

Afghan
Casualties of
War
in Iraq
4,375
as of Jan.
7, 2010

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Lubbock/West Texas Region

Hispanic Caucus Aims To Shift Focus To Immigration

The packed legislative agenda of 2009 left little room after health care, climate change and the financial overhaul to tackle immigration issues.

The last time President Obama even broached the topic of illegal immigrants before Congress was during his September speech on health care, and frankly, things didn't go so well. That was the night South Carolina Republican Joe Wilson made headlines for yelling "You lie!" at the president.

Since then, little about the topic has come out of the Senate or the House. Still, immigration has not been forgotten, and it could make an appearance in 2010.

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, vowing to put the issue front and center, have come up with their own proposal for what they call comprehensive immigration reform.

"Just because we have been patient doesn't mean we could wait forever," Rep. Luis Guterrez (D-IL) said at a recent news conference while surrounded by Latino children wearing T-shirts that read "future voter."

He and the caucus introduced a bill that would put undocumented workers on a path to citizenship — if they pay a \$500 fine, learn English and

undergo a criminal background check. The bill would also provide more training for border guards and seek better conditions at immigration detention centers.

But after a conservative backlash sent the last major immigration overhaul effort down in flames in 2007, Gutierrez says, he knows what he's up against.

"Opponents of immigration reform will use it as a wedge issue and will blame everything from unemployment to rising health care costs on immigrants," he says. "Of course, why stop at jobs and health care? Global warming? Rough stock market? Bad traffic? Lousy weather? Too many immigrants!"

But what Gutierrez calls the blame game, opponents are calling the new economic reality. Republican Rep. Steve King of Iowa is already digging in his heels.

King says. "It's clear there are at least 8 million jobs today [that] are held by people here illegally. Those are jobs that Americans can and will do."

King and other Republicans say they have several core positions: They oppose what they call amnesty; they support a locked-down border; and they want employers to verify that everyone they hire is a U.S. citizen.

But Democrats say they have reasons to be optimistic, because the atmosphere has changed since 2007. First, high unemployment has slowed the flow of illegal immigrants. Homeland Security officials say security is better than it was back then, with the addition of thousands more border patrol officers and hundreds of miles of new border fencing. Still, the Obama administration isn't planning to make a

move until Congress is ready. And Democrats may be more concerned about the midterm elections.

"You may see some Democratic House members just, you know, looking at bridges thinking of jumping off," says Charlie Cook of the Cook Political Report newsletter.

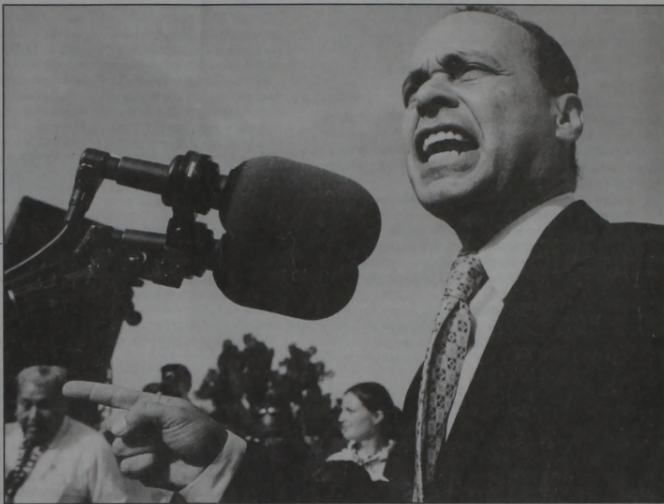
Cook says in the House alone, there are upwards of 60 Democrats in competitive districts. They have already had to take politically tough

votes on climate change, health care and the economic stimulus package. But the partisan battling has left both parties damaged.

"Republicans have to be careful because they come across as anti-Hispanic and immigrant bashing, and Democrats are looking bad because it looks like they are trying to shove too much down the throats of people who are only interested in job creation and getting the economy turned around."

Cook explains.

With the battle over health care still churning, action on immigration is uncertain at best. In the Senate, Democrat Charles Schumer of New York is drafting legislation with the help of South Carolina Republican Lindsey Graham. Lawmakers have discouraged smaller immigration bills from moving separately to preserve some political energy for a comprehensive measure they hope to move early next year.



Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, speaks at a rally for immigration reform on the U.S. Capitol grounds in October.



"I think the change in the dynamics in this immigration debate is that now instead of a 4.6 percent unemployment rate, it's a 10 percent unemployment now, more than twice as much unemploy-

ment. King says. "It's clear there are at least 8 million jobs today [that] are held by people here illegally. Those are jobs that Americans can and will do."

Local Candidates announce intentions to run for upcoming elections

Most of all local Democrats and Republicans had to make final decisions as to run or not to run on Monday. The coming primary elections will be in March 2, 2010.

As for the race of the State Representative District 84 Race, Attorney and former City Councilman, Victor Hernandez, announced Monday that he will not be seeking the office of State Representative District 84.

Hernandez said, "After extensive thought and prayer, I have chosen not to seek the office of State Representative District 84. My emphasis has always been at the local level and for now, it remains so. I will continue to provide my assistance with local issues which for now include the possible creation of a Lubbock Community College District as well as providing legal representation to Guadalupe Neighborhood Association in opposition to the placement of two concrete batch plants adjacent to their neighborhood."

Hernandez also stated, "I do however, wish to thank all those who encouraged me to seek this office and pledged their time, treasure, and talent should I have chosen to run."

Carol Morgan, a retired schoolteacher and counselor filed all the paperwork needed in order to participate in the Democrat Party for this race. Morgan's attention will

focus on education and economic growth.

According to a newspaper article, Pam Brink who is the Lubbock County Democrat Party chairwoman said she is happy that Morgan is running in District 84.

John Frullo of Lubbock who is a board of directors of Lubbock Chamber of Commerce decided to jump in the race at the last minute.

Ysidro Gutierrez, former Lubbock County Commissioner Pct. 3 will also be part of this race. He will also face Texas Tech Regent Mark Griffin who officially announced on Wednesday morning his intent to run. Gutierrez who will also run as a Republican said, "the priorities for my campaign for State House District 84 are keep taxes low, to fight against all new taxes especially regressive taxes and to reform the property tax system." He also indicates that his webpage is: ysidroforlubbock.com. The winner of the three will run against Morgan in the Nov. 2 general election since she is the only democrat candidate.

Other contested races will be in House districts 83 & 85.

Republican Delwin Jones will face attorney Zack Brady in the District 83 and in District 85 Jim Landtroop of Plainview and David Andrews who is an accountant for Jones County. The winner will face incumbent Joe Heflin, D-Crosbyton.

Democratic candidates:

State District 84
Carol Morgan, D
Sheriff
Jesse Pena, D
Party Chairman
Pam Brink, D
Cliff Burnett, D

Republican candidates:

State District 84
John Frullo
Mark Griffin
Ysidro Gutierrez
Candidates for Judge 364TH Dist. Court
Jennifer Bassett
Brad Underwood
Candidates for Judge 237TH Dist. Court
Les Hatch
Candidates for Judge 137TH Dist. Court
John "Trey" McClendon
Cecil G. Puryear
Candidates for County Judge
Tom Head
David Nelson
Candidates for County Commissioner Pct 2
Mark Heinrich
Candidates for County Commissioner Pct 4
Patti Jones
John Leonard

The Primary Election is March 2, 2010 and early vote is Feb 16 to Feb 26, 2010

Candidates for County Sheriff

Don Carter
Ronnie O'Neal
Kelly S. Rowe
Candidates for Justice of the Peace Place 1
Jim Hansen
Rex Andrew
Candidates for Justice of the Peace Place 2
Jim Dulin
Susan Rowley
Candidates for Justice of the Peace Place 4
Jean Anne Stratton
Candidates for County Court at Law #1
Larry B. (Rusty) Ladd
Candidates for County Court at Law #2
Dru Farnmer
Candidates for County Court at Law #3
Judy Parker
Candidates for Dist Clerk
Barbara M. Sucusy
Candidates for County Clerk
Kelly J. Pinion
Candidates for County Treasurer
Sharon Gossett
Candidates for Criminal Dist. Attorney
Matt Powell
Candidates for Republican Party County
Jack Galloway
Chris Winn

Obama anuncia plan para entrenar maestros en EEUU

El presidente Barack Obama anunció el miércoles una iniciativa de entrenamiento a maestros de matemáticas y ciencias a un costo de 250 millones de dólares para ayudar a los escolares a ubicarse al más alto nivel en esas materias.

