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4,334  
as of Aug.  
13, 2009

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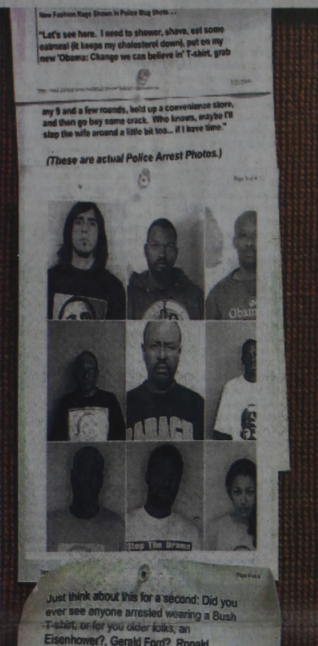
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Lubbock/West Texas Region

# Minority Community Angry Over Judges Head's Actions

Much of Lubbock's minority community was upset last week when Lubbock County Judge Tom Head placed a poster on his bulletin board celebrating President Obama and his policies. The poster that begins of a person thinking of waking up, putting on an Obama T-shirt and then abusing drugs, robbing a store and hitting his wife. A page of mug shots of mostly black men wearing Obama shirts is tacked beneath. A printout suggesting no mug shots would ever show a criminal wearing a shirt supporting a Republican president hangs beneath the pictures. Lubbock's former Councilman T.J. Patterson said that "It seems that the good judge is not sensitive to the concerns of Black people here in Lubbock. Had he been aware, he could not have done what he did. We are not living in the back yard any more."

Lubbock's Councilwoman Dist. 1, Linda DeLeon said that she was outraged by the Judge's actions. Outraged and I cannot believe Lubbock community as a whole, including minorities, Hispanics, blacks being represented in this manner. The community needs to speak out and let it be known that we should not be accepting this type of abuse. He also represents different boards such as IFAG and it is an embarrassment to have him representing Lubbock in such boards."



Just think about this for a second: Did you ever see anyone arrested wearing a Bush T-shirt or for you older folks, an Eisenhower, Gerald Ford?, Ronald

When asked how he thought about asking Tom Head to resign, her reply was asked with a question. When is his term over? Our reporter Olga Aguero responded: "do we need to wait until next?" Gilbert Flores, Per 3 County Commissioner said "It's racial, somewhat bias, politically motivated. It

was very wrong of him doing that and that should not be going on at all especially in the county courthouse. For the 6 to 7 months that I have been in office it seems that he opposes any stimulate assistance program that would help assist anyone. He is anti-Obama. Flores continued saying "I know people want him to resign, and are very unhappy with him representing Lubbock as a very wrong Judge. What I told the people that have approached me with this is, 'you the public are the ones that need to address this as a recall election petition, same process needs to be done,' like efforts to be solicited for Linda DeLeon recall election, but the difference is the whole county would be part of this and not only one district like Linda," Flores concluded. Pete Garza, president of LULAC Council 263 quoted to El Editor that "at this age and time it's a real shame and it is very wrong of Tom Head and to know that he is a judge, it is a real shame. I agree, and he should resign from his post. LULAC meets Thursday and we plan to discuss this," Garza said. Gonzalo Garza president of American El Forum said something has to be done. "Perhaps being reprimanded some way. We need to indicate to county heads department that we have come a long way and we are not the same as we have been in the past. Times have changed. It was not good what he did," said Garza.

# Obama Conversa Sobre Las Prioridades de los Latinos

WASHINGTON, D.C. — agosto 7 — El presidente Barack Obama expresó prioridades nacionales e internacionales y su efecto sobre las poblaciones domésticas hispanas y hispaníficas hoy en una nada de prensa con Hispanic Link News Service y nueve reporteros más que cubren temas de interés a los latinos.

Con siete meses de administración como presidente, Obama hizo revisión de sus prioridades y reafirmar una economía que, dijo, resultó ser por lo que se había anticipado cuando asumió el mando. La economía está "un poco de la carretera", dijo, con un Producto Nacional Bruto por el que se pensaba, en la construcción de lo por ciento, pero el que se dice se estaba moderando al 1 por ciento para fines del segundo trimestre.

# OBAMA TALKS ABOUT LATINO PRIORITIES

By José de la Isla  
WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama outlined national and international priorities and their effect on the domestic Hispanic and hemisphere populations in an Aug. 7 round-table press meeting with Hispanic Link News Service and other Latino-beat reporters.

