

Casualties of
War in
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as of Oct.
20, 2011



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The GOP Debate Took a Wrong Turn on Immigration

In 2012, President Obama will run at the top of the Democratic ticket, so for the time being, the Republicans are alone in showing the nation their pathologies in a series of strange televised encounters that we agree to call debates. Tuesday night's installment had Anderson Cooper guest starring as moderator, and reached its low point when the subject turned to illegal immigration.

Governor Perry, in the last debate, Governor Romney pointed out that Texas has one of the highest rates of uninsured children in the country, over one million kids," Cooper stated. "You did not get an opportunity to answer to that. What do you say?" Perry's answer was that factually terrible. "Well, we've got one of the finest health care systems in the world in Texas," Perry said. "As a matter of fact, the Houston, Texas, Medical Center, there's more doctors and nurses that go to work there every morning than any other place in America." Apparently, quality is measured by total doctors on the premises. (Wait until he finds out about medical conventions.)

Perry went on to explain that "the idea that you can't have access to health care, some of the finest health care in the world - but we have a 1,200-mile border with Mexico, and the fact is we have a huge number of illegals that are coming into this country. And they're coming into this country because the federal government has failed to secure that border."

"That's when he decided to slip in his prepared attack. "They're coming here because there is a magnet. And the magnet is illegal jobs. And those people that his illegals ought to be penalized," Perry said. "And Mit, you lose all of your standing, from my perspective, because you hire illegals in your home and you know about it for a year. And the idea that you stand here before us and talk about that you're strong on immigration is on its

face the height of hypocrisy."

It should be said that there is a Republican who deserves mockery for his hypocrisy on immigration. Meet Lou Dobbs, whose embarrasment must be epic. But Mitt Romney? Here are the facts: The Boston Globe first reported in December 2006 that Mr. Romney was employing a lawn care company that regularly hired illegal immigrants. He said he had dismissed an illegal immigrant he discovered working on his property. But he continued to use the same lawn company, and a year later The Globe reported that the company had once again employed illegal immigrants for lawn care. The day of the second Globe report, Mr. Romney fired the company. "This is supposed to be a factor in a race for the presidency." Nonsense.

The irony is that as a lifelong Texan, and a rich one for some time now, the notion that Perry has never so much as done business with anyone who employs illegal immigrants is laughable. Does he ever eat out? Or take taxis? Does he verify the legal status of every house cleaner, gardener, plumber, locksmith and carpenter who sets foot on his property? How will his donors feel about the notion that anyone who has employed an illegal immigrant deserves censure?

Here's how Romney came back at Perry. "When I was governor, I took the action of empowering our state police to enforce immigration laws," he said. "When you were governor, you said, 'I don't want to build a fence. You put in

place a magnet. You talked about magnets. You put in place a magnet to draw illegals into the state, which was giving \$100,000 of tuition credit to illegals that

Obviously, over the weekend, you got a lot of headlines by saying you would have an electrified fence. You then later said it was a joke. And then last night,



come into this country, and then you have states - the big states of illegal immigrants are California and Florida. Over the last 10 years, they've had no increase in illegal immigration. Texas has had 60 percent increase in illegal immigrants in Texas. If there's someone who has a record as governor will regard to illegal immigration that doesn't stand up to muster, it's you."

This too is nonsense. When it comes to illegal immigration, jobs are the only "magnet" that matters. Whatever one thinks of in-state tuition for illegal immigrant kids who grew up in Texas for a substantial chunk of their childhood, the notion that significant numbers of people sneaked across the border because they hoped that years later their kids could get a price break at UT defies common sense.

At this point in the debate, attention turned to Herman Cain. Said the moderator,

you said, "It might be electrified. I'm not walking away from that. Just don't want to offend anyone." So would you build an entire fence along the entire border, and would you have it electrified?"

And Cain dodged the question! That is to say, the possible frontrunner in the Republican field thinks it is in his strategic interests to maintain ambiguity about whether or not he would electrify a fence along the Mexican border, one that would inevitably shoot some Mexicans to death. For committing a misdemeanor.

Michelle Bachmann got to weigh in soon after. "I think the person who really has a problem with illegal immigration in the country is President Obama," she said. "It's his uncle and his aunt who are illegal aliens... who've been allowed to stay in this country, despite the fact that they're illegal."

Tallying illegal immigrant relatives is one method for assessing Obama's record. Here's another metric. "The Obama

administration deported a record number of illegal immigrants for the third straight year, according to figures released Tuesday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement," the Los Angeles Times reported this week. "Of the 396,906 deportations from October 2010 through September of this year, more than half were illegal immigrants with felony or misdemeanor convictions, a percentage that has increased steadily since the end of the George W. Bush administration."

And new arrivals? "American census figures analyzed by the nonpartisan Pew

Research Center also show that the illegal Mexican population in the United States has shrunk and that fewer than 100,000 illegal border-crossers and visa-violators from Mexico settled in the United States in 2010, down from about 525,000 annually from 2000 to 2004," the New York Times reports. "Although some advocates for more limited immigration argue that the Pew studies offer estimates that do not include short-term migrants, most experts agree that far fewer illegal immigrants have been arriving in recent years." This shouldn't be surprising given the combination of high unemployment and a housing construction industry that is among the hardest hit by the recession.

Next Perry and Bachmann sparred about whether the border would be better guarded by a double wall or "boots on the ground" and surveillance drones in the sky. Romney then remembered the general election and decided to interject. "Let's step back. I think it's important

for us as Republicans on this stage to say something which hasn't been said. And that is I think every single person here loves legal immigration. We respect people who come here legally," he said. "And the reason we're so animated about stopping illegal immigration is there are 4.5 million people who want to come here who are in line legally, and we get that to happen in an orderly and legal process." If you believe that, you haven't been paying attention - unless I missed the Republicans on stage last night amandantly insisting over the last couple decades that we need to expedite the process of coming here legally, clearing away the bureaucratic hurdles so that the constantly invoked 4.5 million "folks in line" could get here faster.

Would any of the candidates care to pledge that if elected they'll triple the speed at which new immigrants are processed and admitted?

When Ron Paul's turn came, he suggested that America's schools should stop educating the children of illegal immigrants, and that we wouldn't even be talking about the illegal immigration issue if the economy was better. Funny, I recall a lot of debate about illegal immigration back when the economy was better.

Without commenting on the right answer when it comes to immigration policy - personally I'm against guest worker programs, and for much higher levels of legal immigration, systematically deporting illegal immigrant criminals, a Gary Johnson-style amnesty for everyone else, and finishing most of the wall that already exists so that migrants are disincentivized rather than incentivized to cross through the most dangerous parts of the desert - rather last night's performances with chronists past, if only to prove that the subject can be discussed intelligently, even among people who disagree.

