

Casualties of  
War in Iraq  
2638  
as of Aug. 30, 2006

# El Editor

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

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## Commissioner Gutierrez Says 'No' to Bigger Government

Higher Taxes, Bigger Government, & More Spending  
County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez said today that this attitude reflects what the county is on the verge of doing if in fact they vote in favor of a county property tax increase.

Lubbock County will hold two public hearings on a proposed property tax increase on September 5 and 8 at 10:30 A. M. in the Commissioners Court located on the 5th floor of the county courthouse.

The personnel committee also recommended a cost-of-living raise for all employees, plus additional money for each department head to issue for performance raises.

Gutierrez says that he is the sole commissioner who has consistently voiced opposition to the proposed increase. He has sent a letter to the Lubbock County Personnel Committee to express his opposition.

Gutierrez says in the letter that his opposition is consistent with the views expressed at the July 10, 2006 meeting of the Commissioners Court.

"I am reluctant to vote for the magnitude of growth in government that will result from the

blanket approval of the personnel recommendation because it means bigger government, more spending, and more taxes." For one Gutierrez says that he is



opposed to all reclassifications and title changes which are projected to cost \$26,510 in base salary alone.

"It is crucial to hold the line on spending this year more than ever before in light of the known increases in expenses of the next two years. I am opposed to 17 New Positions with a projected cost of approximately \$462,000 (Not including benefits, office space, furniture, computers, telephones, etc.) which could be an estimated cost of \$800,000 annually.) This cost alone amounts to an approximate increase in property taxes of 7/10ths cents."

Gutierrez told the committee that his vote was consistent with the desires of Lubbock County voters and taxpayers. "Lubbock county tax payers have clearly communicated their desire for limited government, holding the line on spending and lower taxes." Gutierrez said that Commissioners Court is fully aware of the future staffing needs of the new jail. "Lubbock voters approved approximately 280 licensed staff and 60 civilian. In order to fully staff the new jail Lubbock

County must hire about 50 more new jail staff next year and an additional 50 the following year. The cost of filling these positions could be \$3 million annually. This may require an increase in property taxes of about 2.75 cents."

Gutierrez said that the cost of staffing of voter approved positions "must be given priority over all other staffing recommendations which could be accomplished by 2009. "I believe it is possible to fill all new positions in the future with minimal to no increases in the property tax rate and a potential property tax roll-back 'if' revenues

from the new jail are ever realized."

Gutierrez stressed that if the County continued on the current path, Lubbock County was headed for a substantial increase in property tax rate. "I believe we must hold the line on spending, keep taxes low, and limit the size of government," Gutierrez stated

Commissioner Gutierrez believes the future hiring will place a severe burden on already over-taxed citizens on Lubbock. "Besides", says Gutierrez, "Lubbock County is growing. Each year, we have more tax payers and more property improvements which provide more revenues for Lubbock County. This alone, is reason to hold the line on taxes. The government has its hand in the pockets of taxpayers. This is wrong."

In the letter Gutierrez stated, "Lubbock tax payers are paying more for everything, more for gasoline, utilities, health care, medicine, and food." Gutierrez expressed particular concern for people on fixed incomes. "They can't afford more taxes. They already have to choose between food and medicine. What is really

bad is that most people have not gotten a pay raise. The tax increase is just one more bite out of their already stretched income."

In closing Gutierrez confirmed that he was completely against the proposed increases "I cannot

support the proposed budget," said Gutierrez, "I will vote No, because I believe this is too much too quick."

Only Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez has consistently voiced opposition to the proposed increase.

## Neugebauer Declines to Debate Democratic Challenger Robert Ricketts

According to the "Ricketts for Congress Campaign", District 19 Congressman Randy Neugebauer has decided to "cut and run", instead of debating his Democratic challenger, Robert Ricketts.

Citing a "busy congressional schedule", Neugebauer declined the Ricketts campaign request to debate in an open candidate's forum.

For his part, Ricketts said of Neugebauer; "Instead of facing the voters of District 19 and explaining why the national debt has grown by one-third since he took office, instead of debating the important issues like immigration reform and exploring how we can provide adequate health care and a living minimum wage for the residents of District 19, my opponent has shown a total lack of respect for the residents of the district. Instead he chooses to "blindly follow" a failed Bush policy in Iraq and he (Neugebauer) decides he doesn't have time to explain his votes to voters of the district."

"Congress is expected to meet only 71 days this year", continued Ricketts, "I know very few District 19 residents that would consider this a busy work schedule, especially considering that taxpayers are paying each Representative more than \$165,000 per year.

Perhaps Neugebauer understands that his congressional behavior is indefensible. How could he stand on the same stage with a fiscal conservative like me and explain his co-sponsoring a bill which, if passed, would result in a disastrous 23% national sales tax which would only hurt the working middle class. Or maybe he is unable to answer why he has voted twice against funding our military men and women fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq."

An August 17-21, 2006 a CBS News/New York Times poll showed only 29% of respondents approved of the job the current Congress is doing. Since 2002, the last off-year election, this same rating has nosedived by 20 points from 49% to today's mere 29% approval rating.

"It is obvious that District 19 voters have no more patience for Neugebauer's tax and borrow policies. They are ready for a return to sensible government", said Ricketts.

Ricketts is a professor of accounting at Texas Tech University, where he holds an endowed chair in taxation. He is running on a platform for a return to "Sensible Government".

Randy Neugebauer is the Republican incumbent seeking his second full term.

### Good News For GOP

## Immigration Not A Major Issue For Latinos

By Sean Higgins

A year of controversy over the immigration issue has had scant impact on the Hispanic vote, a new Democratic survey has found.

Voter loyalties among that group remain frozen where they were last election, with Hispanics tending Democratic about 2-to-1.

If anything, Democrats may have a problem turning out Hispanics to vote in an off-year election.

That's according to a poll of 984 Hispanic likely voters by Democracy Corps, a group run by former Bill Clinton strategist James Carville and pollster Stanley Greenberg.

"Hispanics' ... support for Democratic congressional candidates has remained unchanged from last year, while interest in this election is substantially lower than in 2004," according to a summary of the survey.

That tracks with the findings of other liberal groups.

"Our polls show the same thing," said Joe Garcia, director of the Hispanic Strategy Center for NDN, formerly the New Democrat Network.

The lack of any significant shift comes even though immigration reform has been a hotly debated issue in Congress since the last

election. Earlier this year, the House passed a tough border-control-only immigration bill.

The Senate passed a bill that increases border security but also creates a guest worker program and opens a path for immigrants to gain citizenship. President Bush supports a similar approach.

The House has balked at the Senate's approach, arguing it amounts to amnesty. The legislation has been stalled for months, and few expect Congress to complete any bill this year.

The inability to pass an immigration bill -- and the criticism of mass Hispanic immigration by some, especially House Republicans -- was thought to hurt the GOP and boost Democrats.

Instead, liberal groups have found the debate only marginally benefited Democrats and that Hispanics rate other bread-and-butter issues like jobs, the economy and the war on terror much higher.

"Immigration ranks low on the list of priorities for Hispanics, with only 19% saying it is the first or second most important issue determining their vote for Congress," the survey found.

Some Favor Get-Tough Policies Nor are likely Hispanic voters necessarily prone to favoring generous policies toward immi-

grants. The survey found 34% opposing illegals getting any benefits if they have not paid taxes.

"Hispanic voters are critical of those immigrants that do not play by the rules, and take advantage of the system," the survey found.

Stacy Paxton, spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee said the survey seemed about right. Democrats have "room to grow" in winning the Hispanic vote.

The survey's results didn't surprise GOP activists either. Most argue immigration is a red herring when it comes to winning over Hispanics.

For one thing, Hispanic is a broad, catch-all term for a variety of ethnic groups that lumps in recent immigrants with people who have lived in the U.S. for generations, said Richard Nadler, president of America's Majority, a conservative group involved in Hispanic outreach.

"The voting Latinos are the ones who are the ones who are the most assimilated," Nadler said. Recent immigrants, especially illegals, vote in far smaller numbers.

Broadly speaking, Hispanics lean strongly Democratic.

The Democracy Corps poll finds them favoring Democrats

## Polls Vary on Public Support for Immigration Laws

By Alex Meneses Miyashita  
Here is what a few other polls have been finding out about the public's perception of what should be done with regard to immigration reform:

80% SUPPORT and 16% oppose in California a comprehensive plan that would legalize undocumented immigrants without requiring them to leave the country; 70% favor some form of comprehensive approach, while 22% favor an enforcement-only plan. (Field Poll/July 27)

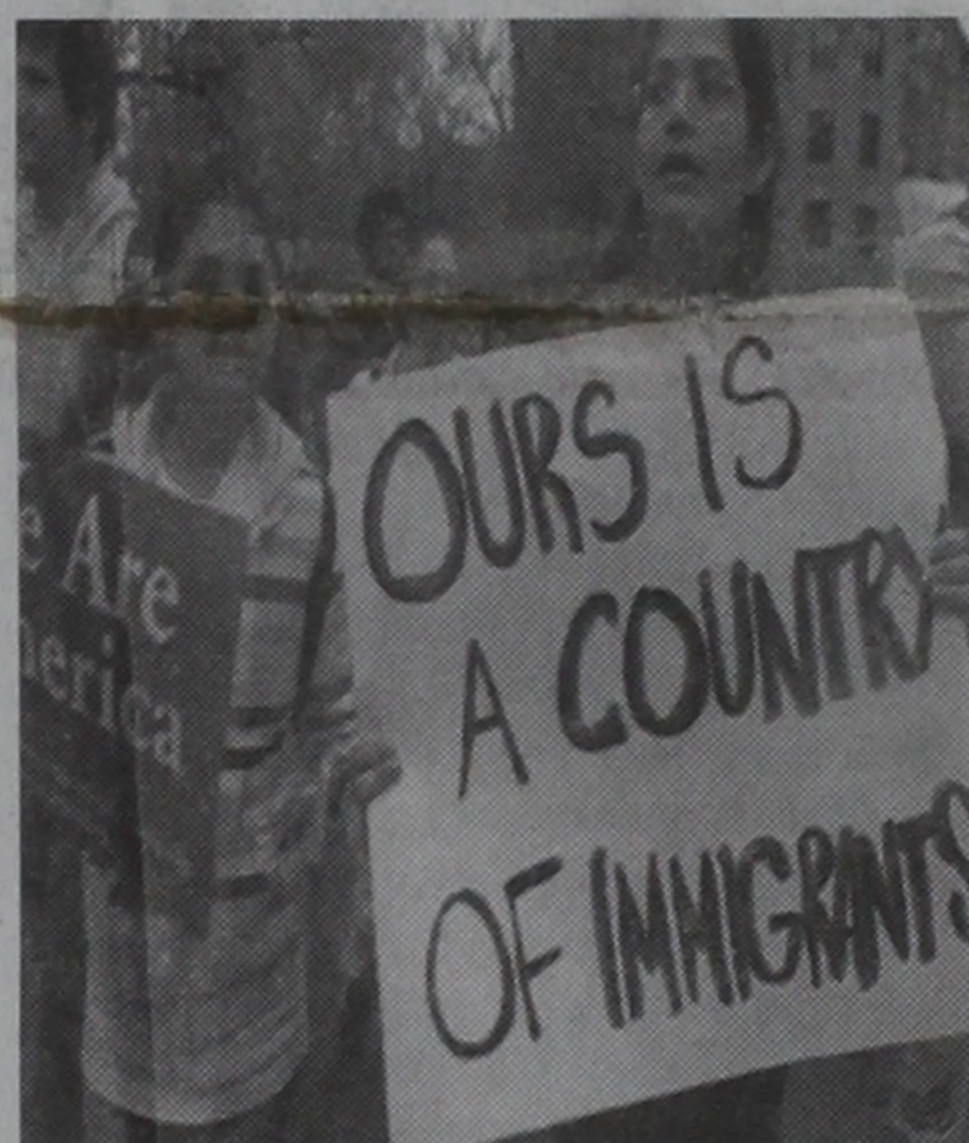
56% SUPPORT a guest worker program. (AP-Ipsos/March 31)

