

El Editor

“El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz”
Lic Benito Juarez

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Lubbock, Texas

The Latino Divide on the Iraq War Emilio Navaira's brother recalls crash

By Emily C. Ruiz

As eventually happened with Vietnam, U.S. military involvement in Iraq is pulling Hispanics in two directions. Maybe three.

Numbers tell some of the story. The latest Pew Hispanic Center poll found less than a quarter of Latinos (24 percent) support U.S. troop participation. That's down from 31 percent in 2006 and 39 percent in 2004.

U.S. Department of Defense figures show that Hispanics comprise 10.9 percent of those serving in the Armed Forces, well below their percentage in the eligible age group in the three decades of the volunteer army.

There are those like Jess Quintero, who served two tours - one in the U.S. Army and one in the Air Force - toward the end of the Korean War and leading up to Vietnam.

Quintero, president of the Hispanic War Veterans of America, talks proudly of the Hispanic contributions in defending the world's democratic ideals from the Revolutionary War forward. He recites the names



of family members, from generations past to grandchildren, who with no hesitation answered the call.

Then there is Pablo Paredes, more recently a Petty Officer third class and weapons-control technician in the U.S. Navy. Declaring his opposition to the invasion of Iraq, he refused to board the USS Bonhomme Richard as it deployed to the Persian Gulf, in December 2004 as part of the Operation Iraqi Freedom. He received an administrative discharge after serving three months at hard labor without confinement and a demotion in rank. He now works as a peace educator with the American Friends Service Committee.

Then there's the third and largest element, reflective perhaps of the broader communi-



ty's attitude. This group is neither rallying friends or families to "save democracy," nor actively protesting the U.S. commitment.

Few Hispanics were visible in the basically white anti-war protests across the country this month. Nor have they formed visible anti-war groups of their own, such as those which sprouted up in the Vietnam era.

Most memorable was the 1970 national Chicano Moratorium march in East Los Angeles, in which a county sheriff's deputy killed KMEX-TV news director Rubén Salazar with an armor-piercing tear-gas missile. On the East Coast, the mostly Puerto Rican Young Lords staged similar demonstrations.

Today's older anti-war Latinos often have a background in Vietnam-era activism, while a smaller number are parents of soldiers who've died in more recent Middle East conflicts, says Jorge Mariscal, professor of Chicano/Latino Studies at the University of California, San Diego.

"Younger Latinos are involved because they see the impact of the war on their friends and the militarism in their schools with recruitment," he says, adding that the reason more aren't involved is because of the lack of outreach from mainly white anti-war groups to attract members of color.

(Emily C. Ruiz is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. Reach her care of e.cruiz@hotmail.com ©2008

By MICHAEL GRACZYK

"It was like any other night," Raul Navaira, 40, said Wednesday.

Except it wasn't.

"The next thing I knew, I felt stuff falling over me," he said.

At about 5 a.m. Sunday, the 26,000-pound motor coach



slammed into a collection of freeway barrels that mark the interchange of two highways in Bellaire, a southwest Houston enclave. Emilio was thrown through the windshield, injuring him severely and requiring two brain surgeries, the most recent on Tuesday evening.

The 45-year-old father of five and Grammy winner is fighting for his life.

"It was weird," his brother said. "Right away, I thought of him. I knew he was driving. I go: 'Emilio, you OK?' I heard a 'Yeh, yeh,' but it actually was our drummer beneath the rubble."

He said by the time he made his way out of the bus, paramedics had strapped his brother to a gurney to take him to the hospital.

"They didn't let me get to him," Raul Navaira said. "I just shouted out that I loved him. ... Maybe I was in a daze. By the time I got out of the bus, everybody was there and helping."

4000th Military Combat Death Recorded in Iraq

That the milestone would be reached one day was both inevitable and dreaded at the same time by those who have someone they love serving in Iraq.

But when it happened, the public reaction and media coverage seemed to be a reflection of how the country and perhaps the American people in general feels about the Iraq war as it goes into its sixth year.

Locally, the news that the 4,000th American casualty had occurred in Iraq on Sunday generated very little reaction. In the local newspaper, the story received no local write up and was reported in an Associated Press story on page A6.

On local newscasts, coverage was minimal; receiving barely a mention of the event. On local web sites and internet blogs, the historical milestone did not receive much ink and space.

Perhaps it is a sure sign that Americans have become jaded to the news about the deaths of Americans fighting in Iraq; perhaps these things now are viewed as just a product of a war which has been part of American life for over 5 years.

And a war with no end in sight.

Nonetheless, the 4,000th death milestone was reached in Iraq this past Sunday; as 4 more American soldiers died from wounds received from an exploding IED or improvised explosive device. The soldiers who were on patrol in Baghdad died at 10PM Sunday night; or 2PM CST.

By any measurement, 4,000 is a substantial number of deaths; and the figure is likely to go up. But what is encouraging, if there is a silver lining, is that medical care and medical technology out in the field has been credited with saving the lives of wounded soldiers who might have otherwise died. Close to 30,000 American soldiers have been wounded; and many of those might have been included in the casualty count had it not been for the medical advances and medical care they have received out on the battlefield.

For example, the death count in the Korean War during 6 years of combat was 36,940. By comparison only 382 deaths were reported during the first Gulf War in 1991 which lasted less than a year.

Also, this past week, national media reported that General David Petraeus would slow down the troop withdrawal which was scheduled for later this year. Presently there are at least 160,000 troops in Iraq; 30,000 of those sent in since last year as part of the "surge". Those additional 30,000 were supposed to be starting to be withdrawn beginning in May. But reports are saying that a planned troop withdrawal is unlikely given Petraeus' recommendation to the President.

As the war enters into its 6th year, one has to wonder just how many more American men and women will lose their lives where the enemy they are fighting is "terrorism"; if one believes President Bush.

The number of dead will always be a number that can be confirmed for the most part.

What will never be known is just how many immediate and extended family members have been impacted by the 4,000 deaths and close to 30,000 wounded.

No one feels it more than the families; and no one has been forgotten more than the families of those 4,000 who have paid the ultimate price.

News Briefs

City Official Resists calls for Resignation; Uses the term "Wetback" in Meeting Agenda

People reading this story may think it is a story carried over from the 1950's and 60's; but it's not.

It seems that there is a city council official in Mustang Ridge, a small town about 20 miles southeast of Austin, who thinks it's still appropriate to use the derogatory and offensive term "wetback"; when referring to people of Mexican descent.

The official in question is Charles Law and he happens to be the Mayor Pro Tem on the Mustang Ridge City Council. He also happens to be the manager for a water supply company called the Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Corp.

Recently, Laws added an item to the water board's meeting agenda and it wasn't what he wrote that is at the center of controversy; it's the words he used.

The water board was to consider a business item about whether to do business with an immigration detention center in the Austin area. But when Laws wrote the agenda item, instead of using the phrase "immigration detention center"; Law's used "possible holding pen for wetbacks".

Calls for Law's resignation came from several Austin elected officials immediately after the wording showed up on the Texas Secretary of State's web site. But Laws says he will not resign and tells Austin media that "he grew up with the word out here and everybody said it".

This week, El Editor addresses the story in an editorial on page 2.

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Bill Richardson Endorses Barack Obama

It took a while for New Mexico Governor and former presidential contender Bill Richardson to endorse one of his former rivals; Barack Obama.

But it didn't take long for one of Hillary Clinton's most ardent supporters to compare him to Judas for his betrayal of the Clintons.

On Friday, New Mexico Governor and former Democratic Presidential Candidate Bill Richardson endorsed Barack Obama over Hillary Clinton to be the Democratic nominee. It was a move that surprised a lot of folks and upset one Clinton loyalist; James Carville. Carville wasted no time in comparing Richardson to Judas; the apostle who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. "Mr. Richardson's endorsement came right around the anniversary of the day when Judas sold out (Jesus) for 30 pieces of silver, so I think the timing is appropriate, if ironic," said Carville.

As surprising as Richardson's endorsement was his turning his back on his friendship and relationship with the Clinton's. After all, it was President Bill Clinton who appointed him to the Secretary of Energy position after appointing him to be the first Hispanic to serve as United States Ambassador to the United Nations.

Hispanic Link columnist Jose De La Isla gives his thoughts on the endorsement on Page 2. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Two Contractor's Deaths Confirmed by FBI

Ronald J. Withrow of Roaring Springs, Tex., and John Roy Young of Kansas were confirmed dead by the FBI this past week. Withrow and Young were among 5 contractors who were kidnapped in Iraq more than a year ago.

Just recently, the severed finger of one of the men had been sent to American military officials.

Private contractors have played a major role in the Iraq war since it started in 2003. Since the downsizing of the military over the past 15-20 years, many of the jobs once performed by military men and women are now outsourced to corporations and private companies.

One of the contractors whose remains were found has Lubbock ties; Ronald Withrow lived in Lubbock at one time but it wasn't exactly clear when. His mother lives in Roaring Springs.

By some estimates, there are now believed to be somewhere over 150,000 contractors in Iraq. And according to a recent report in the Houston Chronicle, 1,123 deaths have been recorded by the US Labor Department. That number though does not appear in any military official reports and it is never cited by the Defense Department or any other federal agency.

Burial services for Withrow will be private and details will not be divulged to the general public according to local media reports. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Democratic Convention this Saturday

Lubbock County Democrats will hold their county convention on Saturday, March 29. The convention will be held to select delegates to the state convention and to consider several resolutions which are scheduled to come up for a vote.

The event will be held at the Lubbock High School auditorium beginning at 10:30AM.

Texas Tech Search Committee Formed

Chancellor Kent Hance's office announced last week that a search committee has been formed to begin the search for a new Texas Tech University President.

Last month, current President Jon Whitmore announced his intention to resign effective in 2009. Whitmore resigned as the 14th president of Texas Tech University on Feb. 1 and it had been expected that he would remain in the post until February of 2009 or until a replacement was found.

At the time of his resignation, Whitmore also indicated that he would remain at Tech in some capacity. But this past week, local media reported that Whitmore was a finalist for the president's job at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon.

According to the press release, the search committee is made up of 10 members who will be responsible for selecting candidates for Hance to consider. "The members of this group are of the highest caliber and I am confident their search, which will commence as soon as possible, will yield the most qualified candidates in the nation," said Hance.

