

El Editor

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

Casualties of
War in Iraq
3,887
as of Dec 5,
2007

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News Briefs

Lulu Publishing Joins with Bidal Aguero to Publish Children's Christmas Book

"The Wondrous Santa Suit" may just teach children what Christmas really means

Each year, we turn to family customs and long held cultural traditions when celebrating the Christmas holiday. An updated and revised edition of Bidal Aguero's tale of Christmas hope succeeds in adding another literary tradition to our Hispanic culture.

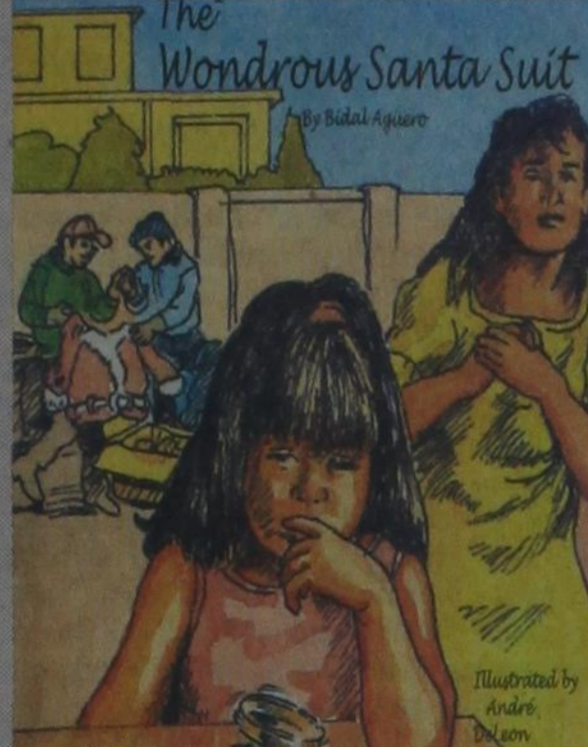
The Wondrous Santa Suit is a heart-warming story about Jose, a simple man who shows his devotion to his family through his hard work, his honesty, hope, and his belief in the true meaning of Christmas.

Mr. Aguero has joined together with Lulu Publishers to publish a revised version of his story about a poor humble man whose love for his family is the driving force in trying to find the perfect gifts for his 3 children.

For Jose, the most meaningful Christmas will result from his finding a Santa suit while working as a trash man. The suit will capture the attention of his daughter Teresita who has been diagnosed with having autism and who has yet to find any joy in her life. It will make you wonder if the suit has any magical powers and if the spirit of Christmas really does reveal itself in the simplest of things.

For Jose, Matilde, Pedrito, Juanito, and the special Teresita; the determination and honesty shown by their father will lead to Christmas never being the same again.

For the reader, it will make us grateful for what we have and will illustrate the meaning of how a simple symbol of generosity, hope and love, can transform and change a child's life and her family's forever. For press inquiries or for more information, Mr. Aguero may be contacted at eleditor@sbcglobal.net or may be reached at 806-741-0371



National Intelligence Estimate Says Iran Halted Nuclear Weapons Program in 2003

On Tuesday of this week, President Bush held a press conference to announce that contrary to what the administration has been saying all along: a recently released new National Intelligence Estimate revealed that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003.

Up until now, the President has steadfastly maintained that Iran was producing nuclear weapons and has repeatedly warned about Iran being a "dangerous Iran" if it is allowed to proceed with its weapon's program.

The following is an excerpt from the report: We judge that in fall 2003, Tehran halted its nuclear weapons program... We assess with moderate confidence Tehran has not restarted its nuclear weapons program as of mid-2007. We do not have sufficient intelligence to judge confidently whether Tehran is willing to maintain the halt of its nuclear weapons program indefinitely... We judge with moderate confidence Iran probably would be technically capable of producing enough highly enriched uranium sometime during the 2010-2015 time frame. We judge with high confidence that Iran will not be technically capable of producing and reprocessing enough plutonium for a weapon before about 2015.

But the President also reopened new criticism about the country's intelligence agencies and their findings; especially after the faulty intelligence gathering prior to the invasion of Iraq. Here's how the New York Times reported it in its Wednesday edition:

"Mr. Bush opened himself up to new criticism over his credibility when he said that the director of national intelligence, Mike McConnell, alerted him about new intelligence about Iran's weapon's program in August but did not explain what it was in detail. As recently as October, Mr. Bush continued to warn darkly of Iran's nuclear weapons threat, invoking World War III, despite the new information. He responded to a question about that on Tuesday by saying he had received the final assessment, with its drastically altered findings, only last week."

Whether this will be enough to quiet the administration's saber rattling only time will tell. But already other countries like Russia are taking an "I told you so attitude" and indicating that they will continue to reach out to Iran and oppose stricter sanctions against the regime. China has also remained in Iran's corner and has become one of the country's largest oil customers.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and other high ranking officials had been busily trying to call their counterparts in other Middle Eastern and European countries; in an attempt to diffuse the impact the report will have on the fragile alliances which had been forged based on the assumption that the Iranians possessed the potential to produce nuclear weapons.

Email eleditor@sbcglobal.net:

Backlog of Cases in Texas Food Stamp and Other State Assistance Programs

The Austin American Statesman reported this week that "Applications for food stamps and other programs are backlogged across Texas because there aren't enough state workers trained to process cases in the TIERS computer system"; a fact acknowledged by state officials.

According to the report, TIERS is the Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System, and "is not ready for use beyond a Central Texas pilot region". This has resulted in a backlog of cases not being processed and "14.1% of food stamp applications were processed late in October".

"About 3.7 million Texans are enrolled in food stamps, Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for needy Families" and all the "programs are affected by the delays"; according to the report.

The full story can be viewed at the following web site: <http://www.statesman.com/news/content/region/legislature/stories/12/05/1205benefits.html>

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Hispanic Chamber Merger Forums Produce Low Member Turnout

If the turnout at the 2 Lubbock Hispanic Chamber meetings, held to discuss the upcoming merger with the Lubbock Chamber is any indication, the upcoming vote on the possible merger might be one of those votes decided by a few rather than a majority of voting members.

Collectively, the two meetings which have been held by the chamber board in order to inform their membership about the plans for the merger have seen no more than 25 people show up. It was unclear just how many of the 25 were members; but some estimates put the number at less than half of the 25.

Saturday's meeting which was held at the Maggie Trejo Center saw about 15 people show up; while Tuesday's turnout produced only about "half a dozen" people to listen to what some attendees perceived as the chamber leadership's implied endorsement of the merger plan.

Although an outright endorsement by the board has yet to be publicly issued, the implication that the merger is the way to go was apparent; notwithstanding the fact that board Chair Velma Medina had previously told El Editor that the Board of Director's would leave it up to the membership; that they would only present the plan to the membership and that the board held no position one way or the other on the proposed merger.

One of the reasons more people did not show up may be due to the fact that as one person in attendance at Saturday's meeting put it, "because most people see it as a done deal".

Some concerns expressed to El Editor this week by several people included the fact that a voice that has been present in Lubbock for 33 years; representing the Hispanic business community will no longer exist after the merger.

Another one concerned the restriction which will be placed on the "merged" Hispanic Chamber; meaning that although 5 persons will be appointed to the Chamber's Board of Directors, all appointments ultimately will have to be approved by the "majority" Lubbock Chamber.

"In other words, if you don't agree with them, you can't serve," said one person who preferred to remain anonymous.

At Tuesday's meeting, discussion revolved around whether the final vote would reflect what Hispanic business owners and members really want. According to people who spoke to El Editor but did not want their name used, the Chamber's membership has steadily declined over the years to the point where less than 30% of the membership is made up of Hispanic business owners.

According to board Chair Velma Medina, present membership numbers show that the Chamber has on file "approximately 320 members...about 90 which are Hispanic owned businesses". Medina also said she could not provide the number of actual business owners who are active members in the chamber; saying that they were too busy getting ready for the annual meeting.

Ninety Hispanic owned businesses, or only 27.6%, is a far cry from the days when the total membership was made up of mostly Hispanic business owners or Hispanics; leading some people to conclude that the Hispanic Chamber may not be a true "minority owned business chamber" as it once was. And that may turn out to be the deciding factor when members cast their vote.

Nevertheless, the Hispanic Chamber is going ahead with a planned annual general membership meeting to be held on December 13 at the American State Bank where members will be asked to vote yes or no on the merger. But a member must be present in order to cast a vote.

Medina told El Editor that "voting will take place at the annual meeting" and that "our by-laws do not permit voting arrangements for those who cannot attend".

"We are contacting all corporate sponsors so that they can give us the name of the representative they have designated as the voting party and only that person or persons can vote". According to Medina, corporate sponsors are allowed 2 votes.

Another issue which has not been discussed, at least not out in the open, is the Hispanic Cham-

ber's role in the state organization; the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers or TAMACC.

Ironically, the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber was one of the founding members of TAMACC.

