

Casualties of
War in Iraq
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Evangelical Hispanics turning away from GOP

Once-promising alliance fractures over immigration crackdown

By Thomas B. Edsall

WASHINGTON - House Republicans knew that leaders of liberal Hispanic organizations would castigate them for passing hard-edged legislation last December calling for 700 miles of new fencing on the U.S.-Mexican border and for elevating illegal immigration to a felony and making it a permanent disqualifier for American citizenship. What they didn't foresee was that the Rev. Luis Cortes Jr., one of the most prominent Hispanic evangelicals to support President Bush's re-election, would turn against their party.

The 48-year-old Baptist minister heads Esperanza USA, which bills itself as the nation's largest Hispanic faith-based community-development organization. It controls Nueva Esperanza (Spanish for "new hope"), a Philadelphia-based network of social services, including a charter high school, a community college, and a \$28 million economic development program.

After the 2000 election, Bush's political team was determined to boost the president's support among Latino voters and correctly saw

Local WTOS Leaders to Attend Network of Texas IAF Organizations Conference

Groups to Call on Gubernatorial Candidates and Legislature to Support an Agenda for Working Families

On September 8th and 9th, 600 leaders of the Network of Texas IAF Organizations, which includes the West Texas Organizing Strategy, WTOS, will ask state officials and gubernatorial candidates to support an agenda which calls for investments in education, health care, infrastructure, and job training as well as comprehensive immigration reform. Candidates Carol Strayhorn, Chris Bell, and Kinky Friedman have confirmed, and Congressman Lloyd Doggett and former Texas Comptrol-



ler John Sharp will also attend. This two-day strategy session will be followed by hundreds of neighborhood walks across the state in which leaders will engage more than 100,000 of their neighbors in conversations about the issues coming before the State Legislature and the Governor.

"We will be a watchdog at the legislature, calling on our elected officials to safeguard families in the upcoming session. We will watch for and oppose anti-immigrant legislation at the state level and support comprehensive immigration reform at the national level. We will also fight against efforts to limit school districts' ability to raise money or paying for property tax breaks by increasing the sales tax," said Rev. Davis Price, leader with the West Texas Organizing Strategy. "Investing in education and health care are critical for the future success of Texas, and we will build a formidable non-partisan constituency to fight for these investments and protect our tax dollars." Leaders from the 12 Network of Texas IAF organizations will hold civic academies in their congregations, conduct block-walks in targeted precincts, and have thousands of face-to-face conversations with Texas families about their concerns.

The Network of Texas IAF Organizations:

- * Supports more money for public education, health care, affordable housing, infrastructure for "colonias", and job training for living wage jobs.
- * Supports a tax system which adequately funds these programs but doesn't put a disproportional burden on poor and working families.
- * Supports comprehensive immigration reform which provides a pathway to citizenship, protects workers rights, reunites families, and strengthens border security and the rule of law.
- * Opposes paying for property tax reductions by increasing the sales tax. The sales tax should continue to exclude food, medicine, utilities, and items that would disproportionately affect the poor.
- * Opposes efforts to limit the ability of school districts and local municipalities to raise adequate revenue.

Hispanic Agenda Sets Meeting Date

The Lubbock Hispanic Agenda, a local civic organization will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, September 11, 2006. The meeting will be held at the Lubbock Mahon Library from 5:30pm - 6:45PM and is open to the public.

Tentative Agenda Issues include the following:

1. City Board and Appointments/County Issues - Ysidro Gutierrez and Linda DeLeon
2. Texas Call Centers - Mike Torres
3. Civic Lubbock Inc. - Chevo Morales
4. LULAC District Board Meeting - Ruben Albares
5. LULAC October Events - Henry Martinez

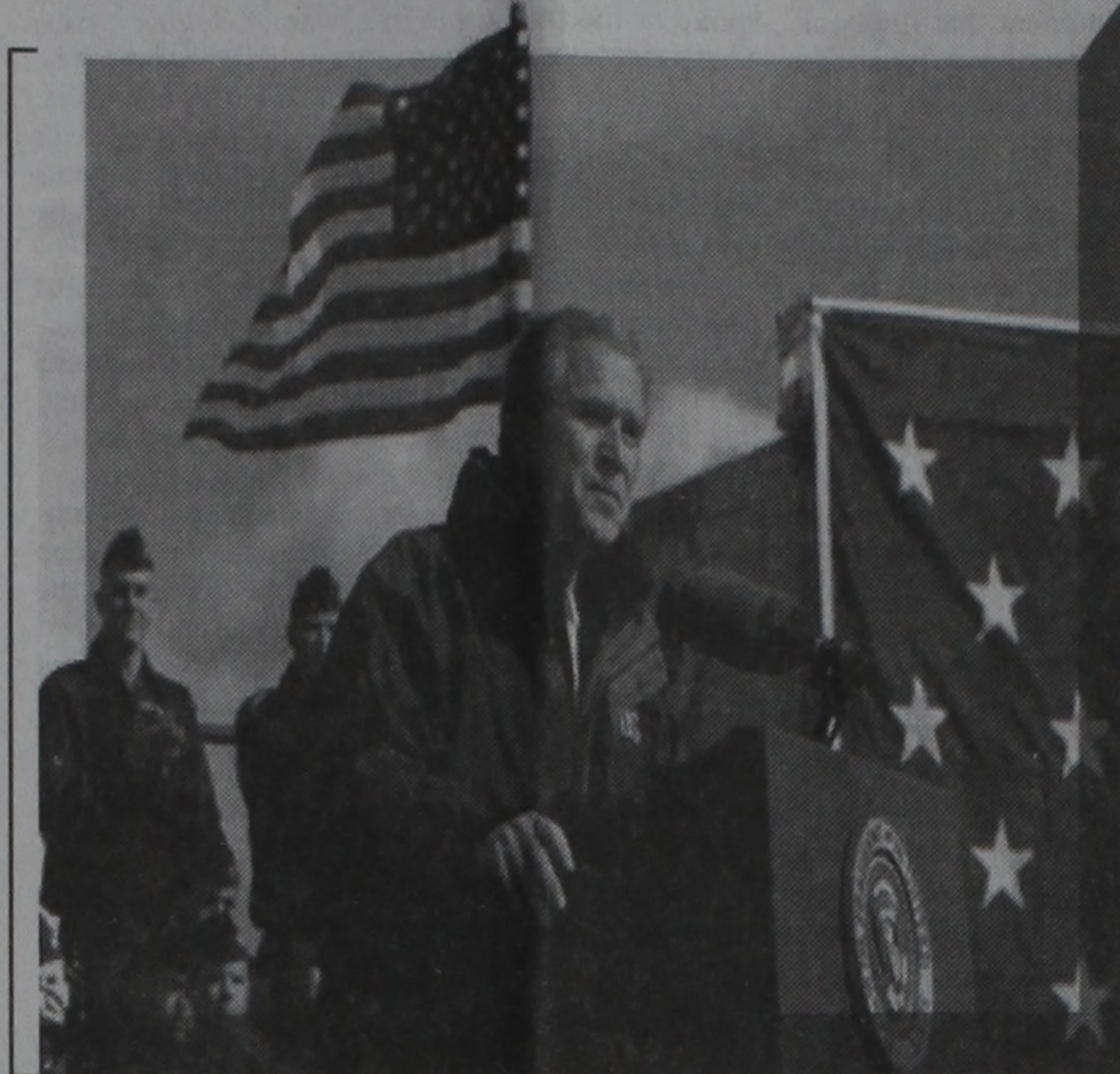
Interested persons are encouraged to attend or call Hispanic Agenda spokesperson Steve Bustos at 806-778-2300 for more information; or to be included on the agenda with issues for discussion.

El Editor announced this week that it will host Chris Bell democratic nominee for Governor at a special forum that will focus on Hispanic issues in Texas on Thursday September 14.

"We hope that this forum will allow our readers and voters in general in Lubbock the opportunity to hear Mr. Bell and his plans, if elected, to address the many problems that Hispanics face in Texas," said Bidal Agüero, publisher of El Editor.

The event is scheduled from 5:30 to 6:30 at the Loise Hopkins Underwood Center.

Agüero also said that they have made a special effort to invite all elected officials in the West Texas area.



evangelical Hispanics -- nearly one-fifth of the Hispanic population -- as especially promising. Cortes became a focus of that strategy.

When Esperanza USA hosted the first National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast in 2002, Bush was the star attraction; he would return to the annual event year after year. The administration began channeling millions of dollars into Cortes's organizations. The Health and Human Services Department's Compassion Capital Fund for faith-based programs gave Nueva Esperanza three grants totaling more than \$7.4 million. Cortes was able to distribute much of the money to Hispanic churches and service organizations nationwide, thereby strengthening his standing within the Latino community. In July 2004, the Labor Department awarded \$2.76 million to Esperanza USA for training at-risk Latino youths in Chicago, Miami, New York, Orlando, and Philadelphia.

For Bush, the evangelical Latino community proved to be an ideal target constituency, because in pursuing it the GOP could push the hot-button issues of abortion and gay rights in ways that had been powerfully effective among white evangelicals.

Courtship paid off in 2004

In 2004, the Bush administration's courtship paid off. Cortes, who had backed Ralph Nader in 2000, endorsed Bush. And on Election Day, Bush's share of the Hispanic vote rose from 31 percent to at least 40 -- with virtually all of the increase coming not from Catholics but from Protestant evangelicals like Cortes. After the election, Cortes told The New York Times, "I'm not red, and I'm not blue. I'm brown. You want an endorsement? Give us a check, and you can take a picture of us accepting it. Because then you've done something for brown."

But now, House Republicans'

hard-line stands on immigration are clearly jeopardizing their party's gains among Hispanic evangelicals. Over the past year, in a shift frightening to GOP operatives, Cortes has become an outspoken critic of the House Republican leadership, warning of a massive exodus of Latinos from the GOP. "The Far Right is using rhetoric to frame [immigration] in a manner that convinces the majority of Americans that the only alternative is to hunt down and punish these 'drug-dealing people,'" Cortes told National Journal. Republican House leaders "have gone too far, a sign that they are desperate and have no true agenda for our country. They should be ashamed, and as a person of faith I have to believe that this will backfire, as it is clearly an act of cowardice."

At a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in Philadelphia on July 5, Cortes testified that "immigration is the No. 1 issue of concern in our communities. For us, immigration is about family values, about work and living productive lives as contributing members of our communities. Millions of our people are known only to many as 'the undocumented.' Forty million Hispanic-American citizens have undocumented grandparents, mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts, and children. They are not criminals, felons, or gang members, but taxpaying, law-abiding, hardworking members of our families and our communities."