In addition to the committee, a 21 member advisory council was also selected and will assist with the search. According to the announcement, the advisory council includes "representatives of key constituencies" from the Lubbock community. Names of council members were not released so it is not known if members include any representatives from Lubbock's Hispanic community.

The committee will help identify potential candidates, assist with initial screenings of candidates and ensure that their respective constituency groups are kept up-to-date on the progress of the search. Candidate recommendations will be forwarded on to the Chancellor with the final selection made by Hance after confirmation of his choice by the Tech Board of Regents. The search committee is composed of 10 people and will be led by Bob L. Stafford, M.D., of Amarillo. Other committee members include: Tech Regent Mark Griffin and Juan Munoz, associate vice provost for academic development, associate professor in education at Texas Tech University and special assistant to the president for institutional diversity.

It is not known if the committee has set a timetable to complete their work.

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Editorial

Blinded by Bigotry

In 1954 the federal government launched "Operation Wetback" in an effort to address the illegal immigration problem of people crossing into this country without proper documentation. At that time many people were migrating north from Mexico for both family and economic reasons.

In 1953, the US Border Patrol had seized more than 865,000 undocumented persons and the federal government was under pressure to do something about what was then perceived as an out of control immigration problem. The pressure resulted in the inception of "Operation Wetback" and the mass round up of Mexican nationals began.

Under the direction of Immigration and Customs Commissioner General Joseph Swing, the operation began in 1954 and included an organization of state and local officials joining together with local police forces to round up any Mexican or Mexican looking person; illegal or not.

The result was a sweep similar to a vacuum cleaner being swept through the Mexican American barrios mostly in states like New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, California, and Colorado in an effort to deport as many Mexicans as possible. By the time it was all over, over 1 million people had been rounded up like animals and deported; this number does not include the other thousands of Mexicans who had to abandon their families and homes here out of fear for their lives and fled to Mexico on their own. Also included in the deportations were American born children whose parents were also deported.

There are even some documented cases of adult people born in this country who were deported due to not speaking English or not being able to prove their citizenship.

And then there were those who were deported without being given an opportunity to prove their citizenship. The fact that they looked Mexican was first and foremost; the fact that they were here illegally was secondary.

Ironically many Mexicans had come to this country in the 1940's under a "bracero" program which had been started by the federal government to encourage Mexican immigration in order to fill agriculture jobs in this country. Some had come at the invitation of the federal government; now that they were no longer useful; they would be deported.

According to Luis Plascencia, an anthropologist at Arizona State University the word wetback first appeared in print in 1920 in a New York Times story with the headline "Welcomed Mexican Invasion", a story "about Mexican families who were crossing the border into South Texas to till the soil during a severe labor shortage", according to a story in the Austin American Statesman.

In our view, the term has always been used to demean people of Mexican descent. It was also used in an effort to embarrass people about their ethnicity and in an attempt to keep people who were born in this country "in their place".

We bring this up for two reasons this week. First we think it is instructional for all of us to understand part of our history and part of what many of our parents, grandparents and other family members who happen to be of Mexican descent went through in that era. We also bring it up in an effort to illustrate where the term came from and why we find it so offensive.

We also wanted to bring attention to a story we read last week involving an elected official using the phrase "holding pen for wetbacks" in place of "immigration detention center".

In case you missed it, the details surrounding the story are on our front page this week.

As the targets of that term on more than a few occasions during our youth; and as witnesses to how our parents were treated and called; we are disgusted that in 2008, 54 years removed from the mass deportation efforts that an elected official would remain mired in ignorance and blinded by his own bigotry and refuse to resign from a publicly held office.

We echo the calls for the Mustang Ridge council member's resignation. But at the same time, we wonder why the media coverage and outcry has not been any wider and louder.

The Unequal Scales of Justice

We do not profess to know quite how the justice system works; but one thing that was evident to us this past week was this: That in the Parsons and Jones kidnapping cases, the scales of justice are unequal and justice was not blind as we all want to believe.

Two women, two babies, two kidnapping cases; and when all is said and done; each case is handled as different as night is from day. That's important to remember here.

We are of course referring to the case of Rayshaun Parsons, who pleaded guilty to kidnapping in a federal court of law; and to Stephanie Jones; who also pleaded guilty to kidnapping and child abandonment charges.

We are well aware that one faced federal charges and one faced state charges; what we are trying to address here is the inequities in the system and how sometimes there are more factors than just the law that come into play.

Their crimes are almost identical; they were both convicted of kidnapping a child; but that is where the similarities end.

Parsons is arrested; gets a court appointed attorney assigned to her; is held without bond; is ordered to undergo psychiatric evaluations; pleads guilty just 5 months after the crime is committed; and receives a 20 year prison sentence. She is led away in handcuffs immediately after being sentenced and if we're guessing right she'll be lucky if she sees the light of day any time soon; she'll probably have to serve most of her 20 years with parole just a distant thought.

The other woman, Stephanie Jones, snatched the Maldonado baby from her mother's home after targeting and stalking her; abandons the baby in 104 degree weather; is caught and arrested; hires her own attorney; has her bail reduced by half; bonds out of jail and spends nearly 2 years out on bail while awaiting trial; she has her trial postponed at least 4 times; is eventually scheduled for trial; pleads guilty to two separate charges and receives two 10 year sentences to run concurrently. She then receives a full week of what we can only call "jail-time leave" so that she may visit with her son who is in foster care before reporting to jail as if she didn't quite have enough time to visit with him during the two years she was out on bond awaiting trial. And although she could have faced a possible 30 years in prison her plea bargain ensures that she will only have to serve 10 years for both crimes. Based on what we have observed in the penal system, our guess is that she will be out on probation in less than 2 years.

As we previously stated; similar crimes; but the aftermath couldn't have been more different than night and day.

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On the Internet -www.eleditor.com A Personal note from Bill Richardson

By José de la Isla

On Friday, March 21, at two in the morning, Governor Bill Richardson sent an e-mail to his former supporters. The address window said, "A personal note."

In the third sentence, Richardson told them, "I wanted to tell you that, after careful and thoughtful deliberation, I have made a decision to endorse Barack Obama for President."

In the fourth line, he acknowledged "My affection and admiration for Hillary Clinton and President Bill Clinton." Then he turned to what was the heart of his message.

Referring to Barack Obama's Philadelphia speech earlier in the week, "He asked us to rise above our racially divided past, and to seize the opportunity to carry forward the work of many patriots of all races, who struggled and died to bring us together."

Who could have guessed — given how political commentators have carried on about black-and-white complaints and grievances — that a new paradigm could so swiftly and definitively come about.

Perhaps that is because so many commentariat have made their reputations observing social friction instead of commenting about its consequences to the political system and our national life.

But the U.S. people got it, judging from the opinion polls measuring public reaction to the speech. Nonetheless, the incendiary white-resentment-black-rage quandary, as chatter, would have continued had Bill Richardson not weighed in.

In a realistic appraisal about this moment in history, we ought to be conscious that in those crucial hours following Obama's historic speech, the nation lapsed back into a 1970s mental regression. Virtually all of the talk was again about black and white, like an LP with its needle playing over and over the same old tune.

That nation doesn't exist anymore. The new nation is colorized. It has many people from many places speaking many tongues. Many of them are Hispanics. The "one-size-fits-all minority" label is out of fashion, inappropriate and out of sync.

Bringing up Jeremiah Wright's 2001 incendiary sermon recalled old wounds and hurts all over again — maybe ones without guilt—but that only serve to injure Obama's candidacy with an implied guilt by association. What happened instead was that Obama did what armies of media commentators are paid to do.

Obama's Philadelphia speech March 18 explained and challenged the public to rise above the words and to set a new high standard for tolerance, behavior, and responsibility. Not knowing better, the media con-signnetik likened it to MLK's "I have a dream." But it wasn't that. It was not a vision quest. It was a political speech setting a new high political standard. That's where Bill Richardson weighed in.

Bill Richardson in Portland said Obama "spoke to us like adults."

He added, "He asked us to ponder the weight of our racially-divided past, to rise above it, and to seize the opportunity to carry forward the work of many patriots of all races, who struggled and died to bring us together."

For Obama, said Richardson, "cynicism is not realism, and hope is not folly."

What makes Richardson's words remarkable is how he brought out an elemental truth — "As a Hispanic, I was particularly touched by his words." He connected that to what we all know. "I have been troubled by the demonization of immigrants" and the rising rate of hate crimes against Hispanics. Richardson, like Obama, consigned divisive economic policies as the real demon.

Richardson said Obama "has started a discussion" that rejects the politics of pitting race against race." Interpreted, this means a halt to the national backward movement and a new map with high standards of conduct. Why? Because this is not a black-and-white nation anymore. If you don't see it or don't get it, you're out of it.

Obama opened a pathway to a new standard, and Richardson quickly stepped through it, for others to follow.

There's an adage that says you understand people by their words which you cannot translate. "Este es un hombre que nos entiende y nos va a respetar," Richardson said endorsing Obama. There's a tone, a feeling there you just can't translate.

José de la Isla is the author of "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power." (Archer Books, 2003). He writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. E-mail Joseisla3@yahoo.com.] ©2008

THE LADIES ON MY BUS

By Josué González

One morning, for reasons I no longer recall, I boarded a New Jersey bus in Washington Heights in Manhattan at the station where the West Side subway line intersects the entrance to the George Washington Bridge. It was 6:30. As I waited bleary-eyed for the bus to take me across the Hudson, I noticed that I was the only male waiting for this particular bus. We boarded, and every seat with the exception of mine was occupied by a Hispanic woman, usually young, although not always.

Each carried one or more grocery bags.

Clearly the women were going to work, but I wondered why they needed to carry groceries.

The question was soon answered. The bus lumbered across the bridge, turned off the main road and into a middle class community. At each stop, women left the bus singly or in pairs. Most knew each other and they waved cheerily at their companions as they left the bus.

It soon became obvious that these were the house cleaners, cooks and baby sitters of the underground economy on their way to their essential jobs in the modern families of New York professionals. As soon as each woman arrived at her destination, the professional woman who lived in each house would leave and head in the opposite direction into Manhattan.

Without the first, the second could not leave the house. There were meals to prepare, homes to clean, and more groceries to order for the next day or week. The woman whose home it was could not spare the time for such matters. They are white-collar professionals in law, finance and public administration. They are managers and supervisors in myriad businesses; some have their own businesses. Some are medical

doctors, dentists and psychiatrists with patients waiting in their offices in Manhattan.

