

El Editor

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2,528
American Military
Deaths thru
June 28, 2006

VOL. XXIX No. 41

Week of July 6-12, 2006

www.eleditor.com

Lubbock, TX USA

México Sifts through Ballots Looking for Winner

Mexico began a marathon review of vote tallies on Wednesday to determine whether the conservative candidate Felipe Calderón really won the tight presidential race, while his leftist challenger, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, insisted that he was victorious and threatened to ignore the final count.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Calderón said he would be willing to include López Obrador in his cabinet, an effort to build a coalition government and avoid weeks of political impasse. But he said he did not think López Obrador would accept, adding that the two men had not talked since the election.

Earlier, Leonel Cota Montaño, president of López Obrador's Democratic Revolution Party, accused election officials of deliberately mishandling the preliminary vote count in an effort to confirm Calderón as president. He said López Obrador won Sunday's vote, although the preliminary count had him losing by a single percentage point.

With the election undecided, election workers across the country began the official count, adding up the tallies compiled on election day by polling-

place volunteers. By law, they must work around the clock in an effort expected to take days.

By Wednesday afternoon, they had dealt with 35 percent of the tally sheets, and said 37 percent of those votes had gone to López Obrador, compared with 34 percent for Calderón.

They were not reviewing individual ballots except where the packages appeared tampered with, or their tallies were missing, illegible or inconsistent - including at least 2.6 million ballots that would shrink Calderón's lead to 0.64 percent, election officials have said.

At one electoral office in Mexico City, officials opened a ballot box because the vote tally was missing.

The votes were then re-counted out loud while 10 party representatives stood by with tape recorders and video cameras.

Cota Montaño called on electoral officials to halt the count and start over, checking each vote instead of simply reviewing the tally sheets. But there did not appear to be any provision in Mexico's electoral law for a nationwide vote-by-vote recount.

Once the count is completed, the Federal Electoral Tribunal - comprised of seven judges nominated by the Supreme Court and confirmed by the Senate - hears any complaints and can even overturn elections. By law, it must certify a winner by Sept. 6, and its decision is final.

Cota Montaño said the party might take its case to international tribunals.

Both candidates have declared victory, prompting scoldings from Luis Carlos Ugalde, the president of the Federal Electoral Institute, who said Wednesday: "No political party can declare or affirm, at this time, that its candidate has received the largest number of votes."

López Obrador called Wednesday for his supporters to remain calm, but he could mobilize millions, and has in past legal disputes. He hinted Wednesday that he might do that again if he does not get his way.

"The political stability of the country hangs in the balance," he said.

In the interview, Calderón said demonstrations would be irresponsible.

"Elections are not won on the street," he said. "They are won in the voting places."

Earlier, during a news conference, he criticized López Obrador's allegations that the vote was tainted, saying: "They are trying to undermine an election without having the results to back it up."

The review that began Wednesday is a crucial step in proving the elections were clean to a nation that

emerged only six years ago from 71 years of one-party rule replete with election fraud. Failure to convince the public and candidates it has been a fair vote could spark widespread unrest.

"Such a close race is a nightmare scenario," said Ted Lewis, an election observer for the San Francisco-based firm Global Exchange. "If the ruling party wins by a hair, a lot of people will jump to the conclusion that something is amiss."

The battle has prompted con-

cerns of a return to Mexico's fraudulent electoral past, despite assurances by most international observers that the election was fair and properly carried out by Mexico's world-renowned electoral system, held up as a model to emerging democracies in Iraq and Haiti.

An aide to López Obrador, Claudia Sheinbaum, said Wednesday that the party found "very grave inconsistencies" in at least 50,000 polling places.



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Rosales Elected National President of LULAC

The Nation's Largest and Oldest Latino Organization Elects the Second Woman in its 77-year History and Adopts Resolutions Addressing Immigration, Education, Health Care, and Civil Rights Among Others

Milwaukee, Wisconsin - The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) conducted its



national elections, today (July 2, 2006) the final day of the 2006 LULAC National Convention, and adopted 33 resolutions on key issues impacting the Hispanic community. Rosa Rosales of San Antonio was elected National President of the nation's largest and oldest Hispanic organization in the country. She will succeed Hector M. Flores who served out his fourth year as National President and has been widely credited for strengthening the veteran civil rights organizations with increased advocacy and program initiatives. In addition to Rosales the following members were elected to the LULAC Executive Committee by the National Assembly on Saturday:

- Joey Ramirez, National Youth President
- Jaime P. Martinez, National Treasurer
- Margaret Moran, National President for Women
- Javier Montanez, National Vice President for Youth
- Michelle Pelayo, National Vice President for Young Adults
- Richard Fimbres, National Vice President for the Elderly
- Toula Politis Lugo, National Vice President for Northeast

Haydee Rivera, National Vice President for the Southeast
Adrian Rodriguez, National Vice President for the Southwest
Maria D. Rodriguez-Salazar, National Vice President Northwest
Alicia Rios, National Vice President Midwest
Dave Rodriguez, National Vice President Far West

Immediately upon being sworn in Ms. Rosales reappointed Ray Velarde as National Legal Advisor, Luis Vera as General Counsel, and Ray Mancera as National Parliamentarian.

In addition, the National Assembly voted to take the LULAC National Convention to San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2009.

The following resolutions were adopted by the National Assembly and establish LULAC's positions on major issues impacting the Latino community:

1. Resolution for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.
2. Border Issues Resolution.
3. Resolution demanding that volunteer armed militia, private vigilante group in Southern Arizona region be barred from intervening in immigration enforcement efforts.
4. Restoring restoration and reauthorization of U.S. Department of Labor National Farm worker job training; migrant youth and farm worker housing program to the 2006-07 budget.
5. A resolution calling for restoration of SBA micro-loan program to the 2007 budget.
6. A resolution paying tribute to Charles Tamez and his legacy of "SI SE PUDO".
7. Boycott of Charles Krug and C.K. Mondavi Wines.
8. A resolution calling for international boycott of Kimberly Clark products like VIVA, paper towels, Scott toilet papers, Depends, Huggies, Diapers, Kleenex, Pull-Ups and Kotex.
9. A resolution in favor of English Plus.
10. A resolution that opposes local law enforcement officers from engaging in immigration enforcement.
11. A resolution calling on members and California citizens

Redistricting case

By APRIL CASTRO

A federal panel gave both sides in Texas' redistricting fight two weeks to propose fixes to a congressional district whose borders were ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

U.S. District Judge T. John Ward said proposed changes to the map are due by July 14. Oral arguments were scheduled for Aug. 3 in Austin.

On Wednesday, The Supreme Court upheld most of the pro-Republican Texas congressional map but tossed the 23rd Congressional District, which stretches from San Antonio to Laredo and west almost to El Paso. It remanded its redrawing to a three-judge panel.

The GOP-controlled Legislature redrew the map in 2003 to put more Republicans in office. Democrats and minority groups sued the state, accusing Republicans of an unconstitutional power grab in drawing boundaries that booted four Democrats from office. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott argued that the new boundaries reflect the preferences of Texas voters.

The high court did not set a deadline for a new map, but changes would have to be made soon to be effective in the November general election.

Gov. Rick Perry said he prefers the Legislature make redistricting decisions. But Perry, who has authority to call lawmakers into session, said he would wait for the court's decision.

"To play a lot of what-ifs is not great," he said.

The court objected to 100,000 Hispanics living in Webb County being shifted into a neighboring district. Any remedy would likely require the inclusion of more Hispanics in the district and would require slight changes to surrounding districts.

"We want to be sure that Latino voters have a voice in congressional elections in this state," said Nina Perales, an attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund who argued the portion of the redistricting case that was upheld by the Supreme Court. "We're going to be proposing a plan that allows Latino voters to express their preferences in future congressional elections."

North Korean Intentions Hard to Read

Korea's motives in firing a missile with the potential to hit the United States or Canada, but said the U.S. cannot afford to misjudge the situation. "I think we've got to plan for the worst and hope for the best," Bush said. Bush stressed that the United States is seeking a diplomatic solution to the nuclear standoff with North Korea. He cautioned that diplomacy will take time. The president said he was pleased that leaders of China, South Korea, Japan and Russia, in telephone calls during the past few days, agreed that the reclusive communist regime should not be allowed to possess nuclear weapons. "My message was that we want to solve this problem diplomatically, and the best way to solve this problem diplomatically is for all of us to be working in concert," Bush said.

Bush said the nations' message to North Korean leader Kim Jong Il was clear: "We expect you to adhere to international norms. We expect you to keep your word."

Asked for an assessment of the reclusive North Korean leader, who is variously described as quirky, eccentric or even unbalanced, Bush struck a thoughtful pose.