National Celebrities and Entertainers on Tap at the TJ Patterson Arts Roast

Nationally renowned entertainers, several of whom have performed at some of the most celebrated venues around the world, will join local, state, and national speakers at the star-studded celebrity arts roast of Lubbock civic leader TJ Patterson.

The TJ Patterson Arts Roast will be held on Sunday, October 23rd at 7:00 PM in the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. Eric Strong, a Round Steering Committee representative said, "This will be the first time since Lubbock's 100th Year Anniversary in 2009, that entertainers of this magnitude will share the same stage on the same night. They're coming in from the Dallas area, New York and even Berlin, Germany. It's going to be a magical night."

Among the list performers to be featured at the roast will be international saxophone virtuoso, Tom Braxton, international operatic baritone Terry Cook, American Idol's top-ten finalist Jerome Bell, renowned dancer and ballerina Natalia Johnson, and famed 1960's Doo Wop Era crooner Virgil Johnson (Patterson's college roommate). Some of these performers' talents have been featured in such places as the White House.

The local celebrities who will

be helping to roast TJ Patterson will be Irasema Velasquez, president of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, West Texas business leader Phil Price, CEO of the Price Group in Lubbock and Texas Tech Chancellor Kent Hance, who'll provide his roast in a special video presentation. Joining with the local celebrities will be Congressman



Persons. The roast speakers will pay poke fun and pay tribute to TJ Patterson, Lubbock's longest-serving councilperson, a former president of the Texas Municipal League, and the founding president of the Texas Association of Black City Councilmen. Patterson, the editor and publisher of the Southwest Digest Newspaper, led over 75 marches to protest illegal drugs and visits inmates in jail every Christmas. "It is going to be a tear-jerker and a side-splitter," added Strong.

works by Smithsonian artist sculptor Eddie Dixon, poet James Watkins and photographer Tony Gleaton, as well as Texas featured artist sculptress Vyan Cooke and folk artist Betty Jenkins. We want to showcase many of the incredibly talented performers and visual artists that come from the African American community of West Texas," said Strong.

Proceeds from the event will go to the TJ and Bobbie Patterson Scholarship Endowment, established in 2007 by TTU Chancellor

Ken Hance

and to the Cavell African American Museum and Cultural Arts Center, slated to open in 2012.

The roast was made possible through and grant for Civic Lubbock, Inc and through the corporate sponsorship of Covenant Health Systems. Tickets to the event cost \$40 and are on sale at all Select-a-Seat

locations. (Select-a-Seat charging an additional \$3.50 processing fee per ticket).

For more info, or to purchase a table for the event, contact the Roots Historical Arts Council at (806) 928-4268. To purchase a ticket call Select-a-Seat at (806) 770-2000.



Emanuel Cleaver, former Kansas City Mayor and chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Camilla Johnson, executive director of the National Girl's Self-Esteem Program, and Fort Worth city councilman Frank Moss, president of the Texas Association of Black City Council

Vendrá más "pesadito" el cheque del Seguro Social



Unos 55 millones de afiliados al Seguro Social recibirán un incremento del 3.6% en sus prestaciones en el año próximo, su primer aumento desde el 2009, anunció el gobierno.

El incremento, aplicable a partir de enero, está vinculado a un indicador de la inflación dado a conocer esta mañana.

Unos 8 millones de personas que reciben Ingresos de Complementarios también tendrán derecho a un ajuste del 3.6% en el costo de la vida, lo que significa que el anuncio será aplicable a aproximadamente uno de cada cinco habitantes de Estados Unidos.

No hubo tal aumento en 2010 ni en 2011 porque la inflación fue muy baja, los primeros dos años sin este ajuste desde que en 1975 se adoptaron los aumentos automáticos. Sin embargo, los afiliados al Seguro Social sí recibieron un pago de

\$250 efectuado una sola vez a partir del paquete de estímulo económico aprobado en 2009.

Los pagos mensuales por Seguro Social promedian 1,082 dólares, unos 13,000 dólares al año. Un incremento de 3.6% equivaldrá a unos 39 dólares mensuales, apenas un poco más de 467 dólares anuales, en promedio.

Los activistas por los derechos de los adultos mayores dijeron que el incremento proporcionará un impulso muy necesario a los millones de jubilados y personas con discapacidad que han visto disminuir sus cuentas para el retiro y caer el valor de sus viviendas debido a la crisis económica.

Los economistas dicen que el aumento debería proporcionar un impulso modesto al gasto de los consumidores, que sería un apoyo a la economía.

Commentaries Opinions

FAKE POLITICS

By José de la Isla - Hispanic Link News Service

When the Arizona Republic added Russell Pearce to state senate primary, in a questionable way, though he was getting recalled, his answers was unconvincing.

He wrote that "liberal special-interest groups" had made his bid direct were using "billions of taxpayer dollars" to fund his "organized and purchased many signatures to require the November 8 recall election. Pearce, the architect of Arizona's reprehensible SB 1070 anti-immigrant law, may just as easily be talking about himself and his own tactics, except of course for the word "liberal."

SB1070, now synonymous with his name, came about after he was elected to the state senate and became president of that body in 2008. It ranked one of the state's most influential political figures.

But on July 8th, Secretary of State Ken Bennett certified the petition recalling Pearce and the governor was notified to set an election date for the state senate district east of Phoenix. Citizens for a Better Arizona, spearheaded by the recall effort, formed Force Pearce to resign or become a candidate at the recall election. He chose to run again.

In his bill of particulars, the recall group (www.citizensforabetterarizona.org) claimed Pearce's illegal immigration proposals were conjured

with his advocacy for private prison contracts. That special interest "has shown him with thousands of dollars in campaign contributions" in "tens of millions of dollars in contracts by privatizing incarceration. They claimed, and would be the issue through Pearce, that Pearce has introduced or helped pass 13 bills forcing the private prison industry since 2002. Furthermore, SB 1070 was drafted with the help of Corrections Corp. of America. The so-called "anti-immigration" law might in fact have been a pro-incarceration law. Pearce is said to have successfully proposed three bills to entirely privatize the state prison system and had "directed" the state to contract \$1,450 million private prison beds. He sponsored the FY 2012 budget, with a \$10 million increase for the state prison budget by cutting education and health care by \$1 billion. As Senate Appropriations Committee chairman in 2010 and senate president in 2011, Pearce was willing to let Arizona become the nation's first state to end its children's health insurance program and let 36,000 poor children lose their coverage.

Force Pearce helped lead an effort to balance the budget by ending Medicaid for 310,000 low-income adults and allow Arizona to lose \$7 billion annually in federal funding. The governor and the Legislature repudied most

of the calls Pearce supported. But the 2012 Medicaid enrollment there Pearce sponsored will keep health-care coverage from hundreds of thousands of poor Arizonians for years. It was only natural that two candidates like Republican Jerry Lewis and Olivia Cortes would arise to challenge Pearce in the recall election. But Cortes withdrew on October 7. The following day, Maricopa County Superior Court disallowed Cortes from being recalled by Pearce forces to run the opposition. Pearce's relatives had been involved in the collection of signatures to get Cortes on the ballot, with issues about finance remaining unexplained. Greg Wetmore, chairman of the East Valley Tea Party, a Pearce ally, became Cortes' campaign advisor when she decided to mount the sham challenge, according to The New York Times. In turn, Lewis' allies challenged Cortes' candidacy by taking the issue to the Maricopa County Superior Court.