Nine seven months into his administration, Obama reviewed his priorities to stabilize an economy that, he said, was worse than he expected when he took office. It was on the "brink of catastrophe," he said, with the gross domestic product (GDP) worse than he had thought, at a 6.4 percent contraction but the decline had moderated to 1 percent at the end of the second quarter.

He recognized that Latinos have been particularly hard hit during this recession and said his administration is creating "a new foundation for future growth." In that framework, he prioritized education, health care, energy and immigration reform. In particular, he drew attention to a triage of issue areas needing bipartisan attention beginning with health care and it will likely be taken up in early September, followed by more needed financial reform.

A couple days later, he made a similar statement in Guadalajara following a weekend summit with Mexico's President Felipe Calderón and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. He repeated that an immigration reform framework is in preparation consisting of additional measures, such as the FBI clearing a background-check backlog, greater use of advanced technologies for processing, and ending indiscriminate raids.

Bi-partisan meetings followed in the fall to craft legislation to introduce the beginning of the new year. Republican bills are essential to achieve comprehensive reform, he said, and credited the Bush administration with trying, even though it was unable to carry its own ranks to support reform.

He noted wryly, "There are elements in the Republican Party who think I am an illegal immigrant." He was referring to the "birthers," who have questioned Obama's own birth certificate.

In the free-wheeling question and answer session that followed, Obama told Hispanic Link that his Aug. 8-9 trip to Guadalajara, Mexico, would focus on a "host of issues," saying additional ones might come up with the other North American leaders, Mexico's President Felipe Calderón and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. He referred to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in this context as a trade agreement, and less of an instrument for other types of convergence between the three nations.

He reiterated that he favors refining the labor and environment provisions that have remained outside the treaty and incorporating them into it. He also referred to work taking place between involved U.S. parties and Congress to resolve the longstanding dispute over Mexican cargo trucks entering this country in the "coming months."

Obama said he supported Calderón's approach to curbing drug cartels in Mexico by using the military, despite the hail of protests about human rights abuses in that operation. In a seeming cautionary note, he added that "the allegiance (of the people) erodes if you have human rights violations."

The meeting of the North American heads of state is slated to focus on an agenda on shared concerns about energy, the environment, and H1N1 flu epidemic preparations.

Other Obama statements:  
• He wants to dispel any belief that he has authorized establishment of a base or U.S. troops far away in Colombia. Reports of up to seven bases to be occupied by the U.S. to fight drug trafficking have received the opposition of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, Bolivian President Evo Morales, Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa, and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.  
• He will talk with Spain's prime-minister, José Zapatero, who wants his country included in the G-20 economic summit, adding he favors fewer similar summits of overlapping issues and membership.  
• He noted the irony of those calling for this country to work more actively toward the reinstatement of Honduran president Manuel Zelaya. Some of them are the same critical groups, he observed, who in the past have protested U.S. interference in the hemisphere.

He emphasized the need for public awareness about the H1N1 virus and the government's efforts to update the public through www.flu.gov. [José de la Isla's latest book is now available free in digital format at www.DayNightLifeDeathHope.com. He writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service and is author of The Rise of Hispanic Political Power (2003). E-mail him at josejla3@yahoo.com.] ©2009

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Reconoció que los latinos han sufrido en particular durante esta recesión y dijo que su administración está creando un "nuevo consenso" para el crecimiento futuro. Dentro de este marco, la prioridad de la educación, los cuidados médicos, la energía y la reforma migratoria. En particular elogió la atención en un radio que requiere la reparación de ambos parámetros, comenzando con la salud y un proyecto de ley que se anticipa se presente en septiembre, después de mayores detalles del sector financiero.

Después de temas y después declaró presencia en Guadalajara después del encuentro durante el día de sesiones con el presidente de México Felipe Calderón y el primer ministro de Canadá Stephen Harper, que un sistema de reforma migratoria con medidas administrativas está establecido. Incluye como medida el congelar el trabajo extranjero que tiene el FBI de revisión de identidades, mayor uso de tecnologías avanzadas para el procesamiento, y el dar fin a reválidas de visas.

Se anticipa concretarse las reuniones bi-partisanas en el otoño para formular legislación para el comienzo del nuevo año. Él reiteró el acuerdo de los reporteros para lograr una reforma comprensiva, dijo, y acordó la administración de Bush por intentar, aunque fracasara con su propio partido para lograr una reforma.