Everyone depends on each other to make the cycle work.

The Latinas who cross the Hudson every morning are as essential to the economy of Manhattan as Donald Trump or Michael Bloomberg, although their own stories are rarely known outside the families they serve. They are anonymous cogs in the complex ecology of U.S. society. They have no health insurance for their own children. When they fall ill they stop working and are replaced by another woman from the same sector, perhaps from the same country. They are never invited to the country clubs, Sunday outings, or to the theatre.

This may be the first and last time you read about them, and yet, the most successful women in the United States of America could not go to work every day without them. I met them in New York but they exist in almost every town and city in the country.

(Josué González is Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, Arizona State University. Email him at Josue@asu.edu) ©2008 END

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"Freedom of Expression"

An Open Forum Where Readers Express their Views and Opin-

Lack of Leadership from Democratic Executive Committee and Current Party Chair

During the recent March 4th Presidential caucus, there was mass chaos in Lubbock County. The problem was a result of not having Democratic Precinct chairs available to handle and organize a much larger turnout than was expected. The shortage of precinct chairs is due to the lack of leadership of the Democratic Executive Committee over the past few administrations.

It was a disgrace to see the Mae Simmons voting poll, completely ignored by the current Party Chair, who seemed to be more interested in campaigning, than taking care of the thousands of Democrats who depended on her during this very crucial election.

Now that the Democratic Party has a new county chair, Pamela Brink, to organize the party and fill all of the vacant precinct chairs, I would not expect something like this to happen in future elections. Ms. Brink has her hands full, but she has promised to organize the Democratic Party, get Democrats elected, fill precinct chairs and build the party by embracing the "young Democrats". I hope at future Party meetings, we don't see the same old faces treating these events like a social outing.

Ms. Brink's 25 years of service to the Democratic Party should serve her well to lead and organize this great coalition, she claims to be able to build.

Only time will tell.
Leo Flores, Lubbock

Editor's Note: This week the Lubbock City Council considered business issues related to the Visitor's Information Center which has been proposed at the site of the former South Beach Nightclub. Readers may remember that the city purchased the building where the nightclub was housed with plans to build a new visitor's center. The following statement was issued by District 3 City Councilman Todd Klein late Wednesday afternoon.

For the past several months, I have carefully studied the proposal to construct a visitor information center in the downtown. While I support our local tourism industry, I have come to the conclusion that a visitor center, as it is currently proposed, is not the best use of our hotel occupancy tax. A visitor center in and of itself does not generate tourism. Additional visitors will not come to Lubbock simply because we have a \$6.7 million tourist information center, and I believe there are better ways to achieve the very laudable goal of increasing tourism to Lubbock. One such possibility would be to spend the money to enhance the existing Civic Center in an effort to attract more meetings and conventions to Lubbock. This would better serve the goal of increased tourism and directly put money back into the pockets of local businesses while saving some property tax dollars that would otherwise have to be used for such an upgrade. Instead of building a 7,400 square foot building which would require considerable additional operating and maintenance funds, I suggest the development of virtual visitor centers. These interactive kiosks could be placed at the major tourism gateways such as the South Plains Mall, Preston Smith International Airport, the Civic Center, Texas Tech Student Union, and the Chamber of Commerce at a fraction of the cost of the proposed building. Certainly I support tourism to our fine city, but I believe that I have an obligation to spend public tax dollars, and in this case the hotel occupancy tax money, to the optimal benefit of the citizens of Lubbock. It is important to remember that hotel occupancy tax is public tax money, and it belongs to the public for its best use in the same way that the city collected property and sales taxes do. Therefore, I will not vote in favor of the current proposal in hope that we may still choose an alternative approach which will better reflect the needs and modes of today's modern tourist, regional visitor and shopper by better utilizing the internet for those considering a trip to Lubbock and strategically placing kiosks for those visitors who routinely come to Lubbock and would spend additional money if they were informed of other opportunities while here. I believe the approach I will propose will better utilize the strengths of the private sector while optimizing the interests and habits of travelers in a more convenient manner as well as freeing up the proposed hotel occupancy tax money to be invested in other areas for the attraction of visitors along with frequent use by the people of Lubbock

Lubbock City Councilman Todd Klein
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El Hijo Del Alacrán

(The Son of the Scorpion)



Back in the 70's and 80's "El Alacrán"; "the scorpion that stings with his tail" was a regular guest on the pages of this newspaper. Many years have passed, "El Alacrán" has now retired his poisonous pen; but now along comes his son...and as they say, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree".

"El Que Pica con la Cola"

Hace mucho que Bidal ya no me ha dejado escribir y han de saber que tengo acres de chismes para contarles.

El primero es el de que la Linda ya parece quiere controlar todas la politica de Lubbock con tratar de convenser a Gilbert Salinas que se quedara en la carrera para consejal. Pues este Alacrán no sabe nada y entiende menos pero si sabe que el cariño entre la Linda y Armando Gonzalez falta un poco y se cuenta que ella platico con Salinas para convenserlo que se quedara pa' que Armando tuviera menos oportunidad de ganar Pero parece que a pesar de los esfuerzos de la Linda, va seque la carrera para consejal con los candidatos Gilbert Salinas, Floyd Price y Armando Gonzalez. Haber que pasa.

Y los Democratras se van a juntar este proximo Sabado en la escuela Lubbock High para elejir delegados al estado y ademas pasar algunas resoluciones que quieren proponer. Estara interesante especialmente con el hecho que los democratras se siguen peliando entre ellos mismos.

Hasta la proxima cuideuse que este Alacrán sigue andando por las rendijas buscandno exitantes chimes pa' platicarles.

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How Bill Decided On Barack

For years, Margaret Atkins has relied on 75 seasonal workers from southern Mexico to assemble carnival rides, sell cotton candy, and operate Ferris wheels and merry-go-rounds. But when Atkins' company, Thomas Carnival, visited Brownsville in March, the workers hadn't come, leaving the carnival badly understaffed.

Like a growing number of the American amusement industry, Thomas Carnival works through the H-2B visa program to enlist unskilled workers from Mexico and Central America. This year, the program has been drastically cut.

"Without our workers from Mexico, it's tough to continue operation," Atkins said. Instead of overseeing operation of the carnival, Atkins is now forced to fill a void in her labor force by selling nachos at the Midway Diner.

For several years, employers were able to rehire their former employees in the form of the "return worker exemption" without fear of reaching a cap on H-2B visas. But in September, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus blocked voting on legislation that would have renewed the exemption.

As a result, this year a cap of 66,000 H-2B visas will be enforced without exemptions, reducing the number of visas filled in 2007 by almost 70,000.

The implementation of the cap has already had far-reaching effects. Small cities in Mexico have lost a critical source of employment and remittances. Carnivals in the U.S. have been forced to either shut down or consider alternative sources of labor-including undocumented workers.

But while its repercussions have played out in disparate corners of North America, the origins of the H-2B visa crisis can be easily traced to Washington, D.C. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus' political maneuverings have created both unlikely allies and antagonists in Congress.

The CHC wants the ever-popular return worker exemption renewed — but only if it's attached to legislation related to its larger goals for immigration.

"It's unfair to piecemeal this thing out," said U.S. Rep Charles A. Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' second vice chair. "A stand-alone H-2B remedy isn't going far enough."

According to Gonzalez, by withholding support for a quick-fix to the H-2B program, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus gains important allies in the business community.

"Business owners tell us, 'You guys are holding us hostage,'" he said. "But once H-1B and H-2B problems are solved, they won't feel any compulsion to support us with the entire program. ... We need proponents to come together."

Gov. Bill Richardson told Barack Obama he would endorse him 10 days ago, but the two high-powered Democrats kept it a secret until Friday because of Richardson's long-planned Caribbean vacation with his wife.

The governor, in an interview with the Journal late Friday, said he called Obama on Monday and told the Democratic presidential frontrunner that he would, in fact, give him the endorsement he had been doggedly pursuing for weeks.

Obama suggested they make the announcement on Wednesday, but that would have forced Richardson and his wife, Barbara, to cut their vacation two days short.

The governor's wife, who dutifully supported him through a long presidential campaign that kept him on the road for weeks at a time last year, wasn't having it.

"She put her foot down," Richardson said with a laugh during a telephone interview late Friday, after returning to New Mexico from Portland, Ore., where he had endorsed Obama in front of 12,000 screaming supporters hours before.

Richardson, a former United Nations ambassador and U.S. energy secretary in Bill Clinton's administration, said he dreaded telling Hillary Clinton

about his decision. But it needed to be done, and Richardson finally connected with Obama's rival by phone at about 9 p.m. Thursday after she finished a campaign rally.

"It wasn't one of our better conversations," Richardson said. "We talked for a good three minutes; it was a candid conversation. It got a little tense but we ended up in good terms."

"I told her I had utmost respect for her and my endorsement had to do more with party unity and the fact that I believe Obama is something special, something very good for the American political system," Richardson said.

Richardson played coy about his endorsement intentions for two months, often telling reporters, "I might endorse, I might not."

But as he watched Obama and Clinton pummel each other day after day, he said he worried that both Democratic candidates would be so bloodied they wouldn't be able to give presumptive Republican nominee John McCain a good fight in the fall.