Judge Edward Bates' court argued with Lewis. Pearce had recruited Cortes to siphon Hispanic votes from Lewis to advance

Pearce's recall election bid." In other words, it was a dirty trick. It was deceptive but the court didn't find it illegal wrongdoing. Since the ballots for the election have already been printed, a notice will inform voters on November 8 of Cortes' withdrawal from the race.

In a real sense, the dirty trick may stick. With Cortes' name still remaining on the ballot although she has withdrawn, the next effort may be still to siphon votes from Lewis.

[José de la Isla, a nationally syndicated columnist for Hispanic Link and Scripps Howard news services, has been recognized for two consecutive years for his contributions by News America Media. His forthcoming book is "Our Man in Grand". Previous books include "DAY NIGHT LIFE DEATH HORROR" (2009) and "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (2003). See this column and more at www.HispanicLink.org. ©2011

PLEASE READ INFORMATION BELOW

The final challenge of this phase of saving the Health Dept of Lubbock is now this week. Our mayor thinks that those who oppose him are losers, liberals, extremists, and don't count. If you don't participate this Thursday and Friday, you will be showing him that he is right.

Thursday: Health Coalition of Lubbock meeting 6:30 p.m. St. St. Mary's Methodist at 15th and University. More public discussion will help all understand what we do on case. Block walk/petition cards, address labels and stickers. Please come.

Friday: Round of Health meeting 12:30 p.m. Health Dept 19th and Texas. VERY IMPORTANT! The board will vote on the sub-committee resolution as well as a resolution that have submitted. It is our best and last chance to send a message to the mayor and others that the majority of citizens don't have the changes proposed in the health services. If you don't show up you are consenting to the mayor.

We will be there because it matters. I hope you will. Please post on your wall or otherwise help get the word out. You matter, the mayor needs to know. Visit www.publichealthlubbock.com - Contact Citizens.

LÍDERES HISPANOS REPUBLICANOS POCO HACEN POR MEJORAR LA IMAGEN

Por José Armas Hispanic Link News Service

ALBUQUERQUE, Nuevo México - Los republicanos en la Hispanic Leadership Network (HLN) así como pasado intentaron recuperar el voto latino que perdieron en los comicios presidenciales del 2008. George Bush tuvo un impresionante 49 por ciento de aquel apoyo en su campaña presidencial del 2004. Se esperaba un 31 por ciento cuando McCain se ganó como Barack Obama en el 2008.

Entonces, ¿cómo podía hacer esta "Red" republicana, que tiene de representantes al gobernador de la Florida, Jeb Bush y a Carlos Galtés, ex secretario del Departamento de Comercio federal, nombrado por el hermano de Job, George, para ganarse a este tremendo bloque de votos en el 2012, después de años de aquejar republicanos contra la comunidad latina?

El segundo congreso de la HLN se llevó a cabo en Albuquerque a finales del mes pasado. Ni Bush ni Gutiérrez asistió. La gubernadora de Nuevo México, Susana Martinez, sugirió durante un discurso de apertura que se establecieran verdaderas "conversaciones" con la comunidad. "Personal [que] que sostiene - tienen los mismos valores - pero viven en la mayoría de sus hogares con estilos de vida muy diferentes. Si no lo hacen, todo lo que escuchan es la radio".

Hay muchos temas que caen en cuanto a políticas actuales republicanas que son abundantemente hostiles a los hispanos de la forma de importancia a los latinos. Los presentadores criticaron abiertamente esas posiciones y reconocieron que se enfrentaron con desafíos para reducir el abismo de electores de mayor crecimiento en el país. Pero también señalaron las oportunidades que existen.

Dan Lujan, de la empresa de encuestas republicana Ayres, Mohrman and Associate, señaló que encuesta realizada en la Florida, Nuevo México y Colorado indicaron que "los latinos en aquellos estados de voto decisivo tienen tres áreas de vulnerabilidad para los demócratas.

Uno, que el presidente Obama no está desincentivando tan bien en términos de apoyo latino comparado con la decisión pasada. Dos, que los latinos perciben que Obama no cumplió con sus promesas, y por último, que se le percibe como un dirigente más débil que lo que previamente se suponía.

"Por otro lado", añadió, "las posiciones del partido republicano respecto a la inmigración son problemáticas".

Lady no hizo mención que Martínez, electa durante el 2010, año de mayor tiempo presidencial, como la primera latina gobernadora en la historia del estado, ha sido ella misma muy crítica de las posiciones republicanas así como moderadas respecto a la inmigración, como el candidato presidencial, Rick Perry de Texas, también gobernador.

Martínez, según propios informes recientemente aparecidos en un sitio web de Estados Unidos sin documentos, hizo campaña contra la ley de Nuevo México que permite que ciertos residentes indocumentados busquen ciertas certificaciones si la licencia de conducir. Intentó que se revocara la ley en su primera sesión legislativa, pero no lo logró. De ahí sus fondos sin gastar de su campaña para desvirtuar esta ley, y durante su segundo periodo de gobierno en los dos nuevos distritos electorales, presentó un proyecto de ley para revocarla. No se tomó acción al respecto durante la sesión especial, pero no obstante, ella promovió su rescate en cuanto a este tema candidato.

Manifestantes presentes durante el congreso de HLN incluyeron a estudiantes de secundaria y de la universidad, quienes le amargaron sus alianzas de concurridos y sus diplomas en señal de oposición a la postura política de la presidenta nacional.

Después una conferencia de prensa matutina, el demócrata Ben Ray Lujan, uno de los tres miembros de la Cámara de Representantes representativos de Nuevo México, afirmó que "los republicanos se han posicionado del lado equivocado frente a toda prioridad hispana - empleo, Seguro Social, educación y el sistema de salud".

La Hispanic Leadership Network, no respondió a preguntas sobre las posiciones importantes que habrían resultado del congreso.

Zack Kluchman, miembro del grupo, Poets For Change, también asistió contra Martínez. "El suceso es un gran signo de afiliación de partido, no obstante, yo decidiré participar por la falta de respeto que muestra Susana y el odio contra su propia comunidad". Cui que ella hasta había invitado al presuestro para la celebración de congreso de Nuevo México."

Representante electo republicano, Alfonso Balcázar, enfatizó que el objetivo de su partido es "traer a entender a los latinos que los republicanos y los latinos tienen los mismos valores conservadores. Yo he trabajado en un distrito mayormente demócrata y gané por mi mensaje de conservadorismo."

