

El Editor

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

Casualties of War in Iraq
4,338 as of Aug. 27, 2009

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Ruling favors Latino voters in Texas Democrat suit

SAN ANTONIO — Latino voters celebrated a federal court ruling Tuesday that came down against the Texas Democratic Party and could put the complicated "Texas Two-step" presidential delegate system in jeopardy.

The ruling by a three-judge panel will allow the lawsuit to go forward and put the Texas delegate system closer to facing a potential review by the Justice Department, which Latino advocates sought in the aftermath of last year's intense Democratic primary between Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

In a lawsuit filed last year, the Latino groups argued that the way Texas Democrats awarded presidential delegates unfairly discriminated against Latinos by awarding fewer presidential delegates to heavily Hispanic areas. They did not contest to whom the delegates were awarded, but rather how the



allocation was made. Latino advocates said Tuesday's ruling as clearing the way for the party's complex process of awarding delegates through a primary and caucus to be done away with entirely.

"The whole state of Texas should be celebrating with us," said Luis Roberto Vera Jr., an attorney for the League of United Latin American

Citizens. "That was the biggest, most chaotic, moronic thing when they went through that Texas two-step."

The Texas Democratic Party said it was reviewing the court's decision and emphasized that the panel in San Antonio did not find its delegate allocation plan discriminatory.

"The Texas Democratic Party fully supports all aspects of the Voting Rights Act and works diligently to ensure the participation of all Texans in the electoral process," the party said in a statement.

The ruling stopped short of requiring the Texas Democratic Party to seek federal pre-clearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires all or parts of 16 mainly southern states to get federal approval before making changes in the way elections are conducted.

The panel did, however, urge the party to take that step volun-

tarily.

"Indeed, political expediency and the TDP's stated support for Section 5 might counsel it now to seek pre-clearance of its delegate allocation rules instead of proceeding further in this litigation," the court said.

Nearly all the delegates in the Texas system are apportioned based on Democratic voter turnout numbers in previous elections in state senate districts. For Latino districts, that meant low turnout in a 2006 gubernatorial election resulted in fewer presidential delegates in the 2008 primary and caucuses.

Among the judges on the panel was U.S. District Judge Fred Biery, who dismissed the suit last year after ruling the spirit and intent of the federal Voting Rights Act was not violated.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans kicked the case back to a three-judge panel in February.

Neuroscience the Future of Supreme Court Nominations

By Scott Paris and Andre Golard
Hispanic Link News
The appointment of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court affords us an opportunity to look ahead to the next debate over a Supreme Court nominee. One that judicial debate has caught up to what neuroscience tells us today about how we make decisions, it will be a very different discussion. It will be based on the reality of how we decide.

Here's a glimpse into what that nominating process might look like.

It will have a different starting point. Today, all nominees profess that they apply the law and do not interpret it. Simple observations show that this is not present. Happened with the same fact base, different justices reach different conclusions. Split decisions could not occur if there were some objective "rubo-law" process at work. There is not. It doesn't exist and the neuroscience of why it will never exist will be understood.

It will, startlingly, recognize that emotion is required to make a decision. Research done by Antonio D'Amasio has shown that without emotion we are unable to decide - even over the smallest issue. One of D'Amasio's neurology patients, robbed of his brain's emotional functions, could not decide whether to wear a blue or black pen to fill out a form. Without our emotional systems, we become paralyzed - we go into an endless loop of deliberation, but never reach a decision. Whether or not we are wearing a black tie, our brain requires us to know how we feel about something in order to decide.

THE PRESIDENT: I wanted to say a few words this morning about the passing of an extraordinary leader, Senator Edward Kennedy.

Over the past several years, I've had the honor to call Teddy a colleague, a counselor, and a friend. And even though we know this day was coming for some time now, we availed it with no small amount of dread.

Since Teddy's diagnosis last year, we've seen the courage with which he battled his illness. And while these months have no doubt been difficult for him, they've also let him hear from people in every corner of our nation and from around the world just how much he meant to all of us. His fight has given us the opportunity we were denied when his brother John and Robert were taken from the blessing of time to say thank you - and goodbye.

The outpouring of love, gratitude, and fond memories to which we've all borne witness is a testament to the way this singular figure in American history touched so many lives. His ideas and ideals are stamped on scores of laws and reflected in millions of lives - in seniors who know new dignity, in families that know new opportunity, in children who know education's promise, and in all who can pursue their dream in an America that is more equal and more just - including myself.

The Kennedy name is synonymous with the Democratic Party. And in the United States Senate, I can think of no one who engendered greater respect or affection from members of both sides of the aisle. His seriousness of purpose was repeatedly matched by humility, warmth, and good cheer. He could passionately battle others and do so peacefully on the Senate floor for the causes that he held dear, and yet still maintain warm friendships across party lines.

