment to the 2009 health care bill that would have required proof of citizenship for Medicaid benefits under the Health Care reform bill, and in his campaign vowed to introduce a law like SB 1070 if elected. A state that saw a rapid influx of immigrants in the 90s and early 2000s, Georgia has a history of taking a hard stance on immigration. The 2009 Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act made it more difficult for undocumented immigrants to work on state projects and to gain access to health care, higher education and public benefits.

Nebraska's governor-elect Brian Sandoval, son of Mexican immigrant parents, has support to Arizona's law and law early on. But powerful business interests in the state oppose such a bill, and in a detailed report, ImmigrationWorks USA, a coalition of business owners who

support immigration reform, says that when Rep. Chad Christensen tried to get a provision calling for passage of a Arizona-like law on the Nevada ballot for 2011, the Nevada Resort Association and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority took him to court and "squashed the idea."

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Editorial: Rubén Salazar's Death - Accident or Assassination?

Mexico-origin company expanding into E.E.U.U.

By Gregory Trepas
We need to get past the un-wis cracks spreading about the Internet on Tuesday - ones along the lines of how Sara Lee has become a bimbo. Actually, she's now a bimbo. At least her baked goods do.

BECAUSE OFFICIALS WITH Sara Lee Corp. (based in the Chicago suburb of Downers Grove, Ill.) reached an agreement with Grupo Bimbo, the Mexican confectionery that sells U.S.-style baked goods in Latin American countries and in recent years has expanded their business to sell some same brands in the United States to the growing Latino population. But being a bimbo apparently isn't the limit for Grupo Bimbo, which in this country operates as Bimbo Bakeries USA with corporate headquarters in Hunttown, Pa.

Because now, Grupo Bimbo owns the right to the Sara Lee brand names for bread, cakes and other baked goods. They gain 41 additional plants at which their products can be manufactured, to go along with the 39 they already had. They also gain about 4,700 new delivery routes, with about 13,000 employees being transferred.

Sara Lee officials justified their sale by telling reporter-types they want to focus more attention on their coffee and meat products, which include Jimmy Dean sausages. Also, any meat products they were producing under Sara Lee brand names are NOT part of this sale.

SO NOW, SARA LEE bread and Sara Lee bread are two separate products.

And Grupo Bimbo becomes a much bigger player in terms, as they also gain this deal the right to use regional brands such as Grandma Sycamore's, Heintz's and Rainbo.

Although it really isn't a new concern for Bimbo to produce brands of goods that most people wouldn't associate with a company with Latin American origins.

Anyone who has eaten Entenmann's doughnuts or cakes, Browerby bread or Thomas' English muffins is consuming a product that is part of the Bimbo or Bakers USA lineup of foods. This just adds yet another brand name to the overall list of things.

SO WHEN THIS deal becomes final early in 2011, what is its real significance, aside from Sara Lee Corp. being nearly \$1 billion wealthier, along with Mexican stocks in general receiving a boost on Tuesday following the Grupo Bimbo announcement and the Mexican peso gaining value in the U.S. dollar?

I'm sure some people are going to be offended at the thought that Mexico's largest food company is a major player in the U.S. food market, and that their jokes about "bimbos" are going to sound more and more vacuous as time goes by.

Being, it is going to mean that those Bimbo products could become even more widespread throughout the country, since corporate officials pointed out in announcing their deal that the Bimbo base of operations is primarily in the Northeastern U.S. and in Texas, while Sara Lee is set up to be strong in the Midwestern U.S. and the South.

"Sara Lee's bakers provide with a strong national network," Bimbo Bakers USA President Gary Prince said, in a prepared statement, "and company officials adding they plan to invest \$1 billion during the next five years to improve the technology at all the plants so as to make them one of truly unified network to produce their products across the country."

IT MAKES ME it makes me wonder of those billboards I have been told to avoid everywhere in recent months, advertising the Bimbo brand name ("see Bimbo") and their cute kiddie bear logo.

Are they on their way to becoming about as all-American a symbol as one can find in our country, similar to how a past generation remembers all those Burns-Shave slogans along our highways?

By Frank O. Sotomayor

Two Mexican cousins are killed by Los Angeles police in a case of mistaken identity. A prominent journalist is cautioned by two LAPD officers about his coverage of the shooting. A short time later, the journalist meets with staffers of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and tells them he suspects he's being followed by police. He clears out his wallet and clears off his office desk. Days later, he is dead. Killed by a 10-inch-long teargas projectile fired by a Los Angeles Sheriff's prole.

Is this the plot for a crime thriller? Or tragic? But it is just part of the ironic mystery surrounding Rubén Salazar. The Los Angeles Times columnist and KMXE-TV news director was killed 40 years ago under disturbing circumstances. Law enforcement officials say he was shot by a car driver. A new generation of law enforcement officials now has a chance to set the record straight by releasing all records relating to the case. For the sake of history and transparency, they must fulfill this opportunity.

I first heard of Salazar in early 1970 when a friend mailed me a few of his columns. I was in the Army in Japan at the time. I was impressed by Salazar's insight as he explored the often-misreported Chicano movement and issues involving education and justice. Following his career as a Times reporter, Salazar became the first Mexican-American columnist for a major U.S. newspaper. For me, a young Mexican American during an era with few minorities in the news media, he was an inspiration. I loved to go to Los Angeles and meet him.

On Aug. 29, 1970, I ended my military service in Oakland, Calif., and looked forward to a Times job interview. Little did I know that on that same Saturday afternoon, Salazar would be killed. Though I never got to meet him, I have continued to celebrate his journalistic work and ponder his death.

A basic question haunts me, just as it disturbs Salazar's children and many others. Was the fatal shooting of Salazar a homicide accident that occurred under not conditions? Or was Salazar assassinated to silence his reporting and the work of his KMXE news staff?

Salazar began writing his Times column when he left the newspaper as a reporter in January 1970 to head up a small news staff at KMXE, one of the nation's first Spanish-language TV stations. A few days before his death, Salazar met with a priest and two staff members of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission - regional director Philip Montez and Charlie Erickson, now publisher of Hispanic Link. News Service. Salazar told them his KMXE reporting had upset law enforcement. Erickson recalled in an interview. He wanted it "on the record" that he feared cops would try to frame him with something such as marijuana possession. Salazar's wife, Sally, later wrote that her husband had been acting nervous and that he had emptied most of his wallet's contents. At his office.

On Aug. 28, Salazar had cleared off his desk and had taken some pictures off his walls.

An Antivar March

Saturday Aug. 29 began with a peaceful march by an estimated 25,000 Mexican Americans in East Los Angeles. Organized by the National Chicano Moratorium Committee, it protested the Vietnam War and the disproportionate number of Mexican Americans being drafted and dying on the battlefield. Demonstrators came from across the Southwest in a show of unity for the Chicano movement that decried inequities in schools, jobs and the criminal justice system.