El congreso no tuvo mucha acogida, y la mitad de los participantes eran no hispanos. El representante electo demócrata, Mo Maestas reaccionó ante los medios: "La HLN opera para beneficiar a las corporaciones y los individuos políticos a expensas del resto del estado, en su mayoría latino."

El hecho que la empresa privada de la industria penal, Corrections Corporation of America, tiene uno de los peor trabajadores, de hecho no es evento tremendo hasta en latinos. George Lujan, un legislador republicano en Albuquerque lo llamó "un desastre de congreso".

El José Armas de Albuquerque es columnista y escritor desde hace muchos años sobre temas de inmigración de los hispanos, y miembros con Hispanic Link News Service. Contacta: con él a: armas@hwsp.com. Para ver sus otros columnas y más, visite www.HispanicLink.org. ©2011

of the call Pearce supported. But the 2012 Medicaid enrollment there Pearce sponsored will keep health-care coverage from hundreds of thousands of poor Arizonians for years. It was only natural that two candidates like Republican Jerry Lewis and Olivia Cortes would arise to challenge Pearce in the recall election. But Cortes withdrew on October 7. The following day, Maricopa County Superior Court disallowed Cortes from being recalled by Pearce forces to run the opposition. Pearce's relatives had been involved in the collection of signatures to get Cortes on the ballot, with issues about finance remaining unexplained. Greg Wetmore, chairman of the East Valley Tea Party, a Pearce ally, became Cortes' campaign advisor when she decided to mount the sham challenge, according to The New York Times. In turn, Lewis' allies challenged Cortes' candidacy by taking the issue to the Maricopa County Superior Court.

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PARA LOS MARINES Y UN JOVEN VETERANO LATINO HOMOSEXUAL, YA ES HORA DE TOMAR LA DECISION

Por David Sanchez-Aguero Hispanic Link News Service

En los meses siguientes de los 17 años que el elemento militar de los Estados Unidos se adhiere a la política de "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT - No preguntar, No contar), según dicta el código del Cuerpo Marino (Marines en inglés), Danny Hernández.

Al estar desautorizado en la Texas A&M, al servir dos años en el Cuerpo, hace 18 meses se le enfrentó su oficial de marina; y Hernández le dijo a la verdad. Si, es homosexual.

Radicalmente separaron al cabo de su servicio militar, con la edad de 22 años y el sueldo de una carrera militar postulado.

El 20 de septiembre, las Fuerzas Armadas de EE.UU. revocaron la directiva DADT, que fue firmada en 1993 por el entonces presidente, Bill Clinton. Hoy nadie que preste servicio militar en las Fuerzas Armadas de EE.UU. puede resultar dado de baja de servicio por motivos de su orientación sexual.

Ahora, con acuerdo legal, Hernández está explorando la incierta posibilidad de volver a servir a Marina otra vez.

Entretanto, todo su corta vida, Danny se ha enfrentado con obstáculos familiares: la muerte de sus padres, la aprobación de su homosexualidad y la lucha por ganar peso.

"Cero haber sabido que soy gay desde el tercer grado", comenta. "No me enteré de entonces. Pero pensé en ello más y durante la universidad y la life lo acepté".

Sus padres, oriundos de Durango, México, habían migrado al norte de Texas, donde murieron en un accidente vehicular cuando Danny tenía apenas dos años. Danny, su hermano y hermana, fueron adoptados por unos tíos.

Los hermanos llegaron a ser más, con la contribución de los seis años que tuvieron sus tíos a la familia. Después de su separación del servicio militar, aprendieron por los medios de comunicación que el era gay.

"¿Será tal vez una tía?" le preguntó su tío.

"Una interesante dinámica familiar," es

como lo describe Danny. "Son muy tradicionales y muy católicos. Los hispanos guardan mucha más reserva en cuanto a los gays.

Estoy agradecido con el macho que me han apoyado".

Durante sus años de estudios, se enfrentó a un estado de vida heterosexual para cumplir el acceso a la acomodación social, cuenta Hernández. Sabió durante su año y medio en una escuela durante la secundaria.

"Quería estar en el Cuerpo Marino para probarle a los demás y a mí mismo que lo podía hacer. Tenía mucho orgullo".

El primer reclutador al que se acercó Hernández le aconsejó ir a la universidad. Hernández lo hizo. Se matriculó en Texas A&M, donde se unió al programa ROTC. Se graduó con títulos en las comunicaciones y la sociología y completó en mercedes. "En el tipo más pequeño de la sección, pero de ninguna manera el más débil".

Destinado a California y a Texas, completó dos años de servicio militar. "Cuando se cumple en el Cuerpo Marino, yo no soy la imagen que surge," concede. "Yo me esforcé para no quedar más en el campo de entrenamiento, y me me quedé en él".

El entorno del departamento de peso hasta que, con su cinco pesos pulgadas de estatura (1.63 metro), se puso en peso mínimo de 105 libras (47.1 kg).

"Si no alcanzaba el peso mínimo, me dan raciones dobles de comida y una etiqueta en el uniforme. Te observan hasta que hayas alcanzado todo la comida en el plato".

"Yo estaba mucho orgullo por todo lo que hice. Me alista a los marines por la manera en que lo entran. Se sabe que los más duros. Si podía lograr en el Cuerpo Marino, sería el honor más grande".

Siguen estos sentimientos positivos. "Siempre hablé de ir a apoyar a nuestros soldados, y por primera vez, estamos verdaderamente apoyando a todos nuestros soldados. Se trata de un nivel de redención en el tabajo", dice Hernández.

"Freedom of Expression"

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opinions Submitted to eleditor@sbcbglol.net

HISPANIC GOP LEADERS DO LITTLE TO IMPROVE IMAGE

By José Armas Hispanic Link News Service ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Republican created the Hispanic Leadership Network last year in an attempt to capture the Latino vote that lost in the 2008 presidential race. George Bush claimed an impressive 44 percent of that support in his 2004 presidential run. It divided 31 percent when John McCain ran against Barack Obama in 2008.

So how can the GOP's new "Network", co-chaired by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and ex-U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutiérrez, an apprentice of Job's brother George, get back on the good side of this major voting bloc in 2012 after years of Republican attacks on the Latino community?

The second HLN conference was held late last month in Albuquerque. Neither Bush nor Gutiérrez attended, but sent video welcome messages. As its keynote speaker, New Mexico Gov. Susana Martínez suggested having "conversations" with the community. "They think the same as you do - they have the same values - but you have to better to have a conversation with them about those values. If you don't, all they hear is the rhetoric."

There were plenty of media critiques to current Republican policies that are openly hostile to many Latino concerns. Presenters openly criticized those positions and acknowledged they face challenges to lay the country's fastest-growing voting bloc into the GOP camp. But they also pointed to opportunities.

