





# A NEW ERA FOR HISPANICS: DON'T GET MAD. GET EVEN

By Gilbert Sandate

Outrageous! The latest slap in the face — cachetada — to the Hispanic federal community by the Bush Administration must not go unnoticed.

On Nov. 15 Office of Personnel Management director Linda Springer issued a letter to all federal agencies dumping the only two special hiring authorities created exclusively to promote Hispanic hiring into the federal government.

The two authorities, the Bilingual/Bicultural Hiring Authority and the Outstanding Scholar Program, were part of a consent decree imposed by a federal district court in 1981 to resolve a class-action discrimination case, Luevano et al v.

Campbell.

In her guidance to federal agencies, Springer stated, "The circumstances under which the consent decree did require use of these authorities are no longer applicable."

Hmmm, let's review: Angel Luevano and others filed their lawsuit against OPM and 45 other agencies in 1979 because Hispanics were being systematically denied opportunities to compete for entry-level federal jobs and were the least represented of all racial and ethnic groups in the federal workforce.

Well, guess what?

Today, 28 years later, Hispanics continue to be the only ethnic or racial group underrepresented in the federal workforce. According

to OPM's Sixth Annual Report to the President on Hispanic Employment in the Federal Government (December 2006), Hispanic representation in the federal workforce stood at 7.5%. This compares to a representation level of 13.6% in the national civilian labor force.

The 6.1% federal workforce gap means the Hispanic community is losing out on 120,000 jobs and \$5.5 billion in salaries alone each year. That's equivalent to losing out on 37,000 home mortgages at an average price of \$150,000 per home, or \$10,000 in annual college tuition for 550,000 students, and so on. You get the picture.

It's also important because having a voice when it comes to the

delivery of government programs and services by employees who understand and can relate to the Hispanic community can make the difference between effective and ineffective program delivery.

Ostensibly, Springer's ban was also due to the fact that two recent decisions by the Merit Systems Protection Board ruled that it was unlawful to use the Outstanding Scholar hiring authority without applying veterans' preference.

While no one can argue that veterans are not well-deserving when it comes to federal hiring preferences, the rulings were not directed at the hiring authorities' intended purpose, namely, to promote diversity in the federal workforce. Surely creative minds

could have found a way to continue to implement these special hiring authorities without impinging on the rights of our country's veteran's ¿que no?

But the biggest cachetada of all was the elimination of the bilingual/bicultural authority, the hiring tool most directly related and meaningful to Hispanics because of its reliance on language ability and cultural awareness. It was not even challenged in the MSPB rulings.

For me the answer is obvious. OPM doesn't care about diversity in the federal workforce when it comes to Hispanics. Last year, in response to our Coalition's efforts seeking parity with our numbers in the civilian labor force, Antonio San Martín, Jr., a representa-

tive in OPM's Office of General Counsel, trivialized our efforts by saying, "I can't show up to a (training) conference with 50 jobs in my pocket and give them out to the people there as door prizes."

He and OPM just don't get it. I, for one, won't waste any more time trying to convince them that Hispanics are not looking for a handout. Instead, I will work like the dickens to get even. With like-minded colleagues I will work to ensure that an Administration and Congress are elected in 2008 that are more reasonable when it comes to issues important to us, issues like immigration reform and, yes, to our ideas about creating a more inclusive federal workforce. No more cheap-shot cachetadas. It's time to get even.

# NUEVA ERA PARA LOS HISPANOS: NO ENOJARSE SINO DESQUITARSE

Gilbert Sandate

¡Qué barbaridad! La más reciente cachetada a la comunidad hispana del gobierno federal por la administración de Bush no debe pasar desapercibida.

El 15 de noviembre, directora de Personnel Management, Linda Springer, emitió una misiva a todas las agencias federales descargando las únicas dos autoridades especiales de contratación que

se crearon exclusivamente para promover la contratación de hispanos al gobierno federal.

Las dos autoridades, la Bilingual/Bicultural Hiring Authority y el Outstanding Scholar Program,

formaban parte de un decreto por consentimiento que impulsó un tribunal federal distrital en 1981 para resolver un caso de litigación colectiva, Luévano et al, contra Campbell. En su guía para las agencias

federales, Springer declaró, "Las circunstancias bajo las que el decreto de consentimiento sí requería recurrir a estas autoridades no son más aplicables".

