

# El Editor

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

VOL. XXIX No. 26

Week of March 23-29, 2006 www.leditor.com

Lubbock, TX USA

## Hernandez, DeLeon Council Race Set to Wake up or Possibly Divide Lubbock Hispanics

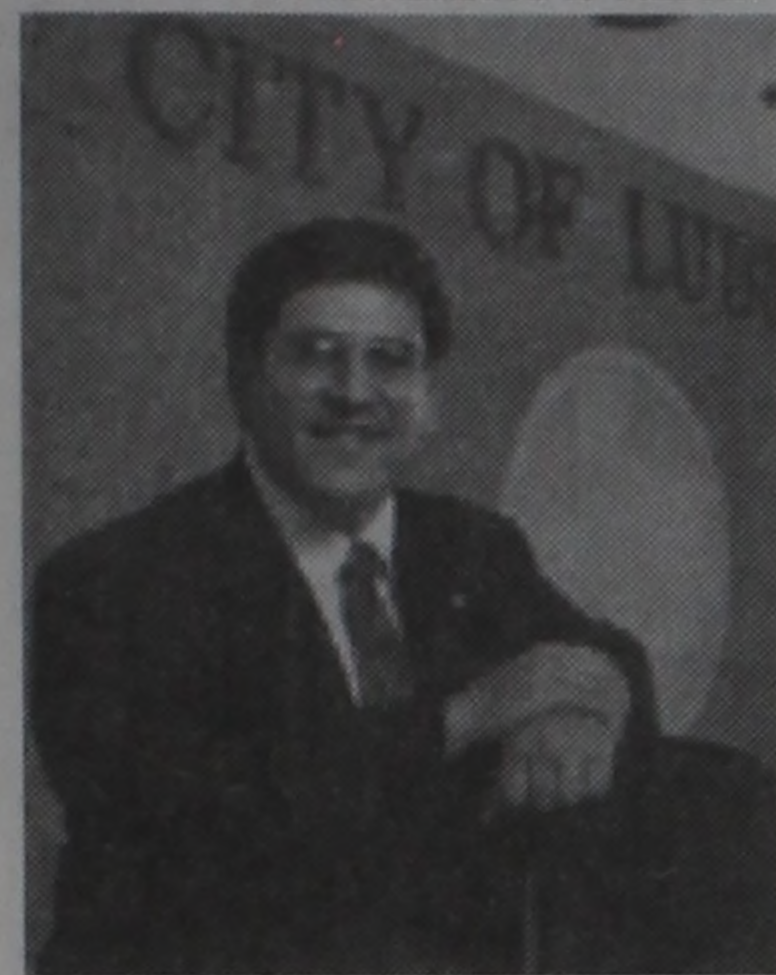
By Bidal Aguero

In Texas cities like Dallas, Houston and San Antonio it is not strange for two high profile Hispanics to run for an elected office against each other. But when this happens in Lubbock, the eyebrows of many persons are raised.

The candidacy of Linda DeLeon and Victor Hernandez is current-

ly the talk of the town. Hernandez, an ex-councilman who resigned before his term was over from his position only to be replaced by current city council woman Linda DeLeon after serving for two years is now seeking to be re-elected to a four year term.

Hernandez states his reason for running is because his constituents are not happy with the way District 1 is being treated by City government. "We lost thousands of dollars that were appropriated for District 1 to other projects in the City." Despite delineating this one instance in which the district was cut short, Hernandez says he is not running "against Linda but for the office."



"I am not going to run against her. I think she is a good person but I

think I can do better." Hernandez points out that he will ask people to vote for him because of his qualifications. "I think my resume is reason enough for people to vote for me. My experience is the main reason that I am running for the office."

Hernandez says that he hopes that voters will see that the fact that he served well for 12 years and has been an official of various important organizations will convince them to vote for him.

Hernandez was elected in 1994 to the City Council seat and served as Lubbock's second Hispanic representative to a Council that had been forced by a civil rights suit to change the method of electing City representatives from an at-large method to a single-member district method.

During his tenure, Hernandez has been a very vocal advocate of change and equal access to services for his district which is dominated by a Hispanic populous.

His tenure has also been plagued by abysmal incidences in which Hernandez was caught using bad language in public. He was

once heard, thinking that his microphone was turned off, calling the sitting mayor a "bitch"

Hernandez also received bad publicity for writing hot checks to cover costs of expenses for security when he served as executive director at the annual Fiestas del Llano celebration.

Despite these stumbling blocks, Hernandez continues to say that he can be a better representative than DeLeon to the City Council.

Voters do not seem to be persuaded. A series of comments by voters in El Editor reflect their opinions.

"Victor Hernandez is just looking to gain more political recognition and support from the people to later run for a higher political position again. I do not think Victor really cares about the people's interest or the issues we are fighting for as citizens. If Victor really cared he would have stayed on as City Councilman." Modesto Rogriguez Community Voices 1-19-06

Yet others seem to like Hernandez. A writer to El Editor's Community Voices column describes Hernandez as a representative who "was consistently right on all the controversial topics he brought up. He was a valuable asset to Lubbock as a whole, and his district in particular. In fact, Victor brought up things in Lubbock politics that had never been discussed before, such as the racist nature of the city manager search, and the racism inherent in the basketball coach fiasco." C. James, Community Voices 1-19-06

Certainly Linda DeLeon is not void of complexity. Some point to her lack of command of power and her inability or reluctance to speak out on issues.

DeLeon had served as Lubbock's first representative to the

predominantly Hispanic neighborhood seat in the Lubbock Independent School District after it's conversion to single-member-district method of electing representatives to the Board.

After 18 years of serving, some in the community thought that she had been burned out from fighting many battles including busing, lack of minority teachers and outright discrimination toward Hispanics.

Concerning this, one writer to El Editor stated "Linda, who had been so fiery, suddenly fell quiet...her voice was silent as schools in minority neighborhoods were closed, Chicano concerns about curriculum and testing were ignored, Overton North was torn down and hundreds of Chicano families displaced, and Eminent Domain was used and abused to force families to sell." (RQ Settler - El Editor 1/19/06)

The race between the two political icons in Lubbock is causing some alarm within the community. Initial concern focused on the possibility of both candidates spitting the minority vote resulting in the election of a non-minority for the position. That concern was dispelled when Hernandez purposely waited until the last moment to file and therefore assuing a race solely between DeLeon and Hernandez.

One writer to El Editor describes both candidates as champions: "Victor and Linda are the two best advocates we have had. Each one had a different way of going about it. But for them to run against each other would be a catastrophe. It would send the message to the power brokers: they could only draw the conclusion that the power-

less and underdogs in Lubbock can only fight among themselves and that therefore the powerful can continue to get away with murder [pun intended]. C. James, Community Voices 1-19-06

Another anonymous writer to Community Voices wrote: "First of all, Hispanics need to stop fighting among themselves. The reality is that the situation will not get better unless Hispanics agree to help each other regardless of social status, financial situation, or political affiliation."

Political observers are optimistic. "I think it will be healthy for the community to have two strong candidates up for election. It will get more people out to vote and hopefully get them in the resolve to keep on voting in other elections," said Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez.

Gutierrez added that the contested city council race will only strengthen the possibility of finally electing an at-large candidate to the Lubbock School Board.

NEXT: Finally an at-large city-wide candidate that has a chance

## New Firms Triple overall U.S. rate Hispanic businesses growing at brisk rate

By Stephen Ohlemacher

WASHINGTON - The number of Hispanic-owned businesses grew at three times the national rate for all companies from 1997 to 2002, the government said yesterday.

Hispanics owned nearly 1.6 million businesses in 2002, a 31 percent increase from five years earlier, according to the Census Bureau report.

The growth was even stronger in Kentucky, where Hispanic business increased from 1,481 to 2,094, or 41 percent, during the period.

"The Hispanic consumer market is exploding," said Michael Barrera, president and chief executive officer of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "That means that a lot of Hispanic businesses are going to benefit from that."

Hispanic consumers spend \$700 billion a year, a figure that is expected to climb to \$1 trillion by the end of the decade, Barrera said at a news conference.

Ronald Langston, director of the Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency, said immigration is helping to fuel the growing diversity of America's economy.

The overwhelming majority of the new businesses were one-person enterprises, according to the report. Only 13 percent of Hispanic-owned businesses had any employees other than the owner. About a fourth of all U.S. businesses had employees in 2002, the report said.

New businesses started by Hispanics face many of the same problems as businesses started by non-Hispanics, and the biggest hurdle usually is money to start and expand the business, said Louis Olivas, assistant vice president for academic affairs at Arizona State University.

"All startup businesses face funding issues," Olivas said.

Some Hispanic business owners also face language barriers, but those who speak both Spanish and English have advantages, he said.

The report is based on administrative records and a survey of 2.4 million businesses. The Census Bureau defines Hispanic-owned businesses as private companies in which at least 51 percent of the owners are Hispanic. The report does not classify public companies, with publicly traded stock, because they can be owned by many stockholders of unknown ethnicities.

Hispanics owned nearly 7 percent of all businesses in 2002, up from about 6 percent in 1997.

Clara Rodriguez, a sociology professor at Fordham University, said immigrants are fueling much of the growth, in population and in businesses.

"As with all immigrant groups, the first who come tend to be more entrepreneurial and more daring," Rodriguez said.

Among the report's findings:

- Nearly three in 10 Hispanic-owned firms were in construction or other service-related industries in 2002.
- The number of Hispanic-owned businesses in New York grew by 57 percent from 1997 to 2002, faster than any other state. Rhode Island, Georgia, Nevada and South Carolina rounded out the top five.
- Los Angeles County had 188,472 Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002, more than any other county. It was followed by Miami-Dade County, Fla.; Harris County, Texas; Bronx County, N.Y.; Queens County, N.Y.; and Hidalgo County, Texas
- There were 29,184 Hispanic-owned firms with receipts of \$1 million or more in 2002.
- There were 1,510 Hispanic-owned firms with 100 or more employees. Those firms generated more than \$42 billion in receipts in 2002.
- About 44 percent of Hispanic business owners were of Mexican descent in 2002.

## México pide solución para indocumentados

Maribel Hastings

Mediante un desplegado publicado ayer en algunos de los más importantes diarios de Estados Unidos, el gobierno de México dio a conocer que considera "importante" encontrar una solución para los indocumentados que viven en este país.

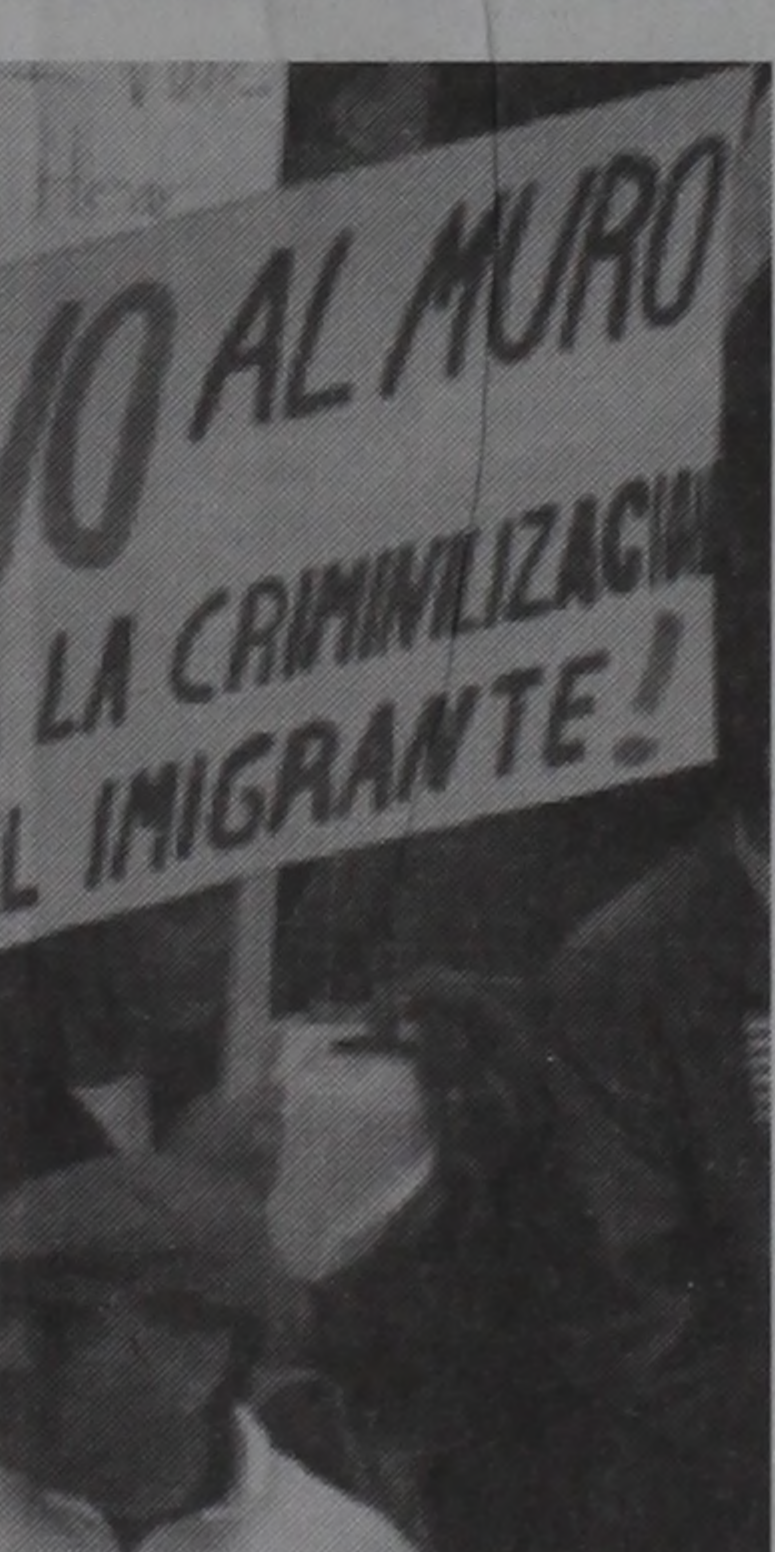
Con este desplegado, el gobierno de México no busca inmiscuirse en el debate interno del Congreso de Estados Unidos, sino ser "un compañero de viaje en atender el reto migratorio", ofreciendo una "posición de Estado" que no supone el apoyo o el rechazo a ninguna de las iniciativas bajo discusión en el legislativo estadounidense, dijo ayer el embajador mexicano Carlos de Icaza.

"Que quede absolutamente claro que el gobierno mexicano no se ha pronunciado sobre ninguna iniciativa [bajo discusión en el Senado estadounidense], afirmó De Icaza, y añadió que la declaración de principios sintetizada en el desplegado "es un documento mexicano aprobado por las diferentes corrientes políticas del país". "No hay juicio de valor sobre las distintas propuestas sobre el tapete", agregó, y aunque reconoce que se trata de una agenda interna de Estados Unidos, el tema migratorio "tiene ramificaciones internacionales y requiere de cooperación internacional" bajo el principio de "responsabilidad compartida".