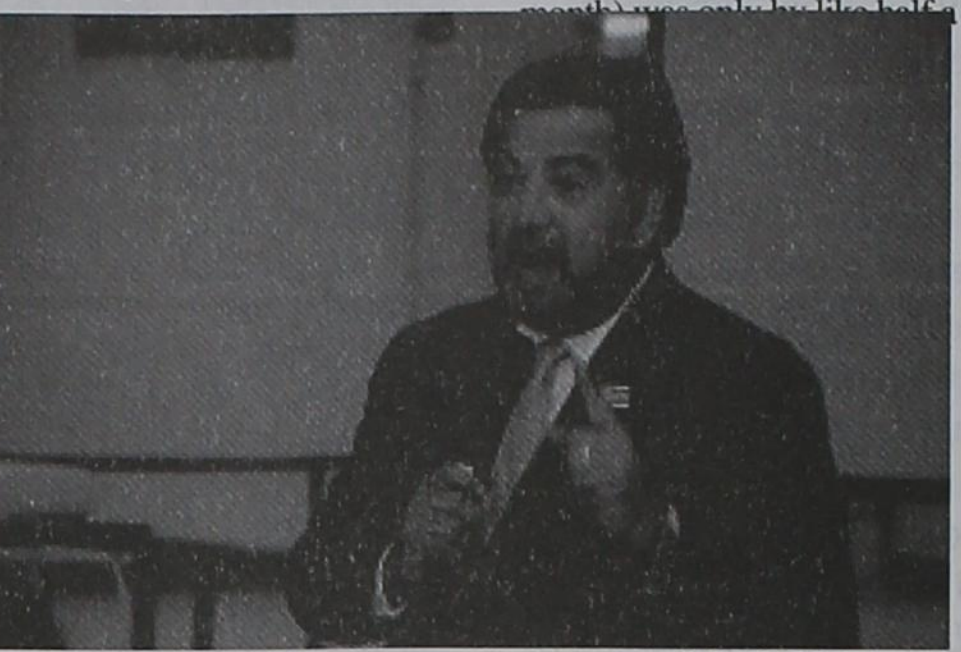
"The campaign was really taking a negative personal turn," Richardson said. "The attacks were fierce on both sides. We need to stay together as a party. McCain is going to be formidable, and I thought maybe adding my voice would send a signal to

my supporters, to the superdelegates, Hispanics and others that maybe the time has come to unite behind Obama."

Richardson said Obama's candid speech on race relations

son square his endorsement of Obama?

"I'm also a Western governor and he won Western states, and it (Clinton's margin of victory in the New Mexico caucuses last month) was only by like half a



last week convinced him he had made the right decision.

The New Mexico governor said he did not ask for, nor did he receive any commitments, about a plum job in an Obama presidential administration.

"Nothing came up—it didn't even enter into the discussion at all," Richardson said.

Richardson has previously said that the party's 800 "superdelegates," who don't have to commit to a candidate until the Democratic National Convention in August, should choose sides based on the will of the voters in their states or districts.

But Clinton eked out a victory in New Mexico's caucus last month. So how does Richard-

percent, so I don't think it was significant," Richardson said.

Richardson had also been widely quoted as saying that politician's endorsements "don't matter."

"It's a burst of good publicity one day and the fact that I was sought after and in the race maybe gives it more attention," Richardson said. "In the end, I don't think endorsements matter that much."

Obama, who enjoyed a wave of good publicity from the Richardson announcement at the end of a week marred by controversy over the inflammatory remarks of his Chicago preacher, certainly seemed to disagree.

U.S. High Court Rejects World Court Power

The U.S. Supreme Court, in a rejection of World Court authority, ruled 6-3 Tuesday that a Mexican national cannot further appeal his Texas death sentence.

The decision also rejects the intent of a presidential memorandum.

The U.N. International Court of Justice, commonly called the World Court based at The Hague, ruled in 2004 that Jose Medellin and 50

other Mexican nationals had been deprived of their rights under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. It said their U.S. sentences should be reviewed regardless of U.S. state law.

Under the convention, foreign national suspects must be told they are entitled to a visit by their consuls.

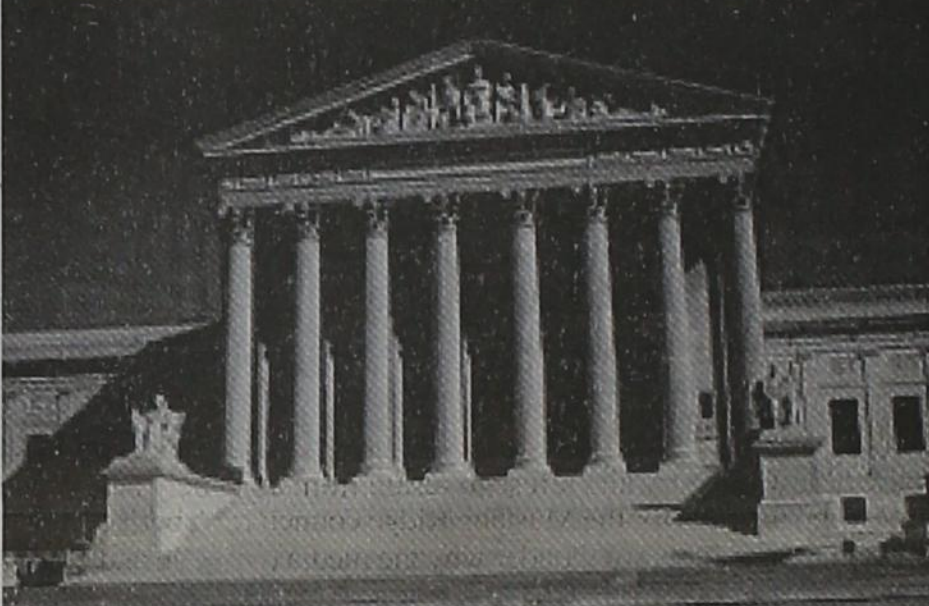
But the U.S. Supreme Court later ruled that the convention did not pre-empt U.S. state law on appeals. In response, U.S.

President George Bush issued a memorandum saying the United States would "discharge its international obligations ... by having state courts give effect to the (ICJ) decision."

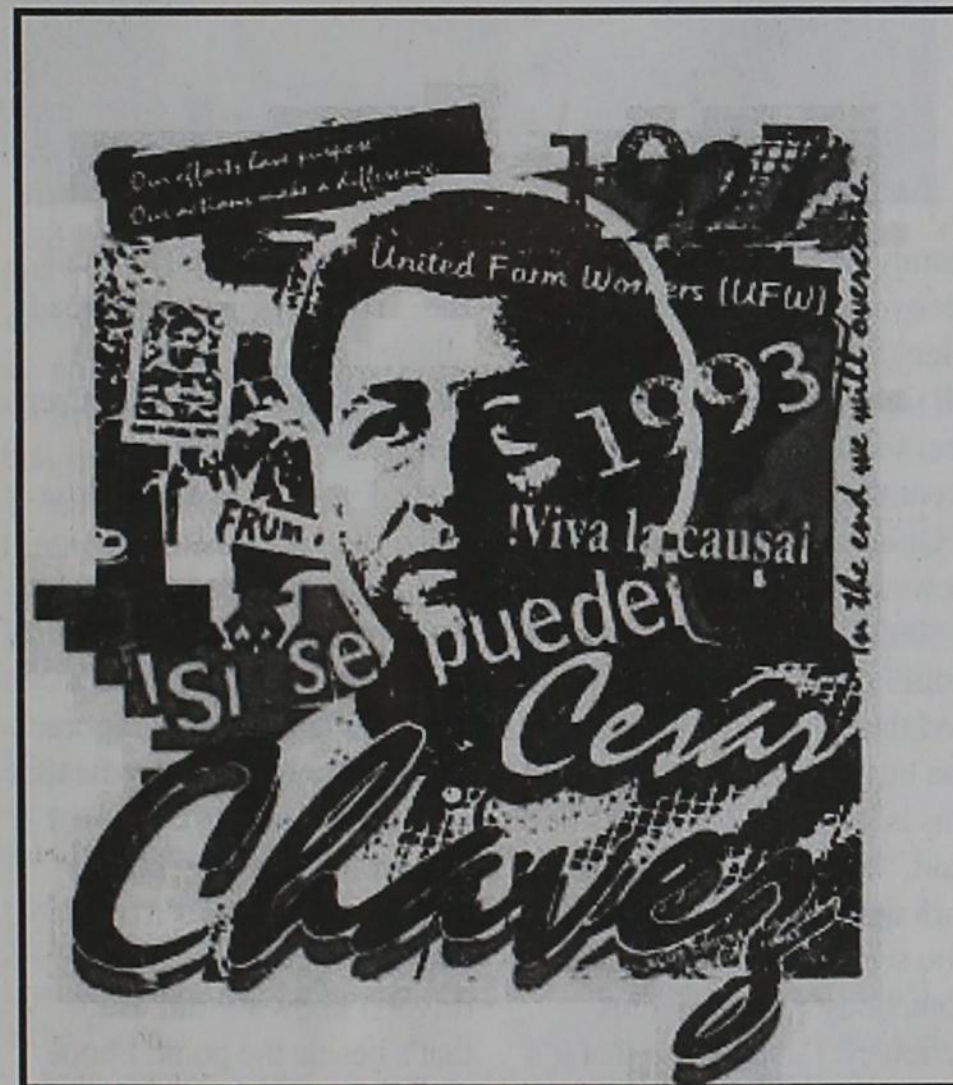
Medellin, who was born in Mexico but lived most of his life in Houston, was facing a death sentence for the murder of two teenagers. After the president's memo, he filed a second constitutional appeal, which violated the limits placed

on appeals by Texas law.

A Texas appeals court dismissed his case, and Tuesday, in a decision written by Chief Justice John Roberts, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed that neither the ICJ ruling "nor the president's memorandum constitutes directly enforceable federal law that pre-empts state limitations on the filing of successive habeas petitions (requests for constitutional review)."



9th Annual Cesar E. Chavez People's March and Celebration



Please join the Cesar E. Chavez Commemoration Committee pay tribute to American hero and civil rights leader, Cesar E. Chavez, during Lubbock's 9th Annual Cesar E. Chavez People's March and Celebration, which will be held Saturday, March 29, 2008.

The event is organized by a citizen driven committee, and the march attracts people from all backgrounds and helps build public awareness about Chavez's legacy. Last year about 800 marchers walked in honor of Chavez.

This year, because of the growing concerns over Latino youth issues and because education, health and quality of life drove the efforts of Cesar E. Chavez, the march and celebration will focus around youth, and health and wellness. Pedometers will be provided by the Community Health Center of Lubbock (CHCL) to the first 200 marchers at the start of the event. The march will conclude at the Buddy Holly Recreational

area, where a street dedication on the corner of N. University and Cesar E. Chavez, will occur.

In addition, announcement of the 2008 Spirit of Cesar E. Chavez Award, and the student essay competition sponsored by All American Concrete, as well as recognition of youth leaders and youth organizations will be presented. A short history presentation regarding Chavez and current farm and seasonal worker issues will be included. Finally, refreshments will be served and sponsored in part by Atmos Energy and Guadalupe Economic Services, and entertainment will be provided by Julian Escamilla who will feature traditional and festive music. The celebration will also offer a free health and dental fair, which will feature the mobile units of CHCL, and voter registration by the League of Women Voters.