A ver, revisemos. Angel Luévano y otros entablaron un juicio contra la Office of Personnel Management (OPM por sus siglas en inglés) y 45 agencias más en 1979 porque sistemáticamente se les negaba a los hispanos oportunidades para competir por empleos de menor categoría y porque los hispanos eran los menos representados de todos los grupos raciales y étnicos de la fuerza laboral federal.

Bueno, pues, ¿adivina qué pasó? Hoy, a los 28 años del pleito, los hispanos continúan siendo el único grupo étnico o racial en no tener paridad en la representación de la fuerza laboral federal. Según el sexto informe anual al presidente sobre el empleo de hispanos en el gobierno federal (diciembre de 2006), la representación hispana en la fuerza laboral federal era de 7.5%. Este porcentaje se compara con un nivel de representación de 13.6% de la fuerza laboral civil a nivel

nacional.

La brecha de 6,1% en la fuerza laboral federal significa que la comunidad hispana queda sin poder aprovechar 120.000 empleos ni \$5,5 mil millones en términos de salario cada año, sin considerar siquiera otros rubros. Lo equivalente es perder 37.000 hipotecas de vivienda a un precio promedio de \$150.000 por casa, o \$10.000 de matrícula anual universitaria para 550.000 estudiantes, et cetera. Queda claro el problema.

También es importante porque tener una voz cuando se trata de la entrega de programas y servicios de gobierno por empleados federales que comprenden y saben relacionarse con la comunidad hispana puede marcar la diferencia entre la entrega eficaz o la entrega ineficaz de programas.

Aparentemente, la prohibición de Springer se debió también al hecho que dos decisiones recientes de la junta para la protección de sistemas de mérito decidió que era ilegal usar la autoridad del Outstanding Scholar sin antes aplicar la preferencia por el veterano de guerra.

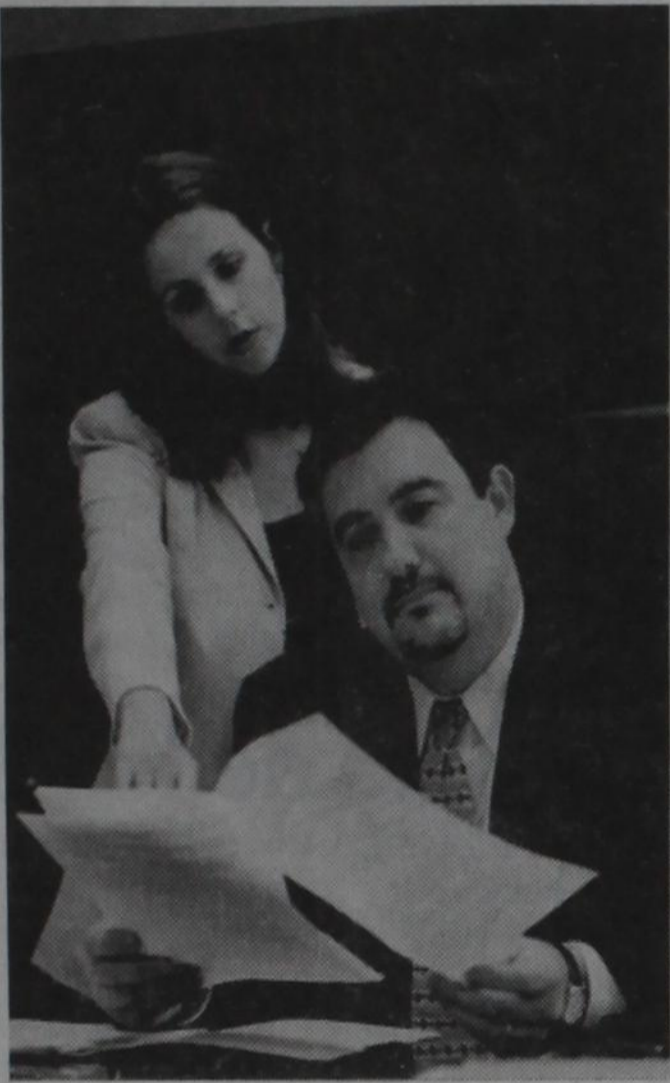
Mientras que nadie puede decir que no tienen mucho que merecer los veteranos cuando de preferencias en la contratación federal se trata, la decisión no se dirigía al propósito original de la autoridad de contratación, que es de promover la diversidad en la fuerza laboral federal. Sin duda las mentes creativas podrían haber encontrado la forma de continuar implementando estas autoridades especiales de contratación sin infringir los derechos de los veteranos de guerra de nuestro país, ¿que no?

