

Candidates Give Views on Why Hispanics Should Vote for Them on Tuesday



Photo by Irma Guerrero

As an effort to inform our readers in order for them to cast an intelligent vote in the upcoming primaries, Candidates were asked to answer 3 questions. The following are their responses.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think you are the best candidate for the position you are seeking?
2. Do you think that the office that you are seeking has done their best to serve the Hispanic community?
3. How would you use your position if elected to better communications between your department and the Hispanic community?

From: Kenny Maines, Lubbock County Commissioner, Pct. 1

1. Having lived in Lubbock County for most of my 41 years, I have sincere dedication to improving the quality of life for the people of this county. My four years of service as county commissioner has given me the additional management experience needed for the position.

2. While serving as commissioner during the last four years, I have encouraged the involvement of every citizen in Lubbock County. Realizing that we all have the same basic needs and concerns will be the first step toward finding answers to the issues

of juvenile crime, job creation and maintaining a solid infrastructure.

3. My door has and will remain open to anyone who has a concern or suggestion they believe will benefit the citizens of Lubbock County. I will continue to meet with neighborhood organizations and be involved in community functions throughout the county. My priorities shall remain: 1. GOD 2. FAMILY 3. LUBBOCK COUNTY

From: Randall Carpenter, Lubbock County Commissioner Pct. 1

1. Finance major at Texas Tech. Background in Budgets and finance provides me the ability to understand the true meaning of fiscal management. This includes 36 years of work in this field. In addition, the 23 years as Divisional Manager for Commercial Credit Corp. overseeing 13 district offices in 5 states gave me the ability to gain skills in supervision. All this, plus my gained knowledge in county government as commissioner during the first term, my strong desire to regain honesty and integrity for our citizens in county governmental affairs, make

me qualified to serve not only the precinct for which I am running, but the community as a whole.

2. We must always ascertain that your community receives benefits when contracts are let or important decisions are brought before the county. During my term of office I worked toward that end. More effort by all commissioners should be put forth to improve our effort to serve the Hispanic community.

3. The ability to communicate has always been important in my life. As in the past, I would continue to seek and obtain input from not only Hispanic leaders but the community of in general as it applies to the Black community.

From: Gilbert A. Flores, Lubbock County Commissioner Pct. 3

1. I know that I am the best qualified candidate because of my public involvement, my business and professional background.

I have served in numerous boards, commissions and committees for the past 25 years. As Commissioner, I have brought dignity and respect to this office. I have served you well. Continued on Page 3

News Briefs

Ousters of Aliens Up 48 Pct

The United States ousted 5,263 undocumented aliens last month, up 48 percent the same month a year earlier, reports Associated Press.

David Martin, general counsel of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, attributed the increase to the Clinton administration's toughened enforcement measures. He predicted the government will meet or surpass its goal of 62,000 for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, which would be a 25 percent annual increase.

Removals of criminal aliens during January were up 11 percent from January 1995, from 2,401 to 2,674. Noncriminal removals rose 123 percent from 1,159 to 2,589.

Martin attributed the large jump in noncriminal ousters to the Port Court the administration established in San Diego. It speeds up exclusion hearings for aliens apprehended attempting illegal entry through two California areas.

He noted that the immigration service recently announced an expansion of immigration hearings inside Texas prisons, so criminal aliens can be expelled as soon as their prison terms are over.

Jackson: Poverty Issues Don't Just Concern Blacks

Rev. Jesse Jackson said white Democrats must have the courage this election year to champion urban policy and other issues misperceived as important only to minorities, reports Associated Press.

"Most urban citizens are white. Most poor people are not black; they are white and young and female, and two-thirds are children," Jackson said Saturday at the annual conference of his Rainbow Coalition.

Jackson repeated his request that President Clinton hold a White House conference on urban policy.

Many leading Democrats were at the conference, including House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, Texas Rep. Martin Frost, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and Don Fowler, national chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

"What's happened in America is people have used a lot of ethnic or racial and religious separation to try and divide people within the Democratic Party and within America," said Chicago Mayor Richard Daley. "What I think finally America's got to realize is we're all together."

Clinton Urges Job Creation, Income Rise

President Clinton on Monday called on Congress to pass several measures, including an increase in the minimum wage, tax deductions for post-secondary school tuition, and federal vouchers to pay for worker retraining, and a bill that would make health insurance more accessible, reports The New York Times.

Clinton challenged the Republican-led Congress to act in the next 60 days to pass this program, which he labeled a "growth agenda."

Clinton gave a rhetorical nod to the growing chorus of Democrats who want to see a more populist attack on corporations. Acknowledging public concern about rounds of layoffs by companies seeking to raise their stock prices, Clinton said, "We need people to really think about whether it's the fair and right thing to do when you see these downsizings."

But the president did not take the next step advocated by Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich and congressional Democratic leaders and propose using the tax structure to reward corporations that give their workers job security or profit-sharing or better pension plans and health benefits.

Instead, Clinton held out economic growth, and measures to promote growth, as the antidotes to worker anxiety and to a politics of class warfare.

Gov't Shutdown Deal Killed Housing Policy

Part of a deal that averted a government shutdown has quietly overturned 25 years of federal housing policy, establishing minimum rents and eliminating some preferences for needy families, The Boston Globe reported.

The little-known section eliminates preferences for homeless families, victims of domestic violence and other needy applicants for aid.

The new provisions are designed to attract working families to federally assisted housing, loosen regulations on local housing agencies and save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. But some activists and low-income families said the changes reflect a declining federal commitment to the poor.

The rules are contained in a Jan. 26 "continuing resolution" passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton. They reflect a new consensus that working residents are needed in public and subsidized housing to provide stability and role models.

"Nobody wants to abandon the poor, but we also need to maintain viable communities," said Dan Wuenschel, executive director of the Cambridge Housing Authority. The new rules are scheduled to expire Sept. 30, but Republicans and Democrats agreed that bills making their way through Congress will soon make the rules permanent, meaning major changes in American housing policy.

- Starting April 1, the 4.5 million families who receive federal housing assistance will pay at least \$25 a month in rent, and local agencies can set minimum rents as high as \$50 a month.

- As of Feb. 13, there are no longer automatic preferences for families who are homeless, live in substandard housing, are victims of domestic violence, pay more than half their income in rent or are displaced by fire or flood. Before, local agencies had to move those families up on waiting lists for vouchers or vacant apartments.

House Panel OKs Visas for Temporary Farmworkers

Bowing to big farming interests in California, Texas and Florida, the House Agriculture Committee on Tuesday approved an amendment to the House immigration bill that would grant temporary work visas to as many as 250,000 foreign farm work-

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Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Aguero

Many Hispanics in Lubbock County will leave the polls with "Republican" stamped on the back of their voting card card. This mainly because most want to have something to say as to who is elected to many of the County posts besides just the County Commissioner's race and the Constable race in Precinct 3.

This year's races in the Democratic primary have proven to be quite boring with candidates doing very little campaigning publicly except for a few public forums to which only the die-hard supporters of the candidates attend. This in itself is probably going to see very few voters getting out to vote in Lubbock's minority precincts.

On e candidate, Isabel Luna, has tried to bring some issues to the front but his work has gotten very little attention from Lubbock media. For example he held a press conference this past Monday in which he addressed the issue of the use of the Commissioner's General Assistance Fund. Luna pointed out that of the \$1,385,558 allocated to the Fund a total of \$517,594 was actually used for assistance, \$983,872 went for salaries, benefits and operating supplies leaving an unused amount of \$466,278. Luna claims that families are being told that the Commissioners don't have any money to help. Luna faces an uphill battle against Gilbert Flores who has managed to keep out of trouble with Lubbock media and the public by staying in the background and simply "seconding the motion" to work done by the Court.