After the marchers reached Laguna Park, finally youth began to set up bottled drinks at a nearby liquor store. When deputies responded, they were pelted by rocks and the bottles. Deputies first fired gas to clear the park. Families with children and elderly relatives fled while some young men and women continued to fling rocks. The deputies responded violently, looting and burning businesses along Whittier Boulevard. Deputies and LAPD officers moved in with strength. Before it was over, property damages would exceed \$1 million, dozens would be injured and hundreds arrested. Three people would die.

Salazar was covering the day's events with his station's news staff. KMXE reporter Guillermo Restrepo later said that Salazar had suspected they were being followed that swamy afternoon as the two of them walked east along Whittier Boulevard. They entered the Silver Dollar bar to go to the restroom and have a beer. The location, 2 blocks from Laguna Park, seemed far removed from the rioting at the time. Sheriff's deputies, however, suddenly appeared outside the dingy bar. Later they said deputies had been told an armed man was inside the bar.

Deputy Thomas H. Wilson fired into the establishment using a wrap-shaped tear gas projectile designed to pierce wooden doors and to expel barricaded suspects. Yet, the Silver Dollar's doors were open, with only a small curtain hanging from the top. Salazar, the Sheriff's Department said, was hit in the temple by the projectile fired from the building. He died by Sheriff Pete Pitchess, insisted that it was just an unfortunate accident.

Complains from the Chief

In the months beforehand, LAPD Chief Ed Davis had complained to the Times' leadership and to Salazar personally about his columns. Two officers had called Salazar about the KMXE reports concerning the fatal police shootings of the two unarmed Mexican nationals. The officers, Salazar wrote in his column, cautioned him that "this kind of information could be dangerous in the minds of barrio people."

The LAPD and L.A. County Sheriff's Department were wary of the passionate rhetoric of young Mexican American activists and their cries of "Chicano power." But the activists' main goal was to bring about change to educational and political conditions

long neglected. All these events unfolded during J. Edgar Hoover's reign at the FBI and Richard Nixon's residence in the White House. Law enforcement across the nation took harsh action against antiwar protesters and spent on what they called radical or revolutionary elements. Those circumstances fed conspiracy theories, but by themselves, they are inconclusive.

One thing is clear: Salazar was not revolutionary. He believed in the American system but, as a journalist, he saw part of his role as exposing cases of discrimination and injustice.

Los Angeles public officials had a chance to resolve questions about Salazar's death. But instead, a rarely used procedure was ordered - a nonbinding coroner's inquest. The televised hearings made for good theater, but they were of little value as sources of evidence did not appear. In addition, hearing officer Norman Pitlick asked questions about Rian's attacks and possible links between protest organizers and leftist causes, issues unrelated to Salazar's death.

Wilson testified that he wanted to get the tear gas quickly into the bar because of the armed man or men believed inside. He aimed for the ceiling with a projectile, he said, and then fired a second round using a "duster" tear-gas canister. Another deputy later fired two additional rounds of tear gas.

"My Director's Still Inside"

Inconsistencies and conflicting accounts of what occurred were not resolved. Restrepo gave his reconstruction of events in a 1987 interview written by KMXE in 1990. Restrepo recalled that he sat to Salazar's left at the Silver Dollar, closer to the entrance.

When the first tear gas canister hit the bar, Restrepo recalled, "Robert told me, 'al supelo' [hit the floor]." I started to get down from my chair [and] I felt something go over my head." Restrepo said that when he crawled out the rear door, he was met by authorities aiming shotguns at him. "I told them, 'My director is still inside.'" He said the authorities replied, "Who cares about your director?" Restrepo said he was ordered to leave the area. Salazar's death was not announced until hours later.

Wilson had said his first shot was with a missile-like projectile, and a coroner's official said a projectile of that type could have caused Salazar's fatal injury.

Wilson said Salazar still alive after the first shot of tear gas. That's an important inconsistency in a case filled with major conflicts of narratives.

Chicano activists cited another discrepancy. Why were patrons who were standing at the bar's entrance during the shooting? (What exactly did that mean?) Those other jurors found the death to be an accident. Those murky findings frustrated those seeking clarity.

D.A. Decides Against Trial

A week later, District Attorney Evelle Younger washed his hands of the case, saying he could not bring a prosecution of Wilson for involuntary manslaughter, the only charge his office had considered. However, a trial, with its clear rules of evidence, would have provided a better picture of what had happened, regardless of the trial verdict. Younger was running for state attorney general in 1970. It seems clear to me that he did not want to go against "law and order." Younger, who died in 1989, rejected such allegations.

Sherman Block, who followed Pitchess as sheriff, scoffed at the idea that Salazar was killed intentionally. In 1995, Los Angeles Times writer Lewin Block said: "If you had an intention to shoot somebody, you don't do it with a tear-gas projectile." Block also told Times reporter Robert J. Lopez that he recalled testimony showing that the bar's curtain had deflected the projectile to Salazar's head.

The U.S. Justice Department was initially pressed by Mexican Americans to conduct a federal probe. The extent of that investigation is not clear, but officials failed to pursue any federal charges. To some activists, law enforcement's collective non-action smelted of a cover-up, but Mexican Americans carried little political clout in 1970. Unlike today, there were no Latinos on the Los Angeles City Council or County Board of Supervisors. Nationally, Mexican Americans were dismissed as a small regional minority and were not a force.

Sometime later, Los Angeles County paid Salazar's widow and three children \$700,000 to settle a lawsuit. No amount of money, of course, could compensate for the loss of a husband and a father. When his wife was cut short, Salazar was just 42.

The Journalist's Legacy

Salazar began his journalism career in 1955 at the Herald-Examiner Post in Los Angeles. He was an editor-in-chief at the Times and his role in Spanish-language TV, Salazar was the most important Mexican-American journalist in the 20th century. After his death, schools, parks and libraries were named in his honor. Salazar commemorated U.S. postage stamp was issued in 2008. His award-winning inspired Southern California journalists to form the California Chicano News Media Association, which in turn helped establish the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

Even the release of all relevant documents may not provide a definitive answer to the Salazar mystery. But such action would show that today's officials have nothing to hide about a 40-year-old case. "I don't want to believe that Rubén was targeted," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina. "But I do know that law enforcement followed a pathway that was very anti-Chicano."

Molina said records dealing with the Sheriff's Department's handling of the events at Laguna Park should be disclosed, too. "It was a terrible time," she said. "The full information needs to come out for those who are appropriate for that use."

Early this year, Thomas Sienza, president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, filed a California Public Records Act request with Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca on behalf of himself, Phillip Rodriguez and himself. In March, Los Angeles Times reporter López had also requested Salazar's death files. In early August, Baca balked at releasing the department's materials. But now, he has given them to the county's Office of Independent Review, which will prepare a report on the files.

