

# El Editor

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

Casualties of  
War in Iraq  
**3,642**  
as of July 24,  
2007

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Questions remain as to why?

## Hispanic 13 Year Member of Civic Lubbock Board; Not Reappointed

By Abel Cruz

When it comes to diversity on city boards, one has to wonder if the Lubbock City Council is really serious about increasing the number of Hispanics who serve as volunteers on city boards.

To be sure, they seem to say the right things; talk the talk so to speak; when asked about the topic; but their recent actions could easily lead one to conclude that when it comes to walking the walk; they are not even taking the first step.

Almost 13 years ago, Lubbock resident Chevo Morales, a long time Lubbock resident and one who has been involved in civic activities in a variety of different ways during his lifetime; was appointed by then Mayor David Langston to serve on the board of Civic Lubbock Inc. A rare occurrence then, since the city has always struggled to find Hispanics to serve on city boards.

In a letter to the editor, published in last week's edition of El Editor, we learned that Mr. Morales had come up for reappointment and he had not been reappointed to the board of Civic Lubbock, Inc. (CLI)

According to the letter, Mr. Morales has been responsible for blazing a trail in many areas related to the board. He was involved in many initiatives which resulted in Hispanic organizations having more access to funding for arts programs for example.

But about 3 months ago, the city council voted to appoint 2 new individuals to the board; and while one was Hispanic; one could make a solid argument that the council missed out on a golden opportunity to add to the diversity instead of just trading one minority member for another.

According to a "city hall insider" we spoke with, CLI has had a somewhat contentious relationship with the council lately. The board controls a rather significant budget and administers or decides who or what programs will get funded. In the last year alone, the board funded 12-15 events. At least 3 of those are rather significant in scope; the Lubbock Arts Festival, the Fiestas Patrias, and the events like the Tech Rodeo at the Lubbock City Bank Coliseum. All these projects are significant in attendance and two of them bring in large amounts of revenue in alcohol sales for CLI, since they are the ones which hold the alcoholic beverage permit; and by law the only ones which can sell alcoholic beverages at the many events at the Lubbock Civic Center and other venues which allow alcohol consumption. The revenue is used to fund events and to fund the board's mission which includes promoting culture, art, and entertainment in the area.

Morales' 13 year service on the board had been a successful one. The chairperson for Centro Aztlan told El Editor that Morales had

always treated their organization fairly and honestly. Another source, a person who knows the inner workings of city hall, told El Editor that Morales was the only person on the board who could communicate with the late Buddy Holly's widow, Maria Elena Holly and had worked diligently to try and come to some resolution with Holly over using the "Buddy Holly name" to promote the city.

Civic Lubbock Inc. is a very important entity. Among the many events they fund, one of their primary functions is to organize and hold the yearly West Texas Walk of Fame event. They are responsible for the selection of the inductees and for holding the yearly event. During Morales' tenure, many people credit him with influencing the selection of Lubbock's Tejano/Conjunto group The Hometown Boys and Tejano artist Agnes Torres into the Walk of Fame. He was also responsible for including the names of two of Hispanic Lubbock's most important musical groups on the Terrace which also honors local musicians; The Premiers, a Tejano show band



from the 60's and 70's and Pete Morales; the leader of a "Conjunto" which contributed to Lubbock's musical history. This year, the inductees will include San Angelo's "Los Lonely Boys".

In short, the responsibilities are many and the impact of the board touches many facets of Lubbock's entertainment venues and offerings. One could argue that in the area of quality of life, the board probably serves one of the most important roles and also controls the largest "entertainment and cultural budget" in this city. Consequently, experience on this board is essential to its success as is its independence and insulation from outside influences.

That is why Morales' non-reappointment has many people in the Hispanic community asking why.

If one can imagine, if a person sits on this type of board, one might have many people trying to influence them so their special project can be funded. In this instance, it was perhaps the "appointers"; some members of the Lubbock's City Council who some suspect may be trying to influence future board decisions by appointing people who will be more agreeable to their pet projects; an assertion made by more than one person we talked to.

And El Editor has learned that not all council members are

possessed with the way the situation is set up. Our source told us that it was a known fact among those "in the know" that City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld is not pleased with the way the board is set up and "not happy" that she is not in control of the revenue generated by the alcoholic beverage sales.

In this case, El Editor sent an email, individually to Mayor David Miller, Council members Linda DeLeon and John Leonard; we received no reply before having to go to press. We have learned though, from another source that Councilman John Leonard was supportive of Morales' reappointment and tried to convince others on the council that Morales should be reappointed; but that support from other council members, including District 1 Councilwoman Linda DeLeon was not there.

The board consists of 11 members; and according to City Secretary Becky Garza's office they include: (Number in parenthesis is time served on board)

Mark Bass - 1 year; Dan Burns - 4 1/2 years; Don Caldwell - 1 1/2 years; Don Haragan - 1 1/2 years; Murray Hensley - 12 1/2 years; Louis Kelley - 1 1/2 years; William Lowell - 6 1/2 years; Mary Beth Mitemeyer - newly appointed; Eddie Moreno - newly appointed; Kay Sanford - 3 years; Jim White - 4 years

The 2 new members replacing Morales and former board member Gertie Jeter is Eddie Moreno, a local morning radio host for Magic 93.7 and Mary Beth Mitemeyer who incidentally we found out is City Manager's Lee Ann Dumbauld's next door neighbor; both reside in southwest Lubbock.

One of the questions being asked is why not appoint Moreno, who is Hispanic, to another board to add to the diversity mix and allow Morales to be reappointed. In the long run, the city would have added another Hispanic to a board; which is after all what they say they have been trying to accomplish. In fact, Hispanic Agenda, a local civic organization, has also advocated that more Hispanics should be appointed to city boards and has actively worked to recruit volunteers to serve.

But why Morales was not reappointed remains a mystery. There are no term limit issues; as evidenced by the fact that board member Murray Hensley has served for 12.5 years. And as far as we could ascertain Mr. Morales had done a good job.

The fact that none of the council members which we tried to contact responded only add to the unknown.

El Editor will continue to follow this story and try and get responses from council members or if necessary, file a freedom of information request until we get some answers to our questions.

Email: acruzisc@sol.com or elediteditorial@sbcglobal.net include the word "Morales" in the subject line.

## Hispanic Incarceration Rates: A Study in Uneven Justice

By Ryan S. King and Angela Maria Arboleda

Largely obscured by the rancorous debate surrounding U.S. immigration policy is the emergence of a trend that should be a cause of concern to all Latino communities: the explosion of the number of Latinos in prison.

There were 55,000 Latinos doing prison time in the United States in 1985. That figure has increased by more than 400 percent in 20 years, a substantially steeper rate of increase than for whites or African Americans.

Currently, there are more than 450,000 Latinos in U.S. prisons or jails.

With one in six Latino males born today expected to spend some time in prison during their lives, the future portends devastating consequences for Latino communities.

This incarceration data stands in stark contrast to a growing body of research suggesting that Latinos, who now make up more than one of every five persons held behind bars, are less likely than other groups to commit crime and that the immigration of the 1990s may have been partially responsible for the historic declines in crime.

Causes for rising Latino incarceration are complex, but an important explanatory factor

is the "war on drugs." Despite using drugs at a rate proportionate to their share in the general population, Latinos are twice as likely as whites to be admitted to state prison on a drug charge. Nearly one in four Latinos sitting in prison has been convicted of a drug offense.

Differential patterns in law enforcement - where the police choose to pursue the war on drugs - play a greater role in determining who is arrested and sentenced to prison than general trends in drug use.

Add to that the collateral consequences from a felony conviction. These can include barriers to employment, denial of certain licenses,

lack of access to education and housing aid, loss of voting rights, and, in some cases, deportation.

Such "invisible punishments" create substantial obstacles to a successful reentry to the community and increase the likelihood of recidivism.

Despite this spate of distressing news, there

possessing a weapon he never used

The criminal justice system does not exist in a vacuum. Crime and its associated costs generally reflect a failure to provide equal access to resources such as education, employment, housing and health care. Inequalities in the criminal justice system extend far beyond policing, courts, and corrections.

## FAQ on DeLeon Recall Effort

By Abel Cruz

For the Recall 2007 organizers the magic numbers are 494 and 49. But just what happens if the recall organizers obtain the 494 signatures and 49 affidavits as called for by law in their recall effort?

To keep our readers informed; here is a FAQ; frequently asked questions which should clear up the confusion over the recall. Some of the answers were provided to us by City Secretary Becky Garza; we have noted her responses in quotation marks.

Q: Who can sign the petition?

Garza: "The petitioners need to collect at least 494 valid signatures. At least ten percent (10%) of those signing the petition shall certify that they voted for Ms. DeLeon at the election at which she was elected (in 2006)."

EE: Which means that anyone can sign; but in order for their signature to count, they must live in District 1 and be registered to vote. A person need not have voted in the previous election in order to sign; however, signers must also include other personal information such as date of birth. Organizers must also obtain signed affidavits from 49 residents from District 1 attesting to the fact that they voted for DeLeon in the last city election.

Q: If organizers meet all requirements and the city secretary validates signatures and affidavits; what does it mean for Councilwoman DeLeon; will there be an election in November?

Garza: "It's not a simple yes and no answer. It will be a very tight time line in getting the paperwork processed to call an election and to submit to the Department of Justice for pre clearance in time for the November election."

"That being said, I believe the target election date is still the November election. The petition is to be filed on or before August 13th. The petition needs to be reviewed; and depending on the number of signatures collected, I'm tentatively targeting August 14th - 22nd as the review period."

Which brings us to Aug. 23: "If the petition is valid, Ms. DeLeon will be notified, and she'll have five (5) days to decide whether to resign or not; if she does not resign, the Council shall order and fix a date for a recall election (for November)."

EE: If DeLeon does not resign, and she has indicated that she won't; then the election in November will ask voters to either recall or not recall.

Q: What happens if voters vote to recall?

Garza: "An officer removed by a vote of the people does not continue to serve until the next election, but is removed immediately."

EE: If DeLeon is not recalled by a simple majority; that is more than 50% percent of voters do not vote to recall her from office, then the process is over and DeLeon continues to serve on the Council. If over 50% of voters vote to recall, then DeLeon must resign from the council immediately after the election.

Q: How will the District 1 council seat be filled if DeLeon loses the recall election and is forced to resign?

Garza: "If there is a successful recall election in November, a Special Election will be held in May 2008 to fill the District 1 position."

Q: Will DeLeon be able to run for the District 1 council seat in a special May 2008 election if she so chooses?

Garza: "I know of no prohibition against the removed officer running for office again at a later election."

EE: If the process gets to the point where a special election becomes necessary, there is nothing that says that Councilwoman DeLeon cannot file to be a candidate for the seat she was recalled from.

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## News Briefs

### Education to be Key for Hispanics in Deciding on Presidential Candidate

If a poll recently conducted by an organization called "ED in '08" in partnership with the National Council of La Raza is any indication; presidential candidates better begin to talk about the quality of education for Latinos if they expect to have a chance to win the Latino vote.

The report which was released at the NCLR's annual convention which was held in Miami on July 21-24 revealed that "Latinos are nearly unanimous that improving public education should be a "very important priority" for the next president. This finding was included in a survey of 1,000 registered Latino voters.

Key findings of the poll include:

-- Latino voters consider the high dropout rate among Latino students to be the greatest educational problem for the Latino community in the U.S.