The other candidate in the Democratic Primary for the position, David Billingsley also points to Flores insensitivity to issues and problems as he relates an incident in which Flores tried to take some of his land in order to widen a road for a political friend in Precinct 3. According to Billingsley Flores was determined to build the road in the rural subdivision although all of the residents were against it. The issue is presently in court.

Many in the Hispanic community will say that I have some sort of grudge against Flores for writing about him. I maintain that this newspaper has the obligation to report what is or what isn't happening in our community.

Our endorsements this year are (Continued Page 2)

Lubbock Centro Aztlan to Present Award Winning Play

Lubbock Centro Aztlan today announced the signing of a nationally reknown theatre company "La Compania" to perform at the second "Viva Aztlan Theatre and Dance Festival" to be held March 22 and 23 at Lubbock Municipal Auditorium. La Compania from Albuquerque New Mexico will perform the award winning play "Estoy En El Ricon" written by M. Salome Martinez.

Martinez wrote the play in the Brechtian style with input from Hispanic substance abuse prevention specialists. The play's ambition is to present this problem in its social, cultural, economic, and political complexity. One focus is the romanticization of the abuse of alcohol in Chicano culture which finds its most complete expression in the *ranchera* musical tradition. In fact, the play takes its name from the first line of the popular drinking song. *Tu Recuerdo y Yo* ("Estoy en el rincón de una cantina..." - I am in the corner of a bar...") Several other *rancheras* are included in "Estoy En El Ricon". Their lyrics ring of the familiar them of a broken heart absolved by drinking oneself to an honorable death.

The Narrator-Death with a guitar - anchors the sense of humor and irony which run throughout the play. Reflecting the Mexican concept of death, the Narrator is host, clown, confidant, and tormentor. he sets the tone for the ironic frame around the characters as they sing, drink, swagger, parent, pray, fight, and love.

The story follows three generations of the Manzanera family in its struggle with the abuse of alcohol and other substances. The protagonist, Marcos, is a rebellious sixteen year old vato in the first act which is set in 1968. In the second act (which is set in the year the play is being presented 1996) he is a successful CPA who owns his own business. Essentially a comic presentation, the play shows how a matrix of factors -- economic marginality, discrimination, targeting by the liquor industry, intergenerational alienation, and cultural tendencies which celebrate the abuse of alcohol with high quality music and poetry -- create a dynamic where one generation addicts the next. The play suggests the directions in which the solutions lie. If culture is part of the problem, then it is also part of the solution.

"Estoy En El Ricon" has been enthusiastically received by large audiences and many have told the production team and cast how much they identify with the story's situations and characters. However, there are some critics who believe that the production or the statements associated with its publicity reinforce the stereotypes which many anglos have about hispanics/Chicanos.

The play's critics refer to the set of images which unconsciously slips from many Anglo mouths and word processors that the Hispanic/Chicano family is a violent situation where the children are predisposed to become knife-wielding gang members, the women are constantly praying to La Virgen de Guadalupe for intercession to alleviate or at least justify their suffering, and they are all lorded over by the beer-swilling macho. In this stereotyped view, family and community celebrations are valued more than education and economic advance. The Hispanic community is a place for patrón politics, turf wars, great parties, passionate singing, super sex, colossal underachievement, and a river of alcohol and rugs setting the stage for violent death.

The play will be presented for one performance on Saturday March 22nd at 7 pm. Other events scheduled for the Festival are competition between 12 Mexican Folkloric Ballet companies from Texas, New Mexico and Colorado on Friday and Saturday and a comedy performed by Teatro Alvarado from Dearborn Michigan, "The Wonderful World of Mr. Garcia" on Friday night. Persons interested in attending can call 763-5209 for more information.



Salgan A Votar El Martes 12 Su Voto Es Su Voz

Endorsements

based on this premise of giving our opinion as to who can better represent us at the different levels of government.

The County Commissioner's race is drawing the most attention from the minority community and in this race it has been hard to convince ourselves that we should endorse any of the candidates in the Democratic Primary. This primarily because it is our opinion none of the candidates really have the basic knowledge of running an office as important as the commissioner's post which includes not only maintaining roads but managing our tax dollars and having them work effectively for the benefit of all plus keeping a watchful eye on other County departments. It's no secret that this was one of the reasons why the establishment, including then District Attorney Travis Ware, united against Commissioner Eliseo Solis to elect Flores. Since Flores' election we have heard nothing about the fact that minorities continue to be a majority in the Lubbock County Jail or of other issues which adversely affect us.

It's mainly because of this that we cannot support Flores in his bid for re-election and would rather Endorse Isabel Luna for the Democratic nomination. As we said earlier, we can see where Luna will try and address issues rather than ignore them.

In the Constable's race and at the risk of being accused of being chavistic, we would lend to give our support to Steve A. Benitez Jr for the position mainly because we too believe that a certified peace officer is needed in the position. Marina Garcia has undoubtedly given of much of her time to our community and it would be wise for Benitez, if elected, to do the same.

Lubbock's North and East sides have long been without representation in Washington. Although Larry Combest has been in Washington, he has always voted for the conservative Republican politicians. Recently the North and East sides were placed in District 13 currently represented by Mac Thronberry. He has joined Combest as a Republican who cares very little about minorities and their needs.

One person in this race seems to want to create some changes. Aaron Alejandro is seeking the position and we hope that he will gain the Democratic nomination for the seat. **We recommend that your vote be given to Alejandro.**


We would also recommend Michael Clennan for the 19th Congressional District and wish him the best of luck against Larry Combest.

The only other local race in the Democratic Primary is that for Lubbock Democratic County Chair. Although we think that Mark Harmon, the current chair, has done an excellent job, **We would recommend Ramon Gallegos for the position. We recommend him because we realize that he could be the person to bring back new vitality to the Party.**

Other statewide Democrats that we recommend are Victor Morales for U.S. Senate and Bob Perkins for Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals.

For all our friends who do not live on the north and east side we recommend the following in the Republican Primary:

Quinn Bracket for 140th District Judge, Sam Medina for County Court at Law No. 1, Sonny Keese for Sheriff, Randall Carpenter for Commissioner Pct. 1, an most importantly...we need to get Gary Newburn out of office. We recommend your vote go to Dwight Lusk.



Sittin' Here Thinkin'

Promoting The General Welfare

by Ira Cutler

Sometime this year the United States will make far reaching and fundamental changes in its public welfare system. Today's politics reward candidates who can claim to be tough on welfare and it is certain that the coming changes will reduce the amount of public assistance available, limit the period of time that aid can be received, and shrink the pool of eligible families.

I have been professionally attached to the welfare system since the late 1960s and, as a veteran of the welfare debate, I find the current thinking to be unusually short-sighted, demagogic, and just plain mean. I find no common ground within the current policy debate -- it seems to me to start from all the wrong premises. And so I want to take a little time to talk some sense here about welfare, for whomever cares to listen.

At the outset, we are told that the "current system" has failed. This view is universally espoused across the political and policy spectrum and it is nonsense. First, anyone knowledgeable about welfare knows that there has never been a single welfare system operating across the United States. At the very least there have been 50 systems operating with widely different benefit levels, philosophical approaches, and a wide range of support for job training, child day care and child support enforcement programs. The notion of a single, uniform, inflexible welfare system, capable of being declared successful or not, serves the interests of those who forget recent history and mistakenly see states as the policy answer to the welfare problem.

