Celebrating 31 Years of **Publishing**

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

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Week of November 29-December 5, 2007

lews Brief

Hate Crimes against Hispanics on the Rise "Last week's release of the annual Federal Bureau of Investiga-

tion Hate Crimes Statistics Report documents and quantifies the increase in anti-Latino sentiment and community tensions we see across the nation", according to a press release issued by the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF).

According to MALDEF, the FBI reports a sustained increase in crimes committed based on the perceived ethnicity or national origin of the victim. Some of the key points from the report: A greater percentage of crimes motivated by national origin are committed against Hispanics compared to the previous year. In 2006, almost two-thirds of all ethnic-based hate crimes were committed against Hispanics; Since 2004, the number of victims of anti-Hispanic crimes increased by 25%; While most race-based and religion-based hate crimes involve intimidation instead of assault, most hate crimes against Hispanics (and Asian Americans, Indians and gays) were assaults; and anti-Hispanic crimes are more severe. Unlike every other group, only Hispanics suffered a greater number of aggravated assaults than simple assaults.

But according to the news release, the numbers do not tell the whole story. Crimes in which perpetrators choose their victims because they perceive them to be undocumented, and thus less likely to report crimes to the local police and more likely to be carrying cash, are often labeled "crimes of opportunity." Even though the majority of such victims are Latinos, these crimes are not reported as offenses motivated by their ethnicity.

In Pasadena, California, MALDEF has met with city officials about "Sock on Mexican" crimes which occur late at night or offices. Pasadena police reported 60 such crimes last year and, due to community policing and other efforts, a reduction to 23 this year. Yet, despite 60 "Sock on Mexican" crimes in 2006, the Pasadena Police Department reported only six ethnic-based hate

MALDEF issued the following statement: "The rise in hate crimes and other crimes where Hispanics are singled out is a consequence of the anti-immigrant hatred heard on the airwaves and in political debates that demonizes immigrants and Latinos. These attacks provide greater urgency for Congress and the President to enact comprehensive immigration reform. MAL-DEF will remain at the forefront of legal battles counteracting hatred and striking down anti-immigrant ordinances and statutes in order to protect and advance our community's legal rights." Source: Mexican American Legal Defense Fund Press Release

Court of Appeals Overturns Medina's Dismissal of Lawsuit Against Former LPD Officer

In 2005, then Lubbock Police Department officer Blake Littlejohn conducted what should have been a routine traffic stop around the 19th street and Ave L area in central Lubbock.

By the time the motorist had returned to her vehicle, she claimed that Littlejohn had forced her to perform a sex act in return for him not giving her a ticket and letting her go. And as usually happens in a police department which protects it's own, the "Blue Wall of Silence" quickly came down, and in a matter of days, Littlejohn had resigned from his position and arranged for a sham plea deal which saw him plead guilty to "harassment". He was placed on probation and ordered to surrender his peace officer license.

But by resigning, both Littlejohn and the LPD diffused the situation since the "internal investigation" concluded upon Littlejohn's resignation; not that the internal investigation would have revealed anything; since they never do.

But, the officer's resignation did manage to give Chief of Police Claude Jones some wiggle room to help make the whole

The victim, Lubbock resident Rebecca Hernandez, having no other recourse, then filed a civil suit against Littlejohn and the city of Lubbock. In August of 2005, attorneys representing the city went before Judge Sam Medina, asking him to throw the lawsuit out; which he promptly did dismissing the suit against Littlejohn and the city of Lubbock.

Here's how we saw it in a commentary in the August 1st edition of El Editor: "In an update to the story surrounding former city cop Blake Littlejohn, the city will go before a judge this week to ask that the civil suit filed against it by the victim be thrown out. Littlejohn was the former cop who during a routine traffic stop forced the victim to perform sexual acts in return for letting her go. The case never went to trial due to an appalling plea agreewith the local DA's office. Now the city wants to pretend that they are not responsible for the people they hire and will probably use any means to make sure that the suit is thrown out. If the suit is thrown out, which will probably happen, that means that the victim will be the only one who will have lost in this case. The term victims rights will once again vanish into thin air as they usually do when it comes to the less fortunate in our society, and especially those who live in this city. Where is Lubbock's moral majority when you need them?

Now, the most recent developments in this case give some people hope that at least the victim may soon get her day in court.

The Seventh Court of Appeals in Amarillo has reversed Judge Sam Medina's ruling and decided that he was wrong in dismissing the suit against the former LPD officer. But they did uphold Medina's decision to dismiss the lawsuit against the city. The attorney handling the case for Hernandez, Charles Dunn told local NewsChannel 11 that "The law as it stands now; the city is immune under these particular facts, but not the police officer. We're going to go to trial with him."

Littlejohn can appeal the decision, but if he decides not to, Dunn told the television station that they "hope to be to trial within a year to a year and a half'.

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Lubbock, Texas 79401

Lubbock Hispanic Chamber Ready to Present Merger Plan to General Membership

by Bidal Aguero and Abel Cruz Over the years, Lubbock has had its share of Hispanic organizations including LULAC, GI Forum, Hispanic Association of Women and many more. Although a few have had national affiliations, none except the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (LHCC), originally known as COMA, have had any type of full time paid staff.

Originally COMA hired its executive director through gov-

"It was quite a struggle at times," Esther Sepeda, former President of the LHCC was heard saying at one of the meeting recently being held to determine if the LHCC will merge with LCC in the near future.

