

Contemplaciones

Armando Gozales

Nixon's Hispanic Vision: Meditations On a Miracle

Banish Halloween Let's Celebrate 'The Day Of The Dead'

Vote Against all four of the City of Lubbock Bond Proposals in the Bond Package. It makes absolutely no sense for people to vote for this package that will cost over 60 MILLION DOLLARS.

* **VOTE AGAINST 346.** I can still drive across 344th street, without any casualty, or adverse effect on my car. Developing this street for businesses there with City wide taxes does no good for East and North Lubbock. Now, Mayor Martin and others have included 344th street, as being in East and North Lubbock, apparently to get the Bond passed. How disingenuous... Some places in East and North (Central) Lubbock have NO paved streets and they want us to vote to spend 43 Million for streets in South, and West Lubbock! **VOTE AGAINST.**

* **VOTE AGAINST** the Fire Stations - These are to be built far off and away from East and North Lubbock. According to Robert Pratt, the number one talk show host in Texas, from "Pratt on Texas," the firefighters have already received a new fire station and many benefits, just recently. I believe this is just more money - padding for the Council to have in the future. **VOTE AGAINST.**

* **VOTE AGAINST** The Splash Pools in place of swimming pools. This Soccer Association is a private enterprise and not a part of the School System. The taxpayers should not have to build infrastructure for private enterprises. This is a luxury. The City Council cannot find money to raise the salaries of the Police, but expects the taxpayer to fund soccer fields. City Council are not our moms. "If you build it, they will come" is so sufficient for the Dallas Cowboys. Dallas has the best soccer fields more for maintenance. Chale, see. Why not build the soccer fields in East or North Lubbock? **VOTE AGAINST.**

In short, this Bond Package is "TODO PARA AYAY, Y NADA PARA ACA" in regards to East and North Lubbock, but WE ALL HAVE TO PAY THE TAXES. FORK!

And, remember Linda DeLeon is bad news for District 1, because she loves to tax and spend, but, still District 1 has no significant, progressive changes. There have been a myriad of lost opportunities in the District. Just consider the Marsh Spad Free. She has said that she will run again for the Council seat. God help us.

By José de la Isla
Hispanic Link News Service
HUSTON — A popular affirmation, says something like this: every moment is a choice between regret and the future; choose the future.

Aphorism like that, especially those posted on the bathroom mirror or in the refrigerator, seem to help people overcome all sorts of problems, from low self-esteem to alcoholism. They remind us that we have more power over our lives than we assume we do. But what are addressees that don't mention the past that inhabit into the present and the future and dump them.

This comes to mind with publication of "The Nixon: A Family Portrait," a memoir by former President Richard Nixon's brother Edward. Co-authored with Karen Olson, it goes into some of the influences upon that very complex president. With the passage of time — and the Watergate crisis ceasing as the singular event that defined Nixon's presidency — a kinder, gentler figure emerges.

Some promotional material even frames the book in terms around the statement by the late Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy's regret that he did not take Richard Nixon's offer to work on a bipartisan national energy care plan in 1971. If they had worked together, we would not have the present gut-wrenching debate that puts money as the fulcrum between life and death.

There is a good reason about Richard Nixon to put to rest. For instance, it is well known that, for a time in the 1960s, Republicans understood they were becoming a minority party in national elections and Nixon was the party change. He devised a "southern strategy" to win parts of the South from Democrats. And he appealed to the "silent majority" by calling out from the Democratic coalition those groups that were intolerant of racial and student unrest and anti-war sympathizers.

During the 1970s, except the term "Hispanic," under pressure from some Latino groups, I might add, was applied to identify and target demographics. Hispanics were a new source for national economic expansion and electoral gains, as we now fully realize. Yet, it's taken some portions of the Latino community to get over the designation and the endless bickering over which is "right" or

preferred, "Hispanic" or "Latino."

More important is that the Nixon White House gave unprecedented attention to Hispanic issues — some of it to understand the influence that Lyndon Johnson had laid — and a strategy to shepherd entrepreneurs and middle-class Latinos into Republican ranks. What did they do? How did they do it, in part, revealed in the Watergate Commission's public record.

What was struck back then, of course, was fulfilled during George W. Bush's presidency so the Republican Latino are at their lowest point in the last 40 years. Yet, the Q&A that Clint Black, research fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, asked himself in 2007 is patently obvious: "Should Republicans court Hispanic voters 'Only if they want to survive.'"

The Nixon White House was the eventually alive in 1970.

How the GOP loses its opportunity after four decades of effort to court Republicans to win.

But now is the present, and tomorrow is the future. Our fortune cookie tells us that despite some vaunted efforts in some states such as Arizona, many Republicans do not have a strong leadership is still in mythic America. Even their platitudes about economics and ideology ring hollow or banal, more in tune with a revival meeting than a party platform.