-- Half of those surveyed declared that they considered the quality of public schools to be "mediocre" or "poor."

-- While generally rating teachers positively, more than 80% of the Latino electorate feels that one way to improve public education in America is to hire more teachers with expertise in the subjects they will teach.

Ed in '08 is a national non partisan organization which hopes to raise awareness of education issues in the 2008 presidential race campaign. The organization's Chairman is Roy Romer, former governor of Colorado and most recently headed the Los Angeles Unified School District until 2006. "Presidential candidates have been largely silent about our failure to give our children the skills to be ready to succeed in college, career and life," said Romer.

Janet Murgia, NCLR's President and CEO and steering committee member of Ed in 08, said that "The Latino community is increasingly showing its desire to help shape the future of our country at the ballot box. What this poll makes clear is that Latinos believe the key to our future is improving the quality of public school education and will vote

for the candidate with the best comprehensive plan to do that."

Source of Quotes: Hispanic PR Wire  
Email: elediteditorial@sbcglobal.net

### Agriculture Department Continued to Send Farm Payments to Dead People

Here's another bureaucratic snafu which should just thrill taxpayers.

It seems that the Agriculture Department has spent \$1.1 billion of American's hard earned tax dollars on farm subsidies to farmers; only in this case the farmers were dead; some had been dead for over 7 years!

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently disclosed that the Ag Department did indeed send over a billion dollars in farm payments to over 170,000 people who had died.

Senator Charles Grassley, a Republican Senator from Iowa had requested that the GAO review documents detailing the payments which occurred between 1999 and 2005.

Said Grassley; "It's unconscionable that the Department of Agriculture would think that a dead person was actively engaged in the business of farming".

The problem, according to the GAO, was that the department had not been conducting necessary checks and reviews to make sure those payments to people who had died did not continue. The report revealed that "USDA has made farm payments to estates more than two years after recipients died, without determining, as its regulations require, whether the estates were kept open to receive these payments".

In typical bureaucratic fashion, the payments continued with 40% of payments going to people who had been dead for more than 3 years and 19% had gone to people that had been dead over 7 years.

It was unclear if the Agriculture Department would start the process for recovering the money which had been sent. But knowing how Washington works, that is very unlikely.

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are efforts that can be undertaken to stem the tide of disproportionate Latino incarceration.

First, lawmakers should heed the growing chorus of public officials, including high-ranking criminal justice practitioners, and revisit the wisdom of our current drug control strategy. This "lock 'em up" approach has resulted in a half-million people behind bars. It takes a toll on communities of color while doing little to address the underlying causes of drug abuse. Investing in proven prevention and treatment strategies is far more productive than warehousing people. It's a much more effective tool to enhance public safety.

Secondly, legislatures should expand upon the reforms implemented in 22 states since 2004 and reconsider such punitive sentencing provisions as mandatory minimums that expose individuals to punishments grossly disproportionate to the conduct for which they have been charged.

Restoring discretion to sentencing judges would permit full consideration of the circumstances of the offense. This could prevent the recurrence of cases like that of first-time offender Weldon Angelos, who, because of inflexible sentencing enhancements was sentenced to prison for 55 years.

His offense? Three marijuana sales while

True reform can be achieved only when we seek to bring a broad range of community stakeholders to the table and invest not merely in police and prisons but in neighborhoods and people.

[Ryan S. King (email: rking@sentencingproject.org) is a policy analyst with The Sentencing Project. Angela Maria Arboleda (email: arboleda@nclr.org) is associate director, criminal justice policy, with the National Council of La Raza. This month The Sentencing Project released its 20-page study, "Uneven Justice: State Rates of Incarceration by Race and Ethnicity," available on-line.] ©

### Teen Killed Near Harwell Elementary

As El Editor goes to press, we have learned that a teen aged male has been killed in a shooting near Harwell Elementary School off of 41st street in southeast Lubbock.

According to police reports, 15 year old Javier Castaneda died at UMC late Wednesday night.

Details surrounding the incident were still sketchy, but police are seeking two teens in connection with the murder. They are Vincent Sandoval, 18; and Alfredo Perez, 19 years of age.

# EDITORIALS

## Bond Projects Should be DOA

We won't mince words like others have when writing about the recommendations by the city council appointed committee which is trying to sell us all a "BIG" bill of goods on the bond projects which they have recommended to the council.

We don't have to wait for the "listening group" or better put; political action committee to trumpet the results of their listening tour and tell us how wonderful all these pork barrel projects are for this city; we will go on record on this date as saying that when the issue comes before the voters, and believe us it will, the only good vote is a "NO" vote; on all the projects.

When over two thirds of the bond money is targeted for only 3 projects which would result in an overbuilding of entertainment facilities; we must question the sanity of that recommendation. This city has never been a location which promoters look to, to stage plays or concerts of the magnitude that would be needed to make the projects worthwhile. In order for these types of taxpayer investments to pay off, events must be scheduled at these venues almost every weekend; do you see this city supporting 3 different events at 3 different venues on the same night? We don't; canceling concerts and plays due to poor ticket sales is already a common occurrence here.

In fact, recently a blues music concert had to be cancelled due to poor ticket sales; it had nothing to do with the venue it was scheduled for. But it did have to do with a culture in this city that doesn't support these types of events.

We point to the Wells Fargo Amphitheater as a prime example of a fiscal boondoggle. This latest facility was finally finished after years of delay and cost overruns; and the last time we counted there had only been 2 possibly 3 plays staged there; the popular play "Oklahoma" and the most recent Moonlight Musicals production. A quick look at the coming events for the rest of the year shows just one Moonlight Musicals production scheduled for the rest of the year. At best, the new venue has produced 4 events over a 1.5 year period and at a cost of over \$4 million dollars.

Is that the kind of return on investment that we want as taxpayers; we say no.

Another aspect which bothers us is that out of the total amount only 1.245% of the money is proposed for projects in North and East Lubbock. It's much like throwing the old dog a bone with no meat on it.

We are extremely disappointed that the committee turned a blind eye to the many needs in some of this city's oldest neighborhoods; like infrastructure deterioration, we cite 34<sup>th</sup> street as an example and also Clovis Road; parks north of 50<sup>th</sup> street which are in desperate need of maintenance and repair; economic development in North and East Lubbock; addressing increasing crime and improved public safety; for example they could have recommended funds be used to build LPD satellite police offices in neighborhoods where crime has been increasing in the hopes that a sort of "neighborhood policing" approach to increased crime might work to decrease it.

We take an opposite view of these things than others in the print media in this city whose view of Lubbock does not include neighborhoods and people who don't fit their demographic profiles.

There are many other disturbing aspects involved and in the coming few weeks we will take a closer look at all the recommendations in an effort to cut through the hyperbole and see what's really at stake for Lubbock residents and taxpayers.

In the meantime, we issue that old "caveat emptor"; let the buyer beware.

## Attorney General Alberto Gonzales; ¡Ya Basta!

When will Attorney General G Alberto Gonzales spare us from further national and cultural embarrassment and resign his position and just go away?

Watching him testify this past Tuesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee was both painful and embarrassing to the many people who supported him in the hope he would make those of us who share common ethnic roots with him proud.

Well, not only has he not done that, but he has been relegated to a punch line in a very bad joke perpetrated on the American public.

To watch him sit there and blatantly lie is unbecoming and unflattering for a man who had risen from a modest upbringing to achieve what could clearly be the highest office ever achieved by a person of Hispanic descent.

We have said it before and we will say it again: Gonzales needs to go and he needs to go now more than ever.

In testimony prepared for a congressional hearing on Tuesday, Gonzales acknowledged what all of us already know. And that is that he has allowed the Justice Department and himself to be used by the Bush White House for their political purposes. With each hearing into the firing of 8 federal prosecutors come new revelations which reveal just how much politicization has infiltrated the Justice Department under Gonzales' watch.

"There are two options available in light of these allegations," Gonzales said. "I could walk away or I could devote my time, effort and energy to fix the problems. Since I have never been one to quit, I decided that the best course of action was to remain here and fix the problems."

Which is fine, but Gonzales needs to realize that he is the problem; he should fix it by turning in his resignation and walk away while he still has a thread of his reputation left.

It's not much of a reputation, but he needs to leave before they come for him with a pair of handcuffs for lying to Congress under oath.

¡Ya basta, General; ya nos avergüenzo bastante!

Or in English if you'd like: Enough General; you have already embarrassed us enough!

Editorials are strictly the opinion of El Editor's editorial board and do not represent the views of its advertisers.

## PK-3 Programs Can Provide a Jump Start for Texas' Hispanic Children

By Dr. Fernando Guerra

In 2000, half of all young Hispanic children lived in two states: Texas and California. Expanding and improving the quality of early education for Texas' Hispanic population should be among our highest educational priorities. One way to give our children the best possible start is to provide them with greater opportunities in the early childhood years through the PK-3 approach.

What is PK-3? PK-3 programs raise achievement among children by offering quality early education programs that align the curriculum and instruction for children from pre-kindergarten through the third grade. Research has shown that the PK-3 years are the crucial years that provide the foundation for life-long learning. Aligning the curriculum and instruction for children from pre-kindergarten through the third grade contributes substantially to meaningful higher levels of school readiness and achievement.

PK-3 is especially important for Hispanic children. Hispanic children lag well behind their non-Hispanic White counterparts on measures of school readiness when they start kindergarten and subsequently achieve at much lower levels in the primary grades. This pattern of lower academic achievement persists through high school and college.

In the short term, school districts that use the PK-3 approach will experience reduced special education and grade retention costs. In the long term, we will see decreased dropout rates, savings to the juvenile and adult justice systems, and increased earnings from participants.

Moreover, increased investments in PK-3 programs, which are proven to prepare our young children for school success, also strengthen the state's economy. Better education equals better jobs and a stronger local economy.

The good news is that strengthening PK-3 education is gaining strong support. A recent report by the National Task Force on Early Childhood Education for Hispanics recommended greatly expanded and improved early childhood education opportunities for the growing Hispanic populations.

While PK-3 programs raise achievement among Hispanic children and provide better educational opportunities in the early childhood years, there is an inadequate capacity to meet demand in many Hispanic communities. Other problems exist, such as a lack of knowledge about program availability among Hispanic parents and the inability to afford pre-kindergarten. Lack of English also affects the ability of Hispanic parents to get information.

Studies show that PK-3 programs can improve the literacy and math skills of all children, and especially English language learners and low-income children. PK-3 strengthens children's skills to help them succeed. The PK-3 approach creates the continuity in teaching and curriculum that makes it more successful for Hispanic children to learn English. We must also encourage Hispanic college students to choose PK-3 education as a career. We must do our best to improve access to programs for Hispanic children by providing information to Hispanic parents and locating programs in neighborhoods with large concentrations of Hispanic families.

We need to ensure that all children have greater access to high quality early learning programs like PK-3. Greater opportunity needs to exist for Hispanic children from low income families, especially those who are English language learners.

It goes without saying that the early learning of a child is often affected by a wide range of complex circumstances in the family home as well. The elements of a loving, nurturing family, coupled with safe housing and ample nutrition play a role. All children deserve and need that familial support to enhance their chances of educational success.

Likewise, all children deserve and need access to programs like PK-3. We can make a difference in bringing all children up to academic standards. We must also continue to expand state-funded pre-kindergarten programs with the objective of creating voluntary universal pre-kindergarten and eventually move to a PK-3 curriculum.