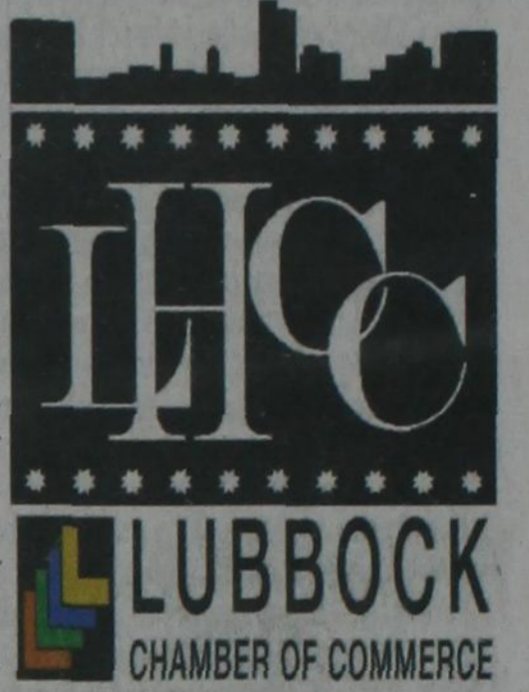
Although the state organization has remained mostly quiet about the merger, El Editor did receive a response to our inquiry concerning the merger. The organization's interim President, Sam Guzman issued the following statement to El Editor:

"TAMACC (does not) at this time, have a formal position regarding this matter because we had not been formally asked for an opinion by the appropriate LHCC officials. In addition, we do not have all the pertinent information. TAMACC is open to visiting with the LHCC Board and members to provide information, emphasize the value of being a part of TAMACC and working together, and emphasize the importance of the LHCC and its members to TAMACC. After all, the LHCC was one of the TAMACC founding members 33 years ago."

At Tuesday's meeting, Lubbock Chamber President Eddie McBride indicated that although he had made an attempt to talk to officials at TAMACC, he had met with less than desirable results and they had not really been very cooperative.

Consequently, it is still not clear whether the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber will retain its membership in the state organization if the merger is approved.

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net



Voter Fraud or Voter Suppression?

By Abel Cruz

Voter demographics or voter characteristics such as a voter's ethnicity or race have gone through some fairly dramatic changes over the years. Because of a numerical advantage; meaning the Anglo population has been in the majority column, people who vote have historically been mostly Anglo; while Hispanics and blacks have voted in fewer numbers.

But over the years, voter registration efforts by civil rights organizations like LULAC and The Southwest Voter Registration Project among others have produced an increase in the number of registered voters; especially Hispanic voters here in Texas.

And although the number of people registering has not translated into a comparable number of people casting their vote at the voting booth; political organizations, political parties, and especially candidates and their political apparatus's are realizing just how much the potential ethnic vote has grown.

And with that potential, tactics and political strategies designed to try and influence, and in some cases suppress, the number of people who vote have emerged from a variety of sources; all intent on influencing the laws associated with voting rights. And some disguised as "think tanks" like the "Election Integrity Task Force" headed by indicted former Congressman Tom DeLay cohort, John Colyandro who was indicted along with DeLay for money laundering and other federal felony charges.

All intent on influencing who is allowed to vote by using what some in the political world refer to as "voter suppression tactics".

Voter suppression is just that; an attempt by some people or even political parties to suppress, or keep down, the number of people who vote in an election. In the past, some voter suppression tactics used here in Texas included charging poll taxes to keep poor people and minorities who could not afford the tax, from voting. It also has included establishing a certain set of criteria which may or may not be attainable, so that

a person will get discouraged and not vote.

The Voting Rights Act first passed by Congress in 1965 during the Lyndon Johnson administration and renewed just last year had a lot to do with "righting" the wrongs experienced by many minority voters over the years. But here in Texas, which has seen tremendous voter demographic changes, new Republican charges of voter fraud has produced a call for new strategies to try and influence who will be allowed into the voting booth.

One of the most recent strategies being discussed includes requiring all voters to obtain a particular form of identification aimed at discouraging minority voters who may or may not understand what it is they are being asked to acquire; or are simply intimidated by certain requirements. But whatever the tactic employed is; the desired outcome is low voter turnout; in particular low voter turnout for the opposition party.

Most recently, these strategies have been aimed at ethnic minorities by Republicans who see most minorities as potential Democratic voters; and thereby a threat to their hold on power. And most of the tactics revolve around the term "voter fraud"; meaning that they are charging that a certain percentage of the voters are fraudulently doing so because they have not been certified to vote.

Whether they have or not may be a facade and the primary concern is that people, and in most cases minority voters, are voting and they fear that an increase in minority voters will result in a new balance of power.

Here in Texas, the issue has become a hot issue on the Republican side of the aisle so to speak, and consequently has produced a new directive from Texas State House Speaker Tom Craddick aimed at exploring voter fraud.

But is it really voter fraud they are interested in or is it an attempt by Republicans to suppress the vote by setting mandates based on recommending "statutory changes"

Continued page 2

EPA Representative Tours Guadalupe Neighborhood's "Arroyo"

Special Report to El Editor by Carlos Quirino, Jr. Members of the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association were visited on November 30 by Jonathan Hook, Ph.D., Director of the U.S.



Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs for the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 6.

During the course of the association's effort to cleanup the "Arroyo", which is located in the Guadalupe Neighborhood in North

(continued page 2)

Deadline Nears for Gates Millennium Scholars Program

Students who will be graduating from high school and enrolling in an accredited college or university in 2008 are encouraged to apply for the Gates Millennium Scholars Program. The deadline for the application is December 31st and is "funded by a one billion dollar grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation", according to LULAC National President Rosa Rosales.

Rosales recently sent a letter to all the LULAC Chapters around the country, asking them to "encourage outstanding students who have significant financial need and leadership potential".

The program is designed to reach ethnic American youth who have shown that they are serious about pursuing a higher education. The scholarship provides money for college room and board and other expenses. It is specifically designed for undergraduate students, but is also available to students who choose a particular major in a graduate program. But a student needs to have been the recipient of a GMS scholarship while an undergraduate.

According to Rosales, the eligibility requirements are as follows: A student should be African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American; Must be a citizen, legal permanent resident or national of the United States; Must have attained a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (un-weighted); Will be entering a U.S. accredited college or university as a full-time, degree-seeking freshman in the Fall of 2008; Have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities; and meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria; Have completed and submitted all three required forms (Nominee Personal Information Form, Nominator Form, and Recommender Form) by the deadline.

Nomination forms are available at <http://www.gmsp.org> For more information on Pell Grant criteria interested persons may visit <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Nomination forms and information for the GMS are available at <http://www.gmsp.org>.

Requirements include that all applications be postmarked no later than December 31, 2007. All online applications must be submitted by January 11, 2008.

Students are encouraged to visit the scholarship web site for additional information. Email eleditor@sbcglobal.net:

Editorial

The Death Knell Tolls One Final Time

Which is more significant, the loss of one's identity or the loss of an entire organization due to a dwindling, disillusioned and diminishing number of members? Or is it a loss of credibility in the organization's leadership which has allowed the potential for the loss of identity?

Count us among those who point to a certain degree of loss of our Mexican American/Hispanic identity as one of the reasons the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber should not merge with the Lubbock Chamber. Although we question whether the organization is really representing local Hispanic business owners since Hispanic businesses represent less than 30% of the organization's members according to the chamber's own numbers.

But then how valuable is the loss of identity when there are so few businesses that are already not identifying with you?

As old timers who were there when the organization then known as COMA or Comerciantes Organizados Méjico Americanos was born, this is almost like the tolling of the second death knell for an organization whose first death knell sounded when COMA became the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber.

Yes the old organization has seen its better days. And if not its better days, at least clearer days when the causes were nobler and the people involved were truer to their heritage.

But alas, the time has come for us to bury a second time what was once a proud and strong organization whose members were inexorably tied together not only by an ethnic and cultural bond but also by a unique set of needs.

No one can deny that the 1970's were marked by a certain amount of exclusivity in this city when it came to business organizations. Back then we were seen as "minority or Hispanic or Spanish businesses" that were barely learning how to swim with the big fishes and consequently we were not allowed into the pond. Some people would say that that still exists today.

But whether by design or by accident, it is a fact that very few Mexican American business owners back then felt at home in mostly Anglo organizations.

Perhaps it was a difference of cultures; or even institutional discrimination. But whatever it was, the fact is that it did exist. If it hadn't, would organizations like COMA, LULAC, the American GI Forum, and others have been necessary? We don't think so.

Organizations like COMA, and by extension the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber, were born, nourished and developed because people in the Hispanic community needed them to exist. They needed them because they could identify with them. When they looked at the leadership they saw someone who looked like them. When they called upon them, it was in a language they understood; and they did not have to suffer through the embarrassment of being addressed by someone who could not even pronounce their name.

When they had an issue or problem; the Hispanic organizations are who they would go to. It is there where they felt "en casa" or "at home". It was there where they felt comfortable; where they felt that they belonged. It was there where they identified with others who were experiencing some of the same growing pains.

Granted, the chamber used to be more involved in the Hispanic community as a whole in years past. Back in the 70's the organization more closely reflected what the Hispanic business community looked like. And unfortunately, that is not the way it has been looking lately.

For those people who ask, why the need for 3 chambers; we say just look at this city's history of exclusion and you'll see why. At one point in our history, members

of this city's Hispanic community had to fight for political participation; and it wasn't that long ago. In fact when the chamber was formed, single member districts did not yet exist. Consequently we had to take the step of creating our own organizations due to a certain degree of institutional discrimination or simply the times. Bottom line is we had faith that we could form our own organizations and be just as successful.

