

# El Editor

"El Respeto al Derecho  
Ajeno es la Paz"  
Lic Benito Juarez

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## State bilingual education programs upheld

# Federal judge rules Texas elementary school programs have yielded 'promising preliminary results.'

A federal judge ruled Monday that programs for students who speak limited English comply with federal law, a setback for Hispanic groups that had requested that the state improve such programs.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice means that public schools can continue to educate the state's 712,000 students with limited English proficiency the same way they have been.

Low test scores and high dropout rates among Hispanics cannot be linked to the state's bilingual and English as a second language programs, Justice said in his ruling.

In fact, he wrote that such programs in elementary schools have yielded "promising preliminary results." "The court concludes that the Texas Education Agency's education theory is sound," Justice wrote.

The League of United Latin American Citizens and GI Forum filed a petition last year asking Justice to force Texas to improve education programs for limited-English students, who represent about 16 percent of public school students in the state.

The groups argued in the suit that students with limited English skills typically score below state averages on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, a problem that is particularly apparent with ESL students.

Only 15 percent of 11th-grade ESL students passed all parts of the high school exit exam in 2006,



compared with 64 percent of all students. The number of ESL students passing was down from 24 percent in 2004.

But state education officials said limited-English students show rapid improvement on the TAKS once in Texas schools.

In 11th grade, for example, 44 percent of students with one full year of limited-English instruction passed the exit exam in 2006, compared with 15 percent of their "newcomer" peers.

## Civic Lubbock Inc. Board Appointments:

# Questions Continue to go Unanswered; Neither Miller nor DeLeon Respond

By Abel Cruz

The Civic Lubbock Inc (CLI) board is perhaps the most powerful volunteer board in the city. Although there are other boards which have significant influence, there is no other board which produces significant revenue in order to fund entertainment, arts and cultural events in this city.

Although El Editor could not obtain an exact dollar figure, we did learn that in any given fiscal year, the amount of revenue produced through a variety of events and entertainment activities administered by the board amounted to hundreds of thousand dollars and the amount in grants was almost equivalent to the revenue raised.

And that seems to be the point of contention between some Council members and some board members; just who or whom will control the money. After all, whoever controls the money and budget, definitely has an upper hand in any given situation.

Last week we reported that after 13 years on the CLI board, Chevo Moralez had not been reappointed when his name came up for reappointment. And he wasn't the only one; Gertie Jeter who happened to be the only woman serving on the board up until a couple of years ago and had served for a number of years was not reappointed either.

Since we first reported this story, El Editor has tried once again to get comments from some Lubbock City Council members in order to try and understand why neither Moralez nor Jeter was reappointed. Had they done something wrong? Had they not done a good job on the board? Was Moralez led to believe he would be reappointed and at the last minute was not? Is the allegation that both Moralez and Jeter were seen as obstacles to the Mayor and Councilman Jim Gilbreath's desire to gain greater control over the board real or imagined? Did the fact that one of the board appointees is City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld's next door neighbor have anything to do with that person being appointed to the board?

These questions and more were sent in an email to Mayor David Miller, Councilwoman Linda DeLeon and Councilman John Leonard.

Last week we reported that Leonard had supported Moralez's reappointment. In his response to our email, Leonard confirmed that he did in fact support both Jeter and Moralez's reappointment. He states that, "You are correct in my support of Gertie and Chevo. Both names were submitted and recommended for reappointment to serve on the Civic Lubbock Board".

Leonard also told El Editor that to his knowledge no one on the CLI board had been "refused reappointment" in the past.

Mayor David Miller also contacted El Editor via email in which he said; "I am traveling and will get back with you next week". His email was received last Friday so we expected to hear from Miller this week but had not as we went to press. El Editor is aware that Miller attended the Monday evening event for Hispanic Chamber outgoing President Esther Sepeda; so we are hard pressed to understand why Miller has not responded to our request for comment.

As for Councilwoman Linda DeLeon, El Editor sent her 2 separate emails; one as recent as this past Monday. To date we have received no response.

DeLeon as readers will recall has been involved in a recall effort against her for the past several months. The first effort against her failed; but a second one was started and organizers continue to try and gather the required number of signatures in order to force a recall.

Her critics are sure to point out the fact that her non response to this story and her alleged non support of Chevo Moralez only reinforce their contention that DeLeon has once again failed to support a fellow Hispanic; in this case Moralez's reappointment to the CLI board.

We will continue to follow this story and hopefully bring readers new details as we uncover them.

In the very least we will try to answer the most important question: Why 2 people who have given of their time and effort in the last 13 years to serve on the CLI board were so unceremoniously removed; and why the Mayor and DeLeon have failed to respond to our request for information.

# Middle Class Beckons Hispanics

By Maira Garcia  
The Hispanic middle class will enjoy dramatic growth in the next 10 years with the right financial strategies, contends a new analysis by the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute.

TRPI recommends in its report, released July 24, that financial institutions desiring to tap the income and spending power of the nation's 44 million Hispanics should prepare for the change by adjusting their policies to attract and retain this expanding segment of the community.

The changes include requiring lower minimum balances for

checking and saving accounts and offering more cash-based services and new credit scoring methodologies.

Harry Pachón, president and CEO of the University of Southern California-based-think tank emphasizes that its recommendations to the financial industry are substantive and will not necessarily be easy to implement.

But, it assures, the payoff will be great.

"You can start the process of financial literacy and financial rehabilitation now rather than waiting for 10 or 15 years," Pachón says.

The report states that presently there are about 3.7

million affluent Hispanics nationwide. U.S. Census Bureau data for 2002 shows that 36 percent of Hispanic households had middle-class wealth.

The very existence of the Hispanic middle and upper classes has gone unnoticed in mainstream society, with their image remaining as a poor immigrant group, according to Pachón.

There are many routes to the middle class, he points out. "You get Hispanic entrepreneurs. You have people coming over (emigrating from other countries) with money already or an education. You get people with educational capital rather than monetary capital.

Then you get job mobility of Latinos occurring."

He says that ruling out immigrants and first-generation Hispanics as having the ability to move into the middle class would be wrong.

"The mobility of these two sectors has been overlooked by many," he says. "Even the mobility of the undocumented has been overlooked."

Contacted by Hispanic Link News Service, Rogelio Saenz, a sociology professor at Texas A&M University, compares incomes of native and foreign-born Hispanics to an hourglass figure. About 60 percent of all Hispanics whose income is \$25,000 or less are foreign born. Those earning more than \$25,000 are mostly native born. Hispanics earning above \$250,000 tend to be well-educated immigrants.

The report notes that half of wealthy Hispanics are foreign born. Saenz concurs the key for Hispanics to move up the socioeconomic ladder is education, stressing that the current system has to incorporate some changes.

"Something I think that is very important is at a very early, young age, you begin linking up people in the community — for example successful professional Latinos that work alongside schools where you have the role models that poor Latino children could have access to," he says.

He suggests such priority programs as ones where role models would teach youths about financial responsibility.

The report is available at [www.lrpi.org](http://www.lrpi.org)

(Maira Garcia is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. Reach her care of editor@hispaniclink.org) © 2007

# News Briefs

## Democrats Call for Special Prosecutor to Investigate Whether AG Gonzales Lied to Congress

By Abel Cruz

If there was any doubt in peoples minds that advance General Alberto Gonzales has used his position to attorney the Bush Administrations agenda; that was wiped out last week during Gonzales' testimony before congress.

At issue is the hospital visit paid by then White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales and former Bush Chief of Staff Andy Card to former Attorney General John Ashcroft. Ashcroft was in the hospital and according to news reports was in no condition to make decisions related to his office. But that did not stop Gonzales and Card from paying Ashcroft one of those late night visits one usually sees on late night suspense mob movies.

In prior testimony, former Deputy Attorney General James B. Comey testified before Congress that then White House Legal Counsel Alberto Gonzales tried to pressure a sick John Ashcroft into approving the warrant-less wire tap program known as the Terrorist Surveillance Program (TSP). But because Ashcroft had just had gall bladder surgery, he had transferred his authority temporarily to Comey. According to a transcript of Comey's testimony, he viewed Gonzales' and Cards' hospital visit as an attempt "to take advantage of a very sick man".