As reported exclusively in El Editor last week, the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber is set to meet with its general membership to unveil a plan, which if approved by the membership, would see the mostly Hispanic

member organization merge with the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

The proposed merger, which was first reported in this newspaper in August, caught many people by surprise; and has caused much speculation as to just what the merger will mean for the local Hispanic institution. And the fact that the proposed merger was being kept under wraps also caused some people to question the board's intentions. But according to

Velma Medina, Board Chairwoman, "the board had no

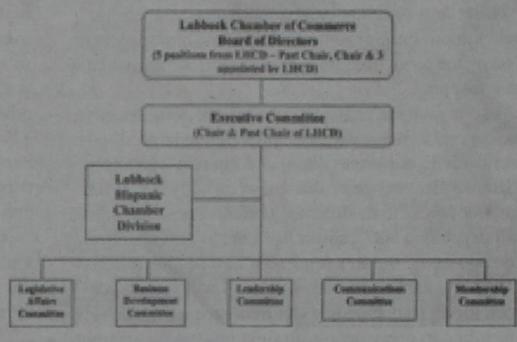
intention of withholding information from the general membership and (we) were just trying to develop the best plan possible". Medina says that they are now "ready to go public with the proposed organizational chart". "Our next step is the forums for the membership", said Medina.

Under the plan the LHCC will be a division with a name yet to be determined functioning im-mediately under the Lubbock Chamber's Executive Committee...

with the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce will be on Saturday, December 1st from 10 a.m.

- Noon at the Maggie Trejo Super Center, 3200 Amherst, and on Wednesday, December 4th from 6 – 8 p.m. also at the Maggie Trejo Super Center.

Proposal to Lubbock Chamber of Commerce by Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



Additionally the plan calls for the LHCC to continue with its program of work as they have in the past with the program including staff and office expenses essentially being still funded by dues and fundraisers but relying on the Lubbock Chamber in case of lack of necessary funding. Together with normal funding from dues and fundraisers that include luncheons, banquets and special events, corporate sponsorships will continue to be dedicated to the LHCC's program of work for three years. After 3 years, corporate funding will go toward the Lubbock Chamber.

The forums for their members regarding the proposed merger

In a previous statement, Medina also told El Editor that only the members whose membership dues are currently paid up will be allowed to vote on the proposal. But both of the scheduled forums are for informational purposes only and anyone can participate.

The vote for or against the merger will be held at the LHCC's general meeting to be held at American State Bank on December 13 at 5"30 pm

Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce board members will be available to answer questions. For more information please contact Velma Medina, chairperson of the LHCOC, at 535.7653

through dues and fundraising. Presidential Candidates Divided on Bilingual Education: Democrat Yes, Republicans No

By Mario Aguirre

WORKING FOR BUSINESS. BELIEVING IN LUBBOCK.

ernment programs but soon af-

ter the organization progressed,

also rent and all office expenses

they went to funding not only

the salary of the director but

What is your candidate's position, if any, on bilingual education? That's the question posed by Hispanic Link News Service to the 17 politicians competing in the presidential primaries that begin Jan. 5.

So far the issue hasn't become as visible or volatile as in the past, when major drives to make English this nation's "official" language and to eliminate bilingual education in a number of states were political hot-buttons. But based on attacks on immigrant rights,

college tuition, it could emerge again as one in 2008.

All five Democrats who have framed positions on the subject - Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, John Edwards, Bill Richardson and Chris Dodd — responded to Hispanic Link with expressions of strong support.

Richardson saw it as an essential "equal education" guarantee. Republican candidates were either si-

lent or negative on the subject. Both who had positions on the pedagogy — Tom Tancredo and Mitt Romney — opposed it.

Tancredo stated unequivocally, "Classes should be in English only."

supports English immersion as the "best method." At the same time, the former Massachusetts governor was bragging to cheering supporters in Iowa that in 2002 "I fought for and

Romney aide Alex Burgos couched his response, saying Romney

got a ballot initiative passed ending bilingual education." Former National Association for Bilingual Education chief James Crawford, now president of the Institute for Language and Education Policy, reacted, "You definitely have to put him down in the

'con' column." Crawford speculated that other Republican candidates may not want to "alienate Latino voters any more than they have" as the reason why only two of the nine GOP candidates responded to Hispanic Link's inquiry.

"If they take a position favoring bilingual education, they'll get hammered by the right-wingers and their own party," he said. "The easiest thing to do is duck the issue."

Univisión TV news anchor María Elena Salinas suggested to Hispanic Link that past controversies have made some candidates wary — at least early on, until the campaigns test the waters of public

opinion and conduct further research.

"Anything you say can and will be used against you," she said. "You have to be careful. The moment you give a different position later on, you're called for flip-flopping."

Long-time political analyst Andy Hernández, based in Austin, Texas, added a warning to Republicans. So long as they oppose or continue to avoid such issues that are supported by Latinos, they will be "driving another nail in the coffin," sending the message they "don't care enough about the Latino vote."

Here are summaries of responses received on candidates' stances.

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 Rodríguez-Ciampoli, Clinton campaign's Hispanic communications director.

BILL RICHARDSON: 'Bilingual education is a part of guaranteeing equal education for all American students.