Texas' Hispanic children should be fully prepared to participate in today's society. We can get them there by starting them off right with a quality PK-3 education.

Dr. Guerra is a pediatrician and director for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. Copyright (C) 2006 by the Texas Lone Star Forum. 6/07

## HOW ABOUT A COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE BOND COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS?

By Abel Cruz

*Editor's note: This column first appeared in El Editor's on line edition, www.eleditor.com the week of July 19, 2007. We are printing it this week since our illustrious publisher forgot to include it in last week's print edition.*

We already know the Lubbock city council has trouble communicating with the electorate; now we find out they have a problem with their "hearing" too?

Well check that; we've always known citizen's opinions and views fall on deaf ears; unless of course we are agreeing with them; right Ms. Jones?

But sure enough, we now have a group which calls itself "Listen Lubbock"; their goal according to their Chairman Greg Bruce is "to listen", Mr. Bruce told the local daily paper.

The group which is made up of members from several local organizations, like the Lubbock Chamber and LEDA among others, plans to hold several town hall style meetings to get citizen's input on the recent recommendations presented to the city council by a citizen's bond committee appointed by Mayor David Miller. They will then report their findings back to the council.

I listen to people all the time that have some choice words they want the council to hear; wonder if I can forward those to the council and not get a visit from the boogey man? Hmm, probably not a good idea...

At face value, I say a listening group is unnecessary; let the council conduct their own listening tour and let residents tell them what they think about the \$300 million dollar bond proposal; let them get an earful. Why filter the information through a "middle ear"?

To me, it looks more like an advocacy group in "sheep's clothing" trying to garner voter support for the passage of the recently announced bond recommendations. If that's the case, fine, just call it what it is.

But what it does do is it takes responsibility away from the council, especially those who are up for re-election next year, like Mayor Miller, who may not be thrilled about going around asking potential voters to pay higher taxes for a wish list developed by their own council appointed committee. That it does do; it takes the heat off the council and it provides cover for those who want to continue to "serve with humility" (yeah right); like Miller, Price, Jones and Gilbreath, who are up for re-election in 08. (Don't worry Mr. G, you can just spend the thousands of dollars you have in your war chest)

Recent history tells us that resident's opinions fall on deaf ears anyway; do they really expect us to believe that the council will take our opinions into consideration when considering whether or not to call for a bond election?

Let me save you some time and answer that for you; NO!

And speaking of the "pie in the sky"; Pollyannaish wish list presented to the council last week; what can one say?

Actually there's quite a bit that can be said; but I'll delay that until I can study the "wish list" a bit more; like after I stop gagging on the \$300 million dollar figure.

To begin with, the first thing that caught my eye was the proposal to spend money on streets. The fact that our new commercial and residential growth has not generated enough tax revenue to support the basic necessities like new street construction and maintenance is not a good sign for the future. Don't we already pay taxes for street maintenance; isn't that one of the basic services our taxes pay for?

According to the committee's recommendation, some of the bond money, \$52.56 million, will be used for street maintenance, street widening, or other projects associated with Lubbock streets.

Wonder how the folks who live in central, north, and east Lubbock will feel when they see they will have to contribute tax dollars to pay for street projects which are all located in Southwest and South Lubbock?

Then we have 3 projects which would take up one third of the whole proposed amount. A new performing arts center, \$55mil; Civic Center renovations, \$85 mil; and a multi-purpose arena at a cool \$60 million dollars; comes out to a grand total of \$200 million smackers.

Yet public safety, again another basic service we already pay for, only gets \$10.85 million; does anybody need reminding of the crimes we have witnessed here these past couple of weeks?

And then there's the timing of the bond vote. Already, the council, the committee and the local press is granting the council's first wish. And that is that the bond election be held in November of 08. My question; why November and not May?

Is it because they don't want it to interfere with their re-election chances? Is someone fearful that when that person goes to vote for Mayor, they will remember that the incumbent is in favor of a bond package which will raise their property taxes by over \$200 per year by some estimates?

Naw, it couldn't be that, our Mayor would never even think about those things; would he?

Not the man who "forgot to look under the hood" before he ran for Mayor...?

Meanwhile on the "other side of the tracks", the farthest thing from people's mind is a bond election. Why; because for most people the wish list itself has about the same impact as a flea landing on an elephant's back. They know they will not benefit from the proposed projects and they know that if they own a home their taxes will increase to help pay for the things on the wish list; for others to enjoy.

These are the folks that are just busy trying to survive; trying to keep their heads above water before they drown in economic despair. These are the folks who never will for whatever reason; never travel the many streets which the bond committee wants to build in SW Lubbock; never will attend an event at the new all purpose arena or performing arts center if they are ever built.

Yet, what does it say about us if we don't acknowledge that people in dire straits live a few short miles from the grandiose developments and buildings some people dream about when coming up with a wish list for this city?

That's it for this week; we'll take a closer look at this bond election nonsense in a future column or story and try to make some sense of it all.

See I'm having a bit of trouble understanding things right now. For instance I don't understand the inner workings of a city and city leadership which for whatever reason does not recognize that less than a mile from city hall are neighborhoods deteriorating more and more each day; neighborhoods where crime and living in rat infested houses is the norm for some people.

Yet, they seem to be disinterested in these types of things.

Here's a suggestion Mr. Mayor, next time how about appointing a committee to examine why 20% of this city's population, or over 40,000 people, lives under the poverty level; or how about a committee to make recommendations on how we can make our city safer and reduce the number of rapes, assaults and murders; or how about a committee to study why a family in East Lubbock has to lose their 2 year old child to toxic poisoning because the rat and cockroach infestation in their home became so bad they had to try and exterminate them with a toxic pesticide because they couldn't stand it anymore; lets find out if there are other families in similar situations and report that back to the council?

Dreams and wish lists are great, wanting one's city to prosper and grow is an admirable goal; but we cannot become disconnected from reality in our pursuit of imaginary windmills.

Here's a dose of reality; an excerpt from a story posted Wednesday night on lubbockonline.com:

"The family home "had a foul odor" and "was infested with rodents, roaches, flies, lice and other pests," the affidavit reads."

"There was old food, trash, and dirty diapers at least a foot high in all areas of the home. In the closet were piles of dirty soiled diapers nearing four feet high. There appeared to not be any food that was edible in the home ... The children stated they ate a hot dog weenie for breakfast because the (miscarried fetus) was in the fridge, and they were only allowed to open the freezer," the affidavit reads.

When the children were found, they had lice and appeared dehydrated and malnourished, according to authorities."

The home is located less than 3/4 of a mile from city hall and probably a mile from the Lubbock Civic Center; you know, the one some people want us to spend \$85 million dollars on.

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## El Editor

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**El Editor**

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

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# OP-ED - Opinions - Discussions - Viewpoints - OP-ED

## THE TIDE OF THE OLD SOUTH IS LAPPING ON THE POTOMAC

By Cecilio Morales  
Crossing the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., into Virginia, the cradle of Southern slavery that still proudly displays its concentration camps (once known as plantations) as quaint tourist sites, always inspired some caution in me. Now three Virginia jurisdictions — and counting? — have effectively adopted anti-Hispanic apartheid under the guise of enforcing immigration laws.

— On July 17, Loudoun County in Northern Virginia passed a resolution barring undocumented immigrants from access to county services, penalize businesses that hire undocumented workers and increase collaboration between the sheriff's office and federal immigration authorities.

— Northern Virginia's Prince William County passed an ordinance unanimously July 10 ordering employers there to verify the residency status of anyone they suspected might be an undocumented immigrant in order to deny them services.

— Last September, the Town Council of Herndon, in Northern Virginia's Fairfax County, voted to privatize the Herndon Official Workers Center, adopt English as the town's official language; train its police officers to detain undocumented immigrants; and require small business owners to prove all of their workers have proper U.S. work documents.

Make no mistake about it: when the unhooded wannabe-Klansmen in county and city councils say "immigrant," they mean "Hispanic." The region is home to several hundred thousand new Spanish-speaking immigrants, both legal residents and not, who hail from Central America, primarily El Salvador.

The Central Americans started coming in the early 1980s when President Reagan thought it a genial idea for the U.S. government to fund military regimes in the region that were wantonly killing civilians — including one famous bishop and four U.S. churchwomen — by the hundreds.

One man I met, a former Salvadoran schoolteacher, left his town the day he stumbled upon a severed head left at his doorstep as a warning.

The journey north recalls the perilous Atlantic passage of slaves from Africa. Counselors and others who helped these people can recount stories by the dozen of young people who watched friends die in the desert. If they were female, they were raped by their border-crossing "protectors" and in some cases became pregnant as a result.

All that for the privilege of working in the United States at wages and in conditions most of us U.S. natives would deem intolerable.

That privilege is what apparently inspired the Herndon chapter of the Minuteman Project, a national anti-immigrant group, to begin pursuing and harassing day laborers and their would-be employers at an informal open-air labor market adjacent to a convenience store.

When the township sought to ensure public safety by funding a local workers center and taking the market off the streets, in a venture similar to a hundred other places nationwide, the vigilantes mounted a political campaign and unseated the mayor and two council members who had favored the project.

These actions are in the heart of the supposedly liberal northern part of the state. My liberal Virginian friends dismiss them as unconstitutional acts that will be overturned by the courts.

You mean, just like the 1896 Supreme Court decision Plessy v. Ferguson, upholding the constitutionality of racial segregation under the doctrine of separate but equal? It took more than half a century before the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ruling undid that one.

How many novel forms of Klanism, lynching, and petty apartheid must Hispanics endure while white non-Hispanic liberals fight the good fight?

Indeed, if this is Virginia's liberal half, spare me the rest of the state.

(Cecilio Morales is executive editor of the Washington, D.C.-based weekly Employment & Training Reporter. He may be reached at [cecilio@nipublications.com](mailto:cecilio@nipublications.com)) © 2007

## Obama and Clinton: Similar Views, Different Approaches to Hispanics

As they competed Sunday to woo Hispanic voters, Sen. Hillary Clinton touted her personal connection to the community while Sen. Barack Obama emphasized the intertwined struggles of black and Hispanic Americans.

Because their platforms are so similar—both Democratic presidential candidates support a path to legalization for illegal immigrants, improved border security and universal health care and preschool—the way Clinton and Obama approach Hispanic voters will probably be key as the parties choose their nominees.

The candidates spoke before roughly 2,000 Hispanic educators, activists and community and business leaders at the annual conference of the largest U.S. Hispanic civil rights organization, the National Council of La Raza, in Miami Beach.

Both received strong ovations but were presented in very different settings.

A relaxed Clinton sat in a turquoise silk jacket for an informal interview with Monica Lozano, publisher of the largest U.S. Spanish-language newspaper, La Opinión, during the event's signature Latinas Brunch. Lozano Selected MyM Hispanic Media All-Star

"I told Monica we should talk like we're two girlfriends, and you just can eavesdrop," Clinton joked to the audience.

Asked how her views of Hispanics have been shaped, the New York senator and former first lady recalled registering Hispanic voters in south Texas in 1972.

And she highlighted her close relationships with prominent Hispanics, including Democratic Sen. Bob Mendendez; her campaign manager, Patricia Solis Doyle; and Dolores Huerta, a longtime activist who helped Cesar Chavez organize farmworkers.