71% FAVOR legislation that leads to permanent residency, and 19% favor a proposal that grants only temporary legal status. (The Tarrance Group and Lake Snell Perry Mermin & Associates-National Immigration Forum and the Manhattan Institute/March 31)

72% BACK a guest worker program and 25% support the enforcement-only proposal passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. (Time Magazine-SRBI/March 31)

32% SUPPORT permanent residency for undocumented immigrants; 64% favor temporary legalization. (Pew

Hispanic Center/March 30)  
66% OPPOSE building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and 67% are against imposing harsh penalties



against employers hiring undocumented workers. (Bendixen & Associates-New America Media/March 28)

60% OPPOSE "amnesty for illegal immigrants" and 32% favor it; 61% consider securing the borders a very important issue, and 47% consider dealing with undocumented immigrants a very important issue. (Qorvis Communications-Minuteman Civil Defense Corps/March 14)

## COMMUNITY VOICES

This week's question of the week:  
How have the federal government and FEMA performed in the year since Hurricane Katrina? Have they done a good job of rebuilding New Orleans and the rest of the Mississippi Gulf Coast?

In my opinion FEMA handled very poorly the most powerful and expensive natural disaster to hit the United States and one of the deadliest hurricanes recorded in the country. Katrina ravaged the Gulf coast of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, displacing some 770,000 residents and destroying over 300,000 homes. More than 1,500 people were killed in New Orleans alone. In the early morning of August 29th, 2005 Katrina's storm surge caused several breaches in levees around New Orleans. Eighty percent of the city was subsequently submerged. Images of New Orleans residents piling into the city's Superdome stadium and convention center pleading for food, water and aid were broadcast around the world.

The media showed us and the World how irresponsible our federal government and FEMA has handled this disaster from day One and to this day nothing has changed it is still being handled poorly. There are so many displaced people right now, but of course the media will only tell us what they want you to hear and that is the problem.

We're lucky if 25% of the money allocated for this disaster went through the right channels to help these people. Who ever heard of paying \$100,000 dollars for a trailer house, well guess what? That's exactly what they did on our taxpayer's credit card. I wouldn't be surprised if they're charging them rent to stay there; at the Renaissance Village - a trailer park on the outskirts of Baton Rouge that houses over 2,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

What kills me is that we let them get away with things like this. FEMA was a disaster and is still a disaster. If you could talk to just five people that live there they would support my opinion.

Henry F. Martinez, Lubbock via Email

It is very clear that FEMA, President Bush, and the federal government have performed poorly in regards to helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The indifference toward the affected was obvious just two or three days after the hurricane devastated the City. More disgusting than this indifference is the reported fraud by government approved contractors that have taken millions of the 101 billion dollars designated to help, and have not done the work or rebuilding. This is another example of the Bush, conservative,

Republican agenda to screw as many innocents as they can, while they can. "Se sale big time este montón de buglas legítimos!"

The lack of action by the above mentioned in this tragedy symbolizes the true spirit of this administration. Even Action Jackson shows up some time after the fact. But, hey if you need a wiretap, or need to invade a country rich in oil they are Johnny on the Spot. Private citizens and businesses helped more than the government.

Qué Dios ayude a las víctimas de Katrina porque Bush no lo va hacer.

A.G. Lubbock, via Email

From "It's Cheaper to Go Dutch,"  
Newsweek, Sept. 4, 2006, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/14535074/site/newsweek/>

[Most of Holland's population lives below sea level.] Hans Vrijling, a renowned authority on flood control who designed part of the Dutch [flood control] system, says it should be possible to protect New Orleans—even low-lying sections—from storm surges more than 10 times Katrina's. The price tag: less than \$10 billion.

[The Army Corps of Engineers has until the end of 2007 to study the problem.] Vrijling, for one, can't understand what the Corps is going to study for so long. The technology already exists and has been tested over decades in the Netherlands. He says Dutch and American engineers, working together, would need only "a couple of months" to draw up a detailed plan. "If we had the will and one month's money from Iraq, we could do all the levees and restore the coast," says Ivor Van Heerden, a Louisiana State University hurricane scientist who warned for years about a Katrina-like disaster. "We can save Louisiana. It is very doable."

Not under the Bush administration.

Ralph H. Brock, Lawyer, Lubbock via Email

FEMA's performance in the aftermath of Katrina is a perfect example of how Government red tape and bureaucracy impede and impair rather than help. Millions were wasted in botched awards of contracts that were subcontract again and again until the actual work was done by thousands. New Orleans is only 60% of its original self and hundreds of thousands of its citizens have not returned. I have no opinion whatsoever about FEMA's performance.

Ysidro Gutierrez, Lubbock via Email

And finally this week: a reply from El Editor's on-line discussion board concerning last week's story about the high suicide rate among Hispanic youths:

As the surviving parents of a Hispanic teenager that completed suicide almost 4 years ago, I am not surprised to see the statistics. Our youth struggle to find their place. And try as they might, there is always something that interferes with their ability to fit it. Mental illness puts such a stigma on a young person. Coming from a Hispanic background only adds to the stigma. Being "crazy" and having a "mental illness" are entirely different things. But in our culture you don't talk about it. It is hidden away like young girls were when they were "in that way" back in our day. I only hope that these young people suffering from a mental illness are blessed enough to surround themselves with caring, understanding people who can help them through these trying times. There isn't a day we don't think of our daughter and think of the things that might have been. I would not wish this on my worst enemy.

Posted on www.leditor.com discussion board

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# CANDIDATE'S FORUM

With the November general election just a little over two months away, El Editor debut's a new feature we call, "Candidate's Forum". In an effort to inform our readers about the candidates running for office, this feature will appear from time to time with information we think is important for you to know.

Candidates running for political office in national, state, and local races will be invited to participate in this forum and express their views on a variety of topics.

If there is a particular question you would like us to pose to a particular candidate, send it to us at [eleditoreditorial@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eleditoreditorial@sbcglobal.net) and we will forward it to him/her.

It is of extreme importance that we all learn as much about the political candidates who are running for elected office, in order to be able to make an informed voting decision this November 7.

**This Week's Topic: Education**  
**This Week's Candidate: Chris Bell, Democratic Candidate for Governor**

**El Editor:** The president of the Texas Federation of Teachers said that the state's emphasis on scores is "destructive" and takes away from students learning critical thinking. What is your opinion?

**Chris Bell:** I've called for ending high-stakes standardized testing and using the TAKS exam instead as a diagnostic and comparative tool. As a father of public school students, I see it myself—the TAKS tail is wagging our public school system. I've visited schools all across the state and every place I go it's the same story. The TAKS test has completely taken over the curriculum, and teachers are the first to tell me how much this is hurting their students.

I'm all for accountability, but standardized testing shouldn't be the end-all, be-all of what we teach our kids. They've gone from 'teaching to the test' to 'teaching the test. The folks running schools in Austin act like testing will make our kids smarter. Testing won't make our kids smarter just like using a ruler doesn't make you taller.

Rick Perry recently signed controversial teacher incentive pay legislation that will further raise the stakes of the TAKS exam for Texas teachers. Linking teacher incentive to TAKS scores is a clear example of how Rick Perry has no clue how to improve our public schools. We cannot treat teachers like glorified test monitors and pay them accordingly. The incentive that teachers need is the authority to run their own classrooms and the respect of a professional salary.

**El Editor:** What is the impact on Hispanic students; are they being negatively affected?

**Chris Bell:** There are several signs that under Rick Perry's administration and the TAKS test, ALL children of Texas are less prepared for college than ever before.

Texas has the nation's third lowest SAT scores, thirty points below the national average. In 2002, only 22% of Texas high school graduates passed all three sections of the entrance exam required at Texas public universities, a 10% decrease in four years. There is also an incredible dropout crisis that has gone underreported by Rick Perry's Texas Education Agency.

The state reported a 3.9% dropout rate for 2003/04. But when the number of 9th graders enrolled in the district in 2000/01 is compared to the number of 12th graders enrolled in 2003/04, an effective dropout rate of 32.7% is found.

Unfortunately, the average Hispanic dropout rate across the state is even worse. When you compare the number of Hispanic 9th graders enrolled in 2000/01 with the number of Hispanic 12th graders enrolled in 2003/04 you find a 45.8% dropout rate, rather than the 6.3% reported by the state.

*For Questions or Comments:*  
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# EL EDITOR

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**Publisher Bidal Agüero**  
**Business Manager - Olga Riojas Agüero**  
**Contributing Columnist - Abel Cruz**

# Neugebauer Compares Hispanic Community to Terrorist Organization - Hezbollah

By Robert Ricketts, Op-Ed Contributor

It's time we insist on an open and honest discussion about the immigration problem in this country.

Unfortunately, Randy Neugebauer continues to depend on misinformation and "party-line" statements to make sure District 19 residents are misled into returning him to office in November.

