

Casualties of War in Iraq
4,313 as of June 11, 2009

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"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es la Paz"

Lic Benito Juarez

Lubbock/West Texas Region

Speaking With One Voice Congressional TriCaucus Declares:

"COVERAGE IS NOT ENOUGH"

Washington DC - Members of the Congressional Black Caucus - comprised of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Asian

and speaks with one voice to demand health care reform NOW, and to demand an end to the practices that perpetuate racial and ethnic health disparities in this country."

only consider healthcare disparities as part of this vital debate. CAPAC, as a member of the Tri-Caucus and the voice of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in Con-

A public health insurance option that is universal and includes mental and dental health services.

Elevating the National Center on Minority Health and Disparities at the National Institutes of Health and strengthening the Office of Minority Health within the Department of Health and Human Services.

Addressing cultural and linguistic concerns such as credentialing for mental translators and ensuring adequate reimbursement for language and translation services.

Healthcare provisions regarding clinical trials must also - whenever possible - include racial and ethnic diversity to find out effects on a broad range of groups.

"While I support all of the provisions in the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009, I firmly believe that any effort to eliminate health disparities must begin with a public health approach that integrates prevention and wellness across all health care services," noted Congressional Leader Roshal Aljani, (CA-34), who is chair of the CBO Health Care Task Force. "Prevention works by saving lives and improving health outcomes, while saving money and leaving our families and communities stronger and more resilient."

"While eliminating inequality is critically important, we know that insurance status does not explain all of the health inequities that millions of Americans experience each year," noted Congressional Donna Christensen (VA-14), Co-Chair of the CBO Health and Wellness Task Force. "The Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009 addresses the root causes of health disparities, applies a sound public health approach to tackle a pressing public health challenge, and therefore must be a part of the health care reform bill."

"The Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009 is a significant step in addressing the needs of our communities," said Congressional Norma Bordallo, (GU-Large), who serves as Chair of the Health and Wellness Task Force. "This legislation will help in bringing equality to health care to Americans in the territories."

A distinguishing issue that this Health Disparities Bill puts forth is the integration of community-centric health efforts into health reform.

"Access to culturally competent quality health care should be one of the most basic of all entitlements," said Congressional Danny K. Davis, (IL-7), who serves as co-chair of the CBO Health and Wellness Task Force. "Expansion of community, migrant, family and rural

Congressional Leaders Assert Commitment to Immigration Reform

In Advance of White House Immigration Meeting, Leaders Continue Drumbeat for Reform This Year

Washington, DC - As the bi-partisan White House meeting on immigration on the 7th grows closer, a series of recent statements from President Obama and Congressional leaders make it clear that immigration reform legislation will be a priority in 2009.

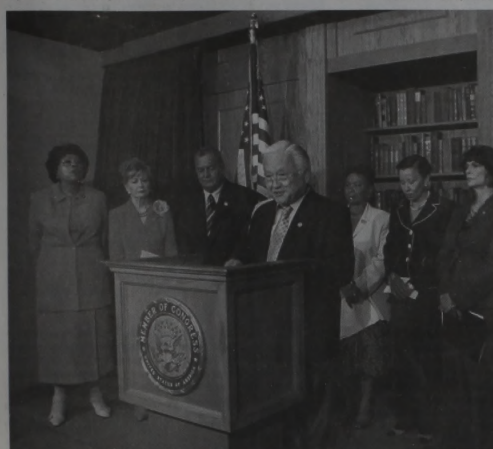
"President Obama and Congressional leaders are recognizing that the political space for immigration reform has never been greater," said Frank Sharry, Executive Director of America's Voice. "By moving forward on comprehensive reform legislation in the fall of 2009, the government will show that Washington is back in business and ready to tackle tough problems with practical solutions."

"Since his inauguration, President Obama has consistently reformed his campaign pledge to move forward on comprehensive immigration reform in the first year of his Presidency, recently noting "We want to move this process. We can't continue with a broken immigration system. It's not good for anybody." Although the President's upcoming White House meeting with Congressional leaders will serve as an official rebuke about the Obama Administration's intentions, leaders of both chambers have already begun asserting their commitment to moving on immigration reform this year.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) said last week that passing immigration reform is "going to happen this session, here" within this year if at all possible. Reid also outlined the components of comprehensive immigration legislation, saying that "We have to have a pathway for legalization. I believe what we need to do is have penalties, fines, I think they have to learn English, stay out of trouble, pay their taxes, and then they don't go to the end of the line, they go to the back of the line. But at least it keeps them so that they are not subject to arrest and that they are more productive than they are."

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi recently joined her Senate counterpart in describing a Fall 2009 push for immigration reform, saying "Congress would tackle immigration reform after finishing with health care and energy." Additionally, the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security, Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), has conducted two recent hearings on the need for comprehensive immigration reform and recently stated that "we can pass strong, fair, practical and effective immigration reform this year." These Congressional leaders' optimism is in line with the wishes of the American people. Recent public opinion research clearly shows that Americans want their leaders to address and fix the broken immigration system. A strong majority of voters from all political persuasions and regions of the country reject mass deportation and enforcement-only proposals in favor of a comprehensive approach that legalizes the undocumented workforce, levels the playing field, expands the tax base, and restores the rule of law.

"The American people's demand for action on immigration reform has been underestimated for too long by many in Washington," said Sharry. "Thankfully, the White House and Congressional leaders understand that the public is rejecting as unacceptable excuses for inaction and instead wants practical solutions to the big challenges we're facing today."



Pacific American Caucus - held a news conference today to introduce The Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009 which outlines their priorities for healthcare reform-particularly the need to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities that exist under the current healthcare system. The Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009 is designed to reduce racial and ethnic disparities and address a number of other issues important to communities of color while improving our national healthcare system for all Americans.