But Gonzales denied he, and Card, was there to exert pressure on Ashcroft and testified that there was no disagreement within the administration concerning the TSP program. He says rather that the conversation with Ashcroft was about "other intelligence activities". This is an important point since the Bush administration has made it a point to downplay the fact that any dissension about the TSP between administration officials existed. Apparently Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller disagreed with the program and both had reservations about it.

In separate testimony FBI Director Robert Mueller told Congress that he had a conversation with Ashcroft after Gonzales' hospital visit and that Ashcroft had confirmed the general substance of their conversation and stated that "I had an understanding the discussion was on a NSA program, yes".

This past week, some members of the Senate Judiciary Committee including New York's Charles Schumer and other Democrats called for a perjury investigation. They want a special prosecutor appointed to determine whether Gonzales lied in his testimony to Congress.

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## Salinas to run Against Floyd Price

Last week, at the regularly scheduled Lubbock City Council meeting, Councilman Floyd Price may have heard the words he didn't want to hear concerning next years city elections.

An east Lubbock resident, Gilbert Salinas, who appeared before the council to voice his concerns about issues involving East Lubbock ended his comments by announcing that he would be a candidate for the District 2 council seat now held by Floyd Price.



Salinas announced his intentions to run against Price, but as of now, Price has not announced that he plans to run for re-election.

To many people, Price has failed in his first term as a city

councilmember. People unhappy with Price tell El Editor that he has done less than his predecessor T.J. Patterson and that he does not deserve to be reelected.

Whether Salinas is the person to replace him, is something voters might be asked to decide if Salinas carries out his statement to oppose Price in next May's city elections.

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## Gutierrez Votes No on Lubbock County Commissioner Pay Raise

Last week, Lubbock County Commissioners voted themselves a 13% pay raise. Which means that for a County Commissioner, the yearly salary would increase from \$52,000 per year to close to \$60,000.

Not bad work if you can find it.

But not all Commissioners were in favor of the pay increase. County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez joined County Judge Tom Head in voting no. Commissioners Patti Jones, Bill McKay and Mark Heinrich voted for the pay raises.

Gutierrez says that, "it is unfair to give elected officials an increase greater than Department Managers, appointed officials, salaried and hourly workers".

In an email response to El Editor, Gutierrez says that "costs for food, utility bills, sewer, water, trash, and gas have increased greatly already". He says that people already struggle enough and "it is wrong to increase taxes when people already have to make choices between necessities; the poor already have to decide between medicine and food".

In addition he says that elected officials know the salary when they run and are already well paid. He adds that it is not necessary to pay a high salary to keep quality elected officials.

Gutierrez also says he disagrees that "Lubbock County pay schedules should be compared to other counties; we pay for the value of the employee to Lubbock County"; not other counties.

He says he is concerned that a tax increase will be necessary to pay for the raises and says that Lubbock taxpayers are already burdened with high property taxes. He also points out that new construction and increasing property values already provide revenue increases to the County; "there is no need to raise taxes".

"We need to find ways to defer expenses; there is a prevailing sentiment on the Commissioner's Court that a tax rate increase is inevitable".

Gutierrez concluded by saying that he disagrees that Lubbock County needs to catch up for low raises in the past and says, "We are better paid than most in west Texas".

County Commissioners are just now beginning to look at the budget for the county for next year. Commissioners will have to wait for an estimate of the revenue from County taxes before they can finalize decisions related to pay raises for themselves and other county officials and employees.

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## Red Light Ticket Anyone?

NewsChannel 11 is reporting that more than 1,400 people have received a citation in the mail for running a red light. The cameras have been photographing drivers who run a red light at the 12 intersections with red light cameras.

According to the report, "Every image taken at red light camera is first sent to American Traffic Solutions. Violations are filtered out, and video and pictures are then sent to the Lubbock Police Department for final decision".

El Editor would like to hear from drivers who have received a citation. Persons wishing to share their experience are asked to contact El Editor at [eleditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eleditor@sbcglobal.net)

# Esther Sepeda's Retires from Chamber

By Bidal Agüero

Although I had heard of Sepeda Builders before 1973 and knew that they were heavily involved in helping people rebuild their homes after the devastating tornado that hit Lubbock in 1970, I had never formally met Esther until around 1973 when I started working to organize a group of business people who were to become an organization called Comerciantes Organizados Mexico Americanos (COMA) and later the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. As I recall Esther and Raul Sepeda had an office on the Ave. K building when I first visited them to tell them about COMA and their goals. The organization had already had a few organizational meetings and the member businesspersons were talking to others in order to build a stronger group. By then at least a dozen people were active and meeting on a regular basis.

I can remember Esther and Raul as being strong businesspersons who worked hard along with their sons to form a stable business and that was the attitude that they brought to the organization. From the start Esther took a leadership role in the organization and was well respected by all for her work and enthusiasm.

Who was to know that her work would continue for 30 plus years to build what is



today one of the most respected organizations in Lubbock.

This week as Esther took her final bows as President of the Chamber many people can probably remember how they were touched and influenced by Esther to help what she came to call "my organization or my board."

Some 200 people gathered at the Lubbock Civic Center on Tuesday to offer their bravissimos and honorary resolutions by City, State and Federal officials. Resolutions were offered by Mayor David Miller and congratulations were offered by State Representative Carl Issett and representatives from the office of U.S. Representative

Randy Nagerbauer who offered bibles for the jail ministry in which Esther was involved. A special gift of a \$1,000 scholarship was given by ATT to be awarded in Esther's honor.

Esther will retire from the Chamber but will continue to work in helping this Chamber and others as she will join Bedford based HRC Co. as the managing partner of its newly formed Hispanic division. The Company hopes to provide assistance to other chamber organizations in the U.S.,

Léa El Editor en el Internet  
[www.leditor.com](http://www.leditor.com)



# Analysis and Commentary

By Abel Cruz

In the fall of 2006 and in a move I suspect was designed to augment a Mayor's desire to turn Lubbock into his version of a "model city" which the Mayor had been publicly touting since his election in 2006; Mayor David Miller and the rest of the Lubbock City Council appointed 33 Lubbock residents and 2 co-chairs to serve on a city council appointed committee called the Citizen's Advisory Committee or CAC for short.

In reality, a better name might have been a Citizen's Bond Advisory Committee, which would have more aptly described the task and mission assigned to the committee which was to "evaluate community needs in designated areas of capital improvement and develop a proposal for a possible bond election".

That the committee came back with a recommendation list of 9 projects and a recommendation that the council call for a bond election in November came as no surprise. Even though the committee was charged with evaluating needs; the message from the Mayor had been clearly heard and his wish list seemed to be their command.

But the CAC would not be the first committee to recommend some of the projects on the list. You see, Miller had also appointed another committee in 2006, the Lubbock Entertainment and Arts Facilities Task Force or LEAF for short which presented the council with its recommendations which called for a Multi-Purpose Arena; renovations to the existing Lubbock Civic Center; and a Performing Arts Center. Not surprisingly the CAC came up with 3 identical recommendations; although LEAF recommendations came in at considerably less money than the CAC.

For example, the LEAF puts the cost of a Performing Arts Center at \$50 million with \$40 million, or 80% of the money coming from private funding; 20% public. CAC recommends one too at a cost of \$55 million; difference is that CAC calls for 68.75% public money and 31.25% in private funds; almost an identical reversal. Quite a difference; and even more so when one realizes the 2 committees were looking at these things almost at the same time or within months of each other.

And that's not all, the CAC recommends Civic Center renovations at a cost of \$85 million; LEAF on the other hand recommended a "Major Civic Center Remodel" at a cost of \$40 million; a \$35 million dollar difference. And even if the CAC estimated a 7% inflation rate; that still doesn't account for the very significant dollar difference. And one more, CAC recommends a Multi-Purpose Arena at a cost of \$60 million; LEAF recommended the same arena at a cost of \$35-\$40 million; a \$20-\$25 million swing; not an insignificant amount.

And finally, here is a recommendation which LEAF made but apparently the council did not think enough of to implement: "LEAF also recommends that an item be placed on the ballot in the next City election asking the voters to authorize the City of Lubbock to enter into agreements with Texas Tech University for redevelopment of the Complex, (the City Bank Coliseum and Auditorium) which may include transfers of title, lease agreements, shared use agreements, remodeling, renovation, demolition, or abandonment of the Complex." The council heard the LEAF recommendations in March; the city election was held in May of this year.