Pero la mayor cachetada de todas fue la eliminación de la autoridad bilingüe/bicultural, la herramienta de contratación que se relaciona de manera más directa y de mayor importe para los hispanos por lo que depende de la capacidad lingüística y la comprensión cultural. Ni siquiera recibió ningún reto en las decisiones del MSPB.

Para mí la respuesta es obvia. A la OPM no le importa la diversidad en la fuerza laboral federal cuando de hispanos se trata. El año pasado, como respuesta a los esfuerzos de nuestra coalición por conseguir paridad

con los números que tenemos en la fuerza laboral civil, Antonio San Martín, Jr., representante de la Oficina del Asesor Legal de la OPM, tachó de banales nuestros esfuerzos al decir, "No me puedo aparecer en una conferencia (de capacitación) con 50 trabajos en mi bolsillo y distribuirlos allí a la gente como si fueran premios de rifa".

Tanto él como la OPM simplemente no entienden. Yo, por mi parte, no voy a desperdiciar más de mi tiempo tratando de convencerles que los hispanos no están buscando que se les regale nada. De lo contrario, lo que voy a hacer es trabajar hasta más no poder para desquitarlos. Con colegas que piensan como yo, me empeñaré en asegurar que la administración y el Congreso que se elija en el 2008 sean más razonables en cuanto a los temas que nos importan a nosotros, temas como la reforma migratoria y también en cuanto a nuestras ideas referentes a la creación de una fuerza laboral más inclusiva. No más cachetadas injustas. Es hora de desquitarlos.



contra Campbell.

En su guía para las agencias

## Texas Tech Hosts Community Involvement Seminar

WHAT: Community Involvement Seminar  
WHEN: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 29)  
WHERE: Lubbock Civic Center (1501 Mac Davis Ln.), Room 101  
EVENT: The Center for Public Service and the Cross Cultural Academic Advancement Center will hold a free seminar for citizens interested in serving on boards and commissions for the City of Lubbock.

The seminar will cover topics such as, effective board participation, ethics and conflicts of interest.

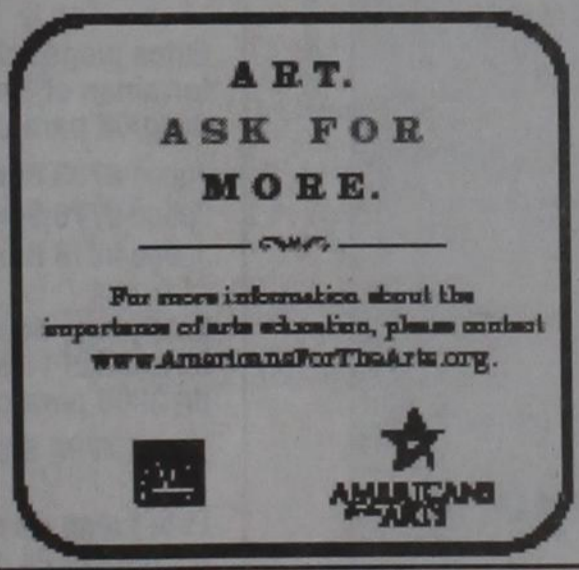
The Center for Public Service is a leading provider of public-sector management training, technical assistance and project management in West Texas. It serves as the sole provider of the Certified Public Manager program in the region.

The Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center concentrates on issues and activities that promote an inclusive environment for all Texas Tech students and faculty. It offers cultural and educational programs that celebrate, embrace, and enhance students' learning experiences.

CONTACT: Thomas Longoria, director, the Center for Public Service, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-4786, thomas.longoria@ttu.edu

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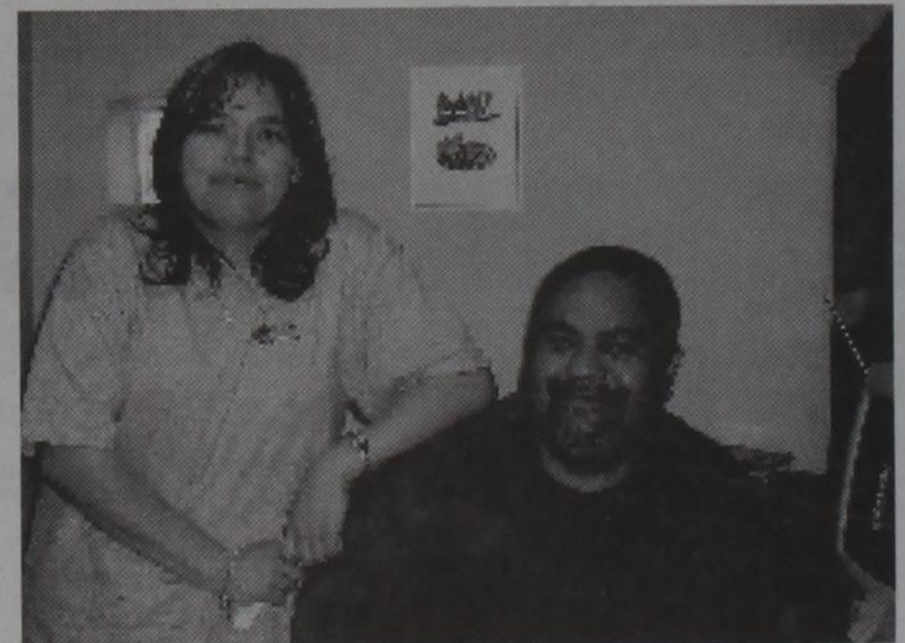