Many Republicans do not have a strong or two from the affirmation about the right track to pragmatism (and not the manipulative, racism and law-skiwing behavior) of Richard Nixon.

People take up affirmations because they judge themselves capable of change. The spiritual leader, Deepak Chopra, has a version of the affirmation that might apply. It presents it something like, "Every decision is a choice between a grievance and a miracle. Choose between the two."

Perhaps it will take a miracle. At least that's what I'm going on.

[José de la Isla's latest digital book, sponsored by The Fund Foundation, is available free at www.fundfoundation.com. He writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service and is author of The Rise of Hispanic Political Power (2003). E-mail him at joseil@yaboo.com.]

NIXON: MEDITACIONES SOBRE UN MILAGRO

Una afirmación popular ya algo así: cada momento constituye una opción entre el arrepentimiento y el futuro; hay que optar por el futuro.

Los afrosismos como éste, en particular los que se pegan en el espejo del baño o en el refrigerador, parecen ayudar a la gente a sobrepasar a todo tipo de problema, desde la falta de amor propio hasta el alcoholismo. No recordan que tenemos más poder sobre el curso de nuestra vida que lo que suponemos. No obstante, debemos lidiar con los verdaderos demonios del pasado que se enganchan al presente y al futuro.

Esto viene a colación de la publicación de las memorias familiares del hermano del presidente Richard Nixon, Edward, tituladas: "The Nixon: A Family Portrait". La obra describe la vida de un niño que creció con las conexiones de los hermanos ejercidos sobre aquel presidente muy complejo. Con el paso del tiempo, y al dejar de ser un simple singular los delitos de Watergate en la definición de la presidencia de Nixon — emerge una figura más amable y bondadosa.

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Hay bastante más sobre Richard Nixon que poner en perspectiva. Por ejemplo, se sabe que, a pesar fines de la década de los sesenta, los republicanos comprendían que se estaban volviendo un partido minoritario en las elecciones nacionales y que Nixon era la figura que cambiaría el juego. Divisó una "estrategia del sur" para ganar partes de los sur de los demócratas. Y resultó atractivo a lo de la "mayoría silenciosa" al entrecasar de la coalición demócrata aquellos grupos intolerantes de las manifestaciones raciales y estudiantiles y de los que simpatizaban con la guerra (en Viet Nam).

Ya por 1970 la Casa Blanca había percibido esta eventualidad.

La manera en que el partido republicano desperdició la oportunidad después de cuatro décadas de esfuerzo, es algo de lo que arrepentirse para los republicanos.

Pero ahora es el presente, y mañana el futuro. Nuestra galletita de la fortuna nos dice que a pesar de algunos esfuerzos valiosos en algunos estados, como Arizona, gran parte del liderazgo republicano está empujado en un Estado Unico. Inclusive los pasados 40 años, cuando, la pregunta que Clint Black, investigador de la Hoover Institution en la Stanford University, se hicieron en el 2007 es patentemente obvia: "¿Han de cortejar los republicanos a los hispanos? Sólo si quieren sobrevivir."

La gente suele afirmaciones porque se juzgan capaces de cambiar. Un dirigente espiritual, Deepak Chopra, tiene una versión de una afirmación que podría aplicarse. La presenta algo así, "Cada decisión es una opción entre un agravio y un milagro. Hay que optar por el milagro."

Quizá leve que se realice un milagro. Al menos eso es mejor de lo que ahora ocurre.

[José de la Isla, cuyo último libro se encuentra en versión digital gratuita en www.DayNiteLifeDeathPoem.com, redacta un comentario semanal para Hispanic Link News Service. También es autor de The Rise of Hispanic Political Power (2003). Contacte con él en joseil@yaboo.com.]

By Ricardo Avila
Hispanic Link News Service
On Long Island, the end of October brings Halloween — a day when many children behave even younger than they are. So do some adults. Silliness and greed rule.

In my Mexico City childhood, it brought El Día de los Muertos, a pause that missed the celebration with solemnity. The Day of the Dead was an adult ritual holiday to include the participation of children.

My strongest memory of a Halloween past was in Arizona when, a few years ago, we ran out of candy and a disgruntled trick-or-treat child pointed "Cheap SOB" on our front walk.

My strongest memory of a Day of the Dead celebration in Mexico is when, per custom, my parents led me to the cemetery to pay tribute to our departed and work, song, flowers and wails. A playful woman in black arrived a few rows down the row with a pump. She had it placed on top of her buried husband and delivered him a personal court.

My one daughter and three sons welcome Halloween as an excuse to behave foolishly and play a magical woman in black arrived a few rows down the row with a pump. She had it placed on top of her buried husband and delivered him a personal court.