And that's one reason he became not only one of the greatest senators of our time, but one of the most accomplished Americans ever to serve our democracy.

His extraordinary life on this earth has come to an end. And the extraordinary good that he did lives on. For his family, he was a guardian. For America, he was the defender of a dream.

I prefer calling this morning to Senator Kennedy's beloved wife, Vicki, who was to the end such a wonderful source of encouragement and strength. Our thoughts and prayers are with her, the children Kara, Edward, and Patrick; his stepchildren Karen and Candice; the entire Kennedy family; decades' worth of his staff; the people of Massachusetts; and all Americans who, like us, loved Ted Kennedy.

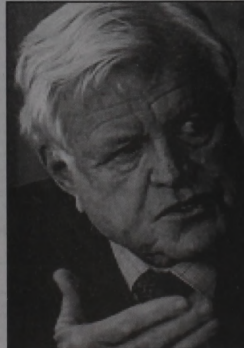
Whatever neuroscientist term is used (e.g. "mind-reading" or "empathy"), the point is that our understanding of the world is informed by the function of these neurons. Absent their function, we do not, in fact, not understand the world. Mir nor aware are our brain's connection to society. The direct, immediate and personal connection to the world is intrinsic to us and our thinking and decision-making. No nominee or sitting justice can escape society or the law without them; it is, without empathy.

These insights will cause a fundamental change in the nomination discussion by providing it with a more neurologically literate vocabulary. When the reality of the role of emotions and empathy in individual decision-making is recognized, it will cause sparring about judicial decision-making to become dramatically more informed.

The Founding Fathers were ahead of us in these matters. They designed a system that minimizes the impact of individual biases. Although not yet in neuroscience, they were well-versed in the ways of human decision-making and politics.

Their wisdom created a judicial process that circumvents some of our shortcomings. It allows all voices to be heard, and individual biases to be scrutinized. This is the best we can do with the reality of our brain. This process makes it possible for unlike, emotional, empathetic humans to reach good decisions that reflect the essence of the law.

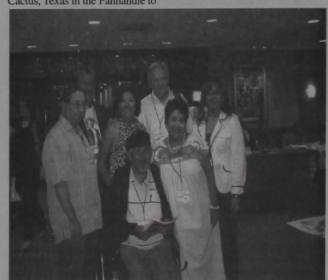
(About the authors: Scott Paris has been CEO of several technology companies and is the creator of One Logic, a critical thinking and communication framework. Andre Golard, PhD, studied at NYU and has held positions at Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior at Columbia University, Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Washington and the Department of Molecular Medicine at Northwest Hospital. He has published articles in peer-reviewed journals including Journal of Neuroscience, Journal of Neurophysiology and Neuroscience. ©2009



21st Century Chicano Activist Convention

Hundreds of Latinos gathered in Dallas this past weekend to participate in the 21st Century Chicano Activist Convention held at Dallas' Hyatt Regency Hotel. They shared experiences in art, film and political discourse that complemented with the events theme of "40 Years of Struggle: At Least". Voters-at-large of the La Raza Unida Party reminded about the struggles for power of the 60s and 70s as they observed with great satisfaction the results of the Movement for a New Politics which spurred the rise of ethnic and Chicano politics in the United States and throughout the Southwest. The Vietnam War, and Civil Rights issues had caused turmoil in the streets of many cities and this had contributed greatly to this community activism which gave rise to such organizations and institutions as the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF), Southwest Voter Registration Project (SVRP), National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and many others. Vehicles for social, political and economic change became necessary to level the playing field as Spanish speaking citizens continued to be empowered to be able to represent themselves at all levels of government. Minority elected officials in West Texas were less than 100. These numbers were soon to change as a result of the fight to gain access to political power and equal representation

such as Lubbock's own court battle to establish the current single-member district election system for all elections. Precedents set by this litigation soon led to efforts to organize West Texas from Cactus, Texas in the Panhandle to



Plainview, Brownfield, Littlefield, and as far south as Big Spring and Colorado City in Mitchell County. Local governments once challenged by the legal team from the SVRP - led by Rolando Rios of San Antonio - acquiesced and minorities were able to be elected to their local governing bodies from school boards to water control districts. An organization known as the West Texas Associa-

tion of Minority Elected Officials (WTAMEO) was formerly organized in 1984 and led by former County Commissioner Eliseo Solis and volunteers. The group's

efforts led to the identification of plaintiffs to support litigation and address the issue of equal representation in all areas of government at the local level as addressed by the Voting Rights Act of 1964. Many participants passionately described their local battles at the polls and in the courthouses of cities large and small across the State of Texas in order to gain constitutionally (Continued Page 3)



Photos of the participation that were taken during the Chicano Activist Conference that was held this past weekend at Dallas. The attendance was tremendous. In some of the photos are Publisher/Editor Bidal Aguiro of El Editor newspapers and his wife Olga Riojas-Aguero who got to see and visit some friends, such as event coordinator Jose Angel Gutierrez, Raul Yzaguirre of NCLR, Eddie Canales, Hector Galan, Chuy Negrete and many more.