"It's hard for me to tell you what's on his mind. He lives in a very closed society," marked by concentration camps and starving people, Bush said.

"What we don't know is his intentions," Bush said.

COMMUNITY VOICES

This week readers weigh in on two issues that have been in the news lately. One a national and global issue involving North Korea's firing of at least 7 missiles this past week in defiance of a global moratorium on missile testing. The other is about the ongoing debate of whom or what is responsible for the TASER death of Juan Manuel Nunez which occurred in April.

In my opinion, the lines of communication should remain open, if not more so, between the U.S. and North Korea. This is not a time to try and prove which country has the upper hand, but to try and understand what motivates North Korea. I think North Korea is flexing its muscles at the U.S. just because it wants to show other countries that it should be feared. In the meantime, we should remain on full alert and practice safety precautions.

On the Nunez death:

I believe the police officer should be held responsible for the TASER death of Mr. Nunez. Officers are trained to use their weapons and are aware of the dangers in using them. Reaching for a TASER and using it is easier than trying to diffuse the situation and it should have been a last resort. It's too easy to blame the City of Lubbock or the TASER company and the fact of the matter is that no one forced the officer to use his TASER - that was his choice.

Diana S. Fabing, Lubbock via Email

Hey, how about adding Juan Manuel Nunez to the list of possible responsible actors? I guess that didn't even occur to you as an option?

His death is a tragedy but other factors were the reason for the police being present to begin with. They didn't just drive around and pick his house to come and harass.

Your question implies that his actions do not bear any of the responsibility at all. Even if a police officer shoots someone during the commission of a crime, and it turns out the person was not armed or a threat, the criminal still bears the responsibility for being involved in the commission of the crime. The officer should be punished as well but the criminal does not become blameless just because another individual made a mistake. That's sort of the 2 wrongs make a right deal.

Robert Pratt, Lubbock via Email

(The writer hosts a daily local radio program called, "Pratt on Texas")

The only option is to work with other countries and put pressure on North Korea to stop testing of the bombs.

Sonny Garcia, Lubbock via Email

The Bush administration set a dangerous precedent by its illegal invasion and continued occupation of Iraq. It has put our country on the wrong side of international law and into the ranks of rogue nations. The President's willingness to disregard intelligence and violate international law by adopting a policy of preemptive war has contributed directly to both North Korea and Iran attempting to arm themselves with nuclear deterrents. Our own nation did much the same when the fear was that Nazis were developing nuclear weapons in WWII. Given the Bush administration's recent history as a bad actor there is no moral ground for the U.S. to respond with force against North Korea, especially given the fact that the North Korean missile test failed. It is in the interests of China, Japan and Russia for North Korea to stand down. The Bush administration should let international law, diplomacy and regional pressure take its course with North Korea in order to show that the U.S. is willing to rejoin the community of law-abiding nations and abandon the ill-conceived notion of preemptive war. Further saber-rattling from Washington will only escalate tensions and continue to help perpetuate a problem of our own, sad to say, making.

Susan Barrick, Lubbock via Email

(The writer is the Democratic candidate for Lubbock County Judge)

On the Question of North Korea

It appears that North Korea has the will and the way to be nuclear aggressive. It has been true more often than not; he who second guesses gets a bloody nose. With these broken nuclear perimeters on the part of North Korea, it seems to me that first strike philosophies should be on the mind of our government.

On the Nunez death:

Without fear of life to himself or others the police officer should have exercised restraint. Perhaps Mr. Juan Manuel Nunez would still be alive if the police officer exhibited more control. Speaking as a citizen without access to all records - I believe the City of

Lubbock, the police officer, and the Taser company are responsible for Mr. Nunez's death. Common sense should have prevailed. I believe the City of Lubbock Police

are Taser happy and use the device in excess. Life on earth happens only once.

A. Gonzales, Lubbock via Email

On North Korea, "Wait awhile for a response".

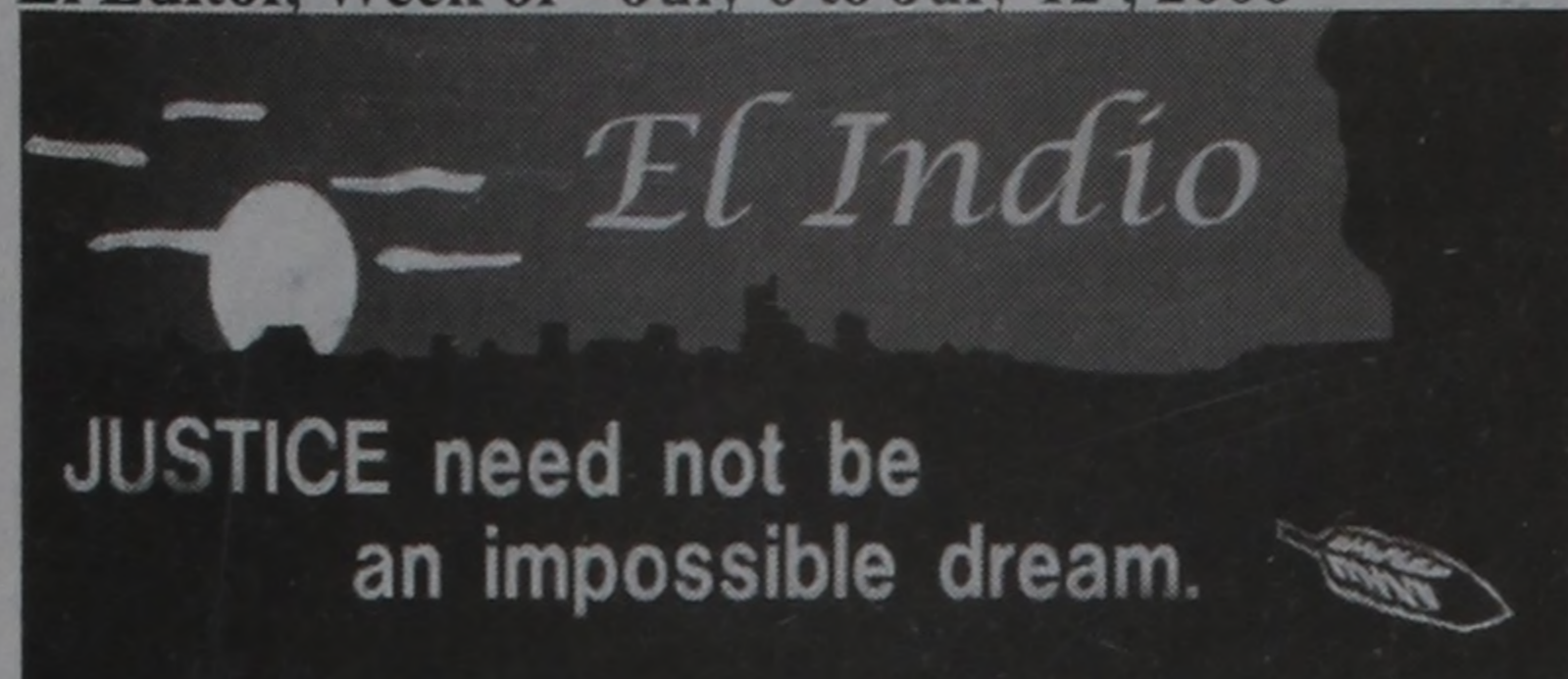
I feel Tasers should be taken off the market...too many deaths. As far as responsibility, that's a tough one. I don't have a comment on that one.

I think the United States needs to withdraw any help or anticipated help from North Korea. It is very clear that North Korea knows about the missile firing moratorium. What are they trying to prove? They are doing what they want no matter what the United States says. It seems that North Korea is teasing the United States to see what they will do. According to the news, North Korea intends to continue "testing" their missiles. Is the United States going to let them continue? They probably are and will continue to help North Korea. What does that tell us?

Minerva Alaniz, Lubbock via Email

"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. You may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive language, offensive or distasteful content, or personal attacks, and for space. Mail your comments to Community Voices, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comments to acruzts@aol.com

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In their own Words

Independence Day
I love the 4th of July. I love the symbols and all they represent. I love community gatherings when families and friends get together to celebrate. I love displays of red, white and blue. I love the fireworks, the hotdogs, the parades and the music. I love everything about the 4th of July. But more than that, I love America and what this day represents to her. I love the 4th of July, but I want to talk about Independence Day.

Let us look back to those strong-willed colonists who wanted something more. Something more than they had ever experienced. Something untried, unknown. Something that existed only in the hearts of those true revolutionaries. Something imagined only by the true believers.