Obama también entregó premios de excelencia en enseñanza y en asesoramiento a más de 100 educadores, y broméo con ellos sobre darles más trabajo.

"Creo tanto en la labor que ustedes realizan", destacó Obama en una ceremonia en la Casa Blanca.

"Y como he mencionado a algunos de ustedes, ya que tengo dos niñas en el piso de arriba que pronto presentarán exámenes de matemáticas, creo que nunca está demás que reciban un poco de ayuda adicional del mejor nivel". "Así, ustedes tendrán un encargo después de esto", agregó. Los asistentes rieron. "Estos premios no son gratuitos", señaló en broma.

Obama destacó que la calidad de los profesores es el factor más importante que influye en el éxito o en el fracaso de los alumnos en las materias de ciencias, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas. Y destacó que los estudiantes estadounidenses están a la zaga de sus compañeros en todo el mundo. El presidente dijo que la escasez sustancial de maestros en esas materias se acrecentará a menos que

se tomen medidas para contrarrestar la tendencia, y que ese logro requiere de ayuda exterior porque el gobierno federal no puede hacerlo solo.

Obama dijo que las inversiones de 250 millones de dólares procedentes de los sectores público y privado para su campaña "Educar para Innovar" permitirán entrar a más de 100.000 maestros y a preparar a más de 10.000 nuevos educadores en los próximos cinco años.

Se prevé que contará con el apoyo de Intel Corp., la Iniciativa Nacional de Matemáticas y Ciencias, Public Broadcasting Services y la Asociación Nacional de Maestros de Ciencias, el Fondo Nacional de Becas Woodrow Wilson y los presidentes de más de 75 universidades públicas de todo el país.

Obama también exhortó a los 200.000 científicos que trabajan para el gobierno federal a que ayuden dando charlas en las escuelas y participando en proyectos prácticos de fin de impulsar la curiosidad de los escolares en torno a las ciencias.

"Tenemos que tener en cuenta que nuestro futuro está de por medio", afirmó el presidente estadounidense. "La nación que nos supera en educación en la actualidad será más competitiva que nosotros mañana".

Comentarios - Opiniones

LOOKING FORWARD BY LOOKING BACK

By José de la Isla

Did you ever attend a party and no one noticed you were there, and when you left no one noticed that you weren't? That is how I interpreted Long Island University professor José R. Sánchez's New Year's observation about the media's oversight of some important passages.

He counted up the year-end recognitions of notable people who passed away in 2009 and noted next to no recognition of Latinos. The "treatment of Latino deaths is symptomatic of a wider neglect of Latinos," he wrote in an essay for the National Institute for Latino Policy.

The New York Times included a chimpanzee among the 23 important "people" who died during the year, but not one Latino. The Chicago Tribune mentioned two Latinos out of 104 people: Argentine grammar writer Mercedes Sosa and Nicaraguan boxer Alex Arguello. Gidget, the Taco Bell Chihuahua, doesn't count.

The Los Angeles Times counted only three Latinos out of 120 notable deaths. It included actor Ricardo Montalban, Mexican-American jockey Ismael Valenzuela, and one other person already mentioned. The Baltimore Sun also only listed three out of 134, with two-time Venezuelan president Rafael Ángel Caldera and baseball manager Preston Gómez, new to those already mentioned.

The 91 notable death listed by the Associated Press only included Montalban.

Sánchez concluded that a "group that is either not seen or that draws little interest will find its contributions minimized or dismissed." And he relates this invisibility to powerlessness.

Sánchez might be right to a certain extent. When power, politics, fame and status are considered the purpose of life, getting recognized means everything. Getting overlooked is insulting.

Yet other trends, civic ones, might also suggest another path, one away from complaint, regret and grievance.

Only during the past decade, only after 2000, did the U.S. Census results sink in about the exponential growth of the Latino population. It came as news to many, even though it's been obvious for three decades. And for many it was a revelation similar to Columbus "discovering" America.

Ashamedly, this happened just during the past decade. Even though the Census Bureau reported in July 2001 that Hispanics already outnumbered African Americans by one million persons, the press and public alike regularly comment that Latinos "will soon become the nation's largest minority population."

But "minority" status is nothing to aspire to. It is a quasi-legalistic designation and not one that comes out of confining history, tradition, language, culture, world view and life, in general. It is what some sociologists call a "huristic," a useful designation. But it is not useful when it stigmatizes or is used to suggest people who are outside the major currents of national life. In fact, the revelation by the Census served to show just how out of touch so many persons are about knowing their own country.

Few people have formed a context for understanding other major events of the past decade. A grassroots Hispanic enfranchisement movement began long before, in 1976, which validated that civil rights is not about color alone. The 2004 national election validated Hispanics as a national electorate. In 2006, the largest civil right marches in the nation's history, over immigration reform, validated the Hispanic stake in the nation's policy direction.

That was the organizing tipping point in several key causes for the election of Barack Obama in 2008.

These events still aren't registering in the national consciousness, even though they are the result of civic participation by millions.

Sometimes nobody notices when you arrive at the party alone. But it's hard to ignore when 50 million of you do. The work to be done is simple. Take the world as you find it, as did those few Hispanic notables who were mentioned in the media, and make this a more interesting place for everyone.

Now that's something to have on your tombstone.

Study Advises Catholic Schools To Double Hispanic Enrollment Rate

By Charlie Erickson

A task force based at the University of Notre Dame has launched an initiative to improve student access and success at this country's Catholic schools for Latino children. The goal, it proclaims, is to close the unwavering Hispanic educational achievement gap.

Findings of "To Nurture the Soul of a Nation: Latino Families, Catholic Schools and Educational Opportunity," a 2009 study conducted by the Notre Dame Task Force on the Participation of Latino Children and Families in Catholic Schools, highlights the success of Hispanics who attend Catholic schools.

It offers a roadmap for doubling the Catholic school enrollment rate for Latinos.

The study body was formed in 2008 to explore issues surrounding the Latino achievement gap and the demographic imperative to improve educational opportunities for Hispanics.

Latinos who attend Catholic school are 42 percent more likely to graduate high school and two-and-a-half times more likely to graduate college than are other students, it reported. However, only three percent of Latino parents send their children to Catholic schools.

The task force set a goal of doubling that rate to 6% by 2020. That would mean increasing the national enrollment of Latino children in Catholic schools from 290,000 to more than a million. The report highlights research suggesting that Latino students who attend Catholic schools enjoy a "Catholic school advantage" and outlines steps for achieving its goals.

The strategy relies on a combination of developing demand, building capacity and transforming institutions to fill empty seats in existing schools,

reopening closed schools, and building new schools in areas most affected by the growth of the Latino population.

Bishop Thomas Curry, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Catholic Education and auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, praised the report, stating, "The study highlights two factors in particular — Hispanic students who attend Catholic schools do better than their counterparts who are enrolled elsewhere and Catholic schools are not attracting enough Hispanic students."

"The study is a challenge to the Church to get the word out and spread the good news in the Hispanic community," he said.

It identifies four critical gaps in enrollment and achievement and outlines opportunities that are available in urban Catholic schools.

While costs for students are often cited as the main deterrent affecting attendance, other factors, including availability of information, cultural understanding and leadership training — also should be addressed.

"The Latino presence, more than any other factor, offers Catholic education the opportunity to renew itself and face the vexing challenges of the 21st century," said task force member Jesus Director Allan Figueroa Deck, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church. "We are being presented with a fundamental choice that we ignore at our peril."

The task force included more than 50 national leaders from the Latino community, the Church, academia, government, business, philanthropy and K-12 education. The report was first shared Dec. 12 in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Anticipando El Futuro Con Mirar Atrás

¿Alguna vez asististe a una fiesta sin que nadie se diera cuenta que estabas allí, y que cuando te fuiste, nadie se dio cuenta que no estabas más? Así interpretó al profesor de la Universidad de Long Island, José R. Sánchez, en su observación sobre el descuido de los medios referentes a algunas cosas importantes.