And we were; as long as we remained true to our goals and true to our cause. As long as we remained true to ourselves and dedicated ourselves to the greater good; we were successful because we were nurturing something that we had created; not something that was created for us but by us. We had created something that would add to our success and not to that of some other organization. We had created something that would become part of our legacy.

Have we reached the day when our ethnic pride no longer exists? Have we reached the days where organizations like the Hispanic chamber are no longer necessary? Have we reached the point where assimilation has replaced our ethnic identity? And if so who have we become?

Have we reached the point where when a visitor to this city asks us who represents the Hispanic business owner we will say that the Lubbock Chamber does?

Throughout the state, in cities from Amarillo to Odessa and Midland; from El Paso to San Antonio to Houston and north to Dallas and Fort Worth and all points in between; chambers which serve the unique needs of Hispanic business owners exist because there is still a need for those chambers in those communities.

We will now enjoy the distinction of becoming the first city with close to 30% of the population without a Hispanic business chamber; how's that for a first?

As we move forward, we have resigned ourselves and accept the chamber's inevitable fate. As a Hispanic owned newspaper which has operated here in Lubbock for the past 31 years; we regret that it has come to this. We are of the belief that our Hispanic community is only as strong as its institutions and while we have nothing against the Lubbock Chamber, the loss of one of our city's icons or symbols of our Hispanic business community and our heritage somehow diminishes us all.

And if things do not work out as expected then perhaps it is a good thing that the organization's charter and bylaws will remain intact. Perhaps a future generation of Hispanic business owners will be moved to once again revive the organization and reclaim our lost identity?

In closing this chapter in our history and moving on, we would make one last suggestion. We would respectfully suggest that the present board of directors all resign and that the new board be comprised of Hispanic business owners only. And we would also suggest that that be a standing requirement for all future board members.

That's the least that can happen; to have a board which will reflect the original intent and cause for which the organization was formed.

This is a time when the Hispanic market is growing; therefore our organizations should be equally growing and prospering.

That they are not, and that we have come to this point in our history, is not a testament to how far we have come but rather to how far we have yet to go. The opinions and views expressed in our editorials are strictly those of the publisher and the editorial writer and do not represent or reflect the views of El Editor's advertisers.

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Men Shouldn't Wear Fishnet Stockings

Seems the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (LHCC) has a new poster boy to replace their poster girl, Her Highness Velma "Peroxide Queen" Medina in their quest to discredit, dismantle, and destroy the Hispanic Chamber.

It didn't take long for "Onetime" himself to take up the "merger" banner of the LHCC. Who's Onetime you ask? Well, he's the onetime Mayor of Shallowater, the onetime Legislative Director for State Representative Carl Isett, the onetime Lubbock City Council staffer, and if you ask me, he's soon to be a onetime City of Lubbock employee. (If you haven't noticed, there's a pattern of going from good to bad to nothing there.)

Rumor has it that if the merger effort succeeds (Is there really any doubt that it'll happen?), "Onetime" will be applying for the \$30,000 a year job of head flunky for the gutted Hispanic Chamber. That's just great! Now we can rest assured that not only will Hispanic businesses lose what little voice they have in this City but absolutely no work will be done as well. After all, wasn't it Onetime who was accused of "laziness" as well as lacking in terms of "work quality, output and attitude" (LAJ 07-25-07) during former City Council Chief of Staff Dixon Platt's grievance hearing? Wasn't it Onetime who's been hopping from job to job to job? Seems his job lifespan is that of a mosquito (average lifespan of an adult female mosquito is 2-3 weeks).

But if I was the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, the majority of which is made up of Anglos and the occasional Hispanic and African-American token, \$30,000 is a small price to pay to get rid of an organization which has held its own for decades. An organization on the brink of having such power and leverage that even the Anglo community will have to stand up and pay attention to. Better to cut off its legs now and put in place people like Onetime who will be happy collecting a paycheck without advocating for our community or even, lifting a finger.

I say, let them hire Onetime, let the LHCC be swallowed up, and let the Anglo community think (but just for a second) that they control the Hispanic business community. Reality is, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce has no clue as to the makeup of the Hispanic community, much less our business community. The Hispanic business community is not made up of the Marciano Morales' or Velma Medina's. They're just the ones who like to believe they represent the Hispanic business community.

No, the Hispanic business community is made up of the family run businesses; folks who work hard day in and day out (folks who put in an 80 hour work week), meet their payrolls and provide much needed products and services. Products and services which include plumbing, heating, electrical, mechanical, auto body repair, restaurants, health care services, cleaning services, elderly care, professional services such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, and nurses (just to name a very few). And the list goes on and on and on.

Truth be told, the decapitation of the LHCC might very well be the impetus needed to reinvigorate the Hispanic business community back into action. It might very well be the impetus to create a new organization without the Velma's or the Marcianos. I say good riddance and don't let the door hit you on the way out.

But if another organization is formed and the LHCC is swallowed up by the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, then the potential for Hispanic versus Hispanic will emerge. And, you don't think the Anglos are gonna get their hands dirty (so to speak) by butting heads with us do you? No. They'll send their \$30,000 a year boy to do their dirty work. "Now Mike, you need to go over there and speak to your people. We don't want any trouble but if this "trouble" continues, we'll have to do what we have to do." "Yes sir Mr. and Mrs. Anglo" says Mike, "I'll run over there and straighten them out." "I'll get them to think white, I mean think right".

Bottom line, there are troubled times ahead for the LHCC. There are troubled times ahead for the Hispanic business community in general as well. No matter how you cut it, heads are going to butt and it won't be the Eddie McBride's doing the dirty work; it'll be the Mike Arismendez's, Velma Medina's, Marciano Morales', etc... (Who are the beck and call boys of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce) doing the dirty deed of trying to further discredit our community.

Eddie McBride got a hell of a deal for \$30,000. He got a full time "prostitute" willing to do anything including spreading the virus of discontent among our community. RMS, Lubbock via Email

Hispanic Chamber Board Asking for Handout

Your article "LUBBOCK HISPANIC CHAMBER READY TO PRESENT MERGER PLAN TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP" is another reason I read your publication more and the Lubbock AJ less.

I'm a bit trepid about commenting on this topic because I'm not associated with the chamber. But, standing on the outside looking in - me thinks the membership of the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce should fire their Board of Directors.

It appears to me, as an outsider, that the Board of Directors has failed the membership. From the AJ, I get the impression that the Board is asking for a hand out. Could they really be thinking that the Lubbock Chamber is the guy to pay their bills for them? I read the merger "Pros" and "Cons" in the Sunday AJ. Mostly they are about the Board of Directors, while the membership gets little consideration. If I'm right, then the merger idea came about for the wrong reason. The Board is coming to the table as beggars. This is not good for anyone no matter who they are. I can't imagine the wholesale approval by the membership of their Board's actions.

RMS would not be as kind as I. He would rip them and throw in a few choice cuss words just for good measure. As for me, it's just my opinion. Unsigned Email

Playing in Traffic

The old joke "shouldn't you be out playing in traffic" implied that you wanted someone to be struck by the traffic and gone. Or at least it was a sarcastic remark that you wanted a person to go away.

Today, I can see signs that parents are encouraging their kids to play in traffic. If you see a basketball goal at the curb pointing out into the street, what should one suspect? Why would someone deliberately locate the goal in a manner that forces children into traffic? In the kids mind, it must be safe, after all why would dad put it out there? Since the police see the goals and do nothing, they either "certify" it to be safe, or they want the kids in danger.

In the past, children of respectable families looked both ways before entering the street, and going onto the street was simply to get to the other side. Subsequently, when I see a goal at the street, I see a household that has no respect for anyone's safety, or the rights of others. Philip Howard, Lubbock via Email

It's Time to do What?

Who knew that Lubbock has its own ex-Senator Fred Thompson? That is, someone who likes to create anticipation (yawn) about whether or not he'll run for his old seat against incumbent County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez. "You wouldn't believe how many people call me, stop me in the street, send me e-mails, or write little notes on rocks and throw them through my window. All of them are pleading, begging, and desperately praying and lighting candles so that I may decide to run again for County Commissioner."

At least that's what Gilbert Flores says. Not to discredit the poor old man too much, I'm sure his family has talked to him about it. After all, who wouldn't like their husband/father to earn a salary of \$53,000 a year again? (Editor's Note: with the raise Commissioners gave themselves this year; the yearly salary will go to \$60,000 per year.)

But to date, Gilbert hasn't decided whether he'll run again or not. Or has he? According to that ever present and evil little bird who tells me everything, Gilbert has been having numerous meetings with individuals in north and east Lubbock including folks from that bastion of Democrats - Idalou. And according to all sources I've spoken to, Gilbert is telling everyone that if Ysidro runs again, and if the Republican Party puts up an Anglo to run as well then, all is lost and we'll all be represented by a woman with an elephant's head and no heart. Talk about putting a twist on the Chupacabras legend!

Anyway, the suspense (yawn) is killing me. Please Gilbert, stop teasing us with your yes, no, maybe answers and let us know once and for all, if "you're the man" or not.

Should Gilbert decide to run (yawn) or should he finally decide to make it public (yawn) then I can honestly say that come the primaries in March, a hotly contested race will be had. In the red corner we have the challenger, former County Commissioner Gilbert Flores, with his coach and trainer Linda ("What's that in my mouth?" "Oh ya, my foot" DeLeon.) And in the blue corner we have the current fly weight champion of the world, County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez and his coach and trainer Armando ("They'll never take me alive.") Gonzales.