- deputy communica-

CHRIS DODD: "As a bilingual Spanish speaker himself, Sen. Dodd has long been very supportive of bilingual education."

 campaign spokesperson Colleen 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 educa-

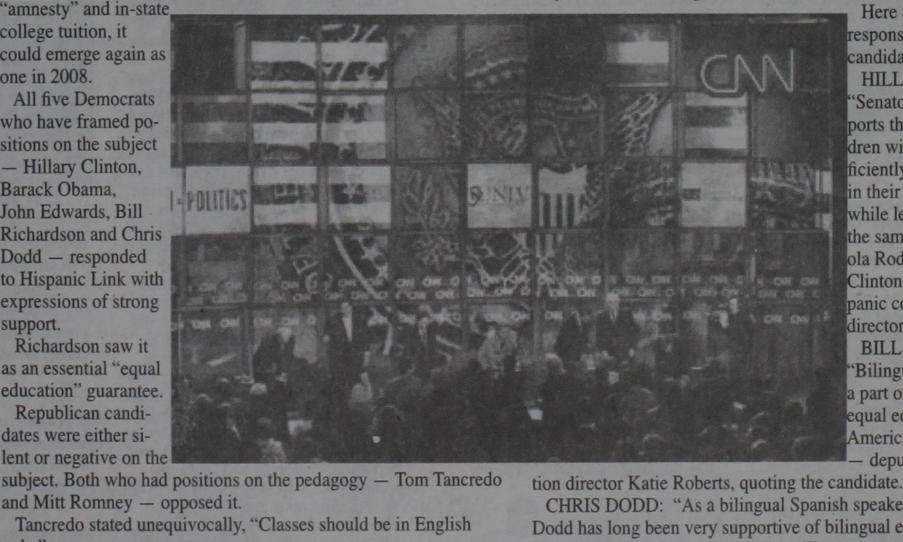
tion." — e-mail reply from his campaign. MITT ROMNEY: "He believes immersion is the best method for

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.

Campaign staffers of Democrats Joe Biden, Dennis Kucinich and Mike Gravel and Republicans Rudy Giuliani, John McCain, Mike Huckabee, Ron Paul and Duncan Hunter said they would respond but even after a week of prompting, none did so. Attempts to obtain responses from the campaigns of other GOP candidates were also unsuccessful.

(Mario Aguirre is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. Reach him at Mario@hispaniclink.org.) ©2007



Editorial

Freedom of Expression

case you didn't notice, last week, we changed our "Letters to the Editor" section and renamed it our "Freedom of Expression" section.

Minor change perhaps; but one that we hope will symbolize just some of what our publication stands for.

For years and years, newspapers have served as a vehicle for letter writers to express their views and opinions and to share such with other readers. We happen to believe that it is one of the most important functions that a newspaper can perform.

But times change, and we think that the days of traditional letters to the editor may soon be a thing of the past. These days you have literally hundreds of thousands if not millions of internet web sites in which people freely express their views and more and more these sites are becoming the norm rather than the exception. It used to be that newspapers had a lock on what appeared in the public domain. The internet has changed that and these days anybody can start a blog or internet site and publish whatever material they wish.

These days there are citizen journalists; sometimes better at presenting the news than some newspapers do. Today; the term "free flow of information" has taken on new meaning.

We embrace the changes that we have seen; because we happen to believe that we provide the best of both worlds; both our print edition and internet web site.

But we also recognize that not everybody has a computer or access to the internet. Others choose not to and still depend on publications like ours to provide information and news. But in a sense, our new section will try to embody the best of both worlds. It will serve as an open forum so that people can freely express their views; much like so many people do right now on the internet.

That's why we decided to re-title our section "Freedom of Expression; we think it more accurately describes what is in the section itself. We happen to think that that name more accurately reflects what a reader sees in the section. They see another person exercising the right to freely express their views and opinions.

These past few years, we have watched anxiously as the Bush administration has chopped away at certain constitutional rights and principles. We point out programs like the NSA surveillance programs which seem to us to infringe on our civil right to privacy. They of course say it is because we are at war. To us it is just an excuse or blanket justification to do as they please.

Just last year, we became aware that there was an attempt underway by the administration to identify writers, journalists and the like who wrote things in opposition to the administration.

Consequently we have come to the conclusion that it has never been more important to provide a forum in which people can feel free to express their views over issues which concern us all. Of course we will do so always being mindful that freedom of expression is also dependent on certain principles like respect for other's views and void of any personal attacks.

We hope that the forum will evolve and come to be known as a place where people can share their views concerning politics, social issues, and community and national issues.

Our right to freely express our views is inherent in our country's founding principles; we hope all of our readers will exercise their right and do so in our "Freedom of Expression" section.

The opinions and views expressed in our editorials are those of El Editor's Publisher and editorial writer and do not represent the views of any of El Editor's advertisers.

TOX By Abel Cruz

"Who will protect the public when the police violate the law?" Former United States Attorney General Ramsey Clark

If Lubbock resident L.J. McCallan had not brought a federal lawsuit against the Lubbock Police Department, would we have ever known about the traffic stop and Mr. McCallan's subsequent Tasering which took place in July of this year and precipitated the lawsuit recently filed against the city of Lubbock in federal court? Is it only because it might affect the city's pocket book that we now know?

No and yes. Why no?