Two things can be gleaned at this point: one it seems like the Mayor had his wish list in mind when he gave the CAC their marching orders since he had praised the LEAF committee's work and recommendations; and, two, how can two separate committees come up with such contradictory amounts when recommending the same projects?

The question then becomes, whose numbers do we believe? Which committee do we trust actually did their math homework? One area both committees did agree on was the idea of tearing down the City Bank Coliseum and replacing it with a multi-purpose arena. LEAF also recommended a College Baseball Hall of Fame, a Baseball Complex, and an Equestrian Facility; all which were left off the CAC recommendations.

**APR Disaster: The Public's Reaction**  
As soon as the CAC went public with their recommendations, a PR machine went into action. A group made up of people affiliated with various Lubbock organizations announced that it had formed "Listen Lubbock"; an organization which would serve as a listening and sounding board for citizens to express their views on the committee's recommendations and turn around and report their findings back to the council. At first, it seemed like a good idea, until it was revealed that Listen Lubbock was actually a Political Action Committee or PAC and had been formed to gather voter support for the recommended bond projects.

But since Listen Lubbock began to hold community meetings, the reaction has been mostly negative. So negative in fact that I recently learned that the head of the group might be ready to "throw in the towel".

A quick look at the web site created by the group shows why that may be; citizen's comments which have been received at 3 different meetings as of this writing are running about 90% in opposition; meaning citizens are questioning the committee's recommendations and expressing their disagreement with their findings.

Here are some comments which capture the mood of the people who have attended and may reflect the attitude of a majority of this city's residents. These are question and comments from comment cards compiled at the 3 different locations held between July 10 and 26:

I have no confidence in giving the present city council or staff additional funds for any reason; This entire bond issue proposal should have had citizen input before presentation to the city council; The citizens of Lubbock have had enough and will voice their feelings when given the opportunity to vote; The city of Lubbock has yet to show they can manage the money we have already approved. I am opposed to any additional monies with the exception of providing money for streets and public safety; Council needs to re-evaluate direction. Do not trust council w/\$300 million in checkbook; I'm just curious why you think you need to tear down the City Bank Coliseum, I have been to several things there & it's never full, so what the heck do we need a bigger arena for? You aren't going to fill that one up either because the ordinary households can't afford to attend anything when the prices are so stupidly ridiculously high. The coliseum is working just fine. Spend 1/4 of the money & fix the existing one up. Duh!; Keep coliseum; update to code & drop multi-purpose arena & put \$60 million into street maintenance; Performing arts would get support/approval from 31% private sector; Streets should be maintained on annual basis-budget; If the citizens of Lubbock are stupid enough to approve this mess, I will sell my home & move out of Lubbock. I've been here 44 years. I don't trust anything this City Council says!; Once items are paid off—5 years—lower taxes; No need for a Mercado-waste of money; Developers- if they want to build out so far they should pay for it; What about the water issue? The way the economy is, it is a bad time to propose this much of a bond; Why did one citizen get personally pulled aside and talked to? What did you PAC have to say to Todd Klein, a person who lives in this District that they couldn't say to all of us? There should be more for public safety.

I have no confidence that the city council will effectively & efficiently manage the funding & completion of any or all of the proposed recommendations. Recent examples of the disasters related to our future water supply, money allocated for the animal shelter, the "red light districts" (cameras) & keeping the recent crisis with our water supply a "secret" lead me to say "no" to everything!

What comes through loud and clear is that citizens are very concerned about public safety and infrastructure issues such as streets and maintenance and parks, athletic venues and facilities, quality of life, etc. What also comes through even louder is a general distrust of the city council except maybe for Councilman John Leonard and newly elected Todd Klein. An additional telling point is that these comments are from citizens in areas of the city which produces the highest voter turnout and the highest likelihood of success.

The distrust seen in some of the comments seems to stem from recent council decisions like red light camera enforcement, the recent water restrictions which caught city residents by surprise and off guard; a council perceived by many as having their own agenda and not listening to citizens; a council who even the CAC does not seem to trust to administer the bond money if in fact the bond election passes.

One of the recommendations by the CAC is that the city council appoints a "standing Capital Improvement Program Review and Oversight Committee (CapROC) for a period of not less than 10 years". According to the committee's final document, CapROC would be needed "To help ensure accountability, efficiency, and equity in the implementation of projects if they are approved by the voters".

If anyone ever needed proof that this council is not trusted to administer the revenue from the sale of the bonds if voters approve them and do so according to voter's wishes; this is it; and it is a clear indication that if the council decides to call a November election; they will do so at their own peril. For if it does and the election fails; it will be widely seen as a repudiation of this council and the Mayor; it will be a referendum on this city council as a whole and its failure of leadership. And it will

answer the question of whether the voters and residents of this city trust them with \$300 million dollars worth of bond money and to do what they say they will do.

**The CAC's Recommendations**  
Listed on the CAC's recommendations document prepared for the council are some statements which bear taking a look at. The CAC recommends a November bond election; although there is nothing in the law that says when an election should be held as long as other requirements are met. And in fact, a \$30 million dollar bond election was held in the city election in May of 2004.

But the committee's intent was clear as they inserted language in their packet which says in part: "ordinance calling special election (not more than 90 nor less than 62 days before a May election or November election in an odd numbered year and 70 days before a November election in an even numbered year)". We are in an odd numbered year; and May is long gone.

But what it does do is it reduces the time frame for an adequate discussion among city residents. For example; the committee's calendar called for a presentation to council on July 9 and on August 9, the council is expected to vote on an ordinance approving what if any or all projects should be on the November ballot. The council can either approve to place all the projects on the ballot or just certain ones. This is likely to be a handicap for the North and East side communities if they want projects in those areas to pass while voters in other parts of the city do not. The north and east sections of the city have less voter population and traditionally vote in lesser numbers.

Nevertheless 30 days is not a lot of time for a broad discussion or evaluation of projects of this magnitude; but rather it seems to be a deliberate attempt to fast track the whole project and put it before voters before they realize what happened.

Another question which not too many people seem to be discussing is what are the political ramifications for the council if they vote to call for a bond election and voters turn down the proposals?

One reason council members may want to rush this to the November election is because it keeps those members up for reelection next May from having to answer questions and justify the enormous cost of the proposals. Certainly no politician wants to be out on the campaign trail and be asked why they support bond proposals which will raise property tax rates. Another is because if by some miracle, some of the projects are approved by voters, incumbents can point to that as an affirmation by voters that they are doing a good job and use it as a re-election tool of sorts.

But, more and more, it is looking like if the council decides to put any or all

proposals before the voters; it will become a referendum on them. In other words, even though voters may feel that some projects are worthwhile, they may vote against them in order to send the council a message that they are not pleased with the way the process was brought about and that they do not trust the council to manage the financial process and implementation of projects associated with the bonds.

**Conclusion**  
Right from the start, it seems the entire plan and process was destined to hit some rough patches along the way. For example, while other "bond" committees have recommended bond elections before, most of them have made an attempt to gather citizen input through various ways while they are evaluating community needs; which only makes common sense. The CAC did not hold one single citizen public hearing to get public comment or suggestions; a fact that has not been overlooked or sat well with many voters and evident in the comments alluded to earlier in this analysis.

The most important question though is what will happen if the bond projects come before the voters and they vote no? Will the council continue to move forward using other means to create or raise revenue like Revenue Bonds or Certificate of Obligations Bonds? Will they base their thinking in a philosophy which states that the main purpose of city government is to "provide for the health safety and welfare of its citizens and that it "is not really appropriate to ask voters to approve anything that is mandated by law, or required to ensure the "health, safety, and welfare" of its citizenry?

In other words, capital improvement projects could be seen as falling outside of those 3 categories and council, or at least Miller and his "gang of 4" could just see fit to vote on these things anyway and approve them without voter participation by using the other 2 bond mechanisms?

Just like they did last week; when they voted to finance a new animal shelter without voter approval and voted 6-1; John Leonard was the only no vote; to ask the state to allow the city to place a venue tax question on the November ballot. The tax which would be imposed on rental cars

(5%) and hotels (2%) would be used to fund the multipurpose arena recommended by the committee. It seems the council is already laying the necessary groundwork for a November bond election and in the process seems to be putting the cart before the horse; which again may not sit well with voters.

In the end; voters may decide to send the Mayor and some on this council a loud and obvious message; sooner or later; someone has to tell the emperor that he has no clothes.