Each camp is claiming that they truly represent the "real" Hispanic community. Each camp is declaring the other side as "evil" and "vicious" and "heartless". Each camp is, aahhhh, yawn, oh well, never mind.

What's gonna be interesting about this next election cycle isn't necessarily who's running against whom, rather who's aligning themselves with whom?

There's Flores and DeLeon who I guess, both hate Tom Martin. Then there's Ysidro and Armando who I guess like Tom Martin. But it is equally interesting that both camps are trying to convey to "Furor Martin" that they control the Hispanic community.

That's right, I don't mean represent the Hispanic community but, control and can deliver (or in Gilbert's case, not deliver) the Hispanic community AND ITS VOTES!

According to The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, Third Edition, the adage, "Politics makes strange bedfellows" means that "Political interests can bring together people who otherwise have little in common. This saying is adapted from a line in the play The Tempest, by William Shakespeare: 'Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows.' It is spoken by a man who has been shipwrecked and finds himself seeking shelter beside a sleeping monster."

But who's the real monster in this clandestine ménage a trois; and if there is a monster, who is the victim? The victim part is easy, the victim is the Hispanic community who many a times believes without question and follows without regard. The monster part is yet to be determined. Will it be Gilbert and Linda or Ysidro and Armando? I have my guess but do you have yours?

"It's time to piss or get off the pot!" is, according to the Cambridge International Dictionary of Idioms, "something that you say to someone when you want them to make a decision and take action without any more delay".

So in closing I would say, ring the bell, let's get round one going. Piss or get off the pot Gilbert Flores!

RMS Lubbock via Email

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Arroyo's Visit from EPA

Lubbock, the association has continued to maintain communications with the EPA to determine ecological and environmental concerns which might be prevalent in the area.

As a first impression, Dr. Hook mentioned that he was impressed by the amount of cleanup that has already occurred, as well as, the ability of the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association to bring together close to 170 volunteers. Volunteers have included two fraternities from Texas Tech University, the STAR KIDS, parishioners from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, families from the neighborhood; and support from the City of Lubbock which has provided heavy machinery and tree trimming equipment operated by a crew of city workers.

Last Friday's visit was made with the intention of making an initial and informal survey of the site and meeting with members of the neighborhood association to discuss current cleanup efforts and future plans for collaboration with city, state, and federal agencies to make the "Arroyo" both children and family friendly. Dr. Hook noted that a decision would need to be made as to whether the area should remain as a natural preserve or turned into a recreation area with the possibility of being developed for different types of activities, i.e., picnic tables, jogging and bike trails, etc. According to Hook, his office "would be able to offer support in facilitating possible resources as the project moves ahead".

The Guadalupe Neighborhood Association will continue the cleanup campaign during the start of the New Year. According to city authorities they will initiate the removal of heavy slabs and pieces of concrete during the winter months when their crews have more down time. The association also plans to write a formal request to the U.S. Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs for their assistance. Email:eleditor@sbcglobal.net

"El Que Pica con la Cola" El Hijo Del Alacrán (The Son of the Scorpion)



Back in the 70's and 80's "El Alacrán"; "the scorpion that stings with his tail" was a regular guest on the pages of this newspaper. Many years have passed, "El Alacrán" has now retired his poisonous pen; but now along comes his son...and as they say: "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree".

Las actividades para celebrar los 100 años de Lubbock ya empearon y al ver los miembros del comité solo hay un Chicano de 14 miembros. Los participantes feron escojidos por el Mayor en nuestros representantes en el Concilio Me puedo imaginar la conversación:

Nuestro representanta al Concilio: Cuantos miembros habar en el Comite Señor Mayor? Mayor: 14

Nuestro representanta al Concilio: Usted creé que a la comunidad Hispana le pueden permitir uno?

Mayor: Si, pero es mas que generoso.

Nuestro representanta al Concilio: Muchismas gracias Señor Mayor. Que bueno es usted.

Y a Pancho Clos ya parese que le quieren cambiar el nombre a "Frank" A este hijo del Alacran le paticaron que en otra de las publicaciones de Lubbock ya lo quieren hacer grinto a Pancho y que el primer paso, para que sea aceptado por los gringos en cambiarle el nombre a "Frank". A la mejor tambien lo va tratar de hacerlo del partido Republicano!

Y a este hijo del Alacran tambien le da tristesa que parese que se va terminar la Camara. Pero es como dice el editorial, "el cambio empeso hacer varios años cuando le cambiaron el nombre de COMA." Lo que es una lastima es que pareció que la principal razon porque se va terminar es porque ya no pudieron pagar los biles. Y otravez va pareser que el gringo nos vino a salvar la vida porque no podimos pagar los biles! Ya es el 2007, si la Raza no puede mantenerse solo ya ahorita, cuando se va hacer?

Y ahora me platican que si va haber esos "candidatos que quieren el cheque de Ysidro" que se van a lanzar. Pues parese que no pueden hacer decision. Que buen candidato!

El Editor

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Contributing Columnist Abel Cruz
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Voter Fraud or Voter Suppression?

from page 1

another fancy term for passing new laws primarily designed to discourage voter turnout.

According to the Lone Star Project, a federal Political Action Committee based in Texas which examines these types of issues, "Why do Tom Craddick and other Texas Republican leaders want to spend taxpayer resources to examine a problem that doesn't exist? Clearly Craddick, Abbott and others are attempting to justify dramatic changes in Texas law and election practices, including voter photo ID requirements, senior mail ballot restrictions and voter roll purges, that will reduce overall voter turnout as demographic changes take place in Texas that are increasing the influence of minorities in Texas elections".

The statement is referring to a directive from Speaker Craddick to the House Committee on Elections issued last month which calls for several steps to be taken to address Republican concerns over voter fraud. Craddick's directive is being criticized in some political circles as a direct attempt to discourage voter participation and turnout.

But this is not the first attempt by the state legislature to delve into this area. In fact the past legislative session produced an array of bills designed to influence voter turnout; albeit legislation disguised as an effort to root out voter fraud.

Just this past April, the following quote appeared in the April 26, 2007 edition of The Houston Chronicle; "With no proof of significant voter fraud in state elections, the Texas House is considering bills that would require voters to provide additional identification in order to register and cast their ballots. Not only is the legislation unjustified, if enacted it could disenfranchise large numbers of the elderly, the poor and minorities."

Craddick's directive also requires the monitoring of counties like Lubbock County which participated in the Super Precinct Program experiment and to observe the progress. But the most extensive direction states that the committee will "Examine the prevalence of fraud in Texas elections, considering prosecution rates and measures for prevention".

It also calls for the "study of new laws in other states regarding voter identification and recommend statutory changes necessary to ensure that only eligible voters can vote in Texas elections. Specifically study the Texas mail-in ballot system, the provisional voting system, and the various processes for purging voter lists of ineligible voters".

And when it comes to Craddick and other Republican efforts to suppress the vote, the Lone Star Project minces no words. In a story posted on their web site they claim that "the Republican voter fraud initiative is a partisan scheme to hold power by suppressing the turnout of voters whose support Republicans are unable or unwilling to earn through legitimate public service".

Email: acruzts@aol.com

Richardson Wants U.S. Out of War He Once Backed

In recent months, Gov. Bill Richardson has staked out the most dovish position on the Iraq war of all Democratic presidential candidates this side of Dennis Kucinich.

"Leave no troops behind," Richardson says.

Withdraw all troops within a year, leaving no residual troops in the country. In stump speeches, debate appearances and campaign ads, Richardson repeatedly points out that none of the front-runners are calling for complete withdrawal.

But he didn't always feel that way about the war.

As recently as November 2005, when his autobiography, *Between Worlds*, was published, Richardson supported the war. He criticized the administration's handling of the occupation following the collapse of Saddam Hussein's government, but said, "At this point, however, we must see this mission through. We mustn't stay in Iraq past the point where the new government asks us to leave, but neither can we unilaterally pull out before the Iraqis have achieved control over their own internal security. We owe them the opportunity to make their democracy work. We must not undermine their efforts now."

But no more than four months later, Richardson had changed his tune.

"The time has come for a withdrawal," he told a group of Democrats gathered at a private home in Kensington, N.H., in March 2006 -- about 10 months before he publicly confirmed he was running for president. "America should use diplomacy to bring the different political factions together while it completes the training of Iraqi forces," Richardson said, according to *The Associated Press*.

Richardson is not the only politician whose views on Iraq have evolved over time. Indeed, his fellow presidential hopefuls Sens. Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden and Chris Dodd, and former Sen. John Edwards all voted for the 2002 war resolution that President Bush used to justify sending troops into Iraq.

Though the governor was quick to point out in a debate last week that he hadn't voted for the war, Richardson was vocally backing the war in its lead-up -- though he was calling on the U.S. to get more international support before invading.

On March 11, 2003, just nine days before the U.S. began

dropping bombs on Baghdad, Richardson was interviewed by CNN's Candy Crowley. There he argued that the U.S. and Britain should negotiate a compromise with other members of the United Nations Security Council to win broader support for an invasion.