El profesor contó el reconocimiento de fin de año de personas notables que murieron en el 2009 y notó que no hubo casi reconocimiento de ningún latino. El "tratamiento del fallecimiento de latinos es sintomático de un descuido más amplio de los latinos", escribió en un ensayo para el National Institute for Latino Policy.

El New York Times incluyó a un chimpancé entre las 23 "personas" importantes que murieron durante el año, pero no incluyó a ningún latino. El Chicago Tribune mencionó a dos latinos de 104 personas: cantante argentina, Mercedes Sosa, galardonada con un grammy y boxeador nicaraguense Alex Arguello. Gidget, la permit chihuahua de Taco Bell, no cuenta.

El Los Angeles Times mencionó sólo a tres latinos de 120 muertes notables. Incluyó a Ricardo Montalban, jinete mexicano-americano Ismael Valenzuela, y una persona más, ya mencionada. El Baltimore Sun también noó a sólo tres de 134, agregando al presidente de Venezuela dos veces, Rafael Antonio Caldera y gerente de béisbol, Preston Gómez, a los ya mencionados.

La lista de 91 muertes notables de la Prensa Asociada sólo incluyó a Montalban. Sánchez concluyó que "un grupo al que no se percibe o que atrae poca atención encontrará minimizadas o desechadas sus contribuciones." Y esta invisibilidad la relaciona con una falta de poder.

Podrá Sánchez tener razón hasta cierto punto. Cuando se consideran el poder, la política, la fama y el estado social el propósito de la vida, el ser reconocido lo significa todo. El ser olvidado es un insulto. No obstante, otras tendencias, las ciencias, también podrían sugerir otro camino, uno que se deja de la queja, el arrepentimiento y el agravio.

Sólo durante la pasada década, sólo después del 2000, fue que los resultados del Censo Estadounidense se registraron en cuanto al crecimiento exponencial de la población latina. Para muchos fue noticia, aunque el aumento ha sido obvio durante

tres décadas ya. Y para muchos fue una revelación al estilo del "descubrimiento" de América por Colón.

Por vergüenza, esto ocurrió sólo en la última década. A pesar de que la Oficina del Censo reportara en julio del 2001 que los hispanos ya eran más que los africanos americanos por un millón de personas, tanto la prensa como el público comentaban de manera regular que los latinos "pronto serán la población minoritaria más grande de la nación".

Pero no estamos para aspirar a un estado de "minoría". Es una designación parcialmente legalística y no es una que resulta de combinar la historia, la tradición, la lengua, la cultura, la perspectiva sobre el mundo y la vida, en general. Es lo que algunos sociólogos denominan una designación "hurística," o gílo. Pero no es útil cuando estigmatiza o cuando se usa para sugerir a personas más allá de las corrientes principales de la vida nacional. En realidad, la revelación del Censo sirve para demostrar lo muy alejadas que están algunas personas del conocer a su propio país.

Pocas personas han formado un contexto para comprender otros eventos importantes de la pasada década. Un movimiento de base para influir al hispano de un sentido de poder comenzó mucho antes, en 1976, el cual validó que los derechos civiles no tratan sólo del color de la piel. Una elección en el 2004 dio validez a los hispanos como un grupo electoral nacional. En el 2006, las mayores marchas por los derechos civiles en la historia de la nación, referentes a la reforma migratoria, dieron validez al interés hispano en la orientación de las políticas nacionales.

En varios estados claves, ése fue el punto de desbordamiento en términos de organización para la elección de Barack Obama en el 2008.

Estos eventos aún no se están registrando en la conciencia nacional, a pesar de ser el resultado de la participación de millones. A veces nadie se da cuenta cuando legas solo a la fiesta. Pero es difícil olvidar a 50 millones. La labor que hacer es sencilla. Tomemos el mundo como lo encontramos, así como hicieron esos pocos hispanos notables que mencionaron los medios, y hagamos que éste sea un lugar más interesante para todos.

Eso sí que es algo que poner en tu lápida sepulcral

Estudio Aconseja Que Escuelas Católicas Doble La Matrícula De Hispanos

Un taller de trabajo en la Universidad de Notre Dame ha lanzado una iniciativa para mejorar el acceso y el éxito de estudiantes latinos en las escuelas católicas de este país. Proclama que su meta es de cerrar la brecha constante en el logro académico de hispanos.

El hallado en el estudio, "To Nurture the Soul of a Nation: Latino Families, Catholic Schools and Educational Opportunity", realizado en el 2009 por el taller, Notre Dame Task Force on the Participation of Latino Children and Families in Catholic Schools, realiza el éxito de los hispanos que asisten a escuelas católicas.

Ofrece un croquis para doblar la matrícula de latinos en las escuelas católicas. El cuerpo de estudio se formó en el 2008 para explorar temas alrededor del logro académico latino y la imperativa demográfica para mejorar las oportunidades educativas para hispanos.

Los latinos que asisten a las escuelas católicas tienen una probabilidad 42 por ciento mayor de graduarse de la secundaria y dos y media veces más de graduarse de la universidad que otros estudiantes, reportó. No obstante, sólo un tres por ciento de los padres latinos matriculan a sus hijos en escuelas católicas.

El taller de trabajo fijó la meta de doblar ese índice a un 6% para el año 2020. Eso implicaría aumentar la matrícula nacional de estudiantes latinos en escuelas católicas de 290,000 a más de un millón.

El estudio realiza investigaciones que sugieren que los estudiantes latinos que asisten a escuelas católicas disfrutan de una "ventaja de escuela católica" y esboza los pasos para lograr sus metas.

La estrategia se fía de una combinación del desarrollo de la demanda, del fomento de la capacidad y de la transformación de instituciones para llenar los pupitres vacíos en escuelas existentes, con volver a abrir escuelas cerradas y construir escuelas en áreas más afectadas por el aumento en la población latina. El obispo Thomas Curry, presi-

dente del Comité sobre la Educación Católica de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos y obispo auxiliar de Los Ángeles, elogió el estudio, afirmando que, "El estudio realiza dos factores en particular — que los estudiantes hispanos que asisten a escuelas católicas salen mejor que sus contrapartes matriculados en otras partes y que las escuelas católicas no están atrayendo a suficientes estudiantes hispanos."

"El estudio es un reto para la Iglesia, a que difunda la buena noticia en la comunidad hispana", indicó. El estudio identifica cuatro brechas críticas en la matrícula y el logro académico y esboza oportunidades disponibles en las escuelas católicas urbanas.

Si bien con frecuencia se citan los costos para los estudiantes como el obstáculo principal contra la asistencia, hay otros factores, incluyendo la disponibilidad de la información, la comprensión cultural y la capacitación en liderazgo — a los que también hay que dirigirse.

"La presencia latina, más que ningún otro factor, ofrece a la educación católica la oportunidad de renovar y encarar los desafíos frustrantes del siglo XXI", dijo miembro del taller de trabajo, padre jesuita Allan Figueroa Deck, director ejecutivo del Secretariado para la Diversidad de la Iglesia de la Conferencia de Obispos. "Se nos está presentando una opción fundamental que obviaríamos a nuestro propio peligro".

El taller de trabajo incluyó a más de 50 dirigentes nacionales de la comunidad latina, la Iglesia, el mundo académico, el gobierno, la empresa, la filantropía y la educación primaria y secundaria. El informe se compartió en un principio el 12 de diciembre en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

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EDITORIAL

El Editor's Editorial Board supports the following and encourages all of our readers to do the same.

Further, we urge everyone to evaluate and observe all the candidates that have filed for political offices in the local and state levels. All candidates need to be up front with you and your family's needs as citizens of this great country. Don't hold back, we should always voice our opinions and see what they have to offer us during the campaign ride, after the campaign victory, and most importantly during their term in office. We owe this to our children, grandchildren, our great grandchildren and ourselves in order to guarantee the best opportunities available in the future.

We also encourage everyone to register your family members, friends, or anyone that you know that is not registered to vote ... register them and take it upon yourself to see that these people practice their right...which is to VOTE!

...Not Anti-Immigrant Provisions!