The TriCaucus is committed to healthcare reform that ensures that expands coverage to all Americans while also reducing the serious health disparities that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities.

"Healthcare is a right and not a privilege. Every man, woman and child deserves a dignified and healthy life. As ours is a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and increasingly diverse nation, legislation must fully recognize and address health disparities. I am confident that President Obama and congressional leadership will

gress, is committed to working toward health reform for all."

"In order to move this nation forward, we must make sure that any reform to our health care system takes into account the health disparities that exist," said Congressional Nylia M. Velazquez (NY-12), Chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC). "Twenty-seven percent of Hispanics are likely to lack a usual health care provider, which is a key indicator to overall access of quality care and prevention. As the Latino community continues to grow, we need to address the challenges that we, and all minority communities face, to ensure that we improve our nation's health overall."

Among the other elements of healthcare reform, members of the TriCaucus have identified as priorities are:

LATINOS AND THE GREEN

For Indigenous Families, the Practice Is Generations Deep

By Jonathan Higuera

(First of two parts)

My Helen Sotelo, a retired nurse, chuckles when recalling how her kids would poke fun at her as she washed plastic food bags to reuse later. That was in the 1980s before the terms "sustainability" and "going green" were yet to become part of the national lexicon.

Sotelo's concern for the environment is still going strong. So much so, in fact, that last year she decided to buy a 2009 Canyri Hybrid. Which was a big upfront investment, she's happy with her purchase, which she had been contemplating for several years.

"Not only is it protecting the environment, but it's going to save me money in the future," she says, citing the 37 to 44 miles per gallon it gets.

Despite notions that Latinos are not broadly engaged in saving poll-bears or the rain forest, they may very well embody the term "sustainability."

In fact, as the environmental movement broadens its perspective on what it means to be green, its leaders may want to take note of the way many Latinos live their lives. Whether following customs and practices handed down from his papadocs or born from economic necessity, many Latinos have found ways to reduce, reuse and recycle long before these became the mantras for the green movement.

"A lot of Latinos like me had uncles, aunts, grandparents who were conservationists," says Nicole Graess, marketing and public relations administrator for Fernmore Craig Law firm. "They collected rain water for their gardens, composted, recycled cans and metals. They were people who, out of necessity, found uses for everything."

These practices have rubbed off on Graess, who donates to groups such as the World Wildlife Federation, and has made a conscious decision to reduce her carbon footprint.

To this day, she does not use a clothes dryer, preferring instead to air-dry her garments. "The dryer is an evil thing," she half jokes. "It uses a lot of energy and ruins my clothes."

She also owns a lower-carbon-emitting Honda Element and decided to buy an existing home rather than a new one at a time when new homes were plentiful and in vogue. "It was commemorative to get an older home but it worked for me," she says.

Now that the green movement has touched nearly every corner of the country, many Latinos simply need to step back and look at their family practices more closely to see if they are being good stewards of the planet, says Raquel Gutierrez, a Tempe, Arizona-based consultant to non-profits and foundations.

For Gutierrez, the sustainable practices she's using in her Tempe home differ little from the practices her parents instilled in her childhood. As Chicano activists who have long celebrated their Native American roots, her family practices "7th generation thinking," she says. This calls for making decisions with thought about how their choices will impact generations far into the future.

She and her husband Ward compost and use xeriscape landscaping in their backyard. Years ago, they changed all their light bulbs to CFLs. They also reduced and/or eliminated their use of paper and plastic. Gutierrez, who received her Ph.D. from Arizona State University last year, recounts how one small step of buying enough silverware and plates to use as family get-togethers dramatically reduced the amount of paper and plastic they had been using.

"If enough people do enough small things, together they can make a difference," says Gutierrez.

It's that type of cultural environmentalism that really didn't register with the mainstream environmental movement for many years, says Adriana Quintero, staff attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council. From her base in San Francisco, she directs the NRDC's La Onda Verde initiative, which was launched in 2005 to inform and involve Spanish-speaking Latinos both here and abroad about the broad spectrum of environmental issues.

"If you look at Latinos who belong to movements, it's more about participating," she says. "It's not about giving \$20 to an organization... This is about being part of the solution."

Sotelo, the hybrid owner, often scours magazines searching for ideas on how to reduce, reuse and recycle. She is no Johnny-come-lately to green practices, either. She began recycling in the mid-1980s when she lived near Cal-State University at Bakersfield. The school had recycling bins, and she would take all her recyclables there.

Her biggest concern these days is the amount of plastic going into landfills. She's alarmed that much of the plastic we use will be around longer than us.

Always finding something she can contribute to a recycling drive - half-empty cans of paint, computers, old home-use cordless cell phones, she says, "I just want to do my part. We have a wonderful planet and we need to take care of it."

Through the Internet and educational curriculum, environmental issues can now be found in schools, creating a new generation of environmentally conscious youth. And with that educational pipeline tearing with young Latino students, they are likely to be receptive to those programs.

"There's been a lot of consciousness raised, especially with the kids," says David Lopez, an attorney with a federal agency here. His 13-year-old son Javier has been pushing the family to drink tap water, eliminate using Styrofoam, reduce time spent in the shower and replace traditional light bulbs with CFL bulbs. Lately he's been lobbying his parents to make their next family car a hybrid or at the least, very fuel efficient.

It started after the Javier saw the documentary "Inconvenient Truth," based on Al Gore's book of the same name. From there, he read books such as "50 Things Kids Can Do to Save the Planet" and "Superstize This."

While Latinos may not show up as top donors to the Sierra Club or World Wildlife Federation or other mainstream environmental groups, some now consider their poster children for the grassroots movement of acting locally while thinking globally.

Certainly mainstream environmental organizations that once decried Latinos as environmental laggards are rethinking those attitudes and

looking for ways to engage with them.