The Bush administration and the Republican National Committee have sought to assuage the fears of their Latino supporters, but key Hispanic conservatives aren't sounding mollified. As he left a recent meeting of the RNC, the Rev. Miguel Rivera, president of the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders, an outspoken advocate of the Right's social agenda, and a Bush loyalist, declared, "I pray for the soul of the Republican Party."



We would expect them to attend in order to take back information to the constituency about what might affect them after the next election. I think that our community is especially

eager to ask Mr. Bell about his plans for education.

The event is free and open to the public for more information call El Editor at 806-763-3841

The glide path

Throughout 2004, the Bush administration's strategy of expanding its Hispanic support, especially among Protestant evangelicals, was on a glide path. The GOP's conservative stands on social issues, including gay marriage, abortion, and school prayer, resonated powerfully among the growing numbers of Latino parishioners at Pentecostal and Baptist churches. The administration's faith-based initiatives, in turn, funneled hundreds of grants to Hispanic churches and religious groups, many of them Protestant and evangelical.

In 2004, there were 40.5 million Hispanics in the United States, up from 26.6 million a decade earlier and substantially more than the 34.8 million African-Americans. However, in 2004, only half as many Hispanics as blacks voted, according to the American National Election

Studies, because of lower registration and turnout rates, and higher percentages of noncitizens and children. But the Hispanic vote is expected to overtake the black vote in little more than a generation.

The Hispanic vote is especially important in the Southwest, which is rapidly becoming a swing region with the power to decide presidential elections. In Arizona in 2004, 12 percent of voters were Hispanic, exit polls found, as were 8 percent in Colorado, 10 percent in Nevada, and 32 percent in New Mexico. And in two other Sun Belt states -- Texas and Florida -- the continuation of Republican political dominance will likely depend on whether the party can boost its popularity among Hispanics. By 2004, Hispanics already made up 20 percent of the Texas electorate and 15 percent of Florida's. In every one of these states, Latino voters substantially outnumber black voters.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Question of the Week: Five years after 9/11, there is a bitter division between Americans on key issues concerning the Iraq War and they are as intense as ever. The staying in Iraq, wiretapping, financial surveillance, and the argument over what role, if any, Saddam Hussein, played in the attacks of 9-11 has both sides at a standstill. What is your opinion of these issues or points being made by both sides? What are your friends saying?

My opinion is that it is time for the United States to pull out. †So many military men and women are dying and it is time to put a stop to it. †The United States went only to help, but how much help can Iraq be given? †If the United States knows that Iraq can defend itself, why not let it? †If Saddam Hussein indeed had a role in the whole matter, what is being done about it? Nothing. He may have his supporters still running the show, but he will get what he deserves. In other words, why is the United States wasting so much money and not getting anything in return? †The talking needs to stop and more action needs to be taken.
Minerva Alaniz, Lubbock via Email

Sadly many of my friends, and America as a country, have become polarized into extremes about these issues.

Most of my army buddies are very strong for the war and for Bush but some question our plan for the contingencies that followed the fall of Saddam Hussein. They also know that the first casualty of the battle plan is usually the plan, itself.

Few, if any, believe it would be good strategy to cut and run before we finish the job. Personally, I'm glad that the focus of the antiwar sentiment is on the war and not the warriors. It's good to see our servicemen and women welcomed home so warmly and not like those who returned from Vietnam. The travesties are the demonstrations against the war by self-righteous groups who protest at funerals for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service to our country.

Wiretapping and financial surveillance are rarely discussed. Personally, I support taking whatever measures are necessary to prevent another 9/11 but worry about zealous bureaucrats taking the law into their own hands. I believe we have existing laws, such as seeking judicial approval, that can expedite the process without crippling it. If we err, it should be on the side of caution - it will be far easier to rein in a bureaucrat than to restore another 3,000 lives and the Twin Towers. Saddam is one of the truly bad guys and deserved to be taken down. I believe Bush acted on the best intelligence he had at the time and acted rather than allowing a situation to develop as it did with Germany and Japan before W.W.II.

Bottom line, I respect the views of those to my left and to my right but I don't agree with the extremists on either side.

Phil Price, Lubbock via Email

I don't think it really matters what my opinion is because I don't have any answers.

If I had an answer to the problem, I would certainly express my opinion. My friends are saying go for it! Do what ever it takes to get the job done.

Steve Bustos, Lubbock via Email

Free, open and honest dialog about the war in Iraq is healthy and would be good if it wasn't so bitter.

Essentially there are two debates raging. The first is between hard line Republicans and hard line Democrats who are motivated by the acquisition of power, fame, and money. They make heavy use of T.V. radio, and the print media. They appear to be more loyal to their respective political parties and their agendas than to America. The political parties will never agree on what is best for America. These groups make up about 30% of Americans.

The second debate rages in the hearts and minds of common everyday Americans. Many are influenced by the talking points of the two political parties, but if national polls are correct, and mostly they are; then 65% of everyday Americans are against the war.

These Americans are smart and well informed. They know the war in Iraq is getting worse. They've heard the Joint Chiefs of Staff warn that Iraq is moving towards civil war. They understand that the insurgency against US troops is also getting worse and more soldiers are dying. They know the war is getting worse even in Afghanistan.

The American people are smart enough to know we are in a quagmire in Iraq; there is "no end in sight" and "no strategy to get out." They know we are not winning, and that our military is making Vietnam style mistakes. The Marine Corps reports that 70% of its war materials have already been used up in Iraq and there is little money in the US treasury to replenish them. Our sophisticated military equipment is already degrading due to harsh desert conditions. With our resources stuck in Iraq our ability to defend America from terrorists around the globe is greatly impeded. The terrorist strategy is to slowly wear us down.

The 65% believe that if we "stay the course," the war in Iraq will bankrupt the US. It costs the US over \$80 billion annually and the US National debt is over \$9 Trillion. Our children and grandchildren will pay for the war financed by borrowing money from China and Japan. The President's "borrow and spend" policies have weakened the US dollar thereby making it more expensive to buy foreign oil. This is a major reason we paid \$3 a gallon for gasoline in Lubbock.

(Continued on Page 2)

Letters to the Editor

This message is to find out if any of your readers feel the way I feel about Chicano or Tejano radio stations here in Lubbock. I write in English because it may be that more readers will read this than if it were written in Spanish — which is very sad. It is very annoying that it seems that 98% of what is spoken on Tejano radio is in English - even the commercials. Sure, the radio stations will say that they are bilingual radio, but, when the use of Spanish is very limited on these stations it contradicts the statement. Bilingual means using both languages equally, as far as I am concerned.

¿Qué pasó con nuestro idioma, hombre?!?! Are classes in high school and the universities the only place that Spanish can be heard now? Todo está triste. And then, the radio stations bombard the public with the same songs over and over and over and over. Their special promotions are like some sort of brain washing, to control our minds.

The last assault was the end of summer something or other at Buffalo Lakes. I swear, I never want to hear another Diva song again. They played these songs at least 25,000 times in six weeks.

¿Qué creen? ¿Qué estamos pensando? Radio stations like Magic should be reminded that one of their purposes is the public good. There is nothing good about brain washing. To the Power's credit they have never attempted these kinds of silly shenanigans, and I applaud 106. Pos orale. Ay te watcho.

Oh no, let's get ready for "El 16 de septiembre" — ¡más lavados! A.G., Lubbock via Email

Rick Perry at It Again

Rick Perry continues to prove he does not care about the well-being of Texas - not just its citizens, but the state itself. He has fast-tracked permits for seventeen new coal-fired power plants to be built in North and Central Texas. These plants are worse for the environment than an additional twenty million cars would be. In addition to the decrease in air quality and increase in smog, over 2 tons of mercury would be deposited into the soil. Just why is Rick Perry allowing such a deal to go through? It's because energy companies who would benefit from it have given him over \$37,000 in campaign contributions. Apparently the only way you can get Rick Perry to listen to your concerns is if you give him a little something under the table. It also appears that Perry has taken a tactic from the oil companies' playbook too: even though the price of natural gas has decreased significantly in the past six months, he has brokered a deal with TXU to let them charge the same rates as they have before.

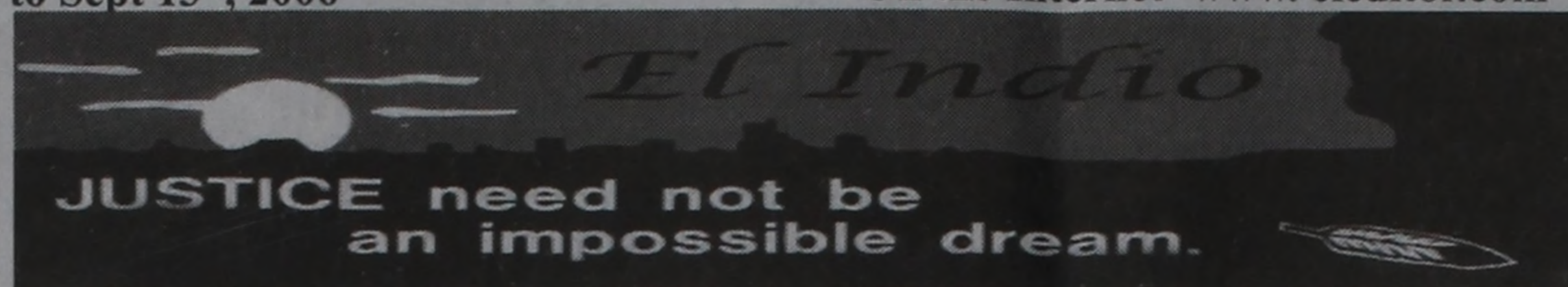
The only candidate with proven results that can prevent dealings such as these is Chris Bell. He can ensure that such despicable, selfish dealings in the Governor's mansion do not take place. The campaigns run by Strayhorn and Friedman continually show they are either indecisive or incompetent, leaving us with Chris Bell, who showed nothing but progress during his term in the US House of Representatives.

Nick De Cesare
Denton, Tx

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The following is a complete text of a speech by this writer, Roger Settler, before the Lubbock City Council on 31 August:

"Before a governmental entity contemplates a large tax increase, several salient questions should be addressed, using old-time common sense principles:

A) With the passing of the Lou Fox era, does Lubbock really need several highly paid Assistant City Managers, as well as many other expensive administrators...like the assistant Chancellors at Texas Tech...this seems to be a pervasive trend in government...the common sense question must be, "Can we afford this, and why?" And more importantly, "Is it right?"

B) The City Council AND the County Commissioners have fallen prey to the ad hominem argument that Lubbock must pay salaries commensurate with other cities in Texas and the nation...and yet, the standard of living in Lubbock is considerably lower than most of these cities, when housing costs, utilities, taxes, etc. are taken into consideration...the common sense question must be, "If the pay levels are made commensurate, are we really not paying an effectively higher rate of compensation than these other cities, and are we really going to lose employees if the pay increase is not granted?"

