

El Editor

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

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Week of November 8-14, 2007

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Lubbock, Texas 79401

Casualties of
War in Iraq
3,857
as of Novem-
ber 8, 2007

News Briefs

Commissioner Gutiérrez Responds to County Democratic Party Chair

Last week, El Editor reported that the Lubbock County Democratic Party Chair had called an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee in order to address rumors that 2 of the party's precinct chairs were going to make public statements concerning the ongoing politically charged feud between Lubbock County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez and Lubbock Councilwoman Linda DeLeon.

According to party Chair Susan Barrick, the meeting was called, "because it came to my attention that two members of the Executive Committee were apparently formulating and planning to go public with the matter and do so as "officials" of the Democratic Party.

This week, El Editor obtained a copy of an email Gutierrez emailed to Barrick. The email states: "In this matter, I am 100% certain I acted properly. I believe I acted in the interest of the people of District 1. I have clearly communicated my reasons for calling on Linda DeLeon to resign. As the elected representative of the people of Precinct 3, I believe that it is my duty and responsibility to stand for and defend open government, freedom of speech, honesty, integrity, and the rule of law.

I respectfully stand in total disagreement with the five (5) members who believe that Linda DeLeon is a fit representative."

In another development in this story, El Editor also received a letter to the editor from Clyde James in which he gives his version of the events. We have printed the letter in our letters to the editor section on page 2.

We also tried to contact Commissioner Gutierrez to see if he could clarify his statement about the "five (5) members who believe that Linda DeLeon is a fit representative", but did not hear back from him prior to going to press.

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Constitutional Amendment Election Sees Low Voter Turnout in Lubbock County

Final numbers from the Texas Secretary of State's office show that less than 9 percent of the state's voters turned out to vote for or against the proposed 16 amendments to the state's constitution.

While all 16 amendments passed statewide, only 14 of them won passage in Lubbock County. Countywide results show that all amendments passed by a wide margin except for propositions 15 and 16.

Proposition 12 called for the issuance of bonds up to \$5 billion dollars for highway improvements. In Lubbock County, the measure passed 54.29% to 45.7%. That was the closest margin of all the propositions which passed in the county.

But Propositions 15 and 16 did not fare so well with voters. Proposition 15 called for the creation of a cancer prevention and research institute of Texas. While it passed statewide by a margin of 61.43% for and 38.57% against, in Lubbock County the measure was defeated by a margin of 53.03% against and 46.96% for.

Proposition 16, which called for the issuance of bonds to provide assistance to economically distressed areas in the state also received no sympathy from Lubbock County voters. The measure failed by a margin of 50.93% against and 49.06 % for.

But the measure passed statewide 60.77% for to 39.23% against; which means that the money will be made available for the areas which meet the criteria for receiving the funds.

On Proposition 4, an amendment which will directly impact the Lubbock region; county voters voted "for" by a margin of 66.20% to 33.79%. This amendment provides for the issuance of up to \$1.1 billion dollars in bonds for new construction projects. One of those projects will be new Texas Department of Public Safety offices in north Lubbock.

Statewide, only 8.46 percent of the state's registered voters cast a ballot, which was slightly better than Lubbock County voters who represented 7.61% of the county's 151,720 registered voters; or roughly 11, 545 voters.

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Lubbock City Council Members Subpoenaed to Appear in Court

Late Wednesday, the local news media is reporting that at least 4 current city council members have been subpoenaed to appear in court to either be deposed or to testify in the city's ongoing legal dispute with the city's former insurance claims administrator, AAG.

The city has asked Judge Ruben Reyes to rule that the council members do not need to testify or be deposed. But it was still unclear how Judge Reyes would rule on that issue.

The four council members scheduled to appear in court Thursday (11/08/07) morning are Mayor David Miller, and Council members Floyd Price, Linda DeLeon and Phyllis Jones.

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New Tech Administrator Comes With Unresolved Allegations of Sexual Harassment

According to a story in the El Paso Times, he has a "seven-year history of complaints including sexual harassment and interfering with police investigations on campus" being lodged against him.

Come November 13, he will have a new job and call Lubbock home as he assumes the position of "top financial administrator at Texas Tech University", according to the report.

The story goes on to say that his official position will be "executive director of correctional managed health care" and he will be responsible for oversight of the school's contracts "to provide medical care for inmates at Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities".

His name is Larry Elkins, and until November 12, he will continue in his position of associate dean for finance and administration at Tech's El Paso campus.

What some people may view as disturbing though is the fact that the allegations of sexual harassment and the other complaints against him have never been properly resolved.

El Editor was made aware of this report by a reader who sent us a link to the story.

To read a full script of the story, readers can access it at:

<http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci/736913>

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Texas teens lead nation in birth rate

While the national teen birth rate has slowed, Texas has made far less headway, alarming public health officials and child advocates.

Texas teens lead the nation in having babies. Last month, the nonprofit group Child Trends conferred another No. 1 ranking on Texas. In the latest statistics available, 24 percent of the state's teen births in 2004 were



not the girl's first delivery.

Texas' policy is to deny contraceptives without parental consent wherever possible and to push an abstinence-only sex education program in public schools.

Experts, though, are questioning that approach. They note that from 1991 to 2004, the state's teen birth rate dropped by 19 percent, while the U.S. rate dipped by one-third.

By contrast, California, which has seen its teen birth rate drop by 47 percent in the same period, teaches abstinence but also explains contraception at school and has gone to dispensing birth control to teenage boys and girls - for free, no parental consent required - in community clinics and doctors' offices.

Immigration Issue Might Push Southwest to Democrats

By Steven Thomma
Washington - When President Lyndon Johnson signed the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, he said to an aide, "We just gave the South to the Republicans."

Indeed, Democrats lost their hold on the old Confederacy over the next decade, turning it into a bastion of Republican strength, first in presidential elections and later in congressional elections.

Now, another Texas president might well ask whether his Republican Party just gave away another section of the country, the Southwest and Mountain West.

President Bush had a way with Hispanic voters, steadily increasing his party's share of the once-solid Democratic bloc from a dismal 21 percent in 1996 to 35 percent in 2000, 37 percent in 2002 and 40 to 44 percent in 2004.

His comprehensive immigration proposal might have helped build on those gains, with its path to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants.

But his proposal outraged his party's conservative base. That base opposed the proposal for the last two years - contributing to a drop-off in Hispanic support for Republican congressional candidates last year - and finally killed the plan in the Senate last week.

With it went Bush's hopes of a growing Republican share of the nation's fastest-growing demographic group.

Short term, the immigration plan's defeat could help Republicans on one side of the ledger, by shoring up the conservative base.

That's particularly true going into 2008 if the party nominates any of the many presidential candidates who oppose any form of leniency for illegal immigrants. Of the Republican field, only Arizona Sen. John McCain supported a path to citizenship, and he's paying a price as his support in the party is dropping fast.

But on the other side of the balance sheet, watch for the Hispanic vote to return to its lopsided support of Democrats. And with continuing growth in the Hispanic

education, media campaigns and state-provided birth control.

While the political cultures and religious traditions of Texas and California differ, the two huge states share fast-growing immigrant populations who are especially at risk of teen childbearing. Hispanics by far have the highest teen birth rates of any ethnic group. In 2004, Hispanic girls ages 15 to 19 accounted for 61 percent of teen births even though only 39 percent of Texas adolescents were Hispanic, according to the federal National Center for Health Statistics.

It's unsurpassed in the country," said Kathy Kneer, president of the Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California.

Bill Albert, deputy director of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, said the California effort hasn't wavered.

"Through Republican and Democratic administrations, they have put an awful lot into preventing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease," Mr. Albert said.

California pours resources into cities or regions where teen pregnancy spikes and also funds youth development programs that stress skills development or the value of going to college, said Claire Brindis and Douglas Kirby, California research scientists who have evaluated sex-education programs for the government and other groups.

A Wilson-backed program called Family PACT "made contraception substantially more available to

Though low-income teens have a federally protected right to get birth control without parents' consent under Medicaid and family planning grants, many teenage girls in Texas don't learn that until it's too late.

Making possibly fateful decisions in the mid-1990s were two Republican governors with their eyes on the White House - California's Pete Wilson and Texas' George W. Bush. Mr. Bush endorsed a law that requires schools to teach abstinence as the "preferred choice" for unmarried young people and affirms parents' rights to take their youngsters out of sex-education instruction. Mr. Wilson won passage of a far-ranging program of "abstinence-plus"

vote, that's the side that could dominate. That could push Florida away from Republicans, and remember how important it was to the party in 2000. That's partly why Florida Sen. Mel Martinez, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, pushed for the Bush immigration plan in the Senate.

More importantly, it also could push away the Southwest - and help Democrats build a new base in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico, where a jump in Hispanic population is turning the region into the fastest growing in the country. The region has 29 Electoral College votes for president - sure to grow again after the 2010 census - and dozens of seats in the Senate and House of Representatives.

In Arizona, Republicans still hold both Senate seats, but Democrats gained two House seats there in 2006 and popular Democrat Janet Napolitano holds the governor's office.

In Colorado, Democrat Ken Salazar won one of the two Senate seats in 2004, and Democrats took the governor's office and a U.S. House seat last year. They'll fight fiercely next year for the Senate seat that's being vacated by retiring Republican Wayne Allard.

The Democrats will hold their national convention in Denver next year.

In New Mexico, Democrat Bill Richardson was just re-elected governor, and the party holds one of two Senate seats. Republican Sen. Pete Domenici is up for re-election next year.

In Nevada, home to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Democrats gave the state a coveted spot on the presidential nominating calendar - second, after Iowa - to allow the state's Hispanic voters a bigger say in the nomination.

Democrats have been predicting a takeover of the Southwest for a decade. And they've made some gains. Now, with the Republican-led defeat of the comprehensive immigration plan, they might get what they've long wanted.

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teens," Dr. Kirby said. "The number of providers increased. And by making income eligibility apply to the teen herself, not the family, most teens qualify. In most other states, if a teenager comes to a clinic they ask about family income."

Dr. Brindis of the University of California at San Francisco, though, isn't satisfied.

"There are still a lot of teenagers who do not come in for services," she said. "I do not want to paint a panacea."

In Texas, social conservatives such as Cathie Adams of Eagle Forum suggest that liberal abortion policies and not the Wilson program may account for California's teen birth rate dip - from 74 births per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19 in 1991 to 39 in 2004. In Texas, the 1991 mark was 78 births per 1,000; and the latest, 63.

