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TEA Issues School Performance Report: Two Lubbock High Schools Rated "UNACCEPTABLE"

By Abel Cruz

While the local school district tried to put a positive spin on the story; Lubbock residents should still be concerned that half of Lubbock High Schools received an academically unacceptable rating from the states top education agency. They are Monterey and Estacado High Schools.

The question is why and why is this being glossed over by the powers that be at the Lubbock Independent School District offices?

LISD Superintendent Wayne Havens told the local media that "We've had a decrease in our unacceptable campuses. We've gone from three to two this year. Never is that going to be a point where we say that's good because you know as well as I do, it's not what we want as a district, and it's not what those campuses want".

And while that is true; it still does not hide the fact that two of Lubbock's 4 high schools received an "academically unacceptable" rating from the Texas Education Agency. And what Havens failed to mention was that in 2007 two of the schools; Dupree and Jackson are elementary schools and the other one: Atkins is a Junior High School.

This year all three of those schools received acceptable ratings.

The ratings are released by the Texas Education Agency each year and are used to gauge how students at all public schools are performing. Here is how the process is described on the Texas Education Agency web site:

"The state accountability system assigns ratings to every campus and district in the Texas public education system each year. In most cases the system assigns one of four rating labels —ranging from lowest to highest—Academically Unacceptable, Academically Acceptable, Recognized, and Exemplary. To determine the rating label, the system evaluates indicators of performance, including assessment results on the state standardized assessment instruments as well as longitudinal completion rates and annual dropout rates. Generally, campuses and districts earn ratings by having performance that meets absolute standards or by demonstrating sufficient improvement toward the standard. In addition to evaluating performance for all students, the performance of individual groups of students is held to the rating criteria. The student groups are defined to be the major ethnic groups and the group of students designated as economically disadvantaged. All of the evaluated groups must meet the criteria for a given rating category in order to earn that label.

There are two sets of procedures within the state accountability system; one that evaluates standard campuses and districts and another that evaluates alternative education campuses and charter operators that primarily serve students identified as at risk of dropping out of school. The indicators and criteria differ between the alternative education accountability (AEA) and standard procedures but the overall designs are similar.

The purpose of the state accountability system is first and foremost to improve student performance. The system sets reasonable standards for adequacy and identifies and publicly recognizes high levels of performance and performance improvement. The system provides information about levels of student performance in each school district and on each campus, and it identifies schools and districts with inadequate performance and provides assistance".

What this means for the two high schools is that administrators and teachers will have to create some kind of remedial program to help students improve on their academic performance in the areas they were deficient in.

In the case of Monterey; one of the student groups was deficient in Math for example so some kind of remedial or improvement program will have to be designed before the next accountability ratings period if the schools have any hope of upgrading its status from unacceptable to even just acceptable.

The TEA uses what they call "guiding principles" in creating and applying their accountability ratings. Among them are "student performance"; "recognition of diversity"; "local responsibility" and the "public's right to know".

Based on the accountability results; 4 distinct analysis groups are used to determine ratings. They are "all students'; "African American"; "Hispanic" and "Economically Disadvantaged".

In an example of how poorly students at Estacado did in Math; in 2007 45% of all students met the math standard; this year only 40% of all students met the standard. In order for a school to be deemed acceptable; they must have reached a 50% standard.

In the area of Science; the minimum standard was 45% but only 42% of all students met the standard.

At Monterey High School; an additional analysis group labeled "white" was added to determine the ratings. In the area of writing; students "did not meet the 70% floor for recognized" according to the TEA.

In the area of diversity; accountability results that at the two high schools; minority students were underperforming in virtually all categories. This is a group; and should not reflect badly on members of either minority group who may very well be over performing in individual study areas.

On the good news side of the aisle; there were some highlights in the report. More schools are rated acceptable than last year and the 3 schools rated unacceptable last year are this year rated academically acceptable.

Here is a list of "exemplary" rated schools for the LISD System:

Guadalupe, Hardwick, Honey, Iles, McWhorter, Murfee, Whiteside and Williams Elementary Schools.

In the "recognized" category; the number of schools increased to 18 in 2008. The following received that rating: Bean, Centennial, Harwell, Haynes, Maedgen, Parsons, Ramirez, Roberts, Rush, Smith, Waters, Wester, Wheelock, Roscoe Wilson and Wolffarth Elementary Schools. Junior High Schools receiving the rating are: Evans, Hutchinson and Irons Middle Schools.

In addition to these public schools; Rise Academy in East Lubbock also received an exemplary rating from the agency.

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Time for a National Inquiry?

By José de la Isla
Hispanic Link News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The hate-crime and incident blotter is filling so fast now, it suggests the mean side of our national character is rising. To look away from what is happening could mean something equally telling — a failure to face a problem needing national attention.

The latest entry, on July 19, found two white teenagers in Shenandoah, Pa., charged with homicide and ethnic intimidation in the beating death of a 25-year-old undocumented immigrant from Mexico. Those charged are just 16 and 17. A third youth is charged with aggravated assault.

In Nashville, a pregnant Mexican woman stopped on a traffic violation July 3 and found to have a pending immigration-violation charge was held in handcuffs and shackles by the sheriff's department as she was in labor prior to giving birth.

In North Carolina, Hispanic leaders received death threats for supporting a bill that would allow some undocumented immigrants the right to attend state colleges. Two of the U.S.-born leaders reported receiving profanity-laced messages and were told to "go back where you came from." Other demeaning remarks included — you guessed it — their Hispanic ethnicity.

In Phoenix, five individuals and Somos América, a Latino community-based coalition, have sued Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, his department and the county government, in U.S. district court for unlawfully stopping and mistreating Latinos in violation of the U.S. Constitution's Fourth and 14th Amendments, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Arizona Constitution.

Plaintiff Manuel Nieto, Jr., a U.S. citizen, claims he was detained in front of his family's auto-repair shop after police heard him listening to music in Spanish. The two Democratic Party contenders for county attorney, seeking to oppose incumbent Republican Andrew Thomas in November, say some undocumented immigrants were singled out at the expense of overall prosecution of crimes.

Many, many more infamous incidents have received media attention — in Farmers Branch, Texas, in Hazleton, Pa., in Long Island, N.Y., in Pottsville, Iowa. They have played out in virtually every state.

If left uncorrected, this social intolerance will become a part of our national character, just as segregation became part of it.

It gives license to discriminate. And all the while, nice people look on.

The numbers — especially the smaller-scale prejudicial infractions — are corroborated in a 2007 Pew Research Center. Astoundingly, the report found a majority of Hispanics stating that discrimination is a major problem for them.

Nothing like the current dimension has occurred in our country since the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 when racists threw Chinese workers out of Western towns, driving many to seek refuge in Mexico.

During the 1930s' Depression years, more than half a million "Mexicans," thousands of them with legal papers and thousands more born here, were uprooted and shipped to Mexico like cattle, in trains and trucks.

An unthinking rationalization says it's their fault. They have it coming. They probably entered our country without permission.

Did the 75 undocumented immigrant employees working in the Twin Towers in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, have it coming when they perished along with 3,000 others. Did they deserve to die?

The need today is to reconcile and account, admit and acknowledge what happened and what's driving it. One step in that direction would be to call on all those running for a federal office to commit to conducting a national reconciliation inquiry that identifies what was responsible for the irrational overreaction to the immigration issue. Who are the opportunists and provocateurs?

Church leaders and human-rights institutions should form part of the inquiry to hear from victims of abuse living among us. And we ought to invite those in neighboring countries to come forward with their perspectives. We shouldn't listen only to ourselves anymore.

Voters in November should demand not just a commitment to logical immigration reform but to a national strategy to eliminate policies that encourage predatory practices against our national scapegoats, the most vulnerable among us. We can air out this pestilence with truth.

(José de la Isla writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. He may be contacted by e-mail at joseisla3@yahoo.com.)

News Briefs

Presidential Candidate's Debates to Follow Traditional Patterns

By any historical standard, one would have to agree that this year's presidential race is anything but ordinary; given that for the first time in history a person other than a white male is vying for the coveted position.

That notwithstanding; it seems that when it comes to presidential candidate's debates; politics is business as usual.

Democratic candidate Barack Obama and Republican hopeful John McCain will meet each other at least 3 times before the November General Election. The debates are scheduled for Sept. 26 in Oxford, Mississippi, Oct. 7 in Nashville, Tenn., and Oct. 15 on Long Island, N.Y.