At an Olney campaign stop last week, Neugebauer suggested that, like the Hezbollah terrorist organization in Lebanon, the Hispanic community in the United States wants to take control of our country. He further declared that over half of the prisoners in the federal prison system are "foreigners." Nothing could be further from the truth.

According to the Department of Justice, less than one in five federal prisoners as of July 2005 were non-citizens. Someone needs to tell Mr. Neugebauer that having brown skin does not make one a "foreigner." That's an attitude from another era, used to scare and misinform people and Neugebauer is using this kind of rhetoric to further divide this country on this important issue.

It was wrong then and it's wrong now. It is especially shameful to hear this kind of statement from an elected member of the House of Representatives. Mr. Neugebauer should apologize to the Hispanic community today.

We all agree that we have a problem with illegal immigration in this country. We don't really know the magnitude of the problem, but we certainly know the cause. Illegal immigration is caused by American business and its insatiable appetite for cheap labor. That's why the Republican Party has ignored the issue for so long and it's why the Republican response to the outcry from their base is to blame the immigrants rather than the business community. Immigrants have

no money, while business lobbyists finance the re-election campaigns of Mr. Neugebauer and other Republicans in Congress. Scapegoating immigrants won't stop them from crossing our borders; scapegoating the entire Hispanic community is clearly not the answer.

So how do we address the illegal immigration problem? We start at the source - design a system by which employers can verify the documents submitted by their workers and then enforce fines and penalties against employers who hire undocumented workers. Give employers the opportunity to apply for legal work visas for valued members of their current workforce who are undocumented and make them follow the rules for all future hires. Once we eliminate the demand for illegal workers, the flow of immigration across our borders will fall immediately, making it possible for the Border Patrol to do its job.

To address the concern that many citizens of other countries use our hospitals and other social services, document the citizenship of people to whom we provide those services and then bill their governments for the cost of care and services provided. We don't need to turn sick people away from our hospitals - with a little diplomacy and encouragement; we can ensure that their home countries reimburse us for reasonable costs.

These aren't draconian proposals. They're just common sense.

Unfortunately, common sense is in short supply in Washington DC these days. We have a chance on November 7 to change that. We can have sensible government, but we have to vote to get it.

**Editor's Note:** The writer is the Democratic candidate for the 19th Congressional District. Randy Neugebauer is the incumbent.

# Poll Biases: It's What the Sponsor Wants

Two Polls, Two Opposite Options: Public Says 'YES' to Both

**POLL 1 - Do you think our borders should be secured and illegal immigration stopped before our nation addresses the status of those now in the country illegally? 81% SAY YES**

**POLL 2 - Do you favor a law that would...allow additional guest workers; let undocumented immigrants register, pay fine, receive temporary legal status and get in line on path to citizenship. (For complete question, see story below.) 71% SAY YES**

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

Two surveys released by different groups within the past few weeks found that the public supports dramatically contradictory solutions in dealing with the nation's estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants.

One endorses an enforcement-only solution while the other favors a path to citizenship for undocumented workers.

A Grassfire.org-sponsored survey released Aug. 11 of 1,444 adults found that 81% favor passage of an enforcement-only immigration plan before ever considering a bill that tackles what to do with undocumented immigrants. The poll was conducted by Election Research.

It framed its question the following way:

"Do you think our borders should be secured and illegal immigration stopped before our nation addresses the status of those now in the country illegally?"

An earlier poll of 1,000 adults released July 25 by the Tarrance Group, and sponsored by the Manhattan Institute and National Immigration Forum found that 71% favored a comprehensive approach that includes a guest worker program and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

The full question:

"Would you favor or oppose legislation which would do the following: Provide resources to greatly increase border security; Impose much tougher penalties on employers who hire illegal workers; Allow additional foreign workers to come to the U.S. to work for a temporary period; Create a system in which illegal immigrants could come forward and register, pay a fine, and receive a temporary worker permit; Provide these temporary workers with a multi-year path to earned citizenship if they get to the end of the line and meet certain requirements like living crime free, learning English, paying taxes ... Would you favor or oppose passage of this legislation?"

This option had no delayed trigger, no enforcement-only elements.

Grassfire.org communications director Ron De Jong told Hispanic Link News Service, "We researched our questions carefully and we asked them in such a way that they were as neutral as we could possibly get them, and I think we did a pretty accurate job in doing that."

Asked about the neutrality of their question, he said, "It was a yes or no."

However, political analyst Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, shares a different assessment.

"Who could say no to that, really? It's basically saying, do you believe in enforcing the law? Most people would say yes."

"But it's not as though people understand the implications of the question. Most people, 95 percent of Americans, are not policy specialists. They don't know the details. If you phrase a question in a way that sounds reasonable, you will almost always get a positive response."

Grassfire.org advocates for stronger border control and immigration enforcement measures and opposes granting legal status to all undocumented residents.

The Manhattan Institute and the National Immigration Forum, framers of the other poll question, favor a comprehensive plan.

Sabato explains that as a general rule, findings from polls should be approached cautiously: "It's what the sponsor wants... You let me take the poll and word the questions and select the sample and I will get you any set of responses you want," he says.

Brian Nienaber, vice president of the Tarrance Group, told Hispanic Link, "They're (Grassfire.org) testing a choice that may be very, very important to them, but our survey was testing something a lot more in line with what's being debated."

The surveys generated similar findings with regard to the public's perception of the seriousness of the issue of undocumented immigration. The most recent poll found that 73%

said it was a serious problem, while the Tarrance poll found 61% identified it as an extremely or very serious problem.

"Our goal was simply to figure out what do most Americans think about the immigration crisis, and overwhelmingly they want borders secured first," De Jong said. "I can only speak about our poll. We didn't single anybody out, or look for one group. We just looked for a random sampling."

Nienaber's assessment was different. "Our poll is a comprehensive, bipartisan poll. It was conducted with regional quotas, professional sampling techniques to ensure that we got as accurate a national snapshot as possible," he said. "They may very well have done that, but I don't see that kind of rigor in what they explained their methodology was."

Nienaber said his group's methodology consists of dialing random phone numbers in accordance to a "stratified, cluster design" that divides the country into 12 regions. "If you stack up the questions that we asked against what was in (the Grassfire) poll, I would certainly put ours as a much more neutral assessment."

Sabato explains what would constitute a closer approximation to a neutral question, especially for an issue such as immigration. "You need a paragraph setting the stage - some people say this, other people say that. Give people both sides, and distill in a balanced way the best arguments for each side."

He elaborates, "Simply asking a question in a particular way will produce a certain response. This is well known to those who ply the polling art. It's an art, not a science. You use the right hot button word here or over there and you can produce just the result you want." He says there could be less "finagling" with the samples than the questions, but warns: "Who checks? There is no auditing central for polls."

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# Un-Kept Promises: One Year After the Flood

By Abel Cruz

On August 29, 2006, we once again revisited the poor, mostly black, helpless, desperate New Orleans' faces which arose from the shadows of Hurricane Katrina and the resulting flood which would turn out to be the worst natural disaster in the history of New Orleans and this country.

One year later, the promises from the President, FEMA officials and members of Congress; promises of a rebuilding and reconstructing of New Orleans; rebuilding the levees, and not forgetting the victims of this disaster; well, the visual scenes of the devastated area seem to confirm that the promises have been as empty as the city is today. For those that used to call New Orleans home, it seems that time has stood still and for most the nightmare continues.

The destruction that nature wrought has been hard enough for many people to deal with. But one year later, it is the human misery, government ineptitude, and corporate corruption which has evolved from the storm that remains as our starkest reminder of the "elephant in the room" everybody sees but no one wants to talk or do anything about.

One year later, as is so often the case in this country; the rich have gotten richer while the poor have gotten poorer. And all the while, government bureaucracy and opportunistic politicians have been the main culprits in the one year aftermath of the storm.

It is the less fortunate of New Orleans who are still displaced and who have slowly but surely been forgotten by the rest of the country and especially by the state, local, and particularly federal agencies charged with providing for the people of this country who have been victims of this kind of disaster. Hundreds of thousands of people are still displaced and still without some stability in their lives.

As for companies who capitalize of these tragedies, business as usual has resulted in millions of dollars worth of FEMA contracts. As CorpWatch, a San Francisco based organization whose mission it is to "investigate and expose corporate violations of human rights" has found, "Many of the same 'disaster profiteers' and government agencies that mishandled the reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq are responsible for the failure of 'reconstruction' of the Gulf Coast region. The Army Corps, Bechtel and Halliburton are using the very same 'contract vehicles' in the Gulf Coast as they did in Afghanistan and Iraq. These are 'indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity' open-ended 'contingency' contracts that are being abused by the contractors on the Gulf Coast to squeeze out local companies. These are also 'cost-plus' contracts that allow them to collect a profit on everything they spend, which is an incentive to overspend."

Before Katrina, New Orleans' population stood at over 500,000 people. Today, the numbers are at about 225,000; although the U.S. Postal service estimates the number could be closer to 170,000, while the electric utility estimates that only 90,000 of its previously 190,000 utility customers have returned.

But the whole demographic structure has changed. Only the people who had insurance or who had the financial resources to return have returned. If you happen to be one of those who were stranded in the lower ninth ward or at the convention center; chances are you are still living somewhere else in this country. And the chances of returning grow slimmer every day.

According to a recent report in USA Today, \$122 billion dollars have been approved for spending in the Gulf Coast; but the question of whether that money is getting into the hands of the people who need it most remains unanswered.

According to Bill Quigley, a law professor at Loyola University in New Orleans, "over \$50 billion was allocated to temporary and long-term housing. Just under \$30 billion was for emergency response and Department of Defense spending. Over \$18 billion was for State and local response and the rebuilding of infrastructure. \$3.6 billion was for health, social services and job training and \$3.2 for non-housing cash assistance. \$1.9 billion was allocated for education and \$1.2 billion for agriculture."

The recipients of these no-bid contracts have been companies with connections to President George W. Bush or his administration. "Contracts went to Bechtel Corporation, the Shaw Group, CH2M Hill, and Fluor immediately after Katrina hit. Riley Bechtel, CEO of Bechtel Corporation, served on President Bush's Export Council during 2003-2004. A lobbyist for the Shaw Group, Joe Allbaugh, is a former FEMA Director and friend of President Bush. The President and Group Chief Executive of the International Group at CH2M Hill is Robert Card, appointed by President Bush as undersecretary to the US Department of Energy until 2004. Card also worked at CH2M Hill before signing up with President Bush."