They wanted a new nation, a different nation, a nation unseen and unimagined by the world at that time. They wanted a nation worthy of a free people. A nation where the rights and dignity of the individual would be prized and protected.

They wanted a union of strong, free-minded individuals that would yield a collective power and community spirit that would enable tremendous social progress. They believed a free people, united, would be stronger and more formidable than a coalition of the controlled or coerced.

They wanted a nation, free from the constraints of state-sponsored religion, which would gladly and freely respect and worship a higher power according to their own conviction.

They wanted a republic, not burdened with arbitrary and unfair taxation, which could contribute fairly and equitably to the public coffers what would be needed to advance the many goals of society.

On July 4th 1776 they declared themselves a new and independent nation. The fight was not won. The perils and obstacles of a new nation were not overcome. But they declared themselves independent, based on their bold vision, based on their commitment and resolve, based on their instinctual confidence in human capacity.

They stood on principle, walked on faith, spoke in unison and changed the world.

Whether our family is new to the United States or have been here for generations, we are all part of the America envisioned by our forefathers. The debt we owe those early visionaries in insurmountable. The simple, daily freedoms we take for granted are granted to us only because of their leadership and resolve. So many times in the history of our country, we reached a convergence of divergent paths and stayed true to the way they set out for us so many Julys ago.

Today, we face such a crossroads. Do we honor those early Americans? Do we still believe in the value of a country they envisioned? Do we celebrate the America of their dreams?

Or do we give over this precious, breathing, living country - still unique in all the world - to those dedicated to the erosion and eventual annihilation of those most important concepts. Do not be mistaken. The concepts of individual rights, religious tolerance, fair taxation, honest representation and equal opportunity that we as Americans cherish, are under attack today. They are under attack by a powerful movement set on obtaining more wealth for the wealthiest, burdening the most burdened, legislating religious and personal conduct, and unraveling our bill of rights for political gain.

I believe the most noble, most appropriate way to celebrate America on this Independence Day is to rededicate ourselves to the founders' original ideas. Individual rights. Freedom of speech. Religious tolerance. Justice for all. Real equality. True freedom for all Americans, regardless of race, religion, or country of origin.

I hope that you join me in celebrating the vision of this country's founders this Independence Day. May our fighting men and women be safe and our families secure this Fourth of July.

Robert Ricketts
(The writer is the Democratic Candidate for U.S. Congress; District 19, in this year's November general election)

CONGRESS DOES IT AGAIN

by Jim Hightower

Do you have one of those really good jobs in which your pay is automatically raised every single year by nearly \$4,000 - and the only way your pay hike can be withheld is if you choose not to accept it?

You don't find these jobs in the "help wanted" ads, friends. You find them in congress.

Once again, our congress critters have generously bestowed a pay hike on themselves, raising their total annual take to \$168,500 apiece. These are the same people who have refused to raise America's poverty-level minimum wage for ten years and who have shown no concern for the majority of American working families whose wages have not even kept up with the rising cost of living.

This month, house members voted for the eighth year in a row to up their own pay. In a little game of political dodgeball, congressional leaders of both parties run an insider scam that makes their pay raise automatic - unless they magnanimously vote to block it. Guess what? They don't. For eight straight years, these statesmen have grabbed the money and run.

Speaking of running, both party's leaders have cut a secret save-the-incumbents pact, agreeing their candidates will not use the pay raise as an issue in the fall elections. And you thought there was no bipartisanship left on Capitol Hill.

Members try to dismiss the pay hikes as a trivial sum, merely enough to keep them ahead of inflation. Over the eight years of steady raises, however, these cost-of-living "adjustments," as congress likes to call them, have added a total of \$32,000 to their paychecks. That's more than the annual income of most Americans - and it further isolates our congress critters from the harsh economic reality being faced today by the great majority of people they supposedly represent.

This is Jim Hightower saying... Shouldn't at least one party be campaigning to bring congress down to earth - starting with ending their soft cushion of automatic pay raises?

Will Democracy die in Mexico on July 2?

(By Raoul Lowery Contreras)

Within days and hours the United States of Mexico will choose a new president.

(Will Mexicans vote leftist, vote the center or plunge once again into the hellish morass they lived in for seven decades? (Will they reject the Stalinism of the old dinosaurs of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) as they did six years ago when President Vicente Fox beat them like a drum? Or will they vote for current faddish leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador like voters in Bolivia and Venezuela have done by electing anti-American leftists? Obrador is the candidate of a leftist coalition led by the Partido Revolucionario Democrático (PRD).

Or, will they stay in the 21st Century with Felipe Calderon, the grass roots favorite of most educated Mexicans and the Partido Accion Nacional (PAN) candidate who defeated Vicente Fox's choice in a party primary? (Recent polls show that the PRI candidate, Roberto Madrazo, is out of contention with poll results that average in the low twenties. The polls show a tight race (about 40 percent each) between Calderon and Obrador. Should they? (Assuming that Mexican voters are like American voters, the better educated, better off Mexicans should vote to maintain the course instituted by Fox's miraculous defeat of the old PRI Stalinists. In other words, Harvard MBA Felipe Calderon, Fox's former Energy Minister, should get their vote and they do vote in greater proportion than lesser-educated Mexicans do.

Calderon should sweep Northern Mexico. Obrador should sweep the poorest Mexican states south of Mexico City. The election, then, will be decided in central Mexico, the area that has sent millions of its young men to America. They left for jobs. (Jobs, then, are the most critical issue in the Mexican election. The question is who between Leftist Obrador and Centrist free market advocate Calderon can produce the most jobs.

While he was mayor of Mexico City Obrador instituted a massive pension grant to elderly Mexicans of several hundred pesos a month (about \$72 dollars). That endeared him to many of the poor, the ones who enjoy free handouts. He claims that he can do the same nationally without bankrupting the country. He claims that he will cut pay of top officials and go after rich tax evaders for the money. (On the other hand, the Fox Administration of which Calderon was such an important cog in the early revolutionary Fox years of 2001, 2002 and 2003 has slashed inflation to historical lows unseen since the "good old days" of Porfirio Diaz over a hundred years ago. The Mexican peso is worth more today

A Political Dog and Pony Road Show

By Abel Cruz

Before we get to the "show"Ö
In our Community Voices section this week several readers respond to a question posed to them by El Editor concerning the death of Juan Manuel Nunez; who died on April 16, Easter Sunday, after being Tasered by Lubbock police officer Matt Doherty who had answered a 911 hang-up at the Nunez residence. Although the Lubbock medical examiner has ruled that the death resulted from a combination of Mr. Nunez's intoxicated state, the TASER and a blow to the back of the head, the Nunez family has filed a civil lawsuit in the matter.

If you believe what has been reported in the mainstream media, which is all we have to go on at this point, then one would have to conclude that Mr. Nunez had full responsibility to bear for the initial call to 911 and for the officer's response. But, the question goes much deeper than that. The real question is who was responsible for the eventual outcome; after the officer arrived at the home.

A response from Robert Pratt, asks whether El Editor, in formulating the question, even thought about adding "Juan Manuel Nunez to the list of responsible actors".

Of course, when we came up with the question we thought of including Nunez as a responsible party. But, for a couple of reasons we did not.

One; because, the issue which will be decided in the courts, based on the civil lawsuit filed by the Nunez family, asks whether the city of Lubbock, the police department or TASER International, the stun gun manufacturer is responsible. The lawsuit does not ask for a jury to decide whether Nunez was the responsible party. The question was in reference to the lawsuit filed by the family; perhaps we should have made that clearer in the question.

To be sure, Mr. Nunez was responsible for the initial call to 911. The facts are clear that he had been out drinking, and something happened upon his return home. But the questions remain; was the use of the Taser necessary, was it excessive force, could the situation have been handled differently, have police officers gotten to the point where it is easier to "Taser first and ask questions later".

The fact that 911 was called and the Taser of the victim are not one and the same. Even if Mr. Nunez was solely responsible for the police coming out to the Nunez home; the resulting event; the Taser of Mr. Nunez (which was the nexus between the blow to the head and Mr. Nunez blood alcohol content) which resulted in his death is a totally separate issue.

Otherwise we all have to assume that anytime a police officer is called to the scene of a domestic disturbance; any action they take will be considered appropriate; because by placing a 911 call, or the fact that a person may have had too much to drink and is in his or her own private home, we are automatically stripped of our civil rights; and are at the mercy of the police officer(s) who respond.

There is a reason why the U.S. Department of Justice recently announced that up to 150 cases involving Taser related deaths would be reviewed and why several police departments around the country have suspended the use of Tasers until their safety factor concerns can be addressed.