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## Just what are bonds?

There are 3 kinds of bonds a city government can use to create revenue in order to pay for capital improvement projects; **General Obligation bonds (GO); certificates of Obligation, (CO); and Revenue Bonds (RB).** The kind the CAC recommended are **GO bonds and are unique in that they have to be approved by city voters and are repaid from property tax revenue.** The other 2 kinds of bonds do not need voter approval by law, and can be approved through city council action.

**Revenue Bonds can be voted on by council and are repaid with revenue from increases in fees for water, sewer, solid waste, and other "services" fees. The Certificate of Obligations bonds are also repaid from property tax revenue, but also do not need voter approval. An example of this was the recent bonds approved by council for the new animal shelter. The council voted 7-0 to obtain revenue from CO bonds in order to fund a new shelter.**

## Talk About El Editor

### Cruzing

by Abel Cruz

Don't worry, if anybody ever questions you about a serious event or accuses you of some wrongdoing; when they question you just say you don't recall and you'll be home free.

Hey it works for former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and other Generals and retired Generals who have caught a convenient case of amnesia when it comes to what they knew and when they knew it in the cover up surrounding the death of Pat Tillman in Afghanistan. They testified before a Congressional Committee on Wednesday.

Tillman was the former NFL player who turned down a multi-million dollar contract from the Arizona Cardinals to enlist in the Army. Tillman's motivation to serve was fueled by the events of 9-11. But when he was killed by friendly fire while serving in Afghanistan, it has been determined that some senior officers tried to cover it up. His death was used as a propaganda tool by the Army and even President Bush made reference to his heroic death.

Turns out it was all a staged performance but now no one can recall what they knew or when they were told about it and subsequently deny that any cover up took place. Pathetically funny how they can recall only those things which benefit them or don't implicate them.

Hey, here's an example of how it might work for a certain Mayor who shall remain nameless.

"Uh excuse me there Mr. Mayor, weren't you the one who ran on a campaign of no new taxes?" "Who me, sorry; I don't recall".

See how well that works...

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### Citizen's Advisory Committee Recommendations for November 2007 Bond Election

The following are the bond projects as recommended to the city council and all dollar figures are adjusted for inflation. The amounts were obtained directly from the city web site and were included in the presentation given to the council.

We have listed them here in more detail and with our accompanying notes and observations for our readers to review and make up their own mind as to the feasibility and cost effectiveness of the projects.

#### Public Safety - \$10,850,000

Police Department/Municipal Court Renovations; Training Academy Upgrades  
Note: In this instance; no additional money was allocated for such things as new police officers or any new types of policing programs to reduce the increasing crime rate which we have witnessed recently.

#### Parks - \$28,265,000

Park upgrades to Leftwich Park located at 60th and Elgin, Dupree Park located at 50th and Toledo and Higginbotham Park located at 19th and Vicksburg.  
Note: Many people who live in areas north of 50th street and east of Quaker would argue that other parks in the city are in worse shape than the ones selected.

#### Libraries - \$5,150,000

An additional library facility of approximately 10,000 square feet in southwest Lubbock  
Note: It is hard to argue that a new library is a bad idea. Many people would argue though that the present library facilities are in need of repair and additional funding and those needs should be addressed before a new one is built.

#### Mercado Recreational Amenities - \$1,500,000

Proposed public amenities such as a passive water park and a neighborhood sculpture garden. This project would be contingent to private investment of a retail center (Mercado) to be constructed in North Lubbock.  
Note: This is all based on private development dollars being used to construct the Mercado; if that doesn't happen then this wouldn't happen either. It is the only project which has a contingency attached to it. Some estimates for the construction of the Mercado have pegged the total cost at \$30 million dollars.

#### Northeast Lubbock Streets - \$2,245,000

Street infrastructure to support the construction of 120-175 new homes in a proposed new residential sub-division in Northeast Lubbock focusing on land adjacent to schools or parks.

Note: In a Q&A listed on the Listen Lub-

bock web site the following question about streets is listed: Q: Don't developers rather than the city usually fund putting in streets? A: The current policy is that developers put in residential streets and the City puts in thoroughfares.

It is interesting to note that this project does not explicitly say whether the project listed above is for residential streets or thoroughfares. This is important because if this project is approved, then developers could be enticed to build in Northeast Lubbock by not having to pay for residential streets; if bond money is used for residential streets and not thoroughfares. Conversely the streets projects called for in another section called "Streets" is more explicit in the description. Another interesting point is why both of these projects were not included together. Could it be that the committee wanted to separate the 2 so that they could be listed separately if and when these come before the voters? Why not just list them together?

#### Streets - \$52,565,000

New traffic signals, at least 3 per year; Signal Communications Upgrade - city wide project; would replace 26 miles of copper wire with fiber optics; Quaker from 98th to 114th; Milwaukee, 94th to 08th; East Indiana from 103rd to 114th; 98th street from University to Tahoka Highway; 114th Indiana to Slide; Upland - Brownfield Highway to 82nd street; 98th Street, Frankford to Milwaukee.  
Note: All street projects include widening and paving; all streets are located in areas which have seen a high commercial and residential growth rate; none of the streets are located in older areas of towns. Streets desperately in need of reconstruction like 34th street from Slide Rd. east to I 27 was left off the list.

#### Civic Center Renovations - \$85,000,000

Addition of banquet hall, exhibit space, and meeting rooms, and the renovation of the theater, plaza, and the interior and exterior of the current Civic Center, including new furniture and fixtures and a new HVAC.  
Note: Previously, another committee called the Lubbock Entertainment and Arts Facility Task Force appointed by the Mayor recom-

mended renovating the civic center. But their cost estimate came in at \$40 million dollars; a long way from the \$85 million the CAC is recommending.

#### Performing Arts Center - \$55,000,000

Construction of a Performing Arts Center that is multi-purpose to serve theatrical performances, symphony, ballet and concerts. The Center would contain an auditorium with approximately 2,400 seats, rehearsal hall, and public spaces in a facility consisting of approximately 120,000 square feet. The Performing Arts Center would be an excellent investment in economic development, and quality of life for the citizens of Lubbock. The CAC recommends that no bonds be issued by the City until 31.25% of the price of the center is raised privately. This requirement will be included in the election ordinance for the funding of this facility.

Note: One of the biggest concerns is whether Lubbock can attract enough events and on a consistent enough basis to generate tax revenue. Proponents point to the fact that Lubbock loses out to other cities because of a lack of adequate facilities to host certain types of events. The CAC material says that an "arena would be an excellent investment in economic development, and quality of life for the citizens of Lubbock", but does not provide any concrete evidence how that will be accomplished.

**Multi-Purpose Arena - \$60,000,000.00**  
Construction of a 6,000-8,000 seat Multi-Purpose Arena that can accommodate indoor soccer, arena football, ice events, circuses, concerts, exhibits, and other similar types of events.

Note: The committee is recommending that the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum be torn down and be replaced with this arena in a downtown location. This might prove to be a little tricky since the city code of ordinances says that any action by the city as to the disposition of the coliseum has to be approved by voters.

Questions or Comments? Email: acruztc@aol.com

## El Editor

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# ¿Que Pasa?