C) The City Council is listening to that segment of the public who always clamor for more police, and it is politically correct, it seems, to always hire more police officers...and yet, the common sense question must be, "If our recent new police hires have resulted in a 37% increase in arrests, as has been reported by the media, and our new District Attorney, Matt Powell, says, 'Bring them on, we can handle them'...and incidentally, he is asking the Commissioners for increased salaries as well...why doesn't the government, the media and the public question, "What constitutes that 37% increase...is it real crime, or is it public intoxication, drunk and disorderly, traffic offenses, and other minor matters, and is it cost-effective to the tax payers to generate such an increase, and more importantly, Is it right?"

D) The consideration of costly proposals in order to fund a tax increase in a supplemental fashion begs the common sense question, "Do we really need to annex the Strip, when the costs of infrastructure are taken into account, and do we really want red light cameras, when the public has opposed them in the past, when the costs of installation, maintenance and other factors are taken into consideration, and more importantly, 'Is it right?' "I would submit that the taxpayers are being subject to government by Trial and Error...we must fully consider the ramifications of any and all proposals before capriciously experimenting with the public policy."

I am pleased to say that this last Sunday, the Avalanche-Journal published a large article, most of a page, listing the salaries of the top administrators of the various governmental entities and Texas Tech University. I do not know if my speech contributed to the publication of that article, but I hope it did...now the public may see who these administrators are, and the incredible salaries they are being paid.

County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez, seemingly the only responsible Commissioner nowadays, has correctly said that most of the citizenry goes without raises, if they have work at all...and yet these highly-paid administrators benefit from the unnecessary TAX INCREASES that our City Council and County Commission are considering.

Last week's headline in El Editor featuring Commissioner Ysidro was great...he is fighting for smaller government and lower taxes...while the four REPUBLICANS on the Commissioner's Court are pushing HIGHER TAXES and bigger government...how ironic! The GOP Commissioners are giving in to pressure from tax-and-spend District Attorney Matt Powell, who would like to give his prosecutors a HUGE pay raise...and Sheriff David Gutierrez, who wants to install unneeded metal detectors at the Courthouse. Let us hope that by the time this column appears, a good number of folks shall have attended the County Commissioner's hearing on the proposed tax increase, and voiced their strong opposition to this ill-timed and ill-advised proposition!

Did you see the editorial comment, "Consider This" on Channel 11 Tuesday night? Dan Jackson, the General Manager for the station, took the City Council to task for their proposed tax increase:

"Consider This...Raising the Tax Rate" "Get a pen and paper ready because in a few seconds I'm going to give you a phone number you'll want to have. But first, let me set the stage. In a surprising move last week, Lubbock city council members voted unanimously to raise taxes. If that vote becomes final next Wednesday, your property taxes are going up by about \$12 a year. That would mean about \$1.5 million additional revenue to the city.

Also last week, I heard that 90% of the folks that spoke at the public hearing wanted higher taxes. That's right; they wanted city council to raise taxes. Only a few folks showed up against higher taxes. Well, that's because the proposed tax rate was lower at the time. It wasn't until after all public comments were made did they decide to raise the tax rate...how convenient.

I'm hear to tell you lower taxes is what most people want. I've received numerous phone calls, e-mails and viewer comments from hard working folks that overwhelmingly do *not* want taxes to go up. Instead they think government should live on the money they are already collecting, and I agree.

Government by and large has a spending problem. And unless we demand different, they'll keep spending more and more. Oh, I'll be told by all the politicians that I don't have all the facts and we need to raise taxes to quote "take care of Lubbock." That all sounds great but we're forgetting one thing...those politicians are elected to represent the interest of the people. And the majority of people in Lubbock don't want a tax increase. They want less spending, lower taxes, and smaller government...not bigger.

I'd also like to see truth in taxation used to get us lower taxes, not used as an excuse to raise them. So consider this...if you agree with the majority of people that I have heard from, let your elected officials know. If you think government should use the additional money they're already getting to keep your taxes from rising. Call City Hall at 775-3001 then press 7 to get the mayor's office.

It's time our elected officials heard from the people who elected them, not the organized minority who showed up last week for higher taxes. Give me a break!" [KCBD-TV, 5 September 2006]

Ah, my prediction has already come true...after just a few weeks, the Overton North WalMart has recorded its first major parking lot crime:

"Man Reports Beating, Robbery Near Wal-Mart" "A 36-year-old man was robbed Sunday [3 September] in the parking lot of the North Overton Wal-Mart.

The man told police told he was walking to his car near 1911 4th St. at about 8:30 p.m. when two black men and one Hispanic man pulled him into a dark-colored car and hit him over the head several times with what he believes was a gun, Sgt. Scott Farmer said.

The man's attackers then took his money and dropped him off in an unknown location in east Lubbock County.

It is not known why the man was attacked... [Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, 6 September 2006]

Two Fridays ago, I attended a premiere screening of Hector Galán's film, "Los Lonely Boys: Cottonfields and Crossroads" (2006)...spectacular, fabulous! I shall write more on this in a later column....

The Iraq War - Questions and not many answers

Where We Are

The editor of the premiere conservative magazine National Review, Rich Lowery, writes of a litany of problems with the Iraq war and each time equates them with the failures of the Vietnam War.

"Just like Vietnam," is Lowery's constant refrain again and again, however, unlike Vietnam in Iraq we are not only being bogged down; we are being pulled into a war which is collapsing into chaos and civil war.

All the while the Bush Administration fails to offer a policy for getting us out other than "stay the course." Staying the course is not strength, leadership, nor policy-being wrong, misleading, and partisan is hurting America and unacceptable. Never in our country's proud history have we witnessed this sort of conduct during a time of war.

Such conduct is also not in keeping with our great presidents at grave moments.

Can you imagine this behavior from Washington, Lincoln, or Roosevelt, and can you imagine how we would have fared during those critical moments in our history if they acted with the same reckless and arrogant abandon as this President.

Under President Bush we are instead faced with the reality (whether he and his people choose to realize it or not) that Iraq is not getting better but worse, that the reasons for going there have proven false, that instead of creating a federated democracy we have created a mess-civil war and rampant corruption and crime-in the absence of occupational order.

Instead of creating a strategic stronghold in the Middle East, we have created a recruiting tool for al Qaeda and made America a source of hatred in a larger war for the hearts and minds of those who live in that region.

Most critically we have taken our eye off that very war, the one linked to 9/11, Afghanistan as well as the War on Terrorism.

Though in hindsight we should have never gone into Iraq, and it is now clear that the Bush Adminis-

An Op-Ed by Todd Klein

tration took us in there by misleading the public about the intelligence. Iraq has become a disaster through the administration's mismanagement after the invasion, and because Iraq keeps America from dealing with the threats of global terrorism, Afghanistan, North Korea, and Iran.

You would be hard-pressed to find a retired general who will not tell you that our military is strained and at its breaking point. Yet, Bush still lacks an exit strategy or even a plan for success while we are there.

Despite the constant call for increasing the number of troops in Iraq since the invasion, Bush along with his cronies, Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in particular, have denied the need for more troops and sent a clear message to commanders on the ground to utter the same.

What is at Stake

We must understand that this moment in time is one of those same historic and critical moments in our nation's history, no less critical than those Washington, Lincoln, or Roosevelt faced. How Bush faces it will forever alter our nation. What the Bush Administration does or fails to do in the remainder of his term will determine the world in which our children live.

So let us be clear, we are being tied down in a growing civil war which places our military in the cross-fire and only increases the hatred of America by the warring parties while increasing radical militants throughout the region who are then recruited as terrorists against us.

Victory is not in sight and President Bush's elective war is recruiting more terrorists than its killing. We are not made safer by Iraq but put at graver risk here at home because of Bush's policies abroad.

While Bush and his cronies attempt to spin the reality of Iraq in endless directions the fact is Iraq has become an endless commitment of our blood and treasure.

Not only are we struggling to win the Iraq War, but the Taliban are returning in Afghanistan, Hezbollah and Hamas are on the rise in their war against Israel, and al Qaeda inspired terrorist cells are sprouting up across Europe.

The war on terrorism is (despite the Bush Administration's assertions to the contrary) chiefly to two things, of three parts, first; chiefly a war for the hearts and minds of the civilians living amongst the radical militants, second; chiefly an intelligence gathering and law enforcement operation against those radical militants, and (only after the first two components have failed), third; a military operation against those terrorists and their backers.

The Bush Administration's failure to understand this (and their predisposed desire to take us to war with Iraq prior to 9/11) has resulted in a world where we face historic anti-American attitudes, this after the French declared in the aftermath of 9/11 that "we are all Americans now," and at a time when we can't go it alone if we want to be successful in our aims of preserving our national security and advancing our strategic geopolitical interests.

Bush has allowed al Qaeda to drive a wedge between us and our needed strategic partners in the war on terrorism and Iraq.

Even more rudimentary than the strategic failures is the failure of the Bush Administration to fully support our troops on the ground. From the beginning we have not had enough troops in Iraq. To date we don't have enough troops to take and hold an area, and Senator John McCain has time and again pointed this out. Bush has created a situation on the ground were we take an area and leave only to have to do so again and again.

With the rationale for invading Iraq exposed and given the constant mismanagement and half-commitments by the Bush Administration, as well as the rise of civil war, it is time to reconsider Iraq.

(Part Two Next Week)

Words cloud 'illegals' debate

Experts say how we label those who cross the border does affect public opinion.

By Jean Hopfensperger,

What should you call the men and women who sneak across U.S. borders? The answer goes to the heart of an issue dividing the nation.

To Dell Eriksson, they're "illegal aliens." "Immigrant" -- as a term -- is someone here lawfully," said Eriksson, a retiree from Brooklyn Center who thinks the country lets in too many foreigners.

Nathan Thompson contends these people are "undocumented workers." "The word 'illegal' conjures images of hardened criminals coming to the U.S. ... and that is completely false," said Thompson, a teacher who lives in St. Paul. "The phrases 'illegal alien' and 'illegal immigrant' appeal to base-level emotions and cut off debate."

Few issues rile up immigration activists more than the words used to describe men and women who cross the border without permission. They are the subject of 30 U.S. House "field hearings" on immigration reform this summer, including one scheduled for Sept. 1 in Dubuque, Iowa, that Minnesotans are planning to attend.

The war of words is more than semantics, say researchers who study such matters. What you call these men and women shapes public opinion of them, and that in turn frames the debate over how to change immigration laws.