Él notó con ironía que, "Están elementos dentro del partido republicano que creen que yo soy un inmigrante ilegal." Se refirió al grupo llamado "birthers", quienes han cuestionado la partida de documentación del propio Obama.

En su página de preguntas y respuestas que siguió, Obama dijo a él y a Hispanic Link que va a ir a Guadalajara, México, tendrá un enfoque sobre "un momento de temas," indicando

que podría surgir más temas con los otros dirigentes norteamericanos, Calderón, y Harper. Se refirió al Tratado de Libre Comercio Norteamericano dentro de este contexto como un acuerdo comercial, y menor como un instrumento para otros tipos de convergencia entre las tres naciones.

Reiteró que está a favor de refinar las provisiones sobre la media de obra y el medio ambiente que no han formado parte del tratado, para incorporarlos. También se refirió a colaboración que se realiza actualmente entre partes estadounidenses y el Congreso para resolver la disputa existente sobre los camiones de carga mexicanos y el entrada a este país en los "meses próximos."

Obama dijo que apoya el enfoque de Calderón hacia limitar los carteles de narcotráficos en México al usar la fuerza militar, a pesar de las protestas que han livido sobre los abusos de los derechos humanos en aquella operación. En lo que parece ser una cita exacta, agregó que "se erosa la alianza (del pueblo) e existen violaciones de los derechos humanos."

Se anticipa que el mandato de los dirigentes norteamericanos tendrá una agenda de preocupaciones que cubren sobre la energía, el medio ambiente, preparaciones para enfrentar la epidemia de la gripe H1N1.

Otros aseveraciones de Obama:  
• Quiere diseñar cualquier criterio que él haya autorizado establecer una base militar ni tropas estadounidenses para alguna base militar en Colombia. Reportes del establecimiento de hasta siete bases militares que ocupen EE. UU. para combatir el tráfico de drogas han recibido la oposición del presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez, del presidente boliviano Evo Morales, del presidente ecuatoriano Rafael Correa, y del presidente de Brasil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Conversar con el presidente de España, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, quien quiere que su país sea incluido en el G-20. Él notó con ironía que algunos grupos, que en el pasado han protestado la interferencia de los Estados Unidos en temas hemisféricos.  
• Editará la necesidad de mayor cooperación pública en cuanto al virus H1N1 y los esfuerzos del gobierno por actualizar al público mediante el sitio web www.flu.gov.  
[José de la Isla, cuyo último libro se encuentra en versión digital gratuita en www.DayNightLifeDeathHope.com, reduce un comentario semanal para Hispanic Link News Service.]

# SONIA SOTOMAYOR TAKES CONSTITUTIONAL OATH

By Erick Galindo  
Hispanic Link News Service  
After 220 years on the outside looking in, Hispanics have celebrated the arrival of their first initiate to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. administered the constitutional oath to the appellate court judge from New York in a private ceremony Aug. 8. The formal investiture will take place exactly one month later at a special sitting of the nine-member Court.

Not so comfortable 68-31 majority, the U.S. Senate confirmed Aug. 6 President Obama's nomination of Sonia Sotomayor, an appellate court judge from New York, as an Associate Justice.

was pleased with the margin of her support. The vote was strongly partisan. All 31 votes opposing the nomination came from Republicans. Nine GOP members supported it. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) was not present to vote, but he previously expressed his support for confirmation. Kennedy is convalescing after surgery for a brain tumor.

The Republican opposition drew criticism in many Latino circles over how race, ethnicity and gender issues drew more attention than did judicial qualifications. Other discrepancies centered on whether a wall was going up between the Republicans Party and Hispanics.

Shortly after the Senate vote, President Obama thanked his members "for giving Judge Sotomayor a thorough and civil hearing...in a timely manner so she can be fully prepared to take her seat when the Court's work begins this October." The president added he

which a young Latina, sitting in an elementary school classroom, will fully understand that anything is possible in this amazing country."

Members state Organizations throughout the country held confirmation parties. In Washington, D.C., rallies on the day before the Senate vote were held as major Hispanic organizations came together to show solidarity.

"It is a date that will quickly take hold in the memories of millions of Hispanic Americans of all ages and backgrounds," National Council of La Raza President Janet Marguía said. "Finally, our community has representation on the highest court in the land. For that reason and many others, this vote matters to us and Latinos and it matters to our country." The Supreme Court was formally established in 1789.