In what could easily be called an "immigration dog and pony road show", a Republican led House panel held immigration hearings in San Diego, California this past week. In an attempt to highlight differences with the Senate passed immigration reform bill and with their own Republican administration; the panel met at a San Diego Border Patrol station.

Focusing on the war on terror, Republican, Ed Royce, R-California, stated that "Immigration reform must be a national security reform; we live in an age when dedicated terrorists want to hit us as hard as they can".

For their part, Democrats used the occasion to ridicule the Republican's efforts. Representative Bob Filner, D-California was quoted as saying: "This is a charade, it's a cover-up for the fact they can't produce a bill and they can't secure our borders".

According to news reports, the next step will be to hold hearings somewhere in this country, probably in states like Arizona, California, or Texas, a border state in which immigration tensions run high, on making English the nation's official language and how enforcing immigration laws affect American workers. A hearing the week of Aug. 14 in Arizona will focus on costs to local and state governments "caused by an unsecured border."

It is clear that these types of "politically motivated pretenses" will be used to inflame people's emotions. Border or national security risks, disguised as immigration reform, are being used to confirm some people's fears of a "Mexican illegal immigration invasion"; and to fuel the flames of racial intolerance.

These are just some of the tactics House and Senate Republicans and the rest of the GOP will use to try and scare their voting base into going to the polls in November.

They may as well just run around the Southern part of the country, just like Chicken Little, yelling, "The Mexicans are coming, the Mexicans are coming".

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Waiting for Lopez Obrador...

by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

Ginger Thompson and James C. McKinley, Jr., writing in the New York Times today, state that: "With tallies taken from about 93 percent of the polling places, the electoral authorities reported that the count had tilted toward the leftist candidate, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who had 36 percent of the vote, while the conservative candidate, Felipe Calderón, had 35 percent."

This is superb news! Both Mexico and the United States need a break from NAFTA, GATT and the other "free trade" agreements that have devastated American jobs and Mexican prosperity. "Free trade" sounds great, but is less filling...it is a blank check for corporate greed and social irresponsibility.

Let us all hope and pray for a PRD victory...the election of López Obrador shall send Bush and Fox a message they can't refuse!

México's Election: A Delayed 'Great Day' for Democracy

By José de la Isla

The much-anticipated presidential election in Mexico boiled down to what went on at 130,000 voting precincts throughout the nation. And in how a large undecided vote of 12 percent would sway the outcome.

Alejandra Aldana, Precinct 4558 president, arrived at her post on Coahuila Street a few minutes before 8 a.m. The precinct is in Colonia Roma, an older section of Mexico City. Volunteers and paid workers were waiting.

They assembled the folding tables, the see-through ballot boxes and then the one containing blank ballots. Aldana resolved a conflict over the competing local and federal setups before the polls opened half an hour late.

Representatives Isabel Rico Jiménez, for the Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD), and Guillermo Viveros Rivas for the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) looked on. No one connected with the other leading party, incumbent Vicente Fox's Partido Acción Nacional (PAN), had arrived.

About 25 people waited outside. The line soon grew to 75. Viveros Rivas, an old hand at elections, was patient. "They need to learn, get experience," he said.

An hour later, already about a hundred people lined up on the sidewalk. Gabriel Sánchez, with Prospecta Consulting, had by now shown up to gather exit poll data. Each precinct has about 400 to 600 voters, and a 60 percent turnout was expected.

Indirectly, Colonia Roma is known to thousands in the United States. A few blocks from the precinct, on Orizaba Street in the 1950s, William Burroughs wrote "Naked Lunch" and Jack Kerouac authored "Mexico City Blues," books that launched the world beatnik era and the counterculture. Colonia Roma has seen better days. Once the tony side of town, now tottering on redevelopment, it is coming back from decline. Its residents are a broad mix of old and hip, a middle-income segment that is losing faith, and a struggling working class.

This election is about the past and the future, but in the United States it is oversimplified into right and left. Current U.S. attention focuses largely on rural areas and small towns that feed immigration, while the election is mainly waged here in urban Mexico by those who stay. Up to the Sunday vote, a large portion of them were undecided about who deserved their support.

Across town, at the Tecnológico de Monterrey university campus, 32,632 international ballots were taken for the official count to begin at the same time the polls closed. Mexicans in five continents submitted ballots, with 87 percent of those ballots from the United States.

Election weariness was setting in. One man commented that the longer the election took the less confident he became about the candidates. Analyzing the characteristics of the undecideds, Reforma, a leading Mexico City newspaper, reported a statistical profile that looked something like a horseshoe.

Those who would vote for PRD candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador were the curious ones, wanting to try something new, the paper said. The undecided who would go with PAN's Felipe Calderón wanted continuity and incrementalism. They wanted the country to follow persons who are risk-averse.

With party representatives looking on, Alejandra Aldana certified the vote at Precinct 4558. López Obrador led Calderón, 199 to 176, out of a total 445 valid ballots cast, and 10 nullifications. For a Roma precinct in the world's largest city, the result was too close to be definitive. Aldana posted the results, just as 130,000 similar precincts were doing throughout the Mexican republic.

At 11 p.m., federal election officials were unable to give an official fast count from exit polls because the presidential contest was too close to call.

At the corner news kiosk the next morning, the dailies heralded a great - but complicated - day for democracy. "I don't understand why they don't know the results," pleaded the customer standing next to me.

Hours later, an unofficial preliminary count favored the PAN's Felipe Calderón by barely a percentage point, 36.38% to 35.34%. The official word on a winner is now in the hands of the Federal Judicial Electoral Tribunal.

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EL EDITOR

is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. El Editor has been published on a weekly basis since 1977. Our physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. El Editor is available on the internet at <http://www.eleditor.com> and is distributed throughout West Texas in retail outlets. Opinions expressed in El Editor are those of the individual writer and not necessarily those of the publisher or the advertisers. Advertising information available by emailing us at eleditor@sbglobal.net or by calling us at 806-763-3841. Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can be sent to the same email address. All opinions and letters to the editor must contain the writer's name, address and phone number but name can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

Julietta Venegas goes platinum with "Limon y Sal" CD

Mexican singer and songwriter Julieta Venegas proved her music quality after going Platinum in Mexico thanks to her latest album "Limon y Sal", selling more than 100,000 copies just a month after its release.

A press release by her record label announced the album, whose first single "me voy" is also a hit in Latin America, is topping the Amprofon sales charts as well as the Spanish radio charts.

"Limon y sal" contains 13 tracks, most of them written by the accordion artist along with Anita Tijoux, Dante, Jorge Villamizar and Coti Sorokin, who co-wrote three songs.

Venegas is currently promoting this her latest album in several Latin American countries. She has just arrived from Spain, where her music is quite popular.

The Tijuana-born artist has won several international awards including the Latin Grammy, the MTV Video Music Awards and Oye!



She has also been nominated for Awards and the Lunas del Auditorio. She has also been nominated for the Grammy awards, lo Nuestro.

Song Inspired by US Immigrants Recorded

The first song inspired by the historical undocumented immigrants rallies last March in Los Angeles will be performed by Mexican grupero artists.

The production "Se que triunfare" (I know I will triumph) was recorded last week in Los Angeles Pass Studio with the participation of Mario Quintero, Tucanes' front man and Conjunto Primavera's Tony Melendez.

Also the song written by Pepe Garza, Adolfo Valenzuela and Omar Valenzuela has the voices of Vicky and Marisol Terrazas, and Horoscopos de Durango's singers, Jenny Rivera and El Chapo de Sinaloa.

"This is recognition of the presence and contribution of immigrants to this country and who have not been recognized for their real worth", Mario Quintero explained before the recording.

"When we perform a song like this one, we feel that we honor the



millions of immigrants that have battled hard in this country for their own American Dream", Melendez stated in a separate statement.

The song tells how immigrants battle to survive in this country, as well as all they go through to have a different life.

The track came after the demands for a song to be created after the late March rally that gathered more than one million immigrants in Los Angeles demanding legalization.

"(We do) this with the purpose to encourage immigrants to grow and change their lives through work, honesty and professionalism", the Mexican regional music performers agreed.

Those involved did not hesitate to provide their talent; this is the case of "El Chapo", after he went through the experience of being an

undocumented immigrant in the US.

"It means a lot to me to participate in a song like this one and it is also a (source of) pride and praise to have been considered for the recording," Rivera said.

"The song is quite beautiful and representative of immigrants in this country. I was so inspired by the dedication and devotion that all the artists put forth when recording it", Rivera explained.

"Each one performs a verse and the chorus is done with all the voices. It inspired me a lot and I liked the final result", the so-called diva of banda stated.