For example, if these people are "undocumented workers," the Senate's plan to create a guest-worker program so they can work here legally would seem to be the logical solution. But if they are "illegal aliens," the House immigration proposal that focuses on tightening border security sounds like a sensible approach.

The problem is, none of the descriptions is really accurate, said former U.S. Immigration Commissioner Doris Meissner, now an analyst at the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. "This is not a simple thing," Meissner said.

Many "undocumented" workers actually entered the country with documents, but then overstayed their visas, she said. And immigrants can be legal or illegal based simply on what country they're coming from.

A Cuban whose raft lands in the United States can lawfully enter the country and become a U.S. resident within a year, she said. But a Mexican who swims across the Rio Grande River has virtually no path to legal residency -- ever.

Meanwhile, individual immigrants are not necessarily illegal, but there can be illegal immigration, Meissner said. Even the federal government can't make up its mind. The U.S. Census Bureau calls them "unauthorized immigrants." Other federal agencies refer to them as "illegal aliens."

Emotional issue
At a Minnesota News Council forum this summer on how the news media cover immigration, the language of immigration sparked pointed debate. Eriksson, a self-described "old-school environmentalist" long concerned about U.S. population growth, was among those in the audience. He thinks immigrant rights groups are watering down the problem when they call people crossing the border "unauthorized workers" or "undocumented workers." "If these people are 'unauthorized workers,' does that mean a bank robber is making an 'unauthorized withdrawal?' " he asked after the forum.

Others argued that people cannot be illegal. Or at the very least, people who hire the workers should be labeled "illegal employers."

Lucy Smith, also in the audience, said the immigration language war is deeply personal to her. She is a Polish Jew who survived the Holocaust by living underground for years, during an time when she was considered "illegal" and to capture her would have been legal.

"I survived because I had the documents of someone else," said Smith, an artist from St. Paul. "What is legal and illegal is very changeable. How could we consider people's desire to simply get a job to support our families to be illegal, particularly when we are not letting them in legally?"

Even the news media are divided on the wording. Fox News, for example, calls them "illegal aliens." Most major newspapers call them "illegal immigrants," although the National Association of Hispanic Journalists calls that term "dehumanizing."

George Lakoff, a linguistics professor at the University of California-Berkeley, argues that defining the issue as a question of "illegal immigrants" or "undocumented workers" is too narrow to describe the immigration problems facing the country. Those problems encompass business hiring practices, U.S. foreign policy, the labor market and other issues.

"It takes a complicated problem and frames it so that the sole source of the difficulty is the people who are crossing the border," Lakoff said.

Paul Westrum of Albert Lea, Minn., founder of Minnesota Coalition for Immigration Reduction, says language has actually improved for immigrants over the years. He recalled his grade school teachers calling migrant workers "wetbacks" and also "Operation Wetback," which as launched during the Eisenhower administration to repatriate Mexicans.

Calling these immigrants anything but "illegal" is simply wrong, he said. Look up the words in the dictionary.

"All it does is fog the issue, and pretty soon people don't know what to think," Westrum said.

Even Meissner grapples with wording. She said she has been using the terms "unauthorized migrant" or "unauthorized immigrant" -- but not exclusively. And she also uses the term "illegal" to describe the phenomena of immigration, and sometimes to describe people as well.

"There's a lack of precise language," she laments.

Community Voices

(continued from page 1)

History will judge this war, but history also affords glimpses of wars past.

Benjamin Franklin wrote, "Any society that gives up freedom to gain security will get neither and lose both." Such is the wisdom of one of our founding fathers.

In the last century, Dwight D. Eisenhower, one of American's great military leaders said, "This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense."

His battlefield experience once led him to declare, "I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity.No nation's security and well-being can be lastingly achieved in isolation but only in effective cooperation with fellow-nations.Any nation's right to form of government and an economic system of its own choosing is inalienable.Any nation's attempt to dictate to other nations their form of government is indefensible."

And perfectly suited to this century's war in Iraq, he said, "When people speak to you about a preventive war, you tell them to go and fight it. After my experience, I have come to hate war."

Benjamin Franklin and Dwight D. Eisenhower would probably question, as I do, whether the "Stay the Course" policy is the way to victory. The Republican political line is "Cut and Run" but staying in Iraq may be likened to "sink and drown."

Republican rhetoric ignores the perfectly acceptable military tactic of pulling back to preserve its strength and fight another day. George Washington used this strategy in the Revolutionary War and it was used in WWI after Japan attacked the US Fleet in Pearl Harbor.

It is a smart tactic to fight a battle on our own terms, not on the enemy's, as we are currently doing in Iraq. If we "Stay the Course" we willingly give the enemy the advantage. What kind of nation would America be if George Washington had followed the George Bush tactic?

Most Americans support the war against terrorist. Most Americans agree that this is a long war and that Iraq is just one battle in the war. Each American must decide on his/her own whether "staying the course" in Iraq is the best way to the eventual defeat of an evil and ruthless terrorist enemy.

"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. You may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive language, offensive or distasteful content, or personal attacks, and for space. Mail your comments to Community Voices, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comments to eleditor@sbcglobal.net or editoreditorial@sbcglobal.net. All comments in the Community Voices section are strictly the opinion of the writer and do not represent the opinions or views of this newspaper or its advertisers. "Community Voices" is offered as a public service by El Editor to provide an alternative forum to mainstream media; so readers wishing to express their opinions and comments may do so.

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The 'Crisis' of Immigration

By Bill Steigerwald

Is illegal immigration the national crisis it's been whipped up to be?

If you listened only to the Tom Tancredos, Pat Buchanans and Lou Dobbses of the world, you'd think we are about to have our economy ruined, our culture subsumed and our fiscal future bankrupted by the 11 million to 20 million illegal immigrants living, working and hiding among us.

But Tony Snow, the upbeat conservative pundit-turned-presidential-press-secretary, and the libertarians at Reason

magazine don't buy into that immigration doomsday.

While acknowledging the obvious socioeconomic problems illegal immigrants cause, Snow argues in a column that immigration — legal and illegal — "is not the pox neo-know-nothings make it out to be."

Snow's column is part of Reason's current package of pro-immigration essays, "Immigration Now, Immigration Tomorrow, Immigration Forever," which is sprinkled with some facts about illegal immigrants often drowned out by the political hype and semi-hysteria:

Percentage of illegal immigrants who got here by jumping the Mexican or Canadian border: 60. Percent who overstayed their tourist or educational visas and therefore wouldn't be stopped by border fences: 40.

Percent of illegals who are unemployed: 5.5. Percent who pay income taxes, Social Security and Medicare: 66. Percent who send their children to public schools: 10. Percent who receive food stamps or unemployment assistance: 5. Percent of Latino households that are Spanish-free by the third generation: 80.

Researcher-analyst Steve Camarota of the Center for Immigration Studies, which favors "a pro-immigrant, low immigration vision," says some of these Reason statistics are a little off. Camarota uses the figure 55 percent for illegals who pay payroll taxes, for instance, and he seriously doubts that only 10 percent of illegals send their kids to public school.

Camarota has estimated that illegals create a net annual benefit of \$7 billion for Social Security and Medicare together. "But," he says, "here's the

kicker: They impose a drain on the rest of the federal budget of \$17 billion for a net drain of \$10 billion." The big question is whether they use Medicaid, he says, "and most of them do."

Reason uses its facts to argue for an efficient, humane, freedom-oriented system that would allow Latino immigrants and others to come, work, pay taxes, easily cross and recross our borders or pursue full-time citizenship.

As long as immigration is run by a government agency, which means it'll be politicized and bureaucratized, and as long as we have our welfare state, that hope is just another libertarian pipe dream, of course.

Meanwhile, it's still a free country — pretty much.

You can rail about the fact that illegal immigrants broke the law to get into the USA or about the horror of having to hear those Spanish phone messages. You can lose sleep worrying that 32 Latino radicals somewhere in California aim to re-conquer the Southwest for Mexico or that illegals are costing taxpayers \$10 billion a year — in a \$2.57 trillion federal budget.

You can even send your congressman an e-mail demanding that we start searching house to house for illegals, erect a gazillion-dollar fence on our southern border and start issuing new ID cards so every employer can become a private-sector immigration cop.

But with the economy growing, unemployment almost nonexistent and crime at 20-year lows, just don't call our immigration problem a national crisis.

Bill Steigerwald is a columnist at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. E-mail Bill at bsteigerwald@tribweb.com.

Las encuestas Varian sobre el apoyo publico por Legislacion de Inmigracion

Alex Meneses Miyashita

A continuación lo que otras cuantas encuestas han hallado en cuanto a la percepción pública de lo que hay que hacer respecto a la reforma migratoria.

EL 80% ESTA A FAVOR y el 16% en contra de un plan comprensivo en California que legalizaría a los inmigrantes indocumentados sin requerir que salgan del país; el 70% está a favor de alguna forma de enfoque comprensivo, mientras que el 22% está a favor de un plan de cumplimiento con la ley exclusivamente. (Field Poll/Julio 27)

EL 56% ESTA A FAVOR de un programa de trabajadores invitados (AP-Ipsos/Marzo 31)

EL 71% ESTA A FAVOR de legislación que lleve a la residencia permanente, y el 19% está a favor de una propuesta que otorgaría sólo residencia temporal. (El Tarance Group y Lake Snell Perry Mermin y Asociados-National Immigration Forum y el Instituto Manhattan/Marzo 31)

EL 72% ESTA A FAVOR de un programa de trabajadores invitados y el 25% por ciento está a favor de la propuesta de cumplimiento de la ley exclusivamente que aprobó la Cámara de Representantes de EE.UU. (Time Magazine-SRBI/Marzo 31)

EL 32% ESTA A FAVOR de la residencia permanente para inmigrantes indocumentados; el 64% está a favor de legalización temporal. (Pew Hispanic Center/Marzo 30)

EL 66% ESTA EN CONTRA de la construcción de un muro a lo largo de la frontera de EE.UU con México y el 67% está en contra de imponer fuertes penas contra empleadores que contratan a trabajadores sin documentos. (Bendixen y Asociados-New America Media/Marzo 28)

EL 68% ESTA EN CONTRA de una "amnistía para inmigrantes ilegales" y el 30% está a favor; el 61% considera un tema muy importante el asegurar las fronteras, y el 47% considera atender a los inmigrantes indocumentados un tema muy importante. (Qoorvis Communications-Minuteman Civil Defense Corps/Marzo 14)

Discovery Networks US Hispanic Group Launches 'Eat.Drink.Travel.Live.'

Discovery Networks U.S. Hispanic Group encourages Hispanic viewers to live life well with a new programming initiative on Discovery Travel & Living (Viajar y Vivir), the first travel and lifestyle channel created for U.S. Hispanics.