Second, AFDC is declared to be a failure, but only after re-writing the history of what the program was intended to do. AFDC, at its core, is an income transfer program, to use a phrase that no one dares to use anymore. It was intended to take money away from the relatively rich and give it to the relatively poor, and it has succeeded in doing just that, although in some southern states the grant levels are so low as to be nearly meaningless. AFDC pays for food, clothing and shelter for poor kids and families who would otherwise be going without. AFDC was invented at a time when it was considered valuable to the society for mothers to care for young children, even if they could not earn a living at a job away from the home.

In the 1980s a new set of issues arose as somehow being on welfare and having, or not having, good character got mixed together. A lot of morality and self righteousness was layered onto this income transfer program, including an expectation that recipients of AFDC would, perhaps out of sheer gratitude for our generosity, exhibit higher than average degrees of virtue. AFDC began to be judged by whether or not its recipients behaved in exemplary ways as citizens and as parents. The odd flip side was that when an AFDC recipient behaved badly -- when one drank, or was promiscuous, or had a child who was truant -- this was seen as a result of receiving AFDC. This makes about as much sense as saying that people who get speeding tickets and who work for Sears are getting the tickets because they work for Sears. Yet this Alice In Wonderland confusion of causes and effects persists because it is useful to those who would trash both the system and its recipients.

Strangely, AFDC is now described as a transitional program -- a temporary respite program -- for people whose employment career is temporarily disrupted. The politicians have conveniently forgotten that it was not AFDC but rather the Unemployment Compensation program that was designed to meet that need. They like to put forth the fantasy that receipt of AFDC is simply about people who are not trying hard enough to find work.

No less than Ronald Reagan, who built his second career on welfare bashing, used to stand there with the New York Times in his hand and make a big deal out of how many hundreds of jobs were going unfilled while people were getting welfare. So irrational is the welfare debate that the hundreds of NY Times jobs, many of which called for skills and experience, somehow seemed impressive even in a city with hundreds of thousands of unskilled, inexperienced unemployed people.

Logic is rarely applied when discussing the connection between welfare and work. The public will not hold still for rational discussion about what it costs to train the poorly educated, about what low skill employment opportunities really exist, about the arithmetic problem that arises when child care and transportation cost more than a welfare mother can earn, and about the value we used to place on mothers staying home with very young children. Nearly everyone would like to talk about welfare at an anecdotal level -- the woman down the street with six kids, all from different fathers, who wears furs and eats steaks -- than to be bothered with facts.

The discussion is irrational because policy on welfare and work is tied up in fundamental, nature-of-life, philosophical questions which go very, very deep. At the one extreme we have those who consider economic success to be a matter of life circumstance and who discount ambition, effort, and personal responsibility. How, they ask, can you expect someone from that background, in that circumstance, to be self-supporting? At the opposite pole we have those who see economic success as being wholly about character, who speak in terms of bootstraps and who see it as a duty to rise above one's circumstances. Their case is that, if Colin Powell can come out of the South Bronx and become Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, then everyone ought to be able to pull themselves out of poverty.

In the simplest terms, the debate breaks down to whether or not one blames poor people for being poor, to whether or not you believe that one can help being poor. By and large we have compassion for those whose misfortune is beyond their control -- nearly everyone is okay with the idea of helping the innocent victims of random diseases. But a very different attitude, and a similar policy split, occurs when the disease is not random but comes as a result of poor judgment or immoral behavior.

Blaming poor people for their poverty, coincidentally, is a wonderfully inexpensive belief upon which to build policy. If the world splits neatly into those who do not really need help, those who do not really deserve it, and the very small portion of the population that is severely physically disabled, then big budgets are not needed. The welfare system, complete with the opportunity to condemn the less fortunate, also provides a wonderful smokescreen for all the various forms of bigotry that underlie much of the debate.

People who know something about public welfare are, of course, rarely listened to. They know that lumping the millions of recipients together, and generalizing about them, only confuses things. Instead, most experts see the welfare population as breaking down into at least three distinct groups, each posing very different social policy issues and challenges.

The first group is the relatively short term, get back on your feet population, which uses AFDC as a way to get past a difficult period: after a divorce, when child support payments stop, when Unemployment Comp payments lag or are insufficient. These folks go on and off welfare quickly and therefore do not cost a lot. It is valuable for AFDC to help these usually female headed families remain intact through a difficult period. This group, if they were a little better off, would use their savings, borrow from relatives, or otherwise get over the bumpy patch. Many, in fact, only go on AFDC because they have no other way to assure health care coverage for their children. After a brief period of receiving AFDC this group pays lots of taxes and is not any more

Now Who Will Come to the Aid of Cuba?

By Jorge Luis Romeu

That Cuban MIG-29 fighter planes shot down a pair of U.S.-based civilian Cessnas in the Florida straits Feb. 24 continues a run of bad news for those of us who monitor the Cuban situation.

The year 1995 had ended on a high note when, on Nov. 27, a unified, peaceful opposition organization was created inside Cuba. More than 100 island groups, including professional associations of journalists, economists, educators, religious and human rights groups and political parties, created the Concilio Cubano.

This umbrella body saw itself as a forum for open discussion, rather than as a political force. It pursued four well-defined goals: to work toward peaceful and democratic change; to seek amnesty for all political prisoners; to start a legal process by which human rights could be respected; and to make possible the participation of all Cubans -- on the island or in exile -- in a peaceful transition toward democracy.

After almost 37 years of Castro's one-party, communist dictatorship, this sounded terrific. It could start the healing process that would lead, as in Chile in 1989 and in Spain after Franco, to the reconciliation and normalization of our national life.

Even the date selected by the concilio, Nov. 27, was significant. It's the anniversary of the 1871 execution by the Spanish colonial government of seven Cuban university students. They were murdered to discourage an intellectual pursuit of independence. It constitutes concilio's signature as a peaceful, civic movement toward democracy and national independence.

Two weeks ago, the Cuban government responded to the concilio with a severe police crackdown: "These are imperialist lackeys and saboteurs seeking to destroy socialism by different means. They want only to deliver Cuba to the Americans," the Castro government said.

A review of Concilio's member organizations and its leaders is enough to destroy such arguments. Concilio includes the Cuban Committee for Human Rights, the Cuban Committee for National Reconciliation, the Committee for the Humanitarian Aid to Political Prisoners, the National Council for Civil Rights, the Union of Cuban Workers, the Union of Independent Economists, Civic Current, Democratic Alliance, Christian Movement, Association for a Free Art, and many others whose intentions are well identified in their names.

Concilio's leaders include

Gustavo Arcos, former Cuban ambassador and political prisoner; Elisardo Sánchez, former university professor and political prisoner; Vladimiro Roca, son of Cuba's former communist party secretary general; Oswaldo Paya, engineer and Catholic leader, and Félix Bonne, university professor expelled three years ago for organizing a petition drive to request a plebiscite in Cuba.

Many looked at Concilio as the opportunity to start a dialogue between the Cuban government and the opposition. Perhaps, as in Chile or in Spain, as in El Salvador or in Haiti, we could also find a solution that would help redress the disastrous Cuban economic and social crisis and heal our profound political wounds.

Concilio Cubano had chosen Feb. 24, the date of the start of Cuba's final war for independence, to hold its meeting to discuss national problems. It requested authorization from the Cuban government. The Castro government ordered Gustavo Arcos not to meet and began a witch hunt among Concilio's leaders.

Immediately it arrested more than a dozen of its most prominent members, holding them incommunicado. The Cuban government still regards its one-party system as legitimate. It still denies the opposition not

only a role in the country's life, but even recognition as a group. It is unable to admit that its current economic and political situation is the consequence of its more than three-decade-old dictatorship, and that the time for change has come.

Fidel Castro, who will turn 70 this summer, still sees the struggle as one between Cuba and U.S. imperialism. He refuses to acknowledge that this is an internal battle between two Cuban political factions: communists and pluralists.