It's not that Latinos don't care about melting ice caps and their impact on the polar bears or the deformation of our environment, but they are more likely to look at an area where they can have a direct impact, explains Adriana Quintero, staff attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group. She directs the NRDC's La Onda Verde initiative, which was launched in 2005 to inform and involve Spanish-speaking Latinos both here and abroad about the broad spectrum of environmental issues.

"People with coal-fired power plants in their backyard really get what polar bears are going through," she says. "They get it. They realize it could happen to them if it's caused by global warming."

Therein lies the dilemma. So much of what goes for mainstream environmentalism often doesn't cross over into environmental justice, where so much of the Latino perspective on environmentalism emanates.

While many environmentalists would rather keep issues of parks and green space and asthma rates caused by poor air quality separate from efforts to reduce fluorocarbons into the atmosphere, most Latinos can't fathom that kind of thinking. It's part and parcel of being an environmentalist.

Because the data on how Latinos feel about environmental issues can be conflicting, it's easy to draw conclusions that might not be correct. For example, a recent survey by the Pew Hispanic Center on Latino priorities for the Obama administration found that behind the economy, education, health care and national security, for some, that's enough to conclude that Latinos aren't as attuned or engaged to environmental issues.

But you would be disregarding other surveys that place Latino concerns about air and water quality higher than the general population. A national survey conducted on behalf of the Sierra Club in March 2008 that found an overwhelming majority (80 percent) believe energy and global warming is a major problem for their families.

Yet another survey by the Public Policy Institute found California Latinos had greater concerns about air and water quality than other demographic groups in the Golden State, but were more hesitant to embrace increased regulations or taxation to discourage polluters. And no one disputes that Latinos and their political representatives in California have emerged as leaders on environmental issues, especially when it comes to parks and open space and air and water quality.

Quintero agrees that the data can be confusing but she says every survey is hampered by how the pollsters framed the questions. One thing she is confident about: Latinos respond to the issues differently. Therefore the vocabulary to get their support must be personalized.

"If you are talking about protecting a forest, you don't necessarily talk about the ecology of a forest but about its recreational value and use," she says.

At La Onda Verde, she says, inquiries from users most frequently focus on global warming and what they can do to slow it.

The site and many others like it have cropped up in the past five years, offering leads of tips and information on how to live more sustainably. It seems to be having an impact.

Editorial - Opinions

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS BETTER THAN THIS

By Janet Murguía

The nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court was an historic and proud moment for 50 million Latinos spread across the United States and for the country as a whole. But as proud as our community is over her nomination, we have been stunned and disheartened by the visceral reaction it has generated among many in the Republican Party.

Clearly, her ethnicity has proven to be too much of a temptation for those who give voice to hate and extremism. Instead of looking at the judicial record, they have launched a vocal rampage that has reached new heights of absurdity.

Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies — the “think tank” of the supermajority John Tanont’s anti-immigrant group — and his pals at the National Review online are just beside themselves that Judge Sotomayor had the tenacity to pronounce her own name correctly. They basically said that if she were a real American, she would pronounce it differently.

In an article that appeared in The Hill newspaper, Republican insiders are quoted as being “concerned” that Sotomayor’s avowed love of arroz con gandules and other Puerto Rican delicacies will cloud her judicial decision-making. Conservative commentator Debbie Schussel called her “Judge J-Lo” and suggested that she was about as qualified to be on the Supreme Court as the well-known singer.

This one, however, took the cake. Five congressmen, failed presidential candidate, and anti-immigrant extremist Tom Tancred, unable to provide a shred of evidence for his assertion that Judge Sotomayor is a “racist,” went off the deep end on CNN, saying Sotomayor belongs to “the Latino KKXK.”

Tancred was referring to my organization, the National Council of La Raza — a 40-year-old national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization that works with community organizations all over the country to help Latino families achieve the American Dream. Such a characterization is offensive, shameful and a slap in the face to my predecessor who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to secure civil rights for all U.S. residents.

NCLR has been recognized as one of the ten best nonprofits in the country and lauded by members of Congress of both parties. Since our founding, we have worked hand in hand with other national civil rights organizations in a bipartisan way to improve the lives of everyone.

Raising questions and concerns about Judge Sotomayor’s 17-year record on the bench is legitimate. Resorting to outdated stereotypes, defamation of character and outright falsehoods is not. It is reprehensible not only to Latinos and communities of color.

The Hispanic community has always been diverse in its views and in its politics. We have never hedged to one party over another. While we applaud Senator John Cornyn’s call for civility, the gross mischaracterizations of Judge Sotomayor and the deafening silence of Republican leadership are leaving many within our community with a disturbing picture of the Republican Party. Much hangs in the balance, including our votes.

As an organization that has hosted presidential candidates of both parties, we have recognized the importance of maintaining a balance between members from both sides of the aisle. We appeal to Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele, House Minority Leader John Boehner, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to denounce these statements and restore the nomination process for Judge Sotomayor to a more appropriate and civil discourse.

We all know that Supreme Court nominations get political, even with nominees as qualified as Judge Sonia Sotomayor. That does not mean, however, that politicians get a free pass to attack nominees solely on the basis of race or ethnicity. Stand up to the bullies. Stand up for your party. Stand up for what is best for the nation. We are better than this. The Republican Party is better than this.

Janet Murguía, president and chief executive officer of the National Council of La Raza (www.nclr.org), a monthly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. E-mail her at jmurgu@nclr.org ©2009

EL PARTIDO REPUBLICANO ES MEJOR QUE ESTO

Mejor Murguía

La nominación de la jueza Sonia Sotomayor al Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos fue un momento histórico y de orgullo para los latinos que viven en Estados Unidos, y para el país en general. Aunque como comunidad latina estamos orgullosos de su nombramiento, también estamos sorprendidos y nos sentimos decepcionados por la reacción visceral generada entre muchos miembros del partido republicano.