## Mariachi Nuevo Generacion to perform at National Night Out

Overton South National Night Out  
 Location: Greenspace at Avenue X and 16th Street  
 Date & Time: August 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

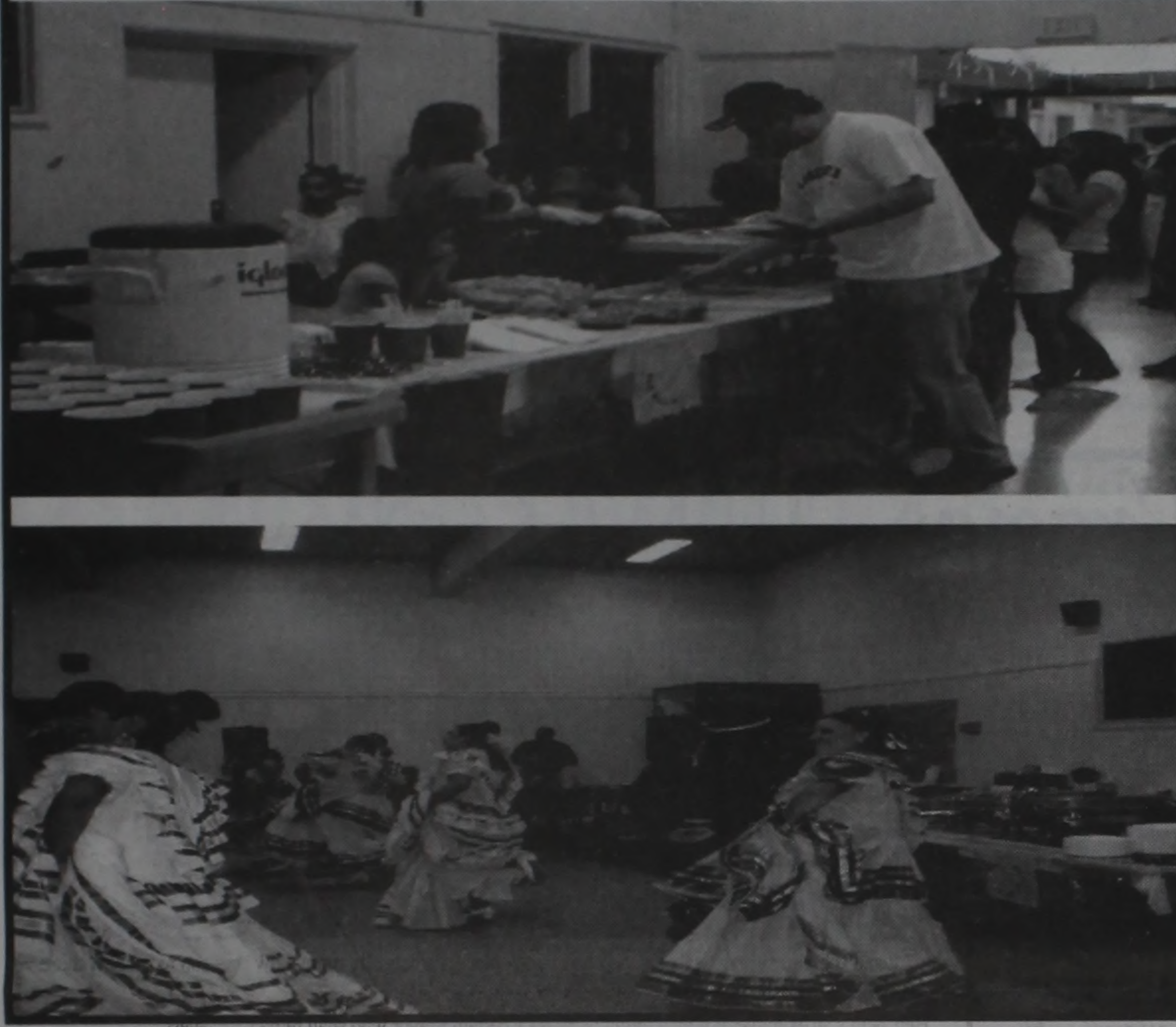
There will be food, entertainment, activities for the kids and information on crime prevention and neighborhood safety. Mariachi Nuevo Generacion, a group of 15 talented young musicians, will play for Overton South's National Night Out. We are also expecting a visit from Mayor Miller, council members, Lubbock Mounted Patrol and Fire Department. It will be an evening of fun and fellowship with family and friends!

### Community Forum

The Planning and Network Advisory Committee of the Lubbock Regional MHMR Center will be hosting an open meeting designed to obtain feedback regarding the use of Mental Health Block Grant Funds. The meeting will be held at the Lubbock Regional MHMR Center on August 9th from 4:30-6:00 p.m. For more information, please call Beth Lawson, Public Information Officer at (806) 767-1648.

### Potential Sponsors are needed to help fundraise \$10,000

Ballet Folklorico Aztlan held a Free Enchilada Dinner August 1 at the Maggie Trejo Super Center. The group performed for potential sponsors then handed out pledge cards. Aztlan is the oldest folklorico group in Lubbock where dancers age from 3 yrs - any age. Aztlan's goal for the year is \$10,000 that would aid the group in holding their annual recital in October among other projects such as new costumes and workshops. All sponsors will be promoted for one year at all events where the group performs as well as all material that is distributed to the general public. Ballet Folklorico Aztlan would like to thank all those that helped put the fundraiser together and those that pledged. For more information or to become a sponsor call Zenaida Aguero-Reyes at 806-793-0099.



## Wal-Mart CEO Attributes Revenue Growth to Latinos at La Raza Conference

Hispanics are among Wal-Mart's most loyal customers and account for about 14 percent of the 127 million people who shop at the retailer's stores in the United States every week, said Lee Scott, the company's CEO, during a speech Tuesday at the National Council of La Raza convention in Miami Beach, Fla.

Many of Wal-Mart's customers are either immigrants or first-generation Latinos looking to build a better life by stretching their disposable income, he added on the last day of the conference, which began July 21.

Scott said Hispanic consumers have increasingly less money to spend with retailers, including Wal-Mart, due to problems in the economy. In particular, layoffs in the slumping housing market, which employs a disproportionate number of Hispanics, have hit Latinos hard, along with high energy and health-care costs, Scott said.

"Many Hispanics have a harder time sharing money with their families abroad, and I see an impact at stores in Mexico and Central America," he said.

Despite economic dips, Scott said the Hispanic market's long-

term growth is likely to help fuel retail sales for years to come.

"From 1990 to 2011, if the trend continues, Hispanic buying power will have grown by more than 450 percent. That's compared to a growth rate of only 176 percent for non-Hispanic buying power over the same time period," he said.

Scott noted that Hispanic customers are three times more likely than non-Hispanic customers to go without a checking or savings account, adding that Wal-Mart is trying to reach out with different initiatives for a more stable well-being.

In June, Wal-Mart announced plans to open 1,000 MoneyCenter in-store financial service centers by the end of 2008. The centers allow Hispanics and other customers to acquire the Wal-Mart-branded MoneyCard debit card and cash checks, with the ability to transfer money and pay bills.

Collectively, Scott said, all of Wal-Mart's customers will save up to \$320 million this year by using the centers. Since Hispanics account for 14 percent of the chain's consumers, that could mean Latino customers would

reap millions in savings through the centers and by buying goods at the discount retailer, he said.

Wal-Mart's Hispanic ad spending reached \$15.3 million from January to May this year, compared with \$17.3 million in the same time period in 2006, according to Nielsen Monitor-Plus.

Scott added that Hispanics' focus on the family continues to bring them to Wal-Mart in large numbers.

"It's a family affair, literally," he said. "You can walk through our stores in Hispanic communities and see individuals shopping like they do everywhere else. But you also see a lot more groups and entire families. People are enjoying the experience and their time together."

He likens Wal-Mart to a community-gathering place where Hispanic families run into friends and neighbors.

Scott noted that Congress needs to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill now, and he is disappointed that it hasn't happened. Immigration reform directly affects Wal-Mart because it has 154,000 Hispanic employees, more than any other company in the world.

## GOLD RUSH!



The Gold Rush team of the West Texas League of Lubbock traveled to San Angelo to compete at the Midnight Madness tournament that was held this past weekend. The team was very competitive and enjoyed the tournament.

In photo left to right top row: Asst. coach Daniel Perez, Alanna Zuniga, Kayla Garcia, Ana Kay Cunningham, Alex Olivares, Alyssa Quevedo, Head coach Marcelo Aguilar and left to right on bottom row: Selena "Magic" Flores, Alexis Aguilar, Monica "Mo" Perez, Marisol "Taco" Aguero, Maya Hernandez, Liz Gutierrez, Cynthia Salazar and Soledad Mermilla.

The team would like to thank all the support that was given to the team in order for them to participate at the tournament, especially the sponsors and parents.