Alabama Republican Jeff Sessions, ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, said that the vote of against Sotomayor was a stance



# Senate Will Soon Have Only One Hispanic Member



Friday, Republican Senator Mel Martinez announced he would be stepping down from his U.S. Senate seat well before his term will end. His move creates a vacuum Florida Governor Charlie Crist will have to fill temporarily. But on the same day the United States Supreme Court will welcome its first His-

panic Justice, the United States Senate will soon be left with only one Hispanic Senator.

If Crist doesn't nominate a Hispanic Senator, the only Hispanic Senator left will be New Jersey Democratic Senator Robert Menendez of New Jersey. Martinez and Menendez were two of the last Senators who fought very vocally against any thawing of relations with the Communist Cuban regime. Martinez's resignation, which will become official once a replacement has been named, could prove problematic for the GOP, according to strategists from both sides of the

political aisle. After several GOP members voted against the confirmation, strategists said the Hispanic vote, which has typically tilted Republican, could be in trouble.

While it's too early to tell if there will be an impact, the GOP has had multiple members quit before their terms end in 2009. The most publicized resignation was former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, who quit before finishing her first term as governor. There is also Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison who said in late July she would step down this fall to challenge Rick Perry for governor of Texas.

# Obama sale a la palestra por su plan de salud



personas con seguro de salud. Hasta ahora se dirigía a los 46 millones que no están asegurados.

"No creo que los burocratas del gobierno deban entrometirse. Pero tampoco creo que los burocratas de las aseguradoras deban entrometirse", dijo. El Presidente dijo que aspira a un debate nacional y apuntó a los detractores que, según él, tratan de atomizar a la gente. Exhortó a

que estuvo reunido el público o por la tradicional gentileza del pueblo con su presidente.

La iniciativa de Obama surge en medio de una gira que contempla una serie de reuniones populares en todo el país que han ensombrecido su mensaje y han amenazado con descarrilar sus esfuerzos en el Congreso.

De hecho, el demócrata Arlen Specter, quien antes era republicano, enfrentó preguntas hostiles, insultos y abucheos el martes cuando intentó explicar los esfuerzos en una reunión de preguntas y respuestas en Lebanon, Pensilvania.

Sin embargo, eso no desanimó a Obama. "Ustedes contarán con su seguro cuando lo necesiten, no sólo cuando paguen las primas", indicó.

En momentos que bajan sus puntuaciones en las encuestas y crece el escepticismo del público, Obama adeucó su mensaje a las decenas de millones de

una discusión vigorosa sobre el cuidado médico, pero "entre personas que se escuchan, no entre sordos".

"Cuando discrepemos, discrepemos sobre realidades, no sobre tergiversaciones que no tienen que ver con lo que se propone", declaró Obama, quien antes a los creadores de crear "fantasmas".

Muchos legisladores se encuentran a la defensiva cuando intentan hablar del tema con volantes furiosos, y por eso realizan teleconferencias en lugar de foros públicos donde se presentan manifestantes.

Eso sucede en un momento crucial cuando los legisladores, principalmente los demócratas, visitan sus estados durante el receso de agosto y convocan a reuniones para promover el esfuerzo del Presidente por reformar el costoso sistema de salud.

Hagamos [la reforma], imploró.

# Obama Says Immigration Reform Waits in Line Behind Healthcare

Speaking to reporters at a summit in Mexico, President Barack Obama said Monday that he plans to tackle immigration reform — and to provide a path to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants — but not until after Congress has finished with its overhaul of the healthcare system.



elections — scare him away from moving forward on immigration, saying he believes a new immigration policy is in the long-term interests of the United States.

"It's very important for us to sequence these big initiatives in way where they don't all just crash at the same time," he said, according to the Washington Post.

Obama told reporters that Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has already

begun coordinating discussions on immigration reform with House and Senate leaders, and that intensified efforts will begin later this year. But he said it will probably be 2010 before any new legislation is passed.

Obama added that he will not let short-term political interests — such as next year's mid-term

"We have a broken immigration system," he said. "Nobody denies it."

Obama said he believes the current system creates tension with Mexico, depresses wages in the United States and leads some employers to exploit the illegal immigrants in America, among other things.

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# Cowboys' Ware, coach differ over new moves

Twisting and turning, speeding up and slowing down, Cowboys linebacker DeMarcus Ware is spending training camp testing all sorts of new ways of getting to the quarterback.

He asks offensive linemen what they think, sometimes making adjustments based on their advice. He watches film of contemporaries and old-timers, sometimes calling them for tips. He's pretty much willing to give anything a shot.