"That's a good start. But for the sake of historical record, all of the Sheriff's Department files in early August should be made public. Beyond that, all released, unredacted records from the District Attorney's office, the Los Angeles Police Department, the FBI and other federal Justice Department agencies should also be made public."

"The Reality of the Day"

"Let the chips fall where they may," Molina told me. "We have a very difficult Sheriff. Today, for those who are nervous about what would come out, I think they will have to grin and bear it because that was the reality of the day."

Lisa Salazar Johnson, the oldest of Salazar's three children, said, "I am writing Sheriff Baca to release the case files because there are so many questions. I want to know why I had to live without a father."

For too long, what happened on Aug. 29 has been considered only of interest in the Southwest. Filmmaker Rodriguez, whose documentaries have made PBS, believes the case is significant nationally, just as it has been important to resolve cases involving civil rights abuses in the South during the 1960s.

Interpreting Latino Political Leverage After Hispanic's Elections

The Nov. 2nd trends were benchmark elections - but not most who people are inclined to think about them. They raised the question as to whether President Obama's self-acknowledged setback was also one for Latinos, who have consistently supported the President. To understand the implications for the country's 50 million Hispanics, some historical perspective helps. As early as the 1960s, large swatches of the Hispanic population, back then demographically small, were in Texas, Kentucky, even with Lyndon Johnson, who claimed to be a friend of Hispanics in Texas, on the ticket. Latinos got little recognition or benefit for it. Johnson made the point that community leaders that government had to be pushed and pressured to act. In a nutshell, Hispanic civic and community improvement efforts became a movement for political action. Much of this history, leading up to George W. Bush's first year as president, was covered in my 2003 book, *The Rise of Hispanic Political Power*. From the 1960s to the '90s, neighborhood-level organizing in the form of local candidates drew attention to issues concerning public works, education and unfair practices that held back Latino economic development.

But that perspective was often seen unwielded unless the group was given the social respect which usually came following political gains. Personal betterment is more easily recognized after such gains have been achieved. Congressional pioneers up to the 1970s were Republican Rep. Manuel J. Rivera (New Mexico) and three Democrats, Edward Roybal (Calif.), Henry B. Gonzalez (Texas) and the Senate anchor New Mexican, Joseph Montoya. The emerging Hispanic political culture has been especially consequential since the election of Jimmy Carter in 1976. In turn, the attention that Hispanics drew translated, at first slowly and then at a healthy pace, to economic improvements for their communities.

The Democratic Party sought to capitalize on a mass following of Latino working people. Republicans defined middle-class professionals and entrepreneurs as their best prospects. They were especially nervous about the rising Nixon, Reagan and both George Bush campaigns and administrations. The political movement was one for inclusion and not for alignment with them. It was especially true in 1980, during the Clinton administration with them.

synchronization of a political economy leading to the largest ever Latino expansion into the middle class. It coincided with the surge of Hispanic elected and appointed officials, who by 2010 had increased to more than 6,000. Such officials are the ones responsible for aging state and national candidates, who are Latino and expert in voter registration drives and campaign infrastructure. The reciprocity has stirred a national consciousness on Latino issues.

Still, sleep analysis and stereotyping have persisted since the '70s over whether Hispanics even show up to vote at all - or are they fickle or Pavlovian voters?

The 2008 election of Barack Obama made it crystal clear that the Hispanic influence is abundant and here to stay as part of the national political culture, and will vote consistent with how it perceives its community interests.

By then, only in the U.S. Supreme Court remained a government pillar lacking Hispanic inclusion. That was overcome with Obama's nomination and subsequent historic confirmation of Justice Sotomayor to the Court.

With that, the beginning of the quest for responsive government through inclusion was completed in the civic life of U.S. Latinos was complete.

The 2010 mid-term elections established the first benchmark in the new phase, one that harmonizes Latino interests with national ones. Scholar Brian Stevens once defined it as the "Hispanicization of the United States and the Anglofication of Hispanics."

The elections came at a time when the U.S. finance was seeking its own political responsiveness after its recovery from the financial crisis, recession and widespread unemployment. The national parties and Party itself offshoot had been at loggerheads for more than a year.

The trademark attitudes for the 2010 redress have been reactionary and angry. They could - or better said, should - have borrowed a chapter from the national playbook by seeking progress instead of making yesterday sound like tomorrow. They had the opportunity to approach candidates and issues constructively, with optimism and of empathy, alienation and bad blood.

This is the essential yardstick for measuring who won and who lost. NEXT WEEK: What the midterm elections mean for Hispanics - in nuts and bolts of lightning.

E d i t o r

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Recordando a Bidal

By Aliviadora

Bidal fue hijo querido
Fue estimado hermano

Fue esposo y buen padre
Zenaida, Amalia Joe Adam,
Y Marisol fueron su tesoro
Y Olga ala vez fue su favorita
Que sigue semana por semana
Sobre viviendo "El Editor"
Que bonito amor.

Fue abuelito de Eliana, Nicholas,
Azelia y Isaiah. Fueron su medicina
Cada vez que lo veían

Le gustaba el deporte del beisbol y
"Le dio vida a Los Yaquis"
Cuando más que una vez fueron triunfadores
A veces también perdían
"Lost again" he would say and
Soon on their to top it off with a cold one

Bidal fue buen camarada, tenía muchos amigos
Que siempre lo apoyaban con luchas de Justicia

El tocaba el saxophone, enveses cantaba y le
Gustaba decir chistes
a veces se le ocurrían unas puntadas
que eran muy Bidal

pues un día después de una rifa
andaban el y un amigo, apenas traían para un fría
Les quedaban unos cuantos guajolotes

De pronto el pensó
Que deaquellas fuera un lap dance

Bien allá se le ocurrió
Pagar con ellos... dicho y echo
fue lo que consiguieran
con esos turkeys

Mas a la ves les dieron alegría
Ha una familia que no tenían
Con que celebrar "Thanksgiving Day"

Yes he was that way
Le gustaba escribir, pues era periodista
Hasta hizo unas vistas

"El Traje de Santa Claus" y
"Un West Texas Cabrito Baptism"

Fueron dos de sus cuentos

Desarrolló el "Pancho Claus" para que
su voz fuera escuchada y conseguir regalos
Para lo chavalos... que no fueran olvidados

Fue fundador de "Festival Viva Aztlan"
Para vernos bailar, con trajes
Típico de diferentes regiones
Llenos de bonitos colores

What's up he would say
"El Menudazo is on its way

It was just another year one could say
He celebrated life

That's just the way he was
Leaving us behind his many ondas

That even though he's gone
His legacy lives on...