"EAT.DRINK.TRAVEL.LIVE.," a special weekend of unique travel destinations and lifestyle programming, will premiere on Discovery Travel & Living (Viajar & Vivir) Saturday, Sept. 23, through Sunday, Sept. 24, 8:00PM-11:00PM ET/PT.

Discovery Travel & Living (Viajar y Vivir) provides an in-home getaway to experience the best the world has to offer, allowing viewers to explore dream destinations, luxurious hotels, noteworthy restaurants and unusual customs and traditions. The series features a mix of EAT.DRINK.TRAVEL.LIVE programming, as well as the network's ongoing series and original U.S. productions, give viewers the inside track on all the latest trends in travel.

According to a study conducted by the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA)*, Hispanic households generate the highest travel among minority groups, with 86 percent of the trips taken by U.S. Hispanics involving at least one overnight stay. The study found that 77 percent of the travel is for leisure and that Hispanics spend more per household trip than the U.S. average.

Additionally, 43 percent of the trips had the goal of visiting a friend or relative. Many U.S. Hispanics expressed interest in tracing their cultural roots while traveling in the U.S. and abroad, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. But an increasing number are also visiting Europe, Asia and other destinations.

"U.S. Hispanics enjoy traveling just as much as other groups, and Discovery Travel & Living is committed to opening their eyes to new possibilities as they plan their next vacation," said Luis Silberwasser, senior vice president and general manager of Discovery Networks U.S. His-

panic Group. "EAT.DRINK.TRAVEL.LIVE. offers an exciting mix of culturally relevant, U.S.-focused content and compelling international programming in Spanish that resonates strongly with our U.S. audience."

EAT. DRINK. TRAVEL. LIVE will feature the following ongoing series:

ANTHONY BOURDAIN: NO RESERVATIONS: When it comes to food and travel, Anthony Bourdain abandons the traditional and embraces the extraordinary. Bourdain, with his unique style and sense of humor, travels the globe seeking the authentic experiences and flavorful foods that magnify the essence of the world's cultures. His quest for the perfect dining experience takes audiences to far-out and familiar places, from Iceland to New Zealand and Paris to New Jersey.

CIUDADES Y COPAS: The series that journeys into the exotic cities of Latin America in search of the most popular regional drinks, also takes its cameras to the United States. The local scenery, culture and character of Los Angeles and Miami are presented through select beverages that represent those cities. The series features unusual coffee, tea, wine, cocktails and spirits.

THE SMITHS' HOTELS FOR 2: Based on a popular series of travel guides, Andrew Grahame and Juliet Kinsman, the co-creators of the "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" books, will investigate rural spa retreats, boutique hotels, restaurants, nightclubs and other sites around the world to determine which locations deserve a place in the latest guide.

STRANDED WITH CASH PETERS: Cash Peters tells it like it is, with a no-holds-barred humor that is paradoxically merciless and endearing. The perpetual outsider, Cash will see if he can truly count on the better part of humanity to let him into their lives and hearts — and hopefully provide a bed and meal along the way. The series explores locales both iconic and unknown

among domestic and international destinations.

TRAVEL SPIES: Three hosts travel incognito to major tourist destinations to uncover the real experience regular travelers receive to offer travel recommendations. Experts test the claims each company makes about its amenities as they assess the staff and service. Cruise ships and hotels located in Key West, U.S. Virgin Islands, Arizona and Los Angeles are among the destinations featured in the series.

In addition to the series programming, Discovery Networks U.S. Hispanic Group regularly produces original short programs geared to the U. S. Hispanic traveler. Two interstitials currently being featured on the network this summer include:

U.S. LATIN RESTAURANTS: BEST-KEPT SECRETS: Viewers now have an insider's guide to many of the greatest Latin restaurants in the U.S., featuring cuisine from such countries as Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, Dominican Republic and Cuba. Although they may not be found in tourist guidebooks, the network reveals regional favorites in New York, Miami and Los Angeles through a series of on-site interviews with restaurant owners and chefs. These colorful shorts portray the extraordinary ambience and personality of each restaurant while heralding the robust flavors and variety of Latin foods.

UNIQUE U.S. HOTELS: Memorable lodging options are presented in a series of short features for U.S. Hispanic viewers who may be seeking an alternative to staying at large hotel chains while traveling throughout the country. Hotels highlighted in these interstitials are set apart by their architectural design, site location, diverse amenities and distinguished guest services. Claudia Bahamon, a popular Latin American model and television personality, introduces each segment.

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El Editor Invitation

Dear Friends,

This year El Editor will be marking our 30th anniversary and celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. As part of these celebrations and in the spirit of our continued commitment to provide the best and up-to-date news that affects the Hispanic community, El Editor is proud to announce that it will host a forum featuring **Chris Bell the Democratic nominee for Governor**. Mr. Bell will speak about issues in the Governor's race that specifically affect Hispanics. The event will take place at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center Helen Jones Studio located at 511 Ave. K on September 14 from 5:30 to 6:30pm.


We invite you to attend and hope that you will take this opportunity to meet Mr. Bell and to come and ask questions of the candidate so that if elected Mr. Bell will have our suggestions for the betterment of our community.

Gracias
 Bidal Aguero
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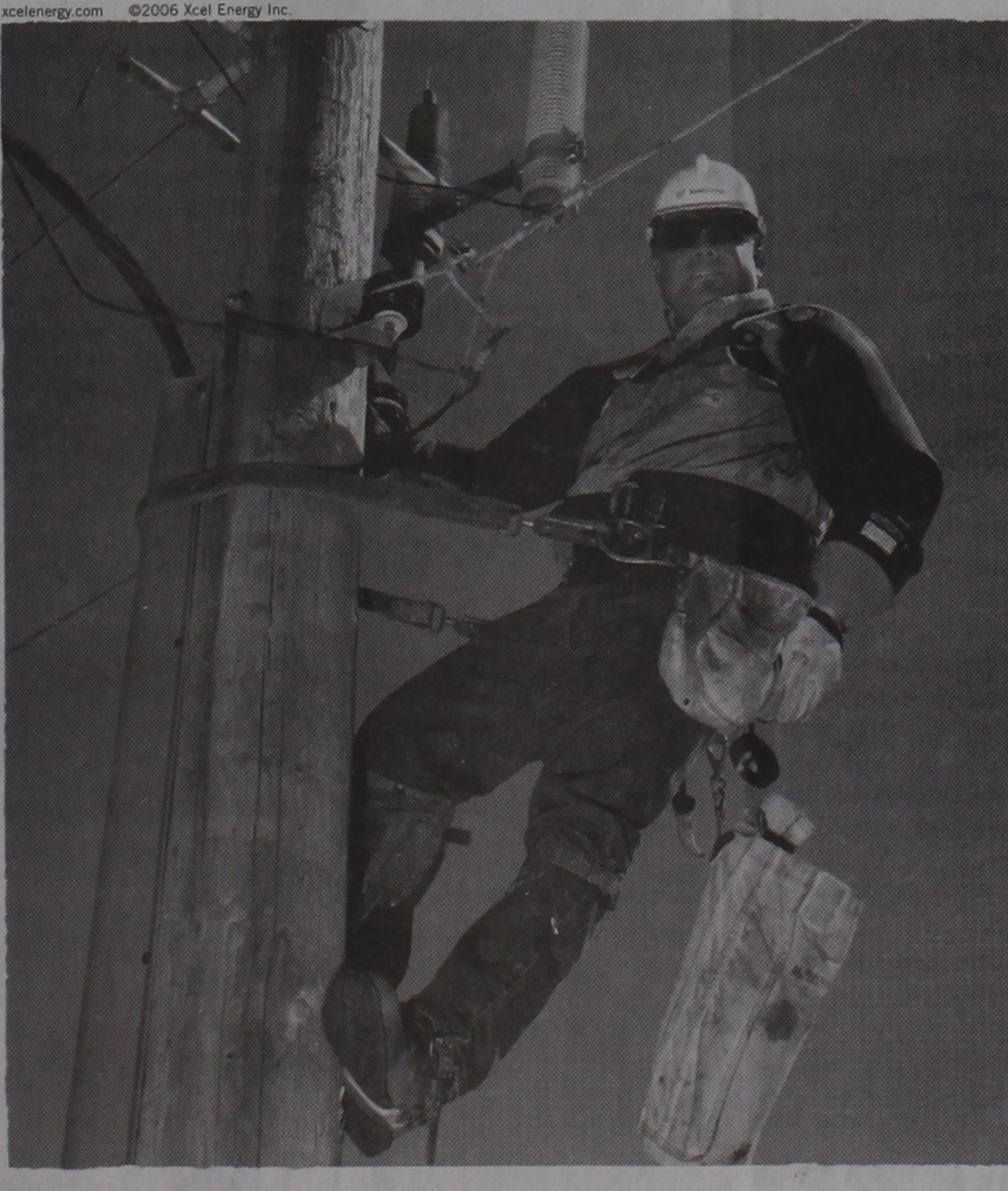
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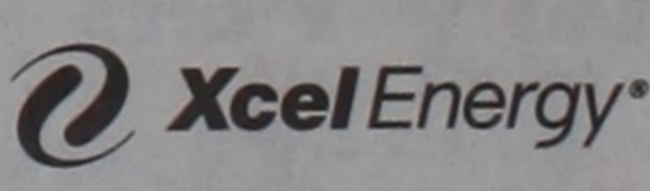


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Cowboys Report: **INSIDE SLANT**

The goal in Dallas is to make a Super Bowl run, and there will be no excuses.

Now there might be some problems. But there will be no excuses. Owner Jerry Jones and coach Bill Parcells know what they got themselves into when they signed receiver Terrell Owens in the offseason.

They knew there would be controversy and they knew there would be scrutiny. But they also understood what he brings to the table as a football player and that alone made it a gamble they were willing to take. That doesn't mean it hasn't been frustrating during the preseason as Parcells answered question after question regarding a hamstring injury that forced Owens to miss 21 practices.

"At the end of the day I knew when we acquired this player that I was going to be the one that had to deal with (it)," Parcells said. "I am going to do what I think is best for the Cowboys and whatever opinion anyone else has is totally irrelevant because they don't have all the facts. So I operate from a position of advantage. The only thing tedious to me is talking about it all the time."

Owens is one of a team-record eight free agent signees. Add that to a strong rookie

class and an already strong base of holdovers and this is not only the most talented Cowboys team since Bill Parcells took over in 2003 but the most talented Cowboys team in more than a decade.

With the addition of Owens and kicker Mike Vanderjagt, the most accurate kicker in NFL history, the Cowboys should not have any trouble scoring points.