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Al Cuerno Con Halloween. Celebremos El Día De Los Muertos

Ricardo Avila
En Long Island, el final de octubre trae la fiesta de Halloween ("la Víspera de Todos los Santos" en el que se recuerda a los muertos, o sea, como si fueran más chaparros de lo que son. También se comporta al chiparros de lo que son. Regan la tuerca y la codicia.

En la Ciudad de México de mi niñez, octubre era "El Día de los Muertos," una pausa que intercalaba la celebración con la solemnidad. El Día de los Muertos era un ritual de adultos pero nadie participaba de los niños.

Me recordo más profanando de una fiesta de Halloween en los Estados Unidos en el de hace unos cuantos años, cuando se nos acabaron los dulces y un chiquillo disgustado, de los que se adueña a recoger plásticos, nos lo acerca delante "¡Hija de, tacho!"

Me recordo más profanando de la celebración de un día de los Muertos en Ciudad de México en el de que, siguiendo la costumbre, mis padres me llevaron al cementerio para rendir homenaje a nuestros difuntos con alverjas, canchales, flores y palabras. Una mujer de porte majestuoso, vestido de negro, llegó a una banca cercana con su difunto. Lo hizo poner encima de la sepultura de su esposo. Los vendedores de la plaza ofrecen calaveras de dulce y de chocolate, grandes y pequeñas, para que los padres las den a sus hijos y los amigos y los amantes las intercambien. La calavera de los niños, eran: Lupita, Perra, Juanito, Carlos — estampa en la frente.

Los vendedores van de puerta en puerta preparando miscelánea de cartón que representan calaveras y estudiantiles y de los que simpatizaban con casa semejantes a calaveras, y se los ridiculiza en vivo. Es un día enmascado para los artistas, escritores y poetas. Es un día enmascado, para los artistas, escritores y poetas. Es un día enmascado, para los artistas, escritores y poetas. Es un día enmascado, para los artistas, escritores y poetas.

Algunas veces tiempo que tomar un trago para tranquilizarse, y el alcohol no se mezcla bien con la colección de dulces que mis hijos me hacen compartir con ellos a la fuerza. Me produce indigestión y me hace reflexionar sobre el asunto en cuestión. La muerte.

Me parece que la muerte tiene dos sentidos muy distintos en los Estados Unidos y en México. Aquí el acto final. Allí no es más que una etapa del que puede traer gozo y fortaleza a la vida.

Los mexicanos están acostumbrados a celebrar la muerte desde las épocas precolombinas o prehispanas.

La mayoría de las celebraciones aztecas comprendían sacrificios humanos con el propósito de asegurar la continuidad y el bienestar de la gente. Era el sacrificio de la humanidad no por el ser modo de pensar. Hoy, a medida que los cortejos fúnebres de Nueva Orleans se hacen cada vez menos frecuentes, los rituales aztecas parecen definitivos a un ser velorio rodeado de amigos que sirven buenos alimentos y bebidas, de música hasta el amanecer, de la despedida oficial por un ser querido y un momento de abundancia de recuerdos.

Los conquistadores españoles se acostumbraron al ver calaveras y huesos que decoraban los templos y plazas. Sin embargo, cuando ellos comenzaron en masa a los indios, los víctimas solamente a lo que son los indios. Los miles de muertos no eran más que actos del destino, acontecimientos mundanos.

Ni la tecnología ni la IBM han cambiado las actitudes de los mexicanos hacia la festividad

del Día de Todos los Santos.

El primer día es para los papusitos muertos, los que se llaman "Los Muertos de la Familia," más o menos, incluso las sepulchras de sus niños muertos y las adornan con juguetes, flores, corrientes y flores. Los cementerios se convierten en estalidos de colores en los laberintos de colores. El traje brillante de los "Sempatichis" (chavales africanos) puede verse por muchas miles.

El segundo día se reserva para los adultos muertos, "Los Muertos de la Familia." Es la festividad principal. Alamos de nosotros comemos toda la tradición de los días de los muertos, desde la noche siguiente a los muertos, ofreciéndoles sus comidas favoritas, platos semejantes con un "marachi" contraindo a nos nuestras pipiras, y manteniendo las vidas encendidas.

Las panaderías ofrecen un delicioso "pan de muerto" con "huesos" que corren como ratón hacia los hornos, adorne de escarabajo negro o pedacitos de oro. Las familias preparan dulces de calabaza, las mujeres lavan la calabaza y los "tocabos," los hombres traen la "panchita" (artista turbado) del mercado, los niños limpian, se dan de la vida a tocar.

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Ni la tecnología ni la IBM han cambiado las actitudes de los mexicanos hacia la festividad

Shakira se roba el show en Premios MTV Latinoamérica



Shakira se roba como Carlos Vives, Alejandro Sanz y Juanes, la barranquillera de 32 años se robó los aplausos del público en una ceremonia que será incluida el próximo jueves en la transmisión de los Premios MTV Latinoamérica desde Los Angeles.