¡Que Viva Bidal Agüero!
En vida y en muerte

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Texas Immigration Bill Mirrors Arizona Bill

The League of United Latin American Citizens will continue to protest any Arizona bills that resemble Arizona SB 1070. "Representative Riddle's filing of these bills will only add to the current Texas budget deficit," said LULAC National President Margaret Moran. "Texas has long been a state where common sense prevails over grandstanding and legislative extremes of any sort have almost been defeated. The Texas taxpayers expect better. Copycatting other legislation only illustrates a lack of vision on her part." State Representative Debbie Riddle filed several bills, similar to that of the Arizona immigration law. The first bill out of the chute was mandating that voters present a photo identification in order to cast a ballot. The other bills deal

with clamp downs on undocumented immigrants, including an Arizona-type law and prohibiting sanctuary cities. Both proposals deal with encouraging law enforcement to inquire about the immigration status of those stopped for routine and other policing matters. Another bill would allow a police officer to arrest a person who he or she believes has committed an offense without a warrant. Before making that arrest, the officer must receive confirmation from ICE that the person is illegally in the United States. The bill is similar to Arizona's, which would give state and local officers the ability to ask for proof of citizenship and arrest illegal immigrants if warranted. Representative Riddle also filed eight other house bills including H-B 16 which would require a voter

to provide additional identification before they would be allowed to vote. The first 15 bills of any session are reserved for the priority subjects set by the speaker, so Riddle's voter ID bill carries the number HB 16. The lower number of a House bill doesn't provide special consideration, but it is used for symbolic purposes. A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco is currently examining the Arizona law after much of it was ruled unconstitutional by a lower court. Seven other House bills that Riddle filed on Monday include:
HB 18, imposing sanctions for municipalities that allow "sanctuary cities"
HB 19, which seeks to imprison unlicensed drivers who cause serious accidents

HRB 16 and HB 23, which allow counties to set their own appraisal caps
HB 21, requiring all state agencies to determine and report their costs related to illegal aliens
HB 22, requiring school districts to report the number of illegal aliens attending their schools
HB 20, increasing the penalty for burglary of a motor vehicle to a state jail felon
The League of United Latin American Citizens, the largest and oldest Hispanic membership organization in the country, advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating through 880 LULAC councils nationwide.

Rep. Alonzo Today Responds to 1st Anti-Immigration Batch Of Bills Filed for 82nd Legislature

With the start of the 82nd Regular Session of the Texas Legislature barely two months away and prefiling of legislation starting today in Austin, Texas State Representative Roberto R. Alonzo of Dallas was quick to respond to the first batch of anti-immigration measures filed already - many of them Arizona-style bills. In short, the Dallas lawmaker commented that he was not surprised that the same Texas lawmakers as in years past are at it again with their same bill filings, but this time around many of those bills carry some type of Arizona-style theme or message in them. According to Rep. Alonzo even our own Texas governor and the Texas Association of Business (TAB) have denounced these measure as not being "good for Texas." The prefiling for legislation started on Monday, November 8, 2010; the regular session starts on Tuesday, January 11, 2011.

"I am not surprised once again that some Texas state lawmakers are at it again, continuing to take aim at immigration reform issues that I firmly believe can be better addressed if left at the hands of our federal government to take care of and pursue through more effective comprehensive immigration reforms. Reforms at the federal level would apply equitably and fairly to all states across the nation, rather than take a state-by-state piecemeal approach that does nothing but create more problems and divisiveness, not only in Texas, but across the country. We cannot, and should not insist that our local, city, county, or even state officials and law enforcement agencies simply become immigration officials and enforce federal laws that we have no business enforcing or even have the knowledge or expertise to address. Can you imagine each of the 50 states having their own set of 'mini-version style' immigration laws? It would create nothing but chaos, problems, and more financial strain on our states," said Rep. Alonzo.

"Immigration reform is such a complex, complicated, and time-consuming process that even our federal government alone cannot adequately address and has been tackling for decades. For state lawmakers to ask our local, city, county, and even state officials to become federal immigration officials overnight and ask them to enforce federal law, is not only unfair, but also very costly and more difficult than we think. Many local law enforcement agencies are already short-staffed, low in adequate financial resources and human manpower, and simply cut too thinly to effectively do their primary jobs, which is to provide safer neighborhoods and patrol our communities," continued Rep. Alonzo.

On the first day of prefiling legislation in Austin, some Texas lawmakers had already filed close to two dozen anti-immigra-

tion measures all the way from an exact replica of the Arizona law which is still entangled in the federal courts in that state, to Voter ID, creation of certain crimes for criminal trespassing by certain undocumented immigrants, imposing sanctions on local municipalities that allow sanctuary cities, imprisoning certain unlicensed drivers who cause serious accidents, requiring all state agencies to determine and report their costs to 'illegal aliens' [their terminology], and requiring all school districts to report the number of 'illegal aliens' [their terminology], among others.

"We have so many other important issues that the State of Texas should be addressing if we are to be adequately prepared to improve the quality of life for all citizens, and that includes education and health reforms, cutting the escalating costs of all forms of insurance, rising utility costs and gas prices, adequate health care for low-income children and aging, hard-working families, curtailing our high unemployment lines, and providing financial assistance to encourage more young men and women to not only attend but graduate from college as well. The list is endless, but yet more state-focused, and immigration reform should not be on that list," said Rep. Alonzo.

"Again, I am not surprised that some state lawmakers still do not get it. Many of these same measures have been attempted in the past, and did not go far, as they have either been challenged by the courts, or been defeated by more immigrant-friendly policymakers and government leaders, just like we witnessed during the past two sessions of the Texas Legislature where several of these same proposals were filed by anti-immigrant legislators, but did not see the light of day," continued Rep. Alonzo.

"Additionally, similar measures have failed in some local communities (i.e., Farmers Branch, Irving, etc.) as they have had to face strong pro-immigration public demonstrations, rallies, protestors, and other similar action. The bottom line is simple; some legislators in Texas and certain local elected officials simply will not stop as they will continue to use our immigrant, tax-paying residents as scapegoats to other community problems and societal ills that have nothing to do with immigration in general," continued Rep. Alonzo.

"As I have said in the past, not only do I find these proposed draconian anti-immigrant measures outrageous and ridiculous, but I also think they are only opening a can of worms for the entire State of Texas, labeling us as an insensitive state to live in, raise our children and grandchildren, and do business in, continued Rep. Alonzo.

and reliability, if past research and reliable data is any indica-



am certain we are not capable of handling, much less financing, when we consider that we have so many other important state matters to address, including adequate school finance, more jobs, adequate health care, fair insurance coverage for low and middle-income Texans, transportation needs, and more services for our elderly Texans, among other issues," stated Rep. Alonzo.