The release date of the song for which a music video was also shot, has not been announced yet by the record label representatives, but it was said that it will be a matter of weeks.

Latinos are Key to U.S. Growth America needs to Reach Players, Fans

By Jeff Rusnak

World Cup television ratings tell a lot about a country's relationship to soccer and they say everything about the state of the game in this country.

In Europe and Latin America, for instance, where the game is part of the bloodline like food, music and universal health care, viewership typically exceeds 50 percent of the television households in countries playing in the tournament.

It's a different story in the United States, of course, and not just because ratings rarely surpass 8 percent. An even greater distinction is that, unlike the other 31 countries that played in the 2006 World Cup, the U.S. is the only country that counts viewership almost equally in two English and Spanish.

More to the heart of the issue than which network wins the ratings race is how a country with roughly the same number of American and Latin soccer fans continues to have a national team that reflects one group and not the other.

Spanish-language Univision's numbers suggests there are more Latino fans in the U.S. than English-speaking natives. Presumably, that includes kids who play the game. And yet, the U.S.

team has historically fielded few players from a Latin heritage.

The 2006 team that went 0-2-1 in Germany had three players with Latin roots -- Claudio Reyna, Pablo Mastroeni and Carlos Bocanegra. Reyna lived in Argentina briefly as a kid and Mastroeni was born there before moving here with his family at age 4. In soccer terms, the time wasn't wasted.

Tab Ramos, Fernando Clavijo, Carlos Llamasa and Marcelo Balboa all played on World Cup teams in the 1990s. Ramos and Clavijo were born in Uruguay while Llamasa is a native of Colombia. El Salvador-born midfielder Hugo Perez was left off the 1990 World Cup team, largely because his individualistic, touch style of play didn't jibe with the athletic approach favored by coach Bob Gansler.

It's purely subjective, but the case can be made that the most creative midfielders to wear the U.S. shirt have been Reyna, Ramos and Perez. Mastroeni, meanwhile, possesses a trademark slide tackle and his former Fusion teammate Llamasa has been one of our more refined defenders.

In the 25 years since Reyna and Mastroeni were tykes, U.S. cities have been transformed by immigration from the Americas, primar-

ily Mexico and to a lesser extent Colombia, Honduras and more recently in South Florida, Argentina. And yet, for whatever reason, the U.S. team lags in incorporating this demographic shift into its player pool.

It's not for a lack of good intentions because U.S. officials know the Latino market is a largely untapped source for fans and players. The United States soccer federation has a program to identify Latino kids, but more often than not players who get called into the youth teams don't reach the senior side.

MLS was birthed on the play-making skills of Carlos Valderrama, Marco Etcheverry and Mauricio Cienfuegos, but those players are gone and haven't been replaced. It shows. MLS has a Mexican-owned team in Chivas USA and there's been talk of Club America eventually signing on. Ostensibly, Chivas is a link to Mexican fans and players, though the results have been unconvincing thus far.

It's not an issue of bias necessarily that Latinos haven't been absorbed more fully into the U.S. system as much as it may be a matter of differing temperaments. The American way was formed primarily from English, Irish, Dutch and German stock and it's evident

in a national team program that rewards industry over artistry.

It's been widely acknowledged in U.S. soccer circles that mining the growing Latin player pool is essential to the success of the game here. But it's not enough to find those players and make them play like Americans. It's more a case of blending the Latin comfort and ingenuity on the ball into the American propensity for speed and strength to form a hybrid approach.

How to do it is the challenge. American officials can begin by bringing in more Latin -- and Brazilian -- coaches and encouraging them to teach the "to-ca-to-ca" (touch) style of play. The U.S. team could play as a guest team at Copa America and MLS can continue to send its champion to the Copa Libertadores, as it did with D.C. United recently.

The United States has the mentality to win a World Cup someday, but there will be more first-round exits if it doesn't find a way to reach a new Latino population that not only loves the game, but knows how to play it.

Not only will the U.S. team be better for it, but so will fans. After all, who wants a team that plays too much like England when we can aspire to be Argentina.

Fascinación por vida amorosa de Gael Garcia

La vida amorosa del actor mexicano Gael García Bernal, quien se encuentra en Argentina, ha causado revuelo y es motivo de todo tipo de especulaciones en diarios de ambos países.

Algunos medios reportaron que García tiene un vínculo romántico con la actriz argentina Dolores

Fonzi y aseguran que se queda a dormir en su apartamento.

"Está enamorado", aseguró El Universal de México mientras El Diario de Argentina hizo eco: "No bien llegó a Buenos Aires, Gael corrió a los brazos de Dolo".

Otros periódicos cuestionaron la continua en la página 4.

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Search Engine Strategies to Kick Off First SES Latino Conference Targeting U.S. Hispanic, Latin American Markets

NEW YORK---With U.S. Hispanics and Latin Americans ranked among the top worldwide Internet users and fastest growing populations, the market is ripe for the first annual Search Engine Strategies Latino '06. The event runs July 10th - 11th in Miami, FL, at the Intercontinental Miami. Aimed at marketers and website owners who target Spanish speak-

ers domestically and abroad, SES Latino will offer its sessions in English along with live translation in Spanish.

Representatives from Google Mexico, Yahoo! Mexico, Google Brazil and Yahoo! Brazil are among the many notable speakers slated to appear. Search Engine Strategies Latino '06 is chaired by Hispanic search engine marketing

authority Nacho Hernandez, CEO of iHispanic Marketing Group. Noted search industry expert Danny Sullivan, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of "We're very pleased to launch

this new edition to the Search Engine Strategies lineup as part of our growth and globalization objectives. To gain the highest quality attendee experience in the U.S. Hispanic and Latin America mar-

kets we are leveraging with talented people like Nacho Hernandez to deliver the premier event for search engine marketing and optimization," said Rory Brown,

Managing Director of Search Engine Watch and Search Engine Strategies.

According to Synovate, U.S. Hispanic buying power is increasing faster than any other minority group, rising from \$228 billion in 1996 to an estimated \$705 billion in 2006, with an amazing increase of 22% in the last two years. The Selig Center believes that if the current growth continues, Hispanics will become the most economically powerful minority with a buying power of \$1.2 trillion by 2010.

Research shows that Hispanics are embracing the Internet quickly, with 78% going online 3-5 times per week. According to the first annual U.S. Hispanic Cyberstudy, Hispanics spend 43% more time online at work (13.5 hours) and 13% more time online at home (9.5 hours) than the overall online population.

"Education, networking and doing business at SES Latino are key elements to the growth of our industry. We have worked really hard to make this event a success. I am privileged to have received the support of distinguished leaders like Danny Sullivan and Incisive Media," said Nacho Hernandez, CEO of iHispanic Marketing Group and SES Latino Conference Chair.

Search Engine Strategies Latino '06 conference sessions will focus on how to maximize search engine marketing opportunities and stay informed of the latest search solutions in this area. Industry leaders in the U.S. and in Latin America for search engine marketing and search engine optimization will provide attendees with innovative approaches and tactics for these markets.

For additional information about the SES Latino event in Miami and other conferences in the Search Engine Strategies series, visit www.seslatino.com.

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Gael Garcia viene de la pagina 3