And although neither candidate has chosen a running mate yet; both campaigns agreed that the Vice Presidential candidates will meet in a debate on Oct. 2 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Republican John McCain had wanted to debate Obama in a town hall meeting style setting; but the Obama campaign turned that idea down. The McCain camp was quick to capitalize on Obama's refusal and issued the following statement to the national media:

" John McCain looks forward to debating Barack Obama as often as possible, but it's disappointing that Sen. Obama has refused his offer to do joint town hall meetings," McCain spokesman Brian Rogers said. "We understand it might be beneath a worldwide celebrity of Barack Obama 's magnitude to appear at town hall meetings alongside John McCain and directly answer questions from the American people, but we hope he'll reconsider."

The Obama campaign had issued the following statement to explain why they were against the town hall style forums: "Due to the late date of the two parties' nominating conventions, and the relatively short period between the end of the conventions and the first proposed date, it is likely that the four Commission debates will be the sole series of debates in the fall campaign,"

So even though it is an unprecedented year in terms of presidential candidates and historical significance; some things in politics never change.

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17 Year Old Dies from Gunshot Wound; Sixteen Year old may face Additional Criminal Charges

Earlier in the day they were stealing guns; a few hours later; one of the young teens lay bleeding from a shot to the head.

At first, Lubbock police were told that the shooting had occurred after a supposed "home invasion" had gone awry. Problem was that the teens involved all lied to Lubbock police in order to protect the fact that the guns had been stolen earlier that morning.

Ryan Austin Ledbetter, 17 died late Monday night at UMC Hospital after being shot at a mobile home in the 100 block of Venita; in west Lubbock.

The shooter; who is not being identified because he is considered a minor was being held at the Lubbock County Jail on a burglary charge. A spokesman for the Lubbock County Sheriff's office; Major Don Carter; told the local AJ that the 16 year old could be facing "manslaughter or criminally negligent homicide charges" if it could be proven that his behavior was reckless or negligent.

At this point the shooting has been ruled accidental.

Presidential Candidates Obama and McCain Sould Not Ignore Latin America

By Randy Jurado Ertll
Hispanic Link News Service

Barack Obama's recent trip to Europe and the Middle East was quite impressive. He met with key world leaders, providing credibility to his presidential candidacy since the leaders took time to meet with him to discuss key international issues.

Even French President Nicolas Sarkozy said that the French would be delighted if Senator Obama were to be elected U.S. President.

Senator Obama may now have stronger support among American Jews since he clarified his position to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert that the United States will continue to be a strong ally of that nation. Senator Obama was shrewd in meeting also with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki, Israeli President Shimon Peres, Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. Obama also met with King Abdullah II and Queen Rania from Jordan.

The Democratic candidate stated that if he were to become U.S. President, he would help find solutions to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but that it would take time to resolve. Obama also met with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The images of Senator Obama meeting with key foreign heads of states from the Middle East and Europe did indeed make him look presidential and capable of dealing with foreign issues. But is he done visiting other countries? He has yet to pay similar attention to Latin America.

Barack Obama needs to strengthen his relationship with Latin American heads of states. He cannot afford to ignore the roots of the 50 million Latinos living in the United States. His relationship building with several key Latin American presidents is bound to enhance his image among Latinos living in the United States.

If he does not act quickly, then Senator John McCain will continue to solidify his relationships with Mexico and other key Latin American countries. President George W. Bush did in fact raise his profile among Mexican Americans as Governor of Texas. He continually met with Mexican government officials and in part won the U.S. presidency by obtaining a large percentage of Latino voters.

Senators Obama and McCain must prioritize Latin America – one of this nation's biggest trade partners. They should plan trips to Latin American before the November 2008 general elections. Actions speak louder than words. All voters need to know how, if elected, they plan to treat Latin America.

Historically, the United States has undermined Latin America. The United States did accept that Central America was a "hot spot" during the 1980s and sent billions of dollars in "aid" to fight the threat of Communism there. Once the Cold War ended, the importance of Central America and Latin America on the world stage reduced tremendously.

The United States no longer felt it needed to invest to influence the hearts and minds of Latin Americans. In the 1990s, U.S. aid to Latin America was reduced tremendously. One exception has been Colombia. The United States has invested billions through Plan Colombia – to combat the production of coca leafs, the main ingredient used to make cocaine.

Voters, particularly Hispanic voters, need to know if Latin America will become a priority. The two candidates still have the opportunity to make their case if they want to capture the Latino vote.

How will they handle future trade agreements, immigration issues, foreign investments, and poverty issues that plague Latin America. Both candidates must address these issues if they want to reduce the push factors that force millions of Latin Americans to migrate to the United States.

They don't need to speak fluent Spanish to communicate with Latin American leaders. That's why fully qualified interpreters and translators exist.

The question is will the United States care to pay attention to our Latin American vecinos?

(Randy Jurado Ertll, an active Hispanic advocate in the Southern California community, formerly worked as a communications director/legislativeassistant to a member of Congress in Washington D.C. Contact him at 626-421-1137)

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Editorials

Guadalupe Neighborhood Association: Job Well Done

At the August 12, 2008 Lubbock City Council meeting; an officer from the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association will make a presentation to the full council. We have met with the association's representative and congratulate them for the opportunity they will have to address the council about an important matter for their neighborhood and for the city.

For several months beginning in late 2007; the association has spearheaded a community wide effort to do some environmental clean up in a section of one of this city's oldest and most historic neighborhoods.

Since this city's inception; the Guadalupe Barrio has had particular significance for Lubbock and this region's Mexican American community.

Many years ago it served as the stopping point for many people who came to the area in search of work or simply to follow their extended families who had migrated here.

Many people lived in the neighborhood temporarily at the old labor camp located in what is now Aztlan Park; while others settled in other parts of the "barrio" and made it their permanent home.

For many Lubbock residents of a certain generation; childhood memories are those of the old Guadalupe Elementary on Ave N; the "plataforma" across the street from San Jose where many activities took place; including the Fiestas Patrias; the old Cinco de Mayo store; the Guadalupe Park Neighborhood Center; and the list goes on.

In 1970, the infamous May 11 tornado undid what a tight knit community; bound together culturally and ancestrally had built. The devastating storm devastated a significant number of homes and claimed the lives of many long time residents.

Consequently, many residents were left homeless and forced to relocate to the city's east side for the most part and to other areas of the city. The piles of concrete and debris that was left behind found its final resting place in what was popularly known as the "Arroyo". When translated to English; the word "arroyo" literally means "stream" or "gulley". But translation alone does not do the area justice.

The physical description is that of a stream of water and officially it is known as Canyon Lakes #3. The stream of water is directly northeast of Aztlan Park and empties into a viaduct which runs to McKenzie Park under Ave H and I27.

But for residents it represents history. It represents a preservation of a "way of life" since many a young teen played on the lake's banks or crossed through it to reach McKenzie Park. And some actually lived there during a less dangerous time and one in which people and their families did whatever was necessary in order to survive.

In an effort to clean up the arroyo of the huge concrete slabs and trash and debris which had accumulated over 27 years; the Guadalupe Association provided the leadership and guidance to address the problem. They took it upon themselves to contact and work with city officials like Mr. Randy Truesdell of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Adrian Coy with Codes Enforcement; Ms. Penny Morin with Solid Waste Management and Ms. Marsha Reed with Public Works.

Volunteers from the neighborhood; residents from throughout the city and members of a Texas Tech organization came together to show what can be accomplished through a resident and city government partnership. We invite you to take a ride out to the Arroyo and see for yourself some of the natural beauty in our fine city.

We also congratulate the officers who headed the association during this time of civic participation. Their actions and determination is an example of what can be accomplished when there is leadership and a willingness to work in partnership with local government to accomplish what had once been thought to be impossible.

Job well done!

Unacceptability Extends Beyond Schools to LISD Administration

How can it be possible?

The Texas Education Agency, the state's education accountability agency last week rated two of this city's high schools as "Academically Unacceptable" and hardly anybody blinked an eye.

In case you missed the story; and you might have since in most media outlets the story was a one day story; both Monterrey High School and Estacado High School were assigned the unacceptable label by the state agency.

In our view; that is unacceptable and what is even more unacceptable is the fact that no one has come forward to be held accountable for the dismal failure.

We realize that some of you, perhaps some educators, are not in agreement with the accountability measures used by the agency; but that is all we have for now and they should be taken seriously.

Last year, as Superintendent Wayne havens pointed out in the media; three schools were deemed as unacceptable. This year they reversed the standing and obtained acceptable ratings.

But those 3 schools were two elementary and one junior high school. It has less serious consequences because at those particular levels; students still have more than a few years left to correct whatever deficiencies there might be. Not that we excuse their poor performance but that is our view.

But when two high schools are rated unacceptable; we have to believe that either a large number of students are at a junior or below level or we are graduating many students who are not prepared to compete for jobs or to continue to a higher education level.