Because maybe in this city, these kinds of things, are either ignored by the mainstream media or perhaps are seen as unimportant and insignificant. Or it may be due to a lack of desire to follow these types of news stories because who cares that a black man was stopped for a routine traffic violation and was Tasered for 6 minutes; within only 20 seconds of being stopped. The LPD gives out only the information they want the station or newspaper to have; they in turn take the information at face value, and viola; you have the story. No questions asked; no drilling down to find out if there might be more to the story than meets the eye.

And besides, who cares, let's move on to John in the "First Alert" weather center, so we don't miss finding out what the temperature is in Slaton.

The case becomes even more abhorrent when we find out that two individuals are singled out in the lawsuit as having knowledge of what happened and doing nothing about it.

But who cares? Let's move on to Lady Raider Basketball and Bob Knight's quest for the NCAA record; that's for wins, not players slapped. I think it's safe to say he already holds that record.

All over this country, case upon case involving Taser related deaths and incidents are being reviewed and some states have even suspended the use of Tasers while they review the resulting deaths. The company that makes the Tasers, TASER International Inc. has several hundred lawsuits pending against them; but has managed to have some cases thrown out or reached out

of court settlements on others.

Recently, a UCLA student was Tasered by some police officers in California. The next day, the story was all over the news and the internet. The national media got a hold of the story and the incident was viewed by millions of viewers on CNN and web sites like youtube.com among others. This happens here, and it's as if it never happened at all; we get "nada"

But who cares, lets move on to the all important story on the front page. Today we have: "Rising cost of copper leads home builders to switch to alternative for plumbing work". Now this is valuable information we can all use and breathlessly wait for

Taser related deaths have been steadily rising. In 2001, only 3 deaths were attributed to the use of Tasers, since then, 61 deaths were recorded in 2005 and so far this year there has been 50 deaths. To date, the use of Tasers has been involved in 200 deaths.

As you may recall, one of those deaths was Lubbock resident Juan Manuel Nunez III. Back in April, on Easter Sunday, an LPD rookie officer responded to a dropped 911 call made from the Nunez home; and within a matter of minutes after the officer arrived Mr. Nunez lay dead on the living room floor.

Of course the LPD investigated itself, and to no one's surprise, the officer was cleared of any wrongdoing. The Nunez family has sued Taser international and the LPD; the city has asked that the lawsuit be thrown out and the case is still pending.

But who cares, let's see move on to the "Food for Thought" segment; let's see who got caught with code violations this week!

In 2001, TASER International's profit was at just under 7 million dollars. In 2004, profits soared to 68 million. According to published reports, one of the ways the company has managed to grow its profits is by the company recruiting police officers who serve as trainers and instructors in the use of Tasers. In return, officers receive payments, stock options, or both. The exact number of officers who participate, or their identity, remains a mystery; since the company refuses to identify them.

Has this happened here? Do you



think we'll ever know about it if it has? But who cares about that, let's hear the story about how much Tech paid for the new Chancellor's house so he can entertain Tech donors in the proper style befitting a univer-

sity chancellor.

Early this past Saturday morning (Nov. 25) in New York City, 2 undercover officers with the NYPD shot and killed a New York City resident, who happened to be black; who was leaving his bachelor party. It turns out that the officers involved shot at the victim and his friends a total of 51 or 53 times. By Monday morning, Mayor Michael Bloomberg was speaking to the media at a press conference and assuring city residents that a full investigation would be conducted and that he felt the number of shots fired were excessive; by his side was police chief Ray Kelly and local elected officials and local clergy.

Could it be because Michael Bloomberg cares? Or could it be that that is what Mayor's and other cities' elected officials and police chiefs do in their

cities?

In this city, (1) Juan Manuel Nunez III gets Tasered and dies under questionable circumstances; (2) one Hispanic female Lubbock resident, that we know of, gets stopped by a local police officer and is forced to perform a sexual favor in return for the officer letting her go; (3) L.J. McCallan, an African American, gets stopped and gets Tasered within 20 seconds but no charges are ever filed against him for resisting arrest, (4) an 11 year old Hispanic, Blake Moreno, gets killed while riding his bike on a city street which citizens have complained about as being poorly lit, (5) over a period of several days several robberies take place in this city, over the past two weeks vandals have targeted several cars and resident's property; with car windows being shot out of several cars, (6) over the summer two Lubbock State School workers, Peggy Merrimon and Kay Harrelson go missing; in the subsequent weeks, Ms. Harrelson's body is found by search and rescue volunteers; but not by the LPD or other law enforcement officers. (7) As of this date, Ms. Merrimon is still missing and the search has been revived; not by the LPD; but by the family who has hired a private investigator and recruited volunteers to help in the search.

And on and on it goes... Hey, but who cares?

I hear we've got a new prayer list from the mayor; we've got his "pie in the sky" optimism about how great this city is and how he will lead us to the "model city promised land".

We've got new baseball fields in District 2 for Mr. Price; we've got a new source of revenue from the annexation of the infamous strip where they sell that "devil's water" that's supposed to be the root of all evil; except of course when you can make money off of it; and hallelujah, we've gotten rid of those pesky, down on their luck "panhandlers"!

Who cares; we've got economic growth; we've got a new hotel going up in North Overton; we've got red light cameras – who could possibly ask for anything more?