Other individuals from Lubbock that attended were; Carlos y Lile Quirino, Frank & Mary Jane Gutierrez.

2010 Census Groups Reach out to Illegal Immigrants, Hispanics and Blacks

The Spanish-language soap "Mas Sabe El Diablo" ("The Devil Knows Best") soon will treat viewers to more than the typical vixens and hunks.

A main character is set to become a census worker, a lackluster job more associated with tallying neighbors on the block than notches on the bedpost.

The Telemundo network sees the unusual casting not as a ratings grabber but as an awareness campaign underscoring concerns that the once-a-decade tabulation of the nation's population faces especially severe challenges in counting minorities and hard-to-reach communities.

Meanwhile, federal authorities have stepped up arrests of illegal immigrants, leading to worries that those residents will remain underground rather than report their presence to a federal census worker. Hence, the soap plot line, in which an unsworn model takes a census job and in the process educates her family — and immigrant viewers — about the government count.

"We're going wherever the viewers are, even though you're combining something that's a little different with the steamy telenovela," network spokeswoman Michelle Alban said.

In the midst of the challenges, the government agencies and non-profit groups that typically organize outreach are facing decentralized budgets just months before the census takes place in the spring.

That means areas without money to undertake extensive outreach efforts might end up on a helping hand to climb out of the recession because they will not get their share of about \$400 billion in federal aid allocated each year strictly on population, such as unemployment benefits.

The census forms will be mailed in late March, to be returned in April. Those who do not return the forms will receive visits from census takers later in 2010. But much of the battle is already being fought in book clubs, neighborhood meetings and church

basements. Many of the participants re-

promote sampling instead of official counts, a technique that



ported that their own agencies have seen their staffs slashed, casting doubts on how much outreach they could really do. The community council wanted to print census-related T-shirts, but it couldn't raise enough money even for that.

Participants suggested a host of ideas — murals geared to the homeless, multilingual mailers — but agreed their biggest selling point needs to be that an accurate census count can funnel badly needed public money into communities.

"This is not a joke," Elizabeth Vitell, the council's executive director, told fellow participants. "This is a chance to do something where we will see results in our communities for years to come."

Nationwide, 65 percent of Hispanic residents and 60 percent of black residents returned census forms in 2000, compared with 78 percent of white residents, according to the General Accounting Office, ultimately leading to higher rates of being undercounted.

The consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers estimated that Cook County ultimately will lose about \$200 million this decade because of undercounts in the 2000 census. Researchers estimated that Illinois will lose about \$120 million in federal funds over the next decade for each uncounted person.

Charles Boesel, spokesman for the Joyce Foundation, said participants had noticed troubling trends, including two months of delays in confirming a new Census Bureau director because of GOP concerns that he would

critics call a political maneuver to boost the totals of undercounted minorities.

The new director, Robert Groves, was confirmed in late July but not before lawmakers had tried to eliminate hundreds of millions of dollars in census funding during the ongoing appropriations process.

Census officials say the budgeted \$15 billion — a record — will be in place, including an increase in "Be Counted" sites, locations where residents can fill out forms if they aren't reached at home.

Also, the Census Bureau plans to send out forms in Spanish and English for the first time to neighborhoods with high immigrant populations.

Illegal immigrants are an especially hard-to-reach group because they do not want their status known to federal authorities. Likewise, if they are exceeding occupancy limits in their homes, they are afraid that municipal authorities will find out.

To combat those concerns, activists have emphasized that federal law prohibits the Census Bureau from sharing individuals' data with other government agencies, including Immigration officials.

Albert Pritchett, the county's former chief administrative officer and chairman of the committee, said his group will need more funding to match the improved participation in the previous census.

"We recognize getting those funds is going to be more difficult this time around," he said, "but we think the costs are essential, especially when you look at what the return is."