Chavez's significance and impact goes beyond any one cause or struggle. The son of migrant laborers, Chavez led a nonviolent boycott against California

grape growers, protesting poor working conditions and the use of pesticides harmful to farm workers. He is recognized for his non violent approach to handling adversity, and even fasted to call attention to the migrant workers' cause. Although his dramatic act did little to solve the immediate harms, it increased public awareness of the problem. The boycott was finally successful in winning new rights for workers.

WHAT: Cesar E. Chavez People's Honor March and Commemoration.

WHEN: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, March 29, 2008 (Shuttle service will begin at 12:30 p.m. beginning at Canyon Lakes/Buddy Holly Recreational Area, end site, to Cavazos Middle School, beginning site).

WHERE: March begins at Cavazos Middle School parking lot, 210 N. University Ave., proceeding to the Buddy Holly Recreational Area for a street dedication at the corner of N. University and Cesar E. Chavez Drive in Lubbock, Texas, followed by a celebration at the Fiesta Plaza located directly Southwest of the park area.

* In case of inclement weather the commemoration will all be held in the Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation (GESC) building, at 1502 Erskine Street.

WHO: Health & Resources Fair, as well as an announcement of the 2008 Spirit of Cesar E. Chavez Award, and the student essay competition winners, as well as recognition of youth leaders and youth organizations will be presented. A short history presentation regarding Chavez and current farm and seasonal worker issues will be included.

For additional information please call Christy Martinez-Garcia at (806) 797-7233, or email cesarchavezlubbock@suddenlink.net, or contact Grace Garza at (806) 831-3305.

Let's Play Ball!

Players in Lubbock's MLK Little League will take the field for the first time on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at 12:00 Noon in a ribbon-cutting ceremony opening their new baseball complex located on East 19th Street and Aspen Avenue. The complex consists of two regulation little league fields, press box, rest rooms, concession stand, and covered seating. Funds were designated for this project in the 2004 general bond election, and players and parents have waited a long time to see their dream of new fields finally become a reality.

Lubbock Mayor David Miller, City officials and representatives from the MLK Little League will participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. In addition former Major League Baseball player, Matt Miller, will be on hand to throw out the first pitch of the season. A Monterey High School standout and graduate of Texas Tech University, Matt was a relief pitcher for the Detroit Tigers in 2001-2002 before an injury sidelined him permanently. He is the son of Lubbock Mayor David Miller. Following the ceremony, players will compete in their first games of the season.

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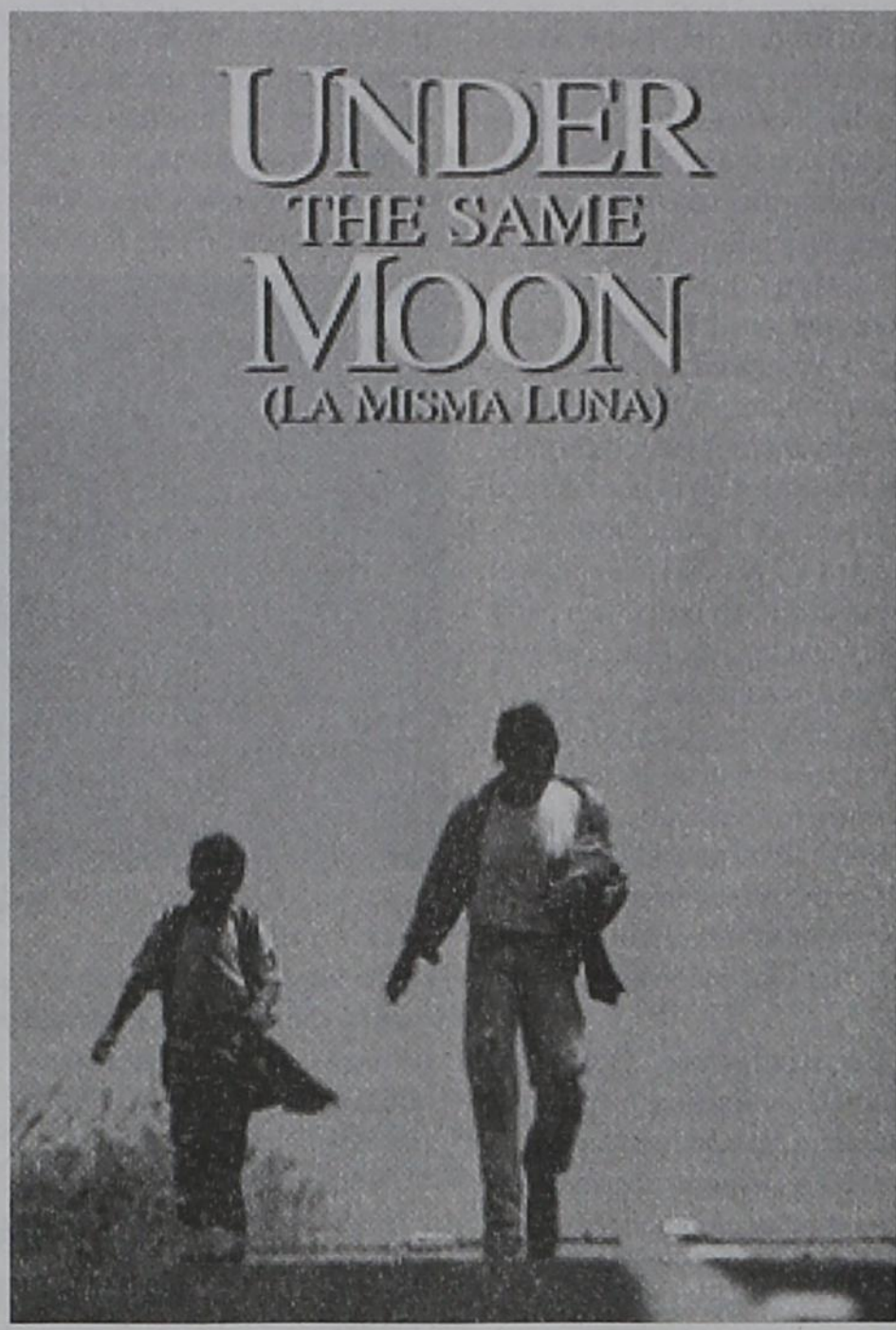
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“Under the Same Moon” breaks record

“Under the Same Moon” broke the record for the biggest opening of a Spanish-language film in the U.S., grossing 2.77 million from 266 locations.

“Under the Same Moon,” distributed by the Weinstein Co. and marketed by Fox Searchlight, easily beat the previous record for a Spanish language pic, Lionsgate’s “Ladron que roba a ladron,” which bowed to \$1.6million.

Indie studios reported that the film, which opened Wednesday and has cumed \$3.5 million, succeeded with two different audiences. The film had the highest per screen average for the weekend with \$10,414 and was #10 overall in just



266 theatres. “It played like a very commercial film in Latino communities and showed some real strength at arthouses,” said Fox Searchlight topper Peter Rice.

Harvey Weinstein added that he thought a careful rollout in arthouses could lead the film to do as well as Miramax’s 1990 release “Cinema Paradiso,” which cumed almost \$12 million, while staying strong with native Spanish speakers.

Film also opened this weekend in Mexico as the #2 film, where it grossed \$1.7 million and had the biggest bow this year for a local title, the 6th biggest opening ever.

Selena’s father feels for Emilio’s family

Selena’s father, Abraham Quintanilla, feels the Navaira family’s pain.

“The only thing I can say is that we certainly feel for his

brain injury.” He said that while he and Emilio weren’t close, they had known each other professionally for years “from way back.”



family and for him, and hopefully, he recovers and recuperates from the accident. That’s something that all musicians have to face — the road, being on the road,” Quintanilla said from Corpus Christi.

The planned prayer vigil and public outpouring for Emilio will help, he said.

“Sure, it gives comfort to the family, that people care and (are) hoping that everything turns out,” he said. “My family went through a tragedy, and we can sympathize with his

“We crossed roads,” he said. There is inherent danger on the road, he added. When he was with the Dinos as a young man, his father would caution him.

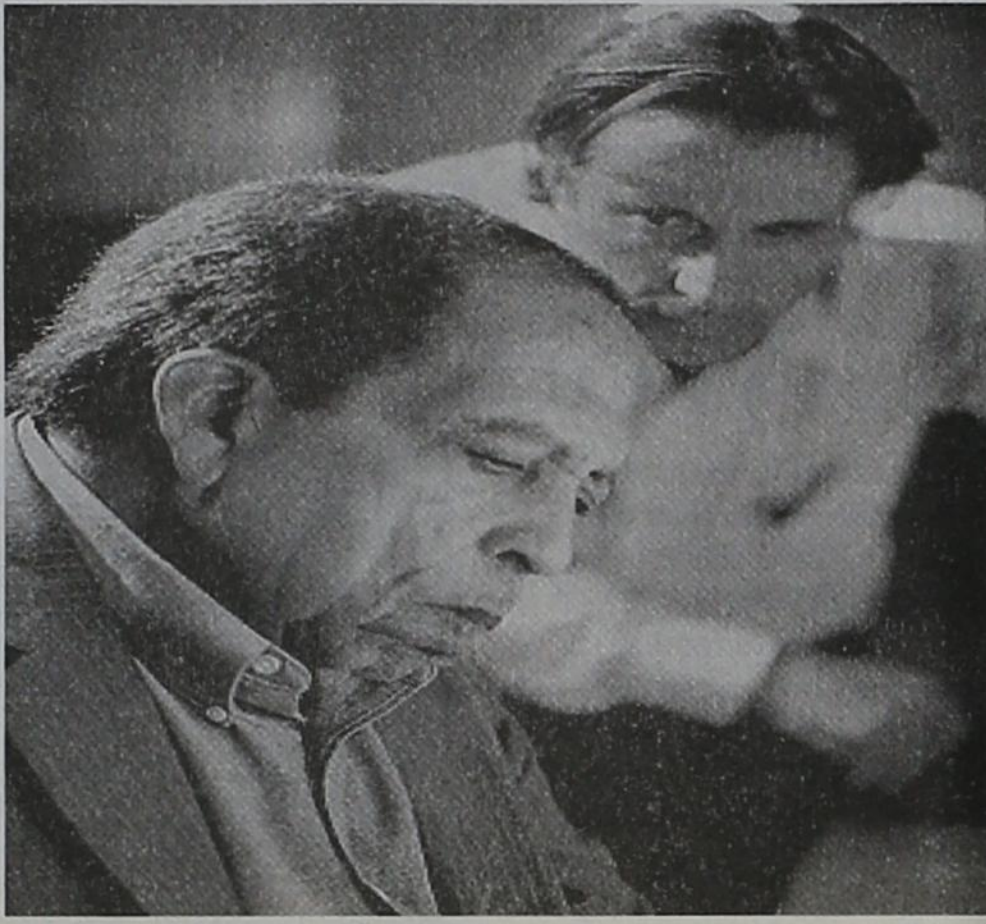
“My dad had a saying, that I guess comes from Mexico. It went: “Tanto va el cántaro al agua, hasta que se quiebra.”