Well, got to go, Mr. Food is about to come on; wouldn't want to miss that would we?

email: acruztsc@aol.com

"Freedom of Expression" An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions

Send to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

This week there were a couple of letter sent to El Editor that were directed to Susan Barrick, democratic county char. Becuse they were sent to us and because the issue was discussed last week in our paper, we assumed that they were intended to be made public. Here are the letters in their entirety. Dear Mrs. Barrick,

As per his writing, Democratic Historian for (the) Lubbock County (Democratic Party) Clyde James has continued to insult and bad mouth me, personally, and my radio program "Tejano Times Talk Radio," at will in the "El Editor," newspaper and in other venues, apparently on behalf of the Democratic Party. I must ask you if you are in agreement and in support of Clyde James' public statements. Before this, Mr. James had used a pseudonym - "Chico James," but has now decided to use his formal name, the reason which I now write to you.

Since we do not coddle and have asked Linda DeLeon to resign, you must know that Clyde James denigrates us and our radio program. We have also witnessed Clyde James' request in an immediate manner copies of the Recall Petition against Linda DeLeon. Linda DeLeon occupies a NON-PARTISAN seat on the City of Lubbock, City Council; does the Democratic Party have any interest in this recall petition as attached to Clyde James?

As evidenced by the actions of Clyde James in asking for and receiving the petition before we received it, and in his deciphering of it, we can only conclude that it is to help Linda DeLeon. Clyde James has admitted in the newspaper (El Editor) that, "he is proud to be Linda's boy," in speaking of Linda DeLeon. In the same publication, he admits to being on the Executive Committee of the Lubbock County Democratic Party and is active as a member thereof, having part in the start of the "censure" of Ysidro Gutierrez, Lubbock County Commissioner. Does Clyde James do this as a representative of the Lubbock County Democratic Party?

Please be aware that there is an ongoing investigation of the Recall of Linda DeLeon by the United States Justice Department and others. The Lubbock County District Attorney, Matt Powell, did not investigate the contents, or the material matter of our complaint. He said only that he did not want to prosecute it. This does not exonerate Linda DeLeon or other of her accomplices. We believe that Clyde James has aided Linda DeLeon in her keeping the office. This makes the office partisan. We believe that Linda DeLeon does not have the facilities with which to understand the intricacies of the paper, without such help. Is the Lubbock County Democratic Party helping Linda DeLeon to stay in the Council Seat? Are you being represented by Clyde James in his previous statements and actions of the past year?

In Clyde James' writing he insists on knowing private information of the petition signers and private information in regards to my business and the businesses of Chris and Angela Gonzales-previous owners of South Beach. To what end does Clyde James do this? Does he represent you and the Democratic Party in this regard?

Also, Mr. Clyde James has publicly tried to embarrass and humiliate the previous owners of South Beach Club and Lounge, my son and daughter in law. Is the Democratic Party in Clyde James' support in these statements against a private business? Clyde James continues to insult these people even though they have neither been public, nor sought publicity, neither now own the South Beach. They have a new business now.

Clyde James continues to insult them and me. I am a big boy and can handle Clyde James' idiosyncrasies and his perversions; what I want to know is you my enemy as well?

I have been looking forward to visiting with future Democratic candidates running for office on our radio show to present their side against the Republican side. I believe everything went well when Justice Yanez visited us last month.

Clyde James' continued insults and bad mouthing may prevent our volunteering this service to the people of West Texas. The show is heard in Odessa, Texas, Amarillo, Texas, and in New Mexico. We have a three year contract to produce and broadcast "Tejano Times Talk Radio Program".

Please advise me. Very truly yours, Armando Gonzales

Dear Mr. Gonzales,

Clyde James' public comments, actions and writings about the possible recall of city councilwoman Linda DeLeon have not been made, taken or submitted on behalf of the Lubbock County Democratic Party. They were not sanctioned, approved, or voted on by the County Party Executive Committee or me, therefore they do not represent the views of the Democratic Party. I am not your enemy and neither is the Democratic Party.

Both Justice Yanez and I appreciate the fact that you interviewed her when she visited Lubbock last month.

I am certainly prepared to respect and abide by your decision about interviewing other Democratic candidates on your radDear Mrs. Barrick,

Thank you for your prompt response. Your information is very well received. I am relieved to know that Clyde James does not speak for you or the Democratic

I am anxious to interview candidates in the coming campaigns. Please let me know when we can serve West Texas by having the contenders on our radio program. We want to help get the word out to the voters.

Sincerely, Armando Gonzales



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".

Pues este hijo del Alacra ahora escucha por hay que no va haber contrincantes encontra del Comisionado Ysidro Gutiereez en la primaria Democrața. Pues si es verdad quizas la primaria Democrata local no va tener candidatos con contricantes. Si es verdad, y todavia no esta confirmado, Ysidro se tendra que esperar hasta Noviembre pa' encontrarse con oposicion de un esperado Republicano. Ha pero si no cuentas que la actual "Constable" Marina Garcia no va buscar re-eleccion y que ya se estan preparando algunos para buscar el puesto. Veremos en el cercano futuro ya que ya esta cercas la "deadline". *****************

Ah pero que si va haber competencia en la primaria nacional. Ya estamos cercas de la primaria que se llevara acabo aqui en Texas en Febrero y parese que ninguno de los actuales candidatos se quieren rajar ya que las equestras los llevan a todos de pescueso a pescueso....taduson para "neck and neck" *****************

Y los Cowboys y los Red Raider se estan aventando. Los Raider parese que van para el Gator Bowl y los Cowboy pa' el Super Bowl. Ya veremos. Hasta la próxima. Recuerde no haga nada mal por este hijo del Alacran ando donde menos lo esperan! Adios.