Recent media reports have said that members of Congress are willing to accept a final health care reform bill that turns its back on Latino and immigrant families. We need you to stand up today and say that this is unacceptable.

Please weigh in with your members of Congress today to ensure that a final health care reform bill reflects the needs and concerns of the Latino community. Decisions are being made about the contents of a final health care reform bill at this very moment. We need you to take a few minutes to contact national leaders today to tell them about your needs in a final bill.

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) has been working to guarantee affordability, access, and quality in health care for everyone, but several policies are hanging in the balance. In particular, there are two key provisions that need your attention:

Harmful Restrictions: The Senate and the White House have supported measures to prevent undocumented immigrants from purchasing insurance with their own money. The Senate bill contains this harmful provision, but the House bill does not, thanks to the efforts of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and members of key committees. Congress needs to hear that this detrimental policy should not be included in health care reform.

The Five-Year Bar: Under both the House and Senate health care reform plans, legal immigrants are required to have health insurance but must wait five years before they can access insurance programs such as Medicaid. Last month, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced his commitment to include the removal of this five-year bar in the final bill before the Democratic Caucus. We must help him fight for immigrant equity.

You can make a difference! A letter or contact your members of Congress and the White House right now and tell them what meaningful health care reform looks like to you. El Editor newspapers and NCLR strongly encourages you to personalize this letter and share your stories.

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Obama pide al Congreso que apruebe reforma de salud

Esperan bipartidismo en inmigración



El presidente Barack Obama exhortó a los demócratas en el Congreso para que le entreguen lo más pronto posible una iniciativa final de ley de salud pública, animándolos a evitar las negociaciones usuales entre ambas cámaras en interés de la rapidez.

Obama hizo su llamado durante una reunión en la Oficina Oval el martes por la tarde con la presidenta de la Cámara de Representantes, Nancy Pelosi, y el líder demócrata de la misma, Steny Hoyer. Por vía telefónica los acompañaron el líder demócrata en el Senado, Harry Reid, y el senador Dick Durbin, quienes estaban fuera de la ciudad.

Ellos acordaron que en lugar de crear una comisión formal para resolver las diferencias entre las iniciativas de salud aprobadas el año pasado por la cámara baja y el Senado, la Cámara de Repre-

sentantes trabajará en la versión de la cámara alta, la enmendará y la enviará al Senado para su aprobación final, según un asistente legislativo que habló bajo condición de no ser identificado.

El propio Obama tomará un papel director, al convocar a otra reunión con los líderes del Congreso en la Casa Blanca el miércoles. Se espera que asista Pelosi y otros cuatro demócratas presidentes de comisiones.

Obama quiere firmar la legislación histórica para extender la cobertura de seguros médicos a tiempo para su discurso sobre el Estado de la Nación, previsto para principios de febrero.

Las iniciativas aprobadas por las cámaras baja y alta requerirán que casi todos los estadounidenses tengan cobertura de salud y proporcionarían subsidios para muchos que no pueden costearla,

pero difieren en cientos de detalles.

La presión para lograr una propuesta final significa que los líderes legislativos demócratas probablemente evitarán entrar en negociaciones formales en su esfuerzo por lograr un acuerdo.

A cambio de perder la "opción del gobierno" federal, los demócratas de la Cámara de Representantes dijeron que intentan presionar al Senado a que haga las primas más accesibles para los ciudadanos.

El resultado de las conversaciones podría representar cientos de dólares de ahorros para las familias que compren su cobertura médica en los nuevos supermercados de seguros creados por la legislación.

Los congresistas demócratas y Obama trabajan en asuntos difíciles aún pendientes sobre la reforma al sistema de salud, tras meses de tortuosos debates, con el tema de cómo ayudar a los estadounidenses a pagar sus primas de seguro a la cabeza de la lista.

Los republicanos no fueron invitados a un encuentro el martes por la noche y se quejaron de que los demócratas intentaban deliberar a puertas cerradas, aunque esta sea una práctica frecuente entre legisladores cuando se encuentran en la fase final de una legislación tan compleja.

Un esfuerzo de hablar de inmigración de manera bipartidista se está impulsando a puerta cerrada en la Cámara de Representantes, después de que el proyecto de ley promovido por Luis Gutiérrez (D-IL) no contara con ningún co-sponsor republicano, a pesar de sus 91 adherentes.

La semana pasada en el programa de televisión "Al Punto" de Univisión, el congresista, Lincoln Díaz Balart (R-FL) comentó que "lleva un año trabajando en el anonimato", junto a Xavier Becerra (D-CA) y otros legisladores, demócratas y republicanos "finalizando un proyecto de ley bipartidista".

Además, comentó que la legislación empujada por Gutiérrez "no tiene posibilidades" y que aunque la introducción de esta propuesta "fue un duro golpe" para los esfuerzos que se están realizando, la intención es "continuar trabajando y presentar un proyecto". La oficina del congresista Díaz Balart recibió una petición de entrevista por parte de La Opinión para acceder a más detalles respecto a esta información, sin embargo, esto no se concretó.

Por otra parte, en una conversación con La Opinión, Becerra dijo que "no existe nada que esté en un lenguaje legislativo. No es comparable a lo que presentó Luis Gutiérrez. No es algo donde haya un grupo jiro o en que sólo algunos puedan participar y con un límite de tiempo para ser presentado. En esto se trata de un esfuerzo para llegar a una reforma y hablar seriamente con cualquiera que esté dispuesto a conversar".

"En este proceso no se puede poner barreras a lo que se discute, para que finalmente se alcance un lugar común y tener una reforma migratoria. No hay ningún proceso paralelo, ni una propuesta. Existe una conversación que ya se ha extendido por meses", agregó.

Becerra a su vez aseguró que toda legislación, como ocurrió en el caso de la reforma de salud, no se logra a través de una sola propuesta y que el proceso de diálogo es esencial para alcanzar resultados.

Fuentes al interior del Capitolio aseguraron a La Opinión que otra congresista que sería parte de las conversaciones bipartidistas sobre inmigración es Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) quien es la presidenta del subcomité de inmigración de la Cámara de Representantes.

Además, insistieron en que la base sobre la que se está conversando, es que el Senado debe ser el que debata primero una reforma migratoria. A su vez, coincidieron en que no existe ningún límite de tiempo ni lenguaje legislativo escrito sobre las discusiones que se están sosteniendo y aseguraron que los diálogos sólo han sido entre congresistas, sin sus asesores legislativos ni parte de su equipo.

Por otra parte, líderes de grupos por inmigración, como Frank Sharry, director ejecutivo de America's Voice, enfatizaron que "es bien



conocido que para aprobar la reforma migratoria se necesita alrededor de 8 a 10 republicanos en el Senado y 20 a 30 en la Cámara Baja. Sin este apoyo es muy difícil conseguirlo. Entendemos que existen numerosas discusiones para encontrar apoyo", dijo.

"El hecho de que demócratas y republicanos estén trabajando juntos son excelentes noticias. Es importante que en el caso de resultar en una propuesta legislativa, que trate a las personas de manera justa", declaró Ali Noorani, director ejecutivo de National Immigration Forum.

Fuentes vinculadas con la reforma migratoria explicaron que este proceso en la Cámara Baja se ha dado de manera muy discreta y que probablemente Díaz Balart realizó las declaraciones motivado por la necesidad de contarles a sus electores por qué no apoyó el proyecto de ley de Gutiérrez a pesar de que él está interesado en la inmigración. Sin embargo, al no tener la opinión directa de este congresista, esto no puede ser confirmado.

2009 Tax Law Changes Provide Saving Opportunities for Nearly Everyone

In 2009, numerous new and expanded deductions and credits came into being for a broad cross-section of taxpayers: College tax benefits for parents and students; energy credits for homeowners who are going green; and even tax breaks for home buyers and car buyers.

To help ensure you don't miss credits or deductions for which you may qualify, be sure to use e-file," said Clay Sanford, an IRS spokesman in Dallas.

"In addition to getting a refund much faster with e-file, it is also virtually error free—much more accurate than doing taxes by hand on paper."

Visit IRS.gov and click on the blue e-file icon to learn more about the benefits of electronic filing. If your 2009 adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$57,000 or less, you are eligible for Free File.