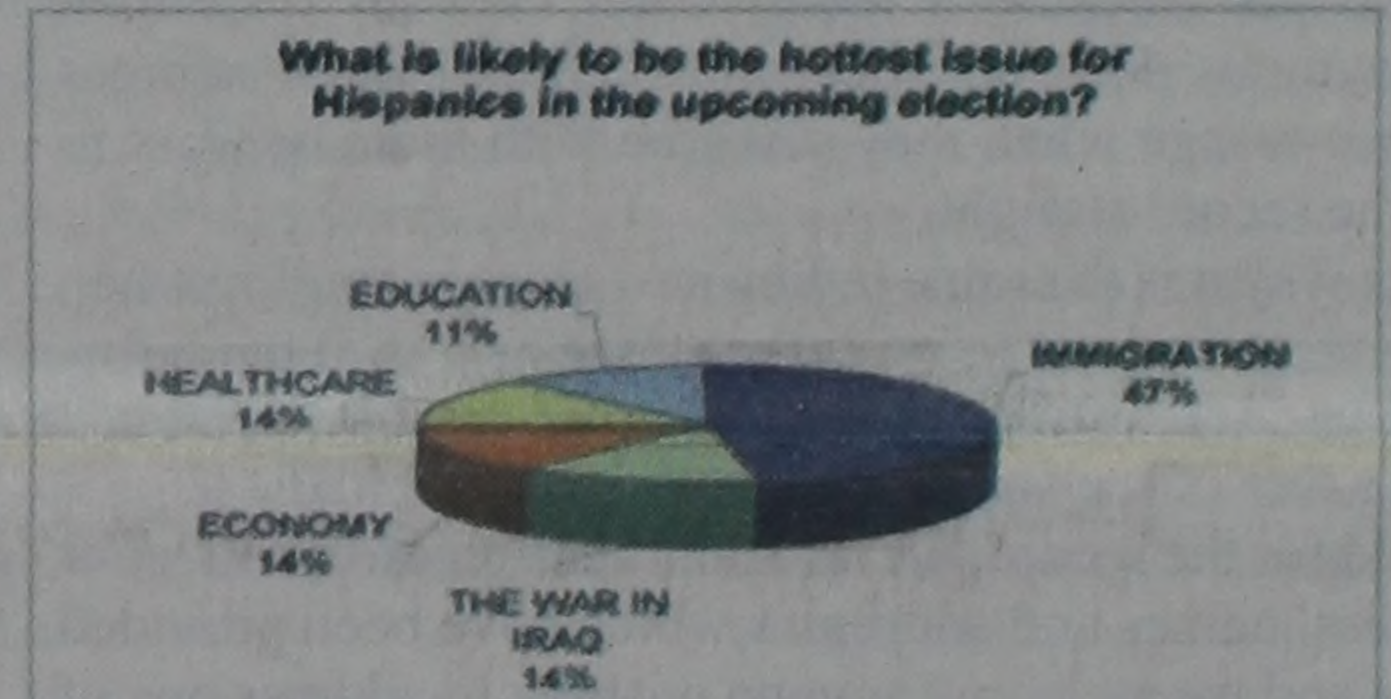
"I certainly wouldn't believe anything coming out of California," Ms. Adams said. "I don't know where abortion comes in under their laws. ... Most anything that plays

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Survey Gives Early Nod to Clinton and Giuliani

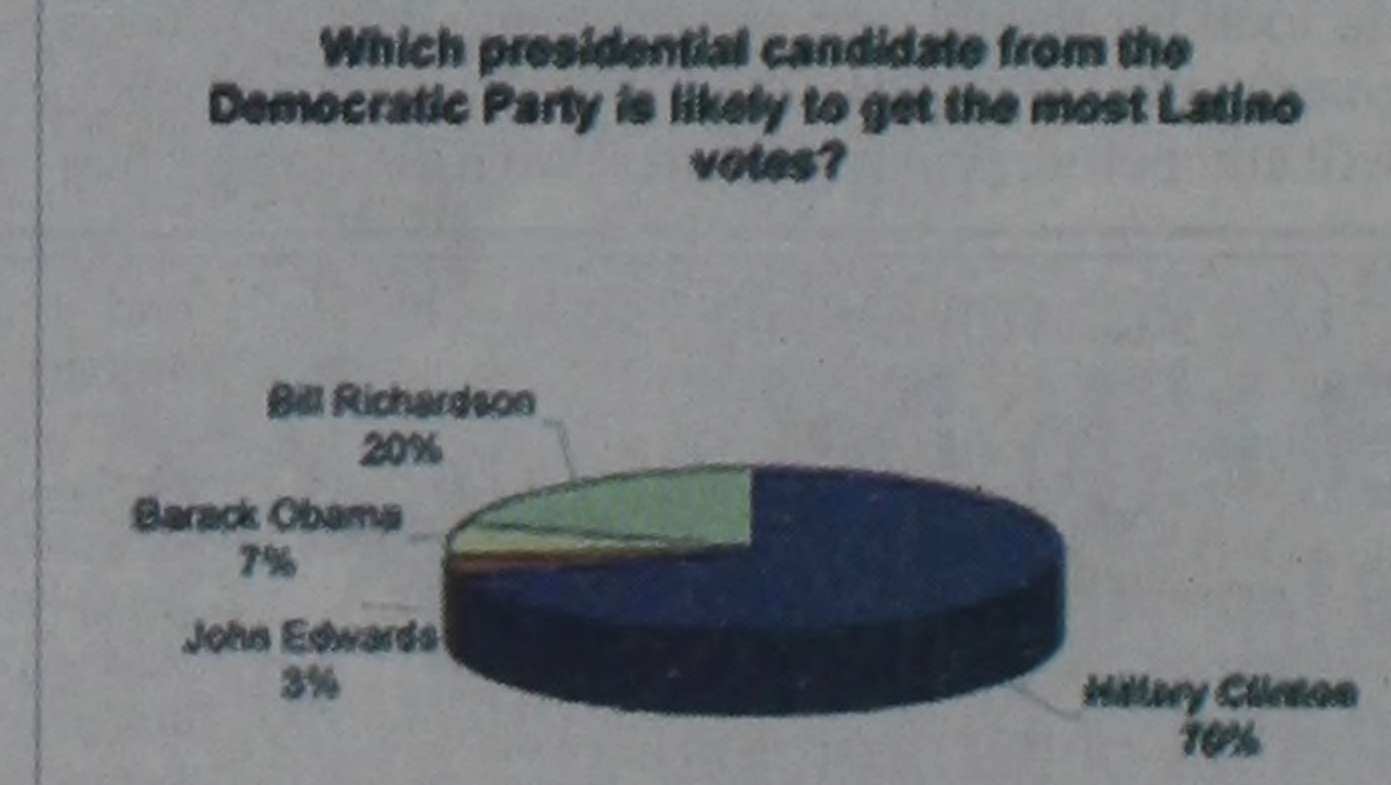
Hispanic PR Wire, the nation's leading and most comprehensive Hispanic press release wire service reaching U.S. Hispanic media and opinion leaders, conducted an online survey of Latino journalists to gauge media attitudes towards the upcoming election and political candidates. The results from the media survey, "The Pulse of Latino Press: A Cross-Section Survey of Targeted U.S. Hispanic Media on the 2008 Election," s and other political leaders on what is most important to the U.S. Hispanic."

Below are the results according to the online national survey conducted



by Hispanic PR Wire:

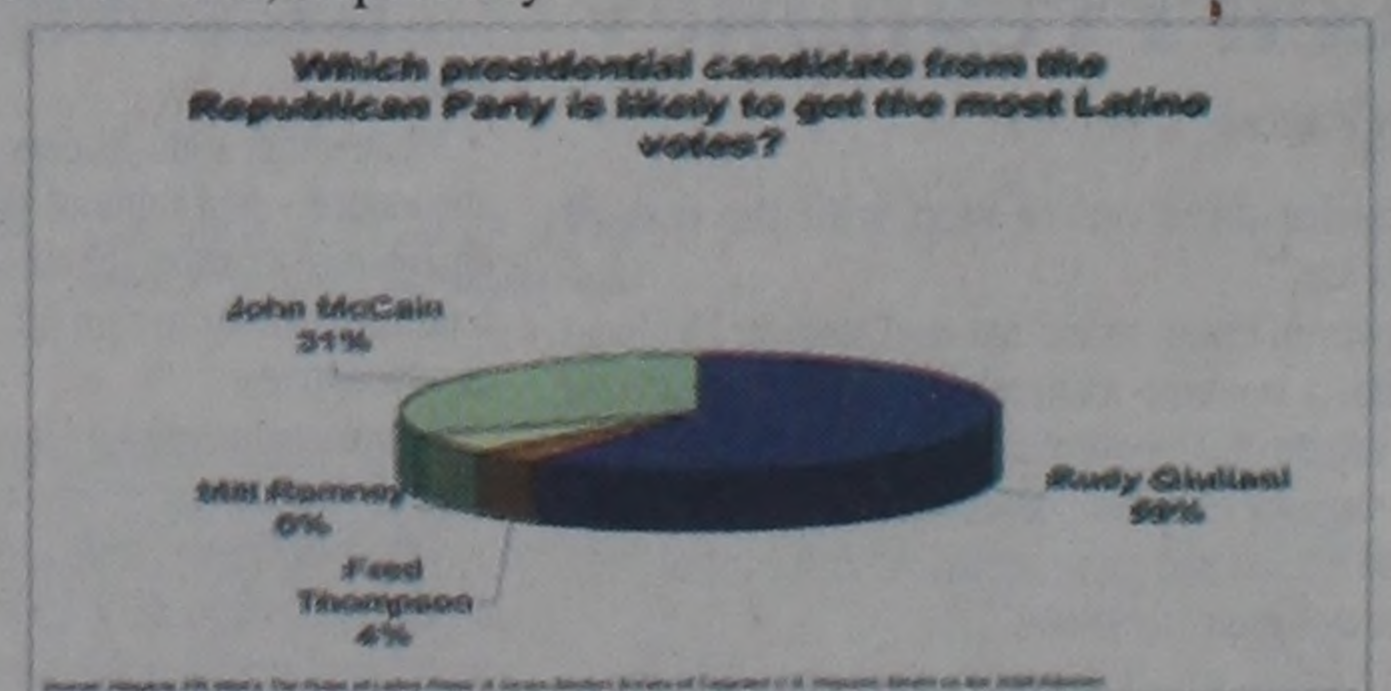
-- Immigration was identified by 47% of survey respondents when asked, "What is likely to be the hottest issue for Hispanics in the upcoming election?" Other topics included the war in Iraq, the economy and



healthcare with 14% each, while education received 11% of responses.