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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 Martin, 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 des-

apercibida. El 15 de noviembre, directora de Personnel Management, Linda Springemitió una misiva a todas las agencias

federa-

les des-

cargan-

do 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 Pro-

> gram, formaban parte de un decreto por consentimiento que impusiera un tribunal federal distrital en

1981 para resolver un caso de litigación colectiva, Luéva-

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 cétera. 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 desquitarme. 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 desquitarnos.

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.

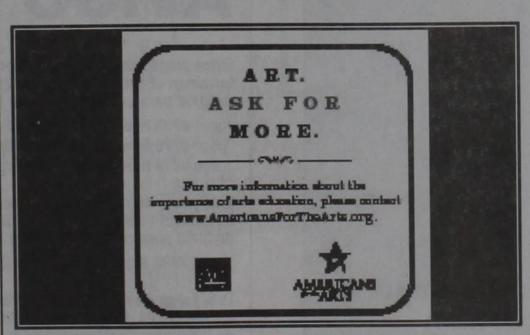
The Center for Public Service is a leading provider of public-sector management training, technical assistance and project management in West Texas. It serves as the sole provider of the Certified Public Manager program in the region.

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.

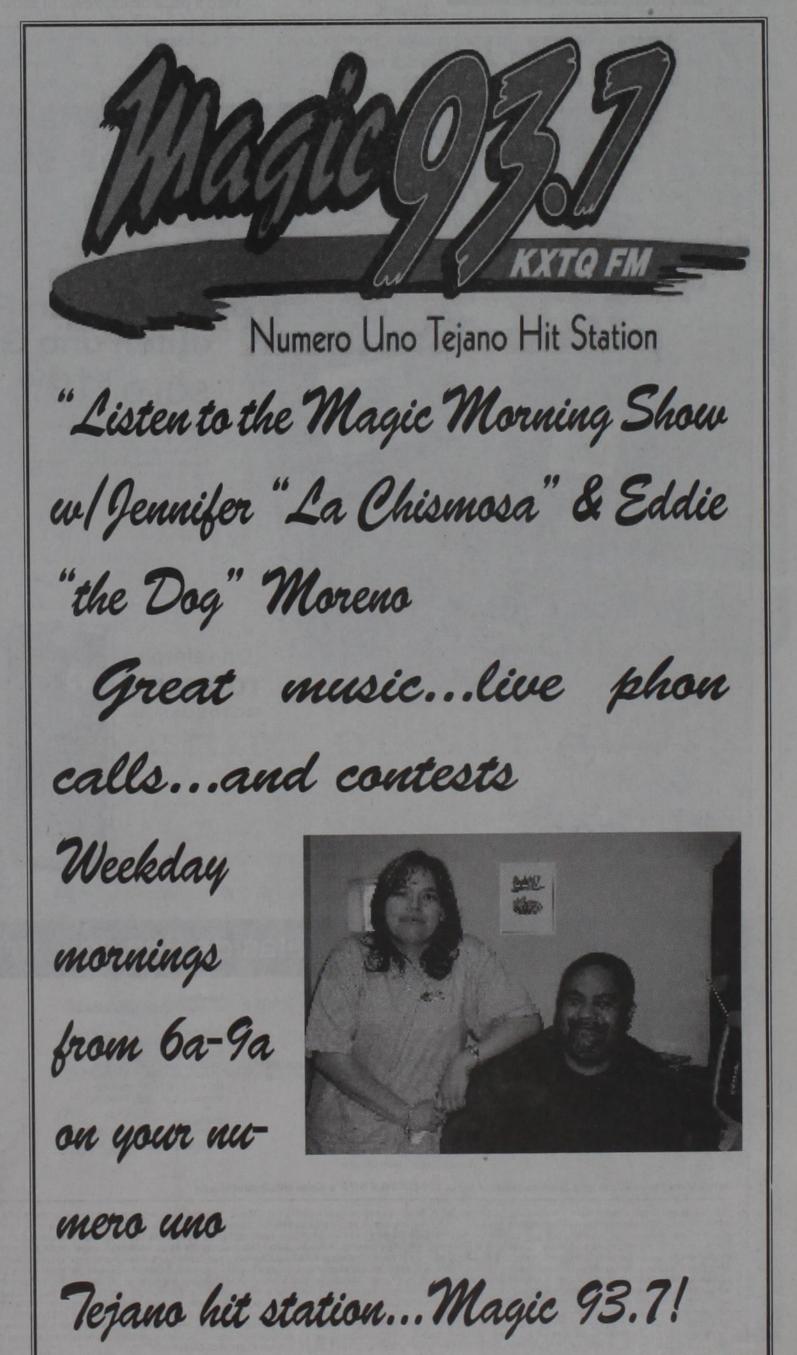
CONTACT: Thomas Longoria, director, the Center for Public Service, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-4786, thomas.longoria@ttu.edu

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Luis Miguel Accepts Michelle Salas as Daughter

The show Hoy reports that the singer is fulfilling his role as her dad after a DNA



Is Michelle Salas the 18-year-old daughter of Luis Miguel? According to the show Hoy (Televisa), we

test

answer is yes. The singer, 37, underwent a paternity test two months ago to put an

can all stop

speculating,

because the

end to the rumors that Salas was his first daughter. The Mexican program reported that the results came back positive, which is why we've been seeing them together a lot lately.