It’s a reference to an old dicho about the clay jars once used by Mexican women to carry water. “Eventually one day, they’re going to fall and break,” Quintanilla explained. “My dad

Andy García Pays Tribute to Cachao

Andy García fondly remembers Israel “Cachao” López, the legendary Cuban artist who passed away Saturday at age 89. In a statement to the press, the Cuban actor talked about the bond he had with the late musician who was a pioneer of Latin music.

“He leaves with us a legacy of extraordinary trendsetting music, and an unequalled example of humanity, that was a gift to all of us, who had the good fortune and honor to experience,” the 51-year old said of the man he considered a father figure. “I had the great privilege of collaborating with Cachao as his producer and band member since 1990. Together we recorded four records. Master Sessions Vol. I and II, which earned Cachao his first GRAMMY, and Cuba Linda



which again brought him a GRAMMY. I also directed a documentary on his life entitled Cachao, como su ritmo no hay dos, set

around the now legendary concert in 1990, and the film Cachao, ahora si which chronicles his creative process.” García added: “After a

lifetime of listening to Cachao’s music and eighteen years of Concerts and records together, I consider our collaboration and friendship one of the most important accomplishments of my life. Cachao is our musical father. He is revered by all who have come in contact with him and his music and is referred to simply as El Maestro!”

As a closing statement, García addressed his mentor with words expressing his admiration and thanks. “Maestro, your music has accompanied me all my life and will continue to do so until we meet again. You have been my teacher, and you took me in like a son. So I will continue to rejoice with your music and carry our traditions wherever I go, in your honor.”

Luis Miguel to Release New Album

The actor will share his secrets to keeping in shape in

MARIO LOPEZ'S KNOCKOUT FITNESS

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MARIO LOPEZ with Jeff O'Connell

a book that comes out May 13

What man doesn’t envy Mario López’s sculpted abs? Now everyone can learn how to get his stellar six-pack in the 34-year-old actor’s new book, Mario López’s Knockout Fitness, available May 13.

“Mario Lopez loves fitness — and it shows. He doesn’t find exercise boring or tedious, and now, neither will his readers. With this book, Mario offers a diverse exercise regimen that brings together sweat, discipline, and excitement to help readers achieve the best body possible with a workout they’ll actually enjoy,” his publisher Rodale Books said.

The book focuses on exercises for your chest, arms and legs, and more difficult areas like the abdominals and gluts. López’s latest project includes photos of the actor working out with various celebrities. “Each stage includes some of the Mario’s favorite activities — among them boxing, running, biking, yoga, dance, basketball, and swimming — so readers can complete a full cardio workout with localized strength training,

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family. We hope for a speedy recovery and que todo salga bien (that everything turns out all right). Believe me, we can feel for his family because we went through that.”

Quintanilla said he heard the news from a friend.

“It didn’t click right away until I heard it on the news, and they showed the shots of the bus. That’s when I realized this is serious, you know,” he said. “The bus is really, really torn up. So you know when you see something like that, somebody had to get hurt seriously. I understand that it’s very serious and that he has a

used to tell me that. He’d tell me, ‘You guys are on the road all the time. You need to be careful. Don’t fall asleep behind the wheel.’”

The Dinos “had a few close calls,” he added.

“I’m just wondering why he was behind the wheel. Because they usually have drivers,” Quintanilla said about reports that Emilio was driving the tour bus when it crashed. “Yeah, I was wondering why he was driving, you know. I’m more than sure that he has a bus driver. I know we did. But that’s beside the point. I hope that he recovers fully.”

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NFC East: Champs, rivals have heavy holes to fill

The second in a series on division needs leading up to the April 26-27 NFL Draft

The NFC wasn't the better conference last season, but it did have the best team. That would be the New York Giants, who overcame the odds as well as the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII. Will Michael Strahan play another season? It could create another big void on D.

That victory makes them the club to beat in 2008, but defending the title will be difficult -- especially with the losses of starters Gibril Wilson, Kawika Mitchell and Reggie Torbor.

Of course, that's where the draft comes in. This month's needs become next month's draft picks, and here's what the Giants can expect:

N.Y. Giants
The skinny: They lost three defensive starters and subtract a fourth if Michael Strahan retires. So this is a Super Bowl champion

with holes that free agents couldn't fill. The Giants signed only one from another club, veteran safety Sammy Knight, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. They followed the same script a year ago, and look where it got them.

Primary need: Offensive tackle. Dave Diehl did a nice job at left tackle a year ago, but let's be honest: He's a guard.

Secondary needs: Linebacker, cornerback, a defensive lineman and another wide receiver.

Possible targets: With the last pick of the first round, the Giants might be forced to take the third or fourth player at a position. Tackle Jeff Otah is a possibility, so is someone like Notre Dame defensive tackle Trevor Laws or Auburn's Quentin Groves.

Summary: The Giants should take a shot at a defensive lineman or cornerback early, then go for a tackle in the second round. The position is deep, which means there are plenty to go around. It also means the best value at the

31st spot might be on the defensive side of the ball.

Dallas Cowboys

The skinny: Another year, another disappointment. The Cowboys aren't far from reaching the top, but they had better figure out how to avoid the late-season swoon. If they don't, you can bank on Wade Phillips riding off into the sunset and Jason Garrett taking over. Phillips' job is to get this club to the playoffs again, and that won't happen unless he finds help for an offense that fizzled down the stretch.

Primary need: A wide receiver. Terrell Owens and Terry Glenn are both 34.

Secondary needs: Cornerback, running back and defensive lineman.

Possible targets: The Cowboys have two first-round picks, so you're looking at someone like LSU wide receiver Early Doucet, Arkansas running back Felix Jones or Tennessee State cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie.

Summary: The Cowboys have a franchise quarterback -- at least, they think they do. Now they must provide him more weapons, and their timing is perfect. This draft is deep in wide receivers and running backs. With two first-round draft picks they can find a receiver, a cornerback or a running back to replace Julius Jones.

Philadelphia Eagles

The skinny: If it's a new year, there must be a Donovan McNabb story ripped from the headlines. And there is: He wants two or three playmakers, and the Eagles tried hard to accommodate him. Alas, they fanned on Randy Moss and Larry Fitzgerald. So this is another opportunity to satisfy McNabb except ... except the Eagles love to draft linemen on both sides of the ball.

Primary need: Probably an offensive tackle. William Thomas and Jon Runyan are at or near the ends of their careers.

Secondary need: Pass rusher, safety, running back and wide

receiver.

Possible targets: At the 19th spot, the Eagles have a shot at Miami safety Kenny Phillips, Vanderbilt tackle Chris Williams or Pittsburgh's Jeff Otah.

Summary: McNabb is right: The Eagles need more weapons. For the moment, Brian Westbrook is it, though Reggie Brown and Kevin Curtis had their moments last season. Safety Brian Dawkins is 34 and nearing the end, while defensive lineman Darren Howard appears finished. Look for the club to start retooling with the offensive line, then move to defense.

Washington Redskins

The skinny: Despite making the playoffs, the Redskins are the trendy choice for last in this division. Why? Because Joe Gibbs is gone, and no one knows what to make of replacement Jim Zorn. Vice president of football operations Vinny Cerrato will make the personnel decisions, with the club looking to help its passing game as well as its offensive and defensive

lines.

Primary need: Defensive line, with a tackle the needier position.

Secondary need: Offensive line, wide receiver, cornerback.

Possible targets: The Redskins choose 21st, which isn't good for a team looking for a top defensive tackle. North Carolina's Kentwan Balmer is a possibility, but the Redskins might not budge on him. They'd like a pass rusher like Florida's Derrick Harvey or Clemson's Phillip Merling, but Harvey will be gone. There will be plenty of wide receivers available here, with someone like DeSean Jackson or Early Doucet possible.

Summary: Zorn is a former quarterback, so the club could tilt toward offense. The problem is: He needs to protect young quarterback Jason Campbell with something more than another wide receiver, so I could see Washington looking first for an offensive lineman who can pass block. It makes sense as an investment in Campbell's future.

Powerhouses, upstarts and red-hot Curry -- that's Sweet

You know the worst part about NCAA tournament brackets?

Once they turn to garbage they stay garbage.

There's just no real way to recover.

This play proves UCLA will get the calls -- and non-calls -- necessary to win the national

lowing text message entered my phone Sunday during the second half of Davidson's win over Georgetown:

"Curry has gone totally bananas. Holy Crap."

Really, doesn't that summarize things best? And while there will be better Sweet 16 matchups than Davidson-Wisconsin, I'm not sure anything will be more anticipated than Friday's edition of The Stephen Curry Show, live from Detroit.

3. Ten different leagues are represented in the Sweet 16: It's quite a

diverse group, this bunch of Sweet 16 participants. There are big schools (Texas) and small schools (Davidson) and 10 leagues represented in all.

The Pac-10 (UCLA, Stanford, Washington State) and Big East (Louisville, West Virginia, Villanova) each have three representatives while the Big Ten (Wisconsin, Michigan State) and Big 12 (Kansas, Texas) have two. The ACC (North Carolina) and SEC (Tennessee) have one each, as do the Atlantic 10 (Xavier), Conference USA (Memphis), Sun Belt (Western Kentucky) and Southern (Davidson).

4. The freshmen are mostly gone: I had three Freshman All-America teams featuring a total of 15 players. Four of the players (Florida's Nick Calathes, Arizona State's James Harden and Syracuse's Donte' Greene and Jonny Flynn) didn't make the NCAA tournament while one (Kentucky's Patrick Patterson) was injured and thus didn't play in the event either.