"It's not so much reading a briefing book or being handed a policy paper that says this is what you should say when you're in front of an audience of Latinos," Clinton said. "It's who you are and what you believe in."

Clinton ended by bringing out a mariachi band and a cake to celebrate the birthday of one of her campaign chairs, former La Raza president Raul Yzaguirre.

Obama was introduced with his campaign's

reggaeton theme song, a genre that blends Latin and hip hop beats. He cut a more formal presence, standing behind a podium in a dark suit and speaking directly to the crowd before taking questions.

He linked the civil rights struggles of blacks and Hispanics by quoting a 1968 telegram the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. sent Cesar Chavez during Chavez's 25-day fast on behalf of farmworkers.

"As brothers in the fight for equality," Obama quoted, "our separate struggles are really one for freedom, dignity and humanity."

That sentiment remains true today, Obama said.

"If there's a child stuck in a crumbling school who graduates without ever learning to read, it doesn't matter if that child is a Latino from Miami or an African-American from Chicago or a white girl from rural Kentucky, she's still our child, and the struggle is our struggle," he told the audience.

Obama mentioned his work to improve public housing for low-income families in Chicago and his decision to march last year with Hispanic protesters against a stringent immigration bill.

Both candidates promised to push for comprehensive immigration reform during their first year in office. Both stressed their support for legislation to help qualified high school graduates here illegally to attend college and eventually earn U.S. residency.

Clinton said she believed both that bill and one to create a path to citizenship for farmworkers still had a chance to pass the current Congress.

While Democrats are expected to receive the majority of the Hispanic vote, Republicans are not ready to cede the field. On Sunday, Republican hopeful Mitt Romney, who has taken a hard line on immigration, told a crowd of Republican Hispanics that they are "quintessentially American."

Romney, fellow Republican candidates Rudy Giuliani and John McCain, and Democratic candidates John Edwards and Bill Richardson were also invited to the four-day La Raza conference but did not attend.



## Cruzing

It is interesting to note that slowly but surely more Republican Senators and Congressman in Washington are beginning to distance themselves from their party leader; President Bush and his stubbornness and unwillingness to come up with an acceptable plan to start withdrawing American troops from Iraq.

Most recently, Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond, Republican from Missouri admitted that the Bush administration has had the wrong strategy in Iraq the past 3 years. Up until now Bond has been one of Bush's staunchest supporters and had been widely quoted in the media as saying that he was behind Bush's failed strategies. And to think it only took this genius 3 years to come to that conclusion!

He joins other Senators like Richard Lugar from Indiana who recently said on the Senate floor: "In my judgment, the costs and risks of continuing down the current path outweigh the potential benefits that might be achieved. Persisting indefinitely with the surge strategy will delay policy adjustments that have a better chance of protecting our vital interests over the long term".

Funny how right about election time politicians have a change of heart about a war which over two-thirds of Americans no longer support; and one which 60% say we should withdraw our troops from sooner rather than later. They clearly do not want their party candidates to go into next year's Presidential elections having to defend their leader's dreadful decisions about Iraq.

Now if we could just get our local Congressman, Randy Neugebauer to come to his senses about Bush's senseless war strategy which has claimed the lives of over 3,637 American military men and women.

On second thought, I suppose it would be too much to ask of someone who has sat on the sidelines; cheering for this administration's failed military strategy and policy; without even acknowledging that there are many people; voters in the district he claims to represent; who do not support Bush's failed attempt at leadership.

Email: [acruztsc@aol.com](mailto:acruztsc@aol.com)

## English-language Newspapers Still Don't Recognize Latinos

By Marisa Trevino, Latina Lista

The story of Eli Gutierrez, a North Texan Mexican-American artist who spent his Fourth of July holiday finishing up a 17-hour walk over 50 miles leaving notes in the mailboxes of city council members and mayors to draw attention to discrimination against Hispanics and the undocumented, was a frontpage story in the Spanish-language newspaper Al Dia.

The ironic thing was that while Eli's walk was frontpage news on the Al Dia web site, the story didn't get one mention on the newspaper's sister publication The Dallas Morning News' web site the same day.

Is it because the English-language paper doesn't feel Hispanics are their readers or that Hispanics only speak and read Spanish?

In all fairness, on the same day as the story of Eli's walk, the newspaper didn't have any trouble printing two prominent stories featuring Hispanics: one that dealt with how many Hispanic homeowners are facing foreclosures on their homes due to receiving subprime loans and the other story about the young Latino boy who had been sodomized with a metal pipe by a white supremacist last year and who leapt to his death from a Mexico-bound cruise ship over the weekend.

Both of these tragic stories are newsworthy but Eli's walk is just as newsworthy to a Hispanic-reading audience who don't speak or read Spanish.

The trouble is convincing newspapers like The Dallas Morning News and others that have a Spanish-language product in its portfolio that English-reading Hispanics enjoy reading about positive stories about other Latinos — in English.

The real problem is that these newspapers don't feel Hispanics are a part of their "core readers."

In an article titled Damage Report that appears in this month's Columbia Journalism Review, the authors profile The Dallas Morning News and the aftermath of the layoffs and buyouts the newspaper staff has undergone.

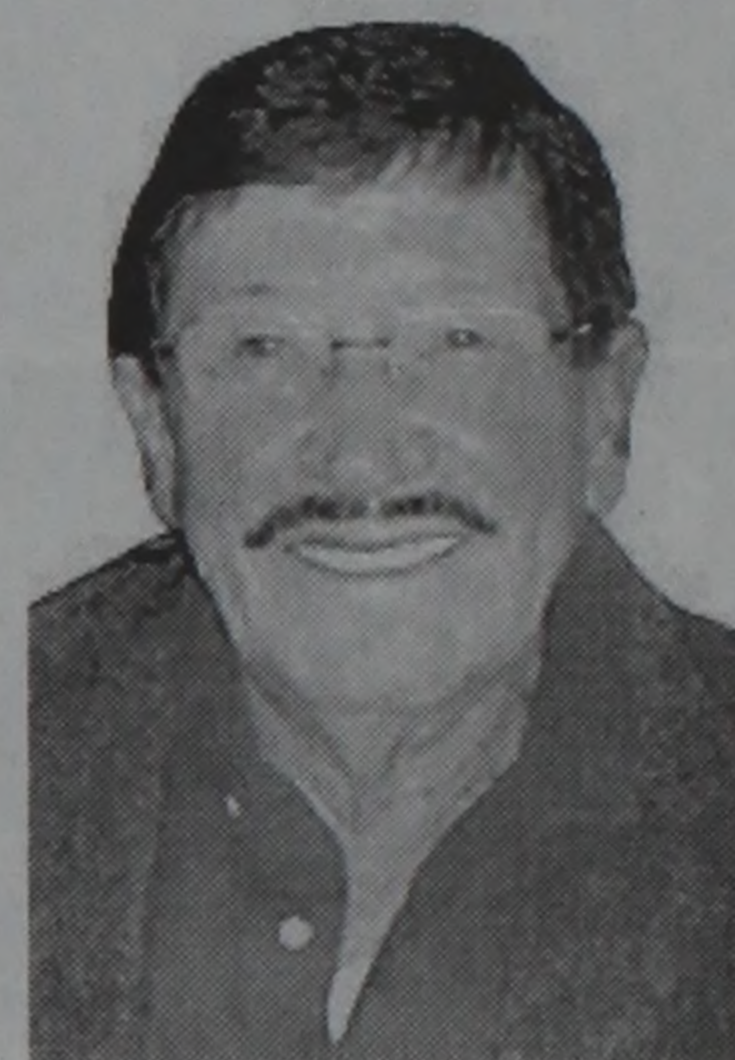
In the process, the newspaper's management made some key decisions about who reads their core (English-language daily) product. It doesn't bode well for Latinos:

In 2006, Moroney and Mong adopted a new strategy: focusing on the newspaper's "core readers," people who had subscribed to The Dallas Morning News for at least five years. They included older people, middle-aged news junkies, and people who love reading. They are wealthier and better educated than the general population.

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Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep

I am a thousand winds that blow I am the diamond glint on snow

I am the sunlight on ripened grain I am the gentle autumn rain

When you wake in the morning hush; I am the uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circling flight; I am the soft starlight at night,

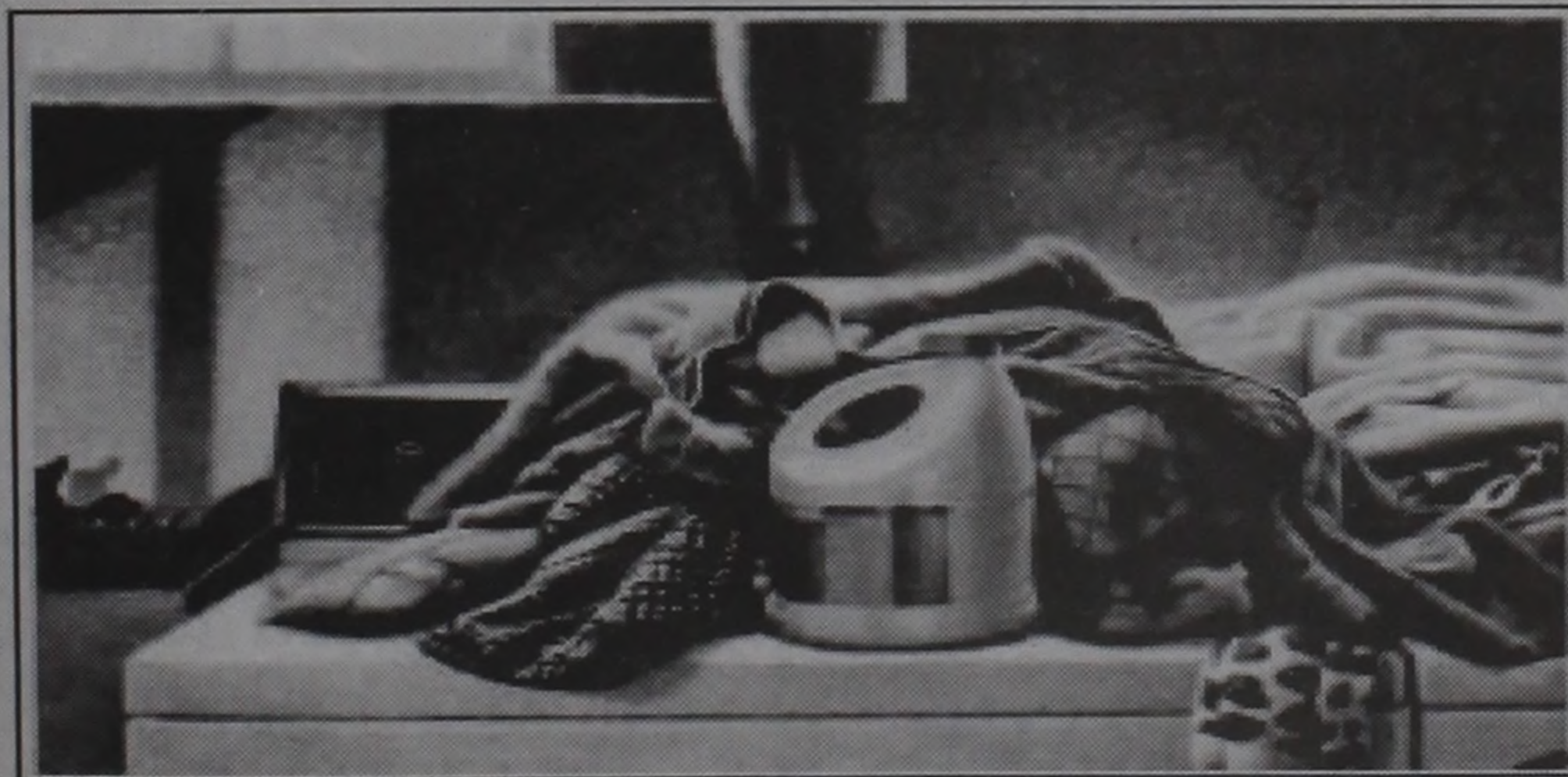
Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there, I did not die

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Mike Torres Jr. and the rest of the Torres family whose father Miguel passed away on Monday July 23, 2007. Señor Miguel Torres, Sr. was laid to rest at Resthaven Cemetery on Wednesday, July 25, 2007 after a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Carlisle; officiated by the Rev. David Cruz

Mr. Torres was preceded in death by his wife, Elvira Gonzales in 1997.