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# Missouri vs. Oklahoma Big 12 Championship

# Favre, Romo fend off comparisons as showdown looms

Missouri has more than pay-back on its mind this time. The top-ranked Tigers look to avenge their only loss of the season and secure a spot in the BCS title game with a win over No. 9 Oklahoma in the Big 12 championship game Saturday night in San Antonio. Missouri (11-1, 7-1) became the fourth team - joining Southern California, LSU and Ohio State - this season to claim the No. 1 spot in the AP poll after beating then-No. 2 Kansas 36-28 last Saturday to win the Big 12 North Division. That victory, coupled with then-No. 1 LSU's 50-48 triple-overtime loss to Arkansas last Friday, also pushed the Tigers to the top spot in the BCS standings. Missouri, which has not been ranked No. 1 since it spent a week there in November 1960, had never led the BCS standings. "Obviously, it's a nice honor for our program," Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said. "But we've got so much to play for and so much preparation to put in for a great Oklahoma team that we really can't spend much time thinking about that." Missouri, which hasn't won a league title since winning the Big Eight in 1969 and has never won a national championship, is one win away from earning a spot in the BCS title game on Jan. 7 in New Orleans. Before that can happen, though, it must avoid a sixth straight loss to Oklahoma (10-2, 6-2), which beat Missouri 41-31 at home on Oct. 13. The Sooners defeated Oklahoma State 49-17 last Saturday to win the South Division and secure a spot in the conference title game for the sixth time in eight seasons. Oklahoma will be trying for a league-best fifth Big 12 title and a spot in the Fiesta Bowl for the second straight season. "It's another big challenge, just excited about it," said Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops, who is 3-0 versus Missouri with Pinkel as