La colombiana recibió la lengua especial "Agente de cambio" en un evento en Bogotá, que forma parte de la ceremonia oficial que se transmitirá el jueves desde L.A. En una ceremonia que estuvo como para alquilar balcón la noche del domingo, una parte de la entrega de los Premios MTV Latinoamérica se celebró en Bogotá, Colombia, en la que Shakira no sólo se lució con su presentación, sino que además recibió el reconocimiento "Agente de cambio".

En la velada, en la que se otorgó el premio como Mejor Artista Centro a la agrupación Don Tetto y Mejor Artista Nuevo a la banda peruana Adamo, Fanny Lu y los roqueros Doctor Kripulá dejaron ver su talento con un número conjunto. Dos ceremonias similares realizadas en México y Buenos Aires ya fueron grabadas y se sumarán al show del jueves que este año quiso hacer un evento simultáneo en cuatro ciudades.

'Sabado Gigante' host Mario Kreutzberger has no plans to stop hosting Univision variety show

Mario Kreutzberger has a hard time getting around New York City these days.

It's not because of his age - he'll be 70 at the end of the year - but because he's usually stopped by fans who want to talk about the long-running Univision variety show he hosts, "Sábado Gigante."

"Everybody has a camera," says Kreutzberger, best known by his stage name, Don Francisco. In the city, "it is very difficult to walk. I can do it, but it takes five or six times longer than normal."

Not that he's complaining. For 23 years, he's been the host of "Sábado Gigante," one of the most popular shows on Univision and the only surviving variety show on a broadcast network.

He actually started the show in 1962 in Chile, where he lives. Production moved to Miami in 1986, when it started on Univision, and it remains there today.

"Our show is like a soup," says Kreutzberger, who was recently in town for a Hispanic media summit, "but it has ingredients that you can change every day." These changes, he says, included going digital, inside and out. Each seat in the studio has technology to respond to poll questions, there are large screens in the studio to project information, and viewers can get in contact during the broadcast via Skype. "I'm a big fan of the BlackBer-



ry," he says. "I don't have [just] one. I have more than one, one from the company, one of my own. I also use the computer." That said, he credits connecting with the studio audience as one of the keys to the show's success. "We do most of the show with part of the audience," he says, noting that he often leaves the stage to stand near the crowd. "Everything goes through the filter of the audience." Besides "Sábado Gigante,"

Kreutzberger also hosts "Don Francisco Presenta," an interview show that airs Wednesday nights. Before becoming a TV host in Chile, Kreutzberger spent 15 years in the men's wear business in New York City. "I think I do better on television," he says, "than being an entrepreneur." Given his tenure in the business, the obvious question is how long he wants to keep up the pace. As things stand, he spends

three weeks of every month in Miami working on the two shows, and a week back home in Santiago. "My life is television," he says, when it's not fun anymore. But not yet. "One day, that's going to be the reality," he says. "Sometimes, I think about that. You have to adapt to everything. I have a new goal. It's reaching 50 years [on the air]."

Questions? Comments?

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Back from the Underground: Aztlan Underground releases highly anticipated new album

Socially conscious world-renowned Aztlan Underground is releasing a new album in 2009. The band, an institution among Los Angeles groups and freethinkers, has not released new material since its sophomore production, Sub-Verses, which was independently produced and distributed by the group in 2001. The self-titled third album, Aztlan Underground, is currently in Digital Release. The Band will be celebrating with a live concert performance Sunday, October 18, 2009 along with performances by Geronimo and KillSonic.



Collaborating as a circle with no bosses and no leaders, Joe "Pepe" (bass, rattle, flutes), Ignacio "Cavo", Lopez (drums), Yaold (vocals, percussion) and Alonzo Beas (guitar, keyboard, synth) each contribute their own personal story to the creation of a song. Four versions of the same story are told in four different ways at the same time. With this ritual, Aztlan Underground has produced Decolonize (1995), Sub-Verses (2001), and the upcoming Aztlan Underground. The band's albums reflect a process of self-discovery and realization evolving from the anger of Decolonize to the new

evolution toward a more global, humanitarian struggle. The new album maintains the indigenous infusion of sounds and timelessness where the songs stretch the boundaries of the standard composition and become eight- to nine-minute nonconformist journeys.

Aztlan Underground is a record that is a spectrum of urban tribalism mixed with post-punk fusion. To the band: "This album is a call-out, a document, a cry, of love for humanity and for the Earth." Just as nature's forces work to balance, Aztlan Underground is a merging of guitar, bass, drum, voice, and flute sounds implemented into a modern day context.