"Ha habido, sin duda, algo de desinformación y ciertos grupos creen que México no tiene una posición equilibrada sobre el tema... México quiere ser compañero de viaje en atender el reto migratorio", indicó De Icaza a La Opinión.

México aboga, dijo, por una reforma integral basada en el principio de responsabilidad compartida y de respeto a los derechos fundamentales y un plan de trabajadores temporales (PTT), sostuvo de Icaza, "es fundamental para que los flujos migratorios sean legales, ordenados y seguros".

En una semana marcada por negociaciones en torno a una posible



reforma migratoria y en la cual Estados Unidos y México sostendrán una reunión binacional en esta capital, el gobierno mexicano publicó un mensaje de una plana en los diarios The New York Times, The Washington Post y Los Angeles Times para exponer sus principios y recomendaciones en torno al espinoso tema que el Senado abordará a fines de este mes.

En el anuncio titulado "Un mensaje de México sobre la migración", el gobierno mexicano indica que, bajo el concepto de "responsabilidad compartida", México debe participar en el diseño, manejo, supervisión y evaluación de un PTT, aunque al mismo tiempo "reconoce el derecho soberano de cada país de regular la entrada de extranjeros y las condiciones para su estadía".

De Icaza indicó que "nosotros queremos y buscamos que se conozca mejor en Estados Unidos nuestra posición sobre el fenómeno migratorio". Y con eso en mente se desplegó una síntesis de los principios de la declaración que el Congreso mexicano aprobó el pasado mes de febrero en la cual se pronuncia a favor de un PTT "con el mayor alcance posible" que aborde además la situación de los mexicanos indocumentados radicados en Estados Unidos.

## COMMUNITY VOICES

Does a Hispanic candidate have a chance of winning an at large or city wide political race in this city? The question was posed to readers since most candidates who are Hispanic usually run in single member districts; with the exception being Lubbock County Sheriff David Gutierrez who won a county wide office. In addition Judge Sam Medina has been successful in his race for State Judicial District Court Judge. And presently Mike Arismendez is involved in a run off election for Lubbock County Clerk; albeit resulting from the recently held Republican Primary Election.

Consequently, it has not been since the 1980's that the now deceased Jose Ramirez ran and won an at-large seat on the Lubbock School Board. In the upcoming elections, there are at least 3 Hispanic candidates running in city wide contested races. They are Ysabel Luna and Gilbert Montes who will be vying for Mayor and Christy Martinez who is running for an at-large seat on the LISD board.

Can any one of them win? Readers register their opinions: \*\*\*\*\*

I believe anybody can get elected in Lubbock County if their platform includes the following: 1. They are Republican. 2. They are conservative and their opponent is a liberal. 3. They know Rick Perry. 4. They love George Bush.

Even Osama Bin Laden can get elected in Lubbock County using that platform.

PS. I hope my office isn't bugged. Bidal, this was written as tongue and cheek.

Billy Martinez, Lubbock via Email  
Editor's note: The writer acknowledges that his response is tongue in cheek; aside from the reference to bin Laden, we don't think that he is that far off from the truth.

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I feel a Hispanic would have a good chance of winning an at-large or city wide political race in Lubbock. If the candidate has the qualifications to run for office, he/she would have a good chance. Also, if all the registered Hispanic and other minority voters would take the time to see what the candidate's issues are (that) would be very helpful.

Another reason I feel a Hispanic would have a good chance is if all the registered Hispanic and other minority voters in Lubbock would get out and vote, the Hispanic candidate would win. According to statistics, there are over 30% Hispanics and over 12% of other minorities in Lubbock. How many of these are registered voters? This would result in a tremendous count if the majority of the Hispanic and other minority voters turned out to vote.

Minerva Alaniz, Lubbock via Email  
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The Lubbock County Sheriff's race is the perfect example, to indicate that a Hispanic candidate has a good chance of winning an at-large or city wide political race in Lubbock. Sheriff Gutierrez was the best qualified, consequently winning the race!

There are many outstanding Hispanic leaders in our communities, our churches, our schools, our Hispanic-run businesses and in numerous organizations with large easily available, (group of) constituency/supporters.

Art Chavez comes to mind. He is a wonderful person, a great public speaker; involved in church, business, leadership organizations and he is a wonderful family man. People like him, if persuaded to serve, and if we as a "united group" helped, then we could win a successful at-large or citywide political race. There are many other people with a sound already-made political base. We just need to tap into this new prospect!

Patricia Romo, Lubbock via Email  
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Does a Hispanic candidate have a chance to win an at large election? Not if people who should want to see one of their own, one who they can relate to, do what they do in every election. That is; never make it to the polls to vote.

We are our own worst enemy. When we decide to be honest and admit that fact to ourselves, we might have a chance to start to make a difference in this city.  
\*\*\*\*\*

In my opinion if our Hispanics understood that to VOTE and the right to VOTE are as important as Wine, Song and Dance our Hispanic community over all would be better off and would have a say in what is really going on that affects us directly and indirectly every day of our lives. If we have 50,000 Hispanics in our community and out of those only 30,000 are registered to VOTE and out of that number only 15,000 actually take the time to go out and VOTE.

The statistics are there, a Hispanic has a very slim chance of winning in this town, till our own people wake up and understand how important it is to VOTE we don't have a chance.

Henry F. Martinez, Lubbock via Email  
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From a gringo. It seems to me that it is very difficult to get the hispanic community concerned enough to actively participate in voting the candidates and issues.

Also, I believe that some hispanics that are in a position to have an influence, are afraid to challenge the non-hispanic candidates or issues. Have you read "Uncle Tom's Cabin"?

I understand I may not see this matter from the eyes of an hispanic.

Madison Sowder  
"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. You may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive language, offensive or distasteful content, or personal attacks, and for space. Mail your comments to Community Voices, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comments to acruzts@aol.com

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Read El Editor on the



# Editorial

## If Not Now, When? If Not Us, Who?

**March 13 marked the deadline for candidates to file for city and school board elections which, aside from an early voting period, this year will be held on May 13. By now, we know who is running for political office in this city.**

Races being contested include seats for Mayor of the Lubbock City Council and council districts 1, 3, and 5. On the LISD school board, races include single member districts 3 and 4, and two at-large member seats. By now, you might have read something about the candidates who have filed in each race; or you might have seen the signs and heard a few commercials.

But instead of focusing on specific races or candidates, we will focus on the kind of civic action that is necessary for people to make a difference; to have a voice in who gets elected to office.

It is rather simple. All one has to do is register to vote and then "just do it". Unfortunately, more often than not, the voting step is the one most people miss.

It is necessary to go out and vote, not just to register with the intention of going out to vote and never getting to the voting booth. We cannot emphasize that point enough and we cannot make it any clearer.

All too often we hear these grand numbers of people who were registered during an election cycle. And all too often the number of people who vote never quite matches the number of people who actually registered.

We, at El Editor, often find ourselves pulling our hair out wondering why? Is it not important to people, we say, or is it just that people in this city have been so conditioned into believing that their vote really does not matter, that no matter what a person does, things will never change.

We sincerely hope that is not the case. We know that change does not come easily, but we strongly believe that neither is change impossible to achieve.

Because the truth is that each and every single vote matters. It matters because votes will determine who wins an election and who will be voting on laws and regulations and city ordinances that will impact our lives.

Once elected, they and they alone will decide how they will vote on a certain issue. And if we fail to make our voice heard at the polls, how much will we be listened to after an election? Do you think our voice will matter as much then?

Not voting almost carries as much weight as voting. Except; that if we do vote, we have a right to demand accountability from those who are elected. If we don't vote, and demand accountability, what can we expect? We will be like the fictional one legged duck; without a single leg to stand on.

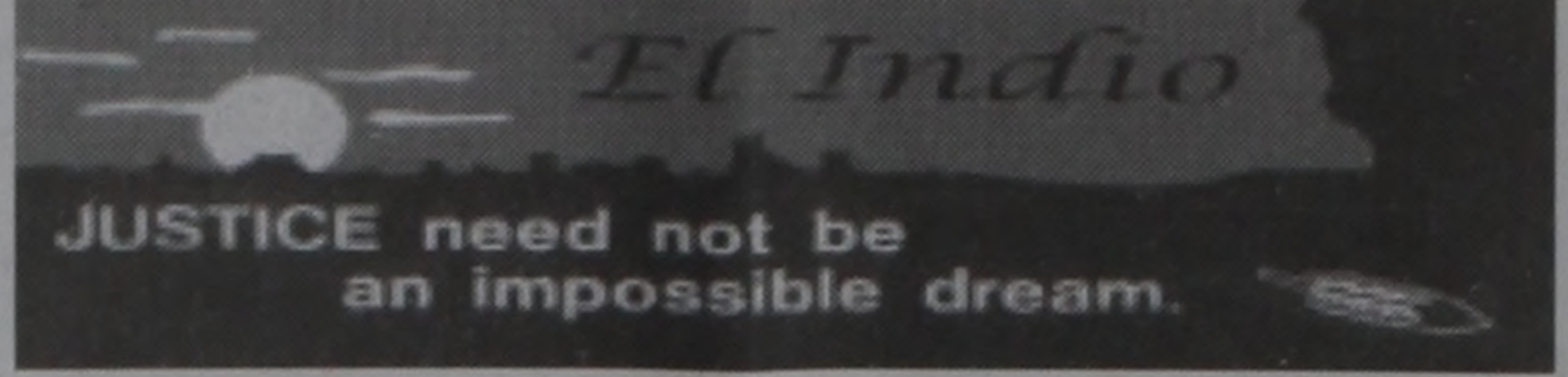
What other civic duty could be more important than voting for someone who we feel we can trust; someone who reflects our beliefs and concerns; someone who cares about what matters to us? Someone who will not be afraid to stand up and do what's right for those who have historically been underrepresented? The poor; the downtrodden?

As this election cycle gets under way, we ask one thing. And that is for all of us to seriously think about what it means to vote and the consequences of not voting.

As you make your decision about whether to exercise your civic duty or not, we ask you to think about those who have gone before us. Think about the people we care about. Those generations that includes our grandfathers and grandmothers, fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, who worked hard all their lives and were denied the opportunity to vote. Think about those people who marched in the streets of this great country and lost their life in their struggle for equal voting rights. Think about our ancestors who worked day and night trying to make sure that we would have a better life then they could ever imagine.

Think about our children, they are our future, what kind of city and school system do we want to leave to them after we are gone? Think about what kind of heritage we will leave behind for them.

Think! And then just go out and vote



### Is a Minority Electable in Lubbock County?

by Roger Quannah Settler El Indio  
Is a minority electable in Lubbock County outside of North and East Lubbock? The answer would seem to be ¡Si!

Our current Sheriff is David Gutiérrez, and Sam Medina holds the 237th District Judgeship. Mike Arismendez made the April Republican Primary Runoff. Pearlle Mayfield is the Democratic nominee for State Representative, District 84, against incumbent Carl Isett.

However, the question is broader and more involved than at first glance. For most minority communities, be they Chicano, Black, American Indian, Puerto Rican or whatever, the minority representative is more than just an individual with the right skin colour. Is the Black community in the United States proud of Clarence Thomas, the second African-American Supreme Court Justice? The answer is a resounding no! Was the community proud of Thurgood Marshall, the first Black Justice? Yes...and what is the difference? Philosophy, cultural identification, community spirit.

Here in Lubbock, when a minority representative is elected from traditional minority areas, such as current County Commissioner Ysidro Gutiérrez, Justice of the Peace Aurora Chaidés-Hernandez, City Council member Linda DeLeon or School Board member Mario Ybarra, the representative lives in the neighborhoods, and tends to identify with the community represented by those neighborhoods. Other than Sheriff Gutiérrez and Judge Medina, the only other minority citizen elected by Lubbock voters as a whole in the modern period was José Ramirez, elected to the School Board before single-member districts. Gutiérrez, Medina and Ramirez share, and shared, one characteristic...all three were committed Republicans, conservative in philosophy and style.

It may be argued that the only minorities who have a chance at being elected citywide or countywide would be conservative Republicans. We have liberal and moderate minority Republicans...this writer, Roger Settler, is a progressive Republican, as is Blas Mojica. Eddie P. Richardson is a progressive Republican...but conservative Republicans always outvoted their moderate-liberal wing. On the other hand, Mike Arismendez is a conservative Republican, and liberal Democrat Pearlle Mayfield was unopposed in the Democratic Primary. Irma Guerrero was elected Democratic Party Chair, but she was a Democrat...not subject to the General Election.

This sad situation WILL NOT CHANGE until the minority communities GET OUT AND VOTE! In 2000, Hispanics comprised 27.5 % of the total population of Lubbock County, as opposed to 12.5 % in the U.S. Blacks comprised 8.7 % [12.3 % in the U.S.] and American Indians 0.6 % [0.9 % in the U.S.].

However, the voting turnouts in overwhelmingly white Southwest Lubbock are usually two, three, four times the rate of turnout for minority North and East Lubbock. Time and time again, our minority candidates of liberal persuasion have drawn between 20% and 35% of the vote...no mas. Yet, if our TURNOUTS matched our percentage of the population, we would win consistently...enough white progressives and liberals, and students vote to put us over, if we would just turn out!

We shall NEVER reach political maturity until our citizens exercise their right to vote. It is one thing to register, quite another to vote. The time to start is NOW...don't let rich Gringolandia dominate our political system any more!

# The War in Iraq: Three Years Later

By Abel Cruz

"The people of the United States and our friends and allies will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder. We will meet that threat now, with our Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines, so that we do not have to meet it later with armies of fire fighters and police and doctors on the streets of our cities."

President George W. Bush - in a speech to the American people announcing the initial invasion of Iraq on March 20, 2003

Three years ago, March 20, 2003, over 2300 American soldiers, mostly young men and women, were alive, filled with hopes and dreams, and looking forward to bright futures. Today, they are all dead.

Three years after the invasion of Iraq, they are the casualties of a failed Bush policy; a policy that was hatched out of a few politician's obsession with invading a country run by a dictator who this country once supported and who turned out to be a dud; rather than someone who posed an "imminent danger" as we were repeatedly told.

On May 1, 2003, just 43 days after the invasion of Iraq began; the President got into his flight suit, climbed aboard a Navy jet fighter, landed on an aircraft carrier and declared "Mission Accomplished". Up to that point, only 137 American lives had been lost. Since then, the number has climbed by 2,177 and counting.

Speaking to a national and world audience, Bush declared that the mission to overthrow Saddam Hussein represented "one victory in a war on terror that began on September 11th, 2001"; when in fact Saddam Hussein had had nothing to do with 9-11 and had no ties to bin Laden.

The brave young 2,314 Americans who have given their lives since March 20, 2003 are a stark reminder of the real price of a war; the loss of human life. Add in the over 30,000 to 100,000 Iraqi casualties (depending on whose numbers you trust), and the over 17,000 American wounded, the death of over 200 plus coalition forces; and ultimately the countless number of family, friends and relatives whose lives have been changed forever; and it doesn't take long to comprehend that the cost of the war is higher than the planners of this debacle ever allowed themselves to imagine. But then again, why would they have wanted to?