We don't know what the case is because LISD administrators just gloss things over and answer the softball questions and never address these issues.

Once again we ask; when will the community of parents and those who have a more direct interest in their children's education decide to hold Mr. Havens and other educators accountable? When will they demand that the LISD School Board look more closely at this issue and actually hold those responsible for educating our children accountable.

We are not naïve enough to dismiss the most blaring fact that the students themselves have a large degree to account for also; and so do the parents of these kids who do not take their education seriously. We would hope that those issues too are being addressed.

But ultimately, it is the LISD Superintendent Wayne Havens; some of the educators; and the LISD school board who should be held accountable to the public and remember that the public always has a right to know just exactly what is going on in it's educational and public school system.

Editorials are strictly the opinion of El Editor's editorial board which consists of Publisher Bidal Aguero; Business Manager Olga Aguero and editorial writer Abel Cruz.

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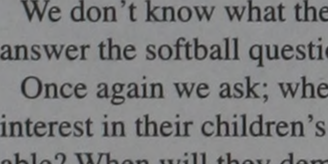
El Hijo Del Alacrán

(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

Parese que a el Consejal John Leonard se le pegaron la colchas en que no pago su recomonpensa a su proxima marida y ahora dicen que se lo van a llevar al bote. Todavia no se sabe que afecto tendra en poder ser Consejal pero me imagino qaue solo le van a dar una "slap of th ehand" y ya se acabo.

****

Y la carrera entre Pancho Gutierrez y Gilbert esta muy calladita. Me imagino que ya el Gilbert nomas esta sentadito esperando que empiesen sus cheques que llegaran en Enero. Pero nos dice Pancho que el va hacer bastante ruido para ser electo.

****

Y la Linda, mejor conosida como la Llorona de Lubbock ya no se ha escuchado. Que bueno porque ya sus gritos se estaban escuchando mas recio que los pitos de tren del barrio Guadalupe.

Bueno ya es todo esta semana pa este hijo del Alacran. Nos veremos aqui la proxima semana pa platicarles lo ultimo en chimes de la ciudad de Lubbock.

El Editor

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UNA DEFINICIÓN ALTERNATIVA AL FLUJO MIGRATORIO DE ESTA NACIÓN

Ricardo Chavira

IRVINE, California – Juan pasa nueve horas al día, de la medianoche a las nueve de la mañana, asegurándose que brille uno de los mayores centros comerciales del condado Orange. Esgrima una manguera de alta presión y refriega las aceras del expansivo centro comercial, quitándoles hasta la más mínima mancha.

"El suelo tiene que estar tan limpio que se pueda comer sobre ello", dice Juan una mañana reciente, riéndose del ejercicio de limpieza radical. Para suplementar su paga de $8,80 la hora, Juan prepara y vende tacos a cincuenta centavos en barrios hispanos allegados.

Todo esto significa que él trabaja siete días a la semana. También lo califica de modelo de empresa inmigrante, precisamente el tipo de residente que el país necesita. No obstante, Juan reside en el país ilegalmente.

Nativo de Nayarit, México, llegó al país por medio de un contrabandista cerca de Tijuana hace dos años. Para muchos estadounidenses, el estatus de Juan hace que su presencia y contribución a la economía sean menospreciadas. También se gana el estatus no envidiable del enajenado ilegal (illegal alien), una etiqueta que les quita la humanidad y la legitimidad a los mexicanos.

"Yo sé que para algunas personas somos indeseables", dice Juan. "Pero los empleadores nos quieren para hacer los malos trabajos que nadie más quiere tomar. Sólo son mexicanos los que limpian el centro comercial. Seguimos viniendo, porque el camino a casa no es largo, y aquí encontramos trabajo".

Sus palabras me recuerdan la reubicación de mi familia al norte de la frontera. La mudanza episódica se tendió a dos generaciones.

En cada instancia, los que trabajarían en los campos de algodón, con empresas de construcción, en maquiladoras o en las casas de los adinerados, viajaban sólo varios cientos de millas, a diferencia de la vasta mayoría de los inmigrantes europeos que hacía viajes transatlánticos.

La proximidad geográfica es una importante distinción. Los inmigrantes mexicanos en California y en el suroeste con frecuencia se mudan distancias mucho menores de las que separa a Los Ángeles de Nueva York, un recordatorio que los estados fronterizos de los EE.UU. y el norte de México son un todo regional.

También tendría que recordarnos que los flujos de migrantes mexicanos sirven para reforzar la conexión y constantemente rellenar comunidades establecidas desde aquí a Nueva Inglaterra.

De nuevo, la historia familiar es ilustración de este hecho. Sixto Real y Vásquez, mi tatarabuelo, nació en 1797 sólo a 900 millas de donde vivo en Irvine. Valle de Allende, Chihuahua, donde nació, fue un asentamiento temprano en Nueva Vizcaya. Los regentes españoles estaban empeñados en establecer una presencia tanto para explotar las minas de plata como conquistar la gente indígena de la región.

Con ese fin, la corona española animó a sus súbditos a mudarse a sus territorios, en lo que ahora constituye el norte de México y partes del suroeste estadounidense. Con el tiempo, los asentamientos se tratarían como baluarte contra la expansión de los Estados Unidos. Por supuesto, la estrategia no daba abasto contra la masiva mudanza de americanos-europeos al oeste; con las justas México retuvo sus estados fronterizos de hoy, pero perdió todo al norte en la guerra contra los Estados Unidos.

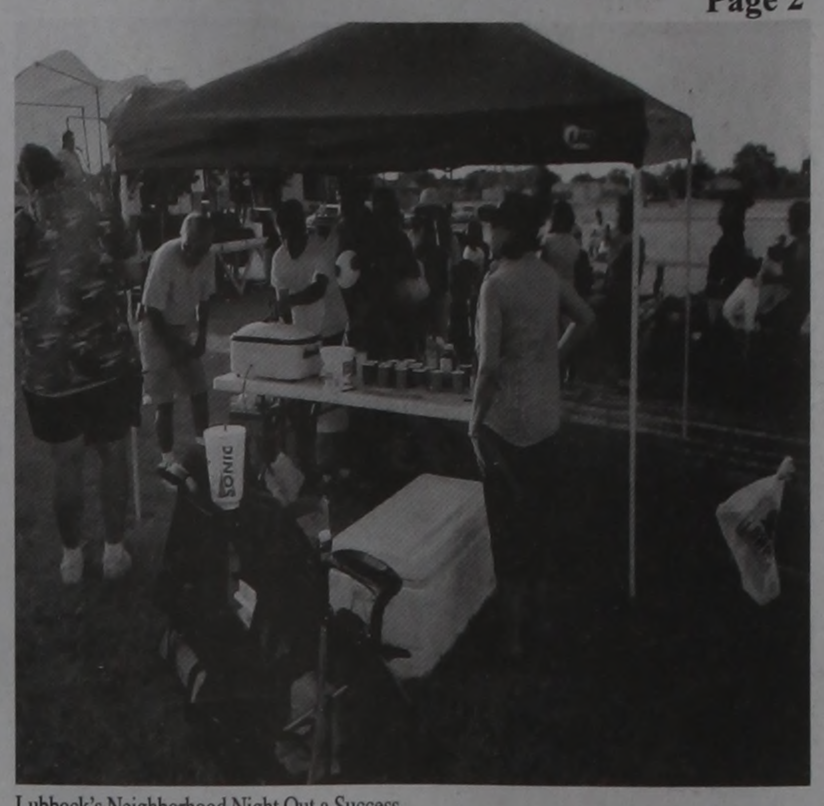
Unos 40 años después de la guerra, el nieto de Sixto se mudó un tanto al norte de la frontera con Texas; sus descendientes se arraigaron en el sur de California, donde nacimos mis tres hijos y yo.

Viviendo con mi esposa y mis hijos en el condado Orange me ofrece una butaca de primera fila para observar la transformación demográfica del sur de California. Lo más llamativo es el número de inmigrantes y sus hijos de todo país imaginable. De manera clásicamente inmigrante, han llegado del otro lado del mundo.

Mucho antes que empezara yo el kinder, el autor Carey McWilliams, del sur de California, en su libro seminal, North from Mexico, documentó ricamente la presencia mexicana e imprenta duradera sobre el suroeste décadas antes que conformara parte de los Estados Unidos. Contó la mayormente historia sin contar de cómo los mexicanos de la era española, entre otras cosas, establecieron la cultura del ganado y prácticas agrícolas que los europeo-americanos adoptaron luego.

Entonces, la historia de mi familia no es tanto un cuento de inmigrantes como lo es una narrativa de continuidad histórica. Durante al menos 210 años hemos vivido, trabajado y muerto en una región dividida violenta y artificialmente por una frontera. Juan y millones como él deberían hacernos ver que a nadie, y mucho menos a los migrantes mexicanos, se le puede llamar con legitimidad, "illegal alien".