For nearly 20 years, Aztlan

grossroots audience across the world from Europe to Australia and, most importantly, in the Americas, from Canada to Venezuela. Initially disregarded as stereotypical American Yankies, Aztlan Underground shocks and awes foreign audiences with their respect for the ancient ways and songs of ancestors mixed with the modern, industrial sounds of today. They have performed with every socially relevant act, from Rage Against the Machine, Manu Chao, to Fernin Magurruza, and Dead Prez. Aztlan Underground remains true to their name and beliefs by playing political rallies, underground venues, and anywhere the doors open.

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Raiders Ready to Black Out the Aggies



Texas Tech is one victory away from its longest home winning streak in school history. Given the current struggles of this week's opponent, the Red Raiders appear highly likely to achieve that feat.

Fresh off a road win over a ranked opponent and in the Top 25 themselves for the first time this season, the No. 21 Red Raiders seek their 13th straight victory in Lubbock, where a record crowd may gather Saturday to watch them face slumping Texas A&M.

Texas Tech (5-2, 2-1 Big 12) has won 12 in a row at home, including four wins this season in which it has averaged 51.8 points. This will be the third of four October home games for the Red Raiders, who wrap up the month by hosting Kansas next Saturday.

The lone road game of the month, though, gave Texas Tech its most impressive victory, a 31-10 win in Lincoln over then-No. 15 Nebraska. The usually prolific Red Raiders offense was held to 259 yards - 263 under its average - but that was more than enough as the unsung defense held the Cornhuskers to their lowest point total since 2007.

Senior defensive end Brandon Sharpe had four of Texas Tech's five sacks - increasing his season total to eight - and also batted down a pass.

"I was just out there having fun, running hard, trying to get noticed," Sharpe said. "We were just working hard. Come off the ball and good things will happen."

Quarterback Steven Sheffield is certainly getting noticed. The junior, who threw seven touchdown passes in his first career start - a 66-14 win over Kansas State two weeks ago - only threw one against the Cornhuskers, but he ran for two scores and completed 23 of 32 passes for 234 yards. He also went 6-for-6 on an 80-yard drive to open the game.

"He went out there and elevated his level of play, marched down the field and scored," coach Mike Leach said. "That electrified the whole defense. Our entire offense for sure. And, I think our team."

If Sheffield doesn't electrify the Red Raiders on his own Saturday, the fans certainly might as their

Cowboys LB Brooking eager to face Falcons

Whatever reasons the Atlanta Falcons had for giving up on linebacker Keith Brooking, the Dallas Cowboys are sure glad they did.

As intense as ever in his 12th NFL season, Brooking leads the team in tackles and has brought an edge they were missing. He's become the emotional leader and has a great feel for the pulse of the team.

Brooking insists he's not by trying to prove anything to the folks in Atlanta. Still, he gets that chance Sunday, when Matt Ryan and the Falcons come to Cowboys Stadium.

"I'd be lying to you if I was like, 'Ah, I'm not trying to prove to those guys that I can still do it at a high level,'" he said. "But that's not my priority... I'm 12 years into my career. That window of opportunity is narrowing every passing day. I know I'm much closer to the end of my career than the beginning. I just want to enjoy these last few years and get the most out of every day and cherish every moment."

Brooking, the Cowboys have learned, does everything at full speed.

He's thrown haymakers at assistant coaches, and that was after he made a great play. He ran down the sideline watching receiver Miles Austin score a touchdown against Kansas City, then was the first guy off the bench to give Austin a stinging high-five.

"They call him 'The Mad Backer,'" running back Tashard Choice said. "You stay away from Brook when he gets like that."

Football fans in Atlanta know all about it.

Brooking grew up in the area and never left - from youth leagues to high school, from college at Georgia Tech to 11 seasons with the Falcons. Atlanta took him in the first round of the 1998 draft and, as a rookie, he helped the Falcons make the Super Bowl. He made the Pro Bowl five years from 2001 to 05 and led the team in tackles the last eight seasons.

Last year, Brooking struggled to pass coverage and was out of

position on a key play in a playoff loss. His contract ran out and the Falcons let him go.

Brooking picked Dallas because coach Wade Phillips was his defensive coordinator in Atlanta in 2002 and 03, the only years he had over 200 tackles. Best of all, the Cowboys had a vacancy at his position, weakside inside linebacker.

Zach Thomas played there last season, then moved on. Brooking's arrival seemed like a swap of grizzled veterans, good enough to plug in on first and second downs, but nothing special.

At least, that was the perception. "I looked at him on tape and he looked like he did before - and what he did before was outstanding," Phillips said. "We thought he'd be a good fit for us and he is."

Brooking does get replaced by a defensive back in most passing situations. But when he's in there, No. 51 is usually in the middle of the action.