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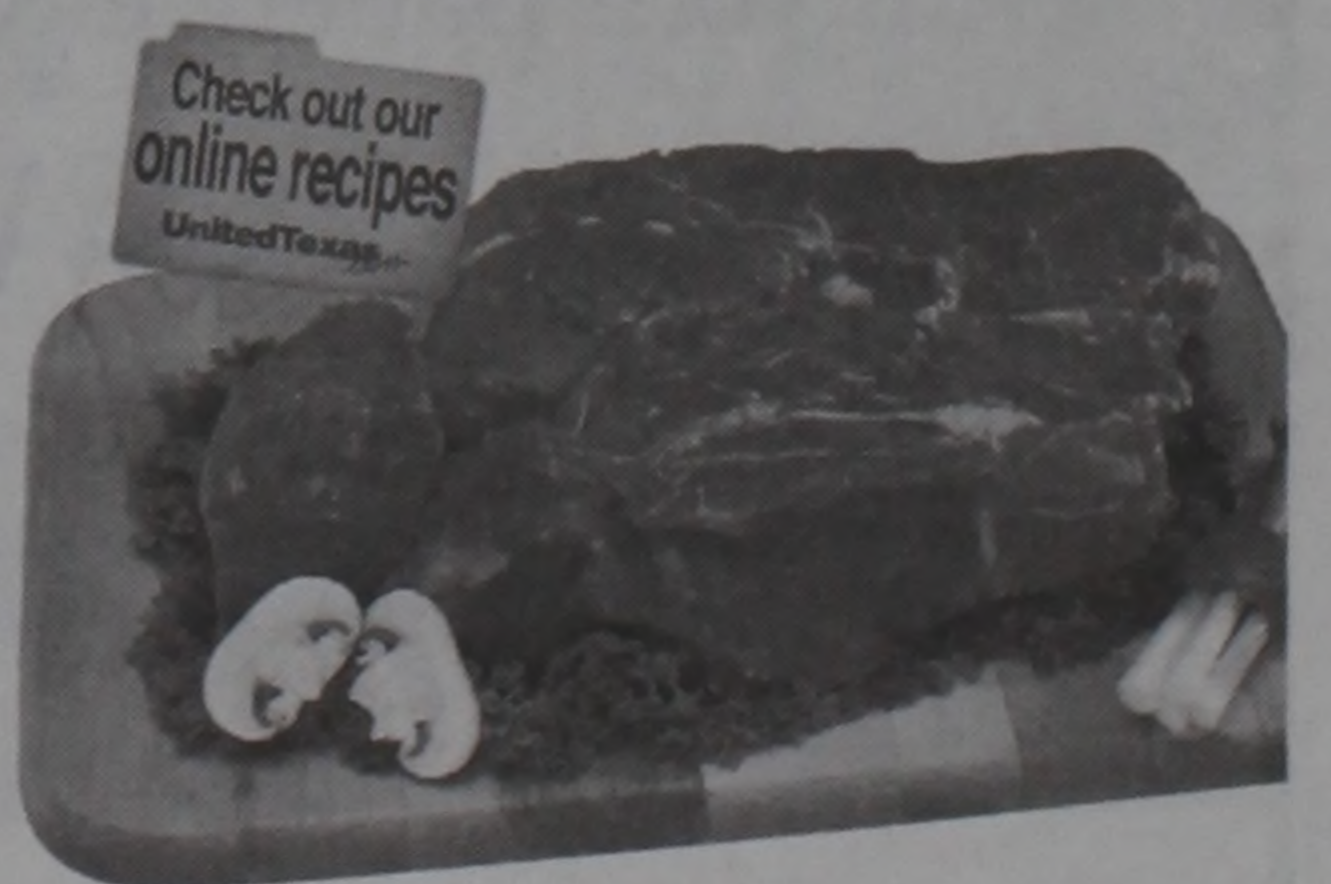
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 WORK WITHIN  
 OUR COMMUNITY!  
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 STRONG!  
 BEST WISHES, MIJA!



Bidal Aguero, founder of COMA/LHCC takes time to congratulate Esther Sepeda for a job well done during her commitment to the Hispanic community at a reception that was held for her on Monday at the Memorial Civic Center. Muchas gracias por su buen trabajo. ¡Adelante!



Left to right: Alex Martinez, Ysidro Gutierrez, Esther Sepeda and Bidal Aguero



Lubbock County Commissioner Pct. 3, Ysidro Gutierrez, along with Bidal Aguero who attended the reception for Esther Sepeda who was honored on Monday.



Left to right: Velma Medina-chairwoman of the board, Alex Martinez, Ysidro Gutierrez, Esther Sepeda and Bidal Aguero.



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 Job Well Done!

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# Esther Sepeda, YOU WILL BE MISSED!



Esther Sepeda with her daughter and mother who she appreciates very much. "They have been with me all the way and I love them very much for that," says Esther during the event.



Esther takes time to highlight her family for all there support, but more than that, she wanted to recognize her mother who attended the reception on Monday.



Bidal Aguero, founder of COMA/LHCC poses in photo with LHCC member Carmen Vige and Porfirio Bas during the reception.

**Gracias Esther.**  
**Gracias por tu compasión,**  
**dedicación y servicio a la**  
**comunidad por los ultimos**  
**33 años.**

**Lubbock County Sheriff**  
**David Gutierrez**



Left to right on photo: Frank & Mary Jane Gutierrez, Maria Strong, Esther Sepeda, Eric Strong, Bidal & Olga Aguero. They all wished Esther the best.

**Thank You Esther!**  
**You have positively**  
**influenced our**  
**community!**

**Best Wishes &**  
**Congratulations!**



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For more than 90 years now, United Supermarkets has held Ultimate Service, Superior Performance and Positive Impact as its core values. We are especially moved when we see those values demonstrated by people who have made a difference in today's world. Esther Sepeda is one of them, and we extend heartfelt congratulations to her upon her retirement.

**CONGRATULATIONS,**  
**ESTHER SEPEDA!**

Thank you for your many years of service to the Lubbock community.

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## Latest trend for Hispanic girls -- destination

Nicole Lora and her father, Jose, are in the limelight during final quince rehearsals on Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas. The ship had 26 girls and their families aboard for the ceremonies.

In planning her quince celebration, Nicole Lora of Pembroke Pines pictured herself joining her father for the requisite formal dance in a traditional quinceañera ball gown.

Then Nicole discovered a relatively new trend in the centuries-old tradition of celebrating a young Latin girl's coming of age: the destination quince.

Now, Nicole -- along with parents, cousins and an entourage of about 20 people -- will mark her 15th birthday with a weeklong cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas, tiara and tulle gown in tow.

The destination quince, similar to its bridal counterpart the destination wedding, is part of a burgeoning market aimed at the increasingly affluent quinceañera -- or, more accurately, parents of quinceañeras.

Disney World began this spring offering quince packages, the priciest of which can exceed \$20,000.

Southwest Airlines has signed on as a corporate sponsor of a national quince expo that travels to major Hispanic markets, including Miami, Dallas, Los Angeles and Chicago.

And travel agencies and cruise lines are fine-tuning their offerings for a modern quinceañera reluctant to confine her birthday bash to a hotel ballroom or strip-mall salón. Cruises to the Bahamas and the Caribbean, complete with such quince-themed activities as fashion shows, slumber parties and beachside barbecues, are popular packages.

One Hialeah travel agency, Viajes Principal, offers a 17-day, \$5,000-a-person tour of Europe for quinceañeras and their families, culminating with a formal dinner atop the Eiffel Tower and

boat tour down the Seine, the girls decked out in their quince regalia.

### DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS

There are even double-quinces, which include a stateside celebration as well as an equally elaborate fete in the family's homeland.

It's a sign not only of the blinged-out party aesthetic embraced by teens weaned on MTV's My Super Sweet 16 -- which has featured several quince episodes -- but of the growing economic clout of U.S. Hispanics.

The buying power of Hispanics in the United States is about \$838 billion and is expected to reach

"She wanted to go all out with a party, like they do on My Super Sweet 16," said Beth Lora, who works part time as a teacher's aide and whose husband, José, owns a transportation and logistics company.

"This is so much easier," she said.

The family's trip aboard the Liberty of the Seas costs about \$1,000 a person and was organized by West Miami-Dade's Happy Holidays Travel. Relatives are flying in from Michigan, as are friends from José Lora's native Puerto Rico, to join the cruise.



more than \$1.3 trillion by 2011, according to a May report by the investment banking firm The Mercanti Group. The report singles out the rising cost of quinces as a significant benchmark.

The national average for a quince is between \$5,000 and \$10,000, with a guest list of about 200 -- although South Florida festivities are often more expensive and more lavish, said Will Cain, publisher of Quince Girl magazine, which launched last year.

"Miami is a market where people are willing to spend more, and that goes hand-in-hand with the quinceañera trends we're seeing," said Cain, noting the popularity of stretch Hummers, A-list DJs and other stylistic fillips more associated with, say, a hip-hop video than a teenage girl's birthday party.