American Opportunity Credit Helps Pay for First Four Years of College More parents and students can use a federal education credit to offset part of the cost of college under the new American Opportunity Credit.

This credit modifies the existing Hope credit for tax years 2009 and 2010, making it available to a broader range of taxpayers. Income guidelines are expanded and required course materials are added to the list of qualified expenses. Many of those eligible will qualify for the maximum annual credit of \$2,500 per student. For details on these and other education-related tax benefits, see Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education.

Many Energy Improvements Qualify for Expanded Tax Credits

People who weatherize their homes or purchase alternative energy equipment may qualify for either of two expanded home energy tax credits: the non-business energy property credit and the residential energy efficient property credit.

Non-business Energy Property Credit: This credit equals 30 percent of what a homeowner spends on eligible energy-saving

improvements, up to a maximum tax credit of \$1,500 for the combined 2009 and 2010 tax years.

This means that a homeowner can get the maximum credit by spending at least \$5,000 on qualifying improvements. Homeowners must make the improvements to an existing principal residence; this tax credit is not available for new construction. Due to limits based on tax liability, other credits claimed by a particular taxpayer and other factors, actual tax savings will vary. The cost of certain high-efficiency heating and air conditioning systems, water heaters and stoves that burn

biomass all qualify, along with labor costs for installing these items. In addition, the cost of energy-efficient windows and skylights, energy-efficient doors, qualifying insulation and certain roofs are also eligible for the credit, though the cost of installing these items does not count.

Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit: Homeowners going green should also check out a second tax credit designed to spur investment in alternative energy equipment. The residential energy efficient property credit, equals 30 percent of what a homeowner spends on qualifying property such as solar electric systems, solar hot water heaters, geothermal heat pumps, wind turbines, and fuel cell property. Qualifying property purchased for new construction or an existing home is eligible for the credit. Generally, labor costs are included when calculating this credit. Also, no cap exists on the amount of credit available except in the case of fuel cell property.

Not all energy-efficient improvements qualify for these

tax credits. For that reason, homeowners should check the manufacturer's tax credit certification statement before purchasing or installing any of these improvements. The certification statement can usually be found on the manufacturer's Web site or on the product packaging. Normally, a homeowner can rely on this certification. The IRS cautions that the manufacturer's certification is different from the Department of Energy's Energy Star label, and not all Energy Star labeled products qualify for the tax credits. Use Form 5695, Residential Energy Credits, to figure and claim these credits.

New Vehicle Purchase Incentive

New car buyers can deduct the state or local sales or excise taxes paid on the purchase of new cars, light trucks, motor homes and motorcycles.

There is no limit on the number of vehicles that may be purchased, and eligible taxpayers may claim the deduction for taxes paid on multiple purchases. However, the deduction is limited to the tax on up to \$49,500 of the purchase price of each qualifying new vehicle. Qualifying new

vehicles must be purchased, not leased, after Feb. 16, 2009, and before Jan. 1, 2010.

Taxpayers who buy a new vehicle may deduct state or local fees or taxes that are similar to a sales tax whether or not their state imposes a sales tax. To qualify, the fees or taxes must be assessed on the purchase of the vehicle and must be based on the vehicle's sales price or as a per-unit fee.

The amount of the deduction is reduced for taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross income is between \$125,000 and \$135,000 for individual filers and between \$250,000 and \$260,000 for joint filers. This deduction is available regardless of whether a taxpayer itemizes deductions on Schedule A. Itemizers claim the deduction on either Line 5 or Line 7 of Schedule A. See the Schedule A instructions for details. Non-itemizers claim the deduction on new Schedule L, Standard Deduction for Certain Filers.

Tax Credits Increased for Low and Moderate Income Workers

More workers and working families are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. In

particular, expanded benefits are now available for those with three or more qualifying children and married couples. The EITC helps taxpayers whose incomes are below certain income thresholds, which in 2009 rise to:

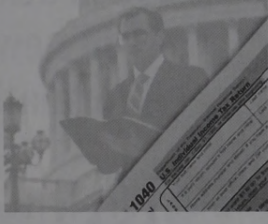
- * \$48,279 for families with three or more qualifying children
- * \$45,295 for those with two or more children
- * \$40,463 for people with one child
- * \$18,440 for those with no children

One in six taxpayers can claim the EITC, which, unlike most tax breaks, is refundable, meaning that individuals can get it even if they owe no tax and even if no tax is withheld from their paychecks.

In addition, the earned income formula for the additional child tax credit is revised for tax years 2009 and 2010. As a result, more low and moderate income families qualify for the full \$1,000 child tax credit.

See Form 8812 for more information.

For more information about filing taxes this year, also see IRS Publication 117, available for download at IRS.gov.



Free!

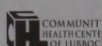
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Community Health Center of Lubbock is offering
FREE Diabetes Self-Management classes

When: Wednesday, January 13, 2010
Where: CHCL Main clinic, 1318 Broadway, 2nd floor
SMK Conference Room
Time: 10am-12 noon
Who: Contact Estela at 765-2611 ext. 1018
What: Registration is required! Free meal provided!

- Learn what Diabetes is and what the risk factors are
- How to manage your Diabetes with proper nutrition
 - How to exercise and LOVE it!
 - Medication Management
 - How to avoid complications

Free!


COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF LUBBOCK

AVISO LEGAL

Este juego de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas termina el 1° de febrero de 2010. Tienes hasta el 31 de julio de 2010 para canjear cualquier boleto de este juego:

Juego #1125 Weekly Bonus (\$1) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.41

Estos juegos de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas terminan el 3 de marzo de 2010. Tienes hasta el 30 de agosto de 2010 para canjear cualquier boleto de estos juegos:

Juego #1024 Super Set for Life (\$20) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.08

Juego #1156 9's In A Line (\$1) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.80


Juego #1158 Pure Gold (\$5) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.87

Juego #1162 Cash Frenzy (\$5) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.81

Juego #1171 Fiesta (\$2) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.72

Juego #1194 Cadillac® Escalade™ Cash (\$5) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.44

Juego #1203 Lucky 13 (\$2) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.62



Para detalles de las probabilidades de los juegos y más información, visite txlottery.org o llame al 1-800-37LOTTO. Debe tener mayor de 18 para comprar boletos de lotería. La Lotería de Texas beneficia la educación en Texas. © 2009 Texas Lottery Commission. Todos los derechos reservados.

Celia Cruz sonará al ritmo de Pitbull



Ya lo hizo con Shakira y Paulina Rubio, ahora va por Janet Jackson y Jennifer Lopez y el próximo año será que Pitbull le ponga su ritmo de "reggaetón-hip hop" a la ya fallecida Celia Cruz.

El intérprete de Calle 8 (I Know You Want Me) y Hotel Room Service adelantó en entrevista que gracias a la tecnología, La Reina de la Salsa sonará a un ritmo que ni ella misma se imaginó. "Tienen (los ejecutivos de la disquera Sony Music) unas canciones a capella de ella, ya conocidas, pero no (editadas). Y las vamos a grabar con nuevos ritmos, será algo muy interesante, y

un honor, claro.

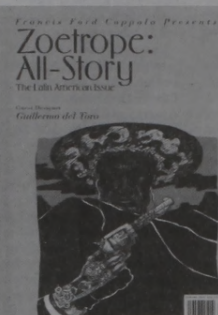
"El proyecto aún está armándose, aunque probablemente ya en abril o 'pa' el verano, ya esté listo... yo quedé fascinado con la propuesta (de los directivos)... será un placer, de veras, un placer", dijo Pitbull.

Con La Chica Dorada hizo el remix oficial de Ni Rosas Ni Juguetes y con Shakira acaba de presentar el que es el nuevo sencillo en castellano de la colombiana, Lo Hecho Está Hecho. "Yo trabajo con quien me lo pida, compartir ideas, nutrirme, es lo más rico. Ahora acabo de terminar una canción con Janet Jackson, que es un privilegio, una de las mujeres más vendedoras de discos y toda una institución, será para su próximo disco.

"Además, hice una canción con Jennifer Lopez que tiene mucho beat, suena muy distinto, con un estilo que nada tiene que ver con lo que ella ha hecho antes", afirmó el floridense de 28 años.