Su origen étnico, claramente ha demostrado ser una tentación para aquellos que promueven el odio y el extremismo. En lugar de verse su currículum judicial, se han creado rumores desenfrenados llegando a lo absurdo.

Mark Krikorian del Centro de Estudios de Migración, el “centro de investigación” de los grupos anti-inmigrante del supermayorista blanco John Tanont, y sus cuates del National Review online están fuera de sí porque la jueza Sotomayor tuvo la osadía de pronunciar su propio apellido correctamente. Básicamente dijeron que si ella fuera una verdadera estadounidense, lo pronunciaría de una manera diferente. Han lanzado un artículo absurdo en el que dicen que ella es “KKK Latina” y que sus miembros republicanos se les está citando diciendo que están “hipocritas” de que el gusto por el arroz con gandules y otras delicias puertorriqueñas pudieran nublar la capacidad de toma de decisiones judiciales de Sotomayor. La comentarista conservadora Debbie Schussel la llamó “Judge J-Lo” y sugirió que estaba tan capacitada como la conocida cantante latina que era en el Tribunal Supremo.

Éste, sin embargo, ha sido el peor.

Tom Tancred, ex-congresista, candidato presidencial fracasado y extremista anti-inmigrante, afirmó que la jueza Sotomayor es “racista,” y siendo increíble de proponer una paja de evidencia que respalde dicha afirmación. Tancred estaba en CNN diciendo que Sotomayor pertenece al “KKK Latno.”

Tancred se refería a mi organización, el Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR por sus siglas en inglés) una organización nacional de apoyo y defensa de los derechos civiles de los latinos, que fue fundada hace 40 años y que trabaja con otras organizaciones comunitarias de todo el país, para ayudar a que las familias latinas alcancen el Sueño Americano. Tal caracterización es ofensiva, vergajosa y una slap in the face auténtica escuchada en la cara de mi antecesor, que marchó con el Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. para garantizar los derechos civiles de todos los estadounidenses.

NCLR ha sido reconocido como una de las diez mejores organizaciones sin fines de lucro del país y alabado por congresistas de ambos partidos. Desde nuestra fundación, hemos trabajado mano a mano con otras organizaciones nacionales por los derechos civiles de nuestra hispanidad para mejorar la vida de todos los estadounidenses.

Plantear interrogantes y preocupaciones sobre los 17 años como magistrada que sirvió Sotomayor es legítimo. Recurrir a los estereotipos anticuados, a la difamación, y a la falsedad, no lo es; es reprochable no sólo para los hispanos y las comunidades de color, sino para todos los estadounidenses. La falta de imparcialidad hispana siempre ha sido diversa tanto en puntos de vista como en política. Nunca nos hemos inclinado más por un partido que por otro. Si bien aplaudimos el llamado a una discusión civil del senador John Cornyn, su burla aporreadora de la jueza Sotomayor y el silencio ensordecedor del liderazgo republicano, están dejando a muchos integrantes de nuestra comunidad con una imagen perturbadora del partido republicano. Hay mucho en juego, incluidos nuestros votos.

Como organización que ha sido anfitrión de los candidatos presidenciales y ha reconocido lo logros de los miembros del Congreso y del Senado de ambos partidos, apelamos al presidente del Comité Nacional Republicano, Michael Steele; al presidente la Minoría en el Cámara de Representantes del Congreso, John Boehner; al presidente de la Minoría del Senado, Mitch McConnell; y a los miembros del Congreso a restaurar el proceso de nominación de la jueza Sotomayor con un discurso cívico y más apropiado.

Todos sabemos que las nominaciones para el Tribunal Supremo se politizan, incluso cuando el nominado está tan capacitado como la jueza Sonia Sotomayor. Sin embargo, eso no quiere decir que los políticos tengan cara blanca para atacar al nominado únicamente bajo pretexto de raza o etnia. Enfrenta a los agresores. Defiendan a su partido. Defiendan lo que es mejor para los Estados Unidos, porque nosotros somos mejor que esto. El partido republicano es mejor que esto.

Janet Murguía, presidenta del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, redacta un comentario mensual para Hispanic Link News Service. Se invita a los lectores a responderle a jmurgu@nclr.org.

Dear Editor

The attacks against U.S. Supreme Court Justice nominee Judge Sonia Sotomayor continue. Despite the outrage about these attacks expressed by the Latino community and others, there is no evidence that this nominee will stop anytime soon. Earlier this week Jon Stewart from The Daily Show ridiculed the shenanigans, making clear how absurd this stereotyping and defamation is not only for Hispanics and other communities of color, but for all Americans.

Please join us in asking Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman Michael Steele, House Minority Leader John Boehner, and Senate Minority Leader Linda McConell to denounce this rampant smear and keep the nomination process civil, respectful, and constructive.

The deafening silence of the Republican party’s leadership is leaving many Latinos with a disturbing view of the party. There’s a lot at stake here, including the Latino community’s votes. Nearly 100 of you have signed the letter asking Chairman Steele to gather his fellow RNC leaders on the candidate’s statements against Sotomayor. If you haven’t yet signed the letter, please do so. I’m already adding the signed letter, please forward this email to your family and friends and encourage them to take a stand.

We are better than this. It is time to stand against the politics of division and fear and work together for a stronger America. Thank you, NCLR

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY BEHIND SOTOMAYOR

By José de la Hala

Hispanic Link News Service Houston, Texas — You would think newspapers and media producers would have looked up the judge Sonia Sotomayor said eight years ago that “wise Latina women” statement.

In her next statement, Sotomayor mentioned the influence of social perceptions and said she is reminded that each day “I tender decisions that affect people differently.”