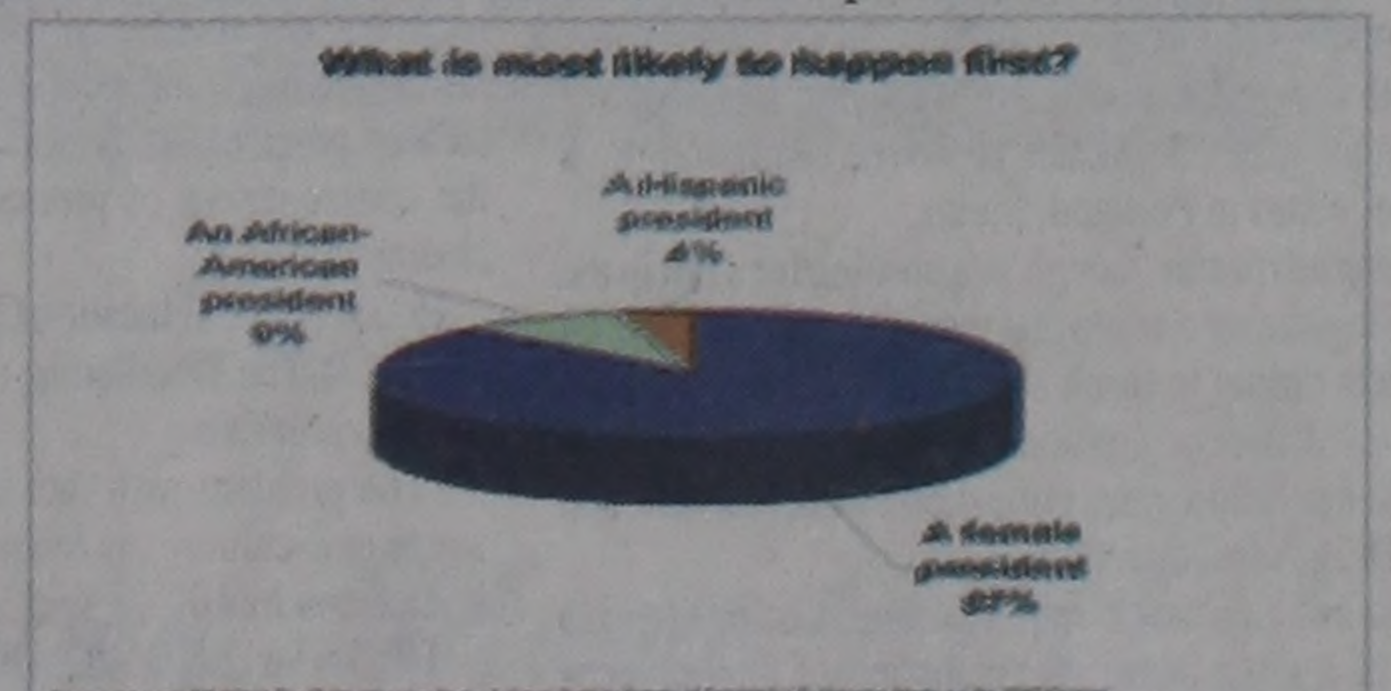
-- Overall, New Mexico Governor and Democratic hopeful Bill Richardson was identified as "the presidential candidate with the most favorable position regarding immigration" with 33% of responses. Following closely is Senator Hillary Clinton with 30% of survey respondents. While other candidates received low percentages (John McCain with 15%, Barack Obama with 10%, Rudy Giuliani with 6%, John Edwards with 5% and Mitt Romney with 1%), Republican Fred Thompson received no votes regarding having a discernable position towards immigration.

-- Senator Hillary Clinton was identified by 70% of survey respondents when prompted, "Which presidential candidate from the Democratic party is likely to get the most Latino votes?" Bill Richardson received 20% of the votes with Barack Obama and John Edwards receiving 7% and 3% of votes, respectfully.



-- Rudy Giuliani was identified by 59% of survey respondents when prompted, "Which presidential candidate from the Republican party is likely to get the most Latino votes?" John McCain received 31% of votes while Mitt Romney and Fred Thompson received 6% and 4% of votes, respectfully.

-- When prompted what was most likely to occur first, 87% of survey respondents felt that a female president would be elected first. Nine percent indicated an African-American president would come into



power first while only 4% indicated that a Hispanic president would be elected first.

Editorial

Anonymous Letters and an Apology

Over the past few weeks, we have received our fair share of criticism for our editorial decision to print letters to the editor from someone using their initials instead of their full name.

Although no one likes to be criticized, we realize that it is just part of the newspaper business. And to us it represents the fact that at least people care enough to take the time to write in and express their views even if they are different from the many views expressed in this newspaper. They may not agree; but the fact that they take the time to write in, says a lot to us.

For over 30 years now, we have strived to maintain what we call an "open forum" so that readers may feel free to express their opinions and feelings about whichever issue they choose.

Early on, we realized that our role in the discussion would be to provide a "free publication" so that 1) we could provide weekly space for readers and non-readers alike to freely engage in conversations with other readers about a variety of issues, and 2) that a publication like ours needed to have a different policy when deciding which letters to print or not to print.

And from those viewpoints we decided that we would stand for something different; a newspaper which could be counted on to publish opposing views and both popular and unpopular stances; sometimes in the uncensored words of readers themselves; and anonymously at times.

When we looked at other newspapers, including the local daily here, we realized that we did not want to use some of the same criteria others use, such as selective censoring or simply choosing not to print because of who the writer is or because we happen to disagree with the content.

There have been a countless number of times when we did not agree with the letter writers and frankly have had to "turn the other cheek" when publishing some of the letters we receive. But, even those letter writers have a right to express their opinions.

We also realized that if we provided a forum where a letter writer could retain their anonymity, then we might be more successful at getting people to participate in our open forums and discussions. Truth is most people are more than willing to express an opinion on a topic; if they are able to maintain their anonymity; although, a lot of people also provide their full name.

And just because a letter writer chooses to remain anonymous does not mean that others cannot address their message when they disagree with them or want to set the record straight.

In a way it is the same policy newspapers employ when they are asked not to reveal a source or it is given information on a "off the record" basis or on "background". The name of the source is never divulged either.

And for the record, we do maintain a record of all letter writers' names and addresses which have been provided to us and we welcome anyone wishing to address one of the anonymous writer's comments to write us and we will print your letter using the same set of criteria.

We do not see ourselves as arbiters of right or wrong, good or bad, left or right, liberal or conservative, etc. What we do look for though are personal attacks and make a judgment call as to whether we will print at all or whether we will edit before printing a letter. We feel strongly that

a person can address another's arguments and message without personally attacking the messenger.

By the time some of our reader's letters appear in print or on our web site, www.eleditor.com, we have usually taken out some personal reference or some sentence which the letter writer may see as humorous or inoffensive but we see as offensive or too personal.

But not having an ability to judge the "intent" on the part of the writer; we usually decide to err on the side of caution.

Now, have we missed some things along the way? Yes we have.

As one of our readers recently pointed out to us on our web site's discussion board; "Thank you Bidal for all the years of service and good reporting. Lately El Editor has really been hopping. I love to read Charles Dunn, Abel Cruz, and other's writings. The Halloween writer however; is getting a little rude and may be causing some hurt feelings, especially when calling people very bad names like Ms. Piggy. I find that to be extremely rude. It's not cool at all." - Margie Ceja

We agree with Ms. Ceja on this one and we should have caught it and edited that reference completely out. We apologize to anyone who may have been offended by that comment; we will strive to do better.

But, at the same time, we ask this theoretical/rhetorical question; "what happens when what we deem to be inappropriate is deemed as freedom of speech by someone else"?

A tough question which we debate often and one we hope readers will write to us on.

Nevertheless we "hear" what our readers are saying and respect their right to say it. But we also do not want to go down the road where we become overly "politically correct" to the point where we are censoring letter writer's content and infringing on their freedom of expression.

We are of the generation when others tried to suppress our own voices through social control and it wasn't that many years ago. It was not right then and it would not be right for us to exercise that same tactic now in our role as one of the public voices in our community.

On the front page of each week's edition we use a popular phrase coined by one of Mexico's historical political figures; Benito Juarez who once said, "El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz".

We use that quotation because we believe in its intent and meaning. It simply means that when we respect others personal rights, then we have a better chance of achieving peace between people and nations.

We will continue to respect other people's privacy and rights when it comes to our editorial process. But we will also continue to strive to champion for personal rights and the right of personal freedom of expression;

But we will try and do a better job of making sure that in that process we do whatever we feel is necessary so that we do no harm.

We realize we will never please all the people all of the time; but all we can do is provide a forum so that those people who disagree with our editorial decisions may use that same forum to voice their disagreement with us.

That much; we will try and continue to do.

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

LETTERS TO THE Editor

Send Mail to: eleditor@sbcglobal.net



Unsigned Letters Disappoint Reader

I am disappointed to see El Editor running letters to the editor which are unsigned (or only have someone's initials.) This makes it way to easy to submit falsehoods and have no one to correct. If I have something to say, I will proudly sign my name. And I would seriously question anyone without the courage to do so.

Johnnie Jones, Midland, via Email
(The writer was former Lubbock County Democratic Party Chair up until just a few weeks ago when she resigned her position to move to Midland)

Two Tacos Short

A City (Councilman), it has been rumored, will introduce a city ordinance on guidelines for the wearing of trousers!

Wow! Are we really going to waste time and money on such a ludicrous ordinance!

What is next?
Should we be concerned about how long or short a gentleman's neck tie shall be allowed! (I like to wear mine on the belt line)

Or maybe, I should be told when to tuck in my shirt or what color socks I should wear. (I can never seem to get my socks to match the color of my shirt - actually I'm lucky if I get the same colored socks on each foot!)

Seems to me we've got a few leaders in the city that need to get their priorities squared away!

Some of us are a little concerned --- that well maybe, the current leadership is; as they say, "Two tacos short of a combo plate!"
Steve Bustos, Lubbock via Email

Personal Vendettas Making Democratic Elected Officials a Laughing Stock

The letter from "RMS" states that Linda DeLeón originated the idea of a special meeting of the County Democratic Executive Committee. That is false. She did not know of the meeting, or of the agenda, until after a resolution had been drafted and all the members of the committee notified.

The letter states that I, C. James, took actions that resulted in the meeting being called. That is false. The meeting was called at the behest of County Chair Sue Barrick.

The letter states that I am "Linda's boy," presumably meaning that I have defended her tenure on the council against what in my opinion have been hysterical and unfounded attacks based on rumor, false beliefs, and at times, outright racism. I have been a friend and supporter of Linda's for 23 years, and remain one. If "RMS" believes that makes me "Linda's boy," then I am proud to be called that.