The key will be whether the offensive line can keep quarterback Drew Bledsoe protected long enough to get the ball downfield. That is still a question going into the season opener because of concerns about left tackle Flozell Adams (calf strain) and the talent at right tackle with Jason Fabini and Marc Colombo.

Still, Owens' ability to draw double teams should help, as he will keep nine-man fronts off the running game and allow tight end Jason Witten and receiver Terry Glenn to face single coverage.

Either way, the offense will certainly draw some attention.

The strength of the team, however, is on the defensive side of the ball.

This will be the biggest



and most physical unit in Cowboys history. Time will tell if it becomes Doomsday III.

But just the sight of former defensive end Greg Ellis at outside linebacker says volumes about the transformation of a unit that used to be led by fast and quick players.

The defense is still fast but the players bring punch when they get there.

Linebacker DeMarcus Ware, linebacker Bradie James, safety Roy Williams and cornerback Terence Newman are the stars of the defense.

But this developing defense has several players on the verge of breakout years, including defensive ends

Chris Canty and Marcus Spears, and Ellis, who reminds coach Bill Parcells of Willie McGinest at linebacker.

The Cowboys should be good and should be contenders the entire season. However, with six of their first nine games on the road, including three of their first four, they need to be ready to play at the onset.

Parcells spent the entire preseason preparing the Cowboys to run on all cylinders out of the chute.

Look for them to win the NFC East and lose in the divisional playoffs.

But mostly look for them to make national headlines weekly, thanks to the interest in everything about

Owens.

Parcells is ready for that, too.

"It's a different era now than it was 15 years ago," Parcells said. "Just so much more electronic media than it used to be. It's a coast to

coast thing too. It's not just local. It's a nationwide commentary on a circumstance here in Dallas. Most people don't know anything about it 800 miles away. They don't know what's going on here."

Un Rayito de Luz

por Sofia T. Martinez

El gran secreto del fervor: es la prisa y el entusiasmo por hacer el bien.

Dios entra inesperadamente en la vida del ser humano cuando quiere y como quiere. Su espíritu sopla como el viento y nadie sabe de donde viene ni a donde va. ¡Quien puede entender sus designios! Es su manera de actuar de modo imprevisible e impetuoso, violento. Por lo mismo, el cristiano que sirve al Señor y a sus hermanos debe estar siempre dispuesto para dar en el momento que corresponde las respuestas rápidas y generosas.

Hay una palabra clave que debemos tener siempre presente para no fallar, esta es "inmediatamente". Esta palabra descubre la disposición y generosidad de los que acoben la llamada del Señor. El llama a los que quiere: ¡"Vengan conmigo! y ellos, al instante lo dejaron todo y lo siguieron (cf. Mc 1, 19-20). Aprendemos de esta palabra divina que debemos estar preparados para responder al Señor en cualquier momento e inmediatamente.

Que hay entonces, en el corazón del ser humano que no responde con prontitud? Porque lo deja todo para después? Cuantas vidas hay desperdiciadas por no haber respondido a tiempo? Cuantas vocaciones hay frustradas por no haber respondido rápidamente al llamado del Señor? Todo mundo deja cosas para después. Unas veces por justificaciones razonables, otras por simple pereza o comodidad. Lo cierto es que ¡Lo urgente no deja tiempo para lo necesario!

Lo peor de esta tendencia o costumbre se presenta cuando se demoran, o detienen decisiones o actividades como: conseguir un trabajo, decidir tu vocación, hacer frente a situaciones incómodas, etc. bajo, decidir tu vocación, hacer frente a situaciones incómodas, etc., porque su retraso perjudica seriamente nuestra vida.

Dejar de hacer lo que tenemos que hacer, o dejarlo para después, es una manera de evitar, o no querer descubrir dentro de nosotros mismos zonas de nuestros interior que están dañadas. Es un esfuerzo por evitar el dolor profundo que provoca el saber que somos muy poca cosa, y nuestra debilidad y miseria personal, puede ser un problema de autoestima o de soberbia profunda. Según dicen los psicólogos.

Cual es el remedio? Lo sabemos: el ser humano no vive de buenos propósitos sino de realizaciones y aunque nos duela: El tiempo no tiene vuelta. Lo que no se hace, o se hizo ayer no lo puedo hacer hoy. Y lo que no se hace hoy no lo puedo hacer mañana. Mientras titubeamos en una toma de decisiones, el tiempo se nos escurre como agua entre las manos. Es por eso que los filósofos antiguos decían: "Nadie se baña dos veces en el mismo río". La realización de uno mismo solo se es posible si se aprovecha cada momento que pasa.

Por eso las respuestas del creyente a los llamados del espíritu santo, deben ser prontas y generosas. La gracia cuando es verdadera siempre es presurosa. En cambio, el retraso y la lentitud revelan una falta de amor y generosidad que no van de acuerdo con la vida del espíritu.

El evangelio pone muy en alto esta rapidez y exactitud que ha de practicar el creyente cuando se trata de ayudar al prójimo. Así. La Virgen María "Salio presurosa a anunciar a su prima la buena nueva del reino (cf. Lc 1, 39). Ella es el modelo de una perfecta cristiana que recibe y se dispone pronto a dar. Nunca se envanece con los dones sino que los comparte con rapidez. La inmediatez de su obediencia hace pensar en un acto de obediencia al espíritu santo, pues, no se detuvo hasta llegar done su prima y participarle su gozo, porque los saludos no se dan en el camino, sino cuando se llega para anunciar la buena noticia. Ponganse en camino" (CF. Lc 10,3). "Mientras vayan caminando" (CF. Mt 10,7). Son algunas de las instrucciones que da el Señor a sus enviados para que no nos entretengamos en el camino y no retrasemos la llegada de la palabra que da vida. La evangelización es una obra de caridad que no puede detenerse pues esta en juego la salvación de muchas personas.

Lone Star State rivals collide as Texas Tech takes on UTEP

Facing off against each other for the first time since 1998, 24th-ranked Texas Tech hits the road this Saturday night to do battle with in-state rival Texas-El Paso in a non-conference affair from the Sun Bowl. Heading into the season the Red Raiders found themselves ranked 25th in the nation as they prepared to tangle with the SMU Mustangs, but due to the fact that Tech handled the Ponies so easily last week, 35-3, it managed to move up one spot in the AP poll. While there's a weak South-eastern Louisiana squad lined up for the next home game for Texas Tech, the team will first have to fight through 23rd-ranked TCU in Fort Worth next weekend and then get ready for Big 12 Conference play at the end of the month. As for the Miners, they seemed to have their hands full with an upstart San Diego State program in their opener on August 31, but eventually broke through for a 34-27 victory on the



road at Qualcomm Stadium. Like the Red Raiders, UTEP has two more non-conference games against New Mexico and New Mexico State to close out the September before beginning Conference USA action against SMU at home on October 7. The Red Raiders have won three straight meetings in this rivalry and now hold a 10-6-1 edge over UTEP all-time.

The most recent win for the Miners took place nearly half a century ago when the squad posted a 26-14 victory in 1957 at home when they were still known as Texas Western. The schools were scheduled to meet five years ago but the game was canceled due to the events of September 11.

SMU scored the first points of the game against

the Red Raiders in the season opener, but the game then belonged to the home team as it posted 35 unanswered points.

Last season SMU stunned nationally-ranked TCU.

Jordan Palmer was expecting to have a breakout season for UTEP in 2006, but the signal-caller had more than his share of troubles in the opener versus San Diego State. Palmer did convert 20-of-29 passes for 213 yards and three touchdowns, but he was also intercepted four times.

As badly as Palmer looked at times, it's a miracle that the Miners still had a chance to pull off the win and actually did so.

Both of these teams are going to light up the airways with aerial attacks that would make any defense run for cover. Expect Palmer to have a better outing this time around and make better decisions in the pocket, but still not play well enough to come out on top of Harrell.

Cowboys: Five things to know

1. The world is sick of Terrell Owens. How's that for something to know?

2. Bill Parcells, in training camp practices, has tended to keep his assistant coaches on the sideline during drills that simulate game conditions. Many teams have their coaches close to the players. The reason Parcells does things differently? The

coaches aren't on the field during games, so he wants his players to think independently.

3. Despite a body that looks like chewed Bubble Yum, Parcells works out constantly in an attempt to stay fit and fresh.

4. After a top-notch performance against New Orleans, there is no question

that quarterback Drew Bledsoe is the starter.

5. The Cowboys are in excellent position to win the division. Most experts are picking New York or Philadelphia, while Dallas is being overlooked.

What I like about this team The pedigree of Bill Parcells has to emerge at some

point in Dallas.

What I don't like about this team

Not sure how good the offensive line is. Since Drew Bledsoe is more fragile than a debutante's virginity, the line will have to play almost perfectly in order for Bledsoe not to end up shattered into a million pieces.

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Segregation is not family entertainment

Pitting blacks, whites, Asians and Hispanics against each other for the amusement of television audiences is a low point in the industry.

I'VE NEVER been a fan of the CBS reality show "Survivor." Richard Hatch, the guy who won the first season, is doing time in prison for not paying taxes. There are no plans to film a reality show of him behind bars. Too bad. "Survivor: The Big House" has all the makings of successful series - drama, intrigue and a bombastic gay guy with a penchant for nudity.

I assume it is the draw of cash and faux fame that brings contestants out of the woodwork. Contestants become minor-league celebrities for 15 minutes (maybe 30 minutes if you have TiVo).

The "Survivor" premise is to divide contestants into tribes. They form alliances. For example, some fund-raise for Tom Kean Jr. Some rent huts from Bob Menendez. Each week someone is booted off. The winner gets a check.

But that isn't enough for the good folks behind the "Survivor" franchise. This season, contestants will be divided by race -- whites, blacks, Hispanics and Asians. Somebody is an insect short of a jungle combination platter.

Racial divisions are real in America. The "Survivor" producers should take a ride through New Jersey. We didn't invent racial profiling, but we upgraded it to spectator sport. The Whitman administration and her attorney general, Peter Verniero, were tarnished by racial profiling. Verniero did not do enough to fight it, and Whitman was dumb enough to smile and pat down a person of color in front of a photographer. It's no joking matter.

Cities across the nation, not just New Jersey, are divided by money, education and race. Usually, race has a lot to do with the first two.