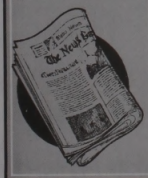
Activist Convention

from page 1 described their local battles at the polls and in the courthouses of cities large and small across the State of Texas in order to gain constitutionally guaranteed rights. The forty years of struggle are especially significant in West Texas because there are now over a thousand Latino elected officials. Those in attendance included Dallas attorney and Raza Unida Party founder Jose Angel Gutierrez, Raul Yzaguirre former head of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), Attorney Rolando Rios, State Representative Roberto Alonzo and Dallas City Council Member Steve

Salazar. The Lubbock delegation included El Editor Publishers Bidal & Olga Aguiro, Guadalupe neighborhood residents Carlos and Lile Quirino and Frank and Mary Jane Gutierrez. In an event to celebrate which this writer is part of the politicization of Latinos in general and Chicanos specifically. A generation of activist proudly The emotion of the event was powerful in that relationships established in the 60s and 70s by El Movimiento during the were renewed and updated. One of them was Raul Yzaguirre former head of National Council of La Raza.

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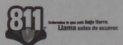


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Insomnio Americano Had Me Wide Awake



Garcia involves theater patrons in other ways, too. For instance, he manages to get everyone to sing along with him for part of a song that goes: Me vine para la USA, con ganas de progresar, reglame el pasaje, pa' poderme regresar. And he's not above making fun of the audience to gain laughs. In fact, one of the funniest moments of the show came when someone in the nosebleed section expressed an interest in participating in the fun, however, Garcia couldn't make out what the person was saying, so he yelled, "That's what you get for buying such cheap seats!" The jab was all in good fun.

If you're in New York City, I strongly suggest you check out Repertorio Español's highly entertaining play, *Insomnio Americano*, a one-man show starring master improviser Saulo Garcia, a native of Antioquia, Colombia, who wants to unmask the American Dream as a tragicomic nightmare.

Outrageous, smart and consistently funny, Garcia's *Insomnio* is a crowd-pleasing 90-minute interactive theater experience. The fearless Garcia questions random audience members in an effort to prove his theory that it's hard out there for an immigrant. (The audience doesn't necessarily advance Garcia's thesis. When he asked, "What was your first car when you arrived in the U.S.?", a man replied: "A BMW!")

Despite the constant humor, *Insomnio* delivers a serious message. "Tonight, I will demonstrate that the American Dream is a myth. That it doesn't exist. And whoever says that they came to this country and has not suffered, is a liar. Or a member of the Mafia," Garcia says with a straight face early on in the show. Still, even when he's complaining, Garcia's jokes are so funny that the show comes off less as political commentary and more as a feel-good lighthearted experience, like when he explains that the real American Dream is: "The sleepiness that hits you when you're driving home after working 18 hours!" Whatever your politics, I think we can all relate to that!

Joan Sebastian: sincero sin 'empacho

El cantautor presentó ayer 'Pegadito al corazón', que llamó su disco más íntimo

Joan Sebastian dice que su nuevo disco no se parece a ninguno de sus otros álbumes. Y eso porque en esta ocasión varios de los temas están dedicados a algunos de sus ocho hijos, a las mujeres que han pasado por su vida, a su caballo y a su perro.

"He aprendido a convivir... a vivir, mejor dicho, con lo que pasa; es algo que no va a sanar", dijo el cantautor ayer sobre la trágica muerte de su hijo Trijo hace un par de años, cuando fue asesinado en un rodeo de Texas aparentemente debido a una disputa con un fan de Sebastian.

Como una forma de catarsis, el cantante guerrerense tomó su guitarra y compuso Trijo, uno de los 13 cortes de *Pegadito al corazón*, disco que presentó ayer en el marco de la Conferencia Monitor Latino, que se efectúa en un hotel de City of Commerce.

"En este disco vacio todas mis experiencias personales, sin tomar en cuenta si son totalmente más. El canario está dedicada a mis hijas... No tuve ningún empacho en decir nada", dijo.

Debido a esto, Joan Sebastian, quien compone desde los 13 años de edad, se confesó el "soltero más comprometido". Eso porque ha procreado con varias mujeres. Las edades de sus hijos oscilan entre los 6 y los 40 años. Nada menos, confesó que ayer mismo tendría que regresar a México porque no quería perderse el primer día de clases de su hija más pequeña.

El cantante estuvo rela-

jado y no tuvo problemas con comentar —aunque fuera escandalosamente— sobre los últimos escándalos en su vida personal. El más reciente es el que lo involucra con una mujer guatemalteca de 18 años a la que supuestamente le ofreció matrimonio.

"Solo falta que me acusen de que yo maté a Kennedy", bromé antes de contestar sobre el asunto. "Es verdad, cuando la conocí me encantó; salvo que desafortunadamente resulta tener un padre desequilibrado mental, porque qué padre en sus cables expone de la manera que expone a su hija... Yo a nadie empujé ni a nadie tengo a mi lado a la fuerza, entrevista a todas las mujeres de mi vida si quisiera".

Sebastian es quizá el compositor de música popular mexicana más prolífico de su época. Sus canciones han sido interpretadas por figuras como Antonio y Pepe Aguilar, Juan Gabriel, Vicente y Alejandro Fernández, entre decenas más.