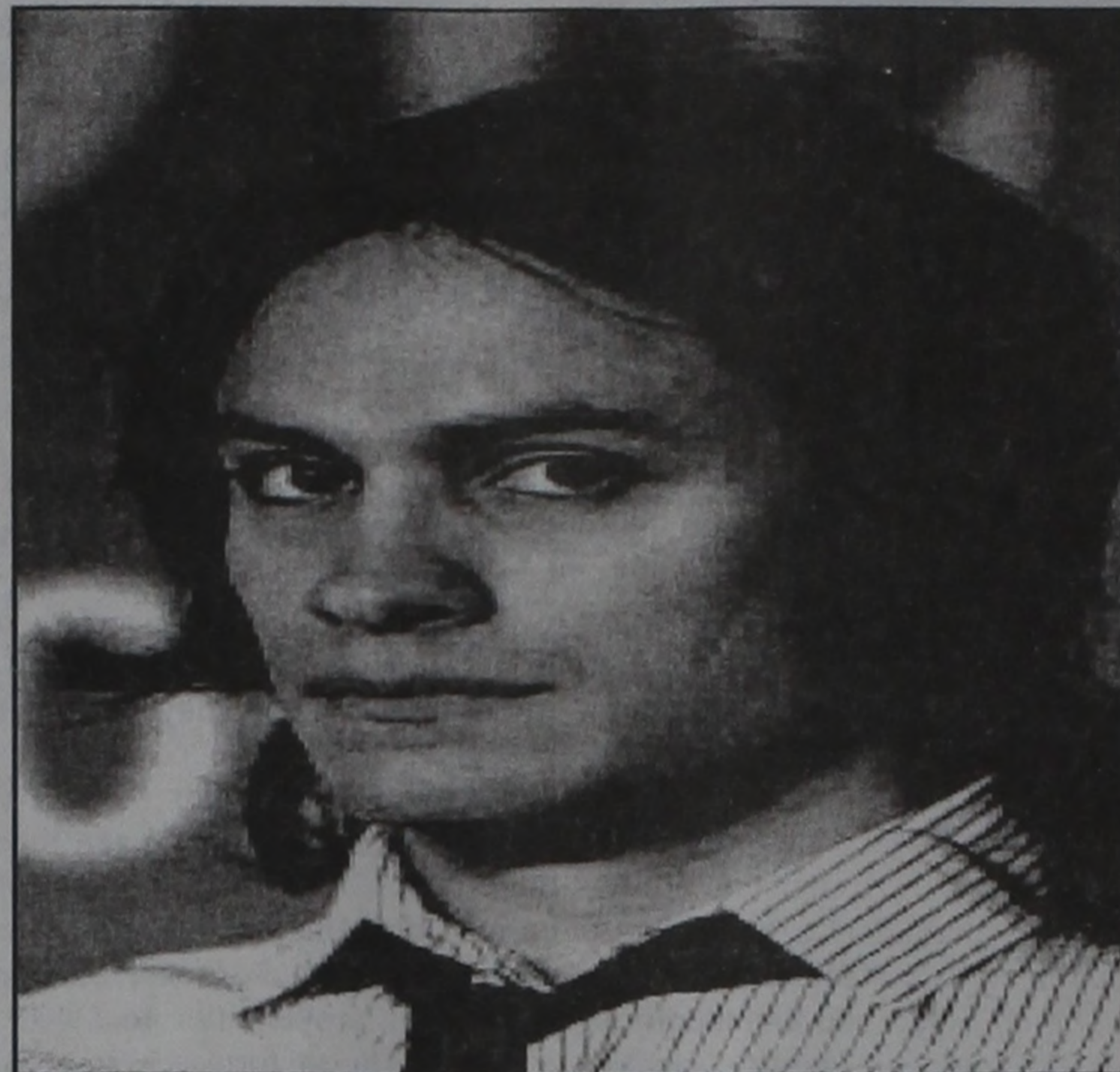
relación de García con la cantante Anita Alvarez, luego de que se dieran a conocer varias fotografías de ambos caminando tras disfrutar de una cena juntos.

"¿Y esa rubia?", cuestionó el mexicano "Reforma".

García se encuentra en Buenos Aires arreglando su participación en la cinta "El Pasado", bajo la dirección del argentino-brasileño Héctor Babenco.

Más tarde se volvieron a ver cuando el mexicano regresó a Argentina para realizar el papel del Che Guevara en "Diarios de la Motocicleta". Luego Fonzi viajó al Distrito Federal para incorporar a Gael como personaje en la miniserie argentina "Soy tu Fan", en la que ella fue protagonista y productora.

Los rumores publicados apuntan a que el actor habría cambiado su



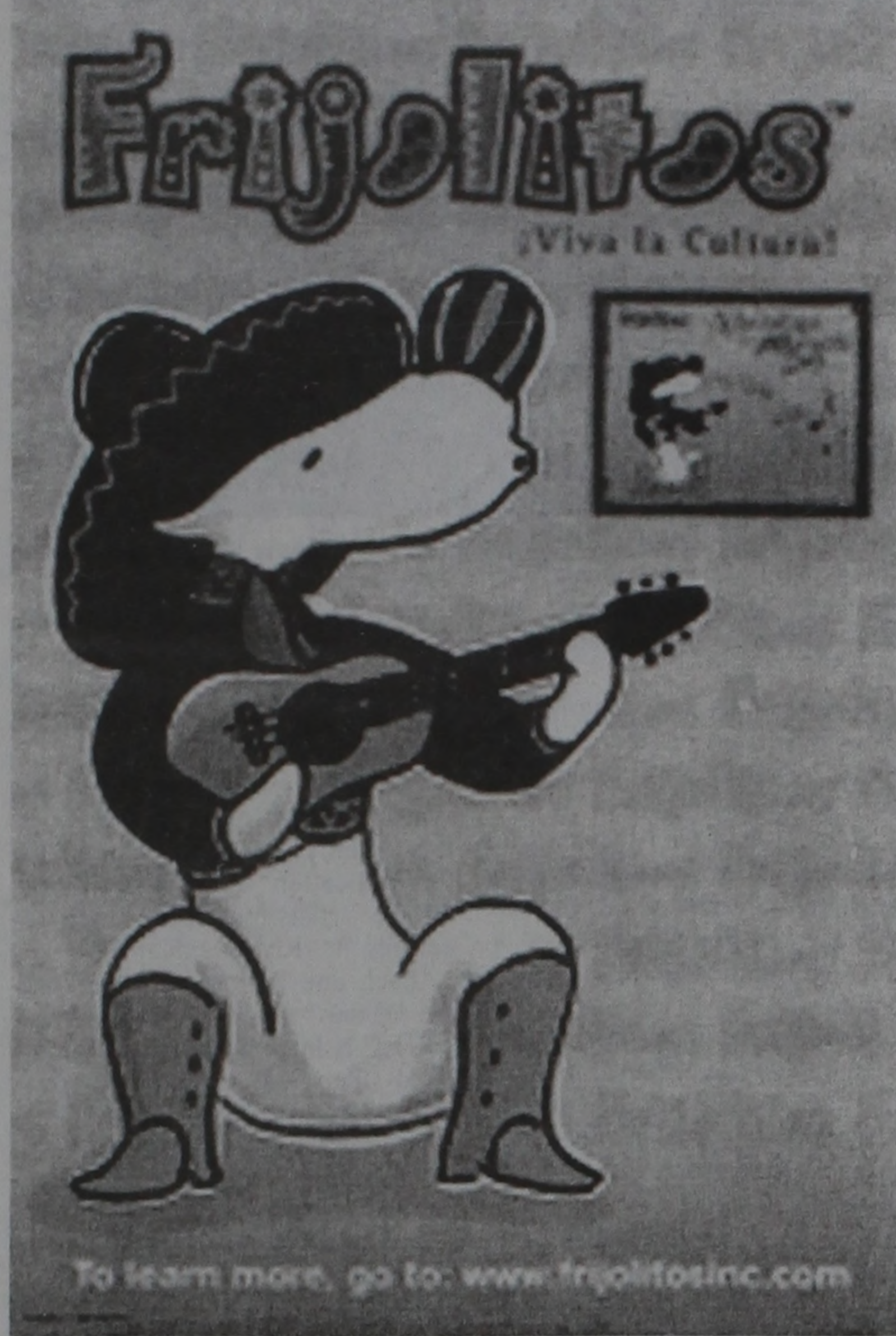
La película, que comenzaría a rodarse a mediados de julio, está basada en el libro del mismo nombre escrito por Alan Pauls, que cuenta la historia de una pareja y sus diversos reencuentros en 25 años.

Entre las especulaciones se destacó que García y Fonzi bien podrían estar recreando a su manera la historia de la cinta: se conocieron en el 2001 durante la filmación de "Vidas privadas",

estancia en un hotel de cinco estrellas, para alquilar un apartamento en el Barrio Palermo, cerca de donde vive Fonzi.

Mientras tanto, otros medios aseguran que ha iniciado una relación con Alvarez, pero no se ofrecen detalles de cómo surgió la amistad entre ambos.

Lo cierto es que García ha estado bajo el lente de los paparazzis argentinos que lo siguen sin tregua.



Frijolitos: Line of Bilingual books & Plush Toys Shares Latino Culture

The color and spirit of Latin culture comes to life through Frijolitos, a new collection of plush toys and bilingual books based on the antics of Picadillo the Armadillo, Albóndiga the Mariachi Dog, and Tugita Tere, a turtle.

The Frijolitos (Little Beans) collection was created through the imagination of Montebello entrepreneur Martha Barrios with the creative input of her family. Each of the three characters comes packaged in a carrying bag that includes an illustrated bilingual book that tells the character's story.

"I created Frijolitos because I remember when my kids were young how difficult it was to find bilingual toys that told them stories about their culture," Barrios said. "Some twenty years later, that was still the case and we decided to do something about it by creating Frijolitos."

The three Frijolitos characters bring to life folk tales relating to Latino culture through stories that have been passed down from generation to generation. The collection is available through www.frijolitosinc.com, Amazon.com, and select book and toy stores.