(Columnista de Hispanic Link Ricardo Chavira dicta cursos de estudios latinoamericanos y chicanos/latinos en la Universidad de California-Irvine y de periodismo en California State University-Fullerton. Comuníquese con él



Lubbock's Neighborhood Night Out a Success

People from about 11 neighborhoods in Lubbock came together for one night to meet and greet each other and send a strong message that they are there to protect and defend their neighborhoods from crime and unwanted criminal elements.

Residents from the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association to the Heart of Lubbock Neighborhood to the West End Neighborhood Association all joined in their respective neighborhoods along with other Lubbock neighborhoods.

35 Students Graduate from UNM/LULAC National Leadership Program

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in conjunction with the University of New Mexico (UNM) graduated high school students from a summer youth leadership development program that is funded by the Department of Energy.

The students participated in training July 20th - August 1, 2008 at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. The purpose of this program, which began last year, is to develop young Latino student leaders and prepare them for college.

The Department of Energy (DOE) granted $154,833 to continue the successful program for the next three years.

The theme of this year's program was "Can Latinos Afford to go Green?" Students were given the opportunity to learn leadership skills by educating themselves on environmental issues that impact the whole community. The program provided leadership training, tutorials, guidance, counseling and cultural/social enrichment activities.

"LULAC thanks the Department of Energy for making this national leadership program possible," said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. We congratulate all thirty-five students who graduated from this program. We are excited about the leadership academy and we were impressed by the students' presentations that we are going to start a campaign focused on saving the environment."

Keynote speakers were Theresa Alvillar-Speake, Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity from the U.S. Department of Energy along with the LULAC National President Rosa Rosales, National Youth President Jessica Martinez and Dr. Eliseo Torres, Vice President for Student Affairs, UNM. Student speakers from the UNM included Ruben Gonzales, Karissa Vasquez, Steven Astorga and Xochitl Romero.

"The DOE/LULAC/UNM partnership represents one of the ways that DOE works in the communities where it has a presence," said Theresa Alvillar-Speake, Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity from the U.S. Department of Energy. "This particular partnership focuses on developing DOE's future diverse workforce."

"The University of New Mexico is one of the leading Hispanic institutions in the country and we are honored to hold the leadership conference in New Mexico where we will continue to see students from all over the country benefiting from this important program that develops future leaders," said New Mexico State Director Pablo Martinez.

Other guests included the staff of Sen. Pete V. Domenici (R-NM), LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNESC) Albuquerque Director John A. Moya, LULAC State Director of New Mexico Pablo Martinez, LULAC National Youth President Jessica Martinez and LULAC Program Manager and Policy Analyst Elizabeth Garcia.

"The partnership provides students an opportunity to continue their leadership skills and give back to the community," said National Youth President Jessica Martinez. "Last year the focus was on immigration and this year the students made their presentations on the environment."

LULAC wants to thank the support of the local councils, LNESC centers and parents for sponsoring the students' attendance at the program.

Source: National LULAC Press Office

"I'm Sorry my Actions caused you Pain"; 9 Minutes Later Murderer is Dead

With those words; Mexican national Jose Medellin apologized to the parents of his young teenage victim. "I hope this brings you the closure that you seek".

Medellin's execution had garnered additional media scrutiny because Medellin came to the United States when he was just 3 years old. When he was arrested, he was charged, tried, and convicted before realizing that as a Mexican citizen he had a right to Mexican consular protections.

But apparently that did not make a difference to the United States Supreme Court who delayed the execution by 4 hours while considering a last minute appeal. In the end they sided against Medellin.

At issue was whether Medellin was denied his "treaty guaranteed" rights as a Mexican citizen. The laws apply to foreigners who commit a crime outside of their home country where that country's government has signed on to the protections under the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Rights.

Medellin was convicted along with 4 others of brutally raping and killing two teenage girls in Houston in 1993. Some were minors at the time and although two were condemned to die by lethal injection; their death sentence was recently overturned by a United States Supreme Court ruling. There is at least one other person awaiting execution in the case.

This case is not the only one to come before the World Court body; there are at least 50 other Mexican nationals waiting on death row around the United States.

Amnesty International had called on Texas Governor Rick Perry to halt the execution; but Perry declined. He sided with those on the side of the legal argument who say that in all the trials and pre-sentencing hearings;

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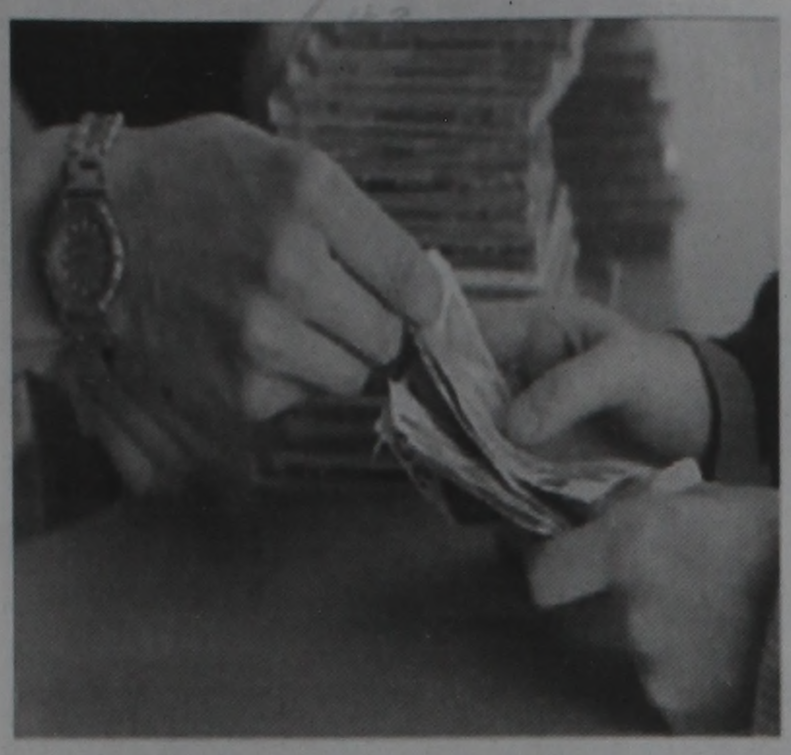
Job Losses Mount, Point to More Economic Sluggishness Ahead

WASHINGTON -- Employers shed jobs in July for the seventh consecutive month and the national unemployment rate rose to 5.7 percent, the Labor Department reported Friday. The losses weren't of the size that signals recession, but analysts think that continued sluggish economic growth lies ahead.



The nation's employers trimmed 51,000 jobs from nonfarm payrolls during the month of July and more than 463,000 jobs cumulatively this year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The jobless rate bumped up two-tenths of a percentage point during the month, from 5.5 percent, leaving more Americans without jobs.

"Though the decline wasn't huge, it was very broadly based, with only health-care and mining showing anything that could be described as strength. Hours worked per week declined, which is a bad sign for future hiring," Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist for forecaster Global Insight, observed in a note to investors.

As of the latest reading by the Labor Department, 8.8 million Americans were unemployed, a number that's grown by 1.6 million over the last 12 months, and the unemployment rate has risen a full percentage point over that period.

A deeper dig into Friday's numbers paints an even more troubling view of the national employment picture. The number of people working part time for economic reasons rose by 308,000 to 5.7 million. It's risen by 1.4 million over the past 12 months. This measure includes people who said they'd like to work full time but that their hours had been cut back or they were unable to find full-time jobs.

Also, the number of marginally attached workers -- those who want to work but aren't counted as unemployed because they didn't look for work in the prior four weeks -- has risen by 1.6 million over the last 12 months.

Many economists expect a protracted period of sluggish economic growth below the potential of the U.S. economy, but not recession.

"If we look at the job losses we had during the time people are calling a mild recession - which was 2001 - we were losing about 180,000 jobs a month at that time. So clearly this is a different degree," Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said in an interview with McClatchy Newspapers. He added, "We don't like to see job losses. Obviously 51,000 is disappointing."

The stimulus package passed by Congress and signed by President Bush earlier this year, which included tax rebates for more than 100 million Americans, has pushed the economy forward despite strong headwinds, Gutierrez said. The Commerce Department reported Thursday that the U.S. economy grew 1.9 percent from April through June, double the rate of the previous three months.

The commerce chief said the stimulus package bought time for the economy, but some economists think that it simply delayed a further weakening rooted in the housing crisis and the banks' credit crunch.