"Paying \$25,000 or more for a quince is not out of the question," he said.

For Nicole Lora's parents, opting for a destination quince seemed less daunting than orchestrating a landlocked celebration.

"I could have had just the regular party, but it would be over in four hours," said Nicole, who is starting 10th grade at St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

"This would be seven days to spend with my friends and family," she said.

She and two dozen other quinceañeras left Saturday from the Port of Miami, following a final, last-minute rehearsal of the elaborately choreographed dance performance -- a staple of traditional quinces. Some modern touches appear on the itinerary as well, such as a party on a Mexican beach, a tropical luau and a professionally made video of the girls frolicking aboard the Liberty of the Seas' various attractions, such as the wave pool and ice-skating rink.

"We're seeing a huge trend in travel right now," said Cindy Benavides, president and chief executive officer of the Dallas-based Strategic Events, which partners with Quince Girl to organize quinceañera expos.

## Alejandro Sanz lanza DVD de concierto en Buenos Aires

Alejandro Sanz lanzará en octubre un DVD del concierto que ofreció el pasado 23 de marzo en el Estadio River Plate de Buenos Aires como parte de su gira "El tren de los momentos".

"Live Buenos Aires" también estará disponible en formato de CD, informó el sello discográfico Warner Music.

El concierto del astro español en la Argentina hizo vibrar a más de 45,000 fans a las que Sanz dijo de entrada: "Buenos Aires me mata".

A finales de mayo el cantante conspicio las fechas de su gira por Estados Unidos argumentando cansancio y la recomendación de un médico de descanso absoluto y el 4 de agosto regresaría a los escenarios en Santiago de Compostela para luego recorrer otras plazas de su país natal durante dos meses.

El 21 de octubre estará en Puerto Rico y a partir del 16 de noviembre recompondrá a sus admiradoras que se quedaron esperándolo en varias ciudades de Estados Unidos.



## Jerry Garcia's belongings on auction

The man who bought Jerry Garcia's house 10 years ago is selling everything, including the kitchen sink. Henry Koltys, who sold the deceased Grateful Dead guitarist's toilet and other fixtures last year, said Friday he was clearing out the last of his Grateful Dead inventory, offering up the kitchen sink, Jacuzzi, stereo speakers and several other items on eBay.

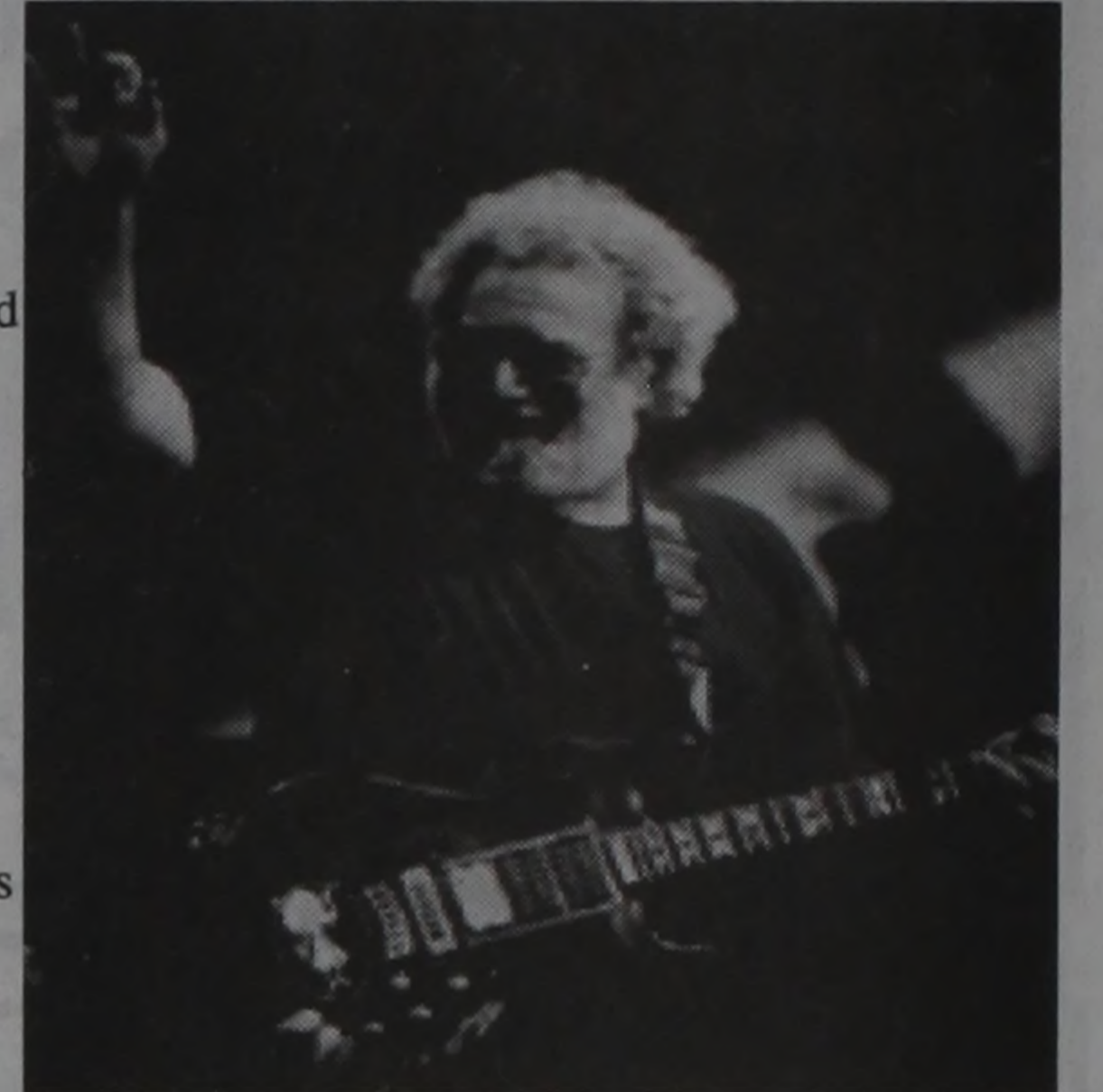
The toilet, from the master bedroom suite, fetched \$2,500 at a similar auction last year.

Like that auction, this one will benefit the Sophia Foundation, a San Francisco Bay area nonprofit that aids children and families during marital separations and divorces, Koltys said.

"This charity auction allows me to combine my interest in protecting and helping these families and my love for Jerry Garcia's music," said Koltys, who is the foundation's chairman and developer of KidsFirst! software.

The items will be auctioned on eBay on Aug. 12-19, he said.

Garcia died of a heart attack in 1995 at age 53. Koltys bought his Marin County house from the musician's estate in 1997 and put the fixtures in storage before renovating and reselling it.



## First Texas Latina Film Festival seeks submissions

The very first All Latina Film Festival for Texas, called Señorita Cinema, is going to be held on October 12 and 13 in Houston. They are currently seeking films and videos by Latina Filmmakers and Video Artists for an exclusive exhibition at Houston's Lawndale Art Center.

Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be given out. Any genre 15 minutes or less will be considered, including trailers for larger works and even music videos. Multiple entries are accepted as long as the total running time does not exceed 15 minutes and are on one tape or disk.

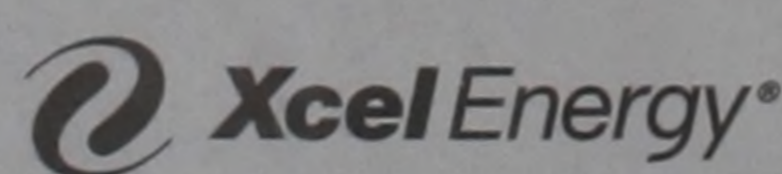
They will accept films on VHS, DVD, mini DV, or Digital 8. To enter, fill out an application along with \$15 any time between July 30th and September 21st. If you are going to submit late, it will be \$25 and they only will accept those between September 22nd and October 2nd (the final deadline to be postmarked).

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# Hall members watch, wonder as Bonds chases record HR haul

Know what would be more entertaining than free gasoline night at the ballpark?

If San Francisco's Giant took the advice of Hall of Famer Bob Feller. "If I'm Barry Bonds, I'd have an open (performance-enhancing drug) test, right now, in front of the news media," Feller was saying the other day.