Fresh Out of the Oven es la canción que hizo con JLo, mientras que la que terminó para la hermana menor de Michael Jackson se titula Is Not My Heart.

"Zoetrope: All-Story" Highlights Up and Coming Latin American Authors



Ten up and coming Latin American authors under 40 have taken front and center in the latest issue of Francis Ford Coppola's acclaimed literary journal Zoetrope: All-Story. Many of the authors are being published for the very first time in English thanks to the award winning filmmaker.

Zoetrope: All-Story was founded by Francis Ford Coppola in 1997. Coppola, inspired by all the time he spent in Buenos Aires last year while shooting his upcoming film Tetro, began to school himself in Latin America literature, eventually deciding to dedicate an issue to new authors.

Michael Ray, the editor of the award-winning quarterly told the NY Daily News, "I wasn't familiar with current Latin American literature."

So the pair brought in Peruvian-born writer and journalist Daniel Alarcón to guest edit Zoetrope's Latin American issue. Alarcón admitted that they were very open with the selection process: "I'm not a literary critic. In the end, taste is taste, and we picked the stories we liked the best."

The result is an incredibly diverse selection of young authors from all over Latin America. From Ronald Menéndez's hysterical "Insular Menu" about food rationing in Cuba to Argentinian Patricio Pron's tale of a porn star learning to live with AIDS, there is something for everyone in this collection of quirky, touching and insightful tales.

For his part, Alarcón hopes the issue will be a fresh introduction for the American reader to what's happening all across Latin America. "The lens through which [the U.S.] views Latin America, especially its literature, has been lagging behind reality for a while."

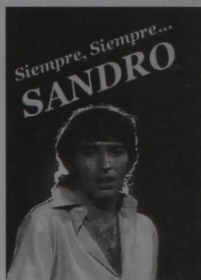
América llora a Sandro

Aunque la noticia no me tomó por sorpresa ya que su salud se iba deteriorando poco a poco, no pude dejar de llorar su muerte. Sandro fue parte de mi vida, de mis recuerdos de adolescente. Los más tiempos de ellos pasaron fugaces por mi mente. Este artista me llenó de ilusión, de admiración y hasta de pasión.

Este hombre fue único en su estilo y personalidad, algo no tan fácil en aquel entonces en que la competencia era mucha y buenísima. ¿Qué si lo vamos a extrañar? Sí, pero lo recordaremos en su inmenso repertorio de éxitos.

Lo conocí cuando aún no era periodista. EL DIARIO/LA PRENSA tenía allí a meditados de los años sesenta, un concurso para elegir al "Cantante del Año". El certamen era por medio de cupones que salían cada día, cada cupón era un voto y la "Competencia Rosa" surgió entre Sandro "El Gitano", y Raphael "El Niño de Linares". En estos momentos no recuerdo quien resultó ganador, pero para los clubes de admiradoras ambos lo eran.

A lo largo de mi carrera tuve oportunidad de entrevistarlo varias veces. La última fue en marzo del 2007 para este rotativo, con motivo de un disco muy especial "Sandro Secretamente Palabras de Amor" (Para escuchar en penumbra), dedicado a sus "nenas" como cariñosamente llamaba a sus admiradoras. Cuando escuché su voz desde su Buenos Aires del alma, no pude evitar emocionarme. —es más fácil cuando a una no le ven— y él lo notó, nos reímos y ya en confianza, me dio una de las



larga trayectoria. Mantener Sandro ya no podía viajar, y no cambiaba desde hacía un año. Padecía de efemera y bronquitis crónica. Me dijo: "Ay madre, como me gustaría ir a Nueva York, aquí estamos luchando, unos días buenos y a veces de retroceso, es una enfermedad realmente espantosa, vivo con la esperanza que tenemos todos de que aparezca la droga mágica".

Durante nuestra charla hizo un par de recesos para tomar aire del tanque de oxígeno que siempre le acompañaba. Se arrepintió de haber fumado tanto. "Como no me voy a arrepentido a haber fumado, si estoy atado a un tanque de oxígeno. Fui un hombre que luché por mi libertad...".

A Sandro no le gustaba hablar de su vida sentimental. Cuando le pregunté cómo era su vida amorosa, me respondió: "En el amor estoy fantástico, ella se llama Olga es una mujer fantástica que me mandó Dios ahora... digamos en éste recodo de mi vida y nos complementamos de una manera maravillosa".

Stephen King protagoniza álbum de Shooter Jennings

Stephen King es un maestro creando personajes, pero cuando Shooter Jennings lo llamó a pedirle ayuda, el exitoso escritor decidió convertirse en uno mismo y se convirtió en una figura central del próximo álbum conceptual del músico, "Black Ribbons". King es la voz de Will O' The Wisp, un presentador de radio a punto de ser retirado por la censura del gobierno que pasa su última hora en el aire pronunciando una diatriba sobre la decadencia de Estados Unidos y tocando música de una banda importante que resulta ser la nueva banda de Jennings, Hierophant.

Jennings y King jamás se han conocido. Sin embargo, Jennings sabía que King era un fan y pensó que sería el narrador perfecto para su nuevo relato musical, que pinta un futuro fatal para Estados Unidos si el país continúa en el retorcido camino pintado por Will O' The Wisp.

"Una vez que la idea de usarlo (a King) se me metió en la cabeza se quedó ahí, nunca se fue", dijo Jennings el mes pasado en una entrevista.

Ambos artistas intercambiaron ideas a través de mensajes. "Escribí un guión y se lo mandé, y entonces él lo tomó y lo reescribió y lo cambió y agregó un montón de cosas maravillosas, así que al final fue una colaboración", dijo Jennings. (Un representante de King dijo que el escritor no estaba disponible para hacer comentarios).

"A%&l fue compasivo con lo que yo había escrito y le gustó la voz que le había dado al personaje", añadió. "Se lo mandé y un par de semanas después me llegó un paquete a la casa con un CD, una transcripción a máquina y una fotografía de él haciéndolo".

Jennings dijo que la idea del álbum se le ocurrió mientras paseaba en auto con su prometida, la actriz Drea de Matteo, y su bebida Alabama, cuando la crisis económica estalló a finales del 2008. Mientras oía la radio, escuchó el temor de personas que pronosticaban de



todo, desde una estación policial hasta el final de los Estados Unidos que el mundo conoce. Jennings admite que el álbum pinta un nefasto retrato del futuro.

"Parece como que estamos perdiendo nuestras libertades y muchos de nuestros derechos cada día en base a las cosas que han ocurrido en el mundo", dijo. "Pero creo que el mensaje general del disco es positivo: que la verdad y el amor y la

conexión entre dos personas no pueden afectarse pase lo que ocurra en el mundo". "Black Ribbons", a la venta a partir del 2 de marzo, es el primer CD de Jennings en dos años. El hijo de la leyenda de la música country Waylon Jennings ha grabado country y rock pesado y en este álbum combina ambos géneros. Sin embargo, se abstuvo de etiquetar el sonido con su nueva banda Hierophant.

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Free! healthylubbock
Community Health Center of Lubbock and the Healthy Lubbock Coalition invite you to our 1st Annual East Lubbock Walking Club kick-off!
When: Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Where: Patterson Library Community Room, 1836 Parkway Drive
Time: 4:30-6 p.m.
What: Everyone is invited to attend and get information on nutrition, local walking trails and indoor walking areas, FREE health screenings, walking club locations, FREE pedometers to registrants and motivation to help you make those New Year's resolutions a reality!

It's a New Year....
Resolve to Listen to
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KXTQ FM



Texas Tech Football: Red Raiders Would Be Lucky To Get Tommy Tuberville



by Tiger Histalmo
 Reports today have Tommy Tuberville interviewing for the vacant head coaching position at Texas Tech. Tuberville is the former Auburn head coach who resigned in 2008 under a mist of controversy after the 2008 season. First off, I am glad to see Tuberville getting mentioned for a head coaching job. The relative quiet head coaching season made me wonder if Tuberville would be sitting out another year. Now, as far as Tuberville landing the job over in Lubbock, Texas, Tech would be lucky to grab a coach like Tuberville. Tuberville is everything Mike Leach is not. Tuberville is a quiet, conservative natured man who doesn't grab many headlines off the field due to his controlled presence.