After leading the NFL with 20 sacks last season, Ware is convinced he needs to mix things up just to stay ahead of the competition.

"Every year, the offenses are gunning for you and they're changing, so you've got to be

able to change, too, to stay on top," Ware said.

This must be a coach's dream, right? Here's a superstar player in his prime trying to put more things in his "tool-box," as Ware calls it.

Well, coach Wade Phillips and Ware would cut it out. His point: Don't



mess with a good thing.

"I've told DeMarcus if he does too much (tinkering) he hurts himself," Phillips said. "The moves he has now, that we've identified, we tell him, 'These are the ones we want you to use because these are the ones that are best for you.'"

Phillips formed his less-is-more philosophy over 32 years in the NFL, many spent as a defensive

coach working with Hall of Fame pass rushers like Reggie White, Bruce Smith and Elvin Bethea.

"They didn't have many moves," Phillips said. "They had a great move that nobody could stop or, if they could stop it, they had a counter off it."

Phillips compares an effective pass rusher's repertoire to that of a baseball pitcher. A guy with a blazing fastball doesn't need many more pitches, probably just a change-up, which comes in looking the same but slower, and a breaking ball, which moves a lot.

Ware's arsenal is pretty similar. His best moves are a speed rush (the fastball), a start-and-stop move that Phillips calls the "stutter" and Ware calls his "shake and bake" (the change-up) and a crossover similar to what basketball players use (the breaking ball).

Ware's speed is unique for someone 6-foot-4 and 260 pounds. He's into backfields so fast that he gets between flagged offenses three times in the last two years, according to Phillips.

Because blockers know they

have move quickly to get in his way, Ware uses that against them with the stutter. When he slows down, they plant their feet - then, he takes off around them.

"Franco Harris, he had that," said Phillips, who saw Harris in his prime at least twice a year while coaching the division-rival Houston Oilers in the 1970s. "DeMarcus has that kind of explosion that not many have."

As he's refined his moves, he's upped his sack totals. Ware has gone from eight as a rookie to 11 1/2, then to 14 and another jump to 20. His 53 1/2 sacks since 2005 are the most by anyone in the NFL.

His 20-sack season puts him in exclusive company, too. Only six others have had that many since sacks became an official stat in 1982. White is the only one to follow it with at least 14 sacks the next year; he had 18 in 1988.



That challenge motivates Ware. It's part of the reason he added five pounds of muscle over the offseason and why he's constantly searching for more moves.

"I've always said, how consistent can you be?" Ware said. "I always think about Michael

Jordan. Every game, he's the guy. You can slow him down, but you can't stop him. That's what I'm trying to do."

Which brings us back to the friendly debate with Phillips. To experiment or not to experiment... Phillips isn't surprised Ware wants to branch out. He's heard it from the other great pass rushers.

"They get bored with beating everybody," Phillips said. "But what's wrong with throwing the fastball by them if they can't hit that?"

Ware has the ultimate come-back: The stutter comes from his practice-field laboratory.

He saw New York's Osi Umenyiora and Philadelphia's Trent Cole use it, so he tried it one day against Dallas' left tackle Flozell Adams.

"Ever since, I've been incorporating that in everything I do," Ware said.

Considering how well that worked out, it's no wonder Ware is still sneaking things in during practice and letting Phillips figure it out later.

"I'll just let him see it on film," Ware said, laughing. "Then he'll say, 'I don't like that move, I don't think it's going to work.' DeMarcus, 'So I'll do a move, I've got to make sure it's a sack.'"

# Tiger says he'd play in Olympics if IOC adds golf to '16 program



Tiger Woods is interested in adding a gold medal to his collection of green jackets.

Woods indicated Tuesday that he would play in the Olympics if golf became part of the program in 2016. The International Olympic Committee executive board is to meet Thursday in Berlin to recommend two sports for inclusion in the 2016 Games. Golf and rugby sevens are considered the favorites.

Golf has not been part of the Olympics since 1904. Woods, who has completed the career

Grand Slam three times, felt it should have been an Olympic sport a while ago. He then was asked if he would compete.

"If I'm not retired by then, yeah," Woods said. Asked again if he would play, Woods nodded his head and said, "Yep."

It was his most definitive comments about his participation in the Olympics. Woods will be 40 for the 2016 Games.

Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Annika Sorenstam and other players have helped promote golf's bid to get into the Olympics. It would be a stroke-play competition over 72 holes if accepted.