And why does this matter? Because, she said, “I can and do aspire to be greater than the sum total of my experiences.”

So that the reassurance, given in the original statement, that her detractors presume she hasn’t provided yet.

The oversight has been allowed to park fireworks because many of detractors either (1) don’t read, (2) don’t fact-check, (3) don’t care what the facts are, or (4) the media have used a poor choice of experts who divert the issue of a hand and give us a story full lies.

When something is mentioned as a Supreme Court appointment it is still, you would think, law school scholars and those who ponder long and hard about the Constitution would get called on for their analyses and appraisal, as well as out-of-date political hacks.

Although a few of the more conservative U.S. Senate members have demonstrated their willingness to give Sotomayor a fair shake, some still squarely characterize her as skewed the direction.

Enter former Congressman Tom Tancred, who left Congress after leading losing battles to criminalize unauthorized immigrants. He announced for the U.S. Presidency but his campaign failed almost instantly. Other members of the congressional coalition he led were rejected at the polls in November. In the presidential vote, the party he helped cofound was demolished.

Given this background, one would wonder what qualifies the congressional castoff from Colorado as a judicial expert?

Well, last month some TV producers researched him to promote controversy. They succeeded in managing a fake asymmetrical matching of wits.



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Linda Deleon Should Resign

By Ysidro Gutierrez

There are several very angry people in the news this week Ted Parker and Linda Deleon and two of them. Ted Parker has good cause to be upset. Linda Deleon, the queen of déjá vu viciously attacked him and like before she spewed her venom in the media. The other angry person is Linda Deleon, except that in her case her motivation is a mystery. There is no rational explanation for her outburst.

Linda Deleon claims that somewhere, someone told her something about some conspiracy to settle the infamous and long standing legal dispute which the City of Lubbock initiated against Ted Parker when David Miller was mayor.

She claims someone told her the City Council would take up the settlement of the case in an Executive Session to be held on Thursday. She stated that she had formed some alliances, which include her puppet Floyd Price, to vote with her against whatever the City Council was going to discuss. Her actions imply that she believes the City should spare no expense in prosecuting the case. If she and Floyd Price have this evidence; they should present it to the other members of the Council — this would end all discussions. The other possibility is that she does not have any evidence whatsoever. If this is the case — she is an unfit representative.

On Wednesday, three members of the City Council responded publicly following Linda Deleon’s attack which included a vicious attack against Mayor Tom Martin. The three Councilmen, Martin, Leonard, and Bean, were adamant that Linda Deleon’s rantings were without basis; they are an invention of her imagination — like the book someone is writing about her. Mr. Bean went on to say that such statements were, “Not only lies, but damn lies” speaking of what Linda Deleon had alleged.

Linda Deleon is a known fabricator. A couple of years ago she stated in a meeting of Hispanic Agenda that the City Council had voted in Executive Session to demolish the South Beach Nightclub which was operated by Chris and Angela Gonzales. When Chris protested, Linda Deleon lied about making the statement even though she had made the statement in the presence of at least 10 members of Hispanic Agenda. Knowing full well that there were witnesses who knew she was lying, she continued to lie about it.

Most experts agree that fear is one of the reasons people lie. In the case of the South Beach affair, perhaps she was afraid of prosecution since it is a crime to publicly divulge matters discussed in Executive Session. Another reason experts say that people lie, is because of cold calculating and deliberate maneuvering of the political kind or perhaps she just needs more material for a chapter in her book. The former is the more likely in the case of Linda Deleon — somehow, someone, somewhere has convinced her that attacking Ted Parker and Mayor Martin will hit her political favor. That someone is probably the queen of déjá vu herself.

This week’s outburst by Linda Deleon against the Mayor and Ted Parker is just one more reason she is unfit to be elected representative of District 1. This is just one more reason for her to resign. Two previous members of the City Council who represented the District, Victor Hernandez and Maggie Trejo, signed the “Recall Petition” precisely because they too believe that she is unfit.

Since we are speaking of déjá vu, let me proudly say all over again; Linda Deleon is unfit — she should resign.

New Web Site Will Bring Timely, Relevant News on Immigration Reform Directly to the Community

Maribel Hastings, Former Washington Correspondent for La Opinión, Leads Effort

Washington, DC — America’s Voice is pleased to announce the launch of a new website in Spanish that will be a one-stop resource for the public to stay informed about the status of the immigration reform debate in Washington, DC. The new site, www.maribelhastings.com, will be a central resource for anyone wanting up to the minute news and analysis on the issue, in Spanish, and will feature commentary and analysis from veteran journalist Maribel Hastings. Hastings is the former Washington Correspondent for La Opinión, and currently a Senior Advisor to America’s Voice.

With Majority Leader Harry Reid asserting his commitment to pass immigration reform this year, the Reform Immigration FOR America campaign launching throughout the nation, and a bi-partisan White House meeting on immigration scheduled to take place on June 17th, www.maribelhastings.com will be an important source of information for those who want up-to-date information on the immigration reform debate and developments in Congress.

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Cruzan 11 mil niños a EU para trabajar

Más de 11 mil mexicanos menores de edad se arriesgaron a cruzar solos la frontera para conseguir un trabajo en Estados Unidos, aunque la mayoría sólo tenía la secundaria terminada.

Forman parte de un grupo de casi 18 mil niños y adolescentes que fueron repatriados por el gobierno estadounidense durante 2008, entre los que también están casi 500 indígenas y más de un centenar de infantes que se dedicaban al tráfico de personas o de drogas.

Un diagnóstico de la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE) detalla el fenómeno de los "migrantes menores de edad no acompañados" —es decir, que viajan sin un adulto—, a partir de los datos que los infantes ofrecieron a las autoridades consulares mexicanas tras su detención, hecho que no impide que se aventuren de nuevo a "cruzar al otro lado", ya que 3 mil 397 de ellos fueron repatriados por lo menos dos veces.