On a fourth down against Denver two games ago, he flew into the backfield and ploved into Denver's Knowshon Moreno, standing him up to prevent a first down. Against the Chiefs, he picked up his first sack since November 2007, but turned even more heads on a play in which he was leveled by a cut block but still got up and tackled running back Jamaal Charles on a screen pass.

"Have I lost a little bit?" Brooking said. "Yeah, I've lost a little bit. C'mon, I'm realistic about it. But I'm better than most."

He was a tireless worker and a guy who knew the playbook. Then the games started to count and teammates saw the real Keith



Brooking.

"He just wants to win," nose tackle Jay Ratliff said. "You can sense that from him. You can't help but feel off of that."

After Dallas lost to Denver, Brooking felt comfortable enough to speak up, telling reporters the team needed to work harder in practice. When the Cowboys needed overtime to beat the Iowa Chiefs, Brooking was the first player at his locker the next day to answer questions about what went wrong.

"I'm going to do whatever it takes to help this team win," Brooking said. "If it keeps my mouth shut and not saying a word, then you won't hear me talk for the rest of the year. If it's standing up and saying something that needs to be said, I'm going to stand up and say something."

"Whatever this team needs, I'll be there for them and to help them in any possible way that I can. That's the only way I know how to do things."

Missouri vs. Texas Matchup

Oct. 16, 2004, and haven't lost the week after playing the Sooners since 1997, when they fell 37-29 at Missouri in former coach John Mackovic's final season.

The Longhorns have won five straight over the Tigers since then and 14 of 15.

However, Texas will face a Tigers team enduring growing pains as it rebuilds after consecutive Big 12 North titles.

Missouri (4-2, 0-2) held a three-point lead in the second quarter at Oklahoma State last week, but allowed 19 unanswered in a 37-17 defeat. The Tigers also gave up 27 straight fourth-quarter points in their Big 12 opener, a 27-12 loss to visiting Nebraska on Oct. 8.

"I think there is a lot of frustration because of some of the mistakes we're making," coach Gary Pinkel said. Sophomore quarterback Blaine

Gabbert has struggled since spraining his right ankle in the loss to the Cornhuskers but is expected to start.

Gabbert completed 66.4 percent of his passes for 11 touchdowns and no interceptions in Missouri's first four games. He's thrown five interceptions and one TD in the two losses while connecting at a 44.8 percent rate.

Gabbert was 22 of 44 for 325 yards with one touchdown and three interceptions against the Cowboys.

"I expect him to be better. Hopefully, he'll be 100 percent this week," Pinkel said. "He's a pretty courageous guy, and it would be nice to get him healthy if we can."

Texas quarterback and Heisman hopeful Colt McCoy is also expected to start despite a bruised right thumb. McCoy had a season-low 127 yards in last week's win,

but was 52 of 32 for 337 yards and two touchdowns in last season's 56-31 win over the Tigers in Austin.

"It's sure but it's not going to keep me out. It's football," said McCoy, who's expected to lose the nail on that finger.

Facing Missouri could also help the Longhorns' slow starts to games this season. They've gone without an offensive touchdown in the first half twice this season and has scored 10 points or fewer in four games.

"We are not starting well. I can't figure it out," Brown said. "Texas outscored the Tigers 35-3 in the first half of last season's win and boasts the nation's top scoring offense (42.0 points per game). The Longhorns, who held Oklahoma to minus-16 yards, also have the No. 1 rushing defense - yielding only 35.8 yards per game.

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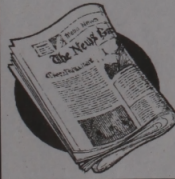
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The goal for the Longhorns is a perfect second half, something that's eluded them over the last three seasons. Four of Texas' seven losses in that span have come in November, and a last-second defeat at Texas Tech kept them out of last season's title game.

"The pressure is there being No. 3 because everybody says to every one of our kids that unless you win them all you're not going to have a chance to get what you want," coach Mack Brown said. "I feel like they know that if you are in the top 3 or 4 then it is okay."

However, the Longhorns' second-half schedule isn't nearly as arduous as last season's, which featured three straight games against teams ranked 11th or higher. This season, they travel to No. 14 Oklahoma State on Halloween night and host No. 24 Kansas on Nov. 24.

Texas has also thrived in October and especially after playing the Sooners.

The Longhorns are 21-1 in the month since beating the Tigers on

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Como Segunda Madre

El amor de una abuela en la familia es prácticamente tan fundamental como el de una madre e incluso, algunas veces es más intenso.

"Nada cuenta si no cuenta para toda la eternidad", le dice la abuela Yola a Daniela, su nieta de seis años, como prometiéndole un cariño incondicional e infinito que se manifiesta con cada palabra, cada gesto y cada momento que comparte con ella.