"I think that golf is a truly global sport, and I think it should have been in the Olympi-

pics a while ago," he said. "If it does get in, I think it would be great for golf and especially some of the other smaller countries that are now emerging in golf. I think it's a great way for them to compete and play and get the exposure that some of these countries aren't getting."

Woods has played five times in the Ryder Cup and three times in the World Cup, winning the individual medal in 1999. As an amateur, he played in the Walker Cup and the World Amateur Team Championship.

Padraig Harrington, a three-time major champion, played 11 straight years in the World Cup for Ireland. Asked about the Olympics, he gave two thumbs up before the question was finished.

"I'd love to be an Olympian.

Doesn't that sound good?" Harrington said. "Imagine it being an Olympic athlete. I think it would be fantastic for golf. As a golfer, I would think we have all the credentials to be Olympians."

Golf has been mentioned before as an Olympic sport. It picked up momentum when PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem supported it, giving golf organizations across the globe a united front.

"It seems like it was always destined to be an Olympic sport," Harrington said. "I'm sure there's a lot of athletes out there that would never put golf as a sport, but trying to explain that to somebody that doesn't play golf, they will never understand what goes into golf. Most golfers realize what goes into it and will see it as being a natural sport for the Olympics."

# APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED! Pageant instills culture and promotes higher education

Young women from Lubbock County and the surrounding area are encouraged to submit applications to compete in the Miss Hispanic Lubbock Scholarship Pageant, held in conjunction with Lubbock's 16th of September celebration.

Single women of Hispanic or Latin descent between the ages of 17 through 24-years-old and are currently seniors in high school or enrolled in a college or university are invited to experience an opportunity of a lifetime.

Training sessions for the pageant contestants include the following topics:

- Public Speaking & Media Training •Dining & Business Etiquette
- Health & Beauty •Modeling & Image Analysis
- Financial Responsibility

The 2009 pageant production will be held Thursday, September 17, 2009 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theater and will kick off a week of festivities in conjunction with the 16th of September celebration. The community wide event allows Lubbock residents to embrace Mexican-American culture, and encourages community wide participation.

Interested individuals can request an application at [www.fiestadellano.org](http://www.fiestadellano.org) or by calling or emailing the Pageant Director: Participants will be required to submit their completed applications and a \$150 entry fee at a mandatory contest orientation, to be held at Civic Center Meeting Room #112 on August 15 at 10:00 a.m. Applications will be taken up until the Preliminary Competition which will be held August 22, 2009 with a \$200 entry fee.

For more information, please call Zenaida Aguiar-Reyes, Pageant Chair/ Director, at (806) 252-2828 or email at [rey24@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rey24@sbcglobal.net)

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**Community Health Center of Lubbock Prenatal Classes**

**WHERE:** Community Health Center of Lubbock, 1318 Broadway (2nd Floor in the SMX room)

**WHEN:** Every Thursday beginning August 20, 2009 - September 10, 2009 At 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Light Refreshments will be served. Childcare is not provided.

For class information and registration please call Estela at 745-2611 ext. 1018

**March of Dimes**

# Ramón Rentería: George Strait crosses over, and I like the sound of it

The great Mexican songwriter José Alfredo Jiménez must be turning over in his grave.

Or happily pouring himself another shot of tequila.

George Strait, the country music's award-winning veteran singer, covers Jiménez's "El Rey," a classic Mexican ranchera song super popular at weddings, quinceañeras, fiestas and even sporting events, on his soon-to-be-released album, "Twang."

Country-radio jocks all over the United States have been buzzing, blogging, tweeting and plain wondering whether this is a historic moment, George Strait pushing the boundaries and exploring música en Español. Está muy baffled.

"What's this 'El Rey' thing on the chart, Bubba?"

Fues, it doesn't take a music industry analyst to figure out that a Tejano like Strait probably heard "El Rey" in a few cantinas or pachangas across Texas long before recording it crossed his mind.

If you're even just a little bit Mexican, you also must be wondering: Is this dude for real or just exploiting the Mexican culture?"

No. George Strait is one of the coolest cowboys with a guitar in the music business. Maybe he and his people are marketing geniuses. Maybe they finally discovered a humongous, still growing and often untapped Spanish-speaking market exists in the United States with mu-

cho dinero or at least a debit card.

The CD will be released Tuesday but it has already generated lots of buzz on the Internet and country music stations. Strait does a decent job interpreting José Alfredo.