He is survived by six daughters; Lorena Muniz of Corpus Christi; Mary Perez and Dee Bates of Lubbock; Rose Reno of North Carolina; Diane Hazelfeldt of Memphis, TN; and Nancy Van Der Schaaf of Daytona Beach, Fla. He is also survived by five sons; Miguel "Mike" Torres, Jr.; Andrew and Albert all of Lubbock; Ruben of Phoenix, AZ; Daniel of Seattle, Washington; two sisters; Petra Hinojosa and Dominga Gomez of Lubbock; one brother Angel Torres of Colorado Springs, Co; 31 grandchildren and 25 great grand children.

## Habia una vez una montaña de ropa lavada.



En la montaña, había ropa de distintos colores. Al verla, a la mamá se le ocurrió jugar un juego. ¡Rojo! Le dijo a su hijo mientras le mostraba una camisa roja. ¡Rojo! Dijo el niño. La mamá puso la camisa en la pila de ropa de color. La ropa blanca estaba en otra pila. ¡Verde como la rana! ¡Blanco como el helado! Y así siguió diciendo los colores. Ropa de color, ropa blanca. Ropa de color, ropa blanca. Hasta que lo último que había era un babero color azul. Cuando lo vio, el niño señaló la pila de ropa de color. ¡Si vieran la sonrisa en la cara de mamá!

Un momento cotidiano puede convertirse en un momento de enseñanza. Porque el aprendizaje comienza mucho antes que la escuela. Aprovecha un momento cotidiano, como cuando lavas la ropa o haces tus quehaceres domésticos, y transfórmalo en uno de enseñanza. Visita a [bornlearning.org](http://www.bornlearning.org) para más información.



# ¿Que Pasa?

## Mariachi Nuevo Generacion to perform at National Night Out

Overton South National Night Out  
Location: Greenspace at Avenue X and 16th Street  
Date & Time: August 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

There will be food, entertainment, activities for the kids and information on crime prevention and neighborhood safety. Mariachi Nuevo Generacion, a group of 15 talented young musicians, will play for Overton South's National Night Out. We are also expecting a visit from Mayor Miller, council members, Lubbock Mounted Patrol and Fire Department. It will be an evening of fun and fellowship with family and friends!

## LULAC Praises the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007 New Legislation Will Improve Healthcare for All Latinos

The League of United Latin American Citizens, our nation's oldest and largest Hispanic civil rights organization, strongly endorses the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007. This comprehensive legislation underscores the major problems concerning the current national health disparities crises and lack of healthcare services in under-served communities. "The lack of health access for Latinos, African-Americans, and other minority communities needs to be addressed by our politicians," said LULAC Health Commissioner Co-Chair, Jaime Martinez. "Although Latinos make up 13 % of the population, 43 million people, including children-are uninsured. We must concentrate our efforts towards addressing this critical issue in our community. This bill is a great first step." Developed by the Health Chairs of the House Tri-Caucus, the bill seeks to eliminate the persistent health disparities that exist in minority communities. Specifically, the legislation will establish community-centric programs that will coordinate new grants to launch cancer prevention projects, address health disparities and border health issues, address the shortage of under-represented minority healthcare providers across various medical specializations, strengthen the capacity of minority-led education institutions, promote positive health behaviors among women, as well as guarantee that low-income legal immigrant children receive access to appropriate healthcare. "We applaud Congresswoman Hilda Solis for introducing the Health Equity and Accountability Act," said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. "This legislation will spearhead health care reform to reduce health disparities and more importantly, achieve health equity for all impoverished communities."

## Independence...Are We There Yet?

The Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration will hold an activity to celebrate the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This event will on Friday, July 27 at the Science Spectrum starting 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. For more information call 795-5433.

## Texas leads nation in teen birth rate

Texas had the nation's highest birth rate among teenagers ages 15 to 19 in 2004, according to a newly released study of children's health.

The Kids Count study, which is updated annually by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, said the Texas rate of 63 births per 1,000 teens remained the same from 2003 to 2004.

Texas tied New Mexico and Mississippi for the top spot in 2003, but both of those states saw their rates decline in 2004. The average rate nationally was 41 births per 1,000 teens in 2004.

Texas mirrored the rest of the nation in reporting a steep decline in teen births since at least 1990.

"Texas has been showing improvement, but other states are showing more improvement," said Frances Deviney, director of Texas Kids Count and

a senior research associate for the Center for Public Policy Priorities in Austin.

According to the study, Hispanic teens are more than 3 1/2 times as likely as Anglos to have a baby. Blacks are more than twice as likely as their white peers to give birth.

Observers were divided on whether Texas' emphasis on abstinence in sex education contributes to the state's relatively high numbers. A 1995 law requires school districts to emphasize abstinence in sex education classes.

"It's a touchy subject," said Robert Sanborn, president of Children at Risk. "We can preach abstinence quite a bit, and there is nothing wrong with that, but it doesn't affect some kids, and apparently it's really not working in Texas."

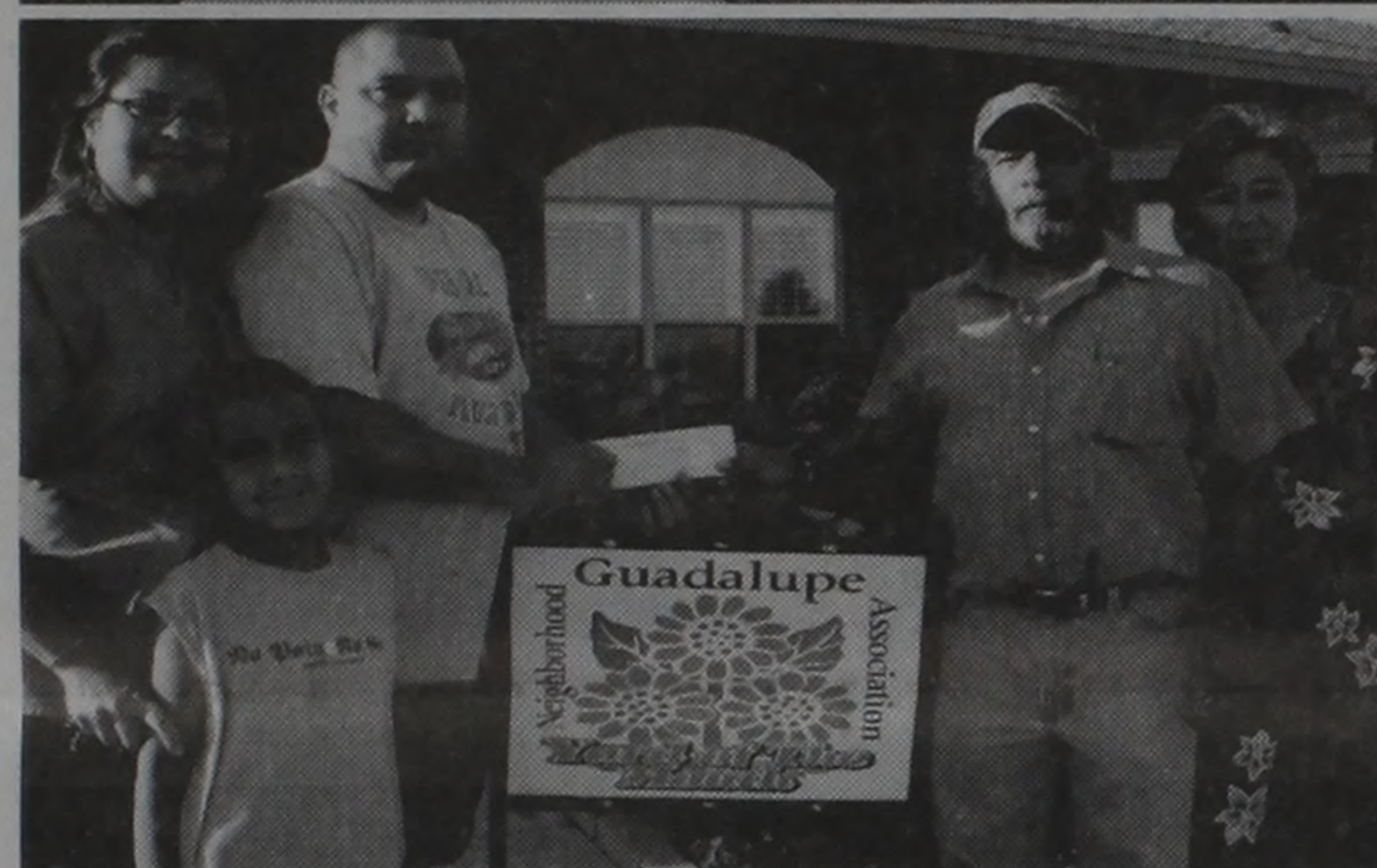
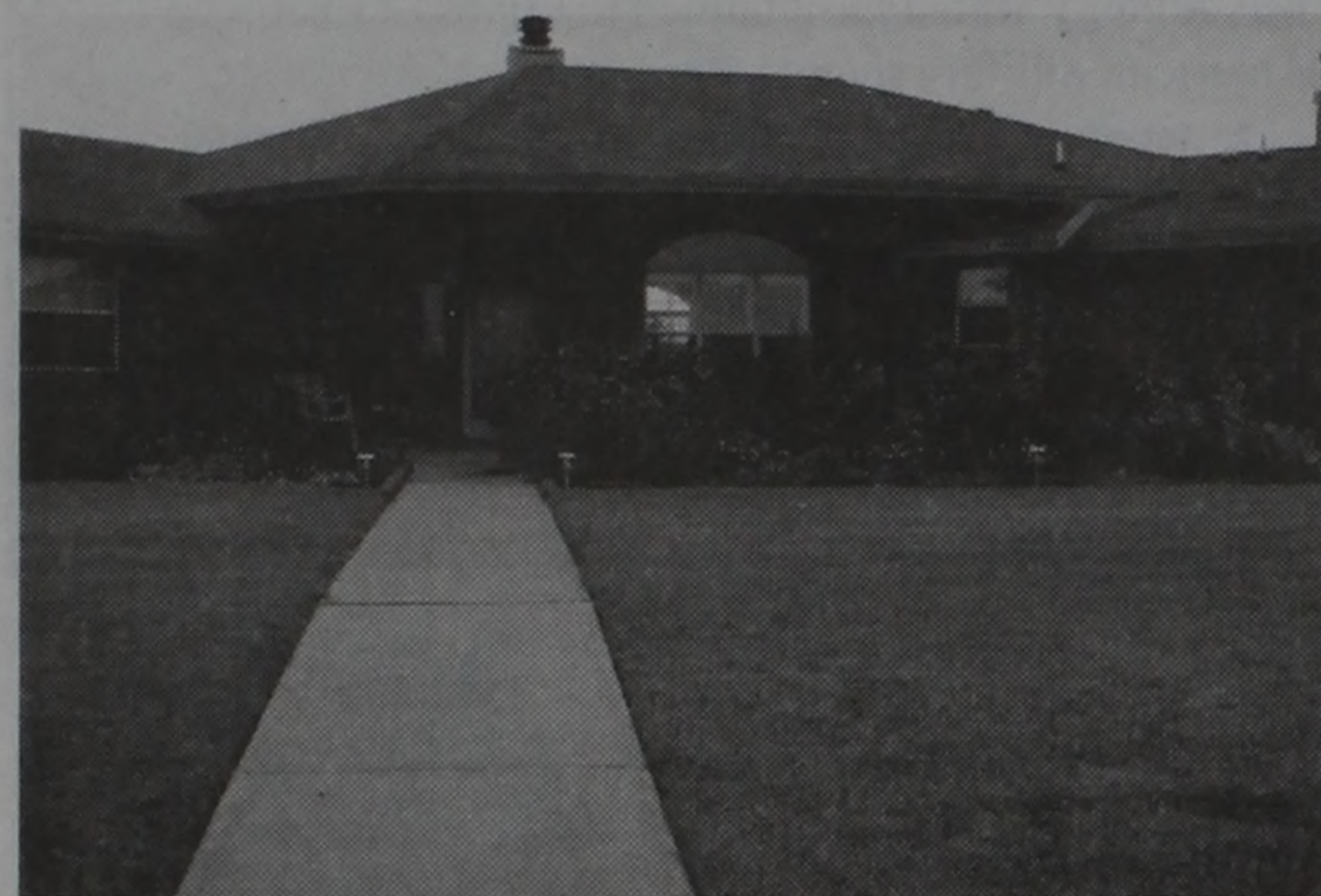
Don McLeroy, president of the State Board of Education, noted