El amor de una abuela es como el de una segunda madre y a veces se vive incluso con más tiempo, más tolerancia y más apapachos. Como las abuelas no sienten la responsabilidad directa que se tiene con hijo, pueden permitir más y limitar menos, aunque las normas están presentes, se ocupan más del juego y las cosquillas, o al menos así lo piensa Yolanda Muñoz Flores, una mujer para la que los nietos son su más grande amor.

Daniela, su primera nieta, fue la primera en despertar una gran inspiración en la abuela Yola, como la llaman. Desde antes de nacer empezó a escribirle una serie de cartas platicándole de su vida diaria, su pasado, sus sueños y, sobre todo, las ganas inmensas de conocerla.

La tradición de escribirle continuó después del nacimiento y a la fecha ya lleva más de 250 cartas, la gran mayoría de éstas están compiladas ya en un sencillo libro titulado "Daniela: Gota de Miel, una historia de amor".

En éste Yolanda vacía su cariño, sus sueños y casi a diario un diario, las vivencias que va teniendo con Daniela. "Sé que la niña todavía está muy chica para leer las cartas y entender todo lo que cuento, pero un día espero que pueda disfrutarlas tanto como yo."

"Escribirle y platicar con ellas me ha permitido tener un compaña igual que la de su hermana Fernanda y mis otros nietos Iván y Valentina. Me gusta hacerles casitas con sábanas y chalinas, cocinas juntos un pastel, tomar el té, dibujar, iluminar... estoy feliz de ponerme al nivel de amistad y de



nos mutuamente tantas alegrías".
Fragmentos de Gota de Miel
"La abuela Yola, presta a comunicarse de esta forma con-

gigo, amada nieta, sé que algún día podrás leer cuánto te digo y cuánto eres fuente de mi más profunda inspiración amorosa. Te visité el lunes 24, te encantaste, te tomé de tus manitas pequeñas y emprendimos una pequeña carrera detrás de tu permitida, o viceversa ella no me perseguía, y tu alegría era manifiesta. Tu mamá te cansaba, pero esta abo a los 10 minutos quiere detenerse, y tú dices más".

Primera carta del libro, sin fecha.

"Y las oportunidades me llegan, ya que podré disfrutar esta tarde tu presencia. Tu mamá te traerá por aquí donde laboro, nos iremos juntos a comer, a donde acostumbraba a llevarte cuando solía ir por ti, y me siento con las emociones todas despertadas, todo lo veo mucho mejor, estoy en estos momentos de mi vida viviendo una etapa sensacional. Fíjate que tengo un empleo que me mantiene ocupada y tan cerca de mi casa que hago alrededor de 15 minutos en trasladarme y tú me haces sentir muy afortunada por que te he conocido (...). Desseo que Dios esté siempre presente en tu

te lo desee con todo mi corazón".
26 de enero.

"Amada Gota de Miel, he llegado frente a mis miedos y sigo en este camino, no me paralizo (...). A veces me despierto nostálgica y veo para atrás mi vida y me digo cuán rápido se me fue, pero agradeceré con Dios que me ha permitido vivir el milagro más grande y maravilloso, que asombró mi existencia ser tu abuela. Tú me sacaste de la cotidianidad, todas las pequeñas cosas que vivo contigo son el milagro que mi vida necesitaba."

"Amada nieta, se me nota la nostalgia ¿verdad? y quiero que se note, amamec así ahora y me escuchó... hoy nienda suela a mi corazón que largos caminos recorrió en busca del amor y en ti lo encontré. Esta misiva por ahora la conchuyo...diciéndote andávete a ser diferente y siempre seguir serlo."

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Así lo dijo
"La vida es tan pesada que hay que jugar más, si te lo tomas muy en serio te enfermas".
Yolanda Muñoz
"Mi abuela es la mejor cocinera del mundo porque mi hijo mi agua de uva", Fernanda, nieta de Yolanda
"Mi abuela me hace casitas con sábanas y me divierte mucho con Daniela, nieta de Yolanda.

Simplifying Financial Aid Process Improves College Access For Low-Income Students

More low-income students would make it to college if changes were made to streamline the complicated financial aid process, according to a groundbreaking study released today by researchers at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Stanford University School of Education, the University of Toronto, and the National Bureau of Economic Research.

The new study tracked nearly 17,000 low-income individuals and determined that cumbersome financial aid forms and lack of information about higher education costs and financial aid prevented access to higher education.

At H&R Block offices during the 2008 tax season, the researchers invited individuals aged 17 to 30, who earned less than \$45,000 annually in Ohio and North Carolina, to participate and randomly assigned them to one of three groups. For one group of participants, employees helped fill out the 102-question Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that serves as the critical application and gatekeeper for federal aid, as well as most state and institutional aid.