Instead, he grabs headlines by winning. Look no further than the 2004 undefeated season to see he is a winner. He can recruit, bring players to his team, coach them up, and make a winning team. He is known for taking players no one gave two seconds of thought and making them into a NFL-type player. On the surface of things, he would be a fit for the demeanor of Texas Tech and Lubbock itself. Rumors from Lubbock have swirled that big time

donors have pulled funding from the athletic department. Hiring a big name like Tuberville would let the cash flow back into the program and the university. Tuberville would keep the "air raid" going, but he would avoid another fiasco such as when he hired Tony Franklin as offensive coordinator in his final year at Auburn. Tuberville is a defensive minded coach which would be welcome in the Big 12. There is only one thing that could make it fall through. A big time coach will want big time money. My thoughts are that if Tuberville is hired by Tech,

they would have to at least pay him at least what Leach was making this season. Tuberville was earning the big bucks after the 2004 season and was given over five million dollars at his resignation. Tuberville's agent, Jimmy Sexton, will make sure Tuberville get what he is worth. Personally, I saw nothing wrong with how Tuberville coached, how he presented himself, or how he won football games. I thought he was doing a fine job at Auburn before he resigned. Texas Tech would be a great fit for Tuberville and vice versa. But it will all be contingent on the money.

Reps for Pacquiao, Mayweather mum on mediation day

Representatives for Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. wrapped up a lengthy mediation session on Tuesday with no word on any progress on the drug-testing issues endangering the boxers' prospective March 13 bout. Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum and Mayweather's promotional team all said they had been told to make no public comments after their meeting in Santa Monica. The mediation finished nearly nine hours after it began in front of Daniel Weinstein, a retired federal judge. Arum's Top Rank and Mayweather's representatives at Golden Boy Promotions agreed to the mediation in an effort to resolve their dispute over the methods and frequency of drug testing for the bout, which will be held at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas if a compromise is reached. Although both fighters have agreed to extensive urine testing, Mayweather has demanded random blood testing as well. Pacquiao has balked at unlimited blood testing, instead proposing two blood tests before the fight and another immediately afterward. Pacquiao also complicated the negotiations by filing a lawsuit last week alleging Mayweather and most of his camp's key players defamed

him by falsely accusing him of using performance-enhancing drugs. Neither side would say whether more mediation will be held on Wednesday, but the length of Tuesday's meeting appeared to be a positive development for the potential fight. If little progress could be made, the session likely would have been scrapped early, with the sport's top two fighters moving on to replacement bouts instead of meeting in what's expected to be the richest fight in boxing history. After impressive pay-per-view numbers in their most recent bouts last year, both fighters stand to make more than \$25 million in their welterweight meeting. Except for drug testing, the camps have settled every significant detail of the fight, according to Arum and Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer. If the fight falls through, Pacquiao is expected to attempt to win a title in a record eighth weight division with a bout against 154-pound (70-kilogram) champion Yuri Foreman in Las Vegas on March 20, while Mayweather could fight former 140-pound (63 1/2-kilogram) champion Paulie Malignaggi at the MGM Grand on March 13. Boxing's two most prominent promotional companies have appeared before Weinstein in the past, including a session in 2007 in which they resolved the promotional rights to Pacquiao, who had deals with both companies at one point.

Tebow's mechanics will keep him from becoming high draft pick

Those were huge numbers that Tim Tebow produced in his final game as quarterback at Florida, but they probably weren't big enough to launch him into the first round of the NFL Draft. That's the opinion of scouts and GMs who study the guy, and while they like him -- and like him a lot -- they don't like him enough to give him a first-round grade. Tim Tebow's character and leadership abilities are some of his strongest qualities. (US Presswire) The reason: Poor mechanics. Scouts generally agree it will take him at least a year before he's ready to play in the pros.

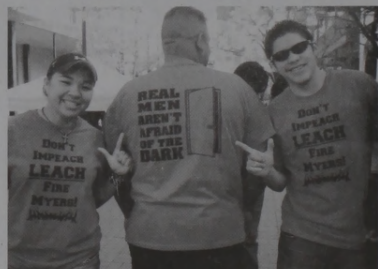
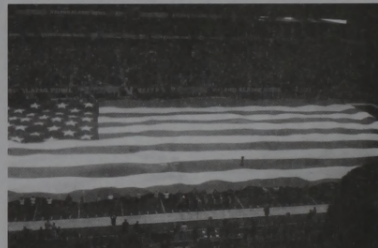
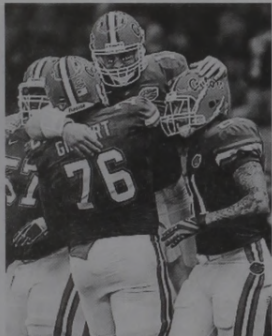
Of course, that means there might be two who would tell you he is. But I ran into one of Tebow's strongest supporters, a guy who followed his career since high school, and even he admitted that for the quarter-back to make it into the first round something other than football, skills would have to be involved -- something like his ability to sell tickets or generate a buzz. "So where do you have him rated?" I asked. "Top of the second," he said. "That was higher than others, but at least it was close to where Tebow would like to be. Most guys I spoke to had him ranked anywhere from the bottom of the second to somewhere in the third round, with the complaint always the same: Poor mechanics.

so certain it's much of one. It was supposed to be a concern when Vince Young was eligible for the 2006 draft, but it didn't stop Tennessee from taking him third overall. And it didn't stop Young from having a productive NFL career. It was supposed to be a concern with Kevin Kolb a year later, but it didn't stop the Philadelphia Eagles from making him their first draft pick. Though Kolb has played sparingly, he started twice this year in place of Donovan McNabb and both times threw for over 300 yards. Kolb and Young worked with former quarterback and assistant coach Jerry Rhome prior to the draft, and both became so good at taking snaps from center that by late April it wasn't a problem. Bad mechanics, however, are it takes time -- sometimes a lot of it -- to correct them. And it is bad mechanics that keep coming up in conversations about Tebow. Some scouts tell me that even if he corrects his flaws, they're not sure he can approximate the quarterback he was in college. What they are certain of is that you can't afford to invest a first-round draft pick in someone who could take one or two seasons to straighten out. "I love his intangibles and the type of kid he is," said one GM, "but he has a long delivery, and he probably doesn't know how to read defenses. He's inconsistent with his accuracy, and you have to question whether he can anticipate in the pocket. Plus, he never played under center. I'd have to put him on the board to see how smart he is, but I can't see him going in the first round.

No way." The argument in Tebow's favor, of course, is that the guy makes plays, knows how to win and is a charismatic leader. One scout told me he loved the touch he put on his passes. Another said he admired his instincts and ability to make something out of plays seemingly going nowhere. "He has a little bit of that Doug Flutie magic," he said. Others spoke to his character, with one scout saying: "He's genuine and doesn't have one phony bone in his body." All of that is in Tebow's favor, but it's hard for anyone who studies him to get past the makeover he must undergo once he graduates to the pros. So while there is no question that Tebow helped himself with his monster game against Cincinnati, there is also no question that it's probably not enough to make much of a difference on draft day. "If you're going to look at his last game," asked one player personnel director, "why don't you look at his last game against Alabama? That was the best competition in the country. "What I see here almost parallels those quarterbacks from the Steve Spurrier era [like Wuerffel] who won a lot of games and trophies and all that, but being in that offense helped them. Yeah, he completes a lot of passes, but there often is nobody near his receivers, and he has all the time in the world to throw."

Scenes from the most watched bowl game TTU vs. MSU

Supporters from all sides of the US attended the Alamo Game showing support for the Texas Tech Red Raiders and questioning the firing of head coach Mike Leach just days before the game in San Antonio. The turnout was fabulous for the Red Raiders; all you could see was the outburst of the colors red and black compare to the green for Michigan. Different people were wearing different shirts showing their support but the main ones that stood out were: "Don't Impeach Leach Fire Myers"; "Team Leach"; "Real Men Aren't Scared of the Dark"; "Thank You for Making Texas Tech Be" and others.