"We saw a real void in the toy industry for Latino-themed toys and wanted to create products that celebrate our culture," said Barrios. "Our focus from day one has been to provide toys and books that enrich the lives of children and their families. These are colorful, fun and educational books and toys that bring to life the richness and vibrancy of our Latino culture."

As expressed by its slogan, ¡Viva La Cultura! - Long Live Latino Culture!, Frijolitos will make its mark by providing children and adults with the art of storytelling in its most enriching form.

"Our toys serve a dual purpose: On the one hand, they celebrate the culture while on the other, they instill bilingual skills to both English- and Spanish-speaking children."

Hispanic families are one of the fastest-growing segments of the U.S. toy-buying market. A 2000 study by Simmons Hispanic Study found that 67.2 percent of Hispanic adults had bought games and toys within the previous 12 months, compared to 50.4 percent of non-Hispanics. For more information and a list of stores that carry the Frijolitos line, please visit www.frijolitosinc.com

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Un Rayito de Luz

por Sofia T. Martinez
Nuestra vida diaria como cristianos debe ser proteger y acrecentar la gracia en nuestras almas para no alejarnos nunca de Jesus nuestro Salvador.

Como las ramas de las parras reciben la savia del tronco y asi dan muchas uvas, así nosotros recibimos de Jesucristo la gracia que nos da la vida sobrenatural. Así como el alma le da vida al cuerpo, así tambien la gracia le da vida sobrenatural, y nos pone en condiciones de ir al cielo y gozar para siempre de la santísima trinidad. La gracia es como una semilla de Dios" (Jun 3, 90). Que desarrollandose en nuestra alma, produce una vida divina. Es lo que dice San Pablo que le paso a el: "Vivo yo, pero ya no soy yo el que vive, es Cristo el que vive en mí". Es lo que vale mas en el mundo, por que es la raiz de la caridad. Y de todas virtudes, es la santidad lo que a nuestra muerte se convierte en la bienaventuranza eterna.

Una maravilla misteriosa, pero verdadera, real, que debemos aprender a cuidarla para no dejar que se nos pierda por cualquier tentacion.

Quien pierde la gracia esta en gran peligro de condenarse, por que pierde a Jesucristo, y perder a Jesucristo, sera la peor desgracia que nos puede suceder, por que sin ella toda nuestra vida sera inutil para ir al cielo; por fuera todo sigue igual, pero, por dentro algo no funciona: es como una lampara sin corriente electrica.

Mientras vivimos, es tiempo de preparacion, camino para la eternidad; que puede ser de completo gozo si seguimos las enseñanzas de Cristo, o de eterno sufrimiento, si seguimos el camino del mal. El Señor Jesus nos dice: "yo soy el camino, la verdad, y la vida. Nadie viene al Padre, si no es por mí". (Jn 14, 6).

Si queremos ir al cielo, a la casa del Padre, tenemos que seguir su doctrina, porque es muy facil decir: "Yo soy cristiano, o decir: "acepto a Cristo como mi salvador", y hacer lo que a el no le agrada. Hermanos míos, no nos engañemos, a nosotros mismos, tenemos que demostrarle que lo amamos, luchando cada dia por hacer su voluntad. El tambien nos dice: "ustedes son mis amigos, si hacen lo que les mando" (Jn 15, 14). No seguir sus enseñanzas es una necesidad, en la que por desgracia caen muchas personas, algun dia se daran cuenta de su necesidad, pero ya sera demaciado tarde, porque no tendran posibilidad de rectificar y corregir el camino.

La fe sin las buenas obras, es una fe muerta: (Stgo. 2, 18-19). Si perder la compañía de Jesus es la peor tragedia que nos puede suceder. Por eso hemos de apreciar su amistad, y estar dispuestos a cualquier cosa antes que dejarle.

Si alguna vez le perdemos, porque caemos en la tentacion a causa de nuestra debilidad, sabemos donde encontrarle: en la confesion, en el sagrario. Por la penitencia purificamos nuestras almas y nos disponemos para despues recibir su cuerpo y su sangre, que le dan vida a nuestra alma y nos fortalecen para no perderlo nunca.

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LULAC Holds Immigration Rally on National Citizenship Day

Washington, DC – The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) celebrates National Citizenship Day today in Milwaukee concluding a week-long successful 77th National Convention. The themes of the week were education, health, the under-representation of Hispanics in the federal government and immigration.



"We want to energize the community and address the value of our vote at the ballot box. There are some that want to build walls instead of bridges. Out of the 42.7 million Latinos in this country, approximately half of them are under the age of twenty-five and we need to educate them," said LULAC National President Hector M. Flores.

"The civic participation of Latinos in the voting process is crucial to be able to acquire any type of decent legislation on immigration and other economic matters or policies that affect our community. The politicians do not count how many people march they only count how many people vote. The only permanent solution to the issue of undocumented immigration is to have an economic foreign

policy that will assist in the economic development of other countries rather than an economic policy of exploitation," said Dolores Huerta President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation for community organizing, delegate to the LULAC convention, and co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America.

LULAC held the immigration rally at the Midwest Airlines Center and stressed the importance of registering 2 million new voters. Voces de la Frontera also attended and participated in a nationwide campaign called "Democracy Summer" to help a million eligible individuals become citizens & voters. Latino residents are conduct-

ing a non-partisan neighborhood outreach in four wards to identify eligible voters and persons interested in citizenship class registration. The focus is on people who are eligible, registration and those who need to take classes. Participants will also be writing letters to their legislative representatives and attaching them to a construction worker's glove to remind them about the hard work and the economic contribution that the immigrant workforce makes to this country.

"If we do not translate the energy of marches into political power, the Latino community loses. By encouraging and assisting migrants to become citizens, we also give the ability to participate fully in the American process," said LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation Dr. Gabriela Lemus.

"Participating in American democracy is the most important American duty of any U.S. citizen. We want to make sure the community is fully engaged in asserting the voice of those elected to lead us and what laws they implement," said LULAC Executive Director Brent Wilkes.

Causan alerta en Estados Unidos Mísiles Norcoreanos

Corea del Norte lanzó ayer al menos seis misiles de prueba, incluido un Taepodong-2 de largo alcance, que se cree podría llegar a Estados Unidos, en un ensayo que desafió las severas advertencias hechas por los gobiernos de Washington y Tokio, informaron funcionarios japoneses y estadounidenses.

Funcionarios estadounidenses dijeron que el misil de largo alcance falló después de 35 segundos y que los demás eran proyectiles de corto alcance, que no representaban una amenaza inmediata a los países vecinos de Corea del Norte.

Los misiles cayeron sobre el mar de Japón, situado entre Japón y la península de Corea, dijo el secretario del gabinete Shinzo Abe.

La Casa Blanca consideró que los ensayos fueron una "provocación" y Tokio advirtió que contemplaba posibles sancio-

nes. La agencia noticiosa surcoreana Yonhap reportó que incluso 10 misiles fueron lanzados, pero ningún funcionario lo había confirmado.

Las pruebas japonesas coincidieron con la celebración del Día de la Independencia en Estados Unidos y el lanzamiento del transbordador espacial Discovery.

"Realizamos urgentes consultas con los miembros del Consejo de Seguridad [de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas]", destacó John Bolton, embajador de Estados Unidos ante la ONU.

Thomas Schieffer, embajador estadounidense en Japón, calificó las pruebas de "un acto de provocación" y la Casa Blanca dijo que Pyongyang se había aislado a sí mismo de la comunidad mundial.

"Los norcoreanos han vuelto a aislarse", dijo Tony Snow, secretario de Prensa de la Casa Blanca.