They were too busy convincing the American people that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction; that Hussein was ready to constitute nuclear weapons and that Iraq had played a role in the attacks against this country on 9-11. They used intimidating words like "grave danger" and invented patriotic slogans to make us believe that if we didn't "fight them over there"; we would have to engage the enemy on the streets of this country. They created publicity photo ops with favorable audiences who had been coached into asking just the right questions and applauding every old, tired, overused and rehearsed war line. They labeled anybody who dared to speak out against the war as "unpatriotic" and "liberal", and "Godless". They accused anybody who questioned their actions of not supporting the troops; which is the furthest thing from the truth.

And just for the record, to those who question my allegiance to the troops, I have a young 22 year old nephew; his name is Joshua, serving his second tour in Iraq. And I, along with the rest of his family, worry every single day; and yes, pray for his safe return.

The President himself assured us that God had played a role in his decision to invade Iraq. As reported in a story on the BBC in the United Kingdom:

"President George W Bush told Palestinian ministers that God had told him to invade Afghanistan and Iraq - and create a Palestinian State, new BBC series reveals:

"In Elusive Peace: Israel and the Arabs, a major three-part series on BBC TWO, Abu Mazen, Palestinian Prime Minister, and Nabil Shaath, his Foreign Minister, describe their first meeting with President Bush in June 2003.

Nabil Shaath says: "President Bush said to all of us: 'I'm driven with a mission from God. God would tell me, "George, go and fight those terrorists in Afghanistan." And I did, and then God would tell me, "George, go and end the tyranny in Iraq..." And I did. And now, again, I feel God's words coming to me. "Go get the Palestinians [their state and get the Israelis their security, and get peace in the Middle East." And by God I'm gonna do it."

People like Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Colin Powell, Karl Rove, and all the other architects of this administration's failed foreign policy thought this would be a walk in the park. They deluded themselves into believing that there was a connection between 9-11 and Iraq. They wanted to believe that they could use 9-11 as an excuse to finish what the elder Bush had started in 1990 and had failed to finish; and they succeeded. They allowed themselves to believe that it was more important to secure their own economic future, even at the expense of American lives, by having access to Iraq's oil and all the spoils of war; like the huge billion dollar contracts that mega corporations like Halliburton enjoy today.

They foolishly believed that the people of Iraq would greet our military as liberators, just because they were American, and embrace our soldiers as heroes. They were dead wrong.

After 9-11, Americans were rightfully angry and outraged for the attacks carried out by Osama bin Laden and his despicable followers on our country. The attackers and all those responsible for Americans dying in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania should have been hunted down and made to account for their actions.

Instead, what does Bush and Co. do? They fight a shortened and abbreviated war in Afghanistan that started the hunt for the attackers but that mission was never accomplished either. In a story in the April 17, 2002 edition of The Washington Post:

"The Bush administration has concluded that Osama bin Laden was present during the battle for Tora Bora late last year (in Afghanistan) and that failure to commit U.S. ground troops to hunt him was its gravest error in the war against al Qaeda, according to civilian and military officials with first-hand knowledge."

To this day, we are still in Afghanistan, albeit in smaller numbers; and 278 Americans have also taken their last breath there.

Instead of "staying the course" and capturing the real demon responsible for 9-11, the administration diverted valuable resources and military troops, which had been designated for the war in Afghanistan, to Iraq. All done under the pretext that Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and posed a "grave danger" to this country.

As it turns out, the grave danger has materialized; not in the form of weapons of mass destruction, but in an all out civil war in Iraq and an all out "Jihad" or holy war waged by terrorist groups who are willing to do everything in their power to kill the "American occupiers" and further destabilize the Middle East.

And I might add, we have given the so called "terrorists" plenty of ammunition; as if they needed more. I refer of course to prisoners being tortured at Abu Ghraib, the secret torture prisons in some Eastern European countries known as "black sites", and just this week, stories of American soldiers massacring innocent Iraqi children were reported in the national media.

As for us in this country, what do we have to show for the past 3 years? Higher gas prices; leaving us to wonder about all that Iraqi oil? What's more, a \$250 billion war debt to add to the trillions of dollars of debt accumulated under a Republican President who ran as a fiscal conservative. Our civil liberties have been diminished by legislation like the Patriot Act and anybody who dares to denounce the government's actions opens themselves up to illegal phone wiretaps.

And all the while, people in places like New Orleans have to fend for themselves during a natural disaster because the majority of the Louisiana National Guard had been deployed to Iraq.

And most disturbingly, we are left with mothers whose hearts ache for their sons and daughters, children who will never know their dads, and husbands, wives and life partners who have lost part of their heart to a senseless war.

And in return, all we get is "trust me" from the President, and secrecy upon more secrecy; and stay the course; and on and on and on.

When and how this will end is anybody's guess. Just this past week, the President acknowledged that it would probably be up to his successor to decide when to withdraw the troops from Iraq.

Which means I guess; that he's still waiting to hear from God.

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## EL EDITOR

is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. Our physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. El Editor is available on the web at <http://www.eleditor.com> and is distributed throughout West Texas in retail outlets. Opinions expressed in El Editor are those of the individual writer and not necessarily those of the publisher or the advertisers. Advertising information available by emailing us at [eleditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eleditor@sbcglobal.net) or by calling us at 806-763-3841 Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can be sent to the same email address. All opinions must contain the name, address and phone number of writer but name upon publication can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

**Publisher Bidal Agüero**  
**Business Manager/Advertising - Olga Riojas-Aguero**

# Tiempos Verdes y de Oro: Una Carta Para Recordar

by Armando (Sisyphus) Gonzales

*The following are some of my thoughts about years ago. Perhaps you have had the same memories. I think you have. I want to compare our memories with the memories that our youth could have in the years to come. I think that this is important because in our time people depended on our history in order to make important changes in our present. Somehow, I think that our present society does not offer lasting influencing memories. This would provide for a status quo for years to come. The following is somewhat fictitious in names and you and I, but it is based on truth; the way things occurred for me and the way I remember those days.*

Bidal, ¿Quién nos perdonará? Por favor, dime; tú que sabes más que yo, ¿Tendremos perdón? ¿O, podremos perdonarnos nosotros mismos, - - - por permitir que nuestros hijos no tengan recuerdos que se merezcan recordar?

Bidal, tú dime si acaso recordaras?

Recuerdas los surcos largos, polvorosos que aventuramos de niños? No los anduvimos solos. Toda la familia los andaba con nosotros. Andaba Papá, Mamá, el tío Franke y su novia de McAllen, Texas, mis hermanos Beto, Chuy, Lolo, y María. Tú y yo contábamos como uno. Nos pagaban a los dos juntos como un hombre, a sesenta y cinco centavos la hora. Tú de nueve años y yo de diez cortábamos yerba entre los labores de algodón. Cortábamos yerbas malignas verdes igual que Don Quixote de la Mancha mataba dragones y diablos - con golpes de espada - pero con el azadón.

¿Y recuerdas la hora de comer? Todos subíamos a la troca Chevy, quién sabe de qué color sería - entre gris y azul con manchas rojas oxidizadas, y buscábamos en aquellos contornos el árbol más frondoso con ramas largas y gruesas. Ahí nuestra madre sacaba la castaña de comida. Desde las cinco de la mañana ella había preparado carne picada con ejotes y tomate con cebollas. Estaba caliente dentro el sartén negro cubrido con tuallas

blancas. Esto lo servía a la gente grande con papas fritas y tortillas. Para nosotros tenía preparados burritos de frijoles fritos, papas fritas, weines, huevos con chorizo - siempre el menú dependía de lo que había sobraba en los días antes. La gente grande se sentaba en el sacatito verde y fresco debajo el árbol formal y amistoso. Mis hermanos se sentaban bajo la sombra de la polvera de la troca y se apartaban lejos de Papá para poder chupar los cigarros mentolados después de comer. Tú y yo escalábamos los brazos del árbol, como ardillas. Ahí comíamos a mordidas grandes, hambrientos los burritos calientes y cariñosos. La música de algún acordeón sonaba alegre y picaba a la sombra del frondoso árbol y las voces a veces serias y veces burlona/pícarade de la gente grande hacían melodías melancólicas en esa hora mágica. Te decía yo, "Esta es mi rama, busca la tuya." Yo ponía los pies en un hueco fresco de la rama y tú subías más alto - siempre. De ese lugar más alto me aventabas granadas de guerra - las verdes nunca del árbol. Se llegaba la hora.

This is an azadón. There are many like this azadón. But, this one is my azadón. Without it, I am nothing. Without me my azadón is nothing. Together we are a mighty weapon against the weed. Without me and my azadón no se corta la pinche yerba!

Las cuatro de la tarde se arrastraba como las vivoras verdes entre las hojas de las matas y la tierra dura para encontrarnos caminando siempre enseguida de la novia del tío Franke que nos relataba historias de horror y susto de sus tierras. Ella se cansaba y los demás iban una media milla adelante de nosotros. A veces el sol se acostaba en hancho sobre las espaldas - cuesta arriba o abajo. Otras veces el sol bailaba un tango en nuestras nuca y nos hacía sudar soquete. De lado a lado el horizonte era verde - verde oro. Siegos pisábamos un pie adelante del otro sin saberlo con la arena acolchonada adentro los tenis negros. Los himnos de las mujeres nos llegaban entre las

olas del calor. El sonsonete y las notas timbladas de la tía y de Mamá se mezclaban entre el ruido de los azadones.

"Un día a la vez - Dios mío - Un día a la vez -  
Es lo que pido Dios mío para vivir. Muestra el camino - qué debo seguir.  
Un día a la vez - dame la fuerza para vivir."

Después el tío Franke y Papá hacían la segunda y la melodía nos estrabía así a la cabeza - otra vez, y otra vez, y otra vez y se llegaban las cinco de la tarde. Entonces, Papá iba a troquita y sacaba su termo rojo de cuadros. Le daba una tasa al tío y los dos bebían ceremonialmente. Tú me preguntabas, ¿Qué cómo diablos podían beber café caliente entre tanto calor? "Golly, Golly" nos decíamos increíbles. Hasta muchos años después comprendí que no bebían café caliente - pero que bebían Southern Comfort - "para los calambres en las piernas," decía Papá sonriendo. Nunca podíamos sentarnos, porque el gringo en la troca nueva, roja siempre vigilaba - you know, - 65 an hour.

El viento sacudía lentamente las hojas del costoso algodón que media cuatro pulgadas de altura y con cuatro o cinco hojas ya hanchas. En las penumbras del día el labor se escandalizaba y temblaba ante la llegada del sereno de la noche - Mamá le pegaba a su azadón con su zapato y la harena volaba violentamente a su lugar. Yo me acomodaba bajo las piernas de Papá adentro de la troca y sentía los musculos de las piernas cuando hacía los cambios de la transmisión. Sus manos llenas de callos y rajadas por el tiempo apretaban el volante. Tú te sentabas con Mamá. Nos dormía el chillido del motor y el calor del piso de la troca. El ruido de las bandejas nos despertaba cuando la gente grande las regresaba a las barracas. Cerrábamos los ojos y las mismas bandejas con su ruido clamoso y metal presentaban el día nuevo. Regresábamos al labor. Hayabamos nuestras víctimas del día antes - las yerbas lácias y muertas - blancas y muertas. El corte nuevo lucía otras

yerbas - yerbas talludas, duras, amarillas, rojas, espinozas y muchas. Los brazos se apretaban al pensar en tanto chingaso que íbamos a derramar sobre tanto enemigo - era nuestra vida.

El sol se asomaba sobre lo verde silencio de las matas de algodón que alcanzaba ya nuestras rodillas. Las hojas tan grandes como las manos del tío Franke estaban pesadas con la humedad de la noche y nos mojaban los Levis que nos habían comprado la semana antes en el Penny. Respirábamos las primeras fragancias del día y pensábamos en los dragones y diablos que de seguro encontrarían su último día si acaso se enfretaran a nosotros. El sol salía con todo su esplendor y con su calor amarrillo -oro nos prometía que nos iba dar una lucha honrada a nivel de hombres decentes - para ver quién iba a aguantar más él o nosotros los humanos. "Muchachos, oigan muchachos delen batante filo a los azadones porque hay mucha yerba espesa y testaruda." Empezaban de nuevo, "Un día a la vez..."

Bidal, ¿Qué recuerdos tienen nuestros jóvenes, nuestros hijos, y niños que puedan influirlos y motivarlos para hacer cambios cuando sea necesario? ¿Ellos recordarán a George W. Bush y a su novia Rush Limbaugh? ¿Recordarán al MTV? ¿Recordarán los X-boxes, y game boys y los otros miles de aparatos electrónicos que invaden el buen sentido de ellos? Recordaran a P-Diddy, y el hot dog - Snoop Dogg, o recordarán a D.J. Cane, y recordarán el trabajo duro de correr la aspiradora? ¿O de poner las platos en la lavadora de platos? ¿Recordarán las hora que pasamos en los parques esperando que terminen el juego interminable de soccer, football, baseball y otros? Bidal, por favor dime qué valores, qué trabajos, qué arte, qué sufrimientos recordarán que les impulse importarlos de lo gacho que todavía es la vida con nosotros? Bueno te espero. Yo le voy a dar filo...

Armando (Sisyphus) Gonzales  
Léa El Editor en el Internet. [www.eleditor.com](http://www.eleditor.com)



Pontificating with the enemy:

# Arum, Ing Share the Stage

By Bernard Fernandez

The news release blared "Sworn Enemies!" and advised media members that mega-promoters Bob Arum and Don King, who have spent the better part of four decades engaged in boxing's equivalent of the Cold War, would hold a "once-in-a-lifetime" joint forum Saturday afternoon at Bally's Atlantic City.