"What we're seeing is a mild recession interrupted here by a rebate program," said David Wyss, chief economist for the rating agency Standard & Poor's in New York. "Once they (consumers) finish spending these checks, we'll head down again."

Thursday's growth data suggested that business spending is likely to pick up later this year, and Wyss thinks that might help make growth during the July through September period stronger than in the second quarter.

But by the fourth quarter, he thinks, growth could turn negative, as it did in the last three months of 2007.

Congress already is debating a second stimulus plan. House Financial Services Committee Chairman Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., issued a statement Friday calling for one, noting sarcastically that it's "a sign of how troubled our economy is that some analysts are greeting the seventh straight month of job losses and an increase in the unemployment rate to 5.7 percent as relatively good news."

Federal and state spending can help spark growth, he said.

"This stimulus should include increases in the federal share of Medicaid, significantly increase funding for home energy assistance and food stamps, and other measures which will provide badly needed stimulus for our economy and help state and local governments and individuals improve the quality of their lives," Frank said. He also called for aid to state and local governments to improve infrastructure, such as bridges.

The Bush administration hasn't signed on to any call for a second stimulus plan, saying that the effects of the first one are still playing out.

The wild card in all economic forecasts is oil prices. Their rise slowed the U.S. and global economies and sparked inflation. Their recent partial retreat has eased pressure on the Federal Reserve and foreign central banks to raise interest rates to curb inflation. The Fed is widely expected to stand pat when it meets Tuesday to weigh rates.

"The Fed is stuck on hold, trapped between a weak economy on one side and high headline inflation on the other," said Gault, of Global Insight.

If oil prices slide back to the $100 a barrel range, it would certainly ease inflation pressures and probably would boost consumer confidence. That's no small matter, because consumption drives about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

"What could rescue us is oil prices getting back down under $100," said Wyss, who thought that unlikely but not impossible.

Amplían a 2 años programa de camiones México-EEUU

Un controvertido programa que permite el acceso de los camiones mexicanos a carreteras estadounidenses cercanas a la frontera ha sido ampliado a dos años, a pesar de numerosos intentos del Congreso por impedirlo.

El llamado Proyecto Muestra de Cruce Transfronterizo Camionero fue criticado por el Congreso en enero y los legisladores trataron de impedir, sin éxito, que el gobierno invirtiera dinero para establecerlo.

El cruce de los camiones fue contemplado en el Tratado de Libre Comercio de Norteamérica, firmado en 1994.

El director de la Administración Federal de Seguridad en los Transportes Motorizados, John H. Hill, dijo que ha habido poca participación en el programa. Hasta ahora, solamente 10 empresas estadounidenses han elegido participar, operando 55 camiones en México.

Apenas 27 empresas mexicanas lo han hecho también, con 107 camiones introducidos a Estados Unidos. El programa permite hasta 500 camiones de 100 empresas mexicanas con acceso irrestricto a los caminos estadounidenses,

"Varias empresas que podrían participar no han estado dispuestas invertir el tiempo y los recursos necesarios para hacerlo, debido a la incertidumbre en cuanto a la longevidad del proyecto", dijo Hill en un comunicado.

Hill indicó que el proyecto ahorra dinero a los consumidores y reduce el costo de los embarques. Algunas empresas estadounidenses, sin embargo, afirman que el acuerdo los afecta al permitir que los camiones mexicanos, que pueden operar a menor costo, sigan rutas similares a las suyas.

A algunos también les preocupa que el programa signifique pérdida de empleos en Estados Unidos.

Hill dijo esperar que la ampliación permita calmar los temores de los camioneros y generar un mayor interés en el programa. Sin embargo, algunos legisladores dicen que se mantendrán en pie de lucha constante contra el programa.

El senador Byron Dorgan calificó la ampliación como una "imprudente arrogancia respecto a la ley" por parte del gobierno del presidente George W. Bush.

"Esta disputa se refiere a los esfuerzos del gobierno por permitir que camiones grandes mexicanos ingresen al país, de una forma que creemos pone en riesgo la seguridad en los caminos estadounidenses", dijo Dorgan en una declaración.

"No debemos de permitir que continúe este programa", señaló.

Obama favorece usar petróleo de las reservas

Barack Obama se retractó ayer al afirmar que está a favor de recurrir al petróleo de la reservas estratégicas a fin de rebajar los precios de los combustibles.

El virtual candidato demócrata a la presidencia dijo en un discurso que la estrategia podría ayudar a bajar a corto plazo los precios de la gasolina, que ahora llegan hasta los 4 dólares por galón. Obama se opuso previamente a recurrir al petróleo guardado en la reserva, ubicada en Texas y Luisiana.

El candidato dijo que los retiros anteriores de la reserva ``han bajado los precios de la gasolina en sólo dos semanas".

El senador demócrata por Illinois dijo que los políticos han cometido errores a la hora de lidiar con la crisis energética durante tres décadas y que su rival, el republicano John McCain, ha sido ``parte de ese fracaso".

Obama alegó que el uso de las reservas es una estrategia a corto plazo para un problema de largo plazo.

"El romper con nuestra adicción al petróleo es uno de los desafíos más grandes a los que se enfrentará nuestra generación. Significaría nada menos que una transformación total de nuestra economía", dijo Obama.

"La transformación será costosa, dado el desastre financiero que heredaremos de la actual administración, y requerirá que posponga-mos otras prioridades", agregó.

El día de su 47 cumpleaños, Obama lanzó una nueva ofensiva contra su rival republicano, mediante un anuncio televisivo sobre el tema de la energía, principal preocupación de los estadounidenses, según las encuestas.

En el anuncio, que se verá a nivel nacional, Obama acusa a McCain de haber aceptado fondos para su campaña de parte de las grandes firmas petroleras, en momentos en que los estadounidenses luchan con los altos precios de la gasolina y el miedo a la recesión.

La semana pasada, Obama señaló también que apoyaría perforaciones limitadas frente a las costas del país en caso necesario, si ello permitiera definir una política energética que promueva vehículos más eficientes y otras fuentes de energía alternativas.

Mientras tanto, los estadounidenses más pobres, incluidos los blancos, prefieren a Obama por encima de McCain, según un sondeo publicado ayer por The Washington Post.

De acuerdo con la encuesta, realizada entre los asalariados estadounidenses más pobres, Obama reúne 58 por ciento de la intención de voto frente a 28 por ciento de McCain.

Entre los negros de esta categoría, 96 por ciento dijo que votará por Obama y 2 por ciento por McCain. Los hispanos más pobres indicaron en un 61 por ciento su preferencia por el demócrata mientras que 22 por ciento se inclinó por su rival. Y entre los blancos Obama obtuvo una ventaja de 10 puntos sobre McCain (47 contra 37 por ciento).

Esto cuestiona la percepción de que Obama tiene dificultades para atraer el voto de la clase obrera blanca.

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Una huella marcada a golpes de puño

Fue un gran campeón entre los más grandes campeones en la historia del boxeo olímpico. Un pugilista zurdo y de alcance que no daba ni pedía tregua a sus contrarios. Su récord y sus títulos hablan de su grandeza.

Mate Parlov falleció víctima de un cáncer tras haber sido un gran campeón

Mate Parlov nació en Split, una villa ubicada en la ciudad de Imotski, Croacia.

Su carrera amateur fue fabulosa. Realizó 310 peleas y sólo perdió 13, monarca olímpico en Munich 1972 y campeón mundial en el primer torneo celebrado en 1974, en La Habana.

En Munich derrotó por nocaut técnico en el segundo asalto al pegador cubano Gilberto Carrillo.

En el Mundial de La Habana volvió a medirse a Carrillo en una sensacional pelea donde el yugoslavo fue derribado por el cubano en dos ocasiones en el primer asalto y luego tiró en cuatro ocasiones a Carrillo en el segundo, para ganar el combate por decisión.

Este primer Mundial celebrado entre el 17 y el 30 de agosto de 1974 en el Coliseo de la Ciudad Deportiva de La Habana, ha sido uno de los mejores torneos internacionales de todos los tiempos con la presencia de campeones de clase indiscutible y con la presentación al público y a toda la afición a través de la televisión nacional, de una de las grandes leyendas del boxeo profesional, el cubano Kid Chocolate.

Jorge Hernández ganó en los 48 kilógramos realizando una disertación de boxeo en la final ante el campeón olímpico el húngaro Gyorgy Gedo, el valiente Douglas Rodríguez se impuso en los 51, el puertorriqueño Wilfredo Gómez con sólo 18 años de edad venció en los 54, el estadounidense Howard Davis lo hizo en los 57, el soviético Vasili Solomin en los 60, el ugandés Ayub Kalule en los 63.5, el cubano Emilio Correa en los 67, el santiaguero Rolando Garbey en los 71, el ruso Rufat Riskiyev en los 75, el yugoslavo Mate Parlov en los 81 y en los pesos completos el antillano Teófilo Stevenson.