The detractors of Linda DeLeón have, in my opinion, stooped to a new low. In an e-mail posted on "Pratt on Texas," and written by Armando Gonzales, another outspoken supporter of Linda is described as a "pig," and her associates as "piglets" and "automatons." I believe such talk has no place in the working out of differences of political opinion, especially among Democrats. It is undignified, and sleazy, and should stop now.

"RMS" states in the letter that the purpose of the special meeting of the Democratic committee was to jump on Ysidro Gutiérrez, and to take sides in various political disputes involving him, Mr. Gonzales and Linda. That is false.

Prior to the special meeting of the Democratic committee, a resolution was put together by four individuals who are members of the committee. That resolution was never introduced at the special meeting. The wording of the resolution stated several things very clearly: If passed, the Democratic Party Executive Committee would have gone on record as declaring the following: the party would have taken no side in any of the disputes concerning the Visitors' Center, the location of the Center, the purchase of property for the Center, the location of a César Chávez street, or on the recall effort launched against Councilwoman DeLeón. The Party would have declared that no officeholder whatsoever who is a Democrat in Lubbock County speaks for the Committee on those issues, but rather for him or herself alone.

The Party would have stated that in its opinion no member of the Commissioner's Court should make public pronouncements about the details of City Council business unless that Commissioner states clearly that he or she speaks for him or herself as an individual, and not as a Party member, or as a Commissioner. The Party would have stated the same about Council members speaking about Commissioner's business. So "RMS" was false again in stating incorrectly that the purpose of the resolution was to "take sides" in any political disputes involving Democrats in Lubbock. The purpose of the resolution should be clear from the above paragraphs.

I really wonder who "RMS" is. I also wonder who is funding Commissioner Gutiérrez's and Mr. Gonzales' radio show. What do they have to hide? Why not make public the name of their benefactor? I sign all my letters and speak openly about my support for Linda. So do her other supporters. We have nothing to hide. We also try to tell the truth as far as it is possible for us to know it.

I believe that completely independent of the pros and cons of the various political issues that have riled everyone up, the opponents of Linda have based their entire effort on wild rumors, untruths, personal attacks and appeals to the worst possible racist feelings.

That is my opinion.
I believe that these ongoing hysterical diatribes and personal vendettas are making a laughing stock of our Democratic elected officials, and of the Hispanic community as a whole. If this continues we will end up with neither Democrats nor Hispanics holding public office in Lubbock. Is that what we want?

If "RMS" is who I think it could be, then that person knows well what it is to be the object of unjust political witch hunts. If it is the person I suspect it might be, I myself defended that person under oath in sworn statements to avoid the political vendetta from succeeding. The vendetta was wrong, and based on lies, and I am proud to have helped put an end to it.

I hope that person would do the same in the case of Linda DeLeón.
C. James, Lubbock via Email

The Interconnectedness of Humanity

With fall come the political buzzards, I mean blizzards. Or do I?
And wouldn't you know it; there are plenty of these scavengers circling overhead, ever watchful of citizens in dire need. Citizens in dire need (as opposed to your normal every day need) of warm housing, warm clothing, food and if you can swing it, joy and glad tidings.

I guess I shouldn't complain after all, some elderly couple or cute child or children will benefit from these contrived acts of kindness thrust upon them by Santa Ysidro and Mrs. Linda. Or is it Santa Linda?

Either way, these acts of benevolence manifest themselves during this time of year (political season not Christmas season, that is) more so than any other. With paint brush in one hand and hammer in the other, that little elf Linda paints the outside of the house she herself has condemned. With his pointy ears and pointy hat, that little elf Ysidro hands out heaters that are supposed to replace the real work that the Lubbock County General Assistance Fund should be doing.

For those of you who do not know, the Lubbock County General Assistance Office helps the poorest of the poor in Lubbock County with items which they need most such as, utility assistance, rent assistance and county burials. Never you mind that these political darlings always make sure the media is around to take their picture.

But before we smile for the camera, let's all swallow our pride, our humanity, and pretend we like these folks giving us a pittance. I guess helping one or two is better than helping none at all. Who cares if the poor, elderly, and young are used this way? The poor got what they need, a heater here, and a new coat of paint there. At least our local politicians understand there are real needs out in the community. Well, maybe not all of our local politicians truly understand that there are poor among us.

Our illustrious Mayor David "I Wish I had a Brain" Miller was quoted in today's Avalanche Journal as saying, "I would say the prince is simply misinformed," he said. "Lubbock is a great place economically." Of course, Mayor (Miller) was responding to King Taufa'ahau Tupou V of Tonga ("Tonga, a nation of islands in the South Pacific Ocean with about half the population of Lubbock.") who was quoted as saying, "despite America's reputation for wealth and power, it also has poor people in inner cities and rural areas. "Lubbock, Texas", he said, "and such places".

Despite hard statistics which show, "about 19 percent of Lubbock County residents were [living] at or below the federal poverty line, compared to 16.3 percent of the Texas population and 12.7 percent nationally, according to the U.S. Census Bureau and the South Plains Food Bank".

Mayor (Miller) has no clue! Just drive around your city I say. Drive by Mahon library and see all the people sleeping on the sidewalk, covering themselves with cardboard and living out of grocery carts. Just go by the Salvation Army at lunch time and see both young and old lined up for a warm meal. Mayor, just go by South Plains Food Bank and look into the hundreds of hungry eyes and keep telling yourself that all is well in Oz.


Mayor, the Munchkins in Oz are short because they're malnourished and they're wearing t-shirts in winter because Savers ran out of coats.

Open your eyes Mayor and start realizing that not everyone lives the life of leisure you do. Not everyone has food on the table or heat for their homes. Just read your local paper and you'll see that people in Lubbock do die due to the cold and are malnourished due to the lack of food.

Bottom line is, Ysidro, Linda and Mayor "Da" are separated only by degrees and not by substance. Quite posing for the cameras, quit denying what's in front of you, and effect real change for once.

As stated by John Donne (1572-1631) in Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions, Meditation XVII: Nunc Lento Sonitu Dicunt, Morieris: "Perchance he for whom this bell tolls may be so ill, as that he knows not it tolls for him; and perchance I may think myself so much better than I am, as that they who are about me, and see my state, may have caused it to toll for me, and I know not that."
RMS, Lubbock via Email

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



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

¡Ya se hizo la decisión! ¡Ya tengo bastantes personas calificadas para establecer el Club de Llorones! Ya son tantos que no nomas van a seguir su trabajo normal de llorar por lo que no les gusta en El Editor pero tambien se van a rentar para cualquier ocasión. Se rentaran para juntas de candidatos, juntas de el Concilio donde se hacen esas presentaciones emocionales, juntas donde se discute quien no hizo lo que deberia de hacer, y juntas donde se discute porque no llego el publico a las juntas donde se discute nada de importancia. Ademas tambien todas esas nomrales ocasiones como bodas, cumpleaños, funerales, divorcios y fiestas de cualquier. Para rentar uno o varios...no son escasos, llame al 806-763-3841. Dejenos un mensaje, pero sin lagrimas por favor.

Es todo por ahora...me cortaron el espacio. Cuidese que este Hijo del Alacran lo puede pescar con los pantalones pa' bajo y esten seguros que le picara con la cola!

El Editor

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Publisher Bidal Aguero
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Teen Pregnancy

from Page 1

in California is out of step with the rest of America."

However, citing recent national studies, Dr. Janet Realini, a onetime medical school professor now with the Bexar County health department, said teen birth rates are declining because fewer young people are having sex and more are using birth control, "not because of more abortions."

Dr. Realini, who has spent the past decade trying to reduce San Antonio's teen pregnancy rate, said Texas' policy assumes that teaching teens about contraception encourages them to have sex. But she said research shows no link between more information and more sex, and that promoting abstinence, while valuable, has its limits.

"In real life, abstinence fails sometimes," Dr. Realini said. "I know lots of young people who said they were not going to have sex and yet they did."

Still, Texas public health leaders and advocates of women's reproductive rights aren't pushing huge course corrections, such as dispensing birth control at school sites - a practice approved last month by a school board in Portland, Maine.

Some advocates, though, are pushing for a bill in the 2009 legislative session that would clarify how school districts opting to teach about contraceptives should discuss different methods' failure rates. Teachers would use failure rates published by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

The bill also would require school districts to give parents a more detailed explanation of their choices of sex education for their children.

Last spring, despite opposition from some social conservatives, an identical measure cleared a House panel with some Republicans' support. It died, how-

ever, in the end-of-session crush - amid signals that some key Senate GOP leaders weren't enthusiastic about it.

Meanwhile, state leaders stoutly defend teaching abstinence - and without parents' permission, only abstinence - in the schools and wherever possible requiring parents to sign off on youngsters' obtaining contraceptives.

A spokeswoman said Gov. Rick Perry sees no need for new legislation.

"The governor is satisfied with current law, in that abstinence is the only 100 percent [effective] way to prevent pregnancy," said spokeswoman Allison Castle.

Ms. Castle added, "It's important to make a distinction between pregnancy rate and birth rate. Texas does not have the highest teen pregnancy rate."

The last time teen pregnancy rates were reported, for 2000, Texas was fifth highest, with 101 pregnancies per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19. The U.S. average was 84.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, while "deeply concerned" about teen pregnancy in the state, said parents have the most responsibility. Still, he said, "our public health facilities and public schools can help reduce teenage pregnancies by educating young people about the consequences of premarital sex and promoting abstinence."

House Public Education Committee Chairman Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands, opposes more instruction on contraceptives.

"The problem with moving away from the abstinence curriculum ... is the notion that premarital sex is state condoned," he said.

TWO STATES, TWO APPROACHES

Texas has the nation's highest teen birth rate - 63 births per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 19 in 2004, the most recent year for which state comparisons are available. In 1991, when teen births peaked nationally, it had the

fifth highest rate.

Over the same period, California's rate went in the opposite direction - from 11th highest to 24th highest.

Though a tangle of social, cultural and economic factors are at work and are still not well understood, experts say government policies have some effect on teen birth trends. A look at key policies in Texas and California:

SEX EDUCATION

In Texas, public schools don't have to offer sex education. If local school boards choose to offer it, state law says teachers must:

- Present abstinence as the "preferred choice ... for unmarried persons of school age."
- Devote more attention to abstinence than to "any other behavior."
- Emphasize that abstinence is the only 100 percent effective method of preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, HIV/AIDS and "the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity."

If a school district decides to teach about contraception, it must:

- Allow parents to pull their children from such classes.
- Teach "human use reality rates" of failure for various birth control methods, not "theoretical laboratory rates."

The state distributes about \$5 million a year of abstinence education grants to contractors who work with schools. Ninety percent is federal money.