Or that we were so politically naive that we let ourselves get caught in the underpinnings of the Cold War, as did El Salvador and Nicaragua. With aid from the international community, those countries are addressing their problems.

Their civil wars are over. Political exiles are returning. People are working together again. The next question is: What is the international community prepared to do to help deactivate another potential world problem area in Cuba?

(Jorge Luis Romeu is an associate professor at the State University of New York at Cortland. He is an author and regular contributor to the Syracuse Post Standard and Hispanic Link News Service and produces a weekly short-wave radio magazine, Sobremesa, broadcast to Cuba every Sunday through La Voz del CID.)

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¿Ahora Quien Vendra a Ayuda de Cuba?

Por Jose Luis Romeu

El derribo de avionetas Cessnas estadounidenses por MIGs cubanos el 24 de febrero continua una racha de mala noticias para los que seguimos de cerca la situación en la isla.

El 1995 terminó con una nota de optimismo cuando el pasado 27 de noviembre, más de cien organizaciones cubanas, incluyendo grupos de derechos humanos, asociaciones profesionales (de periodistas, economistas, educadores, etc.), grupos religiosos y partidos políticos crearon el Concilio Cubano. Esta organización se considera un foro de discusión libre, y no una fuerza política. El concilio persigue cuatro objetivos bien definidos: trabajar por un cambio pacífico hacia la democracia; lograr una amnistía para todos los presos políticos; comenzar un proceso de transformaciones legales que permitan el cumplimiento de los derechos humanos y lograr la participación de TODOS los cubanos, de todas las tendencias políticas o religiosas, de cualquier raza o clase social, dentro o fuera de la isla.

Tras 37 años de dictadura comunista, este planteamiento parecía algo excepcional! Tal posición abre la puerta para comenzar el proceso de recuperación que lleve a Cuba, como ocurrió en Chile en 1989 y en España tras la muerte de Franco, hacia una reconciliación y normalización en la isla.

Hasta la fecha escogida por el Concilio, el 27 de noviembre, es altamente significativa. Pues este un aniversario del fusilamiento, en 1871 en La Habana, de siete estudiantes de medicina por los españoles. Este crimen

político pretendía desanimar a los cubanos de seguir la lucha por su independencia. Esos estudiantes representaban la lucha intelectual y pacífica, algo que el concilio quiere seguir. Tras el lanzamiento del concilio, habló el gobierno de Castro.

La respuesta fue clara y rápida: Son lacayos del imperialismo, saboteadores que tratan de destruir el socialismo por otros medios, y que quieren entregar al país a los americanos. Sin embargo una breve ojeada a la lista de las organizaciones que integran el concilio y se ve la completa falsedad de este argumento.

Dentro del concilio encontramos, entre otros, al Comité Cubano por los Derechos Humanos, al Comité Cubano para la Reconciliación Nacional, al Comité de Ayuda Humanitaria a los Presos Políticos, al Consejo Nacional por los Derechos Civiles, a la Unión de Trabajadores Cubanos y a la Unión de Economistas Independientes, a la Corriente Cívica y a la Corriente Democrática, al Movimiento Cristiano Liberación y a la Asociación pro Arte Libre... Tremendos saboteadores y terroristas...

Por otra parte, los líderes del concilio incluyen a Gustavo Arcos, ex-embajador y ex-preso político, Elisardo Sánchez, ex-profesor y ex-preso político, Vladimiro Roca, hijo de un fundador y secretario general del Partido Socialista de Cuba, Oswaldo Paya, ingeniero y dirigente católico, Félix Bonne, ex-profesor universitario expulsado hace tres años de su cargo por firmar, junto a decenas de sus colegas, una petición al gobierno de celebrar elecciones...

Muchos hemos mirado hacia el concilio como una oportunidad histórica de comenzar un diálogo entre el gobierno y la oposición, en Cuba. Tal vez como ocurrió en Chile, o en España, o recientemente en El Salvador o Haití, podríamos también los cubanos encontrar una solución de reestablecer el proyecto nacional y restaurar la economía y la sociedad cubana. Y que ayudase a cerrar las profundas heridas políticas que nos dividen.

La respuesta de Fidel Castro fue desalentadora y drástica. El concilio había escogido la fecha del 24 de febrero, aniversario del comienzo de nuestra guerra de independencia, para celebrar un congreso. La fecha escogida indicaba también, sin lugar a dudas, que el concilio hablaba en serio sobre su planteamiento de reconciliación nacional. Pero esto no conformó con los planes de Castro.

El gobierno no solo negó la autorización al concilio para celebrar su reunión nacional, sino que también mandó decir a Gustavo Arcos que mejor no se reuniera. Además, el gobierno comenzó una cacería de brujas, arrestando a decenas de dirigentes y miembros del concilio, desatando el terror.

Parece que el gobierno cubano considera su dictadura legítima. Todavía niega la oposición, no solo el derecho de estos de participar en lo cotidiano del país, sino el propio derecho de su existencia. El gobierno cubano es incapaz de reconocer que la actual crisis económica y social que vive el país es la consecuencia directa de sus 37 años de dictadura. Y que esto ha llevado a más de un millón de cubanos a salir del país, y ha marginado

From Page 1

2. Yes, but we can accomplish more. As your Commissioner, I have appointed individuals from the Hispanic community to serve in numerous boards such as UMC, SPAG, MHMR, Gen Assistance services, Children Protective Services and juvenile expansion so that we may serve and represent the Hispanic community better.

3. By continuing to participate in Hispanic functions; jamaicas, fiestas, speaking in neighborhood school and associations. Implementing improvement in our hispanic community; beautification of Broadway, UMC Clinics in hispanic barrios, Enterprise zones and extension of East-Est Freeway to East Loop 289 are excellent means of communications.

From: David Billingsley, Candidate for County Commissioner Pct. 3

1. With 25 years of knowledge and experience in mechanical and construction trades, I understand the operation and repair of county equipment and related construction projects.

As a foreman/contractor, I communicate well with men under me and understand building and repair projects submitted to the commissioner's court.

I am free from debt, can operate in a tight budget, and will cut wasteful spending.

2. Absolutely Not! The present commissioner has caused a division in the Hispanic community and has made no secret that the middle class working people are not one of his group of constituents.

He has split the Black community and the White community from the Hispanic community and has therefore weakened his voice in the County Commissioner's Court!

3. There are many respectable and influential leaders in the Hispanic community that work very hard for the improvement of the lives of the Hispanic people. I will work under the leadership of men like Eliseo Solis and other leaders in the neighborhood associations to confront problems and present solutions.

Unidad es una voz fuerte! From: Frank Gutiérrez, Candidate for County Commissioner Pct. 3

1. A public servant such as a commissioner must have insight on the fundamental aspects of the elected position to be able to perform the duties as proscribed. My educational background-B.A. Texas University-coupled with professional work experience, community awareness and involvement have prepared me to be a full time representative. I will be accessible - via an open door policy and expect to be accountable.

2. Lubbock County Pct. 3 has only had opportunity to elect

two Hispanic commissioners in the history of the county. It seems that the incumbent has risen to the level of inefficiency; and therefore, unable to fathom the significance of the position to be able to effectively address the concern's of the constituents-- regardless of race or class.

3. Your question assumes that there is a breakdown in communications - to which I agree. My administration will strive to have the interests and concerns of all county residents addressed in a proper manner.

From: Ysabel Luna, Candidate for County Commissioner Pct. 3

1. I feel I'm the best candidate because of my strong believe in equitable representation, the ability to take and hold my stand on issues that affect our community, whether my counter parts understand me or not. Staying involved in the community not just during election. I'm fair and open minded.