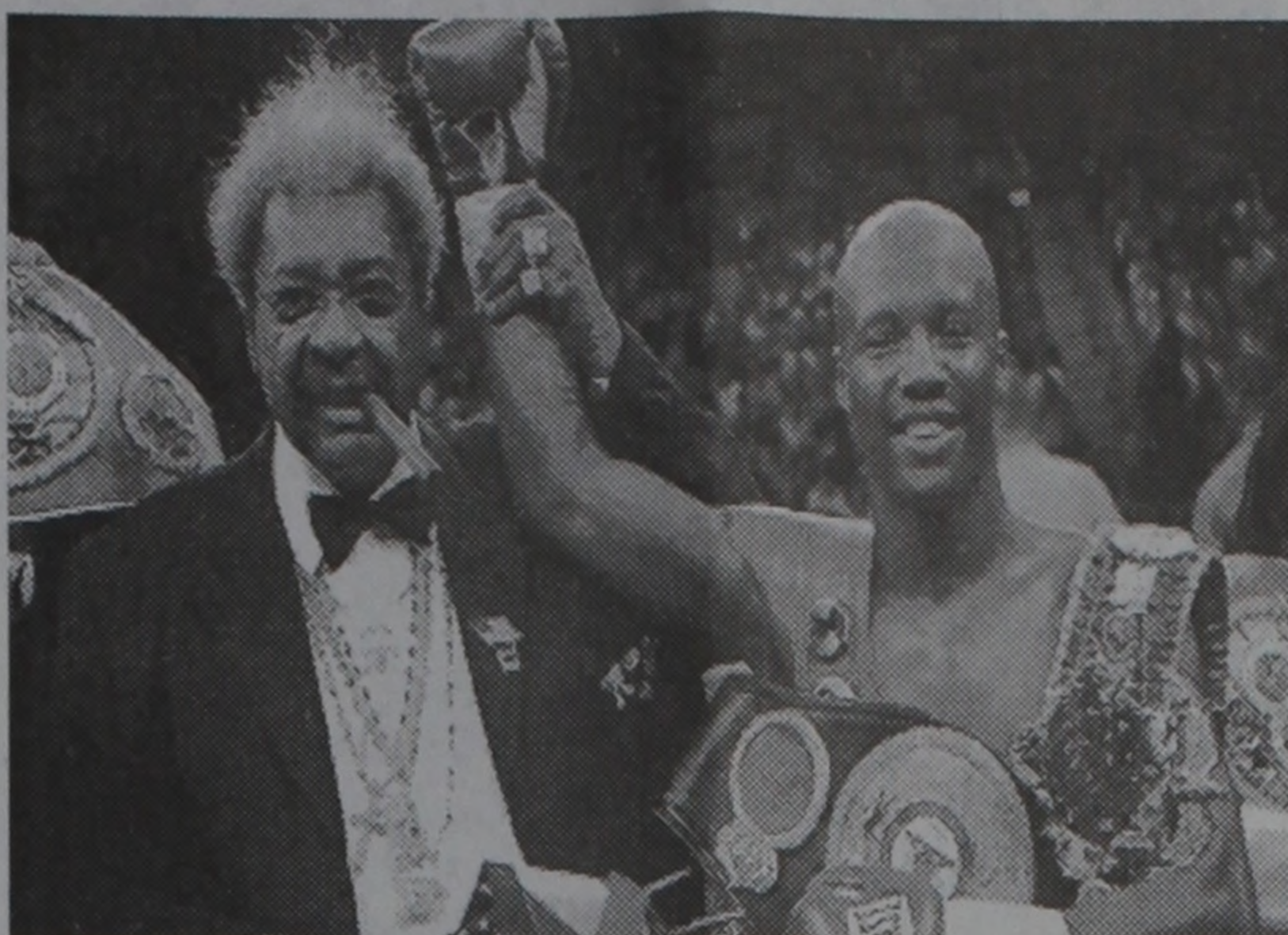
Given the contentious history of the 74-year-old archrivals, many reporters, in town to cover the heavyweight fight that night between WBC champion Hasim Rahman and James Toney, showed up to see if there actually was a chance to witness the advancement of peace in our time. Personally, my mind was reeling with grainy, black-and-white images of Roosevelt and Stalin at Yalta, of Khrushchev banging his shoe against his desk at the United Nations and shouting "We will bury you!" at glaring U.S. ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.

Perhaps the nice folks at Bally's would even set up a stage designed to resemble the deck of a battleship, at which time King and Arum, dressed in military uniforms and with cornob pipes clenched in their teeth like Gen. MacArthur, would sign a peace treaty formally ending boxing's most enduring conflict.

Summit meetings used to be so epic, so consequential. Topics included the end of nuclear proliferation involving the superpowers, the disparate interpretation of human rights issues, the partition of Germany following World War II. Millions of lives, or at least the quality of those lives, hung in the balance.

What we got was Arum and King, now tenuously allied against new enemies, hawking an April 8 pay-per-view fight -- Arum's Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. King's Zab Judah -- which seemingly had been devalued beyond salvage by recent events. It was like being issued press credentials for the Paris peace conference and finding two used-car salesmen seated at the big table.

But, hey, that doesn't mean the show wasn't entertaining in its own right. HBO blow-by-blow announcer Jim Lampley -- symbolically playing the role of Jimmy Carter at a Rose Garden meeting of Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian president Anwar Sadat -- moderated. Reporters got to ask questions which were answered mostly with half-truths and wild distortions, after which there were the obligatory photo ops. Arum (black) and King (burgundy) even wore complementary turtle-necks for the occasion, although His Hairness' ensemble was accentuated with considerably more bling-bling.



The last time these two had come together for the presumed betterment of boxing, it was to co-promote the 1999 welterweight unification showdown of WBC champion Oscar De La Hoya, then promoted by Arum, and IBF titlist Felix Trinidad, the lead pony in King's promotional stable. Trinidad won a disputed majority decision and King, during a self-indulgent monologue at the post-fight news conference, had the power to his microphone turned off by an employee of Arum's Top Rank Inc.

Joke all you want about Arum and King, not their Oscars and Felixes, being the real Odd Couple. These guys are big enough, or at least smart enough, to allow by-gones to be by-gones -- if there's a profit to be made by joining forces.

"If you were making a chart from zero to a hundred, Bob Arum -- Harvard graduate, Kennedy raider, Jewish ethnic, got the complexion for the connection -- would be most likely to succeed," King said, again outlining the obvious differences between himself and the man he once called a "master

of trickeration."

"Don King -- African-American, ex-convict, served time in jail -- on (a scale of) zero to 100, it would be 100 to zero for Bob Arum. But in reality, it hasn't been that way because I've been extraordinary at what I do. Us playing off each other has been a blessing more than anything. At the end of the day, only the two of us are left standing. Collectively, the rest can't tie our shoestrings."

"The rest" -- Arum's and King's Nixonian enemies list -- includes fighters-turned-promoters such as De La Hoya and Bernard Hopkins and, in a biting of the hands that so often have fed them, HBO executives. As the rants-in-stereo continued, HBO publicist Ray Stallone angrily stalked off, incredulous that his company had, in essence, offered itself up as the pig-on-a-spit for an impromptu Friar's Club Roast.

Asked to comment on HBO's role in boxing, Arum said, "The answer is, they're paying me \$4 million for the fight (Rahman-Toney) tonight. I'm not that much of an ingrate to dis' them after they're paying me. I'll be happy to speak to you on Sunday morning, though."

That tongue-in-cheek pronouncement was greeted with the sort of heehaws I imagine were heard from the first audience that caught Abbott & Costello's "Who's on First?" routine.

As it turns out, Arum's tirade against De La Hoya, who now heads his own company, Golden Boy Promotions, and De La Hoya's presumed enablers at HBO, had only just begun.

"Recently, unfortunately, what's happening in boxing, fighters -- encouraged by various entities involved in the sport -- felt that they could be fighters as well as their own promoters," Arum said. "Well, they can't be, just as I can't go in the ring and jab and throw

left hooks and right crosses. Neither can a Swiss banker (that would be Golden Boy executive Richard Schaeffer) who has no background in boxing and no background in meeting the public, call himself a promoter. But as long as networks encourage that type of action, we're going to have a rough patch in boxing."

Arum further noted that a bout featuring one of his most marketable commodities, Puerto Rico's Miguel Cotto, that he had long ago reserved for the night of June 10 in Madison Square Garden -- the eve of the Puerto Rican Day parade in New York -- was now going against a pay-per-view card on the same date (Bernard Hopkins-Antonio Tarver, in Atlantic City).

"Some network decided, that of all the dates in the year, that they would do a fight on that date," Arum said. "And not only on that date, but to try to get the building that we had reserved."

"That's what you call cannibalization," chimed in King.

The accommodating Lampley, noting the location of some of the "boss scribes," as King likes to call the national media, said, "If anybody needs a glossary connecting the veiled references to the identity of the people to whom they were referring, Swiss bankers, fighters who became promoters, et cetera, see anybody in Row 2 or Row 4. They'll connect the dots for you."

So what did it all mean, this silly summit that didn't include the vow to dismantle even a single warhead? Just this: Arum and King are traditional promoters trying to protect their turf against what they perceive to be the infringement of revolutionaries within the industry, and if that means shaking hands, bear-hugging one another and faking smiles for the cameras,

continued on page 4

## "Selena" Producer Focuses a Lens on Latino Health, Partners with National Hispanic Medical Association to Tackle Obesity, Diabetes

An upcoming production by Oscar-nominated moviemaker Moctesuma Esparza, who brought such acclaimed films as "Selena" and "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge" to the screen, might save millions of lives. Esparza is joining with the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) to combat obesity, diabetes and other health disparities.

Washington, D.C. (PRWEB) March 22, 2006 -- An upcoming production by Oscar-nominated moviemaker Moctesuma Esparza, who brought such acclaimed films as "Selena" and "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge" to the screen, might save millions of lives. Esparza is joining with the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) to combat obesity, diabetes and other health disparities.



Esparza, whose honors include an Emmy Award, is also forming Maya Cinemas, a new chain of theaters in primarily English-speaking Latino markets, including Salinas, CA, where the first of eight planned multiplexes opened last year. Maya Cinemas will team with NHMA to distribute health education materials to Latino moviegoers via public service announcements and movie trailers.

In addition to the private screening of "Walkout," on Thursday at 6 p.m., the conference will feature John Quiñones, a co-anchor of ABC's "Primetime" and correspondent for "20/20." Quiñones' recent work includes a "Primetime" report in which he went undercover to reveal how clinics were performing unnecessary surgical procedures as part of a nationwide insurance scam. Quiñones won six Emmy Awards for his "PrimeTime Live," "Burning Questions" and "20/20" work. He was awarded an Emmy for his coverage of the Congo's virgin rainforest, which also won the Ark Trust Wildlife Award.

Lifetime Television Network will receive the NHMA Leadership Award for Media for its work in highlighting the plight of women's health issues.

In its efforts to combat health disparities, NHMA will announce an initiative with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health (OMH) to develop leadership training, education and outreach programs to improve Hispanic health.

"Everybody talks about health disparities, an issue we are addressing by developing a targeted framework to turnaround stagger-

ing obesity and diabetes rates among Hispanics," Rios said.

Speakers at NHMA's conference include Dr. Garth N. Graham, deputy assistant secretary for minority health at HHS; Mark McClellan, administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Baltimore; and Dr. Ciro Sumaya, former deputy assistant secretary of the HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and currently dean of the Texas A&M University's School of Rural Public Health. "Increasing workforce diversity is a matter of improving quality and culturally competent care that can ultimately reduce health disparities in our nation," Graham said.

Hispanics are 1.5 times more likely to get diabetes as non-Hispanic whites and have a 40 percent higher death rate related to the disease. Their girth is also growing. Hispanics ages 20-74 are more overweight than non-Hispanic whites - 11 percent higher in males; 26 percent higher in females - and are more obese - 7 percent higher in males; 32 percent higher in females.

Rios said the initiative's goals include recruiting Latinos for

senior-level positions at HHS and developing a national leadership training program for Hispanic doctors and public health professionals in conjunction with NHMA's National Hispanic Health Foundation. The foundation is affiliated with New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

The two-year initiative also calls for a national education campaign on diabetes and obesity in conjunction with NHMA's medical societies in New York, Texas and California. "We want to work with our doctors, schools and elected officials in these states so they can be responsive to cultural competency and language and other issues that affect Hispanic health," Rios said.

NHMA is developing a national advisory panel with English and Spanish TV, radio and magazines to combat obesity and diabetes.

"We want to thank and support the many doctors who are helping to turn the tide against obesity and diabetes," Rios said.

At the conference, NHMA also will announce a new partnership with Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, the largest private, comprehensive historically black institution for educating health professionals and scientists in the U.S. "We are excited to be partnering with Meharry Medical College, and President John Maupin, as we work together to eliminate health care disparities in our communities," Rios said. Maupin will speak at the conference Friday, March 24.

Established in 1994 in Washington, DC, NHMA is a nonprofit association that represents licensed Hispanic physicians in the U.S. in its mission to improve health care for Hispanics and the underserved. For more information, visit [www.nhmam.org](http://www.nhmam.org).

### TTU LATINO/HISPANIC FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

A CULTURAL AWARENESS SEMINAR IN CONJUNCTION WITH HISPANIC CULTURAL AWARENESS WEEK

April 4th, 2006  
College of Human Sciences Room 169  
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Key Note Speaker  
Louis Mendoza, Ph.D.  
Author of Historia: The Literary Making of Chicana and Chicano History, Chair of the Department of Chicano Studies University of Minnesota



BREAKOUT SESSIONS  
Room 212  
5:10 - 6:00 p.m.  
Emilio Abeyta, J.D.  
What is Affirmative Action, Really?  
6:10 - 7:00 p.m.  
Daniel U. Sanchez, Oral Historian  
Incorporating Cultural Awareness  
Into Collection Practices

Room 216  
5:10 - 6:00 p.m.  
A Panel of Different Cultures  
Moderator: Dr. Maria Bermudez  
6:10 - 7:00 p.m.  
Black Faculty/Staff Association  
African Americans and Hispanics  
Working Together

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[sesamestreetlive.com](http://sesamestreetlive.com)

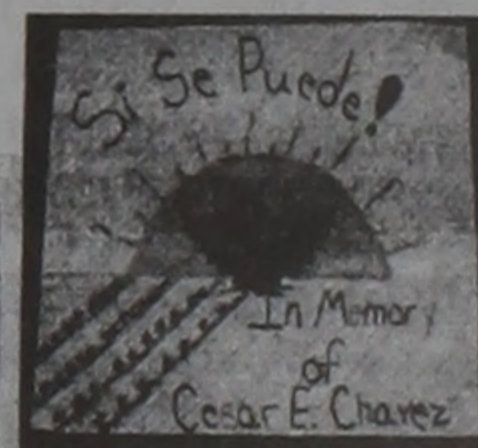
## Cesar E. Chavez 2006 Art Contest

Sponsored by Community of Hispanic American Professionals

"Heroes throughout History ..."