But he stressed the U.N. should back the U.S. "Clearly in this Iraq crisis, the U.N. has to step up and simply enforce its ... resolution," he said. "And it's not doing that. So, it's going to be a big loss for the U.N. in terms of its peacekeeping relevance, unless it really steps up and gets tough on Saddam Hussein. I think that's the issue."

On the other hand, he said the U.S. should be willing to delay the invasion by up to 30 days while seeking more support.

"This is a time when it's frustrating, but what's the rush, really," Richardson said. "Iraq is not heading down Baghdad into the United States. Again, it is a threat, but it's not an immediate threat. It's not something that is like the war on terrorism, where we're under alert from a potential terrorist attack in this country. So let's be judicious. Let's be calm. Let's be patient."

Two days later, Richardson told CNN's Paula Zahn that he supported Bush's idea to give Hussein a deadline to get rid of weapons -- which later were determined not to have existed.

"I think the administration is wise in pursuing this course that says, 'OK, total disarmament in two weeks and that's it,'" Richardson said.

The invasion began March 20, 2003. That day, Richardson was among a group of trustees of Freedom House to issue a statement supporting the war effort and calling for the establishment of democracy in Iraq. Freedom House is an organization criticized by some who claim the organization has a neo-conservative slant.

"The post-war effort to bring democracy to Iraq will not be easy," the statement said. "But, we are confident of one thing: that the Iraqi people -- like the peoples of post-war Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Central and Eastern Europe -- desire peace, seek the protections of human rights rooted in the rule of law, and want democracy."

Other Freedom House trustees signing the statement in-

cluded former CIA director James Woolsey, President Reagan's U.N. Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick, publisher and former Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes and Diana Negroponte, wife of John Negroponte, who was U.N. ambassador at the time.

Meanwhile in New Mexico, responding to a war protest at the Capitol shortly after the invasion, Richardson said in a news release, "In our country, dissent, disagreement and discussion are cherished ingredients of our democracy." But he added, "We must not let the exercise of those freedoms undermine or diminish the work of our men and women in uniform."

Richardson continued defending the war, though his criticism of the administration for failing to obtain more international support began sharpening.

In April 2004, following a news conference by President Bush, Richardson told CNN's Larry King, "I commend (Bush) for being resolute and saying we're going to stay the course, but you can stay the course and make adjustment and make changes that make sense and change our policy to make it more multinational, to have other countries share the burden. ... There are just too many iffy questions and most, most unfortunately I just worry more and more about the security and vulnerability of our troops on the ground in Iraq."

Until 2006, there would be no talk from Richardson about withdrawing troops. And even when that talk began, he didn't at first advocate withdrawing all troops within a year. In December 2006, he told New Hampshire Democrats he might leave "perhaps a residual force -- a very small residual force." As late as April he told ABC News, "I would leave Marine forces to protect our embassy and other vital American installations."

On NBC's "Meet the Press" in May, host Tim Russert confronted Richardson with the contradiction of what he said in his book and his campaign position of withdrawing all American troops from Iraq.

"I regret not having pushed more diplomatically early on with President Bush," he said. "I do regret that. But look where we are now. There's a civil war, there's sectarian conflict. ... Like everybody else, when we went into Iraq, I wanted to support the troops. But after incompetency, deceitfulness by this administration, the fact that there's no weapons of mass destruction, the link to al-Qaida was enormously suspect ... there is no basis for us to be there."

MAGGIE RODRIGUEZ IS NAMED A CO-ANCHOR

Maggie Rodriguez, who has been co-anchor of THE SATURDAY EARLY SHOW since June 2007, will become co-anchor of the weekday THE EARLY SHOW, it was announced by Sean McManus, President, CBS News and Sports. The appointment is effective Monday, Jan. 7.

Rodriguez joins Harry Smith and Julie Chen as a co-anchor of the broadcast, as well as news anchor Russ Mitchell and weather anchor Dave Price.

"In the past six months, Maggie has proved to be a remarkably good fit in morning news," said McManus. "Not only has she done great work on the morning broadcasts, both weekend and weekday, but she also has reported for the CBS EVENING NEWS WITH KATIE COURIC and anchored the weekend EVENING NEWS. Her tenacity as a journalist and her authenticity and warmth will serve Maggie and CBS News very well. As we look to the future -- including our switch to a full national format on Jan. 7 -- I'm pleased that she, Harry, Julie, Russ and Dave will be in charge of the 'morning shift' at CBS News."

"Maggie is a terrific addition to THE EARLY SHOW with so much experience in live anchoring," said Shelley Ross, Senior Executive Producer of the broadcast. "In the time she's been working with our EARLY SHOW team, we've come to both respect her as a journalist and really enjoy her as a colleague. Our weekday viewers already know her from her work on the program, most recently in our autism series and last week's breaking news in Aruba, and I

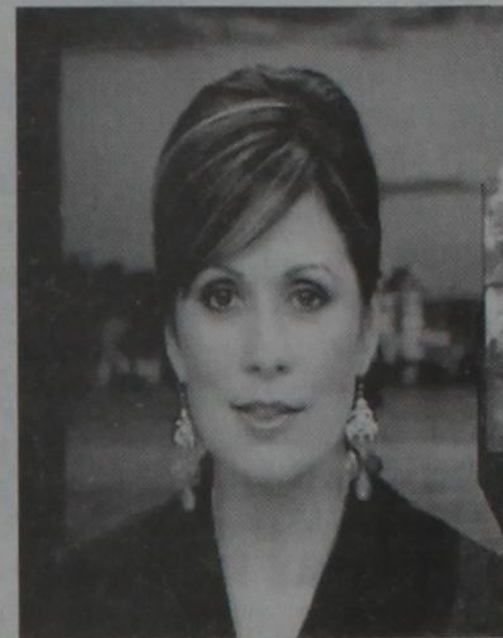
look forward to having her join the team, working with Harry, Julie, Russ and Dave every day." "This is my dream job," said Rodriguez. "I get to utilize the journalistic skills I've developed over the past 15 years and have fun at the same time with feature segments. To do that with a group of people I like and respect as much as THE EARLY SHOW team, who've made me feel welcome from day one, is wonderful."

In addition to co-anchoring THE SATURDAY EARLY SHOW, Rodriguez has reported for and substitute-anchored the weekday edition of the broadcast. She also has reported for the CBS EVENING NEWS WITH KATIE COURIC and CBS NEWS SUNDAY MORNING, as well as substitute-anchored the weekend EVENING NEWS.

Before joining CBS News, Rodriguez anchored the 5:00 PM and 11:00 PM newscasts at WFOR-TV, the CBS Owned station in Miami (2000-07). While there, she reported on and anchored coverage of a wide range of major news events, including many hurricanes and, from New York, the one-year anniversary of 9/11. Rodriguez also was first on the air with coverage of the transfer of power in Cuba from Fidel Castro to his brother, Raul. Ultimately, the newscast received an RTNDA Edward R. Murrow Award for its coverage of that story.

Before that, she was anchor of the midday news and of a weekend magazine show at KABC-TV Los Angeles (1994-2000). Rodriguez also was a field reporter and covered a wide array of stories, including earthquakes, mudslides and the O.J.

Simpson trial. She served as a reporter for the Univision Network (1991-1994) in Miami. Rodriguez' career in journalism began at WLTW



Miami (1989-90), a Univision-owned station, where she was an associate producer, field producer and assignment editor.

She has received a total of seven Emmy Awards and two RTNDA Murrow Awards.

Rodriguez' alma mater, the University of Miami, awarded her the first-ever "Alpha Epsilon Rho Professional of the Year Award," its top honor for professionals in the communication industry. She also is the recipient of the Hispanic Heritage Council's prestigious "Young Hispanic Leadership Award" for professional accomplishments and community service.

Rodriguez was born in Miami and grew up in South Florida. She attended American University in Washington, D.C. and was graduated from the University of Miami in 1991 with a degree in broadcast journalism and Spanish. Rodriguez and her husband have a daughter.

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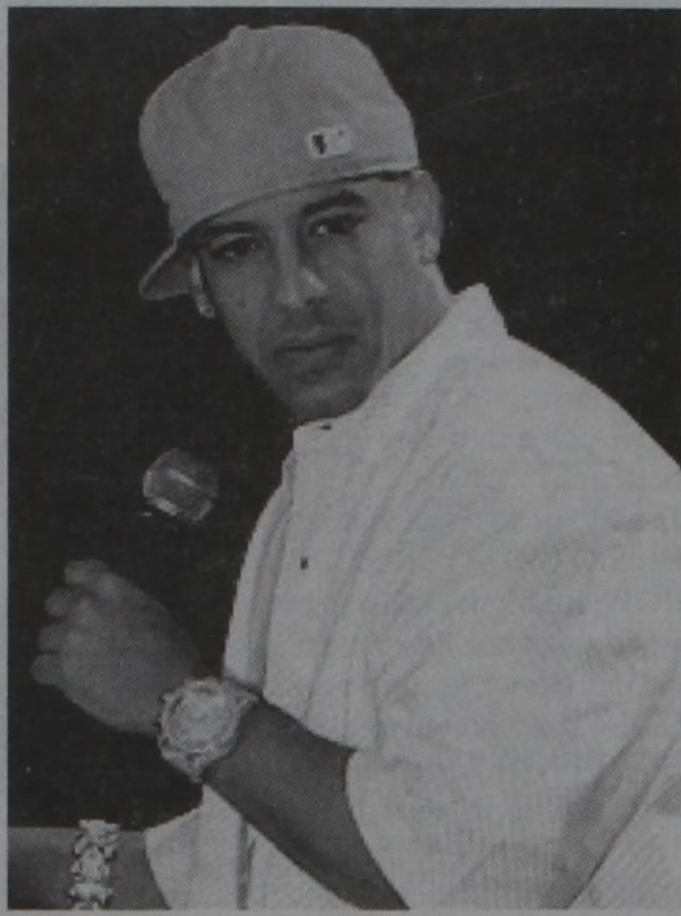
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**TEXAS
LOTTERY**

First-Ever 'Mi TRL Awards,' Set to Air On December 15th

MTV Tr3s today announced the nominees for "The 1st Annual Mi TRL Awards" set to air on Saturday, December 15th at 3 PM. The "Mi TRL Awards" will recognize and honor the people and music that make "Mi TRL" the "must watch" show for U.S. Latinos and send the winners home with a shiny "Gallo" (rooster) trophy.