But what of the people of New Orleans who were washed out by the flood into other parts of the country; where are they? How are they coping?

According to a recent article in Newsweek Magazine, five American cities are shouldering the majority of the people displaced by Katrina. Houston leads the cities with the largest number which stands at about 150,000, while San Antonio has about 15,000. According to the report, "Nearly half the 15,000 evacuees still in San Antonio have a family member suffering from a chronic medical condition. Most are unskilled or unemployed, and in need of housing. One evacuee talked of nightmares: "I have dreams that I didn't make it."

According to the Newsweek report, "Most families (in Houston) earn about \$26,360. Blamed for overcrowding and a rise in crime, evacuees feel so stigmatized that they often hide their identity when applying for jobs or social services."

In Louisiana, 73,000 families are living in FEMA trailers, but more than 160,000 families are still waiting for trailers in St. Bernard Parish.

It is hard to imagine why after all those billions of dollars; more progress has not been made? It is even more shameful that a significant amount of that money has gone to line the corporate pockets of well connected "Bush Backers".

At this rate, if the people from New Orleans are still depending on the Bush administration to get things right, they'll be waiting forever.

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

# FRAN'S TRAVELS

by Jim Hightower

Where's Fran? Let's see, if it's Thursday, Fran must be in Yosemite... or is it the Everglades?

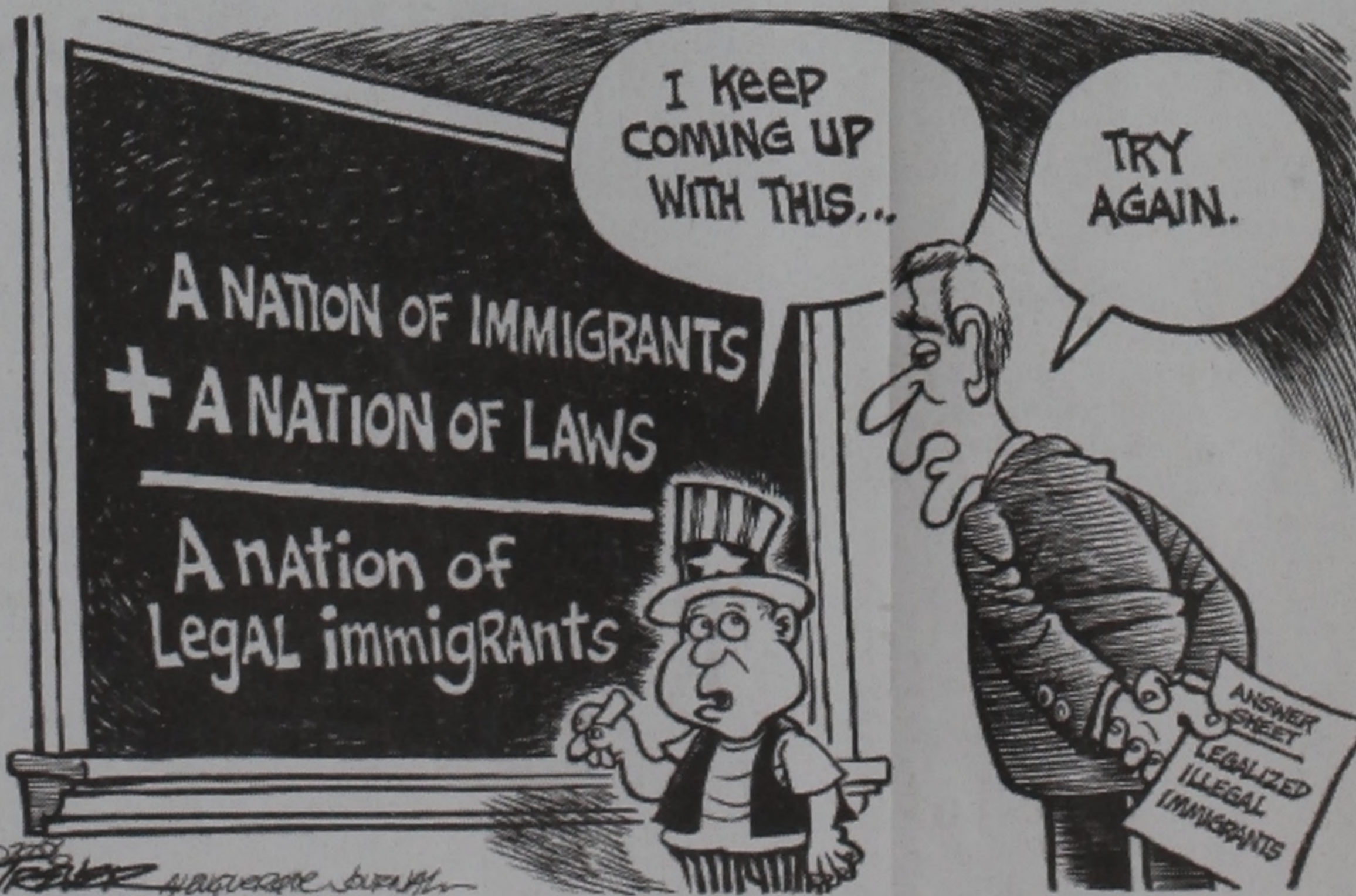
Fran Mainella has been the director of the National Park Service since 2001, when George W brought her up from Florida, where she had been head of brother Jeb's parks division. In her five-year tenure at NPS, she has presided over a shameful deterioration in the condition of our cherished system of parks, seashores, monuments, and other treasures. Budget shortfalls and a steadily growing backlog of postponed repairs have left our once-shining parks with such dark problems as closed trails, leaky lodges, reduced staff, shortened hours, and curtailed services.

Not that Fran hasn't been busy. In fact, she's been on the move non-stop, setting a record as the most traveled parks director ever. Bush's anti-government ideologies have been the ones really calling the shots at NPS, so, left out of the loop, Mainella literally has been traveling the outer loop, jaunting hither, thither, and yon to meet her ambitious goal of visiting every single one of the 390 units in America's park system.

So many parks, so little time. Park staffers, constantly asked to do more with less, mock her road show as "Fran's Hops and Stops." In 2004, irate lawmakers scolded her for a travel budget that had mushroomed to some \$44 million. But, Mainella, by now a junket junkie, just kept moving, even hiring a special "scheduling coordinator" to plan her travels "minute-by-minute."

Finally, having flitted in and out of about 250 parks, Fran's Last Ride is not long off. Like a road-weary tourist, she is resigning and plans to return to Florida, presumably with a trunk full of snapshot of all the fabulous places she's visited.

This is Jim Hightower saying... Fran Mainella is a perfect symbol of Bush's incompetent government, which substitutes frenetic motion for progress.





# Mike Leach's Red Raiders Are Back!

Mike Leach's Red Raiders are back to an out-of-conference schedule against teams that most of us have heard of, which is a bit of a relief considering the berating the team took from much of the media throughout 2005.

The Red Raiders will play three games against some good battle-tested D-1 teams, and one filler game against a Division I-AA opponent, with most teams moving to a 12 game regular season in 2006. Texas Texas Opens its season this weekend against the SMU Mustangs here in Lubbock on Saturday, Sept. 2 at 6:00 P.M.

Texas Texas leads in the all-time series against SMU 28-16

In their last meeting: 2004 (TTU 27-13)

SMU was a play or two from being a bowl-eligible team in 2005. They were also a play or two from being a mediocre 3-8. It just depends on how you look at it.



Still, the Mustangs made great strides in their first year in the new competitive Conference USA to their best season at 5-6 (4-4) since 1997 under 5th year Head Coach Phil Bennett.

It can be said, however, that the Mustangs were a great mystery in 2005. They boasted a 3-1 record against bowl teams, including a 21-10 drubbing of Metroplex rival TCU. That was the Horned

Frogs only loss of a season, which saw them finish ranked 9th in the country in the Coaches' Poll.

The mystery lies in the fact that SMU dropped decisions to bad UAB and Marshall teams, and a quizzical 31-10 home defeat to a homeless, disoriented Tulane team that finished the year with only two wins. The Mustangs also lost a close game at home to improved Baylor (28-23) in the season opener, and were stomped out of College Station, 66-8, by Texas A&M, after a monumental second-half collapse in what had been a close game for much of the first half.

For most of the season with the SMU Mustangs, you just didn't know what you were going to get.

This notion was epitomized by a "Hail Mary" pass at the final gun to steal a win on the road against Alabama-Birmingham.



One thing is certain, though. While most of the season was erratic for the Mustangs, they did finish very strong.

Already eliminated from bowl contention, SMU reeled off three quality wins to close the season. The Mustangs dominated an inferior Rice team at home, and won games

over two bowl teams at Houston and at home, dominating a strong UTEP team in their season finale.

SMU is a team that this year will look to spread out their opponents on offense, throw a lot of efficient passes, and use an athletic quarterback and running back in a read-option running game. On defense, they look to play aggressive

and fast, even though they don't possess intimidating size. Bennett is known throughout his career for fielding strong defenses, while sometimes undermanned, as an assistant at Texas A&M and Kansas State.

So far, he just hasn't had the horses in his reign as Mustang head coach. No pun intended.

So, the \$10,000 question is - What kind of team is SMU, really? Are they the team that was the only one in 2005 to beat TCU, and finished the year strong, or the team that was dominated at home to a horrific Tulane team?

The answer for 2006 lies in the players they have returning, and more specifically, according to Bennett, in the Mustangs new signal-caller.

**Gilbert's**

**Prediction:**

**TTU 42, SMU 21**

## George Lopez pide a las familias que obtengan credenciales de biblioteca

El actor, comediante y autor George Lopez se une a la Asociación Americana de Bibliotecas (American Library Association o ALA) y a cientos de bibliotecas en todo el país para promover en este mes de Septiembre el Mes para Obtener Credenciales de Biblioteca. Lopez es el portavoz oficial para este día observado a nivel nacional, el cual sirve como un recordatorio a los padres de que la mejor herramienta para empezar el año escolar es que su niño tenga una credencial de biblioteca.

Lopez es la estrella de la comedia en series "George Lopez" de ABC y fue nombrado en Agosto de 2005 "Uno de los 25 Hispanos Más Influyentes de América" por la revista TIME. Vive con su esposa y su hija de 10 años de edad en Los Angeles y cuenta con una credencial de la Biblioteca Pública de Los Angeles.