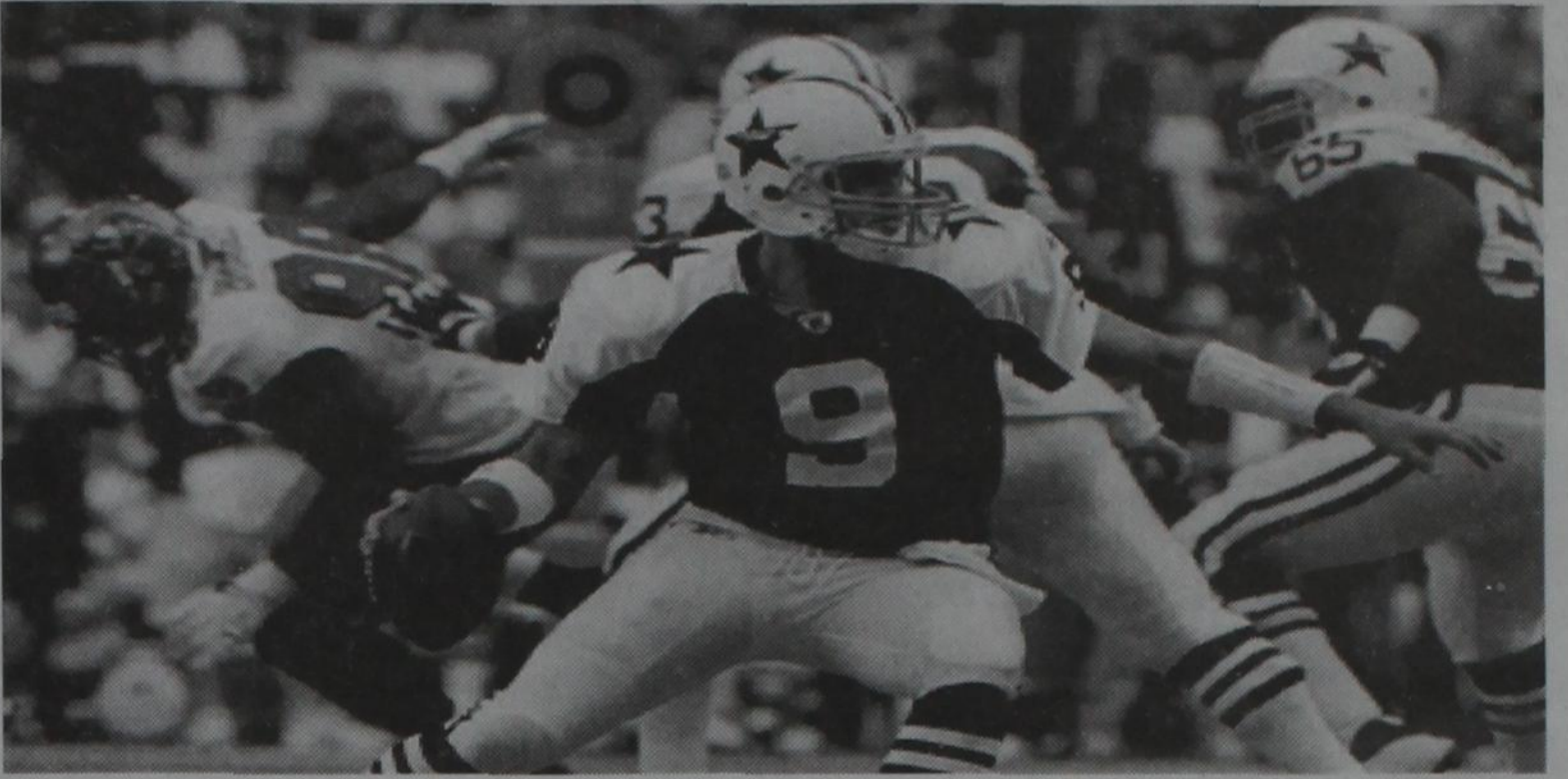
coach. "They're a good team, we recognize that, but we feel that we match up well with them obviously in all parts of the game. That makes it exciting." The Sooners, though, will likely be in for more of a challenge as they attempt to spoil Missouri's dream season. The Tigers have won six in a row since the loss to Oklahoma and will have senior running back Tony Temple on the field Saturday. Temple, who rushed for 1,063 yards last season, has missed nearly three full games with a sprained ankle this year, including the Oklahoma game. Missouri, which committed four turnovers and gave up 18 fourth-quarter points to the Sooners in October, was held to a season-low 57 rushing yards in that loss. Temple rushed for 98 yards on 22 carries against Kansas and has 732 rushing yards on the season. He's also rushed for five of his eight touchdowns in his last five contests. "Having Tony back is great," Pinkel said. "We never came out of that game saying we wished we had Tony Temple, we don't do that around here, and other players I thought went in and did a good job. But Tony, he can make a huge impact. There's no question he makes us a better team." So does quarterback Chase Daniel. Daniel, who's blossomed into a serious Heisman Trophy contender, was 40-for-49 for 361 yards and three touchdowns versus Kansas. The junior, who has thrown for a career-best 3,951 yards and 33 touchdowns, has 10 TDs and no interceptions in his last three games. Daniel was solid for the most part against Oklahoma, going 37-for-47 for 361 yards with a touchdown, but also threw a season-high two interceptions. The Tigers, who have scored 31 or more points in every game,

have not turned the ball over in their last two contests and just five times in the six games since losing to Oklahoma. "For the most part, we just have to go out there and play with confidence that we've had for the past five weeks," Daniel said. Daniel has only one more touchdown pass than Oklahoma's Sam Bradford, who has thrown for an NCAA freshman-record 32 TDs this season. Bradford broke the mark last Saturday with four touchdown passes as he looked fully recovered from a concussion which knocked him out of the previous week's game. That 34-27 loss at Texas Tech essentially ended the Sooners' national title hopes, but they bounced back behind the play of Bradford and Allen Patrick. Patrick rushed for a season-high 202 yards and two touchdowns against Oklahoma State. The senior running back will look for another big day against Missouri, with starter DeMarco Murray out for a second straight game due to a dislocated kneecap. Patrick, who has rushed for a team-leading 839 yards and did a fine job filling in when Adrian Peterson was injured last season, has rushed for 201 yards in two games versus Missouri, including 157 on 35 carries in a 26-10 win over the Tigers on Oct. 28, 2006. Sophomore running back Chris Brown, who ran for three touchdowns against the Tigers this season, also could see more action after rushing for 76 yards and a TD on 19 carries last Saturday. Oklahoma, though, could be without defensive end Austin English because of a leg injury. English had 1 1/2 sacks and nine tackles versus Missouri. The Sooners are trying to avoid losing to the Tigers for the first time since 1998, but have a much bigger goal in mind. "The South trophy is nice, but we want the other one," Stoops said. "To us, that's what matters is the championship."