In July, the Republican polling firm Ayres, McHenry and Associates, reported that surveys taken in Florida, New Mexico and Colorado showed "Latinos in these swing states cited three areas of vulnerability for Democrats.

One, President Obama is underperforming in his support in contrast to the presidential election. Two, Latinos view Obama as not delivering on his promises, and finally, he is being seen as a weaker leader than he's first envisioned.

"On the other hand," added, "GOP positions on immigration are problematic." Lady made no mention that Susana Martínez, who was elected in the presidential midterm year 2010 as the nation's first Latina governor, has herself been highly critical of somewhat more GOP immigration policies such that of presidential candidate Rick Perry of Texas, a fellow governor.

Martínez, whose own Mexican grandparents apparently immigrated to the United States without papers, campaigned against New Mexico's law that permits certain undocumented residents under certain circumstances to apply for driver's licenses. She tried to get the law overturned in her first legislative session, but failed. Then she used taxpayer campaign money to rail against the law, and in a special session on redrafting, a substantial bill to repeal it. The session took no action, but has promised not to give up on this hot button issue.

Protesters at the HLN conference included high school and college students who tossed their driver's licenses and diplomas to show their opposition to Martínez's policy.

In a national press conference, Democrat Ben Ray Lujan, one of New Mexico's three members of the U.S. House of Representatives, stated "Republicans have been on the wrong side of every Hispanic priority - jobs, Social Security, education and health care."

The Hispanic Leadership Network has not responded to questions on what major problems resulted from the conference.

Zack Kluchman, a member of Poets For Change, also took on Martínez. "This is a non-partisan group, but I got involved because of Susana's lack of respect and assault on our own community." She even "killed" the budget for celebrating New Mexico's Centennial anniversary," he cried.

Republican State Rep. Alfonso Balcázar stressed that his party's aim is "to make Latinos aware that Republicans and Latinos have the same conservative values. I am in a mostly Democratic district and I don't because of my conservative message".

The conference was sparsely attended, with about half of the participants being white non-Hispanics. Democrat State Rep. Mo Maestas reacted to the media, "The HLN works to benefit the rich corporations and the wealthy at the expense of our Latino-majority state."

The fact that Corrections Corporation of America, a private prison industry, was a sponsor certainly limited a Latino-friendly event. George Lujan of the Southwest Legislative Project in Albuquerque called it "a disaster of a conference."

[José Armas de Albuquerque is a long-time columnist and writer for Latino concerns and contributor to Hispanic Link News Service. Reach him at armas@hwsp.com. ©2011

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Economic Woes Eclipse Obama's Relentless War on Terrorism

Given the state of this nation's troubled economy — which has spawned a grass-roots movement against economic inequities and corporate greed — it's no surprise President Obama's economic policies have gotten more attention than his war on terrorism.

the near-mythical al-Qaeda mastermind taunted this country

of air power also puts fewer U.S. troops at risk.



While a traditional reading of the political tea leaves suggests America's financial health will weigh more heavily on voters in next year's presidential election than the hunt for Osama bin Laden's linear successors, the president deserves a lot more credit than he's been given for the war he's waging. No, Obama hasn't undone the economic mess he inherited from his predecessor, but he has demarcated the ranks of the terrorist leaders who commanded the 9/11 attacks. In doing so, Obama has made America a lot safer than it was four years ago — which should also weigh heavily on voters' minds in 2012.

The pinnacle of the Obama-led war on terrorism (though the president pointedly avoids this term) has been the killing of bin Laden by a team of Navy SEALs who attacked his compound in Pakistan. Over the past decade,

with video and tape-recorded messages that threatened more attacks. And let us not forget that bin Laden was free to do so for a decade after the managers of George W. Bush's war on terrorism let him escape from Afghanistan in the battle of Tora Bora. Though the threats proved to be more talk than action, they elevated the fear level in this country. In authorizing that attack on bin Laden, Obama made good on his presidential campaign pledge to strike our terrorist enemies wherever he found them — even in Pakistan, a conflicted U.S. ally.

In fact, since Obama took office, the body count of senior al-Qaeda leaders has grown dramatically, often from the president's weapon of choice, pilotless drones. This smart use

While Obama has continued Bush's ill-conceived nation-building campaign in Afghanistan, he has not made that mistake in places like North Waziristan, Yemen, Somalia and other parts of Africa. Instead, he has wisely chosen to use drones and small units of highly skilled military advisers to combat terrorists that threaten America at his will.

At the very least, Obama's relentless pursuit of these zealots has disrupted their ability to calmly plan the next hit. Understandably, the president might not get the full credit he deserves from voters more concerned about the nation's high unemployment rate. The stubbornly bad jobs market and their declining wealth are a far greater threat than the terrorist leadership Obama has turned into an endangered species.

Many Americans, I suspect, will take for granted the relative peace this country now enjoys. In a strange way that may be the only reward Obama gets from voters. Anything less parochial might have to await history's judgment.

Batalla por ley inspirada en la SB1070

La Unión de Libertades Civiles (ACLU) es una coalición de grupos civiles establecieron una demanda contra la ley antiinmigrante SB20 de Carolina del Sur, inspirada en la polémica SB1070 de Arizona.

La acción legal, presentada en la Corte de Distrito de Charleston, al sur del estado, alega que la legislación, firmada por la gobernadora Nikki Haley el pasado 27 de junio es inconstitucional, invita al perfil racial e interfiere con la ley federal.

Esta acción sucede dos semanas después de que una medida similar que combate a los indocumentados en Alabama, la HB56, entrase en efecto.

Los demandantes, que incluyen a ACLU de Carolina del Sur, el South-end Poverty Law Center, National Immigration Law Center, MALDEF, South Carolina Applesseed Legal Justice Center, Latino Justice, entre otros, buscan detener la implementación de la SB20, programada para entrar en efecto el 1 de enero de 2012.

La medida permite a las agencias del orden público indicar el estado migratorio de los detenidos sospechosos de delito delictivo y comunicarse directamente con el Servicio de Inmigración y Aduana (ICE) cuando se sospecha que se tiene en custodia a un indocumentado. Dispone la creación de una Unidad de Cumplimiento de las Leyes de Inmigración, una especie de policía de inmigración local con 12 agentes y un costo de 1.3 millones de dólares, la única a nivel nacional.

Asimismo, la ley convierte en delito mayor con penas de hasta 25,000 dólares o cinco años de prisión la producción de documentos falsos y el no portar una identificación estatal como licencia de conductor o documento migratorio.

Según Andre Segura, abogado del Proyecto de Derechos de los Inmigrantes de ACLU, esta demanda es la última medida en la lucha por detener leyes que van en contra de la Constitución.

"Hemos visto en Alabama los efectos devastadores y no queremos que la gente de Carolina del Sur sufra lo mismo. Esta ley draconiana debe detenerse, porque atenta contra nuestros valores americanos", destacó Segura en un comunicado.