El informe, elaborado por la Dirección General de Protección a Mexicanos en el Exterior, de la Cancillería, deja en claro que

aunque los motivos de la migración son diversos, el riesgo que han tomado los menores de edad para cruzar solos ya no tiene como objetivo principal reencontrarse con alguno de sus padres o familiares, países de los 17 mil 772 niños y adolescentes deportados el año pasado, sólo 20% tenían ese propósito al viajar.

Un total de 11 mil 378 menores (64% de los casos) reconocieron que dejaron sus lugares de origen para conseguir trabajo.

Del total de menores repatriados, la mayoría tienen al menos la secundaria completa, aproximadamente 33% (5 mil 943), mientras que sólo 321 continúan con la preparatoria o el bachillerato terminado, y 3 mil 163 habían concluido la primaria.

"Los datos nos indican la

necesidad temprana del menor por insertarse en el mercado laboral, y la consecuente pérdida para el Estado mexicano de la inversión que ha significado la educación de estos menores", indica el análisis.

La edad de los menores deportados refuerza el hecho



104 jóvenes que fungían como guías de indocumentados para internarse a EU o incluso se dedicaban al tráfico de personas, mientras que 69 aceptaron que cruzaron la frontera a fin de realizar tráfico de drogas", lo que apunta a la utilización de este sector por parte del crimen organizado, sobre todo en Texas y California.

Estados expulsores

El diagnóstico señala que "respecto al origen y destino de la "niñez migrante no acompañada", la mayoría proviene de estados mexicanos que históricamente han mantenido una alta tendencia a emigrar".

La lista la encabeza Michoacán, seguido de Guanajuato, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Puebla, Tamaulipas y

Veracruz, de donde eran originarios 8 mil 510 de los niños.

Sobre el destino de los infantes que viajan solos en busca de trabajo, para reunirse con sus familiares o para estudiar —corto fue el caso de 933 de los menores repatriados en 2008—, el documento revela que California es el principal punto del territorio estadounidense al que se dirigían, aunque también aparecen Texas, Arizona, Nueva York, Illinois y Florida.

El reporte destaca además que entre el grupo de menores deportados están 493 que pertenecen a 33 etnias del país, siendo la mayoría mixtecos, zapotecos y nahuas. De acuerdo con el documento, que compila datos proporcionados por la Red Consular Fronteriza de México en Estados Unidos, la información podría ser útil para crear políticas adecuadas para la protección de los niños y jóvenes que por diversos motivos cruzan la frontera, reconociendo que "los menores no acompañados enfrentan peligros y adversidades durante su ruta migratoria, situación que los coloca en clara vulnerabilidad".

Obama Pledges 600,000 New Jobs in Next Three Months

Struggling to bring the economy to heel, President Barack Obama Monday pledged to accelerate job creation over the next three months.

Obama, on his first working day after his journey to the Middle East and Europe, announced 10 new projects aimed at creating or saving more than 600,000 jobs through upgrades of parks, highways, veterans' medical facilities and airports.

At a meeting with his Cabinet, Obama was optimistic about last week's unemployment report, which he said showed the



"fewest number of jobs we have lost in about eight months," or 345,000 jobs.

But the unemployment rate still jumped half a percentage point to 9.4 per cent, and Obama said that was a "reminder we're still in the middle of a very deep

recession."

Nonetheless, Obama said the slowing job loss figures indicated "we're moving in the right direction."

The money for the programs will come from the \$787 billion stimulus money approved by Congress shortly after Obama took office in January.

The House of Representatives Republican leader John Boehner criticized the announcement of new programs, saying it was an "acknowledgement that the Democrats' trillion-dollar stimulus is not working."

Obama to Take Charge of Healthcare Debate

President Barack Obama has decided he needs to take charge of the push for change in U.S. healthcare, senior aides said.

Obama's weekly address, released Saturday while he was in France for the 65th anniversary of D-Day on the last day of a trip to the Middle East and Europe, focused on healthcare.

Budget Director Peter Orszag told The New York Times Obama has decided he can no longer lay out broad principals and leave the details to Congress. He had adopted that strategy in hopes of avoiding a debate like the one former President Bill Clinton encountered

on healthcare reform 15 years ago, the newspaper said.

"Ultimately, as happened with the (economic) recovery act, it will become President Obama's plan," Orszag said. "I think you will see that evolution occurring over the next few weeks. We will be weighing in more definitively, and you will see him out there."

In his weekly address, Obama



suggested the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. — which provides excellent medical care at below-average cost — could be a model for the rest of the country.

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Luce Shakira camiseta de México en los Ángeles



rante su visita para la filmación de un video. La artista, que ha vendido más de 50 millones de discos y ganó dos premios Grammy y ocho veces el Grammy Latino,

apoyo a México en momentos difíciles. Shakira reafirmó que México es un país inguinal-able, hermoso y de imponente geografía, que se distingue por el calor humano y hospitalario, y remató jublosa con un "Viva México".

La colombiana, que está a punto de lanzar su nuevo material discográfico, rompió récord de asistencia en un concierto desarrollado en el Zócalo de la capital mexicana, al reunir a unas 210 mil personas.

Además, fue la primera en realizar una presentación en español en los MTV Video Music Awards, al interpretar el tema "La tortura" junto al español Alejandro Sanz.

Shakira se suma así al apoyo de varios artistas para promover a México como destino turístico, luego del brote de influenza humana en el país hace unas semanas, que postergó y canceló varios conciertos.

Por iniciativa del cantante Alejandro Fernández, Gloria Estefán, David Bisbal, Paulina Rubio y Reily actuarán en Guadalajara, de forma gratuita, el próximo 20 y 27 de junio en el concierto "Jalisco Vive 2009".