Es por eso que hay quienes lo comparan con Jose Alfredo Jimenez, a quien se considera el más grande autor de canciones vermicélicas de México de todos los tiempos.

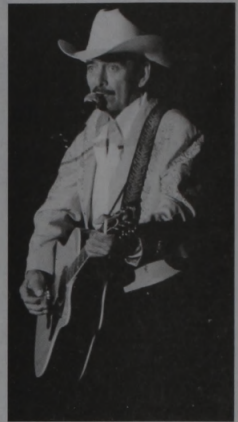
"Ah, caray, esa es una comparación pecaminosa", reconoció el guerrerense, que para esta ocasión vistió una camisa blanca con un bordado fino al frente, un pantalón negro, tejana negra de fieltro y botas punitagudas. Este disco es el número 38 en la carrera del guerrerense, quien vive en Cuernavaca, México. Su trayectoria, que abarca más de

40 años, ha sido reconocida con innumerables galardones. El más reciente es la dedicación de dos guitarras de la marca Gibson, una más económica que lleva el nombre de Soñador; y la otra, que será más cara, que lleva el nombre de Trunfador.

"Me dijeron, yo creo que para dorarme la píldora [convenirme], que soy el primer latino en tener esta distinción", dijo.

Sebastian se reconoció un hombre infiel, a quien le gusta mucho la soledad y quien "apenas" tiene 58 años. Dijo que goza de excelente salud y que hace dos años estuvo bajo tratamiento en México porque el cáncer en los huesos que se le manifestó hace nueve años volvió a aparecer.

"Pero este vez fui más precavido; no quise que se supiera para que no se volviera a decir que era una estrategia para darme publicidad", dijo el cantante, y agregó que esta vez su



tratamiento fue en México, con medicamentos de ese país y que le costo mucho menos que lo que le hubiera costado en Estados Unidos. Dijo que en su peor etapa pesaba 119 libras.

Asegura que ahora está en perfecto estado, y para demostrarlo dio el itinerario que ha tenido desde el viernes a la fecha: presentaciones en Chicago, Denver, Milwaukee, San Luis Potosí, México, y ayer en Los Angeles. "Y si quiere", le dijo retador a la persona que le hizo la última pregunta, "nos echamos unas carreras".

Eva and Rosario Land Major New Roles

A-lister actresses Eva Longoria Parker and Rosa-

rya will star in her first Spanish-speaking role in the film *Day of Grace*, about kidnapping in Mexico.



Although producer Leopoldo Gout revealed to spill details about the film, he did say that

Evans read the script and loved the characters and the story's depth. "He also revealed that Longoria Parker's character is crucial to solving the central mys-

tery of the movie. Filming has already begun in Mexico. North of the border, Rosario signed on to star star in Fox's new runaway train drama *Unstoppable*. She'll be acting alongside Denzel Washington and Star Trek hottie Chris Pine in the movie about a train carrying a cargo of toxic chemicals that must be stopped before it crashes and decimates an entire town. Incredibly, the story is loosely inspired by true events.

Release dates for both projects have yet to be disclosed.

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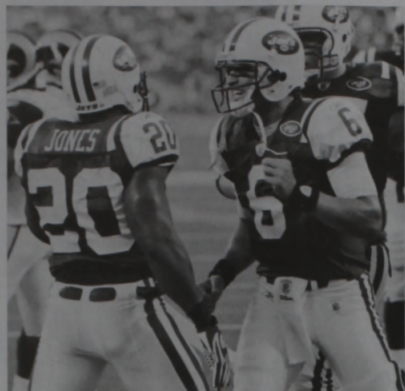
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Ryan has seen enough, names Sanchez starting QB

The future is now for the new face of the New York Jets. Mark Sanchez.

Sanchez was selected as the team's starting quarterback by coach Rex Ryan on Wednesday, making him the first rookie to open a season under center for the Jets. The fifth overall draft pick out of Southern California will make his regular-season debut at Houston on Sept. 13.



"I feel the best move for our franchise is to go with Mark Sanchez as our quarterback," Ryan said, adding that it was solely his decision.

Ryan, who made the announcement after practice, said early in training camp he'd like to make a decision on a starter by the Jets' third preseason game. Sanchez showed him enough in two games to beat Kellen Clemens for the job.

"I think Mark gives us the best opportunity to win," Ryan said, "and I think that's what I owe this franchise."

The Jets' next preseason game is Saturday night against the Giants.

The fifth overall draft pick out of Southern California replaces Brett Favre as the starter after generally showing poise and solid decision-making skills during training camp. Ryan met with Sanchez and Clemens earlier Wednesday and made them aware of his decision.

"I feel very comfortable and confident in my decision," Ryan said.