Enter your drawing that reflects Cesar E. Chavez a true American hero, Cesar was a civil rights, Latino, farm worker, and labor leader, a religious and spiritual figure, a community servant and social entrepreneur, a crusader for nonviolent social change, and an environmentalist and consumer advocate

2005 1st Place Winner



Requirements:  
Student Age 9-18yrs  
Art work size must be 8 x 10 or larger  
No computer art submissions  
Deadline: March 20, 2006

Winners will be announced on April 1, 2006 during the Cesar E. Chavez March & Celebration. Cesar E. Chavez Celebration Committee P O Box 6473 Lubbock, Texas 79493

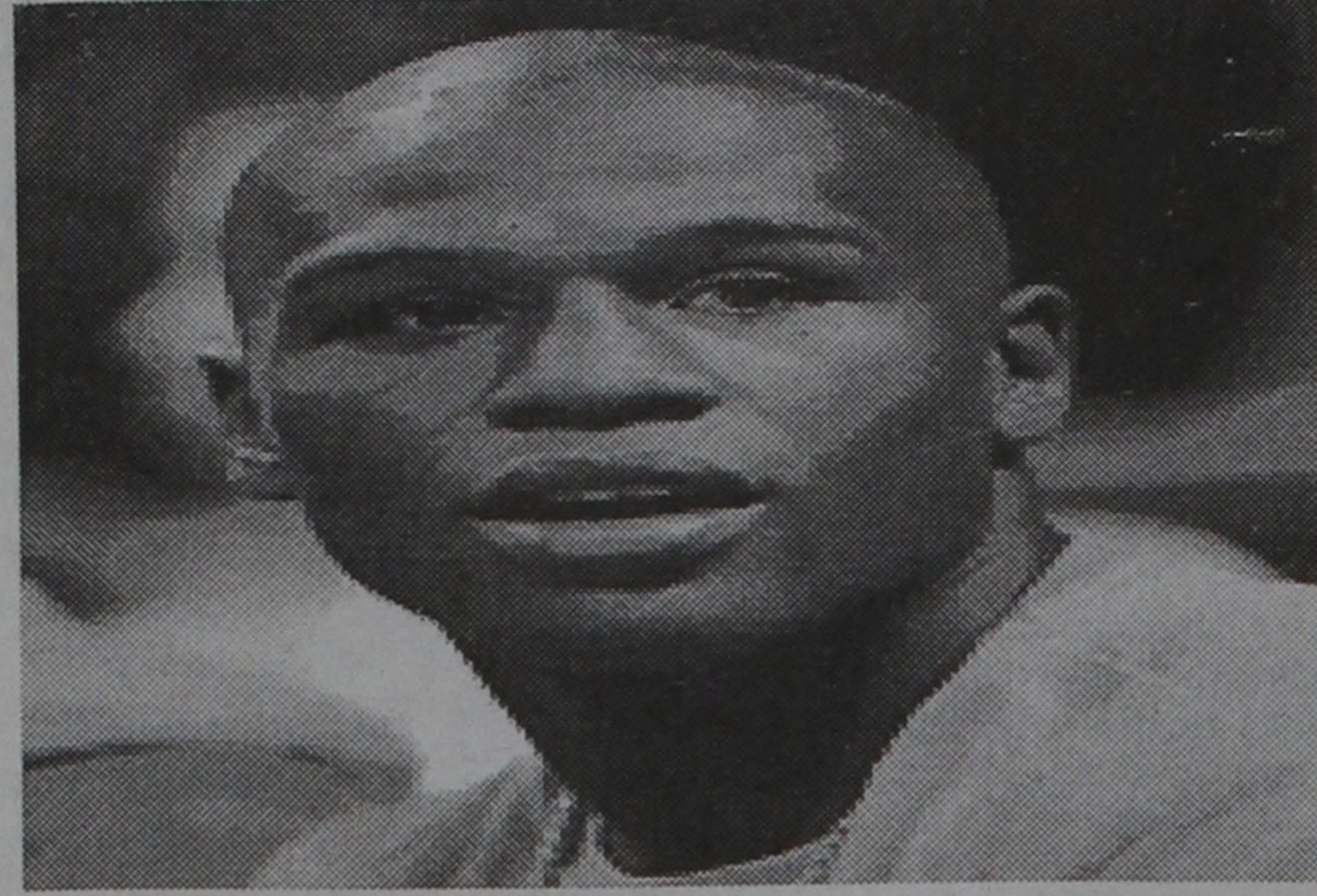


Your Chance to Win Cash & Prizes!

All entries must be postmarked by 3/20/06



# Tech Tames Longhorns



Floyd Mayweather, Jr. will put his undefeated record on the line against Zab Judah

from page three they'll do it.

They also have no problem trying to sell ice to Eskimos, sand to Bedouins or Mayweather-Judah — at a suggested retail price of \$44.95 — to consumers who foolishly might be deterred from increasing their April cable bill because Judah lost a unanimous decision to Argentine long shot Carlos Baldomir on Jan. 7.

All these people need, obviously, is a bit of enlightenment from Bob 'n' Don. Judah's shocking defeat, the dynamic duo claimed while maintaining reasonably straight faces, has placed his back against the wall and sent a subliminal message to the masses that he has to fight harder now, or else. Zab is now more of a threat to Pretty Boy Floyd because he took an embarrassing pratfall against some wild bull from the Pampas.

Right. "It's the hottest ticket in Las Vegas," Arum said of the pairing of Mayweather (35-0, 24 KOs) and Judah (34-3, 25 KOs) at the Thomas & Mack Center. "(HBO Sports vice president) Kery Davis said to me the other night that this fight has caused more of a buzz in the African-American community than any fight with which he's ever been associated."

"I really believe, as we sit here now, that this fight will do better than De La Hoya-Trinidad."

King seconded that seemingly ludicrous notion with his familiar hyperbole. "I agree with Bob. It's going to do better than Trinidad-De La Hoya. This fight is going to be a super, extraordinary promotion. You should join in because it's addictive. Don't be standing on the shore when the ship is out to sea, yelling, 'Bon voyage!' We

want you to be on board." The hook for this fight, as envisioned by Arum and King anyway, is the merging of boxing and hip-hop culture. Mayweather is managed by James Prince, CEO of Houston-based Rap-a-Lot Records, whose client list includes Juvenile and Scarface. Judah hangs with Def Jam president Jay-Z.

(Full disclosure: Philadelphia Daily News features writer Damon C. Williams provided info on the rappers, as my musical preference tending to run more to Ray Charles, Marvin Gaye, the Beatles and Rolling Stones.)

"Every rap artist is going to be there," King said. "They are the bards of the ghetto."

Too bad Biggie Smalls and Tupac Shakur have passed on to the great beyond and can't continue their hot-lead dispute as part of the undercard.

Hey ... you don't suppose something could be done with computer graphics? You have to figure that if they had just thought of it, Arum and King would have been up there pitching the idea harder than a Randy Johnson fastball.

Giving the people what they want, even if they don't know yet that they want it, is what promoters do. And nobody does that better than these septuagenarians with their undeniably shiny track records.

"We're getting on in years," Arum admitted, "but I think we're still very vigorous."

Bernard Fernandez is the boxing writer for the Philadelphia Daily News and [1strounds.com](http://www.1strounds.com). He was also served four one-year terms (2002-2005) as president of the Boxing Writers Association of America. For more boxing coverage, go to [1strounds.com](http://www.1strounds.com). The Undisputed Leader In Boxing News.

LUBBOCK - Red Raiders' red-shirt freshman starter Miles Morgan fanned a career-high 15 and tossed his first career complete game to lift Texas Tech to a 2-1 victory over No. 16 Texas in front of a season-high crowd of 4,244 fans at Dan Law Field on Saturday, March 18.

With the game tied at 1-1 in the bottom of the seventh, Tech freshman first baseman James Leverton delivered the game-winning hit when he laced an RBI single in to center field that allowed Matt Smith to score from second.

Smith led off the inning with a hard hit single up the middle and moved into scoring position on a groundout by left fielder Roger Kieschnick.

UT placed a runner on base in each of the first three innings, but Morgan kept the Horns off the board by registering seven strikeouts in that span. Texas starter Kyle McCulloch set down the Red Raiders in order through his first three innings of work to keep the game scoreless.

Redshirt freshman right-hander Miles Morgan has been named the Collegiate Baseball Magazine Louisville Slugger National Pitcher of the Week for his outstanding performance this past weekend against the Texas Longhorns.

Morgan, a Lubbock native and Coronado High School standout,



turned in one of the best pitching performances by a Red Raider in school history in Saturday's 2-1 win over Texas. The redshirt freshman dominated the then 16th-ranked Longhorns by turning in his first career complete game that included 15 strikeouts and no walks. Morgan became the first Tech pitcher to throw a complete game this season and in the process he set a new Tech record for the most strikeouts in a Big 12 game.

Over nine innings of work, Morgan allowed just one run and scattered four hits en route to his fourth win of the season. His 15 strikeouts pushed his season total to 60 and that currently leads all Big 12 pitchers so far this season. The 15 strikeouts were the most by a Tech pitcher since Monty

Ward struckout 18 against Lindenwood in 1998 and the most thrown against at Texas team since Baylor struckout 16 Longhorn hitters on April 9, 1999.

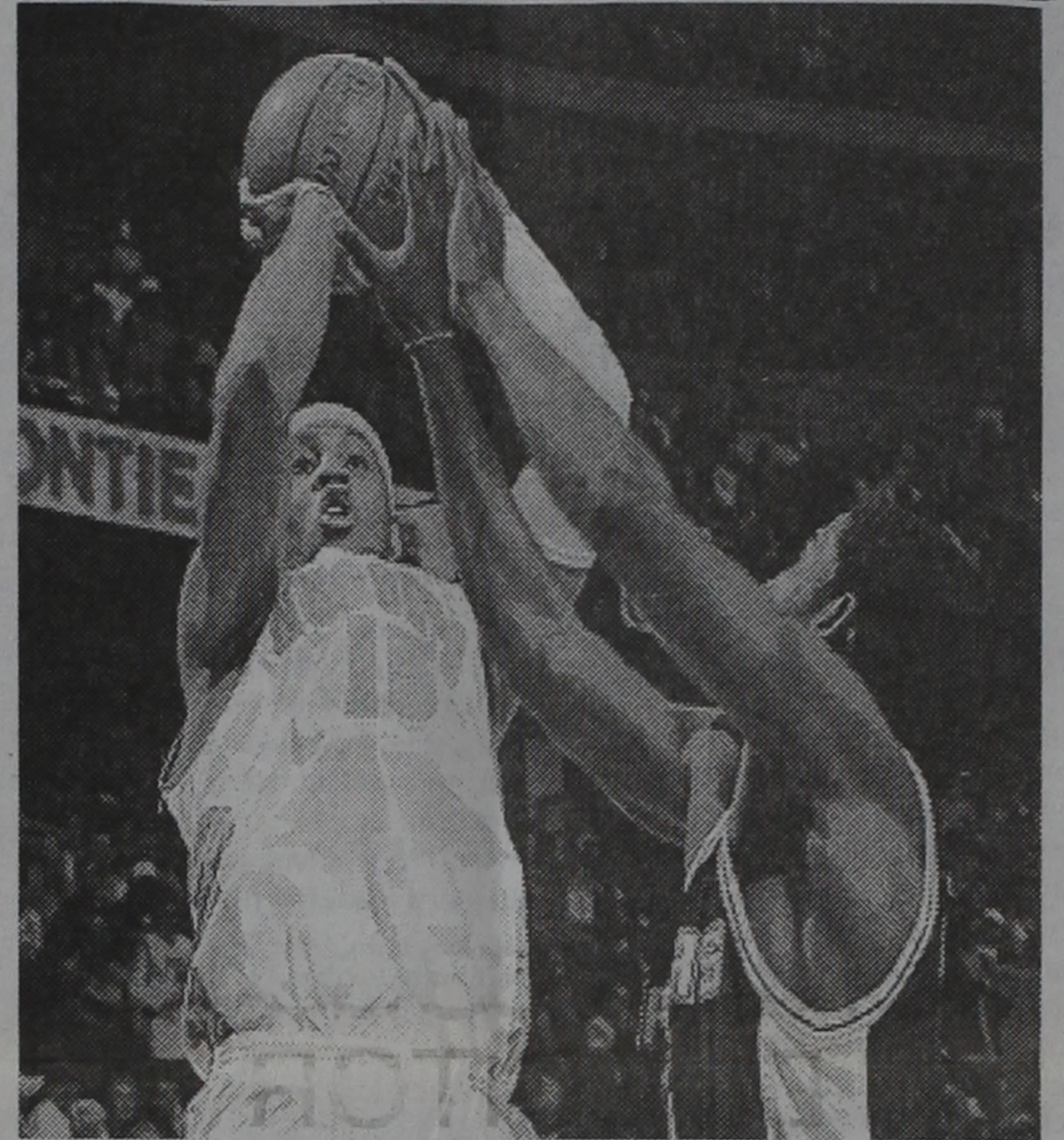
\*Morgan earned Big 12 Pitcher of the Week Honors on Tuesday, March 21st.

## RED RAIDERS HIT THE ROAD FOR WEEKEND SERIES AGAINST TEXAS A&M

The Texas Tech Red Raiders will take an 18-7 overall record and a .500 mark (1-1) in Big 12 play to College Station this weekend where they will face the Texas A&M Aggies in a three-game series. The series gets underway at 7 p.m. on Friday evening and continues at 7 p.m. on Saturday before wrapping up at 1 p.m. on Sunday. All three games of the series can be heard live on the Texas Tech Sports Network and Saturday's game will be televised by Cox Sports TV (Cox Cable Channel 9 in Lubbock).

The Texas A&M Aggies will be looking to get back on track in Big 12 play this weekend after suffering a rare home series sweep at the hands of the Missouri Tigers. The Aggies are 0-3 in Big 12 play for the first time in school history and have lost eight of their last 11 games. The Aggies are 15-9 overall and are led by Rob Childress who is in his first season as the head coach.

# Melo Explodes for 32, helps Nuggets snap Spurs' five-game winning streak



DENVER -- The shots were falling at their end, nothing seemed to be going in on the other, and the lead kept building.

It seemed almost too easy for the Denver Nuggets.

Apparently, it was.

Denver built a big lead in the first half, blew it all in the third quarter, then pulled away down the stretch to end the San Antonio Spurs' five-game winning streak

with a 104-92 victory Wednesday night.

Carmelo Anthony scored 12 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter and the Nuggets had a staggering 31-rebound advantage against one of the league's best rebounding teams to win for the eighth time in 10 games. Ruben Patterson added 17 points and Marcus Camby had 21 rebounds -- six less than San Antonio -- for Denver, which moved six games ahead of Utah in the Northwest Division.

After a somewhat lethargic first half, San Antonio started playing defense a little tighter, going to the basket a little harder. The Spurs followed Martin's takedown with an 13-2 run to cut Denver's lead to 63-60, then tied it a 67 when Nazr Mohammed hit two free throws after taking a hard foul to

the face from Camby.

Two more technicals were called in the final minute of the third -- one on Denver's Reggie Evans for arguing a call and another by San Antonio's Robert Horry for knocking Evans down, though replays showed Horry didn't do anything wrong.

By the time the quarter was finally over, Denver was up 72-71 and so was the intensity, setting up a tight final 12 minutes.

"We made a big effort to come back and it was kind of late," Ginobili said.

**Smile!  
Have A  
Nice Day!**

## Hispanics in National Leadership Keynote Speakers at NAHP Convention

Washington, DC--(HISPANIC PR WIRE)--March 20, 2006--Three important Hispanic leaders are scheduled to speak at the 21st Annual Convention & Exposition of the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP), scheduled for March 29 to April 2nd in Las Vegas. Gary Meo, Gilbert Davila, Frank Gomez, and Javier Ismodes, will give significant keynote addresses at the NAHP Convention.

Gary Meo, Scarborough's Senior Vice President, Print and Internet Sales, is responsible for the sales and service of Scarborough's products to over 130 major metropolitan daily newspapers, alternative newsweeklies, magazines and Internet companies nationwide.