2. No! our present commissioner somehow forgot our needs in our community. Nothing became important to him until election time, and that just isn't right for our citizens. Our situation with our youth, our situation with the present guidelines of our General Assistance Agency. That returning over \$466,000 the last 3 years.

3. I would improve communications throughout our community by visiting the various churches, organizations, and neighborhoods, to get involved more and help educate our people on the issues that affect us all. Speak as often as I am allowed to groups or clubs, and ask God to help me always.

From: Bob Murders, Candidate for County Tax Assessor-Collector

1. As Chief Deputy in the Tax Office, I trained in all areas of the operation. I assisted and became responsible for all aspects of the daily office management, including hiring, training, expense control, and problem solving. My thorough training, experi-

ence, and people skills best qualify me for the position.

2. The have done a good job. Two of the Hispanic women I hired are now in supervisory position and the office has a Hispanic office manager. As far as convenience of services to the Hispanic community, that can and will be improved as more substations are opened across the community.

3. I would be available to the Hispanic agencies and organizations for meetings to hear their needs and concerns. I am willing to take input and suggestions regarding ways of working together for the benefit of all citizens of Lubbock County, especially those who feel they have not yet been heard.

From: Steve A. Benitez, Jr., Constable Pct. 3

1. For the reason that I have five years of experience as a police officer and the only candidate with a Texas Peace Officers Certificate.

2. No, I want to help the Hispanic community and the rest of the communities by fighting the gang problems. As an ex-gang member I can communicate with our youths, also as a high school drop out, my testimony is a living testimony that there is hope.

3. I would use my title as Constable, to get the assistance that the Hispanic community needs to address the issues of gang and drug problems. Also by visiting our schools to let our children know that there is more out there than gangs, drugs, and crime.

From: Marina Garcia, Candidate Constable Pct. 3

1. I am well educated, well informed in city politics and dedicated to improving our communities.

2. the Constable Pct 3 position has been Non-Existent in our community due to extenuating circumstances.

3. I would maintain a good relationship with Neighborhood Associations and provide them with important information. 1. Educate the residents of new and current laws. 2. Encourage residents young and old to take Law Enforcement Courses. 3. Keep residents informed of agencies that DO & DO NOT help families in crisis situations.

From: Keny K. Arnold, Candidate Lubbock Constable Pct 4

1. I have lived in Lubbock County Pct 4 all my life, a Shallowater High School graduate, and a Texas Tech graduate. I have been a City of Lubbock Fireman for the past 20 years, the last 10 as an officer. I have a feeling for the people of Lubbock. Honesty and fairness is what the people of Lubbock expect and deserve.

2. None of the Hispanics that I have visited with are aware that there is a Constable or of the duties of a constable.

3. I would like to start a Volunteer Deputy Constable Program and include residents of the Hispanic Community as deputies. I would also be available to give programs for Civic Groups and be involved in youth programs. Speaking to young people

News Briefs from Page 1

ers - even though many senior Republicans say this will only encourage a new flood of illegal immigrants, reports The New York Times.

The amendment passed by a vote of 25-13, largely along party lines, after lawmakers agreed to make it a three-year pilot program, rather than a permanent part of immigration law.

The overall bill the committee is considering would impose a tough crackdown on illegal immigration, which has become a major theme in the presidential campaign, and several representatives Tuesday condemned the amendment for allowing undocumented workers into the United States, even with temporary visas.

What large farmers and ranchers fear, their lobbyists say, is that the new immigration bill might work too well, and that additional border guards and the need for employers to use advanced new systems to confirm an immigrant's legal status would dry up their labor market.

Growers concede that up to 50 percent of their 1.6 million seasonal farm workers are illegal immigrants who hold false identification papers. The Labor Department says that figure is closer to 25 percent.

Among those favoring the so-called guest-worker program at Tuesday's packed hearing were many of the same House members who have clamored the loudest for tighter restrictions on illegal immigration, as well as many lobbyists for farmers and ranchers who fear that cutting off migration across the border would leave them without the workers they need.

Opponents of the measure, including the Clinton administration and many farm worker organizations, say there is no farm worker shortage and that big farming interests are just trying to ensure a surplus of cheap, docile labor.

would be a high priority on my agenda.

From: Andrew J. McKay, Candidate for Lubbock County Sheriff

1. I am be the best candidate for the position of Sheriff because I posses a greater diversity of experience. Not coming from a local Law enforcement agency I also

offer a fresh prospective to the Sheriff's department. I easily see where changes are necessary to better serve Lubbock County.

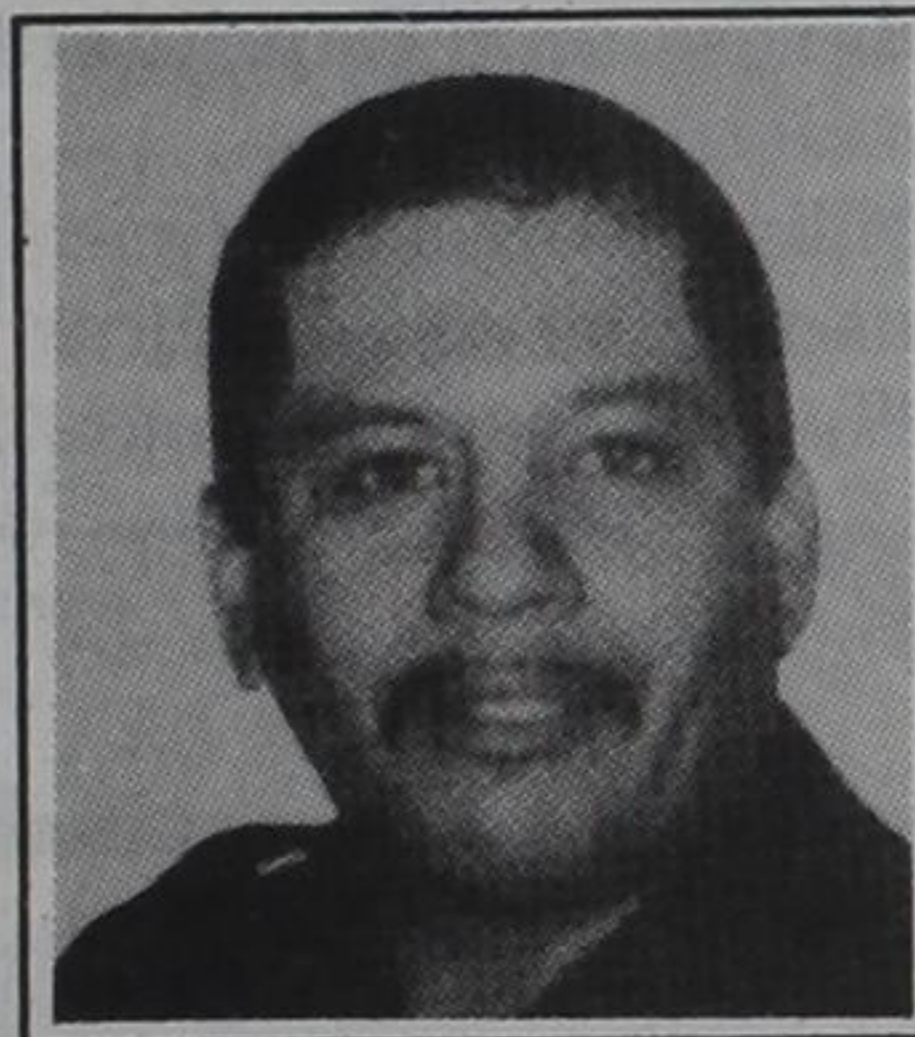
2. No. I do not feel the Sheriff's Department has done their best to serve any community in Lubbock County. I feel to many areas

Continued Page 4

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El Editor, Lubbock, Tx. March 7, 1996

From Page 3

are forgotten and or neglected by the Sheriff's Department.
 3. If elected Sheriff, I would personally become involved within the communities. I would spend the time necessary to educate the communities of crime prevention and protection. I would also strive to encourage the communities to become actively involved in the Sheriff's Department. Personal involvement and leadership by example.