Country-radio jocks made a big deal over George Strait singing in Spanish but hardly elaborated on José Alfredo Jiménez, the composer of "El Rey," and widely regarded as one of the 20th century's best and most prolific composers in the ranchera genre.

Jiménez died in 1973 at age 47. His vast repertoire of songs has been covered by Lucha Villa, Lola Beltrán, Vicente Fernández, Maná, Little Joe Hernandez, Sunny Ozuna, Los Tigres del Norte, Lupillo Rivera and many others, including international rockers.

The cross-cultural influence is invaluable, something worth celebrating. It makes the universal language of music much more interesting. Remember the great bilingual stuff that Los Super Seven and the Texas Tornados produced?

"El Rey" is the most ranchera of ranchera songs, the kind of song capable of transforming even the most tongue-tied Anglo into a genuine Spanish crooner. Especially after the bottle has made a few rounds. So, let's stop squabbling about race and language and nationality and all the stuff that divides us and sing along with George. ¡Ajuuua!

La Época de Oro del cine mexicano se extendió desde finales de los 30 hasta aproximadamente 1958.

Estrellas del calibre de Mario Moreno "Cantinflas", Dolores del Río, María Félix, Luis Aguilar, Pedro Infante, Pedro Armendáriz, Arturo de Córdoba y Germán Valdés "Tin Tan" y directores como Emilio "El Indio" Fernández, el español Luis Buñuel o Miguel M. Delgado, definieron una era en la que se crearon obras que aún hoy perduran en la memoria de los aficionados.

Pero es una efervescente cinematografía también existió espacio para el cine de ciencia ficción y fantástico, nunca considerado a la misma altura que los dramas y las comedias que aquellos crearon, pero que sí contaron con el aplauso popular.

Con la intención de dar a conocer algunas de las películas que forman parte de ese género, al estilo mexicano, el Archivo de Cine y Televisión de la Universidad de California en Los Ángeles presenta a partir del viernes una serie de proyecciones gratuitas que incluirá los filmes La momia azteca contra el robot humano (día 14), El sexto futuro (día 21), El planeta de las mujeres invasoras (día 23), La nave de los monstruos (día 28) y Santo contra la invasión de los marcianos (día 29).

"Es otra perspectiva de México que, incluso si uno es familiar con el cine del país, muchos

desconocen", detalla Shannon Kelley, jefe de programación del Archivo de Cine y Televisión de UCLA. "Es un cine del que México no estaba muy orgulloso. Pertenecía a una época en la que la industria empezaba a quebrarse y el cine reaccionó haciendo lo que pudo para mantenerse vivo"

"Han películas baratas con elementos — la lucha libre — y personajes — como El Santo — que la gente quería ver, especialmente el público de clase trabajadora. No fue un momento cumbre en la historia del cine mexicano. Nadie ha dicho nunca, pero sí produjo un cine divertido e imaginativo que no ha sido mostrado en EE UU muy a menudo".

El crítico e historiador de cine español, Antonio José Navarro, autor de libros del género de la ciencia ficción y el terror como Frankenstein. El mito de la vida artificial y El cine de ciencia ficción. Explorando mundos y coordinador de volúmenes como American Gothic. El cine de terror USA 1968-1980, detalló que: "La importancia de este cine surgió de su impacto popular y la creación de una mirada muy folklórica, muy mexicana, de mitos y convenciones, típicos de Hollywood, como los robots, el científico loco, las naves espaciales, los extraterrestres..."

"Todo ello combinado con luchadores enmascarados,

monstruos de toda clase, como Frankenstein o la Momia azteca y héroes y heroínas de telenovela. Era la serie B del cine mexicano, que tuvo su momento, pero que luego se olvidó".

Para Navarro, comparar esos títulos con el cine de serie B hecho por Hollywood durante esos mismos años no es acertado. "Comercialmente querían robarle la taquilla a los estadounidenses y a los europeos, que dominaban el mercado con sus filmes de terror y ciencia ficción", explica en un e-mail.

"Pero establecieron una interpretación muy mexicana de personajes y situaciones. Por eso su explotación estuvo reducida (en los países latinoamericanos)", de vez en cuando, a España. Y poco más."

Shannon Kelley destaca que tanto en Hollywood como el México los productores de estos largometrajes seguían "la misma lógica: hacer películas baratas que atrajeran al público. La diferencia es que la industria mexicana, por aquella época, iba camino a ser toda ella una industria de serie B, mientras que en EEUU se trató de una estrategia comercial."