The other 10 were in on Thursday. By Sunday night eight of them were gone -- Kansas State's Michael Beasley, USC's O.J. Mayo, Indiana's Eric Gordon, Arizona's Jerryd Bayless, Duke's Kyle Singler, Vanderbilt's A.J. Ogilvy, Kansas State's Bill Walker and Oklahoma's Blake Griffin.

All that's left is UCLA's Kevin Love and Memphis' Derrick Rose, which just so happens to be the only two I initially told you had a serious chance to make a Carmelo Anthony-type

run to the Final Four.

Five crucial questions for, um, Gary Parrish

1. Which Sweet 16 team has been the biggest surprise? Villanova and Western Kentucky are in the Sweet 16, and that's shocking. But the bracket broke in a way where neither had to beat a so-called power to escape the first weekend. Villanova beat Clemson and Siena; Western Kentucky beat Drake and San Diego.

So though it's a surprise the Wildcats and Hilltoppers made the Sweet 16, if you look at it on a micro level it is not a surprise that Villanova and Western Kentucky beat the teams they beat. Which makes Davidson the biggest surprise, because it had to beat Gonzaga and Georgetown, and Georgetown is a so-called power by any definition.

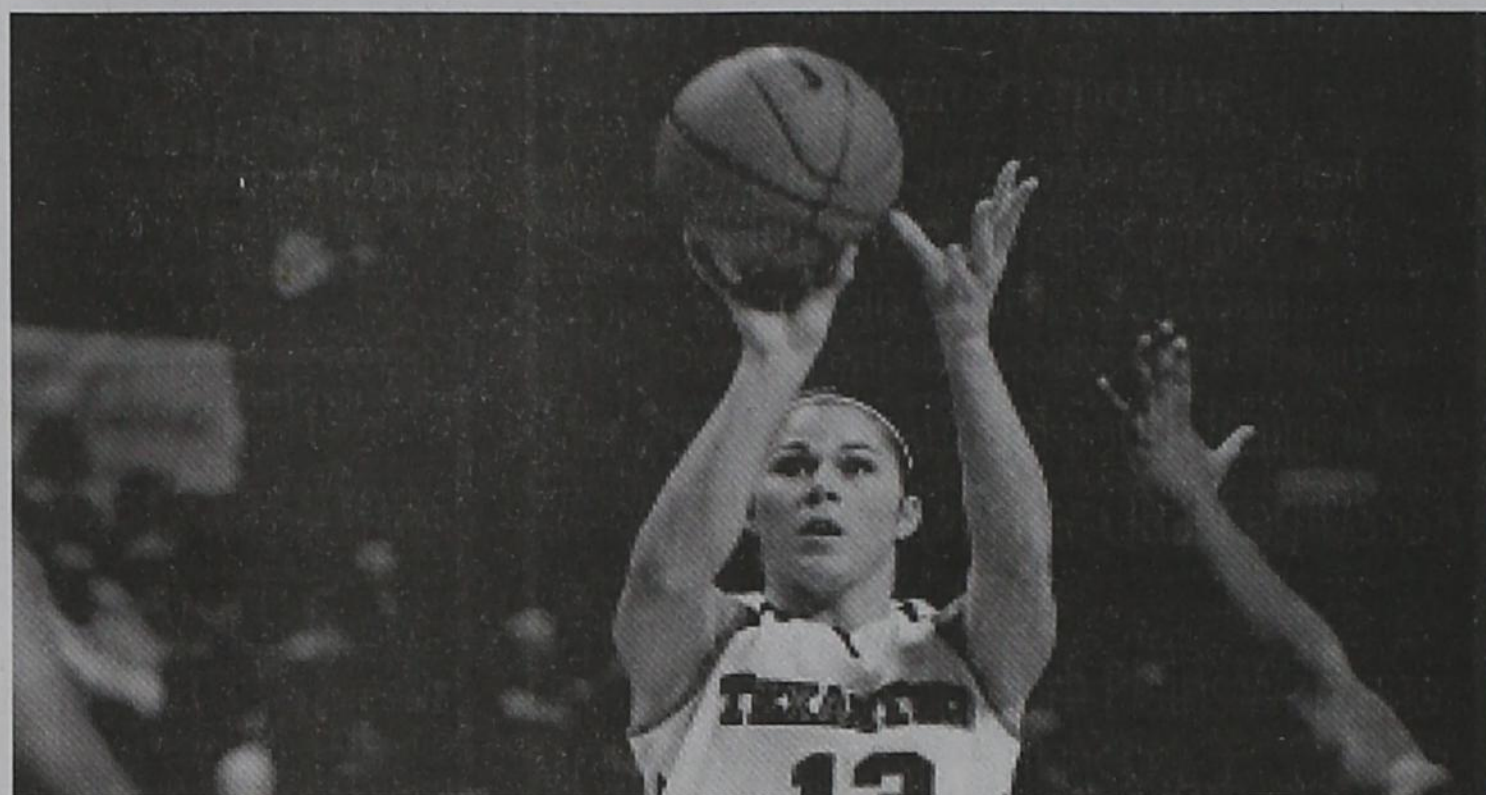
2. What's the best Sweet 16 matchup? Louisville vs. Tennessee in Charlotte should be fabulous. Two talented rosters coached by talented men who are both more than willing to let those rosters run up and down the court at a rapid pace. For my money, this is the most intriguing matchup, and it's not even close.

3. Which player is playing best? At the risk of sounding redundant, the answer has to be Curry. He's 22-of-43 from the field and 13-of-25 from 3-point range through two games. That's how he has scored a combined 70 points, meaning he's averaging 35 per contest in this NCAA tournament.

4. Are you sticking with your Final Four picks? Yeah, I think so. I'll go with the two teams I have playing in the national title game (Kansas and UCLA) plus the two teams with home-court advantages in their regions (North Carolina playing in Charlotte and Texas playing in Houston). That remains as reasonable as it did last week. No sense in changing now.

5. And do you still have UCLA winning the national championship? Sure, though I wish the Bruins would score a little more and avoid double-digit deficits. Keep playing like that and they'll eventually dig a hole too deep to escape. But I'm still not getting off UCLA and its starting lineup featuring at least four NBA players (Darren Collison, Russell Westbrook, Luc Richard Mbah a Moute and Kevin Love) because down the stretch of a tight game I'll take Collison and Love over any other duo on any other team.

Plus, when push comes to shove -- or hand comes to arm -- it's now pretty clear the Bruins are going to get favorable officiating, and that's a nice advantage to have when the goal is to win it all.



Texas Tech Lady Raiders Suffer 81-74 Loss to TCU

LUBBOCK, Texas - Keisha Walker had 16 points and Jordan Murphree added 14, but it wasn't enough for the Texas Tech Lady Raiders as they suffered an 81-74 loss to TCU in the third round of the Postseason WNIT last night.

In a game that saw 13 lead changes and 11 ties, the Lady Frogs (23-11) jumped out to a 10-point lead at 19-9 in the first seven minutes of play. Tech (17-16) battled right back going on a 15-2 run to take the lead. From that point, the game changed leads four times and was tied three times before the Lady Raiders took

a four-point lead at the half at 46-42.

Tech got its biggest lead of the game at 51-44 on a jumper by Walker just two and half minutes into the second half. A layup by TCU's Danielle Nunn knotted the game at 51 at 15:26. The lead changed several times during the next 10 minutes before the Lady Frogs took the lead for good with 5:50 remaining in the game.

On the night, Tech shot 42.9 percent from the field, hitting 27-63 shots, while TCU was 47 percent from the field (31-66). The Lady Frogs outrebounded the

Lady Raiders 39-34. Tech did shoot a season-best 91.7 percent from the free throw line as they connected on 11-of-12 free throw attempts.

Stanecia Graham was the only other Lady Raider in double figures with 11 points.

Adrienne Ross led TCU with 23 points.

**GO! FIGHT!
WIN!
Texas Tech
Lady
Raiders!!**



title.

So what happens is we spend Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday analyzing the bracket before finalizing it Thursday morning. And by Friday night we hate ourselves, not to mention Western Kentucky and Davidson. I mean honestly, what's more depressing than watching Villanova render your bracket worthless? And that's why I think real bracket contests shouldn't start until the Sweet 16, if only to keep people from trying to ride O.J. Mayo to the Elite Eight.

Anyway, the Sweet 16 is now set.

Perhaps you heard.

And here's a broad look at what has happened and what's to come as the Road to the Final Four continues.

Four storylines

1. The top seeds are still alive: North Carolina and Kansas cruised. Memphis and UCLA were tested. But all four No. 1 seeds advanced to the Sweet 16, which should come as no surprise. Those four teams were four of -- if not the four -- best teams pretty much all season. And while I know four No. 1 seeds have never made the Final Four, it won't be crazy if it happens this year.

2. Stephen Curry is something serious (and Davidson is, too): You've read plenty about Stephen Curry by now, so I won't waste words describing what he has done. Because you know what he has done, that it is insane what he has done, so insane that the fol-

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Minorities, Seniors at Greater Risk for Kidney Disease

Physician from Fresenius Medical Care Available to Discuss the Importance of Early Detection to Preventing Chronic Kidney Disease

WHAT: Ethnic minorities, including African, Asian, Hispanic and Native Americans—as well as seniors—are at higher risk than the general population for developing potentially life-threatening kidney disease, experts say. This risk is linked directly to higher rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, the two leading causes of kidney disease.

African Americans are nearly four times more likely than the

general population to develop kidney failure, which requires dialysis or a kidney transplant. (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)

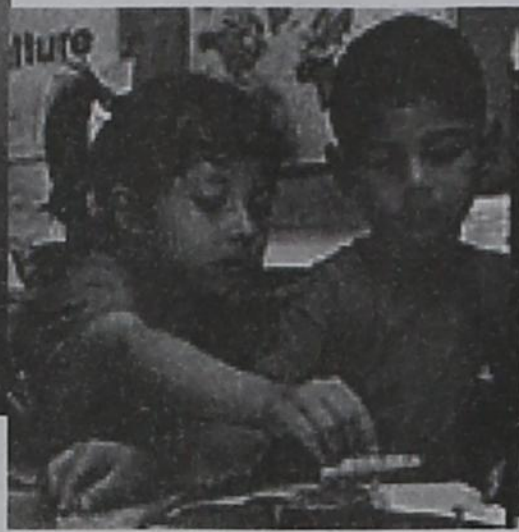
panics of the same age. (National Kidney Foundation)

WHO: Kidney expert with Fresenius Medical Care

WHY: Studies show that early detection and treatment can halt or slow the progression of kidney disease. As part of National Kidney Month in March, Fresenius Medical Care North America recommends that people in these at-risk groups get regular screenings for high blood



Hispanic Americans are almost twice as likely to have diabetes as non-His-



pressure and diabetes.