Gary started his publishing industry career in 1980 with the Time Inc. Magazine Group in New York where he spent four years in newsstand marketing and sales, and a year as Assistant to the Business Manager of People Weekly. He moved to Los Angeles in 1985 and spent a year as Assistant Circulation Director for LA WEEKLY.

In 1986, Gary joined the Los Angeles Times where he held a number of positions in the Marketing Research department, culminating in Publications and Systems Manager. Gary moved to Austin, Texas in 1994 and worked for a year as Circulation Director for Hispanic Magazine. He joined Scarborough Research in 1995 as Vice President, Print Sales for the Western U.S. He was promoted to Senior Vice President, Print Sales in 2000 and to Senior Vice Presi-

dent, Print and Internet Sales in 2001.

Mr. Meo is an Associate Member of the Research Federation of the Newspaper Association of America, a member of the American Marketing Association and a member of the California Newspaper Advertising Executives Association.

Gilbert Davila is the Vice President of Multicultural Marketing for the Walt Disney Company. In this role, Davila is charged with working with all corporate divisions (Theme Parks and Resorts, Studio Entertainment, Media Networks and Consumer Products), to help build, enhance and strengthen Disney's connections with the various multicultural segments.

Prior to that, Gilbert was the VP of Multicultural Management at Sears Roebuck and Co. where he spent 7 years building what became one of the leading multicultural marketing programs in the country. While at Sears, Davila was also the publisher of the Nuestra Gente Magazine, the largest ABC audited Spanish magazine in the country with a circulation of 865,000.

Prior to joining Sears, he had various sales and marketing roles with Coca Cola USA and Procter & Gamble.

Frank Gomez is the Executive Director, Corporate Communications Educational Testing Service. He joined Educational Testing Service (ETS), the world's largest testing and assessment organiza-

continued on page 5

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**SOFTBALL CALENDAR**

Mar 31-Apr 2 **4th Annual South Plains Men's C NIT** (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225

**4th Annual South Plains Men's E NIT** (World Series Qualifier) \$225 (Other Divisions Offered - Women's) \$175

Apr 7-9 **8th Annual Hub City Men's B/C & D NIT** (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225 (Other Divisions Offered - Women's) \$175

May 5-7 **4th Annual Cinco de Mayo Men's D NIT** (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225

**4th Annual Women's Cinco de Mayo** (Qualifier) USSSA \$175 May 19-21\*

**8th Annual Cotton Pickin' Fast Pitch NIT** (All age groups) USSSA \$300 (6 game guarantee -World Series Qualifier)

June 2-4\* **18th Annual Hub City Youth NIT** (Girls & Boys - all ages) USSSA \$175/\$250 (Slow Pitch & Fast Pitch -World Qualifier)

June 9-11 **4th Annual South Plains Men's D NIT** (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225

**4th Annual South Plains Women's NIT** (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225

June 16-18 **13th Annual Hub City Men's C NIT** (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225

**13th Annual Hub City Men's E NIT** (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225

**3rd Annual Hub City Mixed NIT** (World Series Qualifier) USSSA \$225 (Other Divisions Offered - Women's) \$175

July 14-16 **Youth Slow Pitch State** USSSA \$200

July 25-26 - **Texas SuperCup/Menudazo Softball Tournament**

Aug 4-6 **USSSA West Texas Men's C and E State** USSSA \$250

Aug 11-13 **USSSA West Texas Men's D and Women's State** USSSA \$250

Aug 25-27 **2nd Annual Cotton Pickin' Midwest National** (Men's & Women's) USSSA \$300

Sept 15-17\* **HispanicWorld - Competitive and Recreation Divisions** USSSA \$300 (Men's and Women's)

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# Chavez Brought a Different Vision to the Union Movement

Elisa A. Martínez

Tenía el cuerpo muy cansado, entonces se echó a dormir esa tarde de abril, 1993, y murió.

César Chávez nació el 31 de marzo, 1927, en Yuma, Arizona. Tuvo una infancia buena y feliz. Creció y jugó con sus hermanos, su hermana y sus primos en la granja de su abuelo. Durante muchos años la familia compartió cuentos, canciones y buena comida.

En 1937 ya no había con qué pagar los impuestos ni otras cuentas. La familia de César perdió su casa y se unió a miles de mexicanos que iban a California a trabajar las tierras.

Así aprendió César cómo vivían los campesinos. No tenían tregua del sol inmisericorde, ni de los sacudidos ni de los pesticidas. No había misericordia ni de los dolores del cuerpo ni de las uñas ensangrentadas. No tenían misericordia los propietarios, quienes les negaban agua de beber, servicios higiénicos y compasión.

Allí se volvió otra máquina de tez morena, sin voz para censurar el ultraje del trato inhumano.

César, sus hermanos y hermana asistieron a una sucesión de 37 escuelas. Dejó de estudiar formalmente en el octavo grado. Siempre recordó los castigos que recibieron por hablar en español. Se alistó a la Fuerza Naval y sirvió en el Pacífico durante dos años después de la segunda guerra mundial. Volvió y se casó con Helen Fabela.

De vuelta en los campos de Delano, California, comenzó su labor de organizador y con el tiempo estableció la Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores Agrícolas. Pregonando el cambio social sin violencia, reunió a un grupo de seguidores. Juntos realizaron boicots, marcharon con pancartas, hicieron huelgas y se desfilaban agitando la bandera roja y negra con el águila azteca, la que hoy pertenece a los Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos de América, junto con la imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Aparecieron en nuestro vocabulario nuevas palabras en aquellos días. Huelga, La Causa, No Más, Juntos, Sí se puede. En 1966, tras una lucha extendida con los cultivos de uva, dirigió una marcha de miles de trabajadores y allegados desde Delano hasta el Capitolio del estado en Sacramento para pedir ayuda.

El día de Pascua de Resurrección los que marchaban llegaron a Sacramento con unas 10,000 personas. Para entonces los funcionarios de una empresa de uvas estaban dis-

puestos a reconocer la autoridad de la Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores Agrícolas. César Chávez firmó el primer contrato para trabajadores agrícolas en la historia de los Estados Unidos, el cual prometió un aumento de salario, seguro de salud, y mejores condiciones de trabajo. El mismo César Chávez nunca ganó más de \$6,000 al año.

Era un hombre de compasión y conocimiento, autodidacta. Su oficina en la sede de la Asociación tenía estantes llenos de libros sobre filosofía, economía, cooperativas y biografías de Gandhi y los Kennedy. Algunos de los individuos más importantes de esa época se reunieron con él, y de él derivaron inspiración.

Continuó su lucha por los campesinos y ayunó muchas veces durante períodos largos. El 21 de agosto, 1988, finalizó su Ayuno por la Vida, de 36 días. Lo continuaron Jesse Jackson, Martin Sheen, Edward Olmos, Emilio Estévez, Danny Glover y muchas más personas famosas.

César tuvo que luchar en muchas batallas, pero murió antes de poder ganar la guerra. Lo que sí pudo hacer es efectuar muchos cambios necesarios.

Después de ayunar aquella vez, no logró recuperar las fuerzas. El 23 de abril, 1993, en San Luis, Arizona, a poca distancia de la pequeña granja del valle del río Gila, donde nació, César Estrada Chávez se acostó después de cenar con sus amigos, y no volvió a despertar. Tenía el cuerpo muy cansado. Vivió 66 años.

Más de 50,000 dolientes asistieron a su funeral. Se le elogió como un "profeta especial para los campesinos del mundo".

El 8 de agosto de 1994, el presidente William Clinton le rindió homenaje con la Medalla de la Libertad. El 31 de marzo es ahora un día de fiesta en muchas ciudades y estados, en casi todos el primero en honrar a un mexicano americano y a un dirigente sindical.

En la biblioteca en casa tengo una fotografía de César Chávez con mi hermano, Héctor que se tomó dos días antes que este hombre pequeño y sin pretensiones, quien movió al mundo en 66 cortos años, muriera. ¡Sí se puede!

(Elisa A. Martínez, docente jubilada, contribuye artículos ocasionalmente a Hispanic Link News Service. Comuníquese con ella por correo electrónico a: emar37@flash.net).

(c) 2006 Hispanic Link News Service

By Arturo S. Rodríguez  
When César Chávez began building the United Farm Workers on his 34th birthday, March 31, 1962, he had a different vision of what a union movement could be.

He carefully studied why all earlier attempts to organize farmworkers failed. Chávez was convinced things had to be done differently. He recognized workers are not just workers. He was convinced it would take more than a union to overcome the crippling burdens farmworkers faced; it would take a movement.

So his union began providing badly needed community services such as a death benefit, credit union and cooperative gas station.

Taking from Gandhi and Dr. King, Chávez turned to fasts and boycotts that were supported by millions, novel non-violent strategies for labor.

In the 1960s, farmworkers were mostly Latinos, primarily U.S. citizens and legal residents, along with some Filipino Americans, African Americans, as well as some white workers.

Today, most farmworkers are Latino, immigrant and undocumented. Poor, low-wage Latinos

are now everywhere in this country - Midwest meatpacking plants, making beds and cutting lawns in Las Vegas, and poultry processing plants across the South.

It's been 44 years, but today's farmworker movement is still anchored in the same passion to help people - at the workplace and in the community. The United Farm Worker's mission is clear and unwavering.

- There have been dozens of key UFW union contract victories, including the largest strawberry, rose, winery and mushroom firms in California and the nation.

- UFW organizing continues. Last summer's drive among Central Valley table grape workers produced pay hikes and a near win in one of the nation's largest private-sector union elections, at Giumarra vineyards.

- Many new UFW-sponsored laws and regulations aid farmworkers, including last year when the union convinced California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to issue the first state regulation in the country preventing further heat deaths of farmworkers.

- The UFW is pushing its bipartisan, broadly backed AgJobs immi-

gration reform bill. Meanwhile in the community, Chávez's movement still provides vital services for farmworkers and other low-income Latino working families through sister organizations, each with a distinct mission.

Those services include high-quality affordable housing for thousands in poor communities in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. There is a three-state network of eight popular educational Spanish-language radio stations reaching 300,000 farmworkers and other recent immigrants, blanketing regions with the greatest concentrations of farmworkers.

The latest program seeks to improve the dismal educational performance of farmworker and other Latino children, focusing on literacy in elementary schools and algebra for middle-schoolers. There are classes that have helped more than 6,000 farm workers improve job skills and learn vocational English.

Community organizing programs operate in three states, providing an array of services and organizing

rural people to bring about change where they live, including installation of streetlights and basic public infrastructure, opposing public library closures and improving early childhood development.

Finally, the movement empowers and equips tens of thousands of young people to preserve and promote Chávez's values, including nonviolent social change and service to others.

Much has changed in 44 years. A lot still remains to be done.

Chávez inspired millions of people to become socially and politically active. As we honor his legacy 13 years after his death, more than 400 dedicated men and women live modestly and work hard every day for the organizations he created as they fulfill his vision of what a movement can become.

(Arturo S. Rodríguez succeeded César Chávez as president of the United Farm Workers of America. To learn more, visit [www.ufw.org](http://www.ufw.org).)

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**DON'T FORGET!**  
**Mark Your Calendar Today!**

The 7th Annual  
**Cesar E. Chavez**  
**March**

Presented by the  
Cesar E. Chavez Celebration Committee

**Saturday**  
**April 1, 2006**

**Schedule of Events**

1:00 p.m. Gathering for the People's Honor March  
1:30 p.m. People's Honor March begins on the West Parking lot at Cavazos Junior High at 210 N. University.  
2:30 p.m. Commemoration featuring a program by Richard E. Chavez, brother of the late Cesar E. Chavez will be held at Northwest Little League Ballparks  
3:30 p.m. Presentation of the 2006 "Spirit of Cesar Chavez" Award Entertainment, followed by refreshments.

With Special Guest Richard E. Chavez  
A founding member of the United Farm Workers of America, and brother of the late Cesar E. Chavez.

In case of inclement weather activities will be held in the Cavazos Junior High Auditorium. For additional information please call (805) 797-7233, or email to [cesarchavezlubbock@cox.net](mailto:cesarchavezlubbock@cox.net)

The annual Jamaica at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Lubbock will be held on July 29-30, 2006.

Any bands, conjuntos, Ballet Folklorico dancers, Mariachi groups, and any other type of entertainment that wish to donate their time, please call Robert Narvaiz at 792-5037 or 781-6277

## NAHP from page 4

tion, in August 2005.

As Executive Director of Corporate Communications he oversees internal and external communications, including the website, publications, advertising, and other aspects of the organization's outreach efforts.

He has been in the field of communications all his professional life. Previously, he was a U.S. Information Agency Foreign Service Officer, serving in Colombia, Costa Rica, Mali Haiti and Washington, DC. In addition, he was a writer-editor for the Agency's Western Hemisphere Newswire and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs. In this capacity, in addition to writing on Hispanic affairs as a freelancer, he became a founder of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. He was Director of External Affairs and later Senior Director of Corporate Communications of Philip Morris.

Javier Ismodes, Vice President of Emerging Markets at Genworth Financial. Born in Peru, Ismodes offers a broad range of insurance and investment products that create and preserve personal wealth, protect assets, and enhance lifestyles. He is also the leader of Genworth Financial's Hispanic Forum.

Before moving to the U.S. in 1993, Ismodes worked at IBM Peru as Service Marketing Manager, Customer Service Manager, and Customer Engineer.

Ismodes has been involved with the Hispanic community as mentor and instructor for the Junior Achievement program. He is also a member of the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

About the NAHP  
The NAHP Inc. and Foundation, commonly known as the NAHP, have grown to what is now one of the most recognizable national Hispanic organizations in the USA. The NAHP serves more than 350 Hispanic publications with a combined circulation of over 40 million copies. NAHP Member publications and outreach affiliates reach the homes of over half of Hispanic Americans on a regular basis. NAHP print media voice is held in the highest regard by a broad spectrum of readers. NAHP publications are the bell weather and barometer of Hispanic communities. The NAHP is now positioned as the Hispanic print media leader and standard bearer.

TRIBUNAL DE DISTRITO DE ESTADOS UNIDOS PARA EL DISTRITO SUR DE NUEVA YORK  
Causa No. 00-CIV-8330 - Jones, et al. v. Ford Motor Credit Company

### AVISO DE ARREGLO PROPUESTO PARA DEMANDA DE GRUPO

A: TODOS LOS CONSUMIDORES NEGROS Y/O HISPANOS que han hecho un contrato a plazos que fue o que será cedido a Ford Motor Credit Company ("Ford Credit") durante el período del 1 de enero de 1990 hasta hoy.