La cantautora colombiana Shakira fue el centro de atención al ser captada por los fotógrafos, durante su estancia en Los Ángeles, California, luciendo una camiseta en apoyo a México.

lució además con orgullo la playera por diversos lugares para hacer patente su cariño y agradecimiento a México por tantos años de apoyo.

También se dio tiempo para atender la curiosidad de las personas que preguntaron por el significado y manifestó que fue un obsequio del intérprete mexicano Alejandro Fernández y expresa un importante mensaje de



Felicidades a Gabriela Narvez, que cumple 15 años el **Sábado día 6 de Junio**. Ella es hija de **Oscar y Monica Narvez**. El padre que oficia fue el **Father Nelson Diaz** en la **Iglesia San Ramon en Woodrow, Tx.**

Karen Olivo Wins Tony Award



Former Polk County resident Karen Olivo won a Tony Award for her role as Anita in the revival of "West Side Story" on Broadway.

She won her award for Best Performance in a Featured Actress in a Musical. Olivo, a 1994 graduate of

El cineasta mexicano Guillermo del Toro, cuya cabeza alberga un tesoro de fantasía infinita, se ha pasado a la literatura para escribir Nocturna, una fábula de vampiros en el siglo XXI, en la que a ritmo trepidante reflexiona sobre el miedo, en un Nueva York invadido por una plaga de "no muertos".

"La gente hoy tiene mucho miedo a la imperfección, que es una cosa trágica, una tragedia total, porque hay que ser realista con lo que tenemos, con lo que vivimos; se quiere evitar el dolor, el trabajo y se sueña con la fama. Pero a mí me gusta la vida con verrugas y todo. No somos perfectos y el monstruo, el vampiro, es la imperfección encarnada, por eso se tiene tanto miedo al monstruo", explica Guillermo del Toro.

El realizador del Hellboy, El laberinto del Fauno o El espinazo del diablo ha dejado diez días Nueva Zelanda, donde se ha instalado por tres años para realizar, según dice, su proyecto "más ambicioso", la adaptación cinematográfica de The Hobbit, de Tolkien, para conceder en Londres algunas entrevistas y poder hablar de Nocturna, editado en España y Latinoamérica por SUMA de Letras. "Su versión en inglés, The Strain, es editada en Estados Unidos por Harper Collins.

Un primer volumen de una trilogía escrita en colaboración con Chuck Hogan, un gran autor de best seller como Prince of Thieves.

"Ha sido fascinante escribir con Hogan —aclara—, hemos colaborado durante más de cuatro años en los tres volúmenes y me

gustaría seguir escribiendo con él, aunque también quiero hacer proyectos literarios en solitario, porque la literatura le da mucha más libertad que el cine", precisa. Una libertad que se traduce para Guillermo del Toro (Jalisco, México, 1964) en poder escribir toda clase de escenas sin tener que dar explicaciones o "tener miedo a la clasificación por la censura, la taquilla o al espectador horrorizado que se sale de la sala".

Y es que en Nocturna el lector tiene que estar preparado para concebir todo lo aparentemente inexplicable y ver no a vampiros aristócratas, seductores y elegantes con afilados colmillos y capa negra con forro de terciopelo rojo, y que luego se convierten en maricélagos, sino a seres poderosos, no muertos, que quieren regresar e invadir la tierra con "infectados" con mucha sed de sangre.

"A mí no me interesa el vampiro romántico, el que nace en la literatura de Occidente en 1819, ese vampiro dandi, del folclore popular, no me interesa. A mí me gusta el pobrediablesco, el vampiro como parásito aterrador, como un yonqui que tiene mono de sangre, me gusta el vampiro lumpen", recalca.

Y como amante de la biología, Del Toro realiza en el libro un minucioso tratado de anatomía y biología del vampiro.

"Desde niño —argumenta— me interesa ese tema y

desde entonces tenía una noción ya del cáncer como de células del cuerpo que se ponen a construir órganos que no valen para nada y que terminan matando, y pensé que había un acto de rebeldía del cuerpo y de ahí la idea del vampiro. Nunca había podido contar esto bien y ahora lo he hecho con Hogan, porque quiero dar un ángulo nuevo a la mitología del vampiro".

Este objetivo de "redefinir los orígenes del vampiro" lo podrá completar el lector con los otros dos volúmenes que conforman la trilogía. El segundo está previsto que salga a finales de año, o en el 2010 y el tercero está aún en fábrica.

Con todo ello, Del Toro quiere que al final los tres libros se lleven a la pequeña pantalla y se conviertan en una serie de TV por cable. "Quiero que los personajes no estén cerrados y darán mucha vida, los héroes se convertirán en villanos y al revés", matiza Peroth por ahora Nocturna hará felices a todos aquellos que amen a mente sin límites de Del Toro, para quien el "entrenamiento de la razón" por encima de la emoción es absolutamente aterrador".

"Cuando la gente dice que las cosas fantásticas son para jóvenes me río mucho y me da pena, porque hay gente que adora la política, que es como jugar a indios y a vaqueros con el destino de un país, están encantados y no les da vergüenza. Ahora la gente quiere reventarse y eso sí que es juvenil. Pero vamos a ver: ¿por qué hay que creer más en la geografía que en la magia? son todo líneas imaginarias, concluye con humor el creador.

Allison Iraheta lands record contract

19 Recordings announced Wednesday it has signed American Idol finalist Allison Iraheta, and her recordings have been licensed to Jive Records.

At 16, Iraheta was the youngest contestant ever to make it to the Idol Top 12. She was among Season 8's Top 4 before she was eliminated from the competition.

Her debut album is slated for release this fall, her record label said.