that sex education is mainly a local issue, with state law requiring each district to have a local committee that decides what will be taught.

"The idea that just giving them a lot of information is going to solve it, I think, is kind of naive," he said. "Certainly, it's more of a societal problem than it is a school problem."

Christine Markham, an assistant professor for health promotion and behavioral science at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, said her studies of sexually active middle schoolers showed that educators need to provide information to students about sexual health and development before they reach high school.

"A lot of parents want to talk to their child about sex and dating, but they don't know how to start the conversation," she said.



## Guadalupe Neighborhood Yard of the month winners!

Mr. & Mrs. Juan, Gloria Escobedo at 1010 3rd St were the July/August winners of Guadalupe Neighborhood Association Yard of the Month. They have lived in the Guadalupe neighborhood since 1992. Both Juan and Gloria worked on the yard. The reason they gave for wanting to live in the Guadalupe neighborhood was that "they wanted to come back home."

Honorary mention was the home of Mr. & Mrs. Carlos, Elida Vasquez at 117 N. Avenue L. Congratulations to the Yard of the Month family. Job well done!

**Ester Sepeda is retiring!**  
Ms. Sepeda will be retiring as President/CEO of the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber after serving over 32 years as a member & President. El Editor will be celebrating Ester Sepeda's work within the Hispanic community the week of August 2. All those wishing to contribute to this dedication for our friend please call 806-763-3841 or email us at eleditor@sbcglobal.net. A retirement celebration will be held on July 30th at the Memorial Civic Center Banquet Hall from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

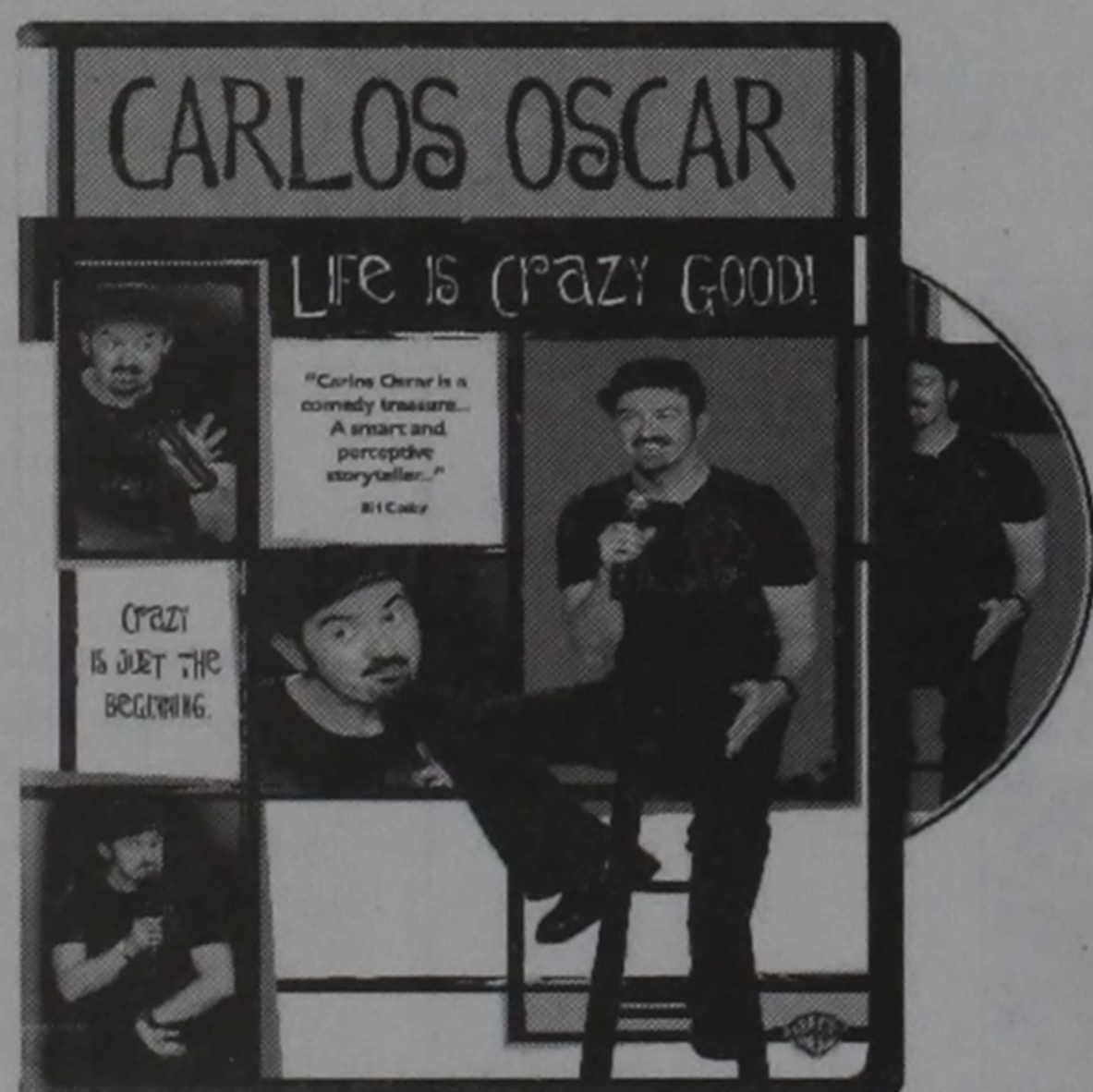
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# YouTube debate mixes traditional talk with nontraditional trappings

American politics entered a new era of citizen participation Monday night with a presidential debate that took its cues from cyberspace.

The debate, featuring all eight candidates for the 2008 Democratic nomination, was the first of its kind in which ordinary Americans posed questions via serious, silly and provocative homemade videos posted on YouTube, a video-sharing Web site.

All eight Democratic presidential hopefuls participated in the debate, including, from left, former Alaska Sen. Mike Gravel, Connecticut Sen. Christopher Dodd, former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, New York Sen. Hillary Clinton and Illinois Sen. Barack Obama.

Answering voters' CNN-approved questions Monday night were Democratic presidential hopefuls, from left, former Alaska Sen. Mike Gravel, Connecticut Sen. Christopher Dodd, former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich.

A question about global warming came from Greg and Nathan Hamel of Minneapolis in the form of a snowman asking whether the future would be safe for his kin.

In another, Jackie Broyles and "Dunlap" of Murfreesboro, Tenn., asked with thick Southern drawls about the media's fixation on whether former Vice President Al Gore will run for the 2008

nomination. "Does that hurt y'all's feelings?"

Remy Munosifi of McLean, Va., sang a country and western song asking what the candidates would do about cutting his taxes and whether they would pardon him for a recent traffic ticket.



A Clio, Mich., man named Jered asked about gun control while brandishing a weapon.

"He needs help," Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware snapped.

Several videos were hard-hitting and deadly serious, featuring questioners, or their relatives, suffering from diseases such as diabetes, breast cancer and Alzheimer's.

"Connie" and "Gabriel," speaking from a refugee camp near the Darfur region of Sudan, asked what candidates would do to get Sudanese children at their camp back home safely.

"It's diplomacy," said New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a former U.N. ambassador, who had visited the camp. "It's getting U.N. peacekeeping troops and not African Union troops. It's getting China to pressure Sudan. It's getting the European Union to be part of economic sanctions in Sudan. It's called leadership."

Atlanta resident Charity Woods said she "almost blacked out" when she saw herself on the giant TV monitor as her video, asking how candidates would address chronic diseases such as diabetes, played.

Woods, 30, said she was not totally satisfied with the responses, but she thinks the candidates will get to the details she wants as they develop their health care plans.

"We've got great candidates," she said.

The groundbreaking nature of the debate was evident from the moment CNN began the event: It was introduced by "Chris" from Portland, Ore., who asked, "Wassup?"

But Chris also challenged the candidates to answer the questions instead of "beating around the bush." Sometimes they did. Sometimes they didn't.

Occasionally, the candidates tried to turn the questions to their advantage by rephrasing



them or addressing instead what they regarded as the "bigger" or "broader" issue.

"If you listen to these questions," said former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards at one point, "they all have exactly the same thing, which is how do we bring about big change?"

For the most part, the questions touched on many of the same topics the candidates have addressed in their three previous debates: Iraq, Darfur, global warming, health care, education, taxes, gun control, religious values, gay marriage.

Asked whether Democrats are playing politics with the war, Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio said yes.

"The Democrats have failed the American people," he said.

Former Alaska Sen. Mike Gravel said U.S. soldiers are dying in vain. No other candidate would go that far.

But of the videos chosen by CNN producers to be included in the debate, many raised issues rarely discussed in presidential debates: paying reparations to African Americans for slavery; what the candidates had taught their own children about sex; and whether women, like men, should be required to register for a military draft.

The format produced some unusual moments.

A question to Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois: Are you black enough? "You know, when I'm catching a cab in Manhattan . . . in the past, I think I've given my credentials," he replied.

To New York Sen. Hillary Clinton: Are you feminine enough? "I couldn't run as anything other than a woman," she said.

The candidates also got their turn, each providing a 30-second video for airing during the debate. Some chose an unorthodox or humorous approach:

•Clinton's video, produced by a supporter, featured a series of handmade signs, the last of which read, "Sometimes the best man for the job is a woman."