The show will be packed with

some of today's hottest celebrities accepting and presenting awards, in addition to live performances and other surprises along the way. Hosted by "Mi TRL" VJ Carlos Santos and co-hosted by Karli Henriquez ("Karlifornia), the "Mi TRL Awards" will celebrate the most exciting artists and moments from the show's first year.

The awards special will include a live performance by Mexican pop sensation RBD, who's new album "Empezar Desde Zero" just debuted in the #1 slot on the Latin music charts. There will also be appearances by Jessica Alba, Juanes, Paulina Rubio, Menudo, Adrienne Bailon, Omarion, Snoop Dogg, Chris Brown, and Zuleyka Rivera. All artists and celebrities are invited to hang

out in the VIP Terra.com Lounge where they can kick back, mingle and watch the show. Karli will be hosting one-on-one interviews from the lounge as well.

As a special treat, one lucky MTV Tr3s viewer, selected for his or her answer to why they are the ultimate "Mi TRL" viewer, will be named the winner of the "Pepsi Mi TRL Awards Viewers Choice Award Casting Call Challenge" and will co-present the "Mi TRL Pepsi Viewers Choice Award."

Fans will also be able to check out a flipbook covering the event, including a gallery of the best of the red carpet action, on stage highlights and more, by logging onto mitrl.com starting December 15th.

"Mi TRL Awards" nominees were selected by a panel of MTV Tr3s executives and viewers weighed in on the winners via audience polls.

Following are the nominees for the "The 1st Annual Mi TRL Awards":

- CHICO OF THE YEAR (Male of the year)
 - Enrique Iglesias
 - Daddy Yankee
 - Juanes
 - Ricky Martin
- CHICA OF THE YEAR (Female of the year)
 - Belinda
 - Beyoncé
 - Paulina Rubio
 - Jennifer Lopez
- "YOU COMPLETE ME" AWARD (CO-HOST OF THE YEAR)
 - Belinda
 - Adrienne Bailon

- Zuleyka Rivera
- Paulina Rubio
- SO YOU THINK YOU CAN ACT? AWARD
 - Obsessed with Jennifer Lopez
 - Ask Papi: George Lopez
 - The Musical: Zuleyka Rivera
- Bathroom Etiquette: Enrique Iglesias
- "THEY KILLED IT" AWARD (PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR)
 - Aventura
 - Daddy Yankee
 - RBD
 - Wisn Y Yandel
- Mi TRL PEPSI VIEWERS CHOICE AWARD
 - Aventura - "Los Infieles"
 - Enrique Iglesias - "Dimelo"
 - RBD - "Tu Amor"
 - Ricky Martin featuring La Mari de Chambao & Tommy Torres - "Tu Recuerdo"

Unlikely Hero of Mexican Revolution

This is the month Mexico honors the heroes of its revolution, and they come in all forms. There are the rugged rebels, like Pancho Villa, who rampaged through the northern deserts a century ago.

And then there is the soft-spoken venerable professor from Chicago, native of Austria and adopted son of Mexico. His scholarship has preserved and elevated the legacy of the revolution, cutting an intellectual swath no less striking than Villa's cavalry.

To many in Mexico, Friedrich Katz is a hero, too.

Hundreds in Mexico City this month celebrated Katz's 80th birthday and thanked the longtime University of Chicago professor for giving the 1910 revolution its historical due in two seminal books. Katz had already received the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest honor Mexico can give to foreigners.

Katz says all this praise cannot compare with the gratitude he feels toward Mexico, a sentiment that explains why he is committed to telling its history.

In his eyes, Mexico saved his life.

Katz's father was a Jewish Communist, not a good profile for someone in Berlin in the early 1930s. The Katzes fled to France and then to the U.S., but neither country would give them a permanent home.

Then the family learned that Mexican President Lazaro Cardenas was accepting refugees from Europe. In 1940, the family landed in Mexico, where young Friedrich enrolled in a French-speaking high school. He has since become fluent in Spanish.

"Very close to Mexico" Katz pursued his university studies in the U.S., Germany and Austria but never forgot "the first country from which he would never have to flee," as one colleague put it.

"I still feel very close to Mexico. They gave us asylum when my family was persecuted by the Nazis. It's been a very interesting series of episodes, but I will always be grateful for that," Katz said in a recent interview as he waited to address students and faculty at the Mora Institute, a Mexico City research center.

"Loving a country doesn't mean you agree with everything," he added. "But I do love this country. I think this is a great people with a fantastic history.

And I think part of the feelings they have for me is because of the respect I have for them."

Katz often calls his family a "victim of history," and they certainly found themselves in the eye of the storm between Bolshevism and Nazism.

Colleagues say that experience shaped a rare characteristic of Katz's work, placing Mexican history in a global context. His first major work compared the Aztecs of Mexico with the Incas of South America and even European civilizations.

Katz's first major book on the Mexican Revolution, "The Secret War in Mexico," sought to illustrate that the uprising was buffeted by World War I, the Russian Revolution and other major events of the time. Likewise, the 1981 work contended that the Mexican Revolution influenced similar movements in Latin America.

Emilio Kouri, director of the Katz Center for Mexican Studies at the University of Chicago, said it is impossible to separate Katz's childhood from his work's global reach. One of the reasons that Mexicans revere Katz is that he placed their own revolution alongside the great uprisings of world history, Kouri said.

"His was the first work of scholarship to put the Mexican Revolution into an international context. I think it's because he had been witness as a child to so much political turmoil so, instinctively, he knew there were larger forces at play in the world," Kouri said.

"He sees his work as a kind of payback to Mexico, in a sense: illuminating aspects of Mexico that have been ignored. Mexicans were raised to believe that they were second to Europe, second to the United States. He was able to say that, in many ways, they were second to none."

Katz brought the same wider lens to his other landmark work, "The Life and Times of Pancho Villa" about the general who rebelled against the vast landowners of northern Mexico. After one 1916 cross-border raid into the U.S., Villa became an outlaw hunted by the U.S. Army. He was assassinated in 1923.

Katz had lamented that Hollywood turned Villa into a cartoon character, a gunslinger played on the silver screen by the likes of Antonio Banderas. Villa was a master of propaganda, even ferrying groups of reporters to military operations, including a Tribune correspondent, Katz

said. Definitive biography of Villa Katz set out to understand Villa's political ideology, which he says deserves mention alongside that of Che Guevara and Ho Chi Minh. Katz immersed himself in backwater towns in Chihuahua, a state bordering Texas where Villa served as governor.

The result was an exhaustive 1,004-page work published in 1998 and still considered by most as the definitive Villa biography. In gratitude, the state of Chihuahua made Katz an honorary citizen.

Katz sees Villa as a visionary and says Mexico's post-revolutionary years are a model too. While the revolutions in China and Russia eventually deteriorated into the bloody purges of Mao and Stalin, Mexico was characterized by the progressive Cardenas years, which tolerated newcomers like the Katz family.

"Katz recognized the infinite struggles that the Mexican people have lived because he has been able to live it in the flesh. Coming here as a child, he shared many of the aspirations of the Mexican people themselves," said Mexican historian Cesar Navarro. "For many of us, he isn't a 'foreigner.' He is almost a

Mexican." While Katz has elevated the Mexican story, he also has helped raise the University of Chicago's stature as a leader in Mexican studies since he joined the faculty in 1971.

Then-President Vicente Fox took time out during a 2004 visit to Chicago for a ceremony to name the university's Mexican research center after Katz. Katz's cross-border connections have helped bring an array of national political leaders from Mexico to Hyde Park.

With the booming Mexican immigration to Chicago, Katz hopes his work takes on a new relevance as Chicagans try to understand the homeland of their new neighbors.

While still keeping an academic's sense of detachment, Katz makes no apologies for wanting what is best for Mexico. And he wonders what Villa would have thought to see Mexico in 2007.

"What would have struck him is that one of the things for which he fought -- namely, to put an end to poverty -- has not been reached," Katz said with a shake of the head. "The differences between rich and poor are as great as they were on the eve of the revolution."

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Can Dallas avoid a December Disaster? Four Golf Swing Myths

The Dallas Cowboys franchise has won five Super Bowls, made eight Super Bowl appearances, captured 19 division titles and advanced to the playoffs 28 times since it was founded in 1960.

This year's team has gotten off to a better start than any of those other clubs.