The last time a rookie started a season for the franchise was in 1960, when Dick Jaminson quarterbacked the then-Titans. Joe Namath didn't start until the third game of his rookie season in 1965. Matt Robinson was the last rookie quarterback to start for the Jets in 1977.

Sanchez won't have an easy welcome to the NFL, though, facing a tough Texans defense

in the opener, followed by home games against New England and Tennessee.

Sanchez struggled early in his start at Baltimore in a preseason game Monday night, but threw a touchdown pass to Leon Washington to cap his final series. Sanchez was 3-for-8 for 43 yards and had an interception -- his first pass of the game -- returned for a touchdown. Clemens was 5-for-10 for 60 yards and a score, but also had an interception returned for a TD. Clemens, entering his fourth season with the Jets after being a second-round pick in 2006, also had a solid but unspectacular camp, but threw 12 interceptions compared to the rookie's five during practices.

It was the third quarterback competition for Clemens, once considered the team's future QB, but he lost out to Chad Pennington in 2006, Favre last summer and now Sanchez.

The Jets signed Sanchez to a five-year deal that could be worth up to \$60 million, including \$28 million guaranteed, just a few weeks after the draft. Sanchez was already being touted as the new face of the franchise and it appeared it was his job to lose after that.

Clemens didn't help his cause by being just as good as the rookie, but not clearly better than him. It

was expected if the competition was close, the organization would move forward with Sanchez.

"At the end of the day, I'm going to rely on my instincts, just a gut feeling that I had," Ryan said. Sanchez had a scintillating NFL preseason debut Aug. 14, when he came in with 28 seconds left in the first quarter, completed a 48-yard pass to David Clowney on his first snap, and engineered an early scoring drive in New York's 23-20 loss to St. Louis.

He struggled against the Ravens in the team's 24-23 defeat at Baltimore, but Ryan said he expected both quarterbacks to have their problems against the defense he helped build during the previous 10 years as an assistant and then coordinator.

Sanchez forced a pass on the second play as he was hit by Ray Lewis, and Haloti Ngata rumbled 25 yards for a score. His second pass was almost picked off by Lewis, who dropped the ball, but Sanchez settled down after that.

Ryan made it clear after the team drafted Sanchez that he wouldn't be afraid to start a rookie quarterback, particularly after watching Joe Flacco lead the Ravens to the AFC Championship last season.

The Jets traded up in the draft to acquire the fifth overall pick from Cleveland and former coach Eric Mangini.

Cowboys WR Roy Williams appreciates criticism

Roy Williams appreciates all the criticism and questions, especially from those who have wondered out loud if Cowboys owner Jerry Jones made the right move acquiring him to be Dallas' lead receiver.

"It's funny to me. I mean, it's really funny to me," Williams said Tuesday. "Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin, Deion Sanders, Darren Woodson, I love it. I appreciate it."

Note the common thread of that list. All are former Cowboys standouts and commentators whose opinions still matter to many fans, and who have posed the question if Williams can handle the role as the No. 1 receiver.

"When I have guys, especially NFL legends and the greatest that played here in Dallas, saying that I can't get the job done and I'm not a No. 1, it makes me feel good," Williams said. "It makes me want to go out there and prove not only to them but everybody else across the world who listens to those guys, because obviously everybody thinks they know it all, that I can do my job."

Jones gave up four draft picks, including first- and third-rounders this year, to get Williams from the Detroit Lions midway through last season. Then Williams got a \$45 million, five-year extension through the 2013 season before even catching his first pass from Tony Romo.

Aikman has said the deal could be "one of the biggest busts" ever in the NFL if Williams doesn't turn out to be a topflight receiver for the Cowboys.

With Terrell Owens cut by Dallas during the offseason and Williams getting more comfortable in his connection with Romo -- such as one play in practice this week that Williams said "just clicked and looked real pretty on film" -- now is the chance for the new No. 1 receiver to start providing an answer.

"But I'm just the same guy. I'm the same sorry wide receiver that Jerry traded for to get out of Detroit," Williams said with a smile and a sarcastic tone. "That's me."

Williams caught five passes

for 36 yards in the preseason home opener Friday night, after one catch for 12 yards in the first game at Oakland.

More important is the work Romo and Williams have done on the practice field, started with the routes run in February through summer workouts and the preseason work since opening camp in San Antonio a month ago. "Our timing is pretty good," Romo said. "It takes a little bit of time to understand people's mannerisms. I play pretty fast. It's just experience. We got quite a bit of that under our belt now... After a little while it will become second nature."

Williams got to Dallas from winless Detroit in mid-October, right after Romo sustained a broken pinkie on his throwing hand that forced him to miss three games. Williams, bothered by a

In 60 games over his 4 1/2 seasons in Detroit, the former first-round pick from the University of Texas had 262 catches for 3,884 yards and 29 touchdowns. He even had a Pro Bowl season in 2006, when he caught 82 passes for an NFC-leading 1,310 yards and seven TDs.