¿Por qué es importante este aviso? Si usted tuvo una cuenta con Ford Credit relacionada con la compra de un vehículo de motor mediante un contrato de venta al por menor a plazos, en algún momento entre el 1 de enero de 1990 y hoy, usted podría ser un miembro de una demanda de grupo certificada en la que se ha alcanzado un Arreglo Propuesto. La demanda alega que Ford Credit tiene una política o una práctica por la que los negros y los hispanos pagan más cargos de financiación que los clientes blancos en una situación similar, infringiendo la Ley de Igualdad de Oportunidades en la Concesión de Crédito (Equal Credit Opportunity Act—"ECOA"). Ford Credit niega tener tal práctica o política, niega que los negros y los hispanos paguen más por dicha financiación que los clientes blancos en situación similar, y niega que alguna de sus prácticas o políticas infrinja la ECOA. Ford Credit sostiene, por el contrario, que exige que todos sus empleados, sus prácticas y sus políticas cumplan con todas las leyes, incluyendo la ECOA, y que prohíbe discriminación basada en nacionalidad de origen, estado civil, religión, sexo, color, raza, edad (siempre y cuando el solicitante tenga capacidad para hacer contratos), raza de beneficiarios de la asistencia pública, o el ejercicio de buena fe, de un derecho bajo la Ley de Protección del Crédito del Consumidor. Ford Credit ha convenido en llegar a un arreglo para el Litigio como un compromiso para evitar el litigio, el gasto y la incertidumbre relacionados con el Litigio. Las palabras escritas en este Aviso con la letra inicial en mayúscula están definidas en el Convenio de Arreglo.

Este es solamente un aviso resumido. Usted puede conectarse en [www.ECOA-settlement.com](http://www.ECOA-settlement.com) para revisar una copia del Convenio de Arreglo y todos los documentos presentados al tribunal relacionados con la aprobación preliminar, que contienen información adicional sobre el Arreglo.

El Arreglo: Si el Arreglo es aprobado por el Tribunal, Ford Credit ha convenido en lo siguiente:  
(I) Límite en la diferencia entre la Tasa de Compra y la Tasa Porcentual Anual (TPA). Ford Credit no adquirirá ni aceptará para cesión ningún Contrato de ninguna agencia de automóviles (a) con un plazo de 60 meses o menor si la TPA es superior al 2.5% por encima de la Tasa de Compra; (b) con un plazo superior a 60 meses hasta, e incluyendo, 72 meses si la TPA es mayor de 2% por encima de la Tasa de Compra; y (c) con un plazo igual o mayor de 72 meses si la TPA es mayor de 1.5% por encima de la Tasa de Compra;  
(II) Declaración en el Contrato. Ford Credit incluirá una declaración en Contratos producidos y distribuidos por Ford Credit informando a los compradores de vehículos de que la TPA puede ser negociable y que la agencia vendedora podrá ceder el Contrato y retener su derecho a recibir una parte del cargo por financiación;  
(III) Iniciativa de Marketing de Diversidad. Ford Credit lanzará una Iniciativa de Marketing de Diversidad que comprenderá 2 millones en ofertas de crédito en firme, preparadas a consumidores negros e hispanos a lo largo de los próximos tres años con respecto a financiación de vehículos en agencias Ford, Lincoln o Mercury participantes;  
(IV) Educación y Ayuda al Consumidor. Ford Credit aportará \$2 millones a lo largo de los próximos tres años para proveer fondos para ciertas iniciativas de educación y ayuda al consumidor respecto a financiación de crédito;  
(V) Honorarios y Costos. Ford Credit pagará un total de \$125,000 a los Representantes del Grupo a cambio de un desargo de cualquier y toda demanda. Ford Credit pagará los honorarios de los abogados asesores jurídicos de los demandantes y los gastos relacionados con el litigio sumas a ser aprobadas por el Tribunal, siempre y cuando tales sumas no sean superiores a \$7.75 millones y \$400,000 respectivamente.

Puesto que este Arreglo solamente resuelve una demanda de desagravo declaratorio y por mandato judicial, no se pagarán daños y perjuicios compensatorios a los Miembros del Grupo. Ustedes estarán liberando de responsabilidad por todas las demandas de desagravo equitativo, declaratorio y por mandato judicial que se hayan entablado, o pudieran haberse entablado en este Litigio bajo la ECOA o cualquier otro estatuto federal o estatal o bajo cualquier teoría de derecho consuetudinario que se origine en las prácticas de negocios impugnadas en el Litigio, que surgen o surjan en o antes de la Fecha de Entrada en Vigor. No obstante lo que antecede, ustedes no estarán liberando de responsabilidad por compensación monetaria.

Objeciones: Si usted desea objetar este Arreglo, debe entregar en mano o enviar por correo de primera clase, con franqueo prepagado, su posición, con todos los documentos justificativos, de manera que se reciban antes del 8 de mayo de 2006, a:

asesor Jurídico de los Demandantes: National Consumer Law Center, Attn: Ford Credit Settlement, 77 Summer Street, 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02110-1006

asesor Jurídico de Ford Credit: Thomas M. Byrne, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, 999 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309

Usted también tiene que presentar los documentos, demostrando prueba de notificación a todos los asesores jurídicos que anteceden, a Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, Room 1640, New York, NY 10007, el o antes del mismo día. Cualquier Miembro del Grupo que no haga una objeción en la manera dispuesta, habrá renunciado a hacer tal objeción y, para siempre, estará privado del derecho a hacer ninguna objeción acerca de la imparcialidad, adecuación y carácter razonable del Arreglo propuesto o a la adjudicación de honorarios de abogados y gastos.

Atención sobre Equidad: Se celebrará una audiencia ante el Honorable Paul A. Crotty en la Sala 444 en el Tribunal de Distrito de Estados Unidos para el Distrito Sur de Nueva York, 40 Centre Street, New York, NY, el 31 de mayo de 2006, a las 10:00 a.m. (la "Audiencia sobre Equidad"), para determinar si el Arreglo propuesto es equitativo, adecuado y razonable y debería ser aprobado, y si debería hacerse una adjudicación de honorarios de abogados, costos y reembolsos al Asesor Jurídico del Grupo. Usted puede asistir a la Audiencia sobre Equidad, pero no está obligado a hacerlo.

Para más información, o para obtener una copia del Convenio de Arreglo según se describe más arriba, puede comunicarse con los abogados que representan al Grupo: National Consumer Law Center, 77 Summer Street, 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02110 (617-542-8010); Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossman LLP, 1295 Avenue of the Americas, 38th Floor, NY, NY 10019, (212-554-1400); Law Office of Clint W. Watkins, 5214 Maryland Way, Ste. 402, Brentwood, TN 37027 (615-376-7000); Terry & Gore, 1200 16th Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37212 (615-469-0143); o bien Gilmore Law Office, 116 Court St., P.O. Box 729, Grove Hill, AL 36451 (251-275-3115).

Por favor, no se comunique con el Tribunal ni con el Secretario del Tribunal en relación con este Aviso.

Fecha: 27 de febrero de 2006

Por orden del Tribunal  
PAUL A. CROTTY  
JUEZ DE DISTRITO DE ESTADOS UNIDOS  
PARA EL DISTRITO SUR DE NUEVA YORK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
Case No. 00-CIV-8330 - Jones, et al. v. Ford Motor Credit Company

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

TO: ALL BLACK AND/OR HISPANIC CONSUMERS who have entered or will enter into a retail installment contract that was or that will be assigned to Ford Motor Credit Company ("Ford Credit") during the period January 1, 1990 to the present.

Why is This Notice Important? If you had an account with Ford Credit involving the purchase of a motor vehicle through a retail installment contract at any time between January 1, 1990 and the present, you may be a member of a certified class action lawsuit in which a proposed Settlement has been reached. The lawsuit alleges that Ford Credit has a policy or practice that results in Blacks and Hispanics paying more financing charges than similarly situated white customers in violation of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act ("ECOA"). Ford Credit denies that it has any such practice or policy, denies that Blacks and Hispanics pay more for such financing than similarly situated white customers, and denies that any of its practices or policies violate the ECOA. Ford Credit maintains, on the contrary, that it requires all of its employees, practices, and policies to comply with all laws, including the ECOA, and that it prohibits discrimination on the basis of national origin, marital status, religion, sex, color, race, age (provided the applicant has the capacity to contract), receipt of public assistance benefits, or the good faith exercise of a right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act. Ford Credit has agreed to settle the Litigation as a compromise to avoid the time, expense, and uncertainty associated with the Litigation. Capitalized terms used in this Notice are defined in the Settlement Agreement.

This is Only a Summary Notice. You can log onto [www.ECOA-settlement.com](http://www.ECOA-settlement.com) to review a copy of the Settlement Agreement and all documents submitted to the Court in connection with preliminary approval, which contain further information about the Settlement.

The Settlement: If the Settlement is approved by the Court, Ford Credit has agreed to the following:  
(I) Limitation on Difference Between Buy Rate and APR. Ford Credit will not acquire or accept for assignment any certified class action lawsuit in which a proposed Settlement has been reached. The lawsuit alleges that Ford Credit has a policy or practice that results in Blacks and Hispanics paying more financing charges than similarly situated white customers in violation of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act ("ECOA"). Ford Credit denies that it has any such practice or policy, denies that Blacks and Hispanics pay more for such financing than similarly situated white customers, and denies that any of its practices or policies violate the ECOA. Ford Credit maintains, on the contrary, that it requires all of its employees, practices, and policies to comply with all laws, including the ECOA, and that it prohibits discrimination on the basis of national origin, marital status, religion, sex, color, race, age (provided the applicant has the capacity to contract), receipt of public assistance benefits, or the good faith exercise of a right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act. Ford Credit has agreed to settle the Litigation as a compromise to avoid the time, expense, and uncertainty associated with the Litigation. Capitalized terms used in this Notice are defined in the Settlement Agreement.  
(II) Contract Disclosure. Ford Credit will include a disclosure in Contracts produced and distributed by Ford Credit informing vehicle purchasers that the Annual Percentage Rate may be negotiable and that the selling dealership may assign the Contract and retain its right to receive a portion of the finance charge;  
(III) Diversity Marketing Initiative. Ford Credit will launch a Diversity Marketing Initiative involving 2 million preapproved firm offers of credit to Black and Hispanic consumers over the next three years with respect to vehicle financing at participating Ford or Lincoln or Mercury dealerships;  
(IV) Consumer Education and Assistance. Ford Credit will contribute \$2 million over the next three years to fund certain consumer education and assistance initiatives with respect to credit financing;  
(V) Fees and Costs. Ford Credit will pay a total of \$125,000 to the Class Representatives in exchange for a release of any and all claims. Ford Credit will pay plaintiffs' counsel's attorneys fees and litigation-related expenses in amounts to be approved by the Court, provided that those amounts will not exceed \$7.75 million and \$400,000 respectively.

Because this Settlement resolves a claim for declaratory and injunctive relief only, there will be no compensatory damages paid to Class Members. You will be releasing all claims for equitable, declaratory and/or injunctive relief that have been made, or could have been made, in this Litigation under the ECOA or any other federal or state statute, or any common law theory arising out of the business practices challenged in the Litigation, that arose or that will arise on or before the Effective Date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, you will not be releasing any claims for monetary relief.

Objections: If you wish to object to the Settlement, you must deliver by hand or send by first class mail, postage prepaid, your position with all supporting papers, such that they are received on or before May 8, 2006, to:

Plaintiffs' Co-Counsel: National Consumer Law Center, Attn: Ford Credit Settlement, 77 Summer Street, 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02110-1006

Ford Credit's Co-Counsel: Thomas M. Byrne, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, 999 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309

You also must file such papers, showing proof of service upon all counsel identified above, with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, Room 1640, New York, New York 10007, on or before the same day. Any Class Member who does not make an objection in the manner provided shall have waived such objection and shall forever be foreclosed from making any objection to the fairness, adequacy or reasonableness of the proposed Settlement, or to the award of attorneys' fees and expenses.

Fairness Hearing: A hearing will be held before the Honorable Paul A. Crotty in Courtroom 444 at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 40 Centre Street, New York, NY, on May 31, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. (the "Fairness Hearing"), to determine whether the proposed Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable and should be approved, and whether an award of attorneys' fees, costs and reimbursements should be made to Class Counsel. You may, but are not required to, attend the Fairness Hearing.

For More Information, or to obtain a copy of the Settlement Agreement as described above, you can contact the lawyers representing the Class: National Consumer Law Center, 77 Summer Street, 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02110 (617-542-8010); Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossman LLP, 1295 Avenue of the Americas, 38th Floor, NY, NY 10019 (212-554-1400); Law Office of Clint W. Watkins, 5214 Maryland Way, Ste. 402, Brentwood, TN 37027 (615-376-7000); Terry & Gore, 1200 16th Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37212 (615-469-0143); or Gilmore Law Office, 116 Court St., P.O. Box 729, Grove Hill, AL 36451 (251-275-3115).

Please Do Not Contact The Court Or The Clerk Of The Court Concerning This Notice  
Dated: February 27, 2006  
By Order of the Court  
PAUL A. CROTTY  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK



# Hispanic Youth in the US Preserve Ethnic Heritage and Traditions

By Izaak Hayes and Elisabeth Randall  
Latino culture is more than tacos, pinatas and Ricky Martin. Western culture may have popularized these items, but they are not the essence of what it is to be Latino.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 40,459,196 people identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino in 2004, 5 million more than in 2000. But what does it mean to be Latino?

To find out, Y-Press talked with two groups of young people who would know -- members of IUPUI's

Allen says his extended family gets together on Christmas Eve for a party and "we cook this little baby (figurine) in a cake, and whoever gets the piece of that cake with the baby in it has the party next year. That's our thing."

A unique festivity for Latinos is La Quinceañera, a coming-of-age celebration for girls marking their 15th birthday. Traditionally, the girl wears a white floor-length dress and tiara and receives an adult prayer book, rosary and jewelry during the ceremony, which is often followed by a big party.

"Most of my family looked at it

her. "My dad that day had a long conversation with me with how I should be thinking about my future and stuff like that. It's a very important stage for a girl. It changed the way I looked at everything pretty much," she said.

Close family ties have given these students a strong sense of identity. And although the Indianapolis students have family members from many parts of Central and South America, with many different traditions, they agreed that Latinos share some common characteristics, such as diligence, determination and an upbeat demeanor.

"For me, Latino would mean someone's who diverse, someone who's united with their family, a hard worker. And a lot of times, I just see it as being humble," said Lisette.

However, while customs are usually carried over from home countries, they sometimes do not have the impact because of time. "It really depends on how far removed the family is from their motherland. The longer a Latino is in the United States, you know, generationally, the harder it is to maintain the connection," Mata said.

And despite their strong traditions, it can be hard to be Latino in the United States. These students say they often feel like part of a minority culture, either at school or in their neighborhoods.

Danielle said there are few Latinos around her home or school. "Where I live, there's two black families and three Mexican families and everyone's white. It's hard to be the only one that's different."

Maricela Gutierrez, 15, knows the feeling. Born in Mexico, she moved to Indiana five years ago with her family. Learning English was difficult, she said, and she often felt isolated because of it. "I would just stay home," she said.

Charlene believes that Latinos are more strict than American parents.