Parlov pasó al profesionalismo en 1974 donde sumó 24 victorias, tres derrotas y dos empates, fue ocho veces campeón de Yugoslavia y once veces titular de Europa. En 1976, ganó el primero de sus once títulos de Europa.

Ese mismo año se midió por la corona mundial a Matthew Saad Muhammad, en Milan, Italia, perdiendo por decisión en ocho asaltos. La revancha entre ambos finalizó en un empate a 10 rounds.

Parlov ganó la corona de los ligeros completos en 1978, al derrotar por nocaut en el noveno asalto al argentino Miguel Angel Cuello.

Luego de vencer a Tony Greene, defendió con éxito su título superando por decisión en 15 rounds a John Conteh, en Belgrado, Yugoslavia.

Perdió el cetro ante el estadounidense Marvin Johnson en Marsala, Italia, el 2 de diciembre de 1978.

Parlov falleció hace sólo cinco días en su tierra natal, donde fue elegido el mejor atleta de todos los tiempos.

A la hora de mencionar a los grandes campeones de la historia en los Juegos Olímpicos, tenemos que hablar del húngaro Laszlo Pap, que fue el primer boxeador en ganar tres coronas consecutivas en olimpiadas, con 301 victorias y 13 derrotas en el amateurismo, además de terminar invicto su carrera profesional con 27 triunfos y dos empates, también al cubano Teófilo Stevenson, el otro pugilista que ganó tres coronas consecutivas, y los estadounidenses Cassius Clay, Sugar Ray Leonard y Oscar de la Hoya.

Dentro de ese grupo selecto de gladiadores del ring, el nombre de Mate Parlov merece un espacio.

Dallas Cowboys rookie Jones making an impact

Marion Barber led the Dallas Cowboys with 975 yards rushing and was named to his first Pro Bowl last season despite not starting a regular-season game.

"I think last year was his year, and he proved himself," coach Wade Phillips said. "Obviously, we feel comfortable with him carrying the load. The other guys, we'll see how they fit in, but he's our bell cow."

But if early indications mean anything -- and sometimes they don't in training camp -- then Barber's backup, Felix Jones, might play a larger role than expected, even with his first-round pedigree.

Jones has been electric at times in training camp, showing impressive speed and vision. Running backs coach Skip Peete raved Sunday about a run Jones had made on a draw play three days prior.

"He came through the line, and the safety started filling, and he bounced it out to the left, and no one was there," Peete said. "He got back to the huddle, and I asked him, 'How'd you know where to go? What made you do that?' He said, 'Well, Coach, I just felt the safety, based on the way the receiver was blocking, that I could get outside of that.'"

Garrett calls Jones an instinctive runner, and Jones takes almost an artistic view of things, breaking it down by jersey colors (blue on defense, white on offense).

"I just try to make a move off of the opposite colors," he said, "or if I see my color in front of me, I try to make a move off them."

Jones' 7.7 yards per carry at Arkansas is second-best in NCAA history to Army's Glenn Davis (8.26 in 1943-46). But Jones is learning that speed can only take him so far.

"Everybody has speed," Jones said. "I can't just get the ball and if there's nothing inside, go run outside. That's a big change for me. You can't really bounce it every play."

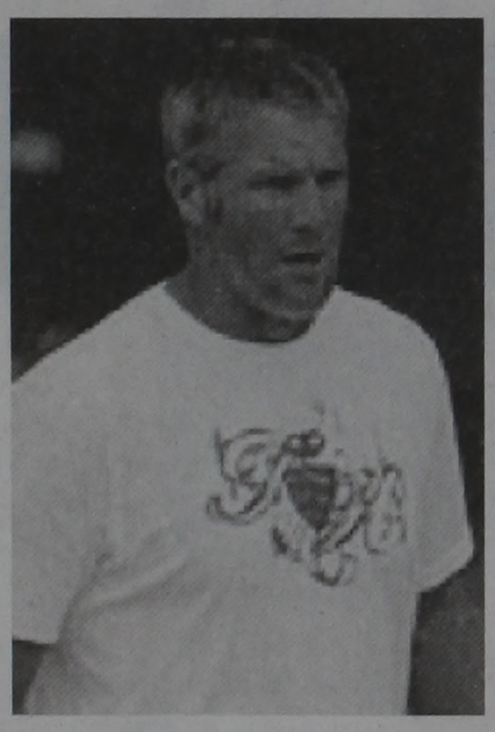
Offensive coordinator Jason Garrett does not have a set formula for how the carries will be split between the running backs. Last season, Barber averaged 12.8 carries per game, and Julius Jones, now in Seattle, averaged 10.3.

Given his new contract (seven years, $45 million) and ability, Barber's carries should increase, but perhaps not to the level of, say, LaDainian Tomlinson in San Diego. Tomlinson accounted for 72 percent of the carries made by Chargers running backs in 2007. Barber accounted for 53% of the Cowboys running backs' carries in 2007.

"You want balance between run and pass and balance among the receivers in the passing game, and if you have [multiple] runners handle the ball, that's a good thing," Garrett said. "Obviously, Marion is proven he's worthy of a lot of carries because he played last year, and we're going to continue to feature him, but we'd like to have a role for the others as well. Whatever they prove they can handle, we're going to try to give them."

Favre leaves Lambeau Field, maybe Packers

The bond between Brett Favre and the Green Bay Packers appears to be broken beyond repair. Packers coach Mike McCarthy said Tuesday evening that after approximately six hours of what



he called "brutally honest" conversations with Favre over the past two days, the three-time MVP just isn't in the right mindset to be part of the team.

Even with the chance to win his starting job back potentially on the table, McCarthy said Favre couldn't seem to get past emotional wounds that were opened as tensions mounted in recent weeks.

"The football team's moving forward," McCarthy said. "The train has left the station, whatever analogy you want. He needs to jump on the train and let's go. Or, if we can't get past things that have happened, I have to keep the train moving."

McCarthy said he and Favre made plans to speak later Tuesday evening, but McCarthy didn't seem to allow for the possibility that anything significant would change.

A trade could be coming next, with Tampa Bay re-emerging as a potential destination after seemingly being eliminated from consideration in recent weeks.

Packers officials have believed throughout the past month that Favre's preference is to play for the Minnesota Vikings, but Favre could reconsider a trade to Tampa Bay -- or elsewhere -- if Green Bay holds firm in its commitment not to trade him to a division rival. The Green Bay Press-Gazette reported on its website Tuesday night that Favre was willing to play for the Buccaneers.

After all the drama, it appears that Brett Favre will not be returning to the Packers. (AP)

After all the drama, it appears that Brett Favre will not be returning to the Packers. (AP)

McCarthy wouldn't address trade talks, but did say a quick resolution to the situation is important to the rest of his players.

"Absolutely," McCarthy said. "The players, they want it resolved. Even talk to Brett about it -- he feels bad about it. It's time for them to talk about somebody else."

Favre left Lambeau Field just before Packers practice Tuesday afternoon, taking a right turn out of the stadium's back gate and heading away from the field where the rest of his teammates were assembling for drills.

Favre emerged from the stadium's loading dock exit at 2:34 p.m. ET Tuesday, hugging Packers senior security advisor Jerry Parins before getting in his SUV and driving away. Shortly after, an SUV driven by Packers general manager Ted Thompson left the gate heading in the same direction.

"We're at a stalemate," Favre told ESPN Tuesday morning. "Mike and I both agreed last night that me being out there is a distraction and will continue to be a distraction. We all know the reason I'm here is because the commissioner reinstated me so we have a lot of things to figure out. It's simple and complicated, both at the same time."

McCarthy said Favre was excused from practice Tuesday, adding that he wouldn't have practiced with the team anyway because of an abdominal strain found in his physical examination Monday. McCarthy did not say whether Favre would be fined if he stayed away from camp starting Wednesday.

Favre told ESPN he doesn't have a problem with competing with Rodgers for the starting job, and can "truly understand" why McCarthy would make Rodgers the starter. But Favre also said a competition "probably isn't going to work" and that "the problem is that there's been a lot of damage done and I can't forget it."

Did Favre not feel wanted or welcome enough by the Packers?

"That's part of the issue with him, quite frankly," McCarthy said. "And listening to him talk about that, you respect his opinion. And frankly, I told him, I said, 'I'll take responsibility because I have a voice in the building.' I never thought he truly was going to play. I thought he was emotionally driven for other reasons."

McCarthy said Favre was "very convincing" in their conversations about his desire to play Monday night and Tuesday. But McCarthy still seemed to have reservations about Favre's commitment to preparation.