From D.L. Sonny Keesee, Lubbock County Sheriff

1. I have twenty (20) years experience at the Lubbock County sheriff's Office -- five (5) years as Deputy and fifteen (15) as your Sheriff. I have managed the jail through the largest growth in history and have started more successful programs than any other Sheriff.
 2. I have worked with Ellen Contreras in getting the kids away from drugs and gangs. We have been responsive to the different hispanic organizations and have participated in many functions.
 3. Our ongoing open door policy will continue. David Gutierrez, my Administrator, will make certain that the needs of the Hispanic community are always met. More than 15% of our employees are Hispanic and we will continue to seek employees from the minority sector.

From: Brant O'Hair, candidate for Lubbock County Chairman

1. I am the only candidate for Republican County Chairman who has experience as a party worker/leader. I have worked campaigns on phone banks and get-out-the-vote efforts. I have attended precinct meetings and have been a delegate to county and state conventions. I chaired the '94 County Convention and co-chaired the successful Victory '94 phone bank.
 2. The current Republican County Chairman promised to involve more Hispanics and Blacks in the local party but has not delivered.
 3. I am already actively recruiting Hispanics to serve as Precinct Chairman representing their neighborhood precincts.

From: Mark D. Harmon, Lubbock County Democratic Party Chair

1. Experience and energy make me the best candidate for this position. I have expanded the party's outreach to schools and community groups, and I've launched the party's media campaign that placed more than 900 cable TV ads supporting local candidates. I plan to expand all these efforts.
 2. Party volunteers actively have conducted voter registration in the Hispanic community. Party volunteers work to encourage and assist Hispanic

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candidates. Democratic party policies support the struggle of the Hispanic community for social and economic justice. Certainly there is much more to be done, and welcome all suggestions.
 3. I will listen, not only to community leaders but also to everyday folks. I'll continue to submit guest columns and announcements to Hispanic media. I have plans for a series of challenge debates between our candidates and their opponents; I plan to involve Hispanic groups in coordinating those forums.

From: Ramon Gallegos, Candidate for Democratic Party Chair

1. I have been a candidate before on two different occasions and know what it takes to get people motivated to vote. This job requires that you get along with every group in the Democratic party, which I feel I can. Finally I will not be satisfied, as the Democratic Chair, until we can contest every Election in this County, with good qualified candidates.
 2. No. Most of the votes in the Democratic primary come from the Hispanic Community, therefore we should expect full participation by our community in the Executive Committee, the Standing Committees, and the Delegates that go on the State and National Convention. The Democratic party hierarchy should reflect its community.
 3. I would visit every community in this County on a rotating basis and ask for their input and in contributing time to the Democratic Party. We as a Hispanic community, need to invest some time in the future of our grandparents and children. We must educate our voters that when the Republican congress says cuts, we as a hispanic community suffer. The best respond to these cuts is to vote.

From: D. Marc McDougal Candidate for Republican Party Chairman

1. My involvement with Boards, Commissions and Trade Associations in this community, as well as my business experience, give me the leadership skills to move the Republican party forward. This also puts me a position to seek out those who will serve our community.
 2. We must do a better job of ensuring that all precincts in this county are represented on the Executive Committee. We must encourage and support all communities within this county to seek office through the nominating process.
 3. As Party Chairman, I will ensure all precincts are represented on the Executive Committee. I will encourage, support and help those precinct Chairmen to get more involvement from their respected precincts. I will have and open communication policy so that any and all have access to get questions and concerns addressed.

From: L. Norman Padgett, Candidate for Constable Pct. 1

1. 24 Years as a certified peace officer, last 3 as Constable BS from Wayland Baptist College in law enforcement, licensed instructor for state in law enforcement, take 20 hours civil process training yearly along with other law courses.
 2. I feel that my service in office has benefited the hispanic community by helping landlords to regain their property from non-rent payers, and helping landlords to remove drug dealer and gang hang outs in evictions. Landlords can then get better people in their property that helps to improve the neighborhoods.
 3. If re-elected, would continue to be accessible to all citizens. Would answer questions of all people as the law allows or direct the person where the answer could be obtained. Constables are not lawyers therefore some quesitons cannot be answers as in becomes giving legal

advise which is not legal.
From: Dwight Lusk, candidate for Constable, Pct. 4
 1. Licensed Peace Officer; Licensed Law Enforcement Instructor, teach civil law at SPAG Regional Law Enforcement Academy; District Director of Justice of Peace and Constable Association; vice-president of West Texas Justice of Peace and Constable Association; Active in professional, civic, and religious organizations; Endorsed by South Plains Criminal Investigators Association.
 2. In my position as Constable, Pct 4, I have the opportunity to help people every day. On minor violations like traffic warrants or hot checks, I attempt to direct people to alternative programs like payment plans or work release rather than arrest and jail time.
 3. I have held public seminars and have filmed a documentary for public television on Landlord/Tenant relations. I would welcome an opportunity to speak to groups of the Hispanic community or report activities of the Constable Office to the El Editor Newspaper. As public servant, I am dedicated to serving the needs of this community.

From: Jim Bob Darnell, Candidate for Dist. Judge, 140th District Court

1. Graduate-Monterey 1966; Texas Tech-BBA 1970; Law 1976. Experience - Lubbock County District Attorney's Office 1976-1986; Elected district Attorney 1983-1986; First Assistant for John Montford 1979-1982; Private practice 1987-1996 (civil defense, criminal defense, family law); 1981 "Outstanding Young Lawyer" Lubbock; Prior Board Service: YMCA, Goodwill, Family Outreach,

SW Little League
 2. Judge Shaver represents what is good and just about our judicial system. He has been an outstanding judge because of dedication to hard work, fairness, and impartiality. Judge Shaver has done the best to judge cases fairly and impartially for all people of Lubbock.
 3. Our judicial system's duty to society is to make sure the law protects the life, liberty and property of every citizen, no matter what their sex, race, religion or creed.

I would be interested in meeting with the Hispanic community to discuss problems in their neighborhoods, but it would be improper to discuss the matters before the Court.

From: Michael Clennan, Congressional Candidate District 13

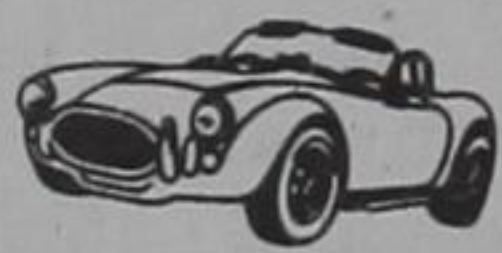
1. I am a CPA who can balance a budget; Certified Financial Planner who can help Hispanics understand retirement and Certified Internal Auditor to cut government waste.
 2. This is a decision for the voters. What has Mr. Combest done for the Hispanic community in the last 12 years? Is this to continue for 12 more?
 3. With the help of my Hispanic friends and community, I would improve my Spanish. Some of my local staff would be completely fluent in Spanish. I would hold monthly town hall meetings and my door would always be open. I like to talk and have traveled to 12 Spanish speaking countries.