"Instead of blaming immigrants for all of our State's and nation's woes, we need to continue to remind some of our colleagues that they should instead focus their time and energy in highlighting the many positive contributions that our immigrant population makes to our State's economy, whether it is in the labor market, our public schools, our local communities, and tax system. Instead of blaming immigrants for our state's and nation's failing public school finance system, our high health care costs, our overwelded jails, and our high unemployment rates, we need to remind our colleagues that they should instead focus their time and energy in highlighting the worse conditions that the State of Texas and the U.S. could be in if it were not for our immigrant population and their many contributions," stated Rep. Alonzo.

"Finally, we must continue to remind our colleagues that we could be worse off without our immigrants, and that there is an over-abundance of research studies and reliable government and scholarly, professional reports to refute their anti-immigration positions. In fact, a recent report by the Texas Comptroller's Office (December 2006), concluded that immigrants bolstered our state's economy by over \$17.7 billion annually," continued Rep. Alonzo.

When it comes to taxes, immigrants may have cost the state \$1.16 billion in services (i.e.,

health care, education, and so forth), however, they pay well over \$1.58 billion in taxes and fees - that is not a gain or profit of \$420 million annually. While the debate on the

impact on illegal immigration continues to roll the state and nation, this Comptroller's 2006 study represents the first major comprehensive look at the costs and benefits of immigration in Texas, which is estimated at about 1.4 million immigrants living in Texas.

"While the critics will continue to overblow the statistics and raise myths about immigrants in Texas, the Comptroller's report also concluded that the absence of our immigrants would decrease the gross state product by \$17.7 billion a year," continued Rep. Alonzo.

"I cannot put it into much simpler terms, but to continue to remind some of my colleagues that immigration reform, is and should continue to be a federal issue, and asking our local, city, county, and even state law enforcement agencies to become federal immigration officials, is simply asking too much of them. We have much more important state business to take care of if we are to be competitive with other states. It is a shame that when it comes to state rankings, Texas still ranks low or poor when it comes to such important issues as adequate teacher pay, jobs on the market, number of high school and college graduates, adequate health care coverage for Texans, poverty, and so on. We need to take the economy in general, to add the very complex and complicated immigration policing and enforcement issue to the formula will not help at all," concluded Rep. Alonzo.

The six-term Dallas lawmaker, Rep. Alonzo, currently also serves as a member of the Immigration Task Force of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus (MALC), a 44-member caucus within the Texas House of Representatives. He also serves on the House Committee on Higher Education and Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence, both of which at one time or another have studied the various issues that impact all Texans, including various aspects of immigration reform. He also chairs the Immigration Task Force of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) which is expected to meet in San Antonio later this week.

Diego Luna da su opinión Once años de Latin Grammy

Diego Luna volvió a captar la atención del público angélico. Pero esta vez no lo hizo con una actuación estar en una película ni con la nominación a un premio. Lo hizo opinando sobre la homofobia, el clasismo, el racismo, el narcotráfico y el gobierno de su natal México.

El actor participó en una conversación de la noche del lunes con el catador Josh Kun, quien fungió como moderador de la Serie de lecturas sobre América Latina que organiza cada año la Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism de la USC.

"Creí en un país donde el clasismo y la desigualdad económica han impulsado a muchos a trabajar desde niños o con los traficantes de drogas", dijo el artista de 30 años ante más de dos mil universitarios que acudieron a la plática que duró más de dos horas. "Y creo que estamos en un punto donde va a pasar algo... algo parecido a la Revolución Mexicana, porque es horrible como se vive hoy en México... necesitamos un cambio".

Vestido con una camisa a cuadros y pantalones de mezclilla, la estrella de Y Tu mamá también sostuvo que dentro de la mala situación hay esperanza, ya que "México es un país joven... es como un adolescente que todavía está explorando qué quiere ser, lo que gusta y no gusta, y a veces es heterosexual y homosexual".

Según la apreciación del actor, los pasos del cambio se están observando en su país con el arribo del Partido de Acción Nacional al poder, algo diferente del Partido Revolucionario Institucional que "como una

dictadura" gobernó por décadas.

"No puedo decir si el México de ahora está peor o mejor que el de antes con el nuevo gobierno porque estoy con este micrófono aquí", dijo entre risas y bromas el astro de *Rudo y Cursi*. "Pero sé que hay esperanzas, porque cuando eres joven siempre hay esperanzas".

Luna demostó que el cambio

doble moralidad que el gobierno de México tiene frente a la inmigración.

"Mientras nuestros Políticos daban respeto a Estados Unidos por los mexicanos que cruzan la frontera de este país, nosotros no respetamos a los centroamericanos que ponen un pie en nuestro país", señaló.

Abordando el tema de la homosexualidad, el actor de Milk sostuvo que no le preocupó representar a un gay mexicano en esta cinta porque el problema de la homofobia en México es algo que también debe cambiar.

"Tenemos que aceptar las diferencias que hay entre unos y otros", dijo al respecto, y un estallido de aplausos irrumpió su punto de vista. "No hay que tenerle miedo a los cambios".

Como ejemplo de la aceptación a los cambios, Luna trajo a colación su nuevo rol de padre, una tarea que aceptó desde el principio y que con facilidad se fue acomodando con su trabajo de actor y productor. Luna tiene dos hijos con la también actriz Camila Sodi, Jerónimo, de dos años, y Fiona, de cuatro meses.

"No estoy de acuerdo con esa costumbre mexicana de dejarle la crianza de los hijos sólo a las madres", apuntó. "La crianza debe de ser compartida por papá y mamá".

El artista comentó además que a partir de Abel, su primer largometraje, desea enfocarse más en la producción que en la actuación.

"Estoy trabajando ya en otra cinta", dijo. "Y no voy a revelar la trama ni su nombre porque nosotros no será una sorpresa".



La Academia Latina de la Grabación está lista para darle la bienvenida a una nueva década de celebración de la música hispanoamericana y para ello tiene preparado un gran espectáculo mañana en Las Vegas, la décimo primera edición del Latin Grammy, con el que además de premiar a artistas iberoamericanos espera sembrar la semilla para nuevas innovaciones y colaboraciones.

El presidente del organismo, Gabriel Abaro Jr., asegura que se trata de un esfuerzo monumental con más de 45 categorías que van desde el jazz tradicional, pasando por el tango, la ranchera y el flamenco, la música para niños y la cristiana, hasta las más populares como el pop, el rock y la urbana.

Todo esto se engloba en una ceremonia de tres horas que cada año busca superarse a sí misma y que también espera demostrar lo diversa que es la música latina y las geniales producciones que continuamente se cocinan.

Con el ánimo al 100%, dando los últimos toques a los preparativos, Abaro habló sobre la ceremonia, sus retos, aspiraciones, motivos y lo que más le llusona del arduo trabajo de dirigir tan prestigiada empresa.