After becoming the first NFC

390.9 yards per game.

Dallas' success so far bodes well for the final four weeks of the regular season and beyond. The Cowboys, though, will judge their season on what happens between now and Feb. 3, 2008, when Super Bowl XLII will be played in Arizona.

"What have we really accomplished at 11-1? We've got off to a great start, but 11-1 doesn't crown a champion," center Andre Gurode said.

While the Cowboys' goals extend far beyond the first 12 games

else except say, "You know what? We're a pretty good football team and we're playing pretty good football right now."

With its sixth straight win, Dallas clinched a postseason berth and moved a game ahead of Green Bay for home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

"We've got ourselves in the driver's seat," said wide receiver Terrell Owens, who had seven catches for 156 yards and a touchdown. "Now we've got to stay there."

Owens' touchdown catch was his 14th of the season, matching the team record set by Frank Clarke in 1962. Owens also tied Bob Hayes and Clarke as the only Dallas receivers with scoring catches in seven straight games.

"It's a continuation of the way he's been playing," Cowboys coach Wade Phillips said. "He continues to get open, he continues to make plays."

Owens will try to break both records as the Cowboys go for their first seven-game win streak since 1993. They had two runs of at least seven games that season, including an eight-game streak capped by a win over Buffalo in Super Bowl XXVII.

Like Dallas, Detroit (6-6) opened this season strong. After improving to 6-2 for the first time in nine years with a win over Denver on Nov. 4, however, the Lions have been outscored 126-67 in losing four straight.

"We just have to start playing better in every facet of the game," defensive tackle Cory Redding said. "It is as simple as that."

While they've depended on their passing game all season, the Lions had a reliable running attack during their strong start, averaging 95.3 rushing yards in the first eight

games. They've been held under 30 rushing yards three times and are averaging 41.0 during the four-game skid.

Opponents, meanwhile, have run for 115.3 yards against them over that span, including a season-high 216 last Sunday as the Lions lost 42-10 at Minnesota.

"On defense, it is an issue of playing our gaps and making tackles," said Lions coach Rod Marinelli, whose team has dropped into a tie with Minnesota and Arizona for the final NFC wild-card spot. "On offense, we're missing too many opportunities."

With playoff hopes in Detroit already fading, the team's outlook doesn't get much brighter with three of the Lions' final four games against current division leaders Dallas, San Diego and Green Bay.

"There's an easy way out and a hard way out," said Detroit quarterback Jon Kitna, who's 13-25 lifetime in games played in December and January. "We have to choose the hard way if we want to do it. But we have to choose it - all 53 guys. We can't have some and not the others."

Adding to the Lions' list of challenges is the possibility that wide receiver Roy Williams could miss the last four weeks of the regular season with an injured posterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. Williams - leading the team in receptions (63), receiving yards (836) and touchdown catches (5) - was injured on a 43-yard catch that set up the Lions' only touchdown last week.

Williams had six catches for 104 yards and two touchdowns in Detroit's 39-31 win in Dallas last season that snapped the Cowboys' three-game win streak in the series.

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There is much free advice in the golf community, but much of it is misleading and conflicting. Some tips are considered 3must-dos2 and will guarantee results for all golfers. But this is not true because many of these tips are negotiable - can work well for some but for most golfers, they're just nonsensical bits of advice that will hinder, rather than help. Here are the four biggest bits of advice:

Swing Myth #1 - 3Keep your head down and your eye on the ball.2 It's now become the answer and cure for all bad shots. But its not the answer and golfers must be careful with this idea as it can make things worse; keeping your head down can cause a restricted backswing, and even worse, a restricted downswing. The fact of the matter is that if you watch some of the top players in the world, like Annika Sorenstam, or David Duval back when he won 11 of 27 PGA events, they don't keep their heads down but rotate their heads and eyes freely toward the target through impact. They both do not see the ball at impact, but rather they are seeing a point somewhere between the ball and their intended target. Other tour players do the same. Blind golfers play golf, and some of them can break 80!

Swing Myth #2 - 3You must be aligned parallel to the target.2 Sam Snead and Arnold Palmer had great careers and both of them consistently aligned themselves to the right of their target and 3pulled2 the ball back on line, whereas Lee Trevino and Fred Couples, align themselves well to the left of their intended targets and hit a 3push fades2. It doesn't make any sense for a golfer to work on square alignment, if he or she consistently hits push slices. Each golfer needs to find an alignment that is consistent and works for their ball flight.

Swing Myth #3 - 3Swing slow.2 Slowing down the swing does not ensure a better swing; it just ensures a slower one and

slower means shorter.

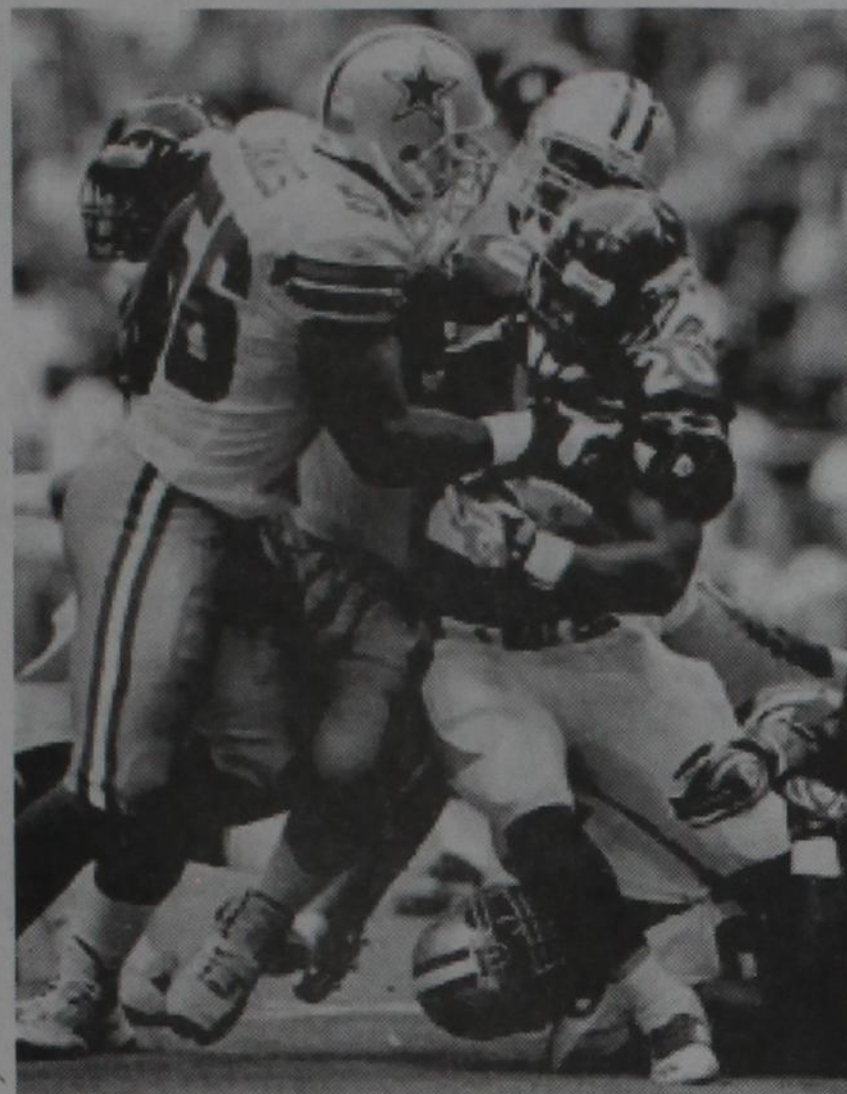
Tempo vary from player to player. Some golfers, like Nick Price, swing the club more quickly from start to finish while other golfers, such as Ernie Els, tend to swing the club more slowly. While a golfer's tempo is an individual thing, all great golf swings are smooth from start to finish. One of the worst things a golfer can do is to try to work with a tempo that is unnatural to him. Most golfers would benefit more from the idea of making their entire swing smooth at a tempo that works for them.

Swing Myth #4 - 3The backswing needs to be on plane in order for the downswing to be on plane.2 Wrong. If you look at the golf swings of great players, both past and present, you'll see that players move the club quite differently in the backswing. For example, Jim Furyk takes the club back outside and steep, while John Daly takes it back inside and flat. The fact of the matter is you don't strike the ball on the backswing; you strike it on the downswing. Different backswings can still produce effective downswings.

These are just a few examples of swing tips that negotiable elements in the golf swing and how there are many individual ways that can be successful.

Most golfers keep moving from one swing tip to another, all in search of the secret. But the answer for golfers to realize their full golfing potential lies in their comprehension of these ideas. More specifically, they need to enhance their understanding of all of this swing advice - of what is negotiable and nonnegotiable in the golf swing and how these elements can work together to produce sound, repeatable results.

Joe Laurentino is a PGA Professional and author of 3The Negotiable Golf Swing: How to Improve Your Game Without Picture-Perfect Form.2 Visit Him online at www.joelaurentino.com.



team to secure a playoff berth, the Cowboys look to clinch their first NFC East title since 1998 and improve their chances for home-field advantage throughout the playoffs when they visit the reeling Detroit Lions on Sunday.