"You're going to have to change everything he does," said former coach Brian Billick, now a TV analyst. "He has a windup delivery. He carries the ball too low. And he needs to read progressions. He's a helluva player, but how do you make him a first-round pick when you have to change so much?" It's a good question and one asked over and over by scouts, player personnel directors and GMs. Yet while they dissect his mechanics, they're about Tebow's intangibles and are dazzled by his character, competitive drive and ability to motivate teammates. Most of all they rave about his success. Wherever he's been, Tebow has been a winner, with Florida 35-6 in his three seasons as a starter and the Gators winning a national championship during that span. "Great," said one GM, "but Danny Wuerffel was a winner, too." He's right. Like Tebow, Wuerffel won a zillion games. Like Tebow, Wuerffel quarterbacked a top-rated club. Like Tebow, he won a Heisman Trophy. And, like Tebow, he was pulled apart by pro scouts, with Wuerffel falling to the fourth round of the 1997 draft. Tebow will not go that low. But he may not go a whole lot higher. After he shredded Cincinnati last week, the question I had was: Did he do enough to merit first-round consideration? And the answer was universal: Probably not. "If you lined up 20 scouts right now," said one AFC player personnel director, "there would be 18 of them who would tell you

he's not a first-rounder." Of course, that means there might be two who would tell you he is. But I ran into one of Tebow's strongest supporters, a guy who followed his career since high school, and even he admitted that for the quarter-back to make it into the first round something other than football, skills would have to be involved -- something like his ability to sell tickets or generate a buzz. "So where do you have him rated?" I asked. "Top of the second," he said. "That was higher than others, but at least it was close to where Tebow would like to be. Most guys I spoke to had him ranked anywhere from the bottom of the second to somewhere in the third round, with the complaint always the same: Poor mechanics. "He's not as accurate as you'd like," said one scout, "and he carries the ball very low and behind him, which produces a slow release. But even with a strong release if you carry the ball like that, you're going to have guys who keep coming off the edge swatting at it, and that's an issue. Plus, he's going to have to work on his footwork. "He doesn't have a strong arm, and while people talk about how well he runs, he's not what you'd call a candidate for the Wildcat because he's not a tailback -- he's a fullback who has power, is a straight-ahead runner and will hit you head-on, and you wonder how long he can last like that. So he has issues." One issue he didn't mention is Tebow's failure to take the ball from under center. He operates out of the shotgun, and, yeah, maybe that's another concern. But I'm not

seeing him going in the first round.

seeing him going in the first round.

Ramón Rentería: Tía healed you with or without insurance

By Ramón Rentería

Mexicans have been self-medicating with traditional remedies for generations — with or without insurance.

So what's all the stink over health-care reform?

Our grandmothers had more herbs in jars or wrapped in paper sacks in the pantry than the neighborhood lady everybody suspected of being a witch.

If someone in the family thought you had the evil eye or whatever as a child, he would always call your tía Manuela to rub an egg all over your body and whisper a few prayers on your behalf to try to scare away the illness.

Then your aunt would break another egg, drop it in a saucer filled with water and put it under the bed. If the egg formed an eye, tía Manuela would proclaim that, yes, you did in fact have the evil eye (probably because someone wanted to caress you but didn't).

So those not born with the ugly gene often suffered from the evil eye or the que chilo syndrome until they outgrew their boyish looks.

Don't try this at home. Someone once wrote that toasting and grinding small cockroaches and then adding the powder to



milk or water is a good cure for pneumonia. Maybe they didn't read the memo about cockroaches carrying disease. Or maybe you're supposed to use only healthy cucarachas — roaches with good sanitary habits.

If it hadn't been for our grand-

mothers giving us yerba buena and chamomile tea for all sorts of stomach ailments, we never would have figured out that our abuelita's brew also helps cure those awful Sunday morning hangovers.

Our mothers warned us not to point at rainbows because we might get warts. So we pointed anyway. And when the warts mysteriously appeared, they would send us not to the pharmacy but into the pasture to look for

milkweed.

Dried rose petals were recommended for an impacted tooth. And a bit of your mother's saliva rubbed on the soles of your feet would help prevent colds after you stepped on a cold floor. (Which may explain why mothers still try to kiss away our coos, our childhood bumps and bruises).

A copper bracelet could help ease the pain associated with arthritis or rheumatism. And if you were constipated, your godmother might massage your calves with spit or Vaseline.

Now, we get a toothache or a sore throat and we hire our own personal mules, our sisters or cousins or the maid or cook, to bring us another stash of tablets from Juárez, the Mexican version of penicillin.

If all politicians took a regular dose of castor oil or a suppository, perhaps they wouldn'ticker so much over who will benefit from health-care reform.

A medical reporter said on television the other day that all those sophisticated labs use millions of eggs to cultivate millions of vaccines for the swine flu.

Maybe tía Manuela had the right idea.

Analiza tus logros y mira hacia el futuro



Recordar las cosas que lograste o acciones positivas que hiciste el año anterior te ayudará a comenzar el 2010 con una mayor seguridad en ti mismo.

Y no es que no sea bueno ver las debilidades o derrotas que tuviste en este año. Después de todo, de los errores también se aprende, sin embargo, lo importante es darte cuenta de las herramientas que tienes para iniciar un nuevo ciclo.

¿Qué tengo?, ¿qué hago?, ¿quién soy?, son preguntas básicas para un autoanálisis, señala la psicoterapeuta Patricia Maldonado.

"Es una manera de apreciar lo que somos o de agradecer lo que tenemos y somos capaces de hacer.

"Las respuestas para la primera pregunta, ¿qué tengo?, pueden ser 'tengo una casa, una familia, un coche, comida, trabajo'.

Este ejercicio te puede ayudar a caer en cuenta de todo lo que lograste en el año, desde un beca en la escuela, tener un amigo más o hasta unir más a tu familia.

Incluso es posible que a la pregunta de '¿quién soy?' le siga algo como "alguien

organizado, inteligente, agradable, dedicado".

La especialista recomienda complementar el análisis con preguntas como ¿qué hice?, ¿qué no hice?, ¿qué me faltó?, ¿qué gocé?, ¿qué aprendí?, ¿qué metas cumplí?, ¿cuáles no?

Después, realizar una planeación de tus objetivos para los siguientes 12 meses que te ayuden a mejorar los aspectos de salud, trabajo, familia y pareja en los que no saliste muy bien.

"¿Qué quiero para el próximo año?, ¿cuál es mi prioridad?, ¿mantener mi trabajo?, ¿buenas relaciones de trabajo?, ¿salud? "Si este año me la he pasado peleando con mi pareja, algo estoy haciendo mal; si mis hijos me están dando problemas, algo estoy haciendo mal; si en el trabajo me llaman la atención a cada rato, algo estoy haciendo mal".

Para Mario González, psicólogo clínico, a veces se piensa más en los propósitos que no se logran, lo que lleva a planteamientos de nuevo para el siguiente año.

Para ahora sí cumplir con ellos, la recomendación es fijar objetivos alcanzables y medibles. "No decir voy a adelgazar, sino cuánto voy a adelgazar en el primer mes y cuánto en el segundo, y definir qué cosas tengo que hacer para alcanzar esta meta".

Councilmen Beane and Leonard Hosting Town Hall Meetings

Councilmen Paul Beane and John Leonard are hosting back to back Town Hall meetings in their respective districts. District 5 City Councilman John Leonard's Town Hall meeting is on Monday, January 11th, at 6:00 p.m., in the Whiteside Elementary library, 7508 Albany Avenue. District 4 City Councilman Paul Beane's Town Hall meeting is on Tuesday, January 12th, at 6:00 p.m., in the Honey Elementary School cafeteria, 3615 86th Street.

Mayor Tom Martin, along with various department heads, will attend both meetings. In addition to questions and concerns of a regular town hall meeting, the Councilmen are also seeking input regarding possible changes to the City Charter. Paul Beane and John Leonard will be in attendance at both meetings along with their appointments to the Charter Review Committee: Judge Jim Dulin (4) and Mike Epps (5). The Charter Review Committee

was formed during the December 16 City Council meeting. Each Council member is to formally appoint one person to serve on the seven-member committee during the January 14th City Council meeting.

Councilman Beane says, "All Lubbock citizens are welcome to attend the meeting, and it is our desire to receive constructive public input about city operations as well as the City Charter."

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