"El aseguramos que nuestros hijos cuenten con la mejor educación posible no es ningún chiste. La lectura alimenta nuestros sueños y nuestros objetivos para el futuro," dijo Lopez. "Desde ayuda con la tarea, hasta clubes de lectura, las bibliotecas es donde puedes hallar todo esto. Tu credencial de biblioteca es tu boleto hacia un

mundo de oportunidades. Obtenla y úsala en tu biblioteca."

Visita <http://www.ala.org/lopez> para ver las cinco cosas que le gustan a George Lopez de su credencial de biblioteca.

¿Por qué comprar si puedes tomarlo prestado? Según una encuesta reciente de la Federación Nacional de Minoristas, los padres gastarán más de \$17 billones en materiales escolares para el inicio de clases. Una credencial de biblioteca ofrece acceso a más de \$1 billón en valor de materiales como DVD, CD, libros, y recursos en línea; todos éstos adquiridos anualmente por las bibliotecas.

"Ningún padre puede permitirse no tomar en cuenta los enormes recursos que están disponibles de manera gratuita en las bibliotecas de la nación," dijo la Presidenta de ALA Leslie Burger. "Las

bibliotecas ayudan a igualar el nivel de personas de todas las edades y procedencias. Ciertos estudios demuestran que aquellos niños que leen en casa y que usan la biblioteca, tienen mejor desempeño en la escuela y tienen más posibilidades de seguir usando la biblioteca como un recurso de aprendizaje para el resto de sus vidas."

Los estadounidenses retiran de las bibliotecas más de 2 millones de artículos y visitan las bibliotecas públicas más de 1.3 billones de veces al año. Aprenda más sobre cómo su credencial de biblioteca puede ser su credencial más inteligente, visitando <http://www.ala.org/lcsm>. Puede bajar una fotografía de Lopez para uso de la prensa visitando: [http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/prtools/George\\_Lopez\\_Web.jpg](http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/prtools/George_Lopez_Web.jpg).

## Recordando La Marcha

José de la Isla

Fue agosto de 1966. Iban desapareciendo el verano y mis años adolescentes. Desde la estación de autobuses Trailways, en Houston, llamé por teléfono a mi amigo Steve, quien iba camino a la universidad, con un pedido. ¿Podría pasar por mí en la estación de autobuses en Austin, y dejarme en un punto de la carretera, a unas 60 millas al sur?

Cuando me recogió, le expliqué mi intención: unirme a La Marcha.

En la mochila cargaba una muda de ropa, dos cuadernos, lapiceros, y una grabadora de cintas de bobina marca Uher.

La Marcha se había desarrollado con base en la huelga de los que cosechaban melones en el Valle del Río Grande. Hartos de laborar bajo un sol ardiente ganando sólo 85 centavos la hora, se declararon en huelga exigiendo un dólar la hora.

El padre Antonio Gonzáles, de mi parroquia, fue uno de los dirigentes de la huelga, al igual que el reverendo James Navarro, pastor baptista, quien fue el que emitía un servicio de oración cada tarde por radio en KLVL, la única estación de radio en Houston con programación en español.

Las campañas para recaudar fondos y reunir ropa en los barrios y más allá daban apoyo a los huelguistas cuya ruta iba serpenteándose por los campos de cultivo de Texas, para llegar a Austin el Día del Trabajo estadounidense (el primer lunes de septiembre).

Se decía que hasta las tiendas Rex the Taylor enviaron un camión repleto de trajes elegantes de hombre. Stanley Marcus, de la famosa tienda Neiman Marcus, se decía había donado cientos de bellos pares de zapato, tacón alto, de mujer.

El gobernador demócrata, John Connally, quien se hiciera republicano más tarde, había atizado el tema al declarar que los empleados contratados durante el programa Guerra contra la Pobreza no se merecían más que \$1.25 la hora. Entonces fue que los campesinos decidieron exigir \$1.25 como salario mínimo, ya que ellos también se oponían a la pobreza.

Nada captó más la imaginación de los medios y del

público que el burro "Two Bits" (dos monedas de a veinticinco centavos), líder de la marcha de 490 millas de largo, el lomo blanqueado, marcado con el símbolo "\$1.25".

Cuando me uní a la marcha, éramos unos 50 participantes. Camioneros sindicalizados amigables, en sus camiones inmensos atiborrados de productos agrícolas, nos vitoreaban con sus bocinas al pasar. "Nos están cuidando", un muchacho campesino injerto me comentó. Por el otro lado, no congeniaban con nosotros ni la patrulla de carretera ni la policía estatal.

A las afueras de New Braunfels, el gobernador Connally se presentó en su brillante limosina queriendo persuadir a Gonzáles y Navarro que se devolvieran, pero el despertar ya iba apuntando.

En un pueblo oasis, las señoras de la iglesia con tocados contra el sol, ofrecían limonada y sándwiches. En otro, nos dio la bienvenida el alcalde. En una reunión nocturna, se nos leyó un telegrama de ánimo que envió el senador Robert Kennedy. El fiscal Nicholas Katzenbach mandó decir que enviaba observadores.

Con mi Uher, grabé La Marcha, un corrido que compuso uno de los campesinos. La balada definió la marcha no sólo en términos del dinero, sino también en términos de la dignidad. Captó un sentimiento que no cabía en mis cuadernos.

Los campesinos, decía la letra, se cansaron de seguir como burros. Ahora los burros iban a ser los líderes.

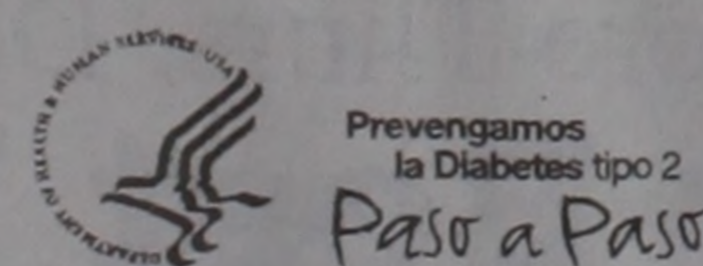
La última noche de la marcha nos pusimos pañuelos rojos al cuello como signo de identificación para el último tramo del viaje. Ya entonces éramos unos 150 participantes.

Con el alba llegaron unos 300 más, muchos vestidos de domingo. Iban al final, detrás de Two Bits y los demás de nosotros.

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Un mensaje del Programa Nacional de Educación en Diabetes, un programa conjunto de los Institutos Nacionales de la Salud y los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades.

En poco tiempo íbamos con orgullo por el centro de una calle de Austin, con la escolta de la policía en motocicleta, quienes por momentos sincronizaban sus sirenas con el grito: "¡Viva la Huelga!"

La bandera de los campesinos flameaba al lado de la nacional y la de Texas. Algunos veteranos con gorros Eisenhower nos daban el saludo desde la acera.

Había quizá mil participantes en la marcha sobre esa última calle montuosa. Cuando llegó a la cumbre mi sección de la columna, apareció frente a nosotros un mar de unas 25.000 personas. Ocupaban todo el espacio público frente al Capitolio estatal.

A cuatro décadas de entonces, se me hace claro que los 25.000 observadores del Capitolio se volvieron participantes cuando La Marcha les llegó a ellos. Durante una reunión reciente, Steve me recordó que el temperamento nacional actual se parece mucho al de ese momento en Texas. Mi pregunta es: ¿ofrecerán limonada y harán cantar la bocina? ¿Se unirán hoy cuando les llegue la marcha?

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## No plea for Tejano singer accused of molestation

A Tejano singer accused of drugging and molesting a 13-year-old girl rejected a plea bargain Monday in Brownsville. He was sent to jail until he can post bond.

Joe Lopez, 56, is the former lead singer of Grupo Mazz. He was expected to plead guilty to first-degree injury to a child and accept a sentence of four months in county jail followed by 10 years probation. The plea would have been instead of a trial on two child sexual abuse charges that was set to

begin with jury selection Tuesday.

But Lopez instead fired his attorney and was sent to jail until he posts a \$25,000 cash bond.

Lopez is accused of statutory rape and molesting an underage girl with a date rape drug in April 2004 at his home in the Ranch Viejo resort community.

Lopez pleaded not guilty in December to charges of indecency with a child and sexual aggravated child assault.

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# Taveras' hit streak ends at 30, Astros rout Brewers

Roy Oswalt got a big contract and the Astros got another win.

The only thing that went wrong for Houston was that Willy Taveras' 30-game hitting streak ended.

Pinch-hitter Jason Lane had a grand slam during Houston's seven-run eighth inning, and the Astros beat the Milwaukee Brewers 10-3 Tuesday night to match a season high with their fourth straight victory.

Oswalt pitched seven innings but didn't get a decision on his 29th birthday. Still, he received a great present after the game when the team announced that the right-hander agreed to a \$73 million, five-year contract extension -- the biggest multi-year deal ever given to an Astros pitcher.

The 2005 NL championship series MVP is ecstatic about remaining in Houston.

"We have the team to win. Last year we played unbelievable ball, and we have the same structure here to win," Oswalt said. "Hopefully, over the next four or five years, we can

put the team together, including this year."

A two-time 20-game winner, Oswalt passed up a chance to become a free agent after the 2007 season. And the Astros are thrilled that he's staying.

"Roy is one of the premier pitchers in baseball," owner Drayton McLane said. "You can look at his statistics for the last five years and he's as good as there is in baseball."

Taveras went 0-for-3, ending his hitting streak at 30 games -- the second-longest in the majors this season behind Chase Utley's 35-game run for the Philadelphia Phillies from June 23 to Aug. 3.

Taveras was hit twice by Tomo Ohka's pitches, with the second one plunking him in the back and sending him to the dirt in the seventh inning. He stayed down for a couple of minutes and was tended to by trainers before slowly trotting to first base.

Taveras' hitting streak is the longest in Astros history, surpassing Jeff Kent's 25-game streak in 2004.



"It was a little tough to lose it that way because I didn't have the opportunities," Taveras said. "It was a little frustrating to get hit twice. I would have liked to have had clean at-bats."

But he was still able to look at the bright side.

"It was real strange for me, but the good thing is we won and I can start another streak," Taveras said.

Brewers manager Ned Yost was disappointed that Ohka plunked Taveras in the

first inning.

"Both the pitches got away. You don't see that very much," Yost said. "The last thing you want to do is to put Taveras on base to start the game, with his ability to steal bases."

Craig Biggio hit an early two-run homer for the Astros, but the score was tied at three before Houston's wild eighth inning.