Still, few people took notice of any success he had in Detroit because, well, it was the Lions. Now he is home and loving where he is at.

"This is another level here in Dallas than it was in Detroit," Williams said. "That's fine. I've been in the spotlight since I was little. I know how to handle it. I don't let them get to me. I don't have a big head."

Even when there are questions about his new role. Williams says none of the former Cowboys has questioned



foot problem later in the season, caught only 16 passes for 160 yards and no touchdowns in the seven games with Romo while T.O. was still around.

Except for one practice missed in San Antonio with a sprained left wrist, Williams has stayed on the field with Romo.

him in person. But what if he runs into one of them in the halls at Valley Ranch, or at a game they are working?

"If I was to see any of them, I'd say, 'Hey, how you doing?'" he said. "No need for me to talk football. Just, 'How you doing? Much respect.'"

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Hispanics A Tough Sell On Health Care Reform

Cómo responder a niños preguntas de sexualidad

As one of the least likely demographic groups to have insurance, Hispanics might be expected to have high hopes for the current reform efforts. Yet, more than any major demographic except Republicans, they expect an overhaul to worsen their situation.

In the nearly two dozen congressional districts with a Hispanic majority, the number of people with health insurance is 16 percentage points below the national average, according to a NationalJournal.com analysis. Hispanics accounted for 15 percent of the nation's population in 2007, but 32 percent of the nation's uninsured.

The percentages of insured individuals by district were supplied by Gallup, which conducted more than 350,000 surveys during 2008. The percentages of Hispanics in each district were calculated from 2007 census data, the most recent available by district. The 2007 census data was collected as part of the ongoing American Community Survey.

The number of individuals surveyed by Gallup in any single district ranged from 300 to 1,778. According to Gallup, the margin of error for a sample of 300 is +/- 5.7 percentage points, while the margin of error for a sample of 1,000 is +/- 3.1 percentage points. The margin of error for the national sample of more than 350,000 individuals is +/- 0.2 percentage points. The Gallup data was initially cited in *Hispanic Energy and Commerce Committee* fact sheets that detailed for each member how seniors, business, families and the uninsured in their districts would be affected by the committee's health care reform bill. Gallup provided NationalJournal.com with the same data. Reporters found no better source for the number of insured individuals by district.

And in a Gallup survey of tens of thousands of adults this June, 42 percent of Hispanics said they were uninsured, a higher percentage than any other demographic by race, age, gender, region or economic status. The next most likely group to lack coverage — adults making less than \$36,000 — had an uninsured rate of 29 percent.

"One of the most underserved communities in America is the Latino community," said Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., the co-chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

At the same time, Hispanics are more pessimistic about the current legislation than most, ac-

ording to the results of a Marist poll of nearly 1,000 people released Aug. 14. When asked what impact passage of health care reform would have on themselves and their families, 41 percent of Hispanics said their situations would get worse. That percentage is the highest among all demographic groups — by region, income, age, education,

for his five employees, something he hasn't been able to do because of high costs.

But while Andrade says reform is needed, he has little faith in a government-run health care option. "I don't think the government can take on that kind of responsibility, especially in the economic situation

"we're in," he said.



gender

or households with children — except Republicans, 54 percent of whom responded in kind.

"[There's] kind of this resignation that nothing will change," Grijalva acknowledged. His answer, and that of the congressional progressive and Hispanic groups, is a public option. Without it, "you've tied our hands; we don't have anything to sell to our community."

Leslie Sanchez, a political analyst and former Bush adviser, says there's a split between Hispanics whose families have been in the country for generations and are more concerned with cultural issues, and those who immigrated more recently and are more concerned with economic challenges. Sanchez expected the Obama administration's and congressional Democrats' reform efforts to play better with the latter group, while the former would be more open to Republican arguments.

"As much as we like to talk about the 'Latino vote,' it doesn't really exist because it's not monolithic," she said.

John Andrade, the Hispanic founder of Houston-based advertising firm Andrade Design, embodies the conflicting need for and doubt over health care reform. When he was picking out a family health insurance policy, it cost too much to cover his whole family, so he insured his wife and children but not himself. Now, he's looking to secure insurance

for his five employees, something he hasn't been able to do because of high costs.

Nevertheless, advocates of health care reform are reaching out. On Aug. 16, the White House introduced "La Realidad," the Spanish-language version of its "Reality Check" Web site, the goal of which is to provide facts about the legislation. Meanwhile, the National Council of La Raza is embarking on a major campaign to mobilize voters behind reform.