Para las organizaciones locales que defienden los derechos de los inmigrantes, la medida legal de hoy es el comienzo de una larga batalla por evitar la discriminación, especialmente contra la comunidad hispana.

"Esto es sólo el comienzo", afirmó hoy a Ele Iván Segura, vicepresidente del Consejo de Mexicanos en las Carolinas. "Tomando en cuenta las características de Carolina del Sur, una zona conservadora y con un historial de discriminación contra los de piel oscura, será muy largo, pero no quiere decir, porque sea en el sur, que no consigamos justicia".

Para Victoria Middleton, directora ejecutiva de ACLU del estado, permitir que agentes locales actúen con oficinas de inmigración invita a la discriminación de las personas que luzcan o sienten "extranjeros", incluyendo a residentes permanentes y ciudadanos estadounidenses.

"Convierte en criminales (SB20) a los buenos samaritanos, perjudica a las víctimas de abuso, previene a la policía resolver los crímenes y crea un clima de miedo que perjudica al propio estado", añadió Middleton.

Desde la firma de la ley por parte de Haley, una hija de inmigrantes de la India, los grupos de defensa han concentrado sus esfuerzos en informar a la comunidad del contenido de la SB20 y prepararlos en caso de una detención y deportación.



"Muchos se han regresado a sus países de origen, otros mudado a estados vecinos, si se nota una baja especialmente en el consumo de los hispanos", acusó Beldin.

En los últimos meses, el líder hispano ha dictado conferencias y charlas en escuelas, iglesias y centros comunitarios, educando a la población vulnerable sobre sus derechos y qué hacer en caso de una deportación.

"Lo primero es prepararnos para que dejen poderes notariados para proteger sus propiedades y sus hijos por sí pasa lo peor, a que estén más informados sobre la ley, y que no tengamos un miedo excesivo", enfatizó el puertorriqueño.

Cifras del Censo de 2010 indican que los hispanos representan el 5.1 por ciento de la población del estado, es decir, 235,993, en comparación con 95,076 (2.4 por ciento) en 2000 y 30,551 (1.1 por ciento) en 1990. Sin embargo, el Cent Pew reportó que la población indocumentada en Carolina del Sur pasó de 70,000 en 2007 a 55,000 en 2010, es decir, una reducción del 21.4 por ciento.

Otras leyes contra la inmigración indocumentada han sido aprobadas en estados como Arizona, Utah, Georgia, Indiana, Alabama, que actualmente se encuentran en procesos legales para detener su total implementación.

La acción legal alega que la legislación es inconstitucional, invita al perfil racial e interfiere con la ley federal.

EL EDITOR NEWSPAPER WANTS TO HEAR FROM OUR READERS! EMAIL US AT ELEDITOR@SBGLOBAL.NET

It's a Dance and you are invited!!

The Chaparral will be hosting its Second Annual Food Drive

Saturday, October 22, 2011
starting at 7:00 pm to 12:00 midnight
Location: 3604 N FM 400
(2.5 miles south of 62/82 on 400)

Cost of Admission: 3 cans of food or dry goods per person
Cash donations will also be accepted.

The music is being furnished by Richard Urrutia • Decorations by Alicia Agado

Come Help – End Hunger in our Area!
Refreshments will be provided **BYOB**



7th Annual Grand Day Celebration
Friday of last week, Christ the King School celebrated its 7th Annual Grand Day Celebration. It was an all day event full of activities for everyone's enjoyment, especially for the grandparents of the student body.

Sipriano Gutierrez, Executive Director of Young Scholars USA, presents a \$500 scholarship to Maria A. Palacios de Lubbock. Ms. Palacios, a graduate of Lubbock High School, is majoring in Child Development at South Plains College. She plans to complete her studies in May 2013 and enroll at Texas Tech to continue undergraduate work towards a Bachelor of Science degree. Young Scholars USA is a Leadership and Scholarship program that helps youth prepare for and enroll in trade schools, vocational schools, colleges or universities of their choice. Mr. Gutierrez helps young scholars to prepare for higher education and provides leadership training by involving young scholars in community involvement service projects in partnership with local non-profit, faith-based and for-profit organizations in accomplishment of common goals and objects. Mr. Gutierrez can be contacted at Young Scholars USA at 317-6132.

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¿Que Pasa?

SPC will host bilingual workshop for interested students, parents

South Plains College will host Opening Doors/Abriendo Puertas for prospective students and their families from 9 a.m. to 1p.m. on Nov. 5 in the Student Center on the Lovelland campus.

The event will feature hands-on workshops in both English and Spanish designed to help students prepare for college. Students and their families will learn about admissions, financial aid, testing and career choices as well as have an opportunity to tour the Lovelland campus. The day will conclude with lunch. The event will feature door prizes including Accuplacer testing waivers and five \$1000 scholarships. In order to attend, please register online at www.southplainscollege.edu. The registration deadline is Oct. 31. For more information, contact Kathryn Perez at (806) 716-2115 or email kperez@southplainscollege.edu or Maria Strong at (806) 716-2562 or email her at mstrong@southplainscollege.edu

Fiestas Del Llano GARAGE SALE

Fiestas Del Llano, Inc. will have one final garage sale at the Historical Cultural Center on Saturday, October 22 from 9:00-3:00 and need volunteers to help. A little bit of everything will be available at the Garage Sale. Please come out and check all the items that you can choose from. The organization would like to express their gratitude for the general public's support.

PUMPKIN TRAIL 2011 - EVENT INFORMATION

The 3rd Annual Pumpkin Trail will be open from October 20-23, 2011, in the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum in Clapp Park. Pumpkin lighting begins at 5:30 p.m. and should be completed before dusk each night. Evening hours are 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Thursday and Sunday and 6:00-10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Enjoy an autumn scene of pumpkins, fall foliage and blue sky during daylight hours from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friday-Sunday, October 21-23.

In addition to the carved jack-o-lanterns along the trail, there will be 25-30 displays hosted by local businesses and civic groups that will lead participants around the trail. This is a free event and the Arboretum walking trail is both stroller and wheelchair friendly. Trail entrances are at the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum at 4111 University and the Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center at 4215 University. Limited parking is available behind Hodges Community Center and at the Garden and Arts Center. Park and Ride will be available from Safety City located on the east side of Clapp Park at 46th Street and Avenue U.

CELEBRACION 2011 OPENS AT BUDDY HOLLY CENTER

The Buddy Holly Center is proud to announce the opening of Celebración, an annual invitational exhibition of artwork that explores the history and meaning behind the Mexican holiday, Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. Day of the Dead blends the Catholic traditions of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day (November 1st & 2nd) with pre-Columbian concepts of death that have been a part of Mexican society since Aztec times. The celebration can be traced to the Aztecs who celebrated a ritual day dedicated to children and the dead. The ritual was presided over by the goddess Mictecacihuatl ("Lady of the Dead"). Modern traditional Día de los Muertos festivities take place on November 1st and 2nd, and are a time of remembrance, reunion, and feasting.