With prime playoff positioning at stake for the Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys on Thursday night, Brett Favre doesn't feel the need to play along with one of the game's other compelling story lines. Still, Favre has to admit there are some striking similarities between himself and Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo. Favre sees himself in Romo's knack for turning broken plays into big gains. He can identify with Romo's rise from relative obscurity. And if there is any other player in the league who plays with the level of pure joy Favre does, it's Romo. But Favre thinks the comparisons are a little overblown, and not necessarily fair to the kid. "I am sure he is probably tired of answering this question or talking about it himself," Favre said. "I think he's his own player. I think the fact that he's from Wisconsin and is younger than me and watched me play and was a Packer fan enhances this whole scenario." Romo spent this week fighting the comparison, too. "Brett's Brett," Romo said. "At the end of the day, anyone who tries to pretend there's another Brett is just kidding themselves. That's like saying you've got the next Jordan and all that stuff. That's just what people want to talk about. But the reality is, he's one of a kind and there'll never be another one like him. It's just neat to be able to watch him from time to time." Romo did indeed grow up in Burlington, a small town in southeastern Wisconsin. But unlike many folks in America's Dairyland, Romo didn't have a Favre shrine in his house as a kid. Didn't wear holes in a tattered No. 4 jersey. Didn't own a cheesehead. Truth be told, Romo was more of a basketball guy. He wanted to be like Mike, not Brett. And -- gasp! -- he even admitted this week that he rooted for John Elway, not Favre, in the 1998 Super Bowl. "I understand the angle and it's nice and fun, but I have to beat the guy this week," Romo said. "At the end of the day I don't want him to pass for 265 yards against us. That's the bottom line. I'll root for him on every other game." But even if Romo didn't grow up idolizing Favre or trying to pattern his game after the three-

time MVP, the end result certainly looks familiar. "Absolutely," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said earlier this week. "I had a conversation with Brett this morning and he even made the statement that Romo reminds him of himself in his early years." Favre says the most pronounced similarity is Romo's ability to scramble out of trouble and try to make a jaw-dropping play -- and get away with it, at least most of the time. "His creativity to bail himself out is very good," Favre said. "It's probably the same mentality I had. There is never a bad play, which can get you in trouble sometimes. For the most part it's worked out for him." Heck, Favre admits that Romo might be faster than he ever was. "Or he seems that way," Favre said. Favre sees similarity in their backgrounds, too. Favre was a second-round draft pick out of Southern Mississippi and threw only four passes for Atlanta as a rookie. Most fans scratched their heads when then-Packers general manager Ron Wolf made a trade with the Falcons to bring Favre to Green Bay. Romo signed with the Cowboys as an undrafted free agent in 2003, and didn't even get to throw a pass in a regular-season game until last year. "To a certain degree, his rise to where he is now is some ways like mine: a virtually unknown and all of a sudden has success," Favre said. "You go, 'Who is this guy? What is he about? Where is he from? What is he like?' Last year it was like, 'Flash in the pan, or can he keep it up?' I think he has proven that the guy is legit." Maybe those humble roots

play a role in the joy both players display on the field. "He's always smiling," Favre said. "I think that goes hand in hand with winning and being a leader and saying the right things and doing the right things. All of that he does well, on top of playing well on Sundays. The guy, barring some injury, could have a great career." Despite all the comparisons, the two really don't know each other. Romo went to Favre's off-season charity golf tournament with Cowboys teammate Marco Rivera two years ago. "He was nice," Romo said. "We didn't chat too much or nothing, but he was a good guy. He just had a lot of people tugging at him and stuff like that. You could tell, it's a little different being him." Favre remembers seeing Romo there, and briefly remembering what it was like to be in his position. "I knew who he was," Favre said. "He wasn't the starter at the time, but I do remember being in his shoes one time and knowing what that was like, (thinking) 'Hey, I'd like to have my own golf tournament, I'd like to have this, wanting to be accepted or whatever.'" And now? "He's definitely made people remember his name," Favre said. But if there's one major difference between Favre and Romo, it's this: While Favre would just as soon be back on his ranch in Mississippi driving a tractor, Romo has some Hollywood in him, finding himself romantically linked to a different actress or singer every month. Asked if he ever was invited to judge a beauty pageant, as Romo was, Favre said, "My wife would turn that down for me."