"¿Qué es lo que más disfruta de todo este proceso tan abarador y que además debe ser este... mame?"

"Disfruto mucho el momento en que llegan todas las inscripciones y se registran y se clasifican por categoría y descubrir la cantidad de música bellísima. Me entristece profundamente ver cuántas se quedan en el camino porque al final solo hay un ganador... Lo que me duele es que la gente no llegue a conocer esa música tan bella, pero creo que la Academia hace una muy buena labor para que los amantes de la música se fijen en ciertos álbumes porque quedan nominados... Hay siempre una oportunidad para conocer algo nuevo".

En ceremonias de este tipo siempre hay algún inconforme. ¿Cómo lidian con las críticas, los recelos?

Muy sencillo... nada de eso es verdad. Es cierto que la gente, el público en general, no conoce bien las reglas de

la organización y hay tres factores aquí que me gustaría resaltar. El primero es, que quienes votan no son fans y no necesariamente votan por el producto que es más conocido en la radio o por su éxito en ventas o por lo carismático del artista; los votos se inclinan más por cuestiones técnicas. Si el que vota es un aficionado a fijar en la letra, si es arreglista va a ver cómo quedó orquestado... Al final el resultado es

de perspectivas... Los resultados ni siquiera pasan por nuestra oficina, van directamente a una firma de auditoría que se encarga de hacer todo el cómputo. Es un cómputo 100% matemático y ese es el resultado de lo que votó la que fue la votación. Punto. Mi trabajo está en que se cuiden y respeten las reglas".

¿Cómo se manejan los empates?

"Muy simpático. A la hora en que se anuncian es un desastre porque hay que estar corriendo para buscar otro trofeo porque a veces no entiende un artista que también ganó y después que ha pasado el tiempo quiere subir [al escenario]... pero si la votación fue empate, eso no se discute, se premian a los que sean que hayan legado".

¿Con qué nuevos retos se enfrenta la Academia después de 10 años?

"Obviamente con la necesidad de reinventarse, con la necesidad de poder mostrar nuevas cosas para no caer en lo apático de lo predecible.

Tenemos un gran vehículo para poder tener ese contexto, que es la música. Si la música cambia y evoluciona, para nosotros nuestro trabajo se hace mucho más sencillo... Puede uno empujar la milanesa de distintos formas, pero si la carne de adentro no es la correcta, por más pan que le pongamos no va a funcionar. La ventaja es que este año tenemos música muy linda, muy bella y lo que

nosotros hacemos es tratar de encontrar elementos para que la gente que vea el programa de televisión sienta que vio un espectáculo digno. Tratamos de presentar cosas novedosas... y de crear lo que llamamos "momento Latin Grammy", algo que la gente no ha visto y que seguramente no verá en ningún otro momento".

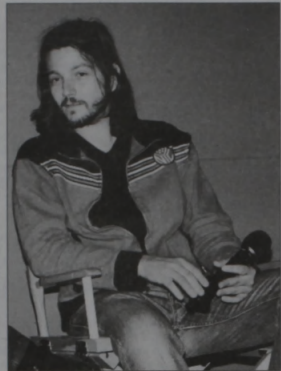
Y ¿cuándo veremos una ceremonia realizada en Latinoamérica?



"Es parte de mi ilusión... es un tema que involucra aspectos económicos, logísticos, de seguridad y de congruencia. Hoy por hoy la Academia es una organización sin fines de lucro y el dinero que llegamos a hacer lo destinamos en un 99%, porque no me gustan los absolutos, a dos fines: becas o ayuda económica a estudiantes o a gente que está tratando de hacer música [y]... donar instrumentos y cuestiones educativas".

"¿Qué vamos a ver este año?"

"Bueno, si contamos con que tenemos bonita música, muy buenas nominaciones, si contamos que tenemos Las Vegas como una ciudad que tiene espectáculos fantásticos y además la Academia siempre trata de echar la casa por la ventana para producir un magnífico show. De acuerdo a nuestros planes, vamos a ver el mejor show que ha tenido esta organización jamás".



se dará cuando "los políticos crean en la educación y en darle oportunidades al talento".

El actor y ahora director de cine aseguró que con su producción de documentales y su promoción del festival *Ambulante* él está poniendo ya su granito de arena.

"El documental es una herramienta, un recurso para hacer cambios... porque cuando miras una cinta y puedes decir: así no quiero vivir, así no quiero que vivan mis hijos... y empieza el cambio", acotó.

Respecto del tema de la

muerte internacional, el copropietario de la productora Canino Films, manifestó su desacuerdo con las fronteras entre los países, así como con la

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Roach Has Concerns About Manny Pacquiao: Can Antonio Margarito Pull the Upset?

New York's. . .



Congressman. Movie Star. Singing Sensation. Filipino Icon. There are all titles that super-manny Manny Pacquiao holds, yet it's the title of World Champion Boxer that famed trainer Freddie Roach fears is being put on the back burner as Pacquiao prepares for his upcoming WBC Junior Middleweight Championship bout against Antonio Margarito this Saturday night at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Endorsement deals from Nike to multi-million dollar paydays for his performances in the ring. Instead of being looked down on from the elite, he's been embraced by their fraternity with open arms.

And if you know anything about boxing, you know that he calls it exactly how he sees it. As the final hour approaches, it appears that Pacquiao's legion of supporters also have cause for concern as this is shaping up to be an event that has "upset" written all over it. On one side you will have the rags to riches story of Pacquiao, who, guided by his uncle, took fights to make enough money to provide his mother with rice for the family's meals. Those days are now long gone as money is thrown at him from all angles, whether it be

Roach, extremely disappointed with how many distractions Manny faces while training in the Philippines, hoped that the second leg of training at his Wild Card Gym in Hollywood would provide the focus needed for a fight of this magnitude. Unfortunately for Roach, Pacquiao is a global sensation whose fame knows no boundaries. As previously mentioned, Pacquiao still takes time out of his training sessions to make late night talk show appearances as well as promoting a certain Nevada politician, Harry Reid, during his recent campaign. Truth is, it's even without these unnecessary distractions, Pacquiao faces a daunting task when he steps into the ring against Margarito, who holds a significant size advantage over the former Bantamweight Champion. As witnessed on HBO's 24/7 series which highlights both fighters respective journeys to their upcoming fight, Pacquiao has his hands full with sparring partners brought in with a similar style and size advantage that he's being up against on Saturday. Those fighters are nowhere near the talent of the villainous Margarito. Who will be named the new WBC Junior Middleweight Champion? One fighter has it all. The other wants what he has. Pacquiao has all of the fame and respect he could ever imagine. One day he's fulfilling his duty in the Philippines as a congressman and the next he's singing out of tune duets with Will Ferrel live on The Jimmy Kimmel Show. All the while, Antonio Margarito is running mile after mile followed by countless rounds of sparring to ensure that he has no excuses come fight night.