The exhibit includes artwork from local, national, and international artists. Artists were asked to interpret Día de los Muertos by creating works honoring departed ancestors, friends, and family. Celebración will feature an installation by Lubbock High School Spanish students taught by Mr. Victor Munoz. Celebración will be on display September 30 - November 6, 2011 to be enjoyed throughout the ancient Mexican holiday.

TEXAS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Texas Catholic Conference reports on legislation and other items of interest to Catholics in Texas. To sign up for weekly updates, please go to: www.txcatholic.org

Halloween legend of La Llorona frightens a new audience in America



Centuries before the bride of Frankenstein first screamed and hissed on the big screen in 1935, a legend of the wailing woman who drowned her children was already terrifying kids throughout Latin America.

But only now, with Latinos constituting the largest minority group in the United States, has the tale of La Llorona started to creep into the nation's Halloween festivities.

"And it's not the only Latino myth joining the autumn celebration of all things scary and gory."

The trend in heavily Latino regions seems fueled by a growing Latino middle class that visits theme parks in greater numbers and the rising popularity of Halloween, now the second-biggest holiday for spending in the country, behind only Christmas. Officials say studies have suggested Latinos may visit theme parks twice as often as other groups.

Vendors of Halloween fun are targeting a Latino population that has increased by nearly 28 percent in California to 14 million in the last 10 years.

Meanwhile, Americans are spending more this year to celebrate Halloween despite the country's continuing economic woes. Americans plan to spend an average of \$72.31 on costumes, decorations and candy this year, up from \$66.28 last year, according to the National Retail Federation, a trade group for the nation's retailers.

Over the last few years, La Llorona (LAH yoh ROH nah, "the weeping one") has joined the urban legend of the blood-sucking

dog-like creature, the chupacabra, and the guitar-plucking skeletons of the Day of the Dead celebration in the nation's traditional lineup of frightening characters at Halloween events.

The Latino myths and legends have come to life at theme parks in Southern California and Florida, ghost tours in San Antonio and in retail outlets across the country.

"The demographics have changed in Los Angeles, and we are trying to respond to that," said John Murdy, creative director of Universal Studios Hollywood's Halloween Horror Nights, a 19-day event featuring six mazes crammed with costumed actors, scary lighting and bloody props.

One of those mazes, introduced this year, is inspired by the legend of La Llorona.

Of all the Latino characters that theme parks are taking mainstream in the U.S., La Llorona seems to be drawing the most fascination.

In the last decade, she has been the subject of more than a dozen books published in the U.S. and a handful of independent and straight-to-DVD movies.

It is a scary tale with many versions. The most basic account of the story revolves around a beautiful woman named Maria who drowns her children after she is rejected by the rich, powerful man she loves and is doomed to wander the Earth, searching for her children. But some historians say the story dates to the Spanish conquest of the Aztecs.

The popularity of the La Llorona character even prompted Mexico-based Ghoulish Productions this year to ship to U.S. retailers a rub-

ber La Llorona mask, with a gaping mouth and blood-oozing eyes. The mask sells for \$40 to \$65.

"The reason why we decided to introduce the La Llorona mask in the U.S. is because the Day of the Dead and different Mexican traditions are becoming bigger, known and important in different places," said Rosalba Dorado Ruiz, a spokeswoman for the mask manufacturer.

But the burgeoning trend does not sit well with some Latino activists, who worry that the cultural significance of Latino myths and celebrations will be lost in the money-making endeavors.

Melena Gonzalez-Cid, executive director of the nonprofit Centro Cultural Aztlan culture center in San Antonio, said the objects to U.S. businesses "misappropriating" Latin legends to make profits.

"Without the context, the cultural component will be lost and people will think that it came from Hollywood," she said.

But the businesses that have introduced the Latino characters say they are sensitive to the history of the myths.

Murdy, of Universal Studios Hollywood, said he researched the 500-year history of La Llorona before developing the theme park's maze. But he said he also talked to many horror fans and found that the myth has already permeated American culture.

"The awareness of La Llorona was just off the charts," Murdy said. "This transcends Mexico. This story has been told to millions and millions of people."

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Last week, Robert Narvaiz owner of House of Furniture and well known community leader received a special recognition of appreciation for all his community involvement on behalf of Congress Randy Neugebauer. Neugebauer made this recognition as part of the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"I accept this recognition on behalf of myself and my wife Bea and our whole family," said Narvaiz during the small reception that was held during the event.

EL EDITOR NEWSPAPER

Your weekly Hispanic News & Information Publication!

Hopkins will not retire after controversial fight

Bernard Hopkins has an appeal set over a controversial finish and rehabilitation ahead for a significant shoulder injury.

When those issues are settled, Hopkins will have a new priority at the top of his list.

His 46-year-old Hopkins told The Associated Press on Monday he will not retire because of his injured left shoulder and the disputed call that cost him his WBC light heavyweight championship.

"I am going to fight again because I'm still the champion," he said. "I believe I will be the champion once the proper channels are being taken."

Hopkins watched replays of his fight against Chad Dawson and still can't believe the bizarre fashion in which he lost the title on Saturday night. He was stopped for the first time in a 23-year career when Dawson dumped him to the canvas late in the second round. No punch, more of a push, referee Pat Russell ruled there was no foul and the belt was awarded to Dawson via TKO.

The oldest fighter to win a major championship, Hopkins (52-6-2) dislocated the joint connecting his collarbone and

shoulder blade. He was scheduled for an MRI Monday on the injured left shoulder. Hopkins needs rehab no matter the outcome - but his next fight could be deep into next year if a severe tear or worse is revealed.

"My career will not end, and has no reason to end, based on Saturday night," Hopkins said.

"For what?" Golden Boy Promotions chief executive Richard Schaefer says the result will be appealed to the California State Athletic Commission either Monday or Tuesday. He will ask the WBC and Ring Magazine to continue to recognize Hopkins as the champion.

"It's very clear Chad lifted his legs," Schaefer said.

The WBC posted a statement on its website Monday night that it received a "firm protest" from Golden Boy. The WBC said it is reviewing video of the bout and hoped to have a decision by the end of the week.

"A boxing commission can take independent decisions regarding results," the statement said, "but the World Boxing Council ... must take charge of the world title decisions that only correspond to the organization."

Even by boxing's often outra-

geous conduct, there's no doubt the finish at the Staples Center was as implausible as they come. Hopkins leaned over the crouching Dawson after throwing an overhand right, and Dawson lifted Hopkins off his feet by standing up, dumping him onto the canvas.

Hopkins awkwardly landed on his back and instantly clutched his left shoulder in pain, seemingly unable to continue.

Hopkins demanded a foul and a no-contest result.

Russell ruled against him and Hopkins' brief championship reign was over.