In California, if local school districts offer sex education, instruction must comply with a state law requiring that both abstinence and other birth control methods be taught.

Information must be "evidence-based, scientifically driven and demonstrated to have a positive impact." Abstinence-only instruction fails to meet that standard, according to many social scientists.

THE RAID: ONE FAMILY'S TEN YEARS OF LIVING IN FEAR

By Pedro Arroyo

As federal immigration agents creep up California to probe into long-established communities for families without documents, my memory rolls back to that hot August day 20 years ago as though it were yesterday. My father and mother came home from work with terror scrawled on their faces. They looked as though they'd had a run-in with the devil.

Wordless at first, they gradually related how that afternoon the Immigration and Naturalization Service raided the garment factory where they worked. In the mid-1980s the INS routinely invaded factories in the Los Angeles garment district, rounding up and deporting hundreds of Mexican workers like them. They lived in fear of the INS.

The old factory has special meaning to me. It offered my father and mother their first jobs in the United States. It was where they fell in love. It was also the first place where my brother and I worked. It gave us our first real jobs when we were in high school. We labored there for a summer and

got to see the sacrifices that our parents were making to provide for us.

The factory's spinning and weaving machinery looked like the pictures in my history book that discussed the industrial revolution. The machines dated back to the early 1920s. They were dirty and always breaking down. When operating, they created so much noise that it was impossible to be heard.

My mother worked on a spinning machine. My father's job was keeping the old machinery running. During his 15 years there, he brought many ancient machines back to life again. My dad would tell us, "Despite the low pay, I will always have work here."

The place was filled with dust from the various fabrics and garments that were spun and wove, and they often caused respiratory problems for employees, including my mother. The building lacked proper ventilation. It was terribly cold in the winter and a steam bath in the summer.

But that factory offered my folks a place to work, no question asked.

There was a sense of family there. My mother developed her

closest friends to this day. Some coworkers came from Michoacán, the same Mexican state where my mom and dad had grown up.

A unique support network developed between people in the factory, mainly with the women. My mother sold tamales to fellow workers to supplement her income. Her comadre sold jewelry on lay-away to anyone who wanted to buy.

The factory even had its own curandera — folk healer — who performed spiritual cleansing and prescribed remedies on the spot.

Despite the familiar environment, my folks worked and lived in dread for our safety. Rumors were constant from friends and neighbors about the various INS raids taking place throughout Los Angeles. They feared the INS like nothing else in this world.

But nothing could prepare my parents and us for what took place that afternoon.

They were in their work areas when the raid began. My mother worked on the third floor and my dad on the fifth. The INS agents entered the old building unannounced and began to ask people for documentation, gradually moving up the six-story building.

Workers on the first floor didn't have a chance to escape.

My mother told how some of her friends tried to get away through the freight elevators, only to discover that they had been shut off. People hid inside boxes full of garments, behind machines and in large garbage cans. Some covered themselves with garments of all colors and styles. Some used the fire escape to avoid capture.

My dad, mom and a few of their friends somehow managed to get to the factory's old attic and hide inside large boxes full of garments. "We covered ourselves with every thing we could find," my dad remembers to this day. "It was hot and sticky and difficult to breathe, but we did it anyway."

The INS entered the dark attic, flashing their lights. They made a few comments and left in a minute or so. "But it seemed like the longest time in my life," my father recalls.

Out of the 100 people who worked at the factory, only a handful managed to escape. The owner sent those who came out of hiding after the raid home. He said there were not enough people to do the work. I doubt if

they were in the mood to work, anyway.

Had my parents been caught, it would have meant economic and emotional disaster for us. I was 12 years old at that time, with two younger brothers and a few extended family members in Los Angeles, but not much else. Who would have cared for us had my folks been deported? The thought of it still frightens me 20 years later.

After the raid, my parents became much more cautious about the places they traveled. It was already a struggle to get my father to take us places. Those outings to unfamiliar locations became even more rare.

My folks warned my brother and me to watch out for the avocado-green vans with tinted windows. They instructed us to run and hide if one drove by. We knew our surroundings well, we spoke perfect English, and shared the innocent bravado of youth. Our fear wasn't nearly as great as that of our parents.

By custom, the men who worked in the factory met every Friday afternoon to play baseball in Chávez Ravine. The week of the raid, there was no game. The whole team, with the exception

of the shortstop — my father — and the catcher had been deported.

By the middle of the following week, most of the men had returned to Los Angeles and back at work. The baseball games resumed. The men joked about the raid, but their exaggerated laughter told me they were still afraid.

Those workers who made their way back to Los Angeles a few days after being deported became my heroes. I saw in them an incredible determination to survive, to give their children security, to overcome any obstacles no matter how imposing.

In 1986 my parents applied for permanent residency status under the Immigration Reform and Control Act, known as the amnesty program. In 1988 we became legal residents of the United States. Ten years of living in the shadows were over.

We no longer had to fear the raids or the avocado-green vans that took so many people away. A green card gave my parents the opportunity to look for better-paying jobs. After almost 15 years at the factory, my dad and mom felt free to search for better opportunities and a better life for their children.

LA REDADA: LA DÉCADA DE TEMOR DE UNA FAMILIA

Pedro Arroyo

Mientras se deslizan los agentes de inmigración a lo largo de California en busca de familias indocumentadas radicadas en antiguas comunidades, como si hubiera sido ayer mi mente vuelve a un día caluroso de agosto hace veinte años. Volvieron mis padres del trabajo, el rostro transfigurado por el terror. Era como si se hubieran topado con el diablo mismo.

Incapaces de pronunciar palabra al comienzo, de a pocos nos relataron cómo esa tarde el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización había realizado una redada de la fábrica de ropa en la que laboraban. A mediados de la década de los ochenta, el Servicio de manera rutinaria irrumpía en las fábricas del distrito de fabricación de ropa de Los Ángeles, acorralando y deportando a cientos de obreros mexicanos como mis padres. Vivían atemorizados por la migra.

Esa vieja fábrica guarda un sentido especial para mí. Ofreció a mis padres el primer trabajo que tuvieron en los Estados Unidos y es donde se enamoraron. También fue el primer lugar en el que mi hermano y yo trabajamos. Nos dio el primero trabajo de verdad cuando estudiábamos la secundaria. Trabajamos allí un verano y nos enteramos de los sacrificios por los que pasaban nuestros padres por darnos una buena vida.

La maquinaria de hilar y tejer de la fábrica era como las imágenes que mi libro de historia portaba para dar lección sobre la era industrial. Las máquinas databan desde los albores de los años veinte. Estaban sucias y en constante desarreglo. Cuando funcionaban, creaban tal bulla que era imposible hacerse oír.

Mi madre trabajaba en una máquina de hilar. El trabajo de mi padre era hacer funcionar la vieja maquinaria. Durante los quince años que trabajó allí,

reviví a muchas máquinas antiquísimas. Nos decía, "A pesar de la poca paga, siempre tendré trabajo aquí".

Se llenaba el recinto de polvo de las muchas telas y prendas que se hilaban y se tejían, causando con frecuencia problemas respiratorios a los empleados, incluyendo a mi mamá. El edificio no contaba con la ventilación adecuada. Hacía muchísimo frío en el invierno y era un baño a vapor durante el verano.

Pero aquella fábrica ofrecía trabajo a mis padres, y sin hacerles preguntas.

Había allí un sentido de familia. En la fábrica mi madre conoció a las mejores amigas que hasta ahora mantiene. Algunos de los compañeros venían de Michoacán, el mismo estado mexicano en el que se habían criado mis padres.

Se formó una red especial de apoyo entre los trabajadores de la fábrica, en particular entre las mujeres. Mi madre vendía tamales a los compañeros de trabajo para suplementar sus ingresos. Su comadre vendía alhajas a crédito a quien quisiera comprarle.

La fábrica contaba hasta con su propia curandera, quien allí mismo efectuaba curaciones espirituales y dispensaba remedios. A pesar del entorno familiar, mis padres trabajaban y vivían con pavor, preocupados siempre por nuestra seguridad. Los rumores de los amigos y vecinos eran constantes sobre las diversas redadas de la migra que ocurrían por todo Los Ángeles. Temían al Servicio de Inmigración más que nada en el mundo.

Sin embargo, nada pudo preparar ni a mis padres ni a nosotros por lo que ocurrió esa tarde calurosa de agosto.

Estaba cada uno en su puesto de trabajo cuando comenzó la redada: mi mamá en el tercer piso, mi papá en el quinto. Entraron los agentes de inmigración sin previo aviso y comenzaron a pedir documentación a los obreros, avanzando por cada uno de los seis pisos del edificio.

Los obreros del primer piso no tuvieron la oportunidad de escapar.

Mi madre contó cómo algunas de sus amigas intentaron huir por los ascensores de carga, para descubrir muy tarde que los habían clausurado. La gente se ocultó en cajas llenas de prendas, detrás de máquinas y de cubos de basura grandes. Algunos se cubrían de ropa de todo tipo y color. Algunos se fueron por la escalera de incendio para evitar la captura.

Mis padres y algunos de sus amigos lograron de alguna forma llegar al antiguo ático de la fábrica para esconderse dentro de unas grandes cajas llenas de ropa. "Nos cubrimos con todo lo que pudimos encontrar", recuerda mi papá hasta el día de hoy. "Hacía calor, era pegajoso y se nos hacía difícil respirar, pero lo hicimos igual".

Los agentes entraron al viejo ático, iluminaron brevemente todo con sus linternas; dijeron un par de cosas y salieron después de un minuto más o menos. "Pero fue el minuto más largo que he pasado en mi vida", recuerda papá.

De las 100 personas que trabajaban en la fábrica, sólo lograron huir unos cuantos. El propietario envió a casa a los que se revelaron después de la redada. Dijo que faltaba gente para completar el trabajo. Dudo que estuvieran con ánimo de hacer el trabajo, de cualquier forma.

Si a mis padres los hubiesen capturado, nos habría significado una catástrofe económica y emocional familiar. Yo tenía doce años en aquel entonces, con dos hermanos menores y algunos parientes en Los Ángeles, pero sin mucho más. ¿Quién habría visto por nosotros si a mis padres los hubieran deportado? El sólo pensarlo aun me aterra, veinte años más tarde.

Después de la redada, mis padres se volvieron mucho más cautelosos con los lugares que frecuentaban. Ya era una lucha hacer que mi padre nos llevara a pasear. Los paseos a lugares

desconocidos se volvieron hasta más infrecuentes.

Nos advirtieron que tuviéramos cuidado con unas furgonetas color aguacate, lunas ahumadas. Nos aleccionaban a correr y escondernos si veíamos a una pasar. Conocíamos bien nuestro entorno, hablábamos perfecto inglés, y compartíamos la valentía inocente de la juventud. Nuestro temor no se aproximaba siquiera al miedo que sentían nuestros padres.