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# Consulates struggle with health care issues

With a comprehensive immigration overhaul now perhaps years away, Latin American governments concerned with the well-being of their nationals living in this country are taking on an equally thorny issue: the U.S. health-care system.

In Washington, some foreign consulates are providing eye exams and medical tests in addition to the traditional passport renewals and marriage registrations.

The Salvadoran consulate, which serves the largest immigrant group in the Washington area, began offering "Estaciones de Salud" (Health Stations) two years ago. The Mexican consulate followed suit last year, offering similar health services that it hopes to expand to its 47 consulates throughout the United States by year's end.

"My health is important," said Luz de Maria Mejia, 34, a nanny and restaurant worker who came to the United States four years ago without papers. She found navigating the health-care system "extremely complicated" and has turned to the Salvadoran consulate for help.

Jose Rigoberto Martinez, a burly, 48-year-old carpenter with a temporary work permit, said he believes that immigrants tend to neglect their health.

"If we have a headache but there is work, we work," he said.

While waiting to get his blood pressure checked, Martinez said he has never received medical treatment, other than a few visits to a chiropractor. He stopped seeing the chiropractor because getting time off work and justifying \$45 a visit proved prohibitive.

Seventy-five percent of the more than 3,600 Salvadorans and Mexicans who received medical attention at their consulates in

Washington this year had not had a medical checkup in the past three years, said German Valbuena, director of the local Hispanic Institute for Blindness Prevention, the lead agency running both consulates' health programs.

Salvadoran Consul General Ana Margarita Chavez said that soon after arriving in Washington, she fell ill and realized how expensive health care is in the United States. On average, 50 people a week received health services last year at the consulate. Those services normally include a referral to a health center or clinic that offers care regardless of the patient's economic or immigration status.

Mexico's secretary of health, Jose Angel Cordova, said in a telephone interview that his government wants Mexican nationals in this country to have the "peace of mind of having access to basic health services."

As part of his government's goal of providing universal health care

basic service such as health," Cordova said.

Although U.S. authorities might not share Cordova's goal of universal health care, they don't deny the universality of the problem.

"From our perspective, there is no border in terms of health anymore," said William Steiger, director of the Office of Global Health Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "We know that not just immigrants but travelers in this age of globalization can represent a challenge because they can bring diseases and export them as well."

Steiger cited recent measles cases brought to the United States by Japanese boys coming for the Little League World Series.

As part of efforts to protect Americans, Steiger said the department is responsible for the health of refugee popula-

populations.

"Good health is a positive-sum game for all of us," he said.

Steiger and Cordova said the United States and Mexico are beginning to explore some innovative ideas, such as a binational health plan that would provide coverage to Americans living in Mexico and Mexicans living in this country.

Aware that there are many more Mexicans here than Americans there, Cordova suggested that a plan could fully cover U.S. citizens in Mexico but would offer only primary care to Mexicans here. After all, he said, most Mexican immigrants are young and healthy, and primary health care covers 85 percent of diseases. Those with more serious problems could be sent to Mexico for treatment, he said.

Often employed in low-wage jobs in small service- or trade-sector firms, Latin American immigrants are less likely to receive health benefits than the average resident of the United States. This might be a large factor in the rise in the number of the uninsured. In 2003, immigrants represented more than one of every four uninsured individuals in the United States, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute.

In a 2005 report, the institute said that "immigrants accounted for about one-third of the increase in the uninsured between 1994 and 1998." But after the 1996 welfare reform that restricted access to public assistance programs to immigrants with more than five years of legal residency, "immigrants accounted for 86 percent of the growth in the uninsured between 1998 and 2003," the report said.



by 2010, Cordova said he hopes to provide "health care to all Mexicans regardless of where they are."

"The migratory phenomenon has been growing (around the world), and it is something we will be grappling with for some time. I believe there should be agreements among countries to guarantee a

tions within the United States and focuses efforts overseas on preventing diseases from reaching U.S. territory. Those efforts, he added, are not unique to the United States. Other countries are just as interested in ensuring that disease does not reach their

# Catholic faithful to honor Virgin of Guadalupe in annual procession

Lubbock - Hundreds of Catholic faithful from throughout the Diocese of Lubbock

Celebrant: Rev. Heriberto Mercado Theme: The Lord Has Done Great Things for Me



will gather on Sunday, December 9, 2007 to participate in the annual procession honoring the Virgin of Guadalupe. The procession is part of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock.