HOW: If you would like to interview an expert in your area about kidney disease and minorities, please contact Amber Bagwell at 415-489-7348 or bagwella@loomisgroup.com.

About Fresenius Medical Care North America

Fresenius Medical Care North America is a subsidiary of Fresenius Medical Care AG Co. KGaA, the world's largest integrated provider of products and services for individuals undergoing dialysis because of chronic kidney failure, a condition that affects more than 1,600,000 individuals worldwide. Through its network of 2,238 dialysis clinics in North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Africa, Fresenius Medical Care provides dialysis treatment to approximately 173,860 patients around the globe. Fresenius Medical Care is also the world's leading provider of dialysis products such as hemodialysis machines, dialyzers and related disposable products. Fresenius Medical Care is listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (FME, FME3) and the New York Stock Exchange (FMS, FMS-p).

For more information about Fresenius Medical Care's U.S. network of more than 1,600 dialysis facilities, visit the Company's website at www.ultracare-dialysis.com <http://www.ultracare-dialysis.com>.

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Study:

More immigrants, less crime

March 19, 2008-Contrary to the stereotype that crime and immigrants go hand in hand, immigrant-saturated neighborhoods have less crime, a U.S. study found.

Harvard University sociologist Robert Sampson examined crime and immigration in Chicago in 180 neighborhoods of varying levels of integration. He also analyzed recent data from police records and the U.S. Census for all communities in Chicago.

Based on assumptions that immigrants are more likely to commit crimes and settle in poor, disorganized communities, prevailing wisdom holds that the concentration of immigrants and an influx of foreigners drive up crime rates, Sampson said.

However, Sampson showed that concentrated immigration predicts lower

rates of violence across communities in Chicago, with the relationship strongest in poor neighborhoods.

"Not only does immigration appear to be 'protective' against violence in poverty areas, violence was significantly lower among Mexican-Americans compared to blacks and whites," Sampson said in a statement.

The study, published in the winter issue of Contexts magazine, found that first-generation immigrants were 45 percent less likely to commit violence than third-generation Americans.

La División Latina en Cuanto a La Guerra En Irak



los que participan es por la falta de información repartida.

JESS QUINTERO, director ejecutivo de Hispanic War Veterans of America, ofrece las siguientes razones por las que deberían los latinos considerar una carrera profesional de servicio militar a su país y continuar apoyando los esfuerzos de los EE.UU. por completar con éxito la misión del país en Irak.

SÍ

1. Como ciudadanos de los EE.UU., los latinos son responsables por el servicio a su país durante una época de guerra.
2. Hay una fuerte tradición militar hispana que se fundamenta en el patriotismo entre las familias latinas dedicadas a dar una respuesta rápida, valiente y honrosa cuando están en riesgo el país y sus ideales.
3. El servicio militar ofrece numerosas oportunidades para la educación durante y después de hacer el servicio militar.
4. Generosas recompensas al firmar un contrato podrán ser de ayuda a los reclutas y a sus familias con aprietos económicos.
5. La fuerza militar ofrece la estabilidad, un sentido de orientación y ejemplos de otros durante las etapas de mayor vulnerabilidad de un joven recluta.
6. Ofrece las necesidades básicas como beneficios médicos, vivienda y comida.

PABLO PAREDES, educador de la paz con el American Friends Service Committee, ofrece cinco razones por las que los hispanos deberían oponer activamente más participación de las fuerzas militares estadounidenses en Ira:

NO

1. Los hispanos están sobre-representados en los roles de mayor peligro en la fuerza militar y tremendamente poco-representados en los rangos de oficiales y trabajos de élite.
2. Los programas de reclutamiento que enfocan a los latinos hace promesas en extremo exageradas de una educación, mejor posición económica y aceleración en el proceso de hacerse ciudadano.
3. Los latinos, y en particular los soldados de tarjeta verde, quienes han servido honradamente, vuelven a casa a enfrentarse con la desigualdad y la discriminación; no se les otorga acceso a apropiados beneficios de veteranos de guerra.
4. Los vínculos históricos de los latinos a la fuerza militar estadounidense han sido y continúan siendo destructivos a sus antepasados y países de origen. "Los marines aprenden a cantar sobre la destrucción de Montezuma".
5. El clima de guerra ha impulsado la militarización de la frontera de los EE.UU. con México y a grupos de vigilantes como los Minutemen, quienes en sus mensajes propagandísticos, hacen de los latinos un estereotipo y chiva expiatorio de riesgo a la seguridad nacional.

(Emily C. Ruiz es periodista con Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C. Comuníquese con ella a: Emily@HispanicLink.org) © 2008

Emily Ruiz

Hispanic Link News Service

Como terminó ocurriendo en Viet Nam, la participación militar de los Estados Unidos en Irak está llevando a los hispanos en dos direcciones. O tal vez en tres.

Los números nos narran parte de la historia. La más reciente encuesta del Centro Hispano Pew encontró que menos de un cuarto de los latinos (el 24%) apoya la participación de tropas estadounidenses. Esta cifra es menos del 31% que se vio en el 2006 y el 39% en el 2004.

El Departamento de Defensa de los EE.UU. tiene cifras que muestran que los hispanos son el 10.9% de las fuerzas armadas, mucho menos que su porcentaje dentro del grupo calificado por edad en las tres décadas de la fuerza armada compuesta por voluntarios. Están los que, como Jess Quintero, han servido en dos giras — una en el ejército de los EE. UU., y otra en la fuerza aérea — hacia fines de la guerra de Corea y hacia comienzos de la de Viet Nam.

Quintero, presidente de los Veteranos de Guerra Hispanos de América, habla con orgullo de las contribuciones de los hispanos al defender los ideales de democracia del mundo desde la guerra revolucionaria hasta el día de hoy.

Recita los nombres de parientes, desde generaciones pasadas hasta los nietos de hoy, quienes sin dudar ni un momento, acudieron al llamado.

Después tenemos a Pablo Paredes, en lo más reciente un soldado de infantería de tercera clase y técnico de control de armas de la fuerza naval de los Estados Unidos. Al declararse contra la invasión de Irak, se negó a abordar la USS Bonhomme Richard en lo que se desplegaría en el Golfo de Persia, en diciembre del 2004 como parte de la Operación Libertad Iraquí. Le dieron licenciamiento administrativo después de servir tres meses de trabajo

fuerte sin ser encarcelado y que fuera rebajado a un rango de categoría menor. Ahora trabaja de educador de paz con el American Friends Service Committee.

Después está el tercer y tal vez más grande elemento, que tal vez sea reflejo de la actitud de la comunidad en general. Este grupo no intenta organizar ni a los amigos ni a las familias a "salvaguardar la democracia", ni tampoco protesta de manera activa el compromiso de los Estados Unidos con la guerra.

En las protestas casi por entero de gente blanca contra la guerra este mes, se veía a pocos hispanos. Tampoco han formado sus propios grupos para protestar la guerra, como los que surgieron durante la época de la guerra de Viet Nam.

Una de las protestas más memorables fue la marcha del Moratorio Chicano de 1970 en el este de Los Angeles, en la que el diputado de un alguacil de condado mató al director de noticias de KMEX-TV, Rubén Salazar con un proyectil de gas lacrimógeno capaz de penetrar una armadura corporal. En la costa este, los Young Lords, en su mayoría puertorriqueños, organizaron manifestaciones similares.

Los latinos anti-guerra mayores de hoy con frecuencia han tenido la experiencia de activismo durante la era de Viet Nam, mientras que menos son los padres de soldados quienes han muerto en los conflictos más recientes del medio oriente, explica Jorge Mariscal, profesor de Estudios Chicanos/Latinos en la Universidad de California, San Diego.

"Los latinos más jóvenes participan porque ven el impacto de la guerra en sus amigos y el militarismo dentro de sus escuelas por el reclutamiento de jóvenes", dijo, agregando que la razón por la que no son más

Lubbock Jazz & Blues Festival

Area schools participate in a weekend of clinics, master classes, guest artist performances, and festival competition.

If you like to swing, then next weekend is your thing.

The 41st Annual Jazz & Blues Festival on March 28-29 features two full days of clinics and performances.

The festival, which features the Reggie Thomas Organ Trio and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, is designed to bring great jazz to the community and hone the skills of 250 budding musicians from area junior high and high schools. For the last 40 years, the Texas Tech University School of Music, in conjunction with Phi Mu Alpha music fraternity, has invited secondary school band students to this two-day event.

"This is an opportunity to bring the community together for a weekend of great jazz," said Brad Leali, director of jazz studies at Texas Tech's School of Music. "It's also an excellent opportunity for Texas Tech educators to offer some outreach education to the community."

The March 28 concert features Texas Tech University's premiere jazz group, Jazz Ensemble I, and the Reggie Thomas Organ Trio with Wes Anderson on alto saxophone and Andrew Griffith on drums. Leali directs the event. The evening of jazz is free and open to the public, and will be held at the Allen Theatre in the Student Union Building on the Texas Tech campus.

Then, as part of the Presidential Lecture & Performance Series' <<http://www.ttu.edu/administration/president/lecture/>> spring season, the Duke Ellington Orchestra, directed by Ellington alumnus Barrie Lee Hall Jr., will perform at 8 p.m. March 29 in the Allen Theatre. Tickets are \$10 for general admission plus a \$2-\$2.50 surcharge through Select-a-Seat. Texas Tech students may obtain free tickets upon presentation of a student ID at the Student Union Building ticket booth (two tickets per student ID). Call Select-A-Seat at (806) 770-2000.

Throughout the festival, musicians and educators will host master classes and clinics for the students; and the various school ensembles get the chance to compete, perform, and attend concerts by professional jazz musicians. Participating Texas schools include Amarillo, El Paso and Allen.

In addition to the weekend of educational activities, The Caldwell Trio and members of the Duke Ellington Orchestra will play together at all-star jam sessions that start at 8 p.m. on March 28-29. These sessions will be at La Diosa Wine Cellars in the Depot District, 901 17th St.