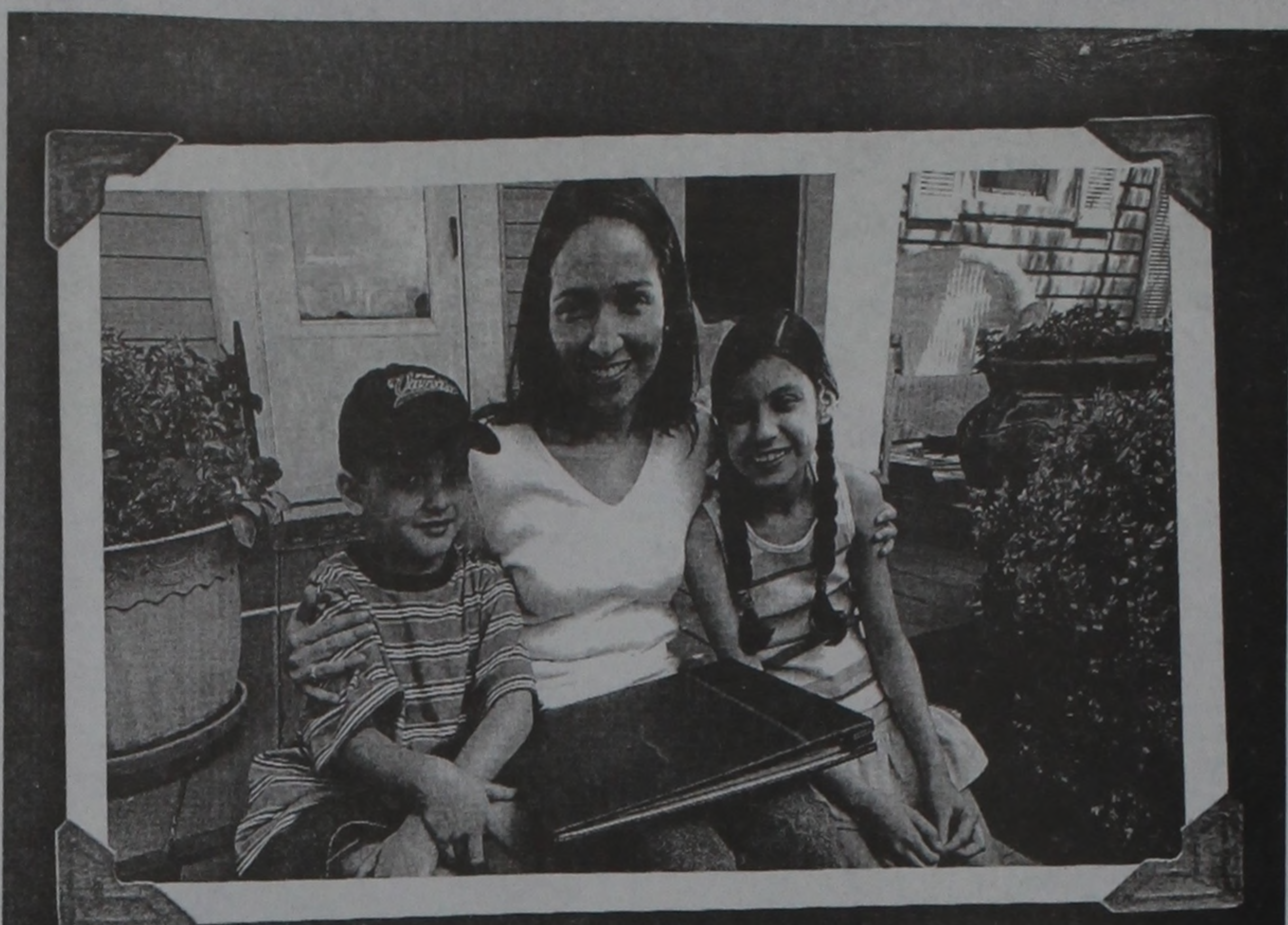
Agregó que el presidente George W. Bush realizaba consultas con el secretario de Defensa, Donald H. Rumsfeld; la secretaria de Estado, Condoleezza Rice; y su asesor de seguridad nacional, Stephen Hadley.

Dos funcionarios del Departamento de Estado, quienes solicitaron permanecer anónimos, dijeron que el misil de largo alcance fue el Taepodong-2, el más avanzado de Corea del Norte, con un alcance de incluso 15 mil kilómetros.

Algunos expertos consideran que el proyectil podría llegar a Estados Unidos con una carga ligera.

Estados Unidos y Corea del Norte han estado enfrentados por el programa de armas nucleares de Pyongyang, desde 2002.

El gobierno norcoreano afirma que ha producido armas nucleares, aunque esa aseveración todavía no ha sido verificada por analistas externos en el tema nuclear.



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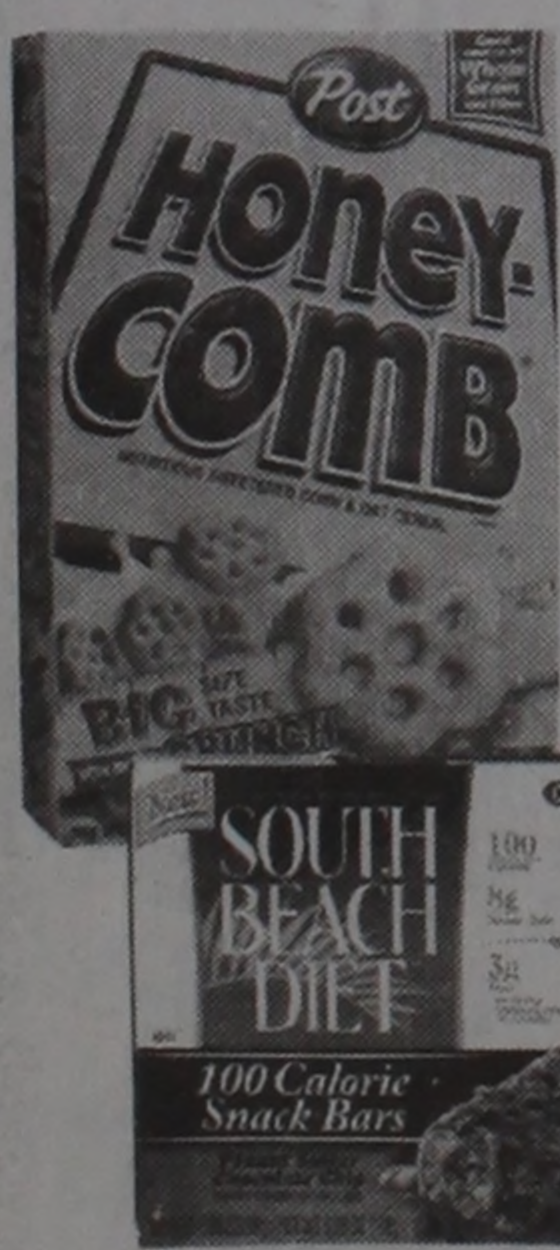
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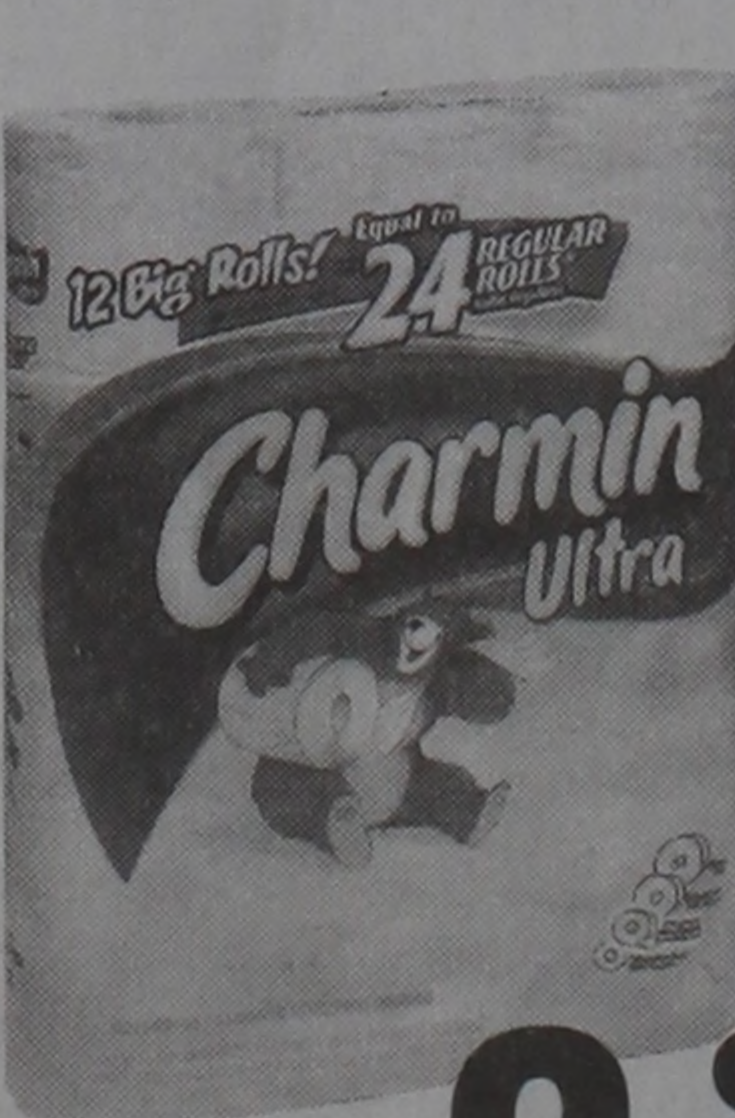
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