In order to streamline the process, the researchers pre-populated the application with already-collected tax information and then helped participants answer remaining questions. This significantly reduced the FAFSA form completion time from 13 hours to less than 10 minutes. Participants were also given personalized information about their financial aid options.

Following the application process, the researchers tracked the progress of participants who were given aid information alongside those participants who did not receive help to determine whether streamlining the application process and providing information increased college enrollment.

"Making college applications almost effortless to complete had an extremely powerful impact on the number of low-income students who made it to college," said Oropoulos. "For high school seniors, just helping their parents fill out the financial aid form and apply increased college enrollment rates by 30 percent."

Other program outcomes included:

- * The program increased college enrollment by 20 percent for young adults already out of high school with particularly large results for those with annual incomes less than \$22,000.

- * The program increased the percentage who received a federal grant by 33 percent for high school seniors with positive effects also for older adults.

- * The program increased FAFSA submissions by 39 percent for seniors in high school; 186 percent for independent students who had never been to college; and 58 percent for independent students who had previously attended college.

On the other hand, the researchers said that participants who were only given information about aid (without help with the FAFSA) did not have higher aid application submission rates than those who did not receive any help.

"This suggests that simply informing individuals about their aid eligibility does not appear to improve college access," said Bettinger. "The real barrier is the

complexity in actually filling out the form and finding the time to complete it. We were able to provide individuals with accurate aid information and submit the form for them, which greatly increased their chances of accessing higher education."

Long said the study proves there are simple, efficient ways to streamline the FAFSA process that can increase its visibility and prevent the misinformation, missed deadlines, and complexity that block some students from going to college.

"In most cases, two-thirds of the FAFSA form can be completed using tax information, so in less than 10 minutes, we were able to address a major educational problem and had a substantial impact on aid applications and college enrollment," Long said. "The next step is to think beyond one company to how we can implement these lessons on a larger scale, perhaps in schools or with community organizations, and ideally by changing the aid application process at the federal level."

This research has informed deliberations of the U.S. Department of Education and the White House regarding simplifying the financial aid process. Just this summer, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced plans to streamline FAFSA and explore ways to transfer information directly from the Internal Revenue Service to an online financial aid application. The researchers note that such a change should substantially reduce the time necessary to complete the FAFSA form and improve the accuracy of the information submitted. Additional outreach and assistance, such as that provided to study participants, would also greatly improve the current system of financial aid.

The project was funded with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the Kauffman Foundation, and the Institute of Education Sciences.

Green Environments Offer Health Benefits

A new Dutch study finds that living in "green" surroundings may offer numerous health benefits, with those living in such environments being less likely to suffer from a variety of mental and physical health conditions such as anxiety, depression, diabetes and other disorders.

The research included more than 300,000 Dutch adults and children, and showed that those living near more "green spaces" had lower rates of 15 different health conditions. The link was particularly strong for depression and anxiety, suggesting that reprieve from the stress and chaos of daily urban life may explain some of the benefits of green environments, the researchers said.

Previous research has shown that people living in greener environments are more likely to report better subjective health. However, the current study is the first to use objective data on specific health diagnoses, said Dr. Jolanda Maas of the YU University Medical Center in Amsterdam, the study's lead

researcher. The findings add further evidence that green surroundings provide positive health effects, and are "more than just a luxury good," Maas told Reuters. Maas and her team collected data from the electronic medical records of 345,143 patients, and used an environmental database on land use to measure the percentage of green space in the patients' local neighborhoods.

The results showed that greater amounts of green space - within about 0.6 miles or so of a person's home - translated to small reductions in the risks of health problems such as diabetes, heart disease, asthma, chronic neck and back pain and migraine.

The strongest link was seen with depression and anxiety, with just over 2 percent of those living in areas with 90 percent green space having been diagnosed with depression. This compares with slightly over 3 percent of those living in areas

with 10 percent green space having been diagnosed with depression.

The researchers stressed that green surroundings might positively affect health in a number of ways, such as improved air quality and more exercise opportunities.

However, the link with depression and anxiety suggests that stress reduction and a lowered risk of "attention fatigue" could be also at play, they said.

The link between green environments and improved health was notably strong among low-income children, which might be because they tend to spend a majority of their time close to home, the researchers said. Whatever the underlying reasons, the research suggests that policymakers "should take green space into consideration" in public health initiatives, particularly those targeted towards children and people with lower incomes, Maas said.

She emphasized that green spaces must be well maintained, something other health research has also supported.

Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, TX - Research Management Analyst to assist in primary and secondary research, must have Bachelor's in computing, research, statistical analysis or business; advanced computer applications skills with Microsoft Word, Excel and Access are required. Experience with academic or administrative computing systems or networks also desirable. Basic understanding of both quantitative and qualitative research methodology. Mail res. to Ron Appleg, WBU, 1900 W 7th Str. CMB#689, Plainview TX 79072

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