While the Cowboys have continued to struggle, the NFC East-leading Giants appear to be getting better with each game. New York came out of its bye week and pounded Seattle 41-7 last Sunday, as the NFL's second-ranked offense outgained the

The New York Giants deal another blow to Dallas' miserable season three weeks ago - a defeat that contributed to this week's dismissal of the Cowboys' coach. In their first game since Wade Phillips' firing, the Cowboys took to the surging Giants at the Meadowlands on Sunday with Jason Garrett making his debut at the helm. Dallas (1-7) lost 45-7 to Green Bay last Sunday, a defeat that sealed Phillips' fate. He was let go the next day after compiling a 34-22 record in 3 1/2 seasons with the Cowboys. The team went 11-5 last year and won the NFC East, but Phillips couldn't surmount Dallas' worst start since 1989 this season. The Cowboys, a popular press pick as Super Bowl contenders, have a 40-31 record in 2010 after the past three weeks.

While the Cowboys have continued to struggle, the NFC East-leading Giants appear to be getting better with each game. New York came out of its bye week and pounded Seattle 41-7 last Sunday, as the NFL's second-ranked offense outgained the

New York knocked quarterback Tony Romo out with a broken collarbone in the October matchup, with Jon Kitna taking over under center. The veteran has thrown for 749 yards with four touchdowns and six interceptions in three games.

Dallas is averaging 359.3 yards in 10th place in the league. The team will want to meet the ball game to match the Packers' formidable defense, getting fielded to a season-low 20.5 yards.

The Cowboys' beleaguered defense, meanwhile, gave up 400 yards for the second time in three weeks, as Green Bay broke Dallas.

The Giants had 497 against Dallas. Things got even worse for the Cowboys' defense this week, as the team announced starting end Marcus Spears is out for the season with a calf injury. The six-year veteran had 19 tackles in 2010.

COWBOYS

New York will try to take advantage of its looks to match its last offensive effort versus Dallas. The Giants will have to do behind a banged-up offensive line, however, as they aren't expected to have starting left tackle David Dehl (hamstring) hurt, which could be missing center Shaun O'Hara (sprained foot).

New York, with a one-game lead over Philadelphia in the division, is looking to remain focused against a struggling opponent - one that could get a boost from the coaching change - before visiting the Eagles next week.

"We're going one game at a time," coach Tom Coughlin said Monday. "The next game is our total concern, and that's far as our thinking goes. It's right there."

The Giants haven't beaten the Cowboys four straight times since taking six in a row from Sept. 18, 1988-Sept. 30, 1990. New York has had the last two meetings in East Rutherford.

The Authority of Jesus

Questioned

By Sal Hernandez

Conclusion: Who is God the Father?

Last week, we began with getting to understand a little more and to know a little more about God. It is His only Son, Jesus, that we see the Father until we go before Him, one day, sooner or later. Now let us continue where we left off. Motion, i.e. the passing from power to act, as it takes place in the universe implies a first unmoved Mover, who is God; else we should postulate an infinite series of movers, which is inconceivable. For the same reason efficient causes, as we see them operating in this world, imply the existence of a First Cause that is uncaused, i.e. that possesses in itself the sufficient reason for its existence; and this is God. The fact that contingent beings exist, i.e. beings whose non-existence is recognized as possible, implies the existence of a necessary being, who is God. The graduated perfections of being actually existing in the universe can be understood only by comparison with an absolute standard that is also actual, i.e. an infinitely perfect Being such as God.

The wonderful order or evidence of intelligent design which the universe exhibits implies the existence of a supermundane Designer, who is no other than God Himself.

Too, the common consent of mankind is a personal opinion. What objections might you or will you hear from those who do not believe in God at all or from those who have an idea about God but do not fully understand, such as Jews, Muslims, Christian Scientists, Protestants, Hindus, etc. We have to know and understand that these of these people can not believe in something that they can not see therefore have no faith. Some do not want to have a Master over them therefore discounting any Authority higher or from above. Some just do not care. Of course, this has caused people to have ideas of some higher power or some form or method of evolution while many others have this idea stemming from good versus evil and they rationalize everything to death (you know people tend to say, if God exist, why do all of these horrific things happen; why is there sin; why does God allow this to happen, etc.).

We see and hear and feel the presence of the Father through Scriptures. In the very beginning, what beautiful scenes we read about and how wonderful He is in inviting us to come to know who He is. It is part of the mystery of life that we live and how He invites us to develop in a faith that only He knows. Through the gift of grace that He grants us, we come to know a little bit at a time who He is and what He does and how He does things, but the mystery remains and will remain as only He is all knowing and only when we come before Him, will we see His glory. The one thing to point out is that we must get there and the Way to get there is through His Son. Otherwise, He only knows what He is going to do at that moment. Thanks be to Him, for we know of His great love and mercy. I hope that we are faithful in the way that He wants us to be, otherwise, there is no hope. The gifts of His Spirit and the fruits of the gifts of the Spirit grant us all the ability to really come to Him and to get to know Him in an intimate way, which is what He wanted from the very beginning.

In coming to the celebration of the Holy Mass, you will receive the necessary gifts to come to know and understand Him more intimately, after all, it is His Son we are receiving, and it is through the Son that we see the Father.

MLB Rumors: Yankees Will Go All Out To Obtain Cliff Lee This Offseason

At 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, free agency began for Major League Baseball.

The Yankees waited little time in planning out whom they are making their main target for the off-season.

Now, most likely the Yankees will try and likely get Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera back for 2011. That will be the easy part of their winter.

But aside from Jeter and Rivera, the Yankees will be putting their main focus onto Cliff Lee, the biggest prize on the free agent market.

The Yankees and general manager Brian Cashman have already contacted Lee's agent Dark Demmecker about preparing a potential offer for the left-hander.

Lee is no stranger to New York, as he beat the Yankees in Game 3 of the 2010 ALCS as a member of the Rangers.

Last year in the World Series, Lee won Games 1 and 5 of the World Series when he was a member of the Phillies.

The Yankees will not be the only suitors for Lee's services. The Rangers, Angels, Nationals and Cubs are all expected to try to persuade Lee to pitch for them as well.

The Rangers—Lee's 2010 second-half team—are are factored to be the toughest competition for the Yankees, considering Lee lives in Arkansas and Texas is closer to his family.

What do you think the final offer will be from the Yankees for Cliff Lee?

\$120 million
\$140 million
\$160 million
\$180 million

them either, as they have been paying it the last several years.

If the Yankees want to add Lee by offering him more money, they will do it, as they always go the extra mile to get the players they want.