Salas is currently studying fashion design in Los Angeles. She and Luismi have supposedly got closer after his son with actress Aracely Arámbula, Miguel, was born.

World Her Baby!

sociated Press. Valentina Paloma was born on Sept. 21. She's the first child of Hayek and her fiancé, French businessman François-Henri

Miranda! No sólo electropop En su nuevo disco, el grupo argentino explora las posibilidades y los límites de la música popular A estas alturas, todos los

seguidores de Miranda! deben

saber que el nombre del grupo argentino proviene de un actor que fue muy popular en su país

durante los 60 y 70 (se llamaba Osvaldo).

"Es un tipo al que se reconocía mucho por su elegancia al vestir", dice la cantante Juliana Gattás: "era como una estampita de Buenos Aires. Una persona muy refinada y muy querida en el ambiente, tanto por las mujeres como por los hombres".

Sin embargo, el asunto del punto de exclamación no resulta todavía claro. "Es para que sea pronunciado con propiedad, con entusiasmo", explica el vocalista Alex Sergi. Claro que esto no justifica que la exclamación se coloque sólo al final, como en el inglés. "Es que es la propiedad de la multicultura y de la universalidad de nuestra música".

En todo caso, hay que saber que muchas de las actitudes del grupo tienen que ver con una aproximación al postmodernismo que se basa justamente en retomar elementos del pasado y combinarlos con usos del presente.

"Terminamos siendo un proyecto que resulta bastante original, pero no es que estemos buscando mostrarnos de un modo determinado", retoma Alex. "Lo que pasa

es que no queremos limitarnos a un sólo estilo. Cada uno de nosotros trae al grupo lo que le gusta, sin importar de donde sea".

probando el sonido".

CONTRA LOS PREJUICIOS En algunas entrevistas, el mismo músico ha dicho que Miranda! surgió como un

"Normalmente, lo que pasa en los grupos es que la mujer canta la parte más alta y el hombre la más grave", comenta Lolo. "En

> nuestro caso es al revés, pero eso no significa que haya sido algo planeado, sino que se dio durante los ensayos".

En Enamorada de ti, uno de los cortes del tercer disco de

Miranda! El disco de tu corazón, Juliana se encarga de la voz principal, pero, por lo general, su rol en el grupo no es tan preponderante como el de Alex.

"Este álbum tiene más duetos que los anteriores, aunque no trabajamos sobre la base de una pregunta y una respuesta, como lo hace por ejemplo Pimpinela, a excepción de una canción nueva que se llama Hola, y que se acerca quizás a ese estilo", comenta el vocalista.

La cuestión del baile es esencial en Miranda!, que ha llenado muchas veces sus videos de vistosas coreografías, interpretadas siempre por los mismos integrantes de la banda, como ocurrió sobre todo en el de Yo te diré, un claro homenaje a la película West Side Story.

"Tuvimos que aprender a hacer todo ese baile con una coreógrafa profesional, porque la verdad es que nosotros no somos bailarines". continúa Juliana. "La idea era hacer una suerte de remake de West Side Story, y es por eso que estábamos dispuestos a someternos al tratamiento que fuera necesario".



Aunque el conjunto se orienta hacia el electropop, no posee un nombre que remita a ese

"Bueno, pero el nombre de Pet Shop Boys tampoco alude al electropop, y eso es lo que hacen", protesta el vocalista. "Usamos ese nombre porque sonaba bien y porque le encontramos además un sentido estético".

subgénero musical.

Ahora es cuarteto, pero en sus inicios era un trío. "En los primeros conciertos sólo estábamos Lolo Fuentes, Juliana y yo", dice Alex. "Pero es que salimos muy rápido a tocar, porque nos moríamos de ganas de hacerlo".

El hecho de que Miranda! no tenga baterista tiene que ver con el desencanto que Alex tuvo con los percusionistas que trabajaron en su proyecto anterior, Mamá Vaca.

"Sacamos dos discos, pero fue un fracaso rotundo", confiesa el cantante. "El problema no era el baterista, sino la batería, porque había que cargarla, armarla y pasar mucho tiempo

ente opositor a la mentalidad rockera, directa y agresiva que abundaba en los predios juveniles de Argentina.

"Tenemos a un guitarrista, pero la verdad es que cuando llamamos a Lolo, queríamos que fuera el cantante", sigue Alex. "Se apareció con su guitarra, y no le dijimos nada, porque no teníamos una idea precisa de la formación que buscábamos".

Según el cantante, el grupo ha servido en su país como detonante de una nueva actitud de tolerancia dentro del universo de la música. "Como tenemos toda clase de influencias, no podemos decir que lo nuestro sea únicamente el electropop", explica. "En el nuevo álbum, tenemos baladas que llevan guitarras acústicas y hasta cosas de cumbia, por ejemplo".

Lolo sigue haciendo coros en el grupo, pero la realidad es que los dos cantantes principales son Alex y Juliana (él más que ella), lo que logra un original contrapunto que se basa en la voz particularmente aguda del

tocó con una destreza que, según

creó, sino que se sienta tan vital como en los viejos tiempos. Claro que el Van Halen actual se encuentra en una difícil coyuntura: surgió en medio del puente que se dio entre el hardrock de los 70 y el metal de la siguiente década, una etapa

repertorio que se interpreta no re-

mita sólo a la época en la que se

tral del concierto. Y el problema básico parece ser que la música fuerte que se creó en los 80 dentro de Los Angeles (cuna de Van Halen) no ha sobrevivido decentemente la prueba del tiempo, convirtiéndose más bien en objeto de ironía debido a sus excesos materialistas y de maquillaje.

que se convirtió en el tema cen-

Eddie Van Halen sigue siendo un guitarrista extraordinario, y durante la noche del martes,

muchos comentarios, no había ostentado en giras recientes de la banda.