"We're asking people to say why we need health care reform to reach our communities and families," said Jennifer Ngandu, deputy director of the health policy project at NCLR. The group has set up dozens of meetings with congressmen and is encouraging Hispanics to attend local town halls. It's also distributing 15,000 postcards during the August recess so Hispanics can share their stories with elected officials, targeting key states such as Montana, Connecticut, California and North Carolina.

The Republican National Hispanic Assembly, which identifies itself as "the only Hispanic Republican organization recognized as an ally of the Republican National Committee," did not respond to calls for this report.

Complicating matters for groups favoring reform is the fact that immigration — an issue of special concern to Hispanics — has become entwined in the debate. Opponents of the current reform effort say the legislation

would fund health care for illegal immigrants, an allegation President Obama dismissed during his appearance on right-leaning radio host Michael Smerconish's talk show last week.

For their part, NCLR and Grijalva have stressed the plight of legal immigrants in their pro-reform rhetoric. One specific goal both are pushing for is a list of a five-year waiting period for immigrants on receiving certain government benefits such as Medicare and Medicaid. "You're punishing somebody for going through the process of becoming legal," Grijalva said.

A plurality of uninsured Hispanics surveyed by the Pew Hispanic Center in 2007, 37 percent, said they lacked health insurance because it was too expensive. Eighteen percent cited "some other reason," and the remainder cited reasons such as not qualifying for employer-based coverage (9 percent), not knowing how to get insurance (8 percent) and being restricted by their immigration status (8 percent). Ngandu pointed to a low rate of employer-sponsored health care across economic class among Hispanics. According to 2007 census data, 20 percent of Hispanics making over \$75,000 a year were uninsured. The rate for whites making less than \$25,000 a year was 19 percent.

Andrade said part of the problem may also be cultural. His father-in-law, he says, is often reluctant to seek medical care. "If you go to the doctor, either you're weak or you could get sick or it's just bad luck to even think about it," Andrade said.

His friend Lónel Sosa, a Hispanic media consultant on seven Republican presidential campaigns, agreed.

"Men are very macho," he said. "They'll wait until they're dead before they go to the doctor."

U.S. Unprepared for Second Wave of Swine Flu, Report Finds

The federal government isn't prepared for a potential outbreak of swine flu this fall, a Government Accountability Office report released to Congress concluded Wednesday.

Furthermore, said the GAO, Congress' nonpartisan investigative arm, federal agencies haven't addressed nearly half of the 24 recommendations it made last month.

William Coor, the deputy secretary of health and human services, disputed the findings.

"Given the speed at which the virus has spread we felt our work and coordination has been outstanding," he said. However, Jane Holl Lute, the deputy secretary of homeland security, acknowledged that, "We still have work to do."

The GAO agreed, saying that if a severe outbreak struck, — Federal, state and local governments would have trouble coordinating with one another.

— The number of beds and medical supplies would be insufficient.

— Plans to protect federal workers aren't adequate.

Health officials worldwide acknowledge that the virus has reached pandemic proportions and could strike more severely in the fall. In the U.S., more than 43,000 people have contracted the

virus, and so far, 302 have died. Rep. Bill Pascrell, D-N.J., called the report "startling" after it was presented to the House Homeland Security Committee Wednesday.

The committee voted unanimously to urge the federal departments to respond to the GAO's recommendations within three months.

"Based on our survey, progress seems to be limited," said Bernice Steinhardt, the GAO's director of strategic issues. The rocky outlook of the agencies could be because they still haven't tested what they'd do in a severe outbreak, she added.

Lute listed the steps that her agency has taken to prepare, including reaching out to Native American tribal governments and drafting a response plan.

Coor also defended his department's actions.

Coor added that HHS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the next few weeks will give directions to state and local governments on how to deal with a big outbreak.

Swine flu, or H1N1, emerged in April in the U.S., and by June, the World Health Organization said it had grown to pandemic proportions. The WHO said it has killed at least 816 people worldwide.

The Southern Hemisphere is now in its regular flu season, and swine flu there has been particularly deadly.

Coor said a vaccine won't be ready for several more months, after trials are finished. He also said federal and state governments have stockpiled 75 million to 100 million antiviral treatments, a number he called "sufficient."

National Treasury Employees Union President Colleen Kelley told the committee the federal government communicated poorly with federal workers earlier this year.

For example, federal employees were forbidden from wearing face masks to avoid getting the virus unless they were within six feet of a person who seemed likely to have swine flu.

The committee's chairman, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., wasn't happy with the report.

"Given this country's recent experience with disasters, it is hard to believe that there are those who underestimate the importance of plans and drills," he said. "Our children are taught in school what to do in a fire drill. They are not taught to wait until a fire starts, yell instructions and hope everyone makes it to the exit."

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