From: John Sawyer, Congressional Candidate District 19

1. Mike Clennan is a fine gentleman. I like him. Unfortunately, he does not seem to understand the amount of travel, advertising, other expenditures, organizing, and fund raising which must go into a serious campaign against Larry Combest. Compare my advertising in the Feist and on television to his lack of any.
 2. Lubbock is one county with two congressmen. They need to work together for the good of all communities within Lubbock. Do you think Combest and Thornberry have done that? I don't.
 3. He tenido tres maestras cubanas pero he olvidado muchas palabras. My Spanish is rusty but can be recovered. Unlike Mr. Combest, I plan to hold many open meetings to let my constituents know what I am up to and to face their questions. I will do this in Spanish where appropriate.
From: Sam Medina, Judge, County Court at Law #1
 1. I believe I have the most experience. As an attorney, I have tried cases ranging from traffic tickets to Capital murder cases. Also, as a Judge, I have the most jury trial experience, having tried many jury trials involving family law, criminal law, Eminent Domain, civil cases, personal injury cases, competency cases, and others. As a bilingual Judge, I have been able to make all parties more at ease. I have a proven record to show what I have accomplished.
 2. I think that all judicial offices are established to serve all citizens, regardless of race. In County Court at law Number 1, I have been able to explain matters in Spanish and English. Those who do not speak English feel comfortable knowing they can speak to me in Spanish and get an answer

Continued Page 6

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El Editor's LATEST Deportes - Sports LO MAS RECIENTE

Texas Tomorrow Fund

The Texas Tomorrow Fund is a new program that allows Texas families to lock in the cost of tomorrow's college tuition and required fees at today's prices. Sen. John T. Montford, Rep. Delwin Jones and Rep. Robert Duncan are sponsoring an informational workshop on the Texas Tomorrow Fund on Wednesday, March 13, 1996, at 7:00 p.m. The workshop will be held in the Monterey High School Auditorium located at 3211 47th Street. Facilitators from the Texas Comptroller's Office will present detailed information about

NCAA -- The Best of 64

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - When the 64-team NCAA basketball tournament begins its three-week run on March 14, the nation's 64 best teams won't all be there.

Central Florida has already made sure of that. As upset champions of the Trans America Athletic Conference tournament, Central Florida nabbed its league's automatic bid to the NCAA field despite being seven games under .500.

As a consequence, the committee will have to spend one of its 34 at-large bids on the Trans America's regular season champions, College of Charleston, which is 21 games over .500.

It happens every year - upset winners in conference tournaments putting teams in the NCAA field that wouldn't otherwise qualify, squeezing out more powerful teams that otherwise would.

But there are no plans to alter the 58-year-old policy.

"I would be opposed to changing it," Bob Frederick, chairman of the selection committee, said Wednesday in a teleconference.

In the 1970s, conferences began holding postseason tournaments and giving their automatic NCAA bids to the tournament winners. Now, 27 of the 30 conferences determine their automatic bids with postseason

tournaments. Only the Ivy League, Pac-10 and Big Ten do not.

"It allows some teams to make it that would not ordinarily qualify," Frederick said. "And it also helps sustain competition toward the end of the season where some teams have played their way out of their conference race. Teams know they still have a chance to get in."

Frederick and the other eight committee members were to get together tonight in a midtown Kansas City hotel and begin a weekend-long meeting Friday morning, selecting at-large teams and seeding and bracketing the field.

Their finished product will be announced at 6:30 p.m. EST Sunday.

"It seems like this year's no different than other years," Frederick said. "Last year seven of the first nine (conference) tournaments had upset winners. It's six of the first 12 this year. I guess it's a double-edged sword. It certainly leads to the excitement of what makes this tournament as great as it is, that we have upset winners in the bracket."

"On the other side, it makes it a little more difficult for us in the selection process. In many cases, the regular season conference champion is somebody who's worthy of consideration."

Gonzales Ready To Return To Rangers

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. - Juan Gonzalez remembers how he felt back in 1992 and 1993 when he led the American League in home runs. The Texas Rangers are pleased to know that he feels that way again.

"My mind is ready for this year," Gonzalez said. "I feel like 1992 and 1993. I'm in great shape and ready to play every day and put up good numbers."

Gonzalez hit 43 homers in 1992 and 46 the following year. After struggling through an injury-plagued season in 1995, Gonzalez is poised for a big comeback.

He even showed up at Rangers spring training early for the first time ever.

"I feel different; I come early and go home late," Gonzalez said. "I'm working on my body, especially the back. I'm in great condition and I'll be ready to play every day this year."

Gonzalez feels good about feeling good again. He was relegated to being the Rangers' designated hitter for 85 of the 90 games he played last year because of back and neck injuries.

"Last year was a bad time for me because I played only five games in the field and the rest I was the DH," Gonzalez said. "It was hard but last year is history. This is a new year and a new season."

Gonzalez had trouble adjusting to the rhythms of being a DH.

"It was tough," he said. "When the inning is over, you go inside and stretch. Then you come back and hit. Then you go back to the bench and then do it all over again. It's a hard time for me as a young player."

Gonzalez is happy to turn the DH duties over to Mickey Tettleton, and general manager Doug Melvin thinks it's a better lineup.

"We're a better club with him (Gonzalez) playing right field and Mickey as the DH," Melvin said. "That's a positive change with the club. Now Juan is in right field and we want to utilize his arm strength. We want

to keep people from going from first to third.

Gonzalez already has demonstrated he can hold runners on base.

On Tuesday against the New York Yankees, his perfect throw to the plate held Paul O'Neill at third base. Later, Gonzalez hit his first homer of the spring.

Batting coach Rudy Jaramillo said he thinks Gonzalez' return to the outfield will help his hitting.

"I felt he had too much time to think about each at-bat (last year)," Jaramillo said. "Plus, he was trying to stay loose because his back would tighten up. Out there (in the outfield) he'll be moving and won't do all that thinking between at-bats."

Even in his weakened condition, Gonzalez hit .295 and was second on the team with 27 home runs and 82 RBIs last year.

"He feels really good about himself and that's a key for him," Jaramillo said. "He's got a great swing and is consistent with it. He's getting ahead more and being more selective but that comes with maturity."

"He's just coming into his own. His best years are ahead of him."

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It is time to change the adversarial relationship among law enforcement agencies and bring cooperation for the protection of our citizens. I am a Certified Peace Officer with 20 years experience in law enforcement. I want to be your Sheriff... and I pledge an open door policy for the citizens of Lubbock County.

I will appreciate your vote on March 12. Your support and confidence will change Lubbock County law enforcement for the better.

Thanks

Don Webb

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Treviño Leads Australian Event

CANBERRA, Australia - Lee Trevino shot an even-par 72 Thursday to take a one-stroke lead during the storm-suspended first round of the Australian PGA Seniors championship.

"Seventy-two is not a bad score," said Trevino, who had four birdies and four bogeys. "I drove it very well and on every par 5 hit it over 300 yards off the tee, but I wasn't able to match it with my second shots."

Trevino said he expected much lower scores in the next three rounds on the Bruce Devlin-designed Gold Creek layout.

"The course is magnificent," Trevino said. "We'll all be handling the firm, fast greens by the weekend."

Thirty-three players were still on the course when rain and lightning forced the suspension of play. Australians Terry Gale, Peter Headland and Bob Shaw were 1-under with two holes to play.

Australia's Noel Ratcliffe shot a 73 and Devlin opened with a 75. American Tom Barber shot a 78.

EL EDITOR

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Editor/Publisher



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William C. "Bill" Sowder
Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney

*This ad paid for by hot check writers through the Lubbock County District Attorney's Hot Check Fund.