Por costumbre, los hombres que trabajaban en la fábrica se reunían cada viernes a jugar pelota en el barranco Chávez. La semana de la redada, no hubo partido. El equipo entero, con

la excepción de mi padre y uno más, había sido deportado.

Para mediados de la semana siguiente, la mayoría de los hombres habían vuelto a Los Ángeles y al trabajo. Se reanudaron los partidos de béisbol. Si bien los hombres bromeaban sobre la redada, había algo en su risa exagerada que me indicaba que aún tenían miedo.

A los obreros que lograron volver a Los Ángeles a pocos días de haber sido deportados los vi como héroes. Encontré en ellos una determinación increíble por sobrevivir, por dar seguridad a sus hijos, por sobreponerse a cualquier obstáculo, sin importarles la dificultad.

En 1986 mis padres solicitaron la residencia bajo el Acta de Reforma y Control Migratorio, conocida más bien como el programa de amnistía. En 1988 nos hicimos en residentes legales de los Estados Unidos. Una década de vivir en la penumbra se había acabado.

Ya no teníamos que temer las redadas ni las furgonetas color aguacate que se habían llevado a tantas personas. La tarjeta verde les dio a mis padres la oportunidad de buscar empleo mejor remunerado. Después de casi 15 años de trabajo en la fábrica, mis padres se sintieron libres de buscar mejores oportunidades y una mejor vida para sus hijos.

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Ricky Martin y "Blue Man Group" abrirán la gala de los Grammy Latino

Ricky Martin y el grupo "Blue Man Group" abrirán mañana la gala de entrega de los Grammy Latino 2007 en su octava edición con una actuación que promete ser pintoresca y explosiva y en la que recrearán el interior de una nave espacial.

El cantante puertorriqueño, "Blue Man Group" y el resto de los artistas que participarán en la ceremonia de entrega de los premios preparan sus actuaciones en la noche más espectacular del año para la industria de la música latina.

Los hombres pintados de azul harán sonar sus tambores con estrépito en el tema "La Bomba" con el que Ricky Martin abrirá la gala, según los ensayos a puerta cerrada en el escenario del hotel Mandalay de Las Vegas, donde se entregarán los premios.

La tarima de dos niveles y con cortinas electrónicas por donde

aparecen los artistas, cuenta con tres pantallas gigantes donde se proyectarán imágenes de las estrellas que participarán en la velada.

En los ensayos han participado también el grupo mexicano Camila, el dúo de hermanos Jesse & Joy y Shaila Dúrcal, hija de la fallecida cantante española Rocío Dúrcal.

Camila interpretará uno de sus éxitos más sonados con un piano de cola y Jesse & Joy interpretará "Espacio Sideral" en una versión rockera.

Por su parte, Dúrcal, nominada por su disco "Recordando" en la candidatura a "Mejor Álbum Vocal Pop Femenino", deslumbró en los ensayos con su voz a los presentes que le aplaudían cada vez que interpretaba "Amor

del año, Álbum del año, Grabación del año, Mejor álbum de merengue y Mejor canción tropical por la canción y el álbum "La llave de mi corazón".

Le siguen el puertorriqueño Ricky Martin y sus compatriotas de Calle

cal versión corta" por "Tango del pecado".

Entre otros favoritos de la ceremonia, que se transmitirá mañana en directo por la cadena de televisión Univision, figura el cantante español Miguel Bosé.

El artista tiene tres nominaciones en las categorías "Álbum del año" y "Mejor álbum vocal pop masculino" por "Papito", y "Grabación del año" por "Nena" junto con Paulina Rubio.

Bosé será otro de los cantantes que actúen en la gala junto con los reguetoneros puertorriqueños Daddy Yankee e Ivy Queen, Andrea Bocelli, Miguel Bosé, Laura Pausini, Pepe Aguilar y los grupos La Quinta Estación, Intocables y el Conjunto Primavera.

Los maestros de la ceremonia serán la cantante mexicana Lucero y su compatriota el comediante

Eugenio Derbez.

Otros de las celebridades que subirán al escenario a presentar premios son Willy Chirino, Los Tigres del Norte, Gloria Estefan, Kate del Castillo y Sofía Vergara, entre otros.

En esta octava edición de los Grammy Latino se espera la asistencia de 600 artistas nominados en las 49 categorías que engloban diferentes géneros musicales como tropical, clásico, brasileño, pop, alternativo y urbano.

eterno".

Otros de los artistas que ya ensayaron fue Calle 13 junto a Orishas en la canción "Pa'l norte" y Juan Luis Guerra, que hoy será reconocido como Persona del Año "Persona del año 2007" por la Academia Latina de la Grabación, organizadora del evento, por sus "logros musicales, personales y humanitarios".

El artista encabeza la lista de candidaturas a los Grammy Latino con cinco nominaciones en las categorías de Canción

13, con cuatro nominaciones cada uno.

Ricky Martin opta a premio en las categorías de "Álbum del año", "Mejor álbum vocal pop masculino", "Mejor vídeo musical versión larga" por "MTV Unplugged" y Grabación del año por "Tu recuerdo", junto a la Mari de Chambao y Tommy Torres.

Por su parte, Calle 13 está nominado a "Álbum del año" y "Mejor álbum de música urbana" por "Residente o visitante", "Mejor canción urbana" por "Pa'l norte" junto Orishas, y "Mejor vídeo musi-

zaron a visitar ayer el salón de regalos. En este lugar, instalado por la compañía de Los Ángeles Distinctive Assets, varias empresas como Memorex y Nickelodeon mostraban algunos de los regalos que recibirán los artistas que participarán en la ceremonia del jueves, ya sea presentando un premio o actuando en alguno de los números musicales.

Cada artista recibirá una canasta de regalos con valor total de diez mil dólares, explicó Lindsay Kelterer, de Distinctive Assets.

Entre los primeros artistas en visitar el salón de regalos el martes estaban la presentadora de Univision Giselle Blondet, la actriz Jackie Guerra y Tony Meléndez, vocalista del Conjunto Primavera.

Varios artistas nominados se confundían entre los cientos de apostadores en los casinos del hotel sede del Grammy Latino.

Rumbo a una entrevista, los muchachos del grupo mexicano Kinky contaron que estaban listos para su participación en una fiesta hoy miércoles organizada por la sociedad de editores BMI, y en la misma gala del jueves, participación

que fue confirmada ayer.

Además la Academia Latina anunció finalmente ayer que la ceremonia televisada por Univision será conducida por los actores mexicanos Lucero y Eugenio Derbez. Lucero, que viajó a la ciudad el domingo, ya había adelantado su participación a la prensa mexicana.

La Academia anunció también las participaciones de Alacranes Musical, Bimba Bosé, Daddy Yankee, Sheila E y Aleks Syntek, los últimos artistas añadidos a la gala del jueves.

Juan Luis Guerra recibe tributo como 'Persona del Año 2007'

El dominicano Juan Luis Guerra se convierte hoy en la "Persona del Año 2007" de la industria de la música latina al recibir un homenaje por sus logros profesionales y sus contribuciones filantrópicas y culturales.

La Academia Latina de la Grabación (LARAS), encargada de los premios Grammy Latinos, reconoce así la carrera artística de Juan Luis Guerra como uno de los grandes de la música latina.

En la ceremonia de hoy, Guerra escuchará interpretaciones de sus éxitos en las voces de Ricky Martín, Rubén Blades, Daddy Yankee, Milly Quezada, Johnny Rivera, Daniela Mercuri, Carlos Vives y Aleks Syntek.

Todos cantarán junto a la orquesta del compositor de "La Bilirrubina".

Entre los temas de interpretación innovadora destaca el que hará Aleks Syntek que cantará "Bachata Rosa".

"El ya oyó el arreglo y me dijo que le había encantado", dijo el cantautor mexicano.

"Bachata Rosa" fue el título del disco con el que Juan Luis Guerra obtuvo su primer Grammy. Hasta el momento ha ganado

humano", afirmó Abaroa.

El artista, que aprendió a tocar por oído la guitarra, perfeccionó sus habilidades en la prestigiosa Escuela de Música Berklee en Boston donde estudió composición y arreglos.

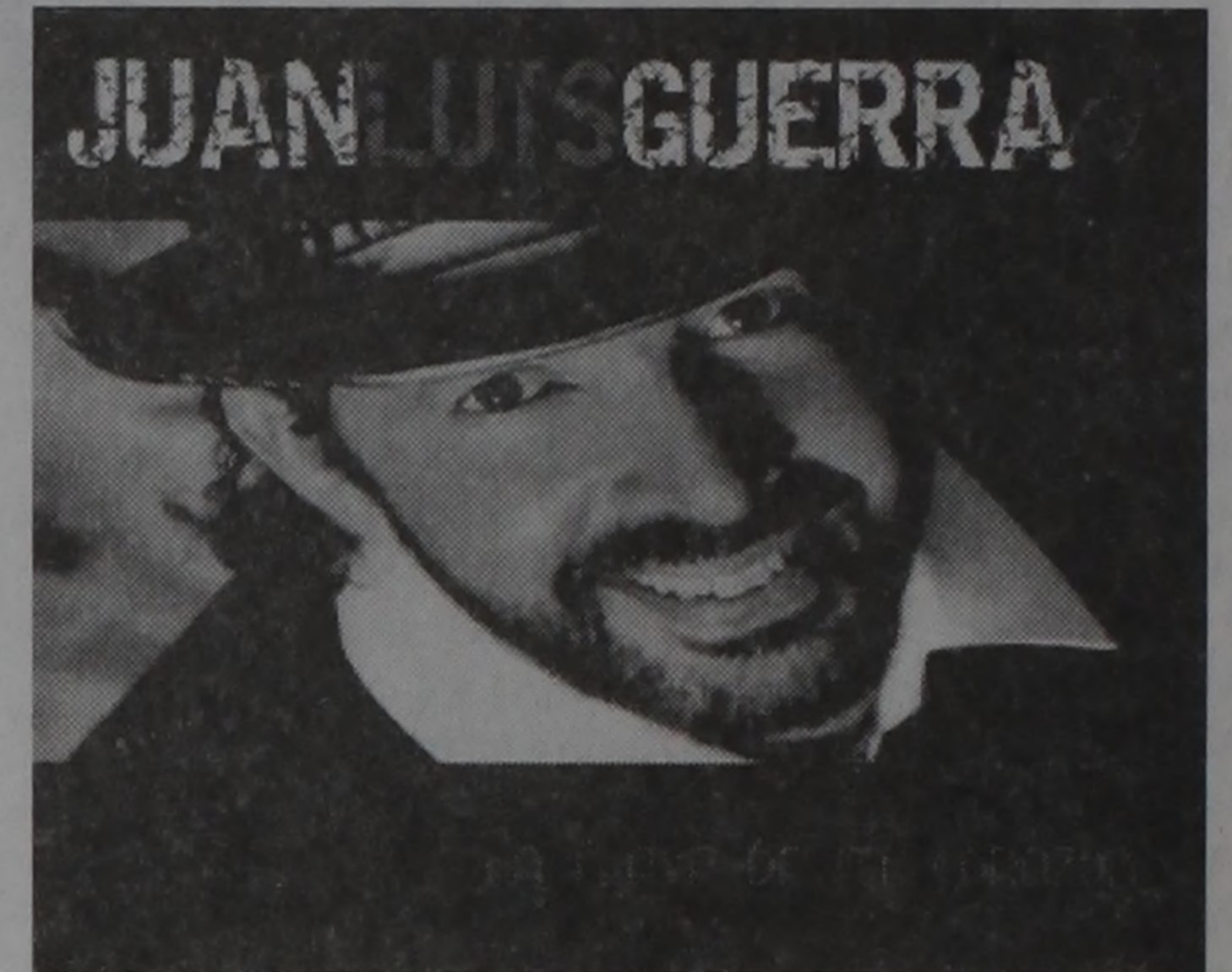
A su regreso a República Dominicana creó su propia orquesta "Juan Luis Guerra y 440" en 1984 y sus primeros grandes éxitos los obtuvo en el escenario de Casa de Teatro en su país natal.