"That kind of makes it hard sometimes to keep up with American friends 'cause they don't understand when their parents would just drop them off to the movies in the mall and your parents are more cautious. They're just not as comfortable with me having that much

freedom," she said. Money is an issue. Family and cultural beliefs are not the only things that are viewed differently by Latinos than by Americans, though. Money and how it is earned is also seen differently.

Most of the youth say that money is not plentiful in their home countries, so celebrations don't often involve gifts. "Christmas in our culture is more about the actual religious holiday and not so much about presents," Charlene said.

Edgar explained that since money is not as easy to come by in Mexico, children learn its value at a young age and are accustomed to hard work.

"Right here in the United States, it's like a rich country," he said. "In Mexico, it's kind of hard; you have to really work to live. Lots of times kids drop out of school" to help their families.

All but a few of these youth speak Spanish regularly, usually with family but sometimes with friends, too. To them, Spanish ties them to each other and to their culture.

Most agreed with Keyla, who explained that she tries to speak Spanish whenever she can because "English, everywhere you go you're gonna hear it, and with

Spanish, if you don't practice it, you'll lose it. When I'm with my friends and they know Spanish, I try to speak to them in Spanish just because I feel comfortable."

Though traditions can vary from family to family, the bonds they feel to their homelands give their lives an added dimension.

"If I don't carry it on to my children and my family in the future, they are going to be missing a uniqueness that I would love for them to experience. I think it's an honor for me to have that and to incorporate that in their lives," Lisette said.



Latino Student Association and youth who attend St. Monica's Spanish Mass. Some of the students were born outside the United States, while others are first-generation Americans.

Hanging on to their ethnic heritage and traditions is important to these youth, and the way they do that is through their families.

"Family is big for Latinos, just to be with their family and hang out with them and party with them," said Keyla Guevara, 20, who is from Nicaragua.

Latinos define family loosely, including many generations. For Edgar Quebrado, 13, who was born in Mexico, family defines Latino culture.

"I see (culture) as spending time with your family and being with your family," he said.

Eric Mata, assistant director for diversity education programs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, explained that Latino parents like to keep a close watch on their children, especially girls, who are usually encouraged to live at home until marriage.

"To use my family as an example of that, I went away to school three hours from home. And then when my sister wanted to go away to school, my mom made it a very difficult decision. My mom was supportive of her to go to school, but wanted to keep an eye on her."

No rush to leave  
Danielle Davila, 15, whose parents are from Mexico, pointed out that Latinos, like most of the IUPUI students interviewed, often continue to live with their parents long after high school.

"When (American kids) are 18, usually you're leaving your house, you can leave whenever you want. And at our house, in our culture, you always stay with your family until you're married, and even then some people still stay with their family."

"That's what comes first in your life," explained Allen Anders, 21, who was born in Mexico. "We tend to be a lot closer to our families... we'll never put our parents in homes. That's mean. I could never do that to my dad."

Latinos also enjoy having a good time, especially with family. "We're a pretty happy people. Latinos love to party," said Jose Juarez, 21, whose parents are from El Salvador.

Most of the students agreed that being Latino involves lots of parties, many of them for religious rites of passage.

"We celebrate basically all of the celebrations that you do here, and then like for baptisms, first communions, confirmations, weddings -- anything," said Danielle. Food, music and dance are all elements of traditional Latino celebrations. These events don't just provide a chance to party; they also connect these youth to their friends and families and to their traditions.

For example, while dancing can be viewed as a way for couples to meet, it also is a way to express a love of music. Such is the case with Lisette Vasquez, 20, whose parents are from Nicaragua and who has appreciated Latino rhythms all her life and began dancing at a young age.

Latinos celebrate other traditions in ways different from other countries. For example, their Christmas celebration generally begins on Dec. 24, with many people staying awake until midnight to mark the birth of Christ.

From there, different countries have different traditions. In Nicaragua, Keyla said, people try to wear something new that day, "and if there is money, you exchange gifts. You don't have a gift for everybody. If not, then we don't worry about it." She added that most families go to the beach on Christmas Day.

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**NOTIFICACIÓN DE ACUERDO EXTRAJUDICIAL PARCIAL DE DEMANDA COLECTIVA PROPUESTO**

Si usted adquirió un automóvil de un concesionario en el Estado de Texas entre el 1° de enero de 1994 y el 27 de diciembre de 2005, puede ser elegible para participar en un acuerdo extrajudicial de demanda colectiva.

Esta Notificación es un breve resumen. Puede obtener un paquete de reclamo con información adicional sobre el acuerdo extrajudicial parcial de demanda colectiva propuesto utilizando la información de contacto que se ofrece más abajo.

¿Sobre qué trata esta Notificación? Esta Notificación es para informarle sobre un Acuerdo extrajudicial parcial de demanda colectiva propuesto para una demanda pendiente contra diversos concesionarios de automóviles en Texas. Los demandantes alegan que los concesionarios de automóviles demandados compraron para falsificar la naturaleza de los impuestos al valor cuando compraron dichos impuestos de los clientes imponiendo un cargo monetario a los documentos de venta de los compradores. Especifico: (1) "Vehicle Inventory Tax" (Impuesto al inventario de vehículos); (2) "State tax vehicle inventory tax"; (3) "Vehicle Inv. Tax" (Impuesto inv. vehículos); (4) "Texas Vehicle Inventory Tax" (Impuesto al inventario de vehículos de Texas); (5) "VIT"; (6) "VIT"; (7) "Inventory Tax" (Impuesto al inventario); (8) "Value Tax" (Impuesto al valor); (9) "Ad Valorem Tax" (Impuesto al valor); (10) "Advalorem Tax" (Impuesto ad valorem); (11) "Property Tax" (Impuesto a la propiedad); (12) "Vehicle Property Tax" (Impuesto a la propiedad del vehículo); (13) "VIT Tax" (Impuesto VIT); (14) "State inventory tax" (Impuesto al inventario del Estado); (15) "Deposit (including VIT)" (Deposito, incluido el VIT); (16) "Dis inventory tax" (Impuesto al inventario en dinero); (17) "Ad Valorem Inventory Tax" (Impuesto al inventario ad valorem); (18) "State Inv. Tax" (Impuesto estatal); (19) "Veh. Inv. Tax" (Impuesto inv. veh.); (20) "Inv. Tax" (Impuesto inv.); (21) "Veh. inventory tax" (Impuesto inventario veh.); (22) "Ad Val. Tax" (Impuesto ad val.); (23) "Ad valorem inventory tax" (Impuesto al inventario ad valorem); (24) "County ad valorem tax" (Impuesto ad valorem del condado); (25) "State tax vehicle inventory tax" (Impuesto al inventario de vehículos del Estado); (26) "Special vehicle inventory tax" (Impuesto especial al inventario de vehículos); (27) "Value inventory tax" (Impuesto al inventario de valor); (28) "DMP"; (29) "TX vehicle inventory tax" (VIT, Impuesto al inventario de vehículos). Algunos de los demandados en esta demanda colectiva son: (1) "Concessionaire of Texas, entre el 1° de enero de 1994 y el 27 de diciembre de 2005, cuyos documentos de venta reflejan un cargo descrito por uno de los 29 términos arriba mencionados, pueden ser elegibles para obtener una compensación monetaria conforme al acuerdo extrajudicial parcial de demanda colectiva propuesto. Si usted no pagó un impuesto definido exactamente por uno de esos 29 términos, no integra la demanda colectiva y no tiene derecho a una compensación monetaria conforme a este acuerdo extrajudicial.

¿A quienes afecta? Salvo algunas pocas excepciones, los clientes que compraron vehículos nuevos o usados de concesionarios de Texas entre el 1° de enero de 1994 y el 27 de diciembre de 2005, cuyos documentos de venta reflejan un cargo descrito por uno de los 29 términos arriba mencionados, pueden ser elegibles para obtener una compensación monetaria conforme al acuerdo extrajudicial parcial de demanda colectiva propuesto. Si usted no pagó un impuesto definido exactamente por uno de esos 29 términos, no integra la demanda colectiva y no tiene derecho a una compensación monetaria conforme a este acuerdo extrajudicial.

¿Cuáles son los términos del acuerdo extrajudicial? El acuerdo extrajudicial propuesto es con algunos pero no todos los demandados en esta demanda colectiva, y no incluye ningún reclamo contra los demandados que no integran el acuerdo extrajudicial. El acuerdo extrajudicial propuesto es resultado de meses de negociaciones con cada uno de las partes, así como de la investigación y los descubrimientos realizados por los concesionarios de los demandados. Los concesionarios de todas las partes del acuerdo extrajudicial propuesto han analizado a fondo los hechos de este caso. Los integrantes de la demanda colectiva elegible tienen derecho a una compensación monetaria, conforme a los siguientes términos:

Compensación monetaria: En general, son elegibles los clientes que compraron de un demandado del acuerdo extrajudicial originalmente mencionado como demandado en el litigio, y los clientes que compraron de otros demandados del acuerdo extrajudicial si la compra fue realizada después del 27 de diciembre de 2005 (o en fecha posterior, si el Concesionario del acuerdo judicial se opusiera, en propietario de la concesión después de esa fecha). Si dichos integrantes de la demanda colectiva no aceptan voluntariamente un formulario de reclamo debidamente completado (incluido en el paquete de reclamo que se describe abajo) y el original o una copia de su o sus Contratos o vales de compra minorista a plazos, tendrán derecho a recibir un pago en efectivo del Concesionario del acuerdo extrajudicial que vendió el vehículo, equivalente al 150% del impuesto definido por uno de los veintinueve términos antes citados.

Compensación alternativa: Los integrantes de la demanda colectiva no elegible para la Compensación monetaria tienen derecho a un Certificado de Descuento Anticipado ya sea por \$40 o \$60 (según la fecha y lugar de la compra original) por la compra de un vehículo a los Concesionarios del acuerdo extrajudicial, siempre que presenten oportunamente un formulario de reclamo debidamente completado y una Declaración jurada de derecho al certificado de descuento (incluida en el paquete de reclamo que se describe abajo), donde deberán asegurar que pagaron un importe definido por uno de los veintinueve términos de la lista antes citada.

Los Certificados de descuento serán válidos por un periodo de tres años a partir de la fecha de Aprobación final del acuerdo extrajudicial por parte del Tribunal.

Impuestos y gastos de los abogados: Los concesionarios de la demanda colectiva propuesta, incluyendo el nombre de abogados de Tremption Simber Hayes Heinrich & Russell y concesionarios asociados, tendrán (y los Concesionarios del acuerdo extrajudicial han acordado no objetar) una suma de aproximadamente \$5.93 millones para cubrir los honorarios de servicios legales (incluyendo 3 aplicaciones revisadas por la Corte Suprema de Texas, y los gastos no reembolsados a los concesionarios). En general, este importe se basa en un costo de \$2.73 por cada transacción requerida por los integrantes de la demanda colectiva. Los demandados también solicitan una compensación especial para los dos representantes de la demanda colectiva, Jefferson y Pat Murphy, por un importe de \$22,500, que deberá pagarse por el Concesionario del acuerdo extrajudicial.

Renuncia: Si el Acuerdo extrajudicial recibe la aprobación final del Tribunal, los integrantes de la demanda colectiva que no solicitan la exclusión (vea más abajo) renunciarán a todos los reclamos relacionados con la compensación económica de los impuestos ad valorem que pagaron a los Demandados del acuerdo extrajudicial.

¿Cuáles son mis opciones?

(A) Presente un reclamo. Comuníquese por escrito con el administrador del acuerdo extrajudicial para solicitar un paquete de reclamo. Este paquete incluye todos los materiales e instrucciones necesarios para presentar un reclamo, a fin de recibir la compensación monetaria correspondiente conforme al acuerdo extrajudicial. Diga su solicitud a Texas VIT Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 0349, Fortland, O'Brien 97208-0349. También puede solicitar el paquete de reclamo llamando al 866-833-6642.

(B) Solicite la exclusión de la demanda colectiva para el acuerdo extrajudicial. Si no desea ser integrante de la demanda colectiva para el acuerdo extrajudicial, debe enviar, en forma y tiempo oportunos, una solicitud por escrito que incluya un recibo y una declaración de que desea ser excluido de la Demanda colectiva para el acuerdo extrajudicial. La solicitud debe enviarse por correo al administrador del acuerdo extrajudicial en letra impresa en el parafuto anterior. Por favor, escriba en letra impresa las palabras "CLASS EXCLUSION NOTICE" (Notificación de exclusión de la demanda colectiva) en el parafuto anterior al sello de correo, es el 9 de mayo de 2006. En caso de ser aprobado, el Acuerdo extrajudicial afectará a todos los integrantes de la demanda colectiva que no hayan solicitado la exclusión hasta esta fecha.

(C) Contrate su propio abogado y comparezca ante el Tribunal. Puede contratar un abogado para que comparezca en el proceso judicial. Deberá hacerse cargo de los honorarios y costas de su abogado.

(D) Objete el acuerdo extrajudicial. Cualquier integrante de la demanda colectiva que no solicite la exclusión puede comparecer en la Audiencia imparcial (vea más abajo) para objetar o solicitar la modificación de que desea ser excluido de la Demanda colectiva propuesta. Para objetar y ser escuchado en la Audiencia imparcial, debe enviar una notificación por escrito al menos 30 días antes de la realización de la misma, declarando su intención de comparecer y presentar todos los motivos de su objeción, junto con toda la documentación y expedientes correspondientes a los hechos de este caso. No. 08-096, 168-96 (Causas No. 08-096 y 168-96) en la parte superior de su notificación y envíela a: Marion County District Clerk, P.O. Box 028, Jefferson, 75857, con copia a: John Simber, 320 S. Folk, Ste. 1000-LB-5, Amarillo, TX 79101 y Beth Lebeck, 725 12th St., N.W., Washington DC 20005. TODA OBJECCIÓN QUE NO SIGA ESTE PROCEDIMIENTO NO SERÁ CONSIDERADA.

Audiencia imparcial: El Tribunal de Distrito 115ª manifiesta una audiencia el día 8 de junio de 2006 a las 9:00 a.m. para determinar si los honorarios y costas de los abogados y costos de la demanda colectiva para los integrantes de la demanda colectiva son razonables y si (ii) se debe declarar una sentencia definitiva en aprobación del acuerdo extrajudicial. El Tribunal se encuentra en 102 W. Austin St., Jefferson, Texas 75857.

¿Cómo puedo obtener información adicional? Este es el único anuncio abreviado del acuerdo extrajudicial propuesto. La información completa sobre sus derechos como integrante de la demanda colectiva, cómo presentar un reclamo o exclusión del acuerdo extrajudicial y continuar el litigio, y la fecha y plazos importantes están disponibles en el paquete de reclamo. Para obtener un paquete, escriba a: Texas VIT Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 0349, Fortland, O'Brien 97208-0349 o llame al 866-833-6642. La información adicional sobre la evolución del caso también está disponible para consulta del público en los archivos del Tribunal en Amarillo, Texas, en la dirección antes mencionada. POR FAVOR, NO ESCRIBA NI LLAME AL TRIBUNAL NI A LA SECRETARÍA DEL TRIBUNAL.

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