•Edwards' video poked fun at the attention paid to his pricey haircuts at the expense of more serious issues, with the Broadway tune "Hair."

•Connecticut Sen. Christopher Dodd focused attention on his own hair, explaining why it is so white: "Hard work, I suppose."

# Coldplay Go To Church, Say New Album Will Be Blessed With 'Hispanic Theme'

Coldplay's fourth album is shaping up to be quite the affair: Brian Eno behind the decks, recording sessions at church altars and — apparently — a "strengthening Hispanic theme."

That's according to the bandmembers themselves, who posted a handwritten message on their site detailing the recording of their follow-up to 2005's X&Y, which they're working on in Barcelona, Spain. But before you get all excited for flamenco guitars and paeans to paella, remember, this is Coldplay we're talking about.

"The sights, sounds and flavors of Latin America and Spain have definitely been infused into this album. The band visited Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Mexico earlier this year. Chris [Martin] then came up with the idea of recording in Spain," the post reads. "The music and lyrics have begun to reflect the strengthening Hispanic theme. No maracas or castanets, but a vibrancy and colorfulness that owes much to the atmospheres of Buenos Aires [Argentina] and Barcelona. The effect is subtle but important."

See, subtle. That's sort of been the theme Coldplay have employed for album number four. After all, the "announcement" that they were working with Eno didn't come via some wordy press release, but rather through an offhand comment the producer made in a BBC Radio interview back in Febru-

ary (see "Break's Over: Coldplay Tap Super-Producer Brian Eno For



X&Y Follow-Up"). And that news came on the heels of the announcement that the band wasn't working on an album at all — rather, Coldplay were settling in to enjoy "a much-deserved break," according to a spokesperson for their label, Capitol (see "No Five-Year Hiatus For Coldplay — But They Are Taking A Break").

And for their upcoming album, they're even keeping their travel subtle: trekking from church to church, recording on the fly. It's a manner somewhat unbecoming for one of the biggest rock acts in the world and its mega-famous producer, but according to the post, everyone seems to be enjoying the whole "under-the-radar" shtick.

"We've been traveling light — an acoustic guitar, a couple of mics, a laptop and some headphones. We're recording in Barcelona, moving from church to church, setting up where we can: in front of the altar, under the pulpit," the post continues. "We've been playing at the feet of archangels. It's an odd scene: a host of saints look down impassively upon four unkempt bandmembers, circled around a single mic stand, singing loudly together as recorded guitars reverberate around the church. They're laying down backing vocals. Brian often joins them: group singing is one of his greatest joys."

# Santana Tina Turner



deseado que el público escuche la versión original, en la voz de Tina Turner.

En octubre, el dios de la guitarra verá su sueño realizado.

Incluido en Ultimate Santana, una nueva

compilación de grandes éxitos, estará Game of Love por partida doble: una versión con Branch y otra con la Turner.

"Las reinas vienen y van. Sólo existe una Tina Turner", dijo Santana. "Adoro a Michelle y ella hizo una gran interpretación del tema. Es sólo que, con todo mi honor y respeto a Michelle, está la chica y está la mujer, y Michelle se está convirtiendo en una mujer... pero toma un tiempo pasar de niña a mujer".

La canción debutó originalmente en el álbum de Santana Shaman, de 2002, que le siguió al disco ganador de múltiples Grammy y discos de platino Supernatural.

El guitarrista le pidió a Turner que la cantara y esta aceptó y la grabó, pero Santana dice que los ejecutivos de su sello discográfico no estaban entonces interesados en tener a la legendaria rockera en el disco.

Entretanto, encontró a Branch y dice que hizo un excelente

trabajo.

"Pero mi corazón siempre estuvo condicionado porque escuché a Tina primero".

Santana dice que le envió a Turner flores y mensajes y que se sintió eufórico cuando ésta aceptó que su versión apareciera en la colección, que dice sigue siendo su favorita.

"Nadie puede entonar una nota como Tina Turner", dice.

The Ultimate Santana, a la venta el 16 de octubre, incluye viejos clásicos como Black Magic Woman y Oye como va, así como otros más nuevos como Smooth, con Rob Thomas.

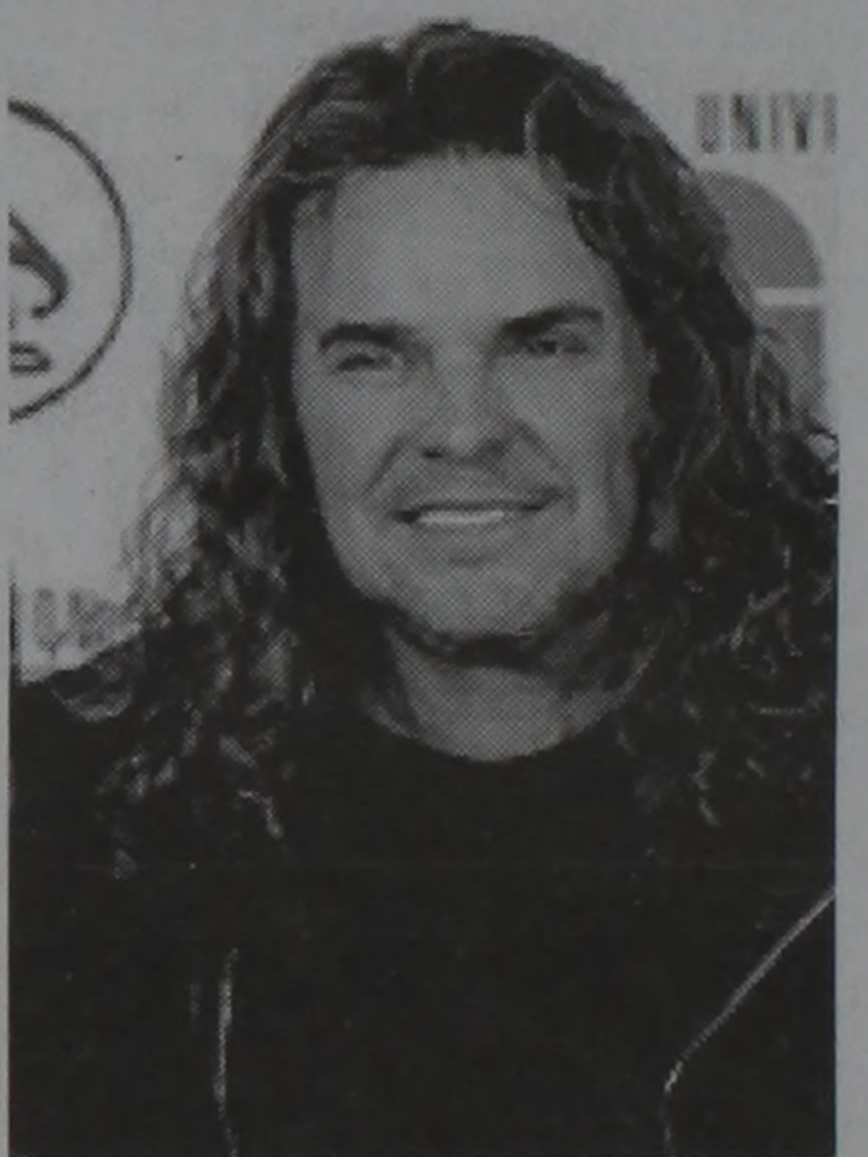
Este no es el primer disco de éxitos de Santana, de 60 años. El músico ha lanzado varios a lo largo de su extensa carrera, pero asegura que cada uno es como "las huellas digitales: único e individual".

# Mana's Fher is a Dad

Fher Olvera is beaming with joy: his girlfriend, Ana Ivette Verduzco, gave birth to a healthy boy, delivered by C-section, who will be named Dalí in honor of the famous Catalan painter. The joyous event took place last Friday in Guadalajara, México.

"The moment we have waited for these last nine months is here. At 2:56 p.m., our son came out of the womb like a ray of light, shiny and wet, and with an impressive cry that shook the walls of the delivery room. It was a cry that brought me back to the essence of being human," the happy 47-year-old father stated in a press release, after noting that the baby weighed six pounds and measured 19 inches.

"The doctor picked up the baby and turned to us. Dali would not stop crying until he felt, cradled in his mother's arms, Ana's heartbeat which soothed him as if by magic



for he was once again in a familiar place," he added poetically.

Although the couple had wanted to bring their baby into the world through natural childbirth, the doctors had to perform a C-section five hours after his mother went into labor because the baby's umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck. Both mother and little Dalí are in perfect condition.

# Los Lonely Boys and Dallas Cowboys

It comes as no surprise that the rock trio of Los Lonely Boys, like most Texans, are longtime, diehard Dallas Cowboys fans.

In a recent interview we asked guitarist Henry Garza how serious they were.

"Big time. We've been watching the Cowboys ever since we were little kids," he said during a tour stop in Virginia.

Los Lonely Boys played Tuesday (July 24) at the Alamodome in a kickoff party for the Cowboys' preseason practice games.

Garza said thinking about the upcoming Cowboys concert brought back nostalgia:

"We used to watch the Cowboys with all the family and friends, My tios (uncles) were there, my grandpa," he said. "We're really big fans, and to be part of this (kickoff), it's great. This we can do for the Cowboys,

we're there."

Football tradition in the Lonely Boys' hometown of San Angelo was also big.

Years ago the defunct Houston Oilers football team used to have their preseason practice games in San Angelo.

"Yes, I remember that too. We were real little, but we never had a chance to check out those games," he said.

"Even back then we were always doing a lot of music. So we could never really get into sports. We were working hard,

following the games (on TV) was hard enough. Back then we were just working to survive, we had no time for games."

Los Lonely Boys have been on tour behind their latest CD, "Sacred," released July 18, 2006. Last fall, the group also released their big screen documentary "Lonely Boys: Cottonfields and Crossroads." And in February, that documentary was released in DVD form on Xenon Pictures, Inc.



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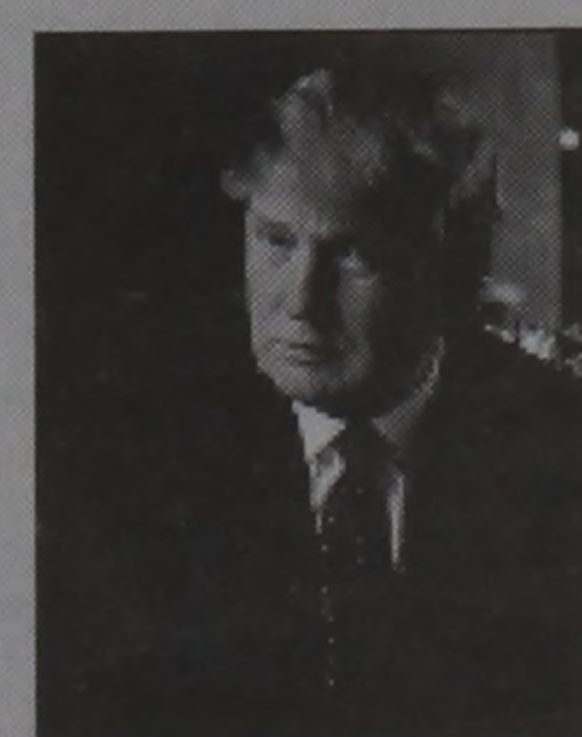
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# Stern's words can't erase stain of 'rogue' ref

There stood a solemn David Stern on a dark, extraordinary day in NBA history, waxing poetic about the high-tech G-men and futuristic procedures that form a stern line of defense to protect his game from gamblers within. The head of security for the NBA is a former FBI agent, he explained. The league has consultants from the Secret Service, U.S. Army, NYPD and the New York State Police.