Su paso al merengue se produjo con el segundo disco de la agrupación "Mudanza y acarreo" (1985) y con el álbum "Ojalá que llueva café" (1989) Juan Luis Guerra dio el salto al panorama internacional.

Con "Areito" (1993) se consolidó en Europa, lo que animó a probar nuevas fusiones con el tema "La cosquillita" con el que rescató el merengue rápido y con "Fogaraté" integró el "soukus" surafricano.

En "Medicine for my soul" el cantautor dominicano rompió las barreras lingüísticas con una fusión de ritmos de mambo, bachata, jazz, hip-hop, merengue y rock.

Este año publicó "La llave de mi corazón" que está considerado como "una joya musical" y que el



cuatro gramófonos dorados.

La trayectoria de Juan Luis Guerra está marcada por la publicación de 14 discos y 15 millones de copias vendidas que le sitúan como uno de los principales compositores latinoamericanos de la música popular de los últimos tiempos.

"Como artista consumado e intérprete dinámico ha incursionado en numerosos estilos invocando un sentido único de la perfección, la pasión y la experiencia del mundo en sus melodías", explicó Gabriel Abaroa, presidente de LARAS.

"Es realmente un privilegio reconocer a un hombre tan talentoso y a un muy buen ser

propio Guerra estima es el disco "más romántico" de su carrera y en el que se recopilan sus doce mayores éxitos.

Por este disco, Guerra logró la nominación en cinco candidaturas en la octava edición de los premios Grammy Latino que se entregarán mañana en la ciudad estadounidense de Las Vegas.

Además de su sólida carrera artística, Juan Luis Guerra es también galardonado por su faceta filantrópica, ya que en 1991 creó la Fundación Juan Luis Guerra y 440 que ayuda a los pobres de su país con préstamos para la construcción de hospitales e iglesias, y fondos para operaciones quirúrgicas.

Indie Artist Gets First Latin Grammy Nod

Alejandra Alberti's road to a Latin Grammy nomination reads like a musical fairy tale. The 23-year-old college student got kicked around for several years by major labels as she shopped her clean and peppy pop-rock love songs. Promises were made - all of them broken. Frustrated, she turned to a family member who took her under her wing, finding her a manager, and between classes at Florida International University, she recorded 10 tracks.

In December, the daughter of a Cuban gastroenterologist and Mexican singer released her self-titled debut album. Eight months later, she was nominated for Best New Artist.

"If I win, it's a win for indie artists," says the Tennessee-born, Miami-raised singer.

Consider this: Alberti released the album under her own label, Rockera Records, and not one of her songs was played on mainstream radio or music television. "Major labels slammed their doors on me, and radio stations wouldn't take our calls," she says. This nomination is for a lot of people who still believe in indie artists.

While Alberti speaks perfect English, she decided to sing in Spanish - her first language.

I feel more identified with Spanish. It's like English wasn't made for me," she explains (in English, of course).



The singer's style is sometimes described as histrionic - a positive comparison if you recall what was said about Shakira when the petite Colombian burst onto the music scene.

Alberti mixes a little R&B, pop-rock and touches of ranchera to sing about clean, young love gone right or wrong.

She wrote or co-wrote most of the songs but got enormous help from R&B singer Jean, brother of Luis Fonsi.

Days before her big night, she admitted she still wasn't sure what she was going to wear.

But one thing was for sure: The blue-eyed beauty will be in the audience, pinching herself and looking very much like a rocker princess.

Todo listo para los Grammy

Las estrellas ya han comenzado a llegar a la ciudad de los casinos y los grandes espectáculos, que se prepara para la gran noche de la música latina de este jueves.

Ayer, los preparativos para la octava ceremonia del Grammy Latino iban viento en popa: con las escenografías ya instaladas, el gigantesco Entertainment Center del Mandalay Bay estaba listo para los primeros ensayos.

En el área de backstage del mismo, cerca de donde se han instalado las salas de prensa, las estrellas comen-

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MIDLAND-ODESSA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
)
 V.) CRIMINAL NO. MO-07-CR-79 (1)
)
 JASON HEATH QUINN)

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TTU due for win in Austin

Texas has had to mount furious fourth-quarter rallies to narrowly win each of its last two games. The Longhorns know they cannot afford to fall into too deep a hole against Texas Tech's high-powered offense led by quarterback Graham Harrell and wide receiver Michael Crabtree.

No. 15 Texas looks for its fifth win in a row overall and fifth straight over the Red Raiders when they meet on Saturday in Austin.

To extend those streaks, the Longhorns will have to slow down Texas Tech, which has the nation's top offense, averaging 549.5 yards per game. Harrell leads the nation in passing with 4,412 yards and 38 touchdowns while Crabtree - who is just a freshman - has struggled recently, but remains ranked first in yards receiving (1,512), receptions per game (10.4) and touchdowns (18).

"Crabtree is just putting up amazing numbers," Longhorns defensive end Brian Orakpo said. "I can't even do what he's doing on a video game."

Last Saturday, Texas trailed

big plays in the last two weeks," he said. "We're not pleased ... the defense isn't pleased and the defensive coaches aren't pleased that we gave up too many yards, and we'll have to play better than that against Tech."

"Tech gets their yards against you if you play great, and if you don't play great, they'll score a million."

Longhorns quarterback Colt McCoy was 20-of-27 for 282 yards and a touchdown in the win over Oklahoma State, but also threw three interceptions. After throwing 29 TDs and just seven interceptions as freshman last season, McCoy has 16 and 16 this season.

In last season's matchup, Harrell had the better numbers, but McCoy and the Longhorns escaped from Lubbock with a 35-31 win. Harrell was 42-of-62 for 519 yards and three scores. McCoy, meanwhile, was 21-of-31 for 256 yards for four scoring passes.

The Red Raiders (7-3, 3-3) avoided their third loss in a row this season with a 38-7 rout of Baylor last Saturday. Harrell was 37-of-46 for 433



by 21 heading into the fourth quarter, but rallied for a 38-35 win over Oklahoma State. Jamaal Charles had touchdown runs of 18 and 75 yards and Vondrell McGee scored from 1 yard out before Ryan Bailey kicked a 40-yard field goal at the final gun.

"We've won a lot, and that is a positive thing," Texas coach Mack Brown said. "The mind is a powerful, powerful thing, especially in sports. At first, we did not put pressure on (the Cowboys), and we had to get it turned, because we did believe we were going to win."

On Oct. 27, Charles ran for 216 of his 290 yards in the fourth quarter, scoring three long touchdowns in a 28-25 victory over Nebraska.

Texas' defense has surrendered 1,134 yards in the wins, and is that a major concern for Brown heading into this contest.

"We've given up too many

yards and three touchdowns, eclipsing the 4,000-yard passing mark for the second season in a row and guiding Texas Tech to its 12th straight win over the Bears.

"I thought that all sides of the ball played well," Harrell said. "That is the first time in a couple of weeks that we have had a good all-around game. It was really good to get a win."

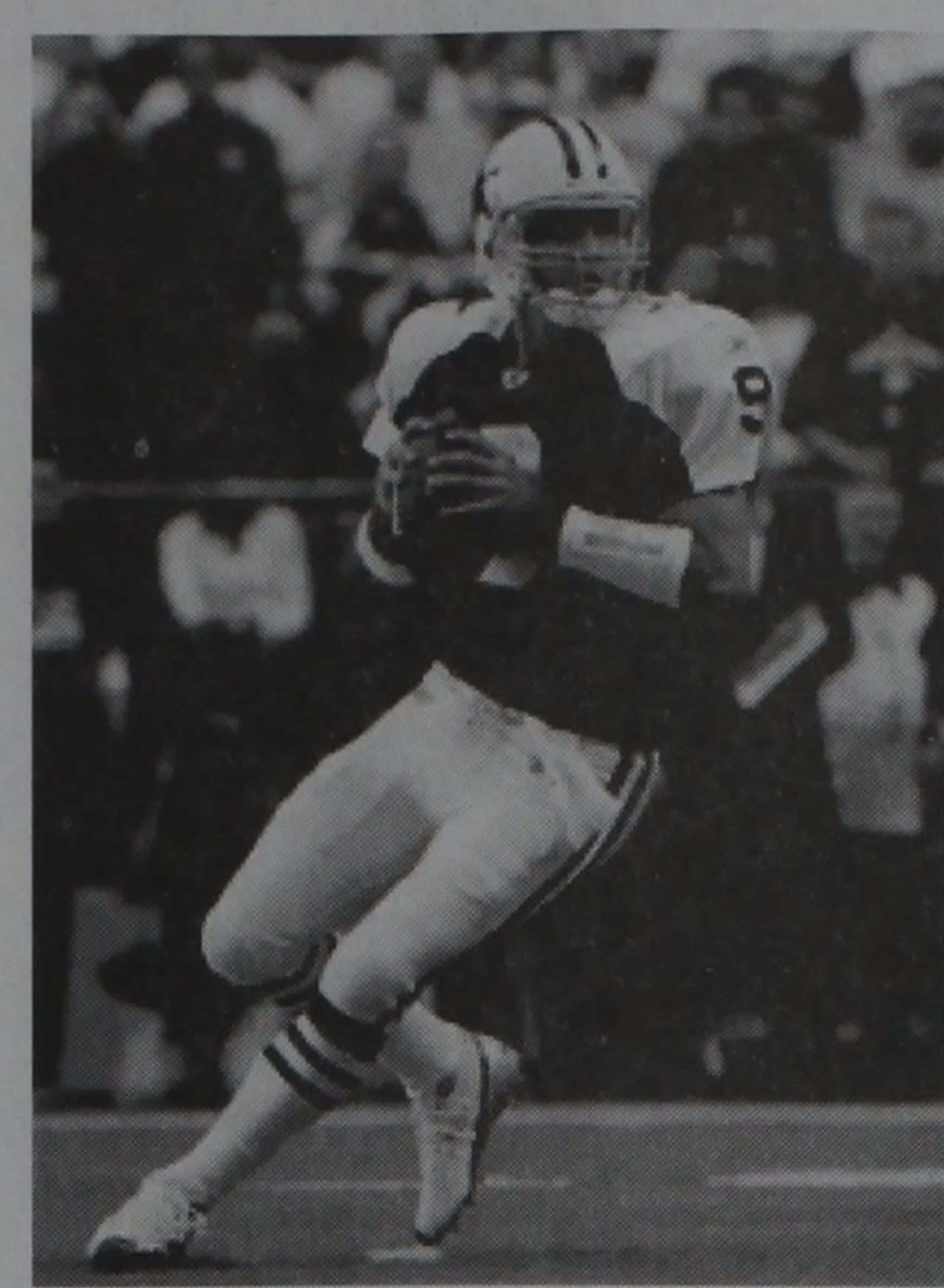
Crabtree had season-lows of four catches for 61 yards. After averaging 179.0 yards and nearly three TDs in his first six games, he's slowed to 109.5 yards per game and scored just once in his last four.