Back in 2008, when they were trying to sign CC Sabathia, they upped their initial offer of six years and \$160 million to seven years and \$141 million.

The Yankees knew they needed Sabathia, and they knew the extra had to offer something extra to convince him not to pitch on the west coast near his California home. By adding more to their offer, they got Sabathia to relocate his family to New York.

The Yankees will be looking to do the same thing now with Lee and his family. So if the Rangers offer a major contract, expect the Yankees to trump them, whether

it be in years or dollars.

Speaking of Sabathia, he is one of Lee's closest friends from their playing days in Cleveland, and will be playing the role of recruiter for Lee and his family to come to New York.

Sabathia won a Championship in his first year with the Yankees, while Lee has lost in consecutive World Series championships in New York with the Yankees, to go along with a massive contract, may be enticing enough for Lee to come from the instead of Texas.

From the Yankees' point of view, Andy Pettite's unknown future with the team may be even more incentive to go after Lee.

Since 2007, the Yankees have gone year to year with Pettite, Ayo legal

would be coming retirement. Pettite wanted to make back to the Yankees to win one more championship, which he last did in 2009. At 38, Pettite may want to finally call it a career and spend time with his wife and four kids.

His possible retirement, along with A.J. Burnett's inconsistency, will only further increase the Yankees' desire and need to get Lee to New York.

Right now, we are in the early stages of free agency and the negotiating process. As the weeks go on, we'll hear more stories and rumors of Lee and his whereabouts for 2011 and beyond.

But for right now, we all know the Yankees' main plan for this winter, and it's all depends on how much money and how many years it will take to convince Cliff Lee to come to New York.

Si usted adquirió una máquina de afeitar Gillette M3Power entre el 1 de mayo de 2004 y el 31 de octubre de 2005

puede tener derecho a obtener beneficios de un Acuerdo de Demanda Colectiva

Hay un Acuerdo propuesto con The Gillette Company, en una Demanda Colectiva, relativo a M3Power Razor System Marketing & Sales Practices Litigation.

¿Sobre qué es la Demanda Colectiva? La Demanda cuestiona la veracidad de las afirmaciones de la máquina de afeitar M3Power ("M3P") de Gillette. Los Demandantes reclaman que las afirmaciones de Gillette, en las que se afirma que la máquina de afeitar M3P "levanta el vello o hace que se mueva y lo separa de la piel", eran falsas y que se infringen las leyes relacionadas con el consumidor en los EE. UU. y Canadá. A mediados del 2005, Gillette eliminó esas declaraciones de sus publicidades. Gillette niega todas las acusaciones, pero ha aceptado el Acuerdo propuesto para dar por terminado el caso.

¿Quiénes son los Demandantes Colectivos? Entre los Demandantes Colectivos están incluidas todas las personas de los EE. UU. o Canadá que adquirieron una máquina de afeitar M3P en los EE. UU. entre el 1 de mayo de 2004 y el 30 de septiembre de 2005, en Canadá entre el 1 de mayo de 2004 y el 31 de octubre de 2005. Las personas que compraron las máquinas de afeitar M3P para su venta están excluidas de la Demanda.

¿Qué estipula el Acuerdo propuesto? Gillette ha aceptado poner a disposición \$7,500,000 para un Fondo del Acuerdo. El Fondo se usará para proporcionar a los Demandantes Colectivos que envíen una reclamación válida, en tiempo y forma, ya sea un reembolso de \$115 dólares estadounidenses o \$16.25 dólares canadienses, según el lugar de compra por la máquina de afeitar M3P o bien hasta los beneficios de \$5 dólares estadounidenses (hasta un total de \$15 dólares estadounidenses, o su equivalente en dólares canadienses) por cualquier día de afeitar M3Power/yo cualquier máquina de afeitar Fusion o Fusion de la línea de productos de afeitar de 2004 a 2011, o una nueva máquina de afeitar manual para hombres Gillette a modo de reemplazo, y otro resarcimiento.

Las reclamaciones se limitan a una por persona a un grupo familiar. Si sus reclamaciones exceden la suma disponible para los beneficiarios del Acuerdo, los Demandantes que solicitan una máquina de afeitar de reemplazo, no recibirán este

beneficio y los reembolsos y las bonificaciones se reducirán en forma prorrateada. Si las reclamaciones no exceden la suma disponible para los beneficiarios del Acuerdo, los Demandantes Colectivos pueden recibir beneficios adicionales.

¿Quién me representa? El Tribunal de Primera Instancia de los Estados Unidos del Distrito de Massachusetts ha designado a B. Nathanson, B. Nathanson and Associates, P.C., a Robert M. Rothman, Robbins, Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP, como Abogados Colectivos del Acuerdo. Gillette pagará los costos, gastos y honorarios de los Abogados Colectivos del Acuerdo, y también incentivos a los demandantes individuales que entablaron la Demanda. Estas sumas no se deducirán del Fondo de Acuerdos. Si usted no se declara en el Acuerdo, si así lo desea, por su cuenta y riesgo.

¿Cuáles son mis derechos legales? Si no quiere quedar legalmente obligado por el Acuerdo, puede optar por no firmar el formulario de reclamación. Si firma el formulario de reclamación, el frangueo postal debe ser anterior al 4 de marzo de 2011, y debe enviarse al Administrador del Acuerdo a la dirección que figura a continuación. Si permanece en la Demanda Colectiva, puede presentar una reclamación. El frangueo postal de su reclamación debe ser anterior al 2 de mayo de 2011. Para obtener más información sobre el acuerdo propuesto, el frangueo postal de su objeción escrita debe ser anterior al 4 de marzo de 2011. También puede solicitar por escrito participar en el Juicio Imparcial Final. El Tribunal convocará a un Juicio Imparcial el 25 de mayo de 2011 a las 2:00 p. m. para considerar si el Acuerdo propuesto es justo, razonable y pertinente, y para considerar la moción para los costos, gastos y honorarios de los abogados. Si se han recibido objeciones, el Tribunal las evaluará en este momento.

¿Cómo obtengo más información? Este es un resumen del Acuerdo propuesto. Para obtener un Aviso detallado del Acuerdo propuesto, una copia del Acuerdo y la información sobre cómo presentar una reclamación.

Lláme al teléfono: 1-877-506-4030 Visite el sitio web: www.sporerose.com Escríbale a: M3Power Settlement, P.O. Box 2302, Fairbairn, MN 55021-9002

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Consolidation of duplicate utility companies will allow LP&L to use only the best lines and facilities for new and present LP&L customers. This more efficient use of funds and resources will help LP&L to continue to provide some of the lowest rates in the state and, over time, eliminate the unsightly duplication of power lines.

Want More Information?

If you have any questions, give us a call. With home-owned LP&L, naturally it's a local number, 775-2509, with Lubbock folks answering your questions. Or visit lpandl.com.

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