When it comes to game officials, the NBA performs extensive personal background looks including credit checks, scrutiny of bank accounts, debt analysis and asset examinations. On and on Stern went before a quiet ballroom full of normally boisterous and obnoxious New York media now stunned into silence.

The NBA, Stern continued, has even used experts from the CIA and gambling consultants in Las Vegas, the corruption capital of the universe, to thwart potential problems.

No stone is left unturned, no potential degenerate, no possible traitor, left unexamined when it comes to game officials and gambling, Stern continued. Except... one did sneak through the net, leading to this moment, when a sport is left teetering on the edge.

All of the NBA's fancy checks

and balances failed when it came to alleged gambler and mob hobo Tim Donaghy. The mafia was able to skirt the NBA's firewall with ease. In other words, it was Jason Bourne versus Big Pussy and Big Pussy won.

Stern said one of the reactions he had to the crisis was "... I can't believe (this is) happening to us."

In meeting with the press Tuesday afternoon, a visibly shaken Stern was sincere, humble and, incredibly, extremely transparent. Gone was the usual extreme self-confidence, replaced by the wide-eyed vulnerability of someone who just learned how cruel the world can be. We have never seen Stern look like this. Ever.

Stern provided all of the information he could with little hesitation or prodding. It was as fine a performance in the toughest of public moments as any commissioner has ever managed.

"I have been involved with refereeing, and obviously been involved with the NBA for 40 years in some shape or form," Stern said. "I can tell you that this is the most serious situation and worst situation that I have ever experienced either as a fan of the NBA, a lawyer for the NBA or a commissioner of the NBA."

"And we take our obligation to

our fans in this matter very, very seriously, and I can stand here today and pledge that we will do every look back possible to analyze our processes and seek the best advice possible to see if there are changes that should be made and procedures that should be implemented to continue to assure fans that we are doing the best we possibly can."

Unfortunately, Stern's bluntness will do nothing to help his league. Stern can talk about one bad apple and rogue agent and invoke this country's worst traitors like Robert Hanssen all he likes. And he might be right.

The problem is no one will ever believe just one official was allegedly committing these ugly acts. Remember, this is a league that sports fans love to hate and forcibly submerge into every conspiracy theory that has ever existed. There are still people buzzing about conspiratorial nonsense dating back to Patrick Ewing ending up in New York.

So for the next five to 10 years, thanks to probably one possibly crooked ref, the NBA will suffer mightily. In that period, its credibility in the eyes of fans will be in the same neighborhood as wrestling. There will be a goopy murkiness surrounding every official, every big call, every huge whistle.

# RomoMania doesn't answer question of whether he can lead Cowboys

Since botching the hold on a short field-goal attempt in Seattle and crying about his flub ending the Dallas Cowboys' season, Tony Romo has gone all over the map to satisfy his competitive nature.

He played in the Pro Bowl in Hawaii. He was a judge at the Miss Universe pageant in Mexico City. He was in a celebrity golf tournament near Lake Tahoe last weekend. He even went to Las Vegas for the Country Music Awards, where he did a solid job holding the purse of his date, Carrie Underwood, when she went to collect her prize.

OK, so those things aren't as intense as playing in the NFL. And they speak more about Romo's growing fame than his ability to lead a football team. However, they provide a good bridge to look at Cowboys training camp - because once Romo returns to his real job, the spotlight will be on him more than it was at any of his glitzy vacation destinations.

With all due respect to new coach Wade Phillips and headline-hungry receiver Terrell Owens, Romo is the most compelling story line once the team gathers

year, Romo goes into camp as the starter for the first time since he was a senior at Eastern Illinois. Although he is not fighting for his job, he still has a lot to prove, and he knows it.

"You're not really established ever in this league, unless you win a couple of Super Bowls," Romo said. "Daunte Culpepper had an MVP-type season a few years back, the next year he doesn't play very well and then he's gone. That's the reality of this game. It's the NFL and they're always looking for someone better. What you try to do is get yourself to such a high level they can never replace you."

Romo sent expectations soaring by winning five of his first six starts after replacing Bledsoe. Then he lost four of five, including the heart-wrenching end in Seattle that kept the Cowboys without a playoff win since 1996 and turned out to be the final game for coach Bill Parcells.

While teammates, coaches and team owner Jerry Jones insist they believe in Romo, there has to be an inkling of doubt about which is the real Romo - or if the answer is both, meaning they can never know what to expect.

Jones tops the list of people Romo must win over because the quarterback is going into the final year of his contract.

The owner-general manager may want to get a new deal out of the way before the season. Or maybe Jones will wait to make sure Romo is worth the investment. Of course, he'd do so at the risk of the price going up and the potential for messy negotiations.

Jones already has made a huge good-faith gesture toward Romo by not drafting Brady Quinn. The Notre Dame product was still available when Dallas' turn came around at No. 22, but

Jones peddled that chance into a future first-rounder from lowly Cleveland.

The final angle to Romo's saga is the perception that his A-list offseason indicates he's more



interested in being a playboy than a Cowboy.

Truth is, Romo played golf, stared at pretty women and hung out with friends every summer since coming to Dallas - the paparazzi just didn't document it. They did this time and the slow news cycle of an NFL offseason plus the proliferation of talk radio and blogs turned his social calendar into an item of grand inspection.

Romo finds it pretty humorous. "I had to learn a little while ago that not everyone is going to like you, say good things about you, not everyone is going to think you're all that good of a player," Romo said. "If I work as hard as I can and try to be as good as I can be in this game, and do things the right way in life, I can go to sleep at night and be content with whatever happens."

Anyone wondering what Parcells might have thought about his longtime backup becoming a "celebrity quarterback?" Phillips calls the shots now with a sunny disposition that seems even brighter to an organization that spent four years darkened by Parcells' steely glare. A good example of his new way of doing business is how he defused the issue of Romo's galivanting.

"He must've put us on the calendar somewhere," Phillips said. He also added, "I've seen him here probably more than anyone else, so I believe in his commitment."

# Cázares huele a peligro

El púgil puertorriqueño Iván Calderón aseguró ayer que su entrenamiento para enfrentar al mexicano Hugo Cázares ha traído una nueva motivación y reconoció que será el rival más peligroso de su carrera.

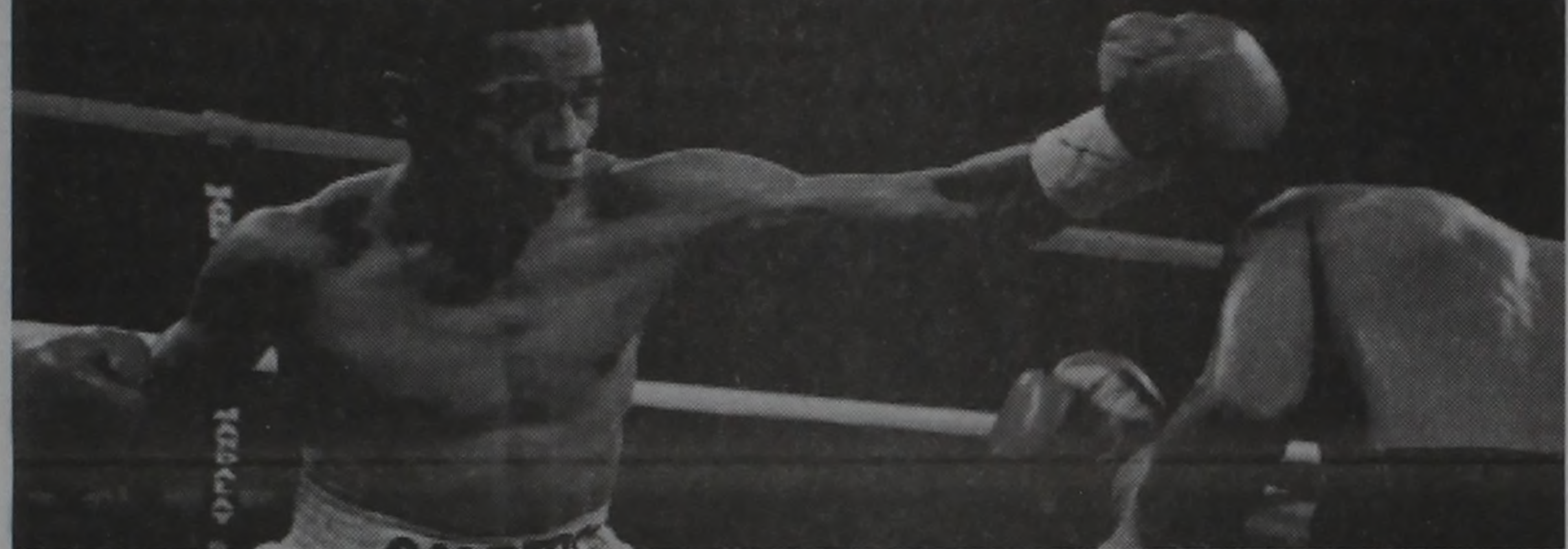
Calderón (28-0, 6 nocauts),

más difícil al que me haya enfrentado. Vamos a ver si finalmente resulta así", dijo Calderón durante un entrenamiento en el gimnasio Wilfredo Gómez.

Previo a su rutina de ayer, Calderón subió a la báscula para cumplir con el primer prepesaje

marcar 107.5 libras (48.76 kilos) y subir en 115 ó 116 libras (52.16 kilos), que es el peso que quiero tener el día de la pelea", agregó el campeón boricua.

Dijo también que en su actual entrenamiento está trabajando para aumentar un poco su masa



campeón del peso mínimo de la Organización Mundial de Boxeo (OMB), retará a Cázares (25-3-1, 19 nocauts) por el título junior mosca del mismo organismo, que posee el mexicano.

La cartelera "Campeón vs campeón/Calderón vs Cázares" se realizará el 25 de agosto en el coliseo Rubén Rodríguez de Bayamón, ciudad contigua a San Juan.

"Es un peso nuevo y una nueva motivación. En mis últimas peleas ya no estaba entrenando tan motivado como antes, pero ahora he vuelto a sentir el hambre por la victoria. En teoría, será el rival

ordenado por la Comisión de Boxeo Profesional de Puerto Rico (CBPPR) y registró 52 kilos.

En este primer pesaje, ni Calderón ni Cázares debían pesar más de 56.25 kilos o un 15% por encima del peso reglamentario de la categoría, que es de 49 kilos.

De acuerdo con el presidente de la CBPPR, José Peñagaricano, Cázares pesó 55.79 kilos, según le comunicó la Comisión de Boxeo de México.

"Estoy satisfecho. Ese era el peso que había que marcar", dijo Calderón.

"En el pesaje oficial espero

muscular.

"No es para verme más sólido, sino para poder aguantar el peso el día de la pelea y estar un poco más fuerte que otras veces. También quiero mejorar mi asimilación para cuando llegue el combate cuerpo a cuerpo", manifestó.

"Para eso estoy haciendo trabajo de levantamiento de pesas. Además, llevo seis jornadas de guanteo y ya me estoy viendo más suelto", sostuvo.

La cartelera será transmitida a través del sistema de pago por ver por todos los sistemas de cable y satélite.

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