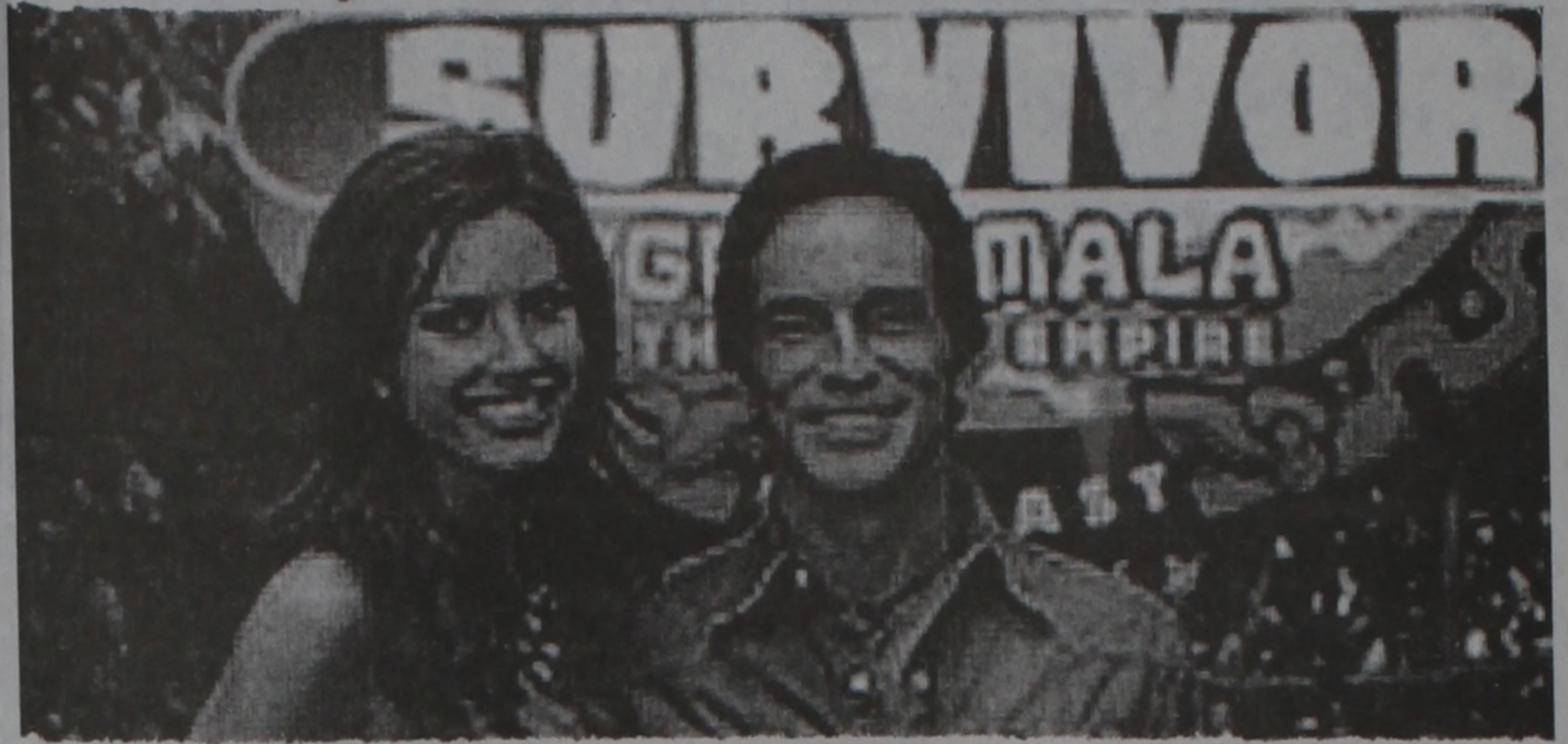
Paterson has seen a shift of political power from blacks to Hispanics. The Asian influence is seen clearly in

some Bergen County communities. For the most part, racial groups coexist -- until they don't.

All it takes is a high-profile shooting on the New Jersey Turnpike to change the equation. Or a videotaped arrest gone very bad. What America does not need is a reality show celebrating segregation.

In TV lingo, the "Survivor" race gimmick is called "jumping the shark." The phrase dates back to the sitcom "Happy Days." In an effort to add some juice to a declining show, Fonzie jumped over a shark. "Survivor" is playing the same trick. Segregating the castaways makes for instant drama. People like me get on a high horse and stir folks up, and they tune in.

Other applications of idea That may be what happens. But rather than tune in, viewers would do better to speak out. For those of us old enough to remember when cities like Newark erupted in street violence, there is no entertainment value in marketing racial di-



visions. I lived and worked in Los Angeles during the Rodney King riots. I cannot think of anything more foolhardy than to promote racial tensions. Increasingly, television is becoming the nightmarish vision presented in Paddy Chayefsky's film "Network."

America, from its inception, had a caste system -- white, male landowners were top of the heap. Women were second-class citizens, and blacks were

classified as less than human. In 2006, whites, blacks, Hispanics and Asians are all marketed as product on "Survivor." There is no good way to pursue this premise.

Democrats versus Republicans might be fun. People who voted for Gore versus people who thought they voted for Gore might be fun. Former gubernatorial administrations might be fun: Florio, Kean, Whitman and McGreevey. At least

there would be a supply of toilet paper.

Pitting blacks, whites, Asians and Hispanics against each other for the amusement of television audiences is a low point in an industry one step ahead of dinosaurs sinking into pits. We live in a racially divided society. That's not entertainment; that's America.

The final survivor isn't a yahoo with a lit torch. In the end it's us and our values. The torch is out.

Aguilera back at No. 1

Christina Aguilera is back in business as Back to Basics spearheads a big turnover in Billboard's top 10. The singer's double album sold 342,000 copies to land at No. 1, besting opening-

week sales of 2002's Stripped by 3.5% and 1999's self-titled debut by 26%, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

Four debuts follow: Lyfe Jennings' The Phoenix at No. 2 with 136,000, Trace Adkins' Dangerous Man at No. 3 with 115,000, Cherish's Unappreciated at No. 4 with 91,000 and the Cheetah Girls 2 soundtrack at No. 5 with 87,000. Obie Trice's Second Round's on Me enters at No. 8 with 74,000, behind Now 22 and Rick Ross, who falls to seventh place after opening last week at No. 1. The Step Up soundtrack and Nickelback round out the top 10. The only other new title to slither into the top 50 is the Snakes on a Plane soundtrack, at No. 43 with 19,000.

Fergie's London Bridge, the No. 1 digital track for three weeks, sold 115,000 downloads for a total of 421,000. In singles, Beyoncé's Déjà Vu sold 11,000 copies to unseat Taylor Hicks' Do I Make You Proud.

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MTV to Launch MTV Tr3s to Target Acculturated Latinos

Viacom's MTV unit on Monday announced the launch of MTV Tr3s (MTV Three), a new bilingual music channel targeting 12-to-34-year-old bicultural U.S. Hispanics. The new channel "will change the way young Latinos are served in this country," said Christina Norman, president of MTV, during a conference call introducing the new channel. MTV 3 is expected to launch in the fourth quarter.

Lucía Ballas-Traynor, general manager of MTV en Español, will serve as general manager of MTV Tr3s. The channel will feature bilingual VJs and a wide-ranging list of artists, from popular Latin American singers such as Juanes, Ricardo Arjona and Paulina Rubio, to English-dominant artists such as Mariah Carey. The

interviews and special features will be carried in the language the "artist feels most comfortable with," said Ballas-Traynor about the channel's bilingual format.

Ballas-Traynor is joined by MTV veterans Jose Tillán and Lilly Neumeyer, who will lead MTV Tr3s' music, programming and production.

The company did not officially say that MTV Tr3s will replace MTV En Español, but said the new channel is "an evolution" of the Spanish-only channel. This is "a place where young Latinos will find validation, voz and vida," said Ballas-Traynor. MTV Tr3s also will include a video on demand component.

MTV has been involved in the U.S. Hispanic market for



years, first by importing one of its Latin American channels and more recently by producing MTV En Español, tailored to the U.S. market. This is the first time though the company takes

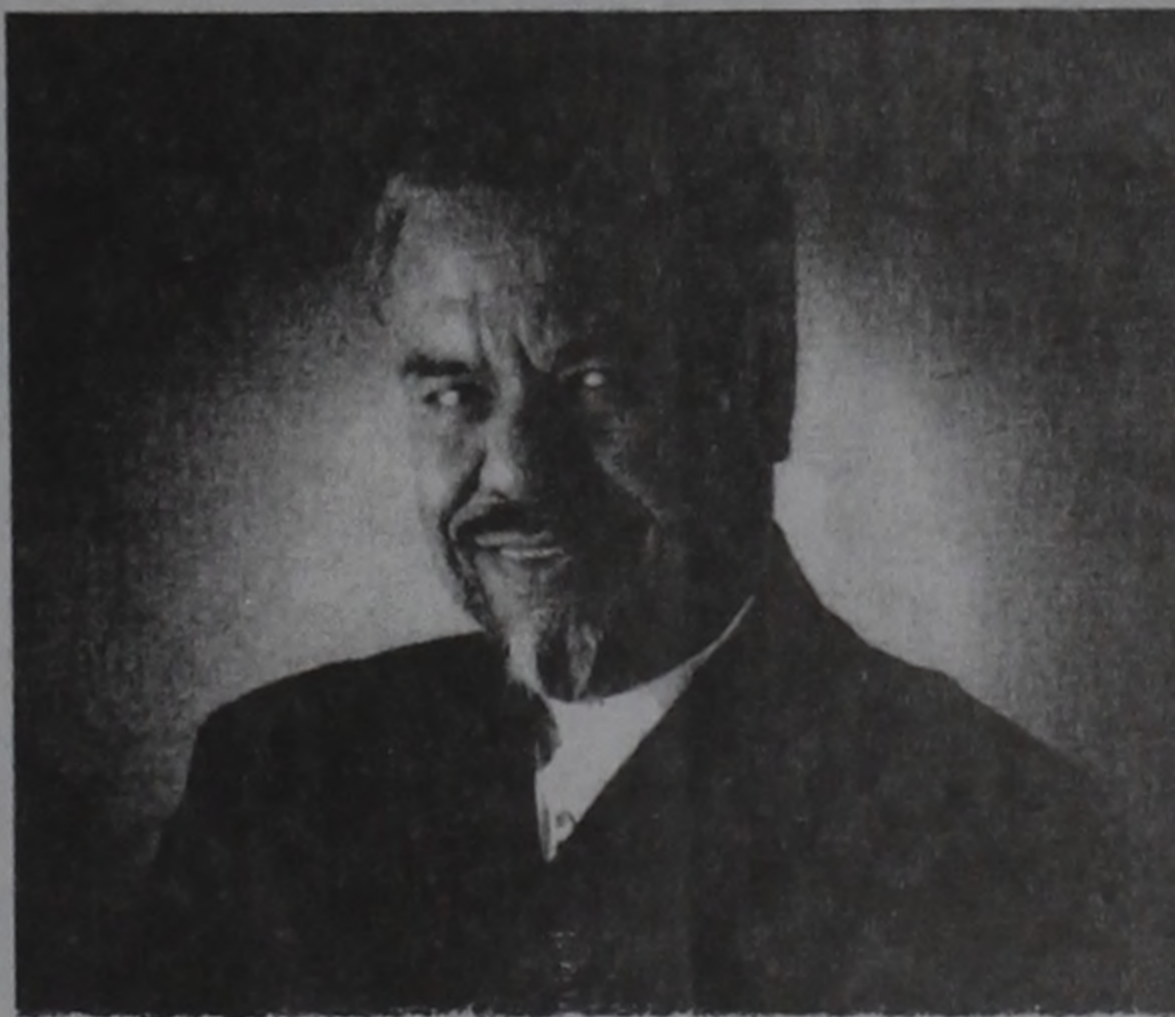
the bilingual route. According to Ballas-Traynor, MTV En Español currently serves about 3.1 million Hispanic TV homes via cable and satellite.