Beginning at the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center Parking Lot, 3201 Ave. Q, the procession will travel east on 34th Street approximately 1/2 mile. It will then turn south on Avenue L, traveling approximately one mile to Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 1120 52nd Street.

Floats portraying the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary are being prepared by several parishes of the Diocese. During the week prior to the annual procession, the Holy Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church at 6 p.m. each evening. Each celebrant's homily will have a Magnificat-based theme.

Monday, December 3 Celebrant: Rev. Raymundo Manríquez Theme: My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of the Lord

Tuesday, December 4

Wednesday, December 5 Celebrant: Rev. Rene Pérez Theme: He Fills the Hungry with Good Things

Thursday, December 6 Celebrant: Rev. Nelson Díaz Theme: Holy is His Name

Friday, December 7 Celebrant: Rev. Ernesto López Theme: All Generations Shall Call Me Blessed

On Saturday, December 8, the Relics of the Priest Martyrs of Mexico will be on display at the Catholic Renewal Center's Hall of Martyrs from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Catholic Renewal Center is located at 4620 4th Street. The relics will also be present at all Masses (8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.) at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church on Sunday, December 9.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend these events to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Catholic Diocese of Lubbock and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For more information, please call 763-0710.

# Presidential Candidates' Views on Bilingual Education

Five Democrats running for U.S. president back bilingual education, and two Republicans running for the position oppose it. That's what the Hispanic Link Weekly Report learned when it posed the following question to the staff of 17 politicians competing in the presidential primaries that begin Jan. 3: "What is your candidate's position, if any, on bilingual education?"

Hispanic Link Weekly Report, a national newsletter about Hispanic issues available only by subscription, published a summary of the views of the seven candidates who responded to the survey in its Nov. 26 issue. With permission from Hispanic Link, I post the summaries here, quoted word for word:

Democrats: Hillary Clinton: "Senator Clinton supports the notion that children will learn more efficiently by being taught in their native language while learning English at the same time." —Fabiola Rodriguez-Ciampoli, the Clinton campaign's Hispanic communications director.

Bill Richardson: "Bilingual education is a part of guaranteeing equal education for all American students." —deputy communication director Katie Roberts, quoting the candidate.

Chris Dodd: "As a bilingual Spanish speaker himself, Sen. Dodd has long been very supportive of bilingual education." —campaign spokesperson Col-

leen Flanagan.

John Edwards: "We're for bilingual education." —political director David Medina.

Barack Obama: Obama believes the federal government should be doing more to encourage transitional bilingual education." —e-mail reply from his campaign.

Republicans: Mitt Romney: "He believes immersion is the best method for learning the English language." —spokesman Alex Burgos.

Tom Tancredo: "He thinks that classes should be in English only. He thinks English should be the official language in the U.S. and everything should be printed in English." —press secretary Alan Moore.

The article notes that the staff of the other 10 presidential candidates didn't provide responses before the newsletter went to press. It also reports that while a spokesman for Mr. Romney didn't tell Hispanic Link specifically that the former governor of Massachusetts opposes bilingual education, Mr. Romney has told his supporters in speeches that he fought for the end of bilingual education in Massachusetts, so Hispanic Link concludes he opposes the educational method.

The fact that Hispanic Link conducted a survey of presidential candidates' views on bilingual education indicates that some Latino voters out there care what methods are available to schools for teaching English to ELLs.

El Editor needs your help!  
On December 20 we will publish our annual Christmas issue. Celebrate your Christmas cheer with us by sending in your Christmas photos, poems or unbelievable



stories you would like to share with our community! All submissions will be taken until December 18th only!! So don't de-

lay, send in today! We do ask that everything submitted to be sent via email to: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

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# 25th Annual "U Can Share" Drive of the South Plains Food Bank December 3 thru 8

Main Collection Location United Supermarkets - 82nd & Frankford Avenue  
2007 Goal is 560,000 pounds of canned food & dry food

Enough to fill a dozen 18-wheeler trucks & \$100,000 in cash. Also needed personal hygiene and household cleaning items.

Food and funds collected during U Can Share help the Food Bank serve the hungry of the community in the region with 5,000 Christmas boxes - each with enough food to provide a week of nourishing meals for a family of four -- and with other food boxes well into the new year for families in need.

HELP US TO HELP THOSE IN NEED -- MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!