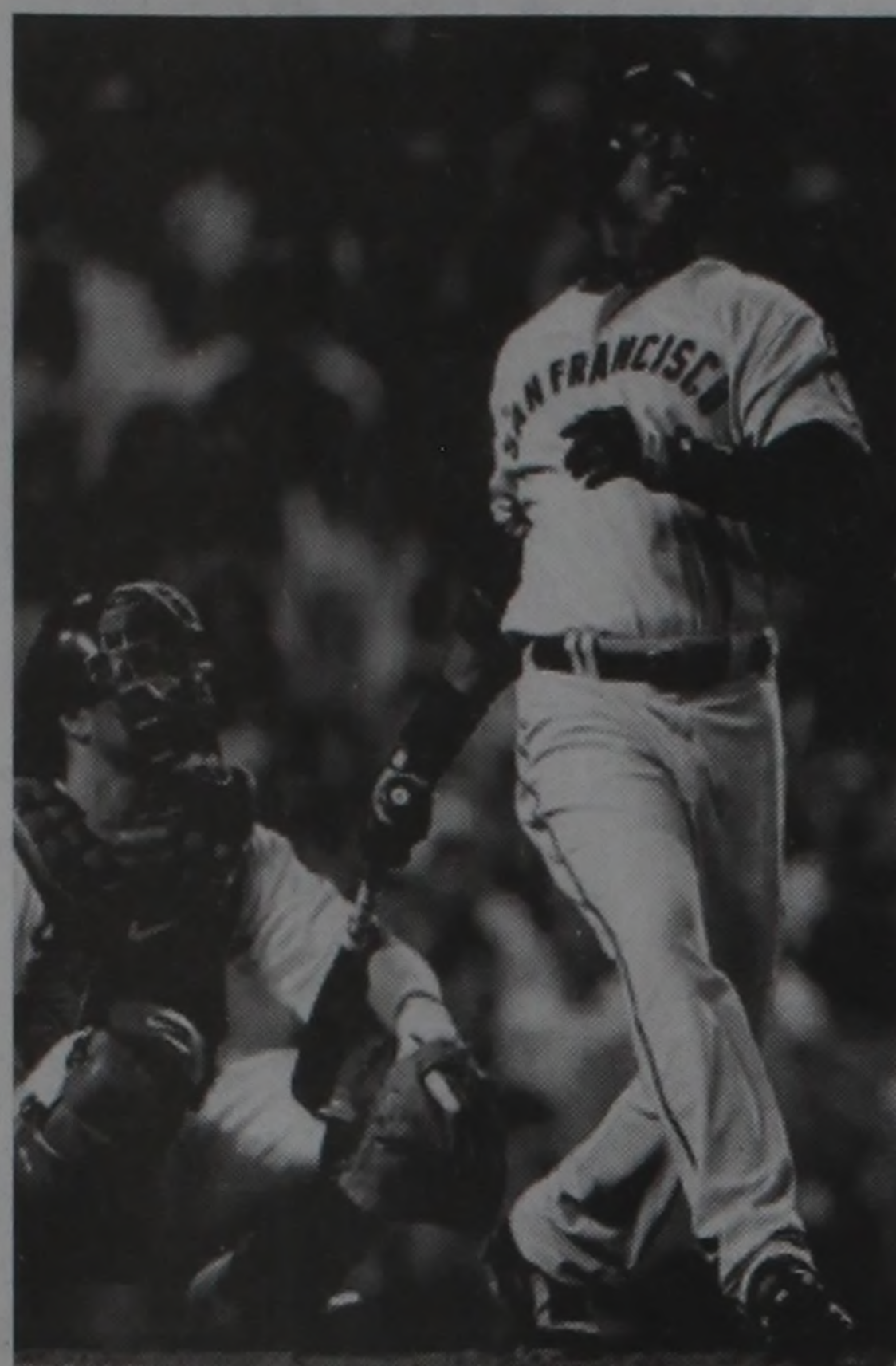
Yep, and if they gave away vacation packages to Hawaii each time you or I ran a yellow light, we'd all be having terrific summers.

"If I knew a fellow was taking steroids or cheating, I don't want him in the Hall of Fame," Feller said. "I wouldn't want him here."

"I wouldn't shake his hand and welcome him here."

Intriguing thing? Cranky as Feller often is about any number of subjects, he intentionally left

the dots unconnected between the above statement and the



man currently taking aim at Hank Aaron's record 755 career homers.

"If Barry Bonds breaks Hank Aaron's record, so be it," Feller said. "I'm all for it. It could be good for baseball."

"Now if he's caught using steroids, or if he lied to the jury, or if he was cheating on his

taxes, he won't get the numbers (to gain entry into the Hall of Fame)," Feller said.

If, if, if. They extend all the way to upstate New York. I know. I spent part of my time in Cooperstown over the weekend quizzing current Hall of Famers whether they're as angst ridden -- or as downright pissed -- as a large percentage of fans.

The answers? Like you, they'd really, really like to know the truth.

Like you, they wish the guy would come clean.

Like you, they wonder exactly how his head went all Grinch's heart and grew three sizes that day.

Yet not one member who has passed through the pearly gates of Cooperstown -- not one that I spoke with, anyway -- is ready to condemn him.

Yet. "I'm not against Barry Bonds by any means," former catcher Gary Carter said. "He's had a great career. I think he was a Hall of Famer before any of this controversy came about."

"The fact that he got better with age, I think that indicates he did do something. I don't see how a guy gets that big with lifting weights. I lifted weights my whole career, and I certainly didn't get that big."

"You've got to question it, but it's not proven. So you've got to go

with the flow." And that flow is, for now, that Carter would welcome him into the Hall of Fame.

"If the sportswriters vote him in, you have to accept that he becomes part of the fraternity," Carter said. "If he's proven guilty and it goes to a vote of us (the Hall of Fame Veterans' Committee), I'd go with the majority. The veterans are pretty adamant that they don't want Pete Rose in."

"If they're the ones who say they don't want a guy in the fraternity, then I'd vote that way."

Rose? "Disney and ESPN don't have enough money together to get me to shake hands with Pete Rose," Feller sniffed.

Aaron, though, that's different. Even in his absence -- he was in Puerto Rico with Japanese star Sadaharu Oh working a children's baseball clinic they co-founded several years ago -- the reverence with which Aaron is held in Cooperstown was impressive.

"I don't want him breaking Aaron's record," former Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda said. "Aaron is a good friend of mine."

Robin Yount, the former Milwaukee shortstop, was playing for the Brewers in the

mid-1970s when Aaron finished his career there.

"He made a huge impression on my life," Yount said. "All of a sudden, Hank Aaron's a teammate and I'm 19. I'm like, 'This guy's bigger than the Babe, and I'm going to play with him.'"

"The biggest impression he made on me was, he was just one of the guys. It was unbelievable. Here's arguably the greatest player of all time, and he was just one of the guys. That was so cool to me. I'll never forget it."

Bonds\* has been described in a lot of different ways. Even when those descriptions are positive, the phrase "one of the guys" isn't one of them.

And regardless of where or when he breaks Aaron's record, there undoubtedly will be those who stubbornly will continue to view Aaron as the Home Run King.

"Some people are going to think that way, no question," Yount said. "But until someone tells me for sure that this guy had artificial help, I still don't think you hold it against him, but maybe you view it in a different way."

In some ways, Cooperstown was kind of like the Dodger Stadium crowds this week, only without the "Barry sucks" and "Ster-oids!" chants. From a dis-

tance, folks marveled at his skills and remain mostly curious and tongue-tied at all the stuff they still do not understand.

"It's a shame (performance-enhancing drugs) weren't illegal in baseball many years back, that's all I can say," former Baltimore manager Earl Weaver said. "I tell you, to become bigger and stronger than anybody, you're taking substances that are not illegal and you're enhancing your ability. Now, if it was illegal ..."

"If you're a young man and it's legal to get something to help you hit the ball further, to help you become bigger and stronger, I think you're going to do it."

Weaver continued: "I'd like to see Hank's name stay in the record book for home runs. Be it so, if there are no criminal charges against Bonds, let it go in with an asterisk. The Steroid Era."

Yep, even in Cooperstown, feelings ranged from "innocent until proven guilty" to "Anybody got some Irish Spring? I suddenly feel the need for a shower."

"We all make mistakes in life," Feller said. "I'm no saint. Neither is anyone I know in the Hall of Fame a saint."

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