Un Rayito De Luz

by Sofia Martinez

En aquel tiempo, el Señor Jesús escogió a otros discípulos y los mandó por delante a todos los pueblos y a todos los lugares a donde él pensaba ir. También ahora, en este tiempo, a todos los hogares a donde Cristo piensa ir, manda a sus discípulos "de dos en dos". Es decir, un él y una ella, tú y él, ella y tú, papá y mamá. También los futuros papás y futuras mamás - es a los que Jesucristo les ha encomendado la misión de prepararle el

camino para llegar a los hijos. Con tus palabras, esos hijitos comenzarán a conocer a Jesucristo y a amarlo, porque no se puede amar a quien no se conoce. Con el ejemplo de papá y mamá, los hijitos aprenderán a darle gracias a Dios, acudirán a Dios en las dificultades, confiarán en la providencia de Dios y le pedirán perdón cuando le hayan ofendido...

Con el ejemplo de POP y MOM aprenderán a ser serviciales con los necesitados, aprenderán a perdonarse unos a otros, aprenderán a ver a Jesucristo en todos, especialmente en los más pobres, a ayudar a los necesitados, a sacrificarse por los vecinos...

En aquel tiempo Jesucristo mandó a otros discípulos... ahora también nos manda a cada uno de nosotros, y... debemos de cumplir. (Luc. 10, 1-12, y 17-20).

EN EL CONFLICTO

TRIUNFANTES EN EL CONFLICTO

Por pastor Frank Garcé

Cada vez que estamos en difícil situación, es fácil preguntarnos si Dios está con nosotros. tal vez nos podemos preguntar si nos ha dejado para que salgamos a delante solos en nuestra situación. Pero Dios ha prometido no abandonarnos nunca, según sus promesas en su santa Palabra. El hecho de que seamos creyentes no quiere decir que no nos encontraremos con dificultades en esta vida. Aunque no todo lo que nos sucede sea resultado del pecado personal, pero sí, sabemos que algunas de las dificultades personales con que nos encontramos son resultado del pecado que nos rodea en esta vida, o sea, en este mundo.

Hasta Jesús que no conoció pecado, sufrió pérdidas. Pues Jesucristo no se creó en mundo de riquezas materiales, en efecto dijo a sus discípulos que si le quería seguir, tal vez no tubieran un lugar donde recostar su cabeza. Pero si les prometió poder para vencer en medio de las dificultades. Y creemos que por eso que el poder de Dios se manifiesta mejor en medio de nuestras dificultades. Nosotros los creyentes casi todos estamos bien familiarizados con el asunto de las pérdidas. Y es muy posible que alguna vez hayamos sufrido algunas cosas de valor. Como a través de la Escritura se registra de los siervos de Dios que tuvieron estas experiencias, sufriendo algunas pérdidas. Como el siervo Job, que tenía buena integridad espiritual. El autor o escritor de Job, escribió bien claro que no hubo ningún pecado o problema moral que causara el sufrimiento de Job. Y Job provó que las acusaciones de Satanás eran falsas; que Job servía a Dios, porque Dios le había dado riquezas.

Cuando este hombre sufrió la pérdida de sus riquezas y aun sus hijos, él se volvió a Dios y le adoró. Cuando sufrió grave enfermedad, adoró a Dios. Cuando sus amigos lo criticaban él oró por ellos. Una de las buenas maneras de salir adelante de nuestras pérdidas es volviéndonos a Dios y alabarle. Concentrándonos no, en nuestra pérdida sino en Dios quien nos puede ayudar. Cuando los discípulos le dijeron a Cristo que ellos habían dejado todo por servirle, Cristo les dijo que ninguna persona que dejare padre, madre, casas o propiedades por su causa, perdería su recompensa. En realidad Cristo aseguró que esa persona tendría más en esta vida, y en la vida venidera la vida eterna. Todo el consuelo que tenemos los que por alguna causa cristiana sufrimos, ya sea enfermedad, escasez, tragedia, edad, desprecio o lo que sea; si tenemos a Cristo de nuestra parte y él mora en nosotros por medio de su Santo Espíritu, podemos decir que lo tenemos todo. "Porque el mundo se pasará y su concupiscencia; mas el que hace la voluntad de Dios, permanece para siempre." 1 Juan 2;17.

Continued from Page 4

in Spanish. Justice is blind to color of skin, but communication is necessary for fairness to all. There are large numbers of Hispanics that come to my court and they are all able to have their fair "day in court".

3. I believe that I serve as a model to our Hispanic youth. Be being the first Hispanic office holder with a county wide constituency, I believe

that other Hispanics will feel they can win election to county wide seats. As judge, I make speeches to numerous Hispanic groups and organizations. I also have students come to my court and observe trials. I believe Hispanics feel a sense of ownership and inclusion in the positive side of our judicial system as a result of my being Judge of this court.

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for County Commissioner Pct. 3

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Sittin' Here Thinkin' From Page 2

of a social problem than most of the rest of us. While on AFDC the best thing we can do for these folks is to treat them with dignity, to not make them spend their days filling out forms or participating in stupid programs, and to leave them alone to work out their problems.

The second group -- at the opposite end of the scale -- are the functionally unemployable. These are people who are of low intelligence, have poor health but are not quite disabled, who are addicted to alcohol or drugs or both, or who lack motivation and an understanding of work at a psychological or cultural level so deep that no employer will ever want to pay for their services. This group is growing, I believe, as some segments of our society are increasingly isolated and as the job market shrinks and demands higher skills. We no longer need people of limited intelligence to pump gas, drive elevators or be farm hands. These folks are welfare lifers, for all practical purposes. The policy question is whether to let them starve, to give them make-work jobs to be sure that they do something for their check, or to concentrate on supporting them in raising their children well.

The third group -- in the middle -- are the people who, if given some level of support, training, child care, and other services could succeed in the job market. All too often they are met with insufficient training slots, policies that create disincentives to go to work and programs that do a poor job of training and that offer too little in terms of long term support. This is the swing group -- the group that is created by bad schools, insufficient job opportunities, and a highly competitive economic system. We do not invest nearly enough in their possibilities and our failure to do so pushes too many of them into the unemployable category. And then we blame them.

Informed people also know that receipt of welfare is not wholly about individuals but is also about communities and about segments of our society. It is not coincidence that welfare rates in some communities are 5% while in others they are 50%. We know that people with ordinary abilities can achieve economic success if they come from a privileged background and are supported by connections, expectations, good services and education. And we know that you have to be extra-ordinary to achieve when coming from an under-privileged environment. Fair people know that the playing field is not level and that individuals and individual circumstances differ.

A more rational welfare policy would recognize that not all citizens are capable of making an equal economic contribution. In economic terms some people are a net plus and some a net minus, but in a society of people that is always the case. A kinder policy would try to find ways to enable people to contribute consistent with their skills. A smarter policy environment would find ways to encourage people to work hard, to learn, to aspire, rather than attempting to punish people into performance by using starvation, homelessness and fear as motivators.

But our welfare policy debate is not rational, nor kind, nor smart. Instead it is nasty and full of spite and envy. It is not that we cannot afford a caring and rational system -- as a society we probably spend more on soft drinks and cosmetics than on AFDC -- the issue is that we cannot stand the idea of being suckers. We resent it that someone is getting something for nothing, and we are unforgiving and uncaring about the fate of those we see as abusing our generosity.

The economy, the getting of jobs and wealth is a game of musical chairs with too few chairs for everyone to sit comfortably. Inevitably there are winners and losers in our economic system and the penalty for losing out used to be that you went on welfare. In the 1990's I guess that is not penalty enough and we are inventing a sub-welfare standard of living -- shelters, orphanages, work camps and I do not know what else -- for those who cannot or do not keep up.

It does not have to be that way and we ought to be ashamed. Ira Cutler says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irreverent, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, self-important company. He promises us a Monday column most weeks. More recently Ira has become involved in communicating in another way, through speeches which he calls Standin' Here Talkin'.

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