"En comparación, las compañías mexicanas tenían muchos más problemas para sobre-



vivir, y en cuanto a calidad, los resultados fueron mucho más básicos. Pero su atractivo folklórico es muy interesante y divertido".

Navarro destaca que existen "verdaderas joyas" en el género, no incluidas en la serie, como "El vampiro [1957], de Fernando Méndez, o Santo contra las mujeres vampiro [1962], de Alfonso Corona Blandino, muy góticas y delirantes"; mientras que Kelly confirma que el género de la ciencia ficción de serie B en México es algo del pasado.

"Muchas cosas han cambiado. En los últimos años México ha entrado de nuevo en el mercado mundial como proveedor de un cine artístico. Mucha gente que creció con estos filmes sigue pensando que fueron divertidos, pero los ha dejado atrás. Cada vez que le pregunto a alguien cómo recuerdan a ese cine, se nota que lo hacen con afecto, pero también con precisión, no lo repetiría nunca más", concluye.

# El 'plan' de Nelly Furtado es siempre cantar



La cantante canadiense Nelly Furtado dejó muy claro que cuando cumplió los ochenta años seguirá cantando sobre los escenarios, porque ese y no otro es el dictado de su corazón.

"Mi meta más grande es hacer música con ochenta años, estar en el escenario con arrugas, orgullosa, porque alodo la música, es mi idioma infinito, quiero seguir expresándome", explicó en una entrevista durante la promoción en México de su próximo álbum.

Mi plan es la primera aventura musical integrarme en español de Furtado, nacida en Canadá en 1978, de inmigrantes portugueses y que salió a la fama en 2000 con su primer trabajo Whoa, Nelly!

En este siguiente disco, que saldrá a la venta el 14 de septiembre, Furtado plantea un catálogo de géneros cercanos al pop latino, con algunas de las voces más populares de Iberoamérica.

Entre sus invitados especiales están los mexicanos Alejandro Fernández y Julieta Venegas, las

españolas Mala Rodríguez y Concha Buika, junto con su compañera el productor Javier Limón, y el dominicano Juan Luis Guerra.

"Mala Rodríguez es fuego, una explosión en el micrófono", dijo la artista canadiense sobre la rapera española, con quien canta Bajo otra luz, escrita por Julieta Venegas y la propia Mala. Respecto a Buika, Furtado recordó eufórica que fue a un concierto suyo en Miami y no dejó de llorar en toda la actuación. Antes, se había enamorado de su música por Internet luego de leer un artículo sobre ella.

"Su música es eterna, toca algo muy profundo, es una leyenda que se está forjando", se emocionó. Amas compartan a dúo el tema Fuerbe. "Tiene mucho sentido, porque ella es muy fuerte", justificó Furtado.

"Fue muy difícil elegir con qué artistas quería trabajar, porque el mundo latino es tan grande y tiene tantos artistas", explicó después en una mezcla de inglés y español, con fuerte acento anglo.

"Creo que quiero grabar otro disco más en castellano, pero hay muchos más artistas con los que quiero trabajar: Ricky Martin, Marc Anthony...", divagó la artista, que también menciona a los mexicanos Café Tacuba y Maná.

Furtado piensa quizás hacer honor a sus orígenes lusos y hacer un álbum inspirado en portugués, "con artistas de Portugal y tal vez también de Brasil, pero no sería pop, sería más folclórico o alternativo, un sonido diferente."

"Este álbum fue como una medicina para mí", confesó, ya que se encontraba en un periodo en el que había perdido la inspiración para escribir en inglés.

En su tercera visita a México, la voz de 'I'm Like a Bird' copió el

domingo por la noche en un macroconcierto en la capital mexicana, para armer el turismo a la ciudad, tras el brote epidémico de la gripe A que la metrópoli vivió en abril y mayo pasados.

Ante 150 mil personas, la artista canadiense desgranó su arte en un escenario por el que pasaron también el español David Bisbal, los puertorriqueños Calle 13 y Wisin & Yandel, el mexicano Pedro Fernández y el dominicano Juan Luis Guerra.

En su carrera, Furtado ha vendido más de 18 millones de copias de sus tres álbumes de estudio y su único trabajo en directo, y ha obtenido discos de platino en 31 países. Su música toca el pop, el folk, el hip hop, el R&B y el hip hop, principalmente.

"He tenido muchas bendiciones en mi vida y en mi carrera", concluyó, feliz.

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