Fiestas del Llano

dice

QUE NO SE QUEDE EN CASA

Todo Mundo Invitado



Thursday thru Sunday September 14-17

Main Attractions:

Little Joe & Shelly Lares



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2006 Fiestas Patrias Schedule

Thurs., Sept. 14th

7:00 pm - Miss Hispanic Lubbock Scholarship Pageant
Civic Center Theater

Fri., Sept. 15th

11:00 am - Festival opens for lunch, No gate fee. No Carnival. Plenty of great food.
1:00 pm - Ribbon cutting ceremony
5:00 pm - festival opens for evening activities. Gate fee will apply per person.

WELCOME BY FIESTAS DEL LLANO, Inc.
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5:30-6:30 pm - Ultimo Sueno
6:30-7:30 pm - Ballet Folklórico Aztlan
7:30-8:30 pm - Verda Nortena
8:30-9:30 pm - El Clan
9:30 pm - Grito de Independencia
Speaker: Bishop Placido Rodriguez
10:00-11:00 pm - Evolucion
11:00 pm - 12:00 midnight - Grupo Rival
12:00 Midnight - Festival Closes

Sat., Sept. 16th

10:00 am - Fiestas del Llano PARADE. Route will be from First Baptist Church on Broadway down to Avenue M and then north to the Civic Center Parking Lot.
11:00 am - Festival opens for Saturday activities: Vendors, music and other activities.
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm - Amberly Gomez

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm - Paloma Libre Dance Group
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Crystal Aguilar Flamenco Group
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Conjunto Rosal
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Fiesta Del Sol
Ballet Folklórico Group

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Animo
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Ardiente
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Peligro
9:00 pm - 10:30 pm - LITTLE JOE
(3 Time Grammy Award Winner)

10:30 pm - 12:00 Midnight - Temblor
MIDNIGHT - Festival Closes

Sun., Sept. 17th

11:00 am - Festival Opens: Vendors, Music & Car Show
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm - Alicia Laura/Flamenco Dancer
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm - Nuestra Herencia Dance Group
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Mariachi Amistad
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - X-Sel
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Heroe
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Mojave Sol
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Grupo Cadena '2005 Battle of the Bands Winner'

7:00 pm - 7:30 pm - 2006 Battle of the Bands Winner
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Grupo Vida
9:30 pm - 11:00 pm - Shelly Lares
11:00 pm - Festival Closes

ADMISSION CHARGE:

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Back to School Brings Sports, Injuries

It's that time of year: Kids hit the sports fields running, and often hobble back off. Back to school means back to organized sports for more than 30 million children and teenagers, and roughly 2.5 million emergency-room visits during the year for resulting injuries.

Fortunately, catastrophic ones are rare. University of North Carolina scientists tracked 22 years of high school sports to conclude that about one student athlete out of every 100,000 players suffers a severe, occasionally fatal, injury or illness.

Still, high on the worry list for August and September are heat-related illnesses like the one that killed a Virginia high school football player last week, a tragedy that specialists say is preventable if coaches and players follow proper precautions about limiting workouts on hot, humid days and keeping well hydrated.

Much, much more common, especially in the fall: Too many kids got out of shape during the summer, meaning they're jumping back into practice with weakened muscles. That's a recipe for muscle strains, sprained joints and bone fractures that can sideline an athlete for weeks, more if they don't get the right care.

"This is a time when we get a lot of kids coming into our offices with injuries," says Dr. Pietro Tonino, sports medicine director at Loyola University Health System.

"You hear this from parents all the time: They can't get the kid to mow the grass, shovel snow, take out the trash. All those things years ago helped prepare us for the sports season," adds Brian Robinson of the National Athletic Trainers Association, and the head athletic trainer for 1,600 athletes at a suburban Chicago high school.

"If you're going to go out for football in August, you better start getting ready in May."

What if you didn't follow that advice? There's still time to get in shape before winter sports like basketball. But for every sport, specialists say, there are steps that parents, players and coaches still can take to improve the odds of a safe season.

Topping that list: Every child and teen needs a physical exam every year, even if the school doesn't require one, to be sure they're fit to play organized sports.

A good exam can highlight strengths and weaknesses that might make one sport a better fit than another.

It also may turn up warning signs of serious problems, such as whether a player is at risk for heartbeat irregularities that can cause sudden cardiac arrest, a very rare occurrence, but one that NATA warns is a leading cause of death in young athletes. Tonino says a good physician will ask whether a family member died young of a heart condition, and if the player has ever had a heart murmur or fainting episodes. Any of those could warrant a more in-depth exam to rule out heart problems.

Then comes proper conditioning. That means more than working up to intense practices. If the abdominal and thigh muscles aren't strong enough, known as "core strength", then players of any sport overuse their other muscles, leading to strains, sprains and fractures, Tonino explains.

A common one is nicknamed Little League shoulder, where young baseball players get tiny fractures of the growth plate near the shoulder because they didn't have proper support for their throwing arm.

Another is the notoriously painful torn knee ligament called the ACL, or anterior cruciate ligament, common in any sport with a lot of twist-

ing, jumping or pivoting, basketball, soccer, football, volleyball, skiing. It's more common in female athletes than males, who tend to bend their knees more as they jump and land, better for shock absorption. Also, females typically have weaker hamstrings, muscles at the back of the thigh that relieve stress on the ACL when the knee bends, something more of that core conditioning can help.

Beyond getting in shape is following the safety rules.

Federal health officials have launched a major campaign to alert coaches that 300,000 people a year suffer a concussion during sports or recreation activities, and that they must come out of the game even if they insist they feel fine. Concussions aren't mere bangs, they're mild brain injuries. If someone gets a repeat concussion before the brain recovers from the first, they can suffer serious brain damage or even die, warns a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention coach alert.

And the NATA is urging coaches to teach high school football players to pay attention to updated rules against "spearing," or head-first contact. Running into another player with the top of the head, in a chin-down stance, can break the would-be tackler's neck.

It's a hazard that trainers like Robinson too often see from freshmen, the first year that 100-pound teens play together with 250-pounders.

"A lot of these little guys are starting to tackle and diving at people's feet. Those are the kids who are going to end up with head or neck injuries," he said. "Keep your eyes up, see what you're going to hit."

Mis Encuentros Con La Hombria Europea

Rosa María Santana

Durante diez días este verano, yo, latina soltera, exploré las calles de Londres, Roma y París.

Nunca me había sentido ni tan liberada ni tan independiente - ni tampoco tan sola. Tal vez quepa el término "vulnerable" también.

En París vi de noche la Torre Eiffel iluminada; el Arco de Triunfo desafiante al final de la Champs-Elysees. Saboreé los quesos con una copa de Bordeaux en Montmartre.

En Roma, subí por las famosas Gradas Españolas antes de echar sobre el hombro un centavo a la fuente Trevi. Iba serpenteando por las antiguas ruinas del Foro Romano.

En Londres asistí a la comedia "Stomp" en un teatro del West End, me paseé por Piccadilly Square y visité la abadía Westminster.

En resumen, desgasté por entero mis zapatillas Nike con todo el turismo.

En casi todo lugar al que iba, los hombres europeos me elogiaban el color de la piel, susurraban al oír mi dejo californiano y, bueno, para todo intento, querían "salir" conmigo.

En Francia, se me acercaban hombres en la plataforma del Metro para preguntarme por qué estaba sola. ¿Tenía novio o esposo? Cuando le respondí a uno, tal vez muy defensiva, que no estaba casada, me dio el diagnóstico de mi situación, "Entonces por eso es que no sonríes".

Cuando tenía 19 años, viajando y viviendo en la Ciudad de México, con frecuencia iba sola por las calles. Me he paseado por la isla de Puerto Rico, y pasado horas agradables conociendo la ciudad de Toronto, Canadá, sola. No obstante, en todos mis viajes, nunca me he sentido tan

fuera de lugar como me sentí este verano en Europa.

En mi hotel en Londres, estaba Sam, un mozo de restaurante que me decía constantemente que el color oliva de mi piel era "bellísimo". Pensó que era del Medio Oriente, o de Egipto, como él. Le expliqué que mis padres eran de México, y que yo había nacido y crecido en los Estados Unidos.

Cuando estuve en Francia, André, un conductor de autobús turístico canoso, me coqueteó y me invitó a tomar un trago con él. Acepté. Después sugirió que tomáramos otro trago en la privacidad de mi habitación de hotel. Me guiñó el ojo y yo me escabullí.

Después de cenar en un café al aire libre en la famosa Plaza Navona de Roma, estudiaba mi mapa, con el intento de caminar al Monumento de Víctor Emmanuel II en la Plaza Venezia y de allí visitar la tumba del Soldado Desconocido.

Qué manera bonita de terminar un día perfecto, pensé.

Justo en ese momento un hombre se acercó a mi mesa para preguntarme si necesitaba ayuda con las direcciones. Le respondí que no, y le di las gracias. Insistió. Dijo que conocía un atajo.

Tal vez, pensé, el suponía que como soy mujer, necesito ayuda con movilizarme por la ciudad.

Nuevamente, le agradecí la oferta, pero que yo estaba bien.

Su rostro agradable e inmediato se volvió un papel arrugado, y se fue indignado.

Me he resignado a aceptar que los hombres europeos me percibían o como una conquista sexual o, quizás, como una pobre mujer que necesitaba ayuda. La verdad es que soy mucho más compleja que eso.

Durante diez días memorables fui una latina soltera

explorando los ríos, bares, cafés, museos y maravillosas iglesias de Europa. Era tanto un espíritu independiente como una mujer atrapada por las limitadas expectativas de hombres extraños.

Después de un sinfín de intercambios poco elegantes,

aprendí a sonreír y a responder sencillamente, en español o en inglés, que aunque hubiera querido tener más tiempo para conocerlos mejor, tenía que correr a subirme al metro.

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