Biggio walked leading off before a single by Lance Berkman. Aubrey Huff's long single against Brian Shouse (1-2) bounced off the hand-operated scoreboard in left field and scored the

go-ahead run.

Adam Everett had an RBI single later in the inning before Brad Ausmus' bases-loaded walk scored Huff to make it 6-3.

Lane's grand slam to left field was the first of his career and Houston's second this season. It was Houston's first pinch-hit slam since Gregg Zaun connected in June 2002.

Chad Qualls (5-3) had two strikeouts in one inning for the win, and the Astros broke a five-game home losing streak.

Houston led 3-0 in the seventh before Oswalt gave up three straight doubles that cut the lead to 3-2.

He had allowed just one hit and retired 14 straight batters before Bill Hall's double leading off the inning. Gabe Gross and Corey Hart followed with run-scoring doubles before Hart scored on a sacrifice fly that tied it at three.

Oswalt allowed four hits and three runs and struck out seven in seven innings.

Astros manager Phil Garner was impressed by the way his team remained focused after the Brewers tied the game.

"To come back like that says a lot," he said.

But he knows the Astros still have much work to do if they hope to make the playoffs.

"Let's not make it what it's not," Garner said. "This felt good, but we've got a long way to go."

Ausmus agreed that Houston can't get too carried away.

"We're just going to play and we're not going to worry about anyone else," he said. "There are too many teams involved in the wild card to even scoreboard-watch."

The Astros led early after a home run by Luke Scott in the second. Scott's fourth homer sailed just into the right-field stands, over a fan holding a sign with the Astros symbol illuminated with red lights.

Biggio extended the lead to 3-0 with a two-run shot to left in the sixth. It was his 17th homer of the year.

Ohka allowed five hits and three runs in 6 2/3 innings.

## McCoy wins battle to replace Young as Texas' QB

Colt McCoy was selected as the starting quarterback for No. 3 Texas on Monday, ending a battle with fellow freshman Jevan Snead to replace Vince Young when the defending national champions open the season against North Texas.

McCoy, who redshirted last season behind Young, earned the start with a strong preseason camp, coach Mack Brown said.

"He (McCoy) had a terrific camp and was at his best during our scrimmages," Brown said.

Brown said he still wants to play both quarterbacks against North Texas, but won't script when Snead might get in the game.

"I think we're in as good of a spot as we could expect at the position. All they need now is to get some game experience," Brown said.

Snead, the Longhorns' top offensive recruit, graduated high school early and pushed McCoy in spring practice. McCoy responded by getting stronger in the weight room and with diligent workouts with receivers over the summer.

Freshman Colt McCoy takes over an offense that averaged over 50 points and 500 yards last season.

"Nobody worked harder,"

McCoy said. "I did feel like I had a really good camp."

Getting an edge on Snead was one thing. Winning the hearts of Longhorns fans will be another.

Young was one of the greatest players to wear a burnt orange uniform. He won 20 straight games and capped his career by scoring the winning touchdown in the Rose Bowl to give Texas its first undisputed national title in 36 years.

It was Young's decision to leave school early for the NFL that thrust McCoy and Snead into the battle to be the starter.

"Our competition brought out the best in us," McCoy said. "I feel like I had a really good fall camp. This whole week is going to be awesome."

McCoy was one of the most prolific passers in Texas high school history. He was 34-2 as a starter at Class 2A Jim Ned High School and set a Class 2A career record with 9,344 yards, fourth best in state history. He threw 116 touchdowns.

Now he leads an offense that returns most of its starters after scoring an NCAA-record 652 points last season. Texas averaged more than 50 points and 500 yards per game.

## NYC Mayor backs Shakira for Best Video

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who uses his iPod mostly for studying Spanish, made a powerful endorsement on Tuesday and backed Colombian pop star Shakira in the race for Video of the Year at MTV's Video Music Awards.

Bloomberg passed over the other nominated artists, Madonna, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Panic! At the Disco and even Christina Aguilera, who's from Staten Island.

In a taped spot that aired on MTV's "Total Request Live" daily countdown show, Bloomberg defended his choice by noting the truth in the title of Shakira's smash single "Hips Don't Lie," which refers to her famous curves.

"I think I'm going to have to go with Shakira - those hips don't lie," Bloomberg said.

Alongside Shakira, who is perhaps best known for her suggestive gyrating dance moves, the nominated video also features Wyclef Jean, singing, "I never really knew that she could dance like



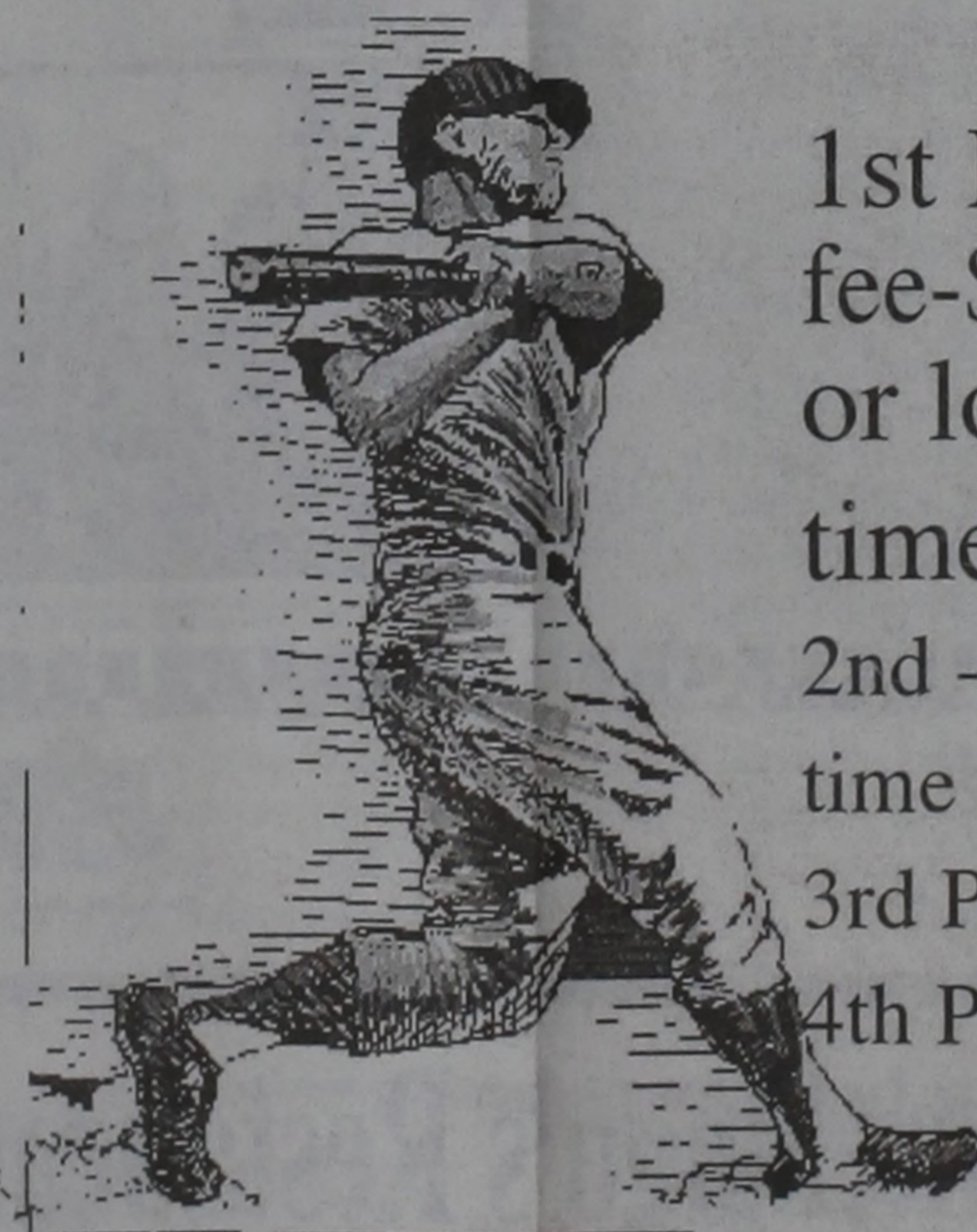
this. She makes a man want to speak Spanish."

Shakira is traveling on her "Oral Fixation" world tour. She received seven nominations for the VMAs, which are returning to New York this year after briefly fleeing to Miami.

The mayor's taped promotion will repeat several times before the awards are broad-

cast Thursday evening from Radio City Music Hall.

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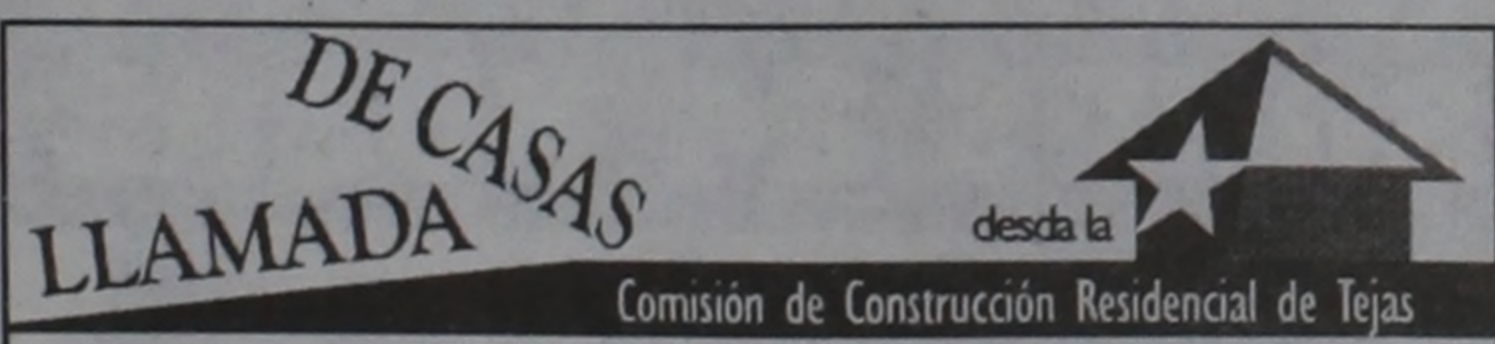
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# Fox pide defender las instituciones

Después de que Andrés Manuel López Obrador anunciara la eventual instauración de un gobierno alternativo, el presidente Vicente Fox y el candidato presidencial Felipe Calderón salieron en defensa de las instituciones gubernamentales al señalar, el primero, que quienes atentan contra ellas dañan la historia y al sostener, el segundo, que los mexicanos están comprometidos con el fortalecimiento de las instituciones democráticas.