Would Favre continue to stay at Lambeau late at night to study film, a major factor in his success last season?

"That was a very good question for him," McCarthy said. "He's in a tough spot right now."

McCarthy also didn't seem convinced that Favre was thinking clearly about his future.

"He has a lot going through his head, and I think he's emotional," McCarthy said. "And just talking to him, he's in a tough spot."

So, of course, are McCarthy and Thompson. Correctly or not, they might end up being seen by fans as the men who drove Favre out of Green Bay.

"That's not a good feeling, but I don't view it that way," McCarthy said.

However, Favre has seen a sharp decline in his favorability among many Wisconsinites, a new survey shows. Only 47 percent had a favorable view of Favre, while 34 percent had an unfavorable view. The survey of 600 people likely to vote in the November presidential election was conducted Sunday and Monday by the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent. In a survey last December, 73 percent of the people in Wisconsin had a favorable view of Favre and 7 percent had an unfavorable view.

Rodgers, meanwhile, stuck to his mantra of not worrying about things he can't control.

"I just know we were out at practice today, and he wasn't there, and I'm the starter," Rodgers said. "So that's where we're going right now."

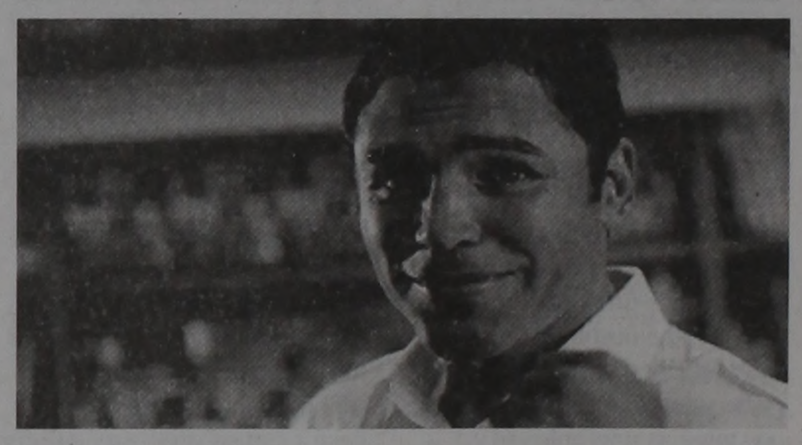
Speaking to reporters after Tuesday's practice, Rodgers stood just a few feet away from a locker with a "FAVRE" nameplate above it, stocked with shoulderpads and other equipment. It hadn't been used - and now might never be.

Cornerback Charles Woodson had a hard time imagining the Packers trading such an iconic player.

"Everything went kind of sour a few weeks or a month back, but you never felt like it would get to the point or to the talks of him actually being traded," Woodson said. "I felt once he stepped back in here, he would be the quarterback. Him not being here today, I guess management has a different route. So at that point, we've got to go out and do our job."

De la Hoya no descarta pelear con Margarito

Oscar de la Hoya no descarta a Antonio Margarito como su rival para su pelea de despedida de los cuadriláteros programada inicialmente para el próximo 6 de diciembre con un rival aún por definir.



Para el adiós del Golden Boy podrían estar Pacquiao o Tito Trinidad

El nombre de Margarito saltó a la palestra inmediatamente después que el mexicano le arrebató el cetro de la Asociación Mundial de Boxeo, peso welter, al puertorriqueño Miguel Cotto, al derrotarlo por KO técnico en el décimo primer asalto, el pasado 26 de julio en Las Vegas.

Lo primero que dijo Margarito tras noquear a Cotto fue: "Me he ganado el derecho de pelear con De la Hoya".

Margarito se llevaría una bolsa millonaria en el caso de ser el elegido para el adiós de De la Hoya.

En la pelea con Cotto, Margarito se estima que cobrará $3 millones luego que la venta de pago por ver en TV se incrementó de manera considerable en los momentos previos al combate.

En caso de una pelea con De la Hoya, su bolsa igualmente sería millonaria, pero de dos dígitos.

Bastará decir que el choque entre De la Hoya y Floyd Mayweather Jr. produjo $120 millones sólo en ventas de pago por ver en TV, la mayor cifra en este rubro en la historia del boxeo.

"La supuesta pelea final de Oscar está programada para el 6 de diciembre", comentó Ramiro González, director de relaciones públicas de Golden Boy Promotions, la empresa del 10 veces campeón mundial. "Se está hablando de Manny Pacquiao, Sergio Mora, Félix Trinidad y ahora Antonio Margarito".

González afirmó que se están analizando todos los factores antes de escoger al rival para el cierre de la briollanyte carrera del boxeador mexicoamericano.

"De la Hoya se inclinará con el peleador que le reditúe el mayor éxito deportivo, económico e histórico", puntualizó González. "Se trata del adiós del celebre 'Golden Boy'".

Antes de la pelea del 26 de julio pasado, se dijo que De La Hoya negoció con el promotor Bob Arum para enfrentar an su despedido al ganador (Margarito) de dicho combate.

La pelea del adiós de De la Hoya sería en el MGM Grand Garden Arena en Las Vegas.

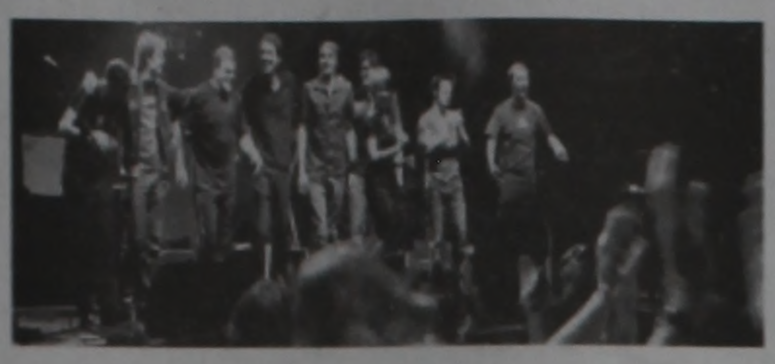
Trascendió que también han habido conversaciones con Pacquiao. Se informó que Golden Boy Promotions ofreció $10 millones al filipino, quien tienen la esperanza de cerrar el trato por $20 millones.

Freddie Roach, el entrenador de Pacquiao dijo que se contentaría si su pupilo recibe entre $15 y $18 millones.

La pelea seria en las 147 libras.

Bajofondo mixes Latin, rock, hip-hop sounds

Don't call Bajofondo a revisionist tango band anymore or you'll raise the back hairs of its leader, Gustavo Santaolalla. The band, whose name loosely translates to "below the surface," is an eight-member ensemble of South American musicians who have created a generational language that fuses Latin alternative rock with the rich musical blends that thrive along the Argentine-Uruguayan border.



"We don't like the label 'electronic tango,' " Santaolalla says in Spanish. "What we do is a mixture of music that draws from the influences along the Rio de la Plata (the river that forms part of the border between Argentina and Uruguay), and tango is a part of that, along with milonga and candombe, but then you have what the rest of the band brings to it that adds elements of rock, electronica and hip-hop."

Explaining what Bajofondo is today has become a mantra for Santaolalla as the band is exploring new pop turf. The group was born as the Bajofondo Tango Club when Argentine Santaolalla and Uruguayan Juan Campodónico concocted an experimental project to explore the tango. Adding contemporary twists that were respectful of the past, the band released its self-titled debut CD in 2002 and won a Latin Grammy for best pop instrumental album.

The album gave tango a charge that integrated live musicians playing acoustic bandoneon, piano and violin with a sonic spectrum of digitized beats and electronica. The sampled voices of tango greats Roberto Goyeneche, Susana Rinaldi and Adriana Varela gave the music an ethereal drama that far surpassed Bajofondo's European counterpart, the Gotan Project, which also fuses tango with rock and rap.

Now Bajofondo, which performs today at the Stern Grove Music Festival in San Francisco, has reached a new plateau with "Mar Dulce" ("Sweet Sea"), its third album. It redefines the collective as a solid, cohesive band seeking to evolve into something new and different.

"We've been playing this music for a while now, and it has taken different turns, and we no longer know what to call it," Santaolalla says by phone from his studio in Los Angeles. "We are trying to do something that expresses the folk music of today by taking the past and putting it into a form that transcends it back to the dance hall."

Santaolalla is a maverick producer known as "the guru of Latin alternative." Through his Surco record label, he redirected what was called rock en Español in the 1980s into a much broader category of Latino pop rock now known as Latin alternative. He has guided and produced the careers of Maldita Vecindad y Los Hijos del Quinto Patio, Caifanes, Molotov, Fobia, Cafe Tacuba, Juanes, Julieta Venegas and many others.