Dallas has won 11 of its first 12 games for the first time in franchise history, giving the Cowboys the best record in the NFC. They trail only undefeated New England in the league-wide standings and are also second behind the Patriots in total offense, averaging

of the season, they won't deny that they've looked good so far. In the highly anticipated matchup between the top teams in the NFC last Thursday, Tony Romo threw for 309 yards, four touchdowns and one interception to lead Dallas to a 37-27 victory over Green Bay.

"This win doesn't put us in the Super Bowl, and a loss wouldn't have knocked us out of it," said Romo, who has set a franchise record with 33 touchdown passes. "I don't think this does anything

Study: Hispanic women have higher incidence of aggressive breast cancer

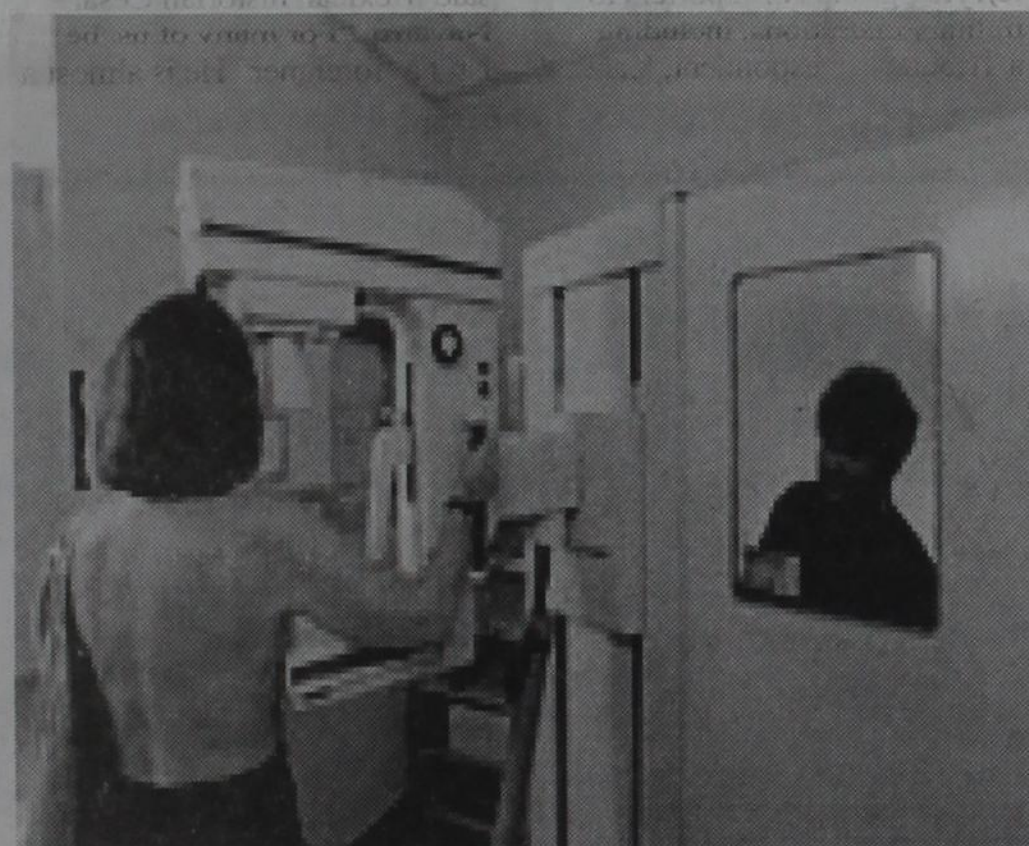
A new study shows Hispanic women have a higher incidence of aggressive forms of breast cancer compared with non-Hispanic white women.

The study, by the Arizona Cancer Center, shows that 42 percent of Hispanic women with breast cancer lack a hormone receptor, or protein, that allows cancer medication to target and destroy cancer cells.

In non-Hispanic white women, it's 33 percent.

Without the receptor, the cancer is harder to cure, said Dr. Maria Elena Martinez, co-director of the Arizona Cancer Centers Cancer Prevention and Control Program and principal investigator of the study.

So Hispanic women with aggressive breast cancer have to resort to



more aggressive forms of treatment such as chemotherapy.

Those testing positive for the receptor can use the more common, less aggressive and often more effective, anti-estrogen therapies, Dr. Martinez said.

"Breast cancer is an understudied and poorly understood disease in the

U.S. Hispanic population, and we need to understand the magnitude and profile of breast cancer in our Latina population," Dr. Martinez said.

The study looked at 23,657 non-Hispanic white women and 1,837 Hispanic women who had breast cancer cases reported to the cancer registry from 1995 to 2003.

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US teen births tilt up, unmarried rate hits record

By Will Dunham
WASHINGTON, Dec 5 (Reuters) - The birth rate for teenagers increased in 2006 in the United States for the first time since 1991, while childbearing among unmarried women surged to the highest level on record, health officials said on Wednesday.

Across-the-board increases in birth rates for women ages 15 to 44 drove the total U.S. fertility rate - the estimated average number of births for women in their lifetimes - to its highest mark since 1971, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a report.

The birth rate for females aged 15 to 19 rose by 3 percent in 2006 from the previous year, to 41.9 live births per 1,000 from 40.5 in 2005. This ends 14 years of declines during which the teen birth rate dropped by 34 percent from a peak of 61.8 births per 1,000 in 1991.

The increases were largest among black teens, whose birth rate climbed 5 percent in 2006 from the prior year. The rate was up 3 percent for white and 2 percent for Hispanic teens.

"It could be a new trend, but it's just really too soon to say," Stephanie Ventura, who heads the CDC's Reproductive Statistics Branch, said in a telephone interview.

The reasons for the rise in the teenage birth rate are unclear, Ventura said, but she noted there is early evidence that declines in U.S. teen sexual activity have leveled off.

"I don't know if the use of contraception among teens has changed. We just don't know what's happening," Ventura said.

Critics of the U.S. government's emphasis on funding abstinence-only programs to combat teen pregnancy seized on the figures as a sign of failure of those policies.

'DUBIOUS DISTINCTION'
"The United States still holds the dubious distinction of having the highest teen pregnancy rate among the most developed nations," Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said in a statement.

"Congress should put the right foot forward and immediately stop funding for dangerous abstinence-only programs that deny young people information about how to prevent pregnancy, protect their health and make responsible deci-

sions."
The CDC said the birth rate among the youngest girls - ages 10 to 14 - declined last year.

Births to unmarried girls and women reached their highest levels in 2006 since the government began tracking such statistics in 1940, Ventura said.

Unmarried girls and women accounted for 38.5 percent of all U.S. births last year, up from 36.9 percent in 2005. Among blacks, they accounted for 70.7 percent of births. Among Hispanics, it was 49.9 percent and among whites 26.6 percent.

The out-of-wedlock birth rate rose by a sharp 7 percent last year, Ventura said from about 1995 to 2002, statistics on births by unmarried women had remained pretty stable, but since then have been



on the way up. About 40 percent of unmarried women giving birth are in cohabiting relationships, she added.

"There certainly is greater acceptance of children being born out of wedlock. For instance, you

Recognition

In honor of all the work that Natalia Salazar has done for the Arnett Benson Neighborhood an appreciation event will be held at the home of Blas Mojica located at 3602 63rd Drive on December 14th. Call 796-0904 for more information



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Fuller on food: Homemade gifts capture the beauty of Christmas

By Don Fuller

When I was young, Christmas was largely a homemade event. At home, we strung popcorn and cranberries for tree garlands. At school we took strips of colored paper, pasting the ends together and interlinking the circles for the school's Christmas tree. Part of the fun was the paste. It had a very pleasant smell and the smell invited you to taste it. Of course, you did that very surreptitiously so that the teacher didn't feel it necessary to limit your access to the paste.

I must confess, however, that the part of Christmas I really liked was the rare, store-bought goodies. Besides my taste for paste, I also got excited about ribbon candy, peanut clusters, and haystacks. I am not sure that haystacks were the actual label for these candies. They had nougat filling and were covered with chocolate. Their shapes were little mounds which to me resembled a haystack.

However, the piece de resistance was a chocolate covered maraschino cherry. When I bit into one, a flood of sweet gooey liquid filled my mouth. Then I would suck out the cherry and finally consume the chocolate. What could be better than that?

Judy's family had the tradition of sharing cookies. What really happened was a cookie exchange. Each of her mother's friends was quite willing to share cookies because Katherine Hildenbrand's cookies were really prized. I am not sure it was competitive, but

each cookie maker made a great bunch of cookies. Many of their recipes are still part of our Christmas tradition, and we remember them by the original maker's name, such as Annie Shidler's chocolate drop cookies or Rose Bataglia's Italian Christmas cookies.

Judy and I continue to make an effort to have some of our Christmas giving come from our kitchen. A lot of our summer jam production is shared with friends at the holiday. And I frequently make garlic-flavored olive oil to give at Christmas time.

This week I want to share some recipes for foods that make great gifts. Last week's article on plum pudding reminded me of a steamed pudding that Judy has made. It's relatively simple to make, but requires some time to steam.

Judy has used metal gelatin molds for a little fancier product, but empty, clean, Number 2 or coffee cans will work as well. The second recipe is for spiced nuts that have a real bite to them. Finally, for the barbecue enthusiast, I offer one of my favorite rubs. I know that a good rub is a great addition to barbecued meat and is good for the oven as well as the grill. And most grillers look forward to a new rub to use.

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