"Hoy refrendo mi compromiso, y estoy seguro que es el compromiso, de mujeres, de hombres libres de México, de defender, de fortalecer y de perfeccionar las instituciones democráticas de nuestro país", declaró el contendiente del Partido Acción Nacional (PAN).

Para garantizar la libertad de todos los mexicanos y la equidad en la vida pública, el panista refirió, durante una reunión con empresarios de medios de comunicación en Tlaxcala, que "necesitamos precisamente preservar nuestras leyes y preservar nuestras instituciones democráticas que con

tanto trabajo hemos construido".

Mientras que Calderón hacía este pronunciamiento, cientos de militantes de la coalición Por el Bien de Todos, ubicados en las afueras del lugar donde se presentó, no dejaban de gritar "¡voto por voto, casilla por casilla!" y "¡Obrador, presidente legítimo!".

Por separado, el mandatario mexicano resaltó en un evento público, que las instituciones son de "todos y para todos", el sustento de "los derechos y obligaciones", la base de "nuestro estado de derecho", un baluarte en "el desarrollo de esta gran nación" y, por tanto, "no hay convivencia democrática posible sin pleno respeto a nuestra vida institucional".

Fox puso énfasis en que "quien atenta contra nuestras leyes e instituciones, atenta contra nuestra historia, atenta contra el pueblo de México", puesto que "nadie puede argumentar el bienestar del pueblo para atentar contra el propio pueblo".

Las declaraciones de ambos personajes obedecen a que, en su proyecto para la

Convención Nacional Democrática, programada para el 16 de septiembre, López Obrador llama a que "se desconozca el cómputo oficial" dado a conocer el lunes pasado por el Tribunal Electoral del Poder Judicial de la Federación (TEPJF), con el que "pretende legalizar el fraude cometido el 2 de julio de 2006".

Plantea que "se rechace la usurpación y se desconozca al señor Felipe Calderón Hinojosa como presidente de la República, lo mismo que a los funcionarios que él designe, así como a todos los actos de su gobierno de facto, ya que todo poder público debe dimanar de la libre voluntad del pueblo".

También propone que dicha convención resuelva si "constituimos un gobierno de la República o una Coordinación de la Resistencia Civil Pacífica", lo que implica decidir si "habremos de reconocer y ratificar a un presidente legítimo de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, o si se elige a un Jefe de Gobierno en Resistencia, a un encargado del Poder Ejecutivo, o a un Coordinador Nacional de la Resistencia

Civil Pacífica".

En el documento resolutivo, el candidato presidencial del Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) convoca a "luchar para que las instituciones nacionales sean objeto de una renovación profunda, en particular las instituciones políticas, que lejos de atender el interés público se encuentran secuestradas por unos cuantos grupos de poder y sólo actúan en su beneficio".

López Obrador denuncia que "la política económica y hacendaria se aplica sólo en beneficio de algunos potentados y traficantes de influencias", mientras que la Suprema Corte de Justicia "en lugar de proteger al débil, actúa para legalizar los despojos que comete el fuerte y proteger a los delincuentes de cuello blanco".

Ayer, Calderón demandó a sus adversarios políticos, en obvia alusión al perredista, a que "tengamos más respeto por México y por nuestro futuro".

Mientras que Fox recalco que sólo la preeminencia de las instituciones garantiza una "convivencia pacífica y armónica", ya que la paz y la

tranquilidad que "queremos las y los mexicanos se susenta en la certidumbre que nos brindan las reglas, los valores, las leyes y las instituciones de nuestra democracia".

En este tenor han sido los pronunciamientos de los mayores protagonistas políticos del país, a raíz de que hace un par de días el TEPJF aprobó en lo general el cómputo de las pasadas elecciones presidenciales que da una ventaja al contendiente panista.

Al respecto, Alejandro Encinas, jefe de Gobierno del Distrito Federal, se quejó de que el tribunal "abdicó de una de sus responsabilidades fundamentales que es la de

tutelar el voto ciudadano, y aprobó el voto espurio", y advirtió que por ende "existe el riesgo de una involución democrática severa en nuestro país".

El gobernante perredista aseguró que ese veredicto judicial marcará un hito no sólo por el conflicto postelectoral, sino también en "el devenir de la nación en los próximos años".

Encinas lamentó que se esté configurando un escenario de crisis institucional, ya que "no hay mecanismos de acercamiento, interlocución, ni espacios para la construcción de ningún tipo de acuerdo donde instituciones acreditadas no abdican de sus atribuciones".

# Record Number of Americans Lack Health Insurance

A record-setting 46.6 million Americans were without health insurance in 2005, up from 45.3 million in 2004, according to a new U.S.

"That's an increase of people without health insurance coverage from 15.6 percent in 2004 to 15.9 percent in 2005," David S. Johnson, chief of the bureau's Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, said during a teleconference Tuesday.

Part of the increase is explained by more employers not offering health insurance, Johnson said. The percentage of Americans with employer-sponsored insurance dropped slightly from 59.8 percent in 2004 to 59.5 percent in 2005. "The number of people with privately purchased plans also decreased," he said.

"The increase in the uninsured rate can be attributed to these two declines," Johnson said.

As for government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, the number of people covered increased from 79.4 million in 2004 to 80.2 million in 2005. However, "the percentage of people covered by government health insurance remained unchanged at 27.3 percent," Johnson said.

From 2004 to 2005, the number of children not covered by health insurance rose from 10.8 percent to 11.2 percent, Johnson said. Moreover, 19 percent of children in poverty had no health insurance, making poor children most likely to be uninsured, Johnson said.

For non-Hispanic whites and blacks, the uninsured rate remained statistically unchanged from 2004 to 2005 -- 11.3 percent and 19.9 percent, respectively. However, the number of uninsured Hispanics increased from 13.5 million in 2004 to 14.1 million in 2005.

Johnson said the record high in the number of uninsured Americans followed a 12-year period, from 1987 to 1998, when the uninsured rate either increased slowly or was not statistically different from one year to the next. The rate peaked in 1998 at 16.3 percent, then fell for two years to 14.2 percent in 2000. Then it increased until hitting 15.9 percent last year, he said.

Ed Howard, executive vice president of the Alliance for Health Reform, said the new numbers don't auger well for health care in the country.

Referring to the increase in the number of uninsured, Howard said, "Well, it ain't going in the right direction, that's for sure. It appears that most of the increase is due to a decline in employer-based coverage, which is a trend we have been tracking over the last few years," he added.

Howard also noted that this rise in uninsured happened during a period of

economic growth. "What this shows us is that a rising tide swamps some boats," he said.

According to Howard, what's needed to fix the problem is the realization by all Americans, including government, business and private citizens, that everyone is entitled to affordable health insurance coverage. "Over the long term, this means some combination of private and public steps that are going to move us in the direction of broader coverage," he said. "And probably some combination of public and private steps will hold down costs."

Howard added: "It costs

incredible amounts in lost productivity and quality of life and competitiveness overseas. It makes economic sense for everyone to be covered. It would cost about \$65 billion to cover everyone, and we lose about \$130 billion a year because we don't have coverage for everyone."

Commonwealth Fund President Karen Davis said in a statement that the new report points "to the need for a national solution to ensure that all Americans have affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage and access to needed health care. A healthy, productive labor force is an important

investment in the economic strength of our nation.

"In the absence of immediate federal action, some states and localities have stepped up with innovative solutions. Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont have enacted laws to move toward universal coverage. Other states have enacted coverage expansions, such as New Jersey's law to raise the age limit of dependents eligible for coverage under their parents' plans. These measures can serve as models for other states, or even the nation, as we seek solutions to the crisis of millions of uninsured," she added.

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# Viven en pobreza 37 millones en EU

El índice nacional de pobreza se mantuvo estable en 2005, por primera vez desde 2000, con el 12.6% de la población ó 37 millones de estadounidenses viviendo en la pobreza; la tasa entre los hispanos fue de casi el doble del índice nacional con 21.8% de latinos pobres, reportó ayer la Oficina del Censo.

Asimismo, el número de personas sin seguro médico aumentó. La tasa de hispanos sin seguro médico el año pasado fue la más alta entre todos los grupos, 32.7% ó 14 millones sin seguro, más del doble del índice de estadounidenses sin seguro médico, que fue de 15.9% ó 46.6 millones de personas.

Casi 22% de los niños hispanos en Estados Unidos carece de seguro médico, según el informe.

El demógrafo David Johnson, director de la división de



estadísticas económicas y de vivienda de la Oficina del Censo, admitió que el reporte "podría reflejar un incremento en la desigualdad" social en Estados Unidos.

El reporte señaló que en 2004 el índice de pobreza era de 12.7% y bajó a 12.6% en 2005, un cambio estadístico no significativo. Sin embargo, la cifra de personas sin

seguro médico en EU subió de 15.6% en 2004 a 15.9% en 2005, lo que se traduce en un total de casi 47 millones de personas sin seguro médico comparado con 45.3 millones en 2004.

Según el censo, la tasa de pobreza disminuyó para los blancos no hispanos (8.3% en 2005 comparado con 8.7% en 2004), y aumentó entre los

asiáticos (11.1% en el 2005 comparado con 9.8% en el 2004). La tasa de pobreza entre los afroamericanos (24.9%) e hispanos (21.8%) permaneció sin cambios estadísticos de un año para el otro.

Aunque el censo no preguntó la situación migratoria de las personas, reportó que el índice de pobreza es mayor entre los extranjeros que no son ciudadanos (20.4%) que entre aquellos hispanos nacidos en el extranjero pero que son ciudadanos (10.4%).

El ingreso promedio en EU es de menos de 20,000 dólares anuales para una familia integrada por cuatro personas y menos de 10,000 dólares anuales para un individuo. Según el reporte, el ingreso promedio real en Estados Unidos aumentó en 1.1% entre 2004 y 2005 para un total de 46,326 dólares. Es la primera vez desde 1999 que se registra un alza.

La media de ingreso de los hogares permaneció sin cambios entre 2004 y 2005 para cada uno de los grupos raciales. Los hogares conformados por afroamericanos tuvieron la media de ingreso más baja en 2005 (30,858 dólares). Los asiáticos tuvieron la media de ingreso más alta (61,094 dólares). Entre los hogares de blancos no hispanos la media de ingresos fue de 50,784 dólares y entre los hispanos fue de 35,967 dólares.