Among various descriptions of the incident, Hopkins said he "felt like I was tackled by a football player," and "he threw me like a rag doll."

Raggedy Ann and The Executioner were not found on a toy shelf near you.

"I think the referee got caught up in the moment and didn't know what to do," Hopkins said. "I don't want to sound like I'm whining. The bottom line is, the referee either doesn't know the rules or dropped the ball."

While trash talk before a fight is the norm, there were no signs of the usual post-fight displays

of respect. Dawson said after the debacle he knew Hopkins didn't want to fight him. He called Hopkins a "weak, physically and mentally weak person. He has no power."

Hopkins didn't back down on Monday, saying Dawson purposely threw him down to avoid a defeat.

"Of course you don't want to fight me," Hopkins said. "Of course you know I'm a slow starter and I'll figure you out and I'll take you apart. He knew that time was coming."

Hopkins called for instant replay in boxing to help extend in the future these types of tough calls.

"Boxing is so outdated," he said. "We're living by the rules and technologies of the day of 1929, 1929! They do it in football and they make the right call."

Hopkins now has to wait out the appeals process for his definition of the right call to be made. No matter the outcome, Hopkins said he'll back training at his Philadelphia gym and ready to prove he's not finished long past the expiration date of most star athletes.

"I'm not going to give this guy the opportunity to have this be the last highlights of a storied career," Hopkins said.

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Rangers, Cards have little in common, but a lot to love

The Cardinals play before what they call "baseball's best fans" (and they may be right).

The Rangers freely admit that they play in a football state.

"Baseball and basketball will never replace football in the state of Texas," said Tom Grieve, who has been with the Rangers since they moved from Washington in 1972. "You could probably make the case that we can't replace high school football."

The Cardinals have won 10 World Series, more than anyone but the Yankees. The Rangers have won one World Series game, but they did beat the Yankees to get to it.

These two teams have so little in common that in 15 years of interleague play, baseball has seen fit to have them play just one three-game series, seven years ago in Texas. The Rangers have never played a game at Busch Stadium, where they'll open the World Series Wednesday night.

Baseball and its favorite television networks (who help set those interleague schedules) must not like this matchup.

We do, and here's why: The MVPs you know: Watching Albert Pujols play has been one of the treats of this postseason. The same goes for Josh Hamilton.

By overcoming a 109-game deficit and 17 players on the DL, the Cards are the most unlikely Series team ever.

Pujols should love a Rang-

ers rotation that includes three left-handed starters. His OPS this year against lefties was .946 (and his career number is even better, at 1.085).

Hamilton won't mind a chance to make up for last year's World Series, when he went 2 for 20. And he won't mind a Cardinals rotation with three right-handers; his OPS against right-handers this year was .904.

The MVPs you may not know: I thought American League MVP Nelson Cruz was a great story - stuck in the lowest-level Dominican Summer League for three years, traded three times before he'd played a month in the big leagues, sent back to Triple-A after being offered to every other team for \$20,000 on waivers.

Then I remembered that National League Championship Series MVP David Freese, who quit baseball after high school and enrolled at the University of Missouri as a student (and not a student-athlete). Ten years later, he helped his hometown team to the World Series.

The managers who escaped Moneyball: Back when Tony La Russa managed the A's, they didn't play Moneyball, but they did go to three straight World Series. Ron Washington later coached for the A's (and made it into the movie), but he admits that his style didn't fit their plan.

He's not a Moneyball guy. But he has taken two straight teams to the World Series.

Texans battling injuries as they prep for Titans

Houston's Texans quarterback Matt Schaub's bruised chest won't keep him out this week, though it's likely Andre Johnson will miss his third straight game since minor surgery on his right hamstring.

The Texans, who have already lost linebacker Mario Williams for the year, could also be without fullback James Casey for the second game in a row because of a pectoral injury.

That's bad news for a team that has lost two straight heading into a key AFC South game on Sunday against the division-leading Tennessee Titans.

Schaub said being banged up is just part of life in the NFL and that the team will have to work through its problems to get ready for the Titans. Schaub was limited in practice on Wednesday, with backup Matt Leinart taking some of the repetitions. The Texans plan to use Leinart a lot in practice as the season goes on to give Schaub some rest.

"He's just sore," coach Gary Kubiak said of Schaub. "He's beat up, but he did practice ... Matt is pushing through and we just need to get him through a week where he's not getting beat up very much."

Kubiak said Johnson has been making progress and hasn't had any setbacks. He has been running and catching passes, but has yet to practice with the team. Kubiak said he could return to

practice before the end of the week and wouldn't rule him out for Sunday yet.

"Well, first off, I'm not going to say no. I'm not going to say it," he said when asked if there was a chance Johnson would play. "He's got to reach the practice field before he plays in a game and he's not done that yet. Everything is going exactly the way we thought it would go."

With Johnson's status uncertain, the Texans are looking for more from recent acquisition Derrick Mason, who joined the team last Thursday in a trade with the New York Jets and caught three passes for 27 yards in a 29-14 loss to Baltimore on Sunday.

Schaub thinks Mason can play a bigger role in the offense against the Titans with a full week of practice under his belt.

"He can really help us with his skill set," Schaub said. "So to get him more preparation and get more reps with him will help us going forward."

Mason said he's spent a lot of time in the film room and that he's trying to get caught up as quickly as possible.

"I'm picking up on things fairly quickly," Mason said. "The rest of the guys are helping me as much as they can. I feel like this week I can play a little bit faster because some more things have been thrown my way and I feel comfortable with them."

Kubiak said playing without

Johnson and Casey has been difficult, but that players such as Mason and fullback Lawrence Vickers have to pick up the slack.

"All of a sudden, you lose Andre and then you lose (Casey) and his versatility," Kubiak said. "It's been tough, but Lawrence has got to step in and he's got his strengths too as a player. Derrick has to step in offensively. It's been an adjustment period, but it's something we have to handle as a group and find a way to make it work."

Kevin Walter, who normally starts opposite Johnson, has 11 receptions for 133 yards and a touchdown in the two games combined since Johnson has been out. He knows that he can do more, but said that filling the void can't fall to just one guy.

"We're missing some big guys - Andre, Mario - and we've got to get past that," he said. "Obviously it does hurt us, but we need to step in and make those plays. Not just one person but everyone needs to go in there. We've got to pick it up as a whole group."

Notes: The Texans placed S Dominique Barber on injured reserve with a foot injury and signed rookie S Shiloh Keo from the practice squad to take his roster spot. The Cleveland Browns signed RB Chris Ogbonnaya to their active roster from Houston's practice squad and the Texans signed RB Javaris Williams and S Tori Williams to their practice squad.

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El Editor wants to help you keep your memories alive. Call Marisol Agüero today to book your appointment for a video composition or any other obituary service.

CALL MARISOL AGÜERO AT 806-741-0371

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