Born in Buena Aires in 1951, Santaolalla has been rocking out since he first heard the Beatles as a boy. He started playing guitar at age 5, and by 1967 he was a star in the neophyte Argentine rock band Arco Iris, which played polished hum-and-strum folk rock with electric guitars and featured Santaolalla's vocals. He became a teen idol in Argentina, but it was a politically turbulent time in his country, with the government threatened by a military coup.

"I arrived in the United States in 1978, when the Argentine government was killing and imprisoning people like me - students and musicians who dared to have long hair and sing songs of protest," he says. "Arriving in Los Angeles, I saw how Mexican immigrants were treated, and it reminded me of my country."

He started from scratch in Los Angeles, where Latin pop was reinventing itself. He broke ground with longtime colleague Anibal Kerpel and formed his first band in the States, Wet Picnic. The group started getting gigs and soon signed with Universal, releasing the EP "Balls Up" in 1982. He also released his first solo album, "Santaolalla," which had moderate success but got his name out there.

The studio skills he had honed producing five Arco Iris albums also were noticed.

"We were pioneers in rock en Español in Argentina at a time when there were a lot of bands but nobody to produce them," Santaolalla says. "That's when I decided to become a producer."

After his first solo album, homesickness drove him back to Argentina, but his stay was short-lived. He left for Mexico City, where he worked with Maldita Vecindad and Cafe Tacuba, which considers him its fifth member.

By the mid- to late-'90s, he had produced two more solo CDs, "Gas" and "Ronroco," the latter an entrancing ambient album of electro-acoustic textures featuring Santaolalla playing his tiny Andean charango guitar. With its soul and simplicity, "Ronroco" caught Hollywood's ear, paving the way for the next phase of Santaolalla's career: movie soundtracks.

He went on to work on numerous films, including "The Insider," "Amores Perros," "21 Grams" and "The Motorcycle Diaries," picking up Academy Awards for his "Brokeback Mountain" and "Babel" scores.

"The awards are a tremendous honor, but they aren't just about me," Santaolalla says. "They are also shared with all the people who worked with me on these projects."

The get-even ways of 'Mujeres Asesinas'

MEXICO CITY – THINK OF it as "Desperate Housewives" -- make that very desperate -- with butcher knives, vials of poison and bottles of hydrochloric acid. Or an extremely stressed-out "Lipstick Jungle."

It's the hit Latin American TV series "Mujeres Asesinas" (Women Assassins), a high-gloss revenge fantasy about the fury of women scorned that has become a major TV hit and a minor pop-culture phenomenon in certain Spanish-speaking parts of this hemisphere. Already, it has run through three seasons in Argentina and is gearing up there for a fourth. It also has scored high ratings and strong critical notices in Colombia and Mexico, and seems destined to show up very soon on U.S. television screens.

"Many people from the United States and Latin America ask us every day and every week, 'When is it coming to Peru?' 'When is it coming to Chile?' " said Alex Balassa, one of the show's executive producers with Pedro Torres, at a screening of the Mexican version of the series' penultimate chapter here last week.

The series was originally created by the Pol-ka television and film production company in Argentina. In recent years, innovative shows from Argentina and other Latin American countries, as well as the United States, have made significant inroads into Mexican television, which produces relatively little apart from telenovelas (soap operas) in the way of original prime-time programming.

Loosely adapted from real-life crime stories, "Mujeres Asesinas" follows a fairly simple formula. In Mexico, viewers saw two episodes each week in which women are grievously wronged, usually by a man (father, husband, lover, "john"). Most of the female characters formerly were mild-mannered, long-suffering types. But they are transformed by the abuses they endure into hellions with telltale nicknames such as Patricia "Avenger," Martha "Suffocator" and Margarita "Poisonous."

Each of the two separate hour-long segments (minus time out for commercials hawking cellphones and collagen enhancements) builds to a gruesome climax, in which the crime is reenacted. For the Mexican version, the producers decided to add a new dramatic element by showing the crimes being scrutinized by the "Department of Investigation Specializing in Cases of Women," presumably to assure anxious viewers that justice will be served. Every episode also concludes with a moral coda stating what just deserts were reaped by their homicidal protagonists.

Predictably, "Mujeres Asesinas" has stirred talk in the Latin American media about whether it might incite women to commit more acts of revenge-fueled violence. Advertisements for the show have played up that titillating idea with tag lines such as, "Cuidado! No permitas que tu mujer vea esta nueva serie." (Take care! Don't let your woman see this new series.)

Several of the series actresses have dismissed that idea. "I think one of the values of the series is that it speaks not only of the depth of the female psychology, but rather it speaks . . . [of] the human condition, no?" said Cecilia Suárez, the actress who plays Ana "Corrosiva," an acid-wielding anti-heroine who delivers a brutal payback to her control-freak plastic surgeon lover.

Balassa likewise stresses the universality of the show. But he acknowledges that its depiction of the explosive relations between men and women and "the situations and the manner in which things finally end, are very much of the Latin American profile."

"We are a little macho in the Latin American world. And this is what is shown in all the chapters," he said.

Of course, tales about women getting mad, then getting even, have played well across all cultures, from the ancient Greek tragedy "Medea" to the 1978 B-movie "I Spit on Your Grave," about a gang-rape victim's bloody revenge. Many of the antics depicted on "Mujeres Asesinas" hardly will be unfamiliar to regular viewers of telenovelas.

Yet two things set "Mujeres Asesinas" apart from its less-sanguine competitors. One is the quality of its leading ladies. The just-concluded premiere Mexican season, which ran on cable station CTC and will be re-shown this fall on free network television here, featured several of the country's best-known actresses, including Verónica Castro, Itatí Cantoral and Isela Vega, best known outside her homeland for playing a prostitute in "Bring Me the Head of Alfredo García," Sam Peckinpah's black-humored 1974 cult classic.

The other is the raw, graphic violence. Similar scenes are depicted regularly in telenovelas, but seldom with as much Grand Guignol flair. In Mexico, the show was heavily promoted with billboards in which the actresses were photographed in elegant white attire, their hands and clothes splattered with blood.

Male and female fans of "Mujeres Asesinas" from as far away as China and Croatia are busily posting admiring comments about the series, along with their own personal tales of woe, on the show's official Facebook page. "A wounded woman would be capable of everything," one female fan wrote. "I believe that we are all disposed to fight."

"In the end, violence within families or sexual abuse could be in all the world," said Leo Marker, the Mexican series' press director. "It's on all sides, not only in Latin America."

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YWCA Garage Sale

Saturday, August 9 * 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

YWCA parking lot at 34th and Flint

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Reserve your space:

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Spaces and tables: rented first-come, first-served

Set-up: 7 a.m. on August 9

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Deliver items to the YWCA between 7-8 a.m. on August 9

Check Craigslist.com on August 1 for other items!

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Heart of Lubbock Neighborhood Association

WHAT: National Night Out

WHEN: Tuesday, August 5, 2008
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

WHERE:Stumpy Hamilton Park (22nd and Avenue X)

In Brief:
National Night Out is an annual activity to encourage neighborhood safety and involvement. The free event features live music by Kenny Maines (Heart of Lubbock resident), free hot dogs and drinks, entertainment for the kids and an opportunity to register to win a $100 gas card.

Are you interested in learning the Catholic Faith? Do you wonder about the constant changes in the Catholic Church?
The Catholic Hour Radio Program
each Friday from 3:00-4:30 pm
KRFE - 580 AM, Lubbock

Is there a difference between the New Mass and the Latin Mass? Do you wander why there is a loss of respect and the reverence in your Catholic Church? Come see and hear the difference at
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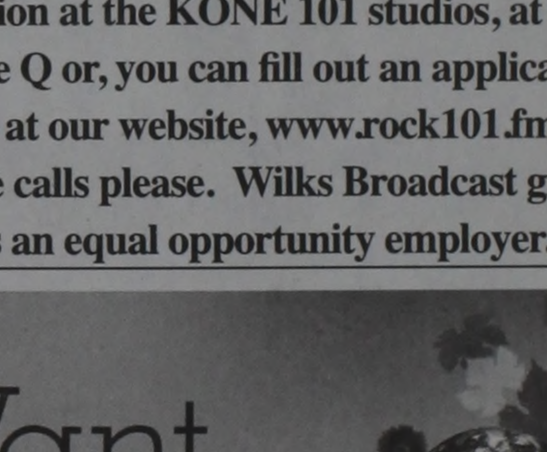
Southside - 1631 84th (84th & Ave. P)
Northside - 208 Municipal Drive (near Animal Shelter)
Elmwood - 2002 Elmwood Ave. (near LCU)



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