Sin embargo, sus vibrantes solos, llenos de trucos y de momentos técnicos impresionantes, sonaron demasiado apegados al estito de "héroe del rock" que fundó el movimiento metalero de los 80, pero que ahora no encuentra realmente respaldo en los conocedores que siguen respetando profundamente el trabajo de guitarristas del rock históricamente previos, como Jimi Hendrix, Tony Iommy y Richie Blackmore.

De todos modos, su interpretación de Eruption — una sesión instrumental plasmada en el primer disco de la banda— lo encontró en dominio completo de las cuerdas, el trémolo y las perillas de su instrumento, que manejó completamente a su antojo en búsqueda del sonido explosivo que buscaba cuando lo gestó.

Salma Shows the

The Mexican actress debuted the first images of little Valentina

Two months after the arrival of her daughter, new mom Salma Hayek has finally given the world a first look at baby Valentina Paloma Pinault. The photo of

the proud mom, 40, and baby - who's wearing an adorable floral print - was snapped by Hayek's PR agency, ID, and circulated by As-

Pinault.

la nostalgia de los 80 Van Halen: víctima de de Van Halen ocupan un lugar No faltó ninguna de las canciones realizado por Van Halen el martrascendental en la historia del tes en el Staples Center no dejó rock, volverse un clásico del nunca de tener un fuerte sabor género implica lograr que el

que el público esperaba escuchar. Todos los músicos se mostraron eficientes y brillantes en la interpretación de sus instrumentos y el enorme recinto se encontró completamente lleno de una audiencia que no dejó de festejar todo lo que ocurría sobre en el escenario.

Pero a pesar de todo esto, el show

correo de \$75 con un acuerdo por servicio de 2 años en ambas lineas. Consulta la parte inferior para obtene

a nostalgia, esa palabra que los rockeros que llevan varias décadas en el negocio suelen tener como enemiga si es que pretenden mantenerse realmente vigentes.

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Missouri vs. Oklahoma Big 12 Championship

Missouri has more than payback 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 Auston 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."

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Favre, Romo fend off comparisons as showdown looms

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

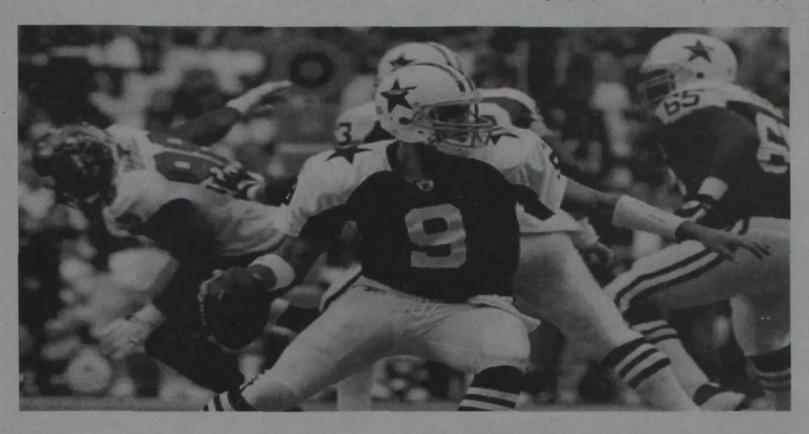
Still, Favre has to admit there are some striking similarities

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."

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,



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-

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

"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."

the time.

Heck, Favre admits that Romo might be faster than he ever was.

"Or he seems that way," Favre

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 Fal-

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

cons to bring Favre to Green Bay.

"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

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 offseason 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 posi-

"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."

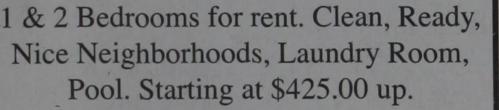
And now?

"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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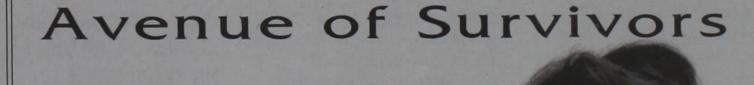
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LUBBOCK

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

by 2010, Cordova said he hopes to tions within the United States

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-

and focuses efforts overseas on

preventing diseases from reach-

ing 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

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 tradesector 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.

Lubbock - Hundreds of Catholic faithful from through-

out the Diocese of Lubbock

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

tion of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock.

Celebra-

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

Catholic faithful to honor Virgin of Guadalupe in annual procession Celebrant: Rev. Heriberto Mer-

cado Theme: The Lord Has Done

Great Things for Me



_ 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 Colleen Flanagan.

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

provide "health care to all Mexi-

cans regardless of where they are."

been growing (around the world),

grappling with for some time. I be-

lieve there should be agreements

among countries to guarantee a

and it is something we will be

"The migratory phenomenon has

Barack Obama: Obama believes the federal government should be doing more to encourage transitional bilingual education." -email 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



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

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

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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!!!