Los estados del nordeste registraron la media de ingresos más alta entre todas las regiones (50,882 dólares), seguidos por el oeste (50,002 dólares) y el medio oeste (45,950

dólares). Los hogares del sur tuvieron la media de ingresos más baja (42,138 dólares).

El número de personas sin seguro médico sigue siendo alarmante, según evidencia el informe que concluye que 32.7% de los hispanos (14.1 millones de personas) careció de cobertura médica en 2005 comparado con 11.3% entre los blancos, 17.9% de los asiáticos, y 19.6% de los afroamericanos.

La última vez que el índice de pobreza registró un descenso fue en el año 2000, al final de la presidencia del demócrata Bill Clinton.

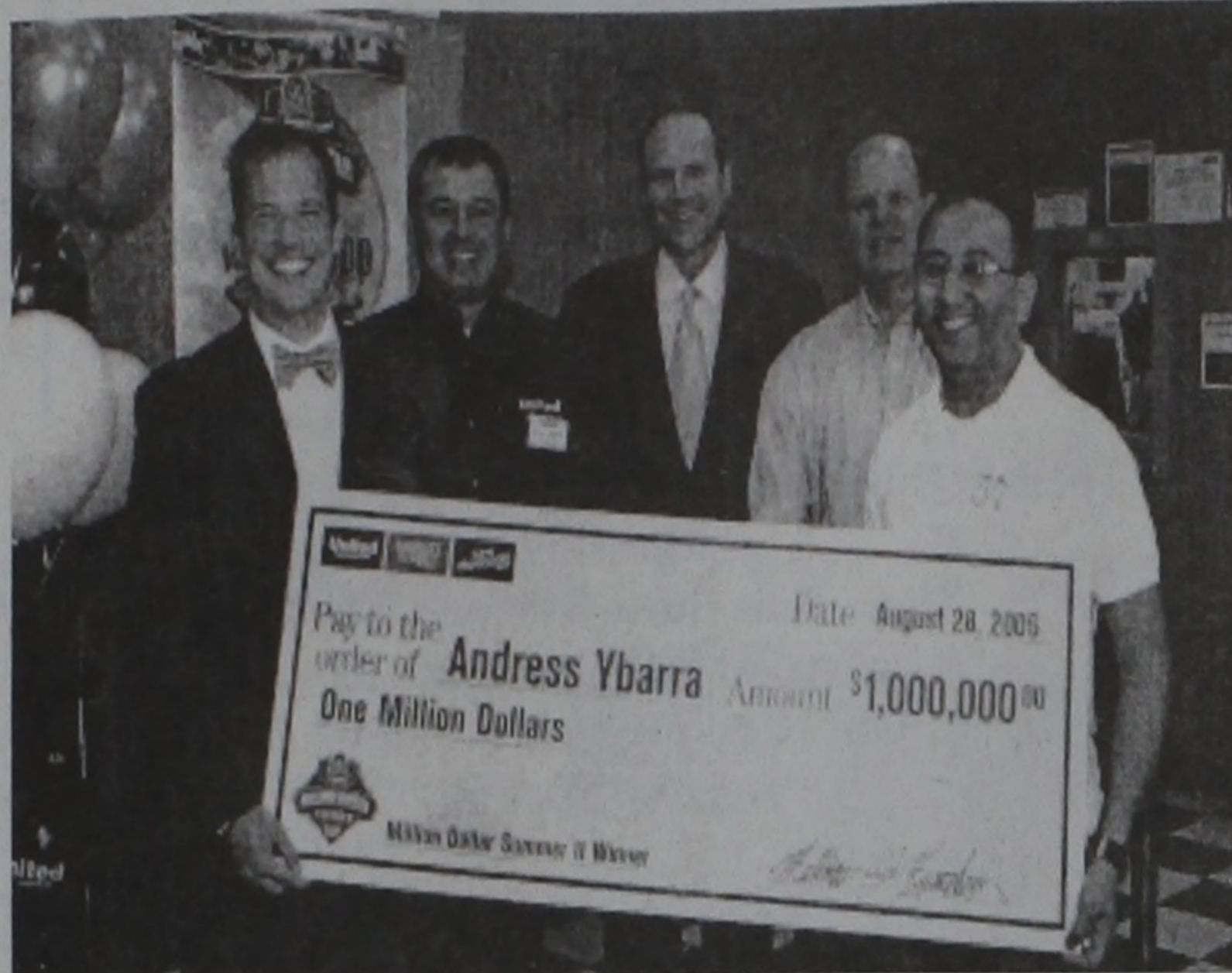
Jennifer Ng'andu, analista de políticas de salud del Consejo Nacional de la Raza, dijo que el hecho de que el índice de pobreza permanezca igual y de que haya más hispanos sin seguro médico refleja "que muchos

de nuestros llamados para que se fijen prioridades no han sido atendidos".

"Por los pasados cuatro años el Congreso ha fallado en actuar", dijo Ng'andu. Agregó que aunque las marchas pro reforma migratoria han llevado a los hispanos a las calles, la misma energía debería traducirse en votos en las elecciones de noviembre para poder generar cambios.

Ng'andu indicó que la situación migratoria es un factor que afecta el índice de pobreza, que suele ser mayor entre los indocumentados que entre residentes legales.

## EL EDITOR Have A Nice Day!



### \$ Million Dollar Winner

Matt Bumstead (left), co-president of United Supermarkets, presents a check for \$1 million to Lubbock native Andress "Andy" Ybarra (right) as winner of the grand prize in United's "Million Dollar Summer II" collect-and-win game. Ybarra, who now resides in Dallas, collected game pieces with purchases made at the United store at 112 N. University. He received the "rare" piece - number 53 on the game board - with a purchase made on Aug. 21. Also pictured above are Adrian Jimenez, store director at the N. University store; Dan Sanders, United CEO; and Joe Womble, Lubbock regional vice president.

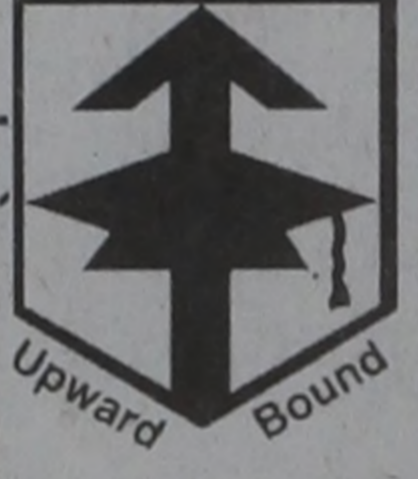
### Important Notice to Softball Teams that are planning to Play in the World Hispanic Sept. 15-18

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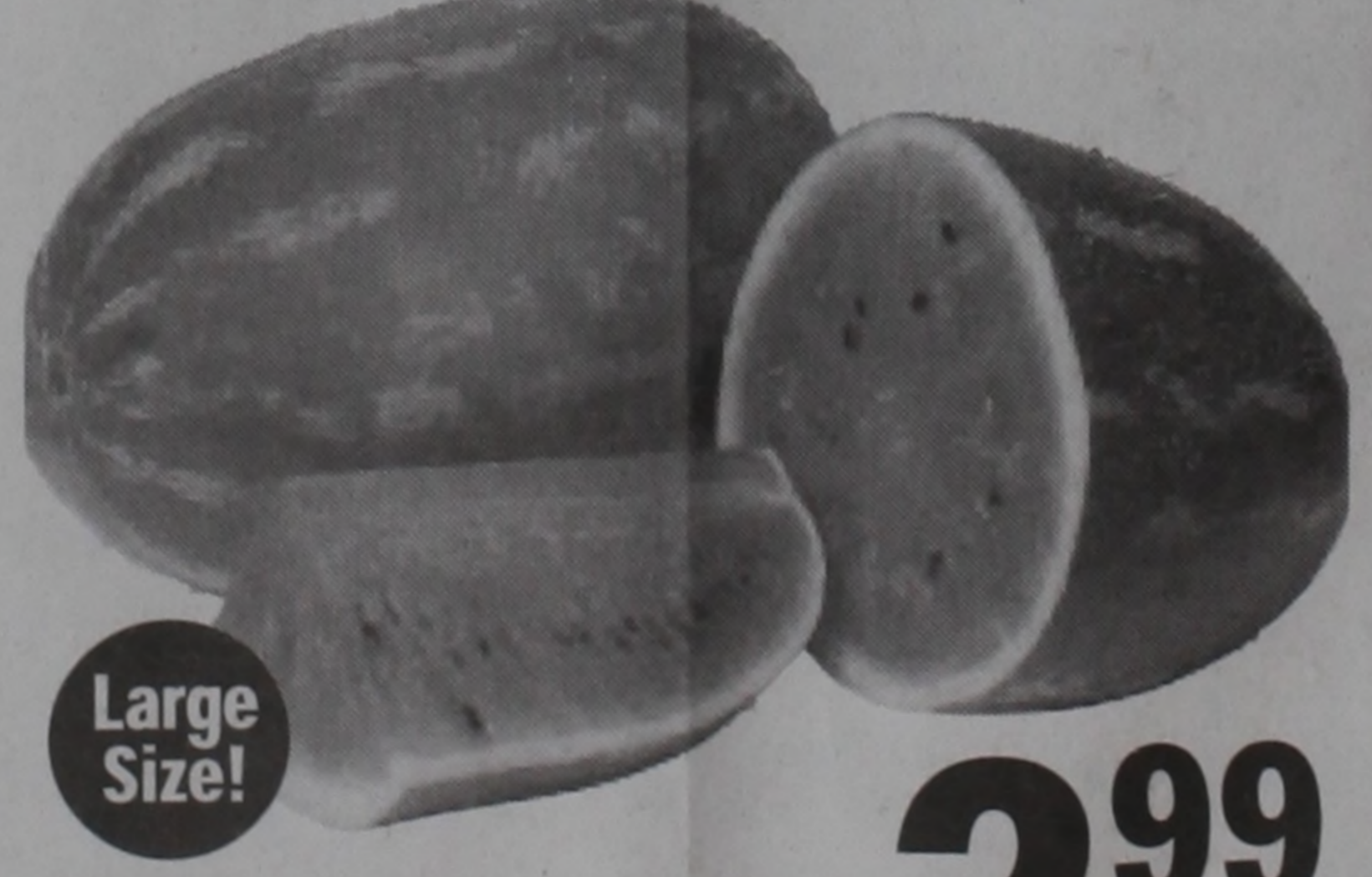
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