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Dallas Cowboys hope to overpower Giants once again

The Dallas Cowboys' high-scoring offense overpowered the New York Giants in their season opener, and the Cowboys have been atop the NFC East ever since.

Dallas looks to increase its divi-



sion lead and hand red-hot New York its first loss in nearly two months when the two rivals meet Sunday at Giants Stadium.

The Cowboys (7-1) defeated the Giants 45-35 on Sept. 9 in the highest scoring game in the 90-game history of this series.

Tony Romo threw for a career-high 345 yards and a season-high four touchdowns in the win, while Terrell Owens had two TD catches.

"That first game was like a bad dream," Giants Pro Bowl middle linebacker Antonio Pierce said. "If you want to consider that a chip (on the shoulder), that's what we have. The fact is, it did happen, but other things have changed."

Following its loss to the Cowboys in the season opener, New York (6-2) fell to Green Bay on Sept. 16, but has since reeled off six straight wins.

The Giants gave up 80 points

in their first two games, but have allowed 79 points while recording 28 of their league-high 30 sacks during their winning streak.

"Obviously, they've gotten better since Week 1 and so have we," Owens said. "I think right now

we're starting to really define ourselves and really trying to work offensively, defensively, and special teams-wise, the whole team. So we can kind of solidify ourselves and separate ourselves." Behind Romo and Owens, Dallas is second in the NFL in offense (416.4

yards per game) and scoring (33.1 points per game), trailing only undefeated New England in each category. A 48-27 loss to the Patriots on Oct. 14 is the only blemish on the Cowboys' record.

Dallas is coming off a 38-17 victory at Philadelphia last Sunday night, as Owens had season highs of 10 receptions for 174 yards and also scored a touchdown.

Owens has 17 catches for 277 yards and two TDs in his last two games after having just 11 for 124 yards and one touchdown in his previous three.

Romo, in his first game since signing a six-year, \$67.5-million contract extension, finished 20-for-25 for 324 yards - his fifth 300-yard game this season - with three touchdowns and an interception against the Eagles.

Romo has thrown for 829 yards, six touchdowns and six interceptions in three career

games against the Giants. Owens has 38 receptions for 579 yards and seven touchdowns in seven lifetime games against them.

Defensive lineman Tank Johnson will make his Cowboys debut in this game, his first game since playing for the Chicago Bears in the Super Bowl. After last season, Johnson spent two months in jail for violating probation on a gun charge and was also pulled over for speeding and tested for driving under the influence, resulting in the Bears cutting him.

The Cowboys have won their first four road games by an aver-

but we haven't accomplished anything yet."

The Giants are trying to win seven straight games for the first time since opening the 1990 season with 10 consecutive victories, and are looking to tie the Cowboys atop the NFC East.

"We all know that we had a good run of six games, but this is the real test for us against one of the best teams in the division, in the league," Amani Toomer said. "If we want to be considered in that upper echelon in the league, this is a team we are going to have to beat to show that."

Eli Manning

had his best game of the season against the Cowboys in the opener, throwing for a season-high 312 yards and matching a career high with four TD passes. Three of them went to Plaxico Burress, who has been bothered by an ankle injury all season.

Manning has passed for 1,282 yards,



age of 15.8 points, and have not opened a season with five straight road wins since 1983.

New York is coming off its bye week, and hasn't played since a 13-10 victory over winless Miami on Oct. 28 in London.

The Giants have six wins at the halfway point of the season for the third straight year, but the players know their record means very little. Last season, they won just two of their final eight games to limp into the playoffs with an 8-8 record.

"It's a great start, but I don't believe anyone on the team is really giddy being 6-2," center Shaun O'Hara said. "It's a great start,

12 touchdowns and six interceptions in six career games against Dallas. Against Miami, Manning was slowed by a steady rain at Wembley Stadium, and threw for a season-low 59 yards but ran for New York's lone touchdown.

Brandon Jacobs rushed for 131 yards against the Dolphins, the second straight week he's hit a career high. Jacobs had just 26 yards on six carries against Dallas, but has rushed for 424 yards and two TDs on 74 attempts in his last four games since recovering from a knee injury.

The Giants have not been swept in a season series by the Cowboys since 2003.

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Midseason award time for Cowboys

IRVING — With eight games down and at least eight to go, the Dallas Cowboys and their fans have a lot to look forward to the next few months.

While it might be fun to look ahead — perhaps guessing how many more games than eight they will play — let's instead take a look back at what's happened so far and give out some midseason awards.

A quick disclaimer: None of these compare to the prize Tony Romo received from Jerry Jones last week, and they're not as fancy as the painted game balls coach Wade Phillips likes to hand out. At least the following should help explain how the Cowboys got to 7-1.

The envelopes, please: OFFENSIVE MVP

Romo is the easy choice but Jones, Britney Spears and others already have rewarded him. So the pick here goes to the offensive line, the guys who are giving Romo the time to shine.

Sure, there have been the usual false starts by Flozell Adams and an untimely hold or two. But you probably haven't thought much about the line, which is the best indication they are doing their job.

It's worth noting that the Cowboys went into the offseason with only left tackle Adams and left guard Kyle Kosier under contract. Jones opened his wallet for center Andre Gurode (\$30 million, six years), then wider for right guard Leonard Davis (\$49.6 million, seven years). Right tackle Marc Colombo then decided to come back and grabbed what was left (\$7 million, two years).

Jones brings up his hefty investments every chance he gets, saying it was the catalyst for this

season's success. Now that the Cowboys are averaging over 400 yards and 33 points per game, he might be right.

DEFENSIVE MVP

DeMarcus Ware remains the most disruptive force, Greg Ellis has played great since returning from injury and Anthony Henry is tied for the NFL lead in interceptions despite missing a bunch of games.

They've still got eight games to see who grabs the real version of this award. Since this is only based on a partial season, let's give attention to two guys who were supposed to be part-timers, Jay Ratliff and Jacques Reeves.

Ratliff, a backup inside and outside on the defensive line the last two years, has been the primary nose tackle since Jason Ferguson was lost for the season in the first quarter of the first game. His contribution is hard to quantify because there are no stats and little glory to a job that requires clogging the middle of the line so others can make plays. Seeing as Dallas has the third-best defense in the NFC right now, he's been much more than just a fill-in.

The concern when Ratliff took over wasn't whether he could do it, but how long he could last doing it. Now, help is on the way with Tank Johnson moving into the rotation this week.

Reeves proved worthy of being the third cornerback in training camp, doing so well the Cowboys cut veteran Aaron Glenn. Then Terence Newman went down and Reeves became a starter. The same game Newman returned, Henry was hurt. Henry returned Sunday, though, so perhaps he and Newman will finally start together.

Texas Tech Beats Up On Baylor

WACO, Texas—Another routine day for Graham Harrell and Texas Tech: a big passing game and another victory over Baylor.

Harrell was 37-of-46 for 433 yards and three touchdowns, eclipsing the 4,000-yard passing mark for the second season in a row, and Texas Tech won 38-7 Saturday for its 12th consecutive victory over the Bears.

Harrell, a junior, became the fifth quarterback at the NCAA's highest level, formerly known as Division I-A, to have multiple 4,000-yard seasons.

Harrell hit 4,000 yards on the nose with his first completion, a 21-yarder to Edward Britton midway through the first quarter. Harrell immediately followed with two more long passes, 20 yards to Crawford and 37 to Eric Morris for Harrell's 36th TD pass this season.

With two more TDs after that, Harrell matched his 38 TDs from last season when he threw for 4,555 yards. He has an NCAA-high 4,412 yards this year with two regular season games and a likely bowl remaining.

After a 15-yard completion to convert a fourth-and-5 on the first play of the fourth quarter, and Tech up 38-0, Harrell came out already with his school-record 10th career 400-yard game, eight of which have come this season.

Baylor didn't score until Blake Szymanski threw a 7-yard TD to Brandon Whitaker on fourth down with 49 seconds left.

Crawford caught 10 passes for 82 yards and Danny Amendola had eight catches for 108 yards to join Michael Crabtree with more than 1,000 yards receiving. They are the 24th set of teammates in NCAA history to have 1,000 yards in the same season.

Crabtree, a freshman, had his worst game with four catches for 61 yards. But he is still the NCAA leader with 104 catches for 1,522 yards and 18 TDs.

Defensive end Brandon Williams' sack and fumble recovery set up Tech's first touchdown. Williams blindsided Szymanski, then crawled over the Baylor quarterback to get the ball at the 22.

Harrell then had 10 straight completions, the three that led to the first score, and seven more for 66 yards on the next drive that set up Crawford's 3-yard TD run and made it 14-0.

Crawford turned a screen pass into a 17-yard TD on the first play after Amendola's 65-yard punt return in the third quarter. Crawford later scored on a 17-yard run and a 7-yard catch.



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