I think I'm still in shock that this is happening — getting to record my first album and this whole awesome experience is a dream come true, the now-17-year-old singer said in a statement.

Simon Fuller, creator and executive producer of American Idol, and Iraheta's chief executive officer of 19 Entertainment, added: Allison is an incredible young singer. She is without a doubt one of the best teenage singers American Idol has ever discovered. We all watched Allison grow in confidence and stature as she

performed each week on the show and we can only imagine how far



this special girl can continue to blossom in the years ahead.

Allison was an absolute standout this season. RCA/JIVE Label Group's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Barry Weiss said, Her bluesy, powerful voice, spunky attitude, and edgy star power immediately captivated us and it didn't matter where she ranked on Idol. We knew we wanted her to join our amazing crop of young talent at Jive.

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Foreman III wins pro debut, KO's Weaver in first round



George Foreman III won in his professional debut, stopping Clyde Weaver at 1:16 of the first round Saturday night at Coughlin Casino Resort.

Foreman, the 26-year-old son of two-time world heavyweight champion George Foreman, floored Weaver with a left hook to the chin. Earlier, the 6-foot-5, 236-pound Foreman knocked Weaver (0-2) down with a left hook to the body.

"It feels good to know all the torture my father put me through paid off," Foreman said.

The elder Foreman, who is his son's manager and trainer, didn't watch the fight, choosing to let his hand-picked corner team guide his son. After the fight was

stopped, the father went into the arena to see his son. "You never know. This guy surprised me. A guy can train in the gym and look

real good. But then they get in the ring and is a flop," the elder Foreman said. "Now I know he's a fighter."

When the opening bell rang, Foreman ran straight ahead to meet Weaver and began to throw jabs and hooks. Less than 30 seconds into the fight, Foreman threw a left hook that landed on Weaver's chin, forcing him to the canvas.

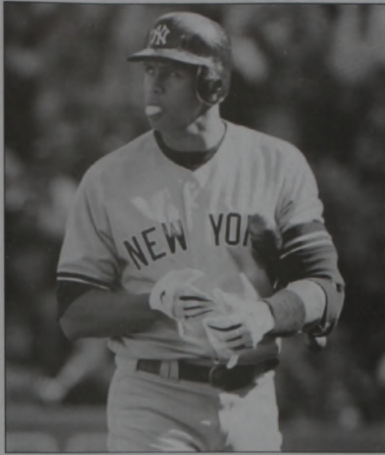
Weaver got up, but landed back on the mat again when Foreman hit him with a left hook to the body.

"I'm happy to make my debut. The goal was to have my first fight," Foreman said. "The hardest thing going into the fight was waiting for the undercard to end."

Remember that tell-all book about A-Rod?

Just a month after making headlines with its allegations that the New York Yankees star likely used steroids as far back as high school, Selena Roberts' "A-Rod: The Many Lives of Alex Rodriguez" has vanished from best seller lists.

Published in early May by HarperCollins with an announced first printing of 150,000, "A-Rod" has sold just 16,000 copies so far, according to Nielsen BookScan, which tracks about 75 percent of industry sales. The book sold 11,000 in its first week, then quickly faded.



At the Rizzoli Bookstore in midtown Manhattan, "A-Rod" has sold two copies. Twenty-sev-

hatten, "A-Rod" has sold two copies. Twenty-sev-

en copies have sold at Posman Books, based in Grand Central Terminal, but none in the past two weeks.

"I don't think he's ever been embraced by serious fans," Logan Fox, a manager at Posman, said Wednesday. "He's still considered an outsider." "A-Rod" fell off The New York Times' hardcover list of nonfiction best sellers after three weeks, peaking at No. 9 in late May. As of Wednesday afternoon, the book ranked No. 2,904 on Amazon.com, where even James Frey's discredited memoir "A Million Little Pieces" - at 1,776 - is out-selling it.

NFL star Jacobs taking swing at boxing biz

Brandon Jacobs isn't waiting until his NFL playing days are over before deciding what he wants to do next.

The New York Giants star is breaking into professional boxing - but not as a promoter or fighter, although the 6-foot-4, 260-pounder might make a bruising heavyweight. Instead, Jacobs wants to be a manager, the behind-the-scenes guy who signs and molds young fighters, just maybe taking one or two of them to the top.

"I do have my day job, but this is something I look at and take very seriously, because it's another guy's livelihood in the palm of my hand," Jacobs told The Associated Press on Wednesday at a news conference ahead of Miguel Cotto's heavyweight title fight against Joshua Clottey. "I've been wanting to get into this business after I was done playing."

The average career of an NFL player is 3 1/2 seasons, according to the NFL Players Association. Even stars like Jacobs, who ran for 1,089 yards and 15 touchdowns for the Giants last season, are usually finished by their early 30s.

Some open restaurants and sports bars, some begin working in financial services, others end up in the broadcast booth. But the 26-year-old Jacobs has always had an interest in the "sweet science," and put together an impressive amateur career growing up in Louisiana. He lost only twice in more than 30 fights.

When Jacobs began considering colleges, he could only find a few that even had boxing

clubs. He wound up at Southern Illinois, hung up the gloves and dedicated himself to football, and a few years later helped lead the Giants to the Super Bowl. "I've been into boxing a long time, boxing is something that has driven me very much," said Jacobs, who still tries to spar in the gym once in a while.

"I've been wanting to get into the business after I was done playing. If I didn't fight, I wanted to get into the promotion business, but I hear from people that a lot of headache, so I wanted to do something that was more personable with the fighters."

Jacobs has known former junior welterweight champion Kendall Holt for years, and when Holt had a falling out with his management team, he asked Jacobs to fill in. Next thing he knew, Jacobs was signing papers that made him a pro manager.

While admittedly a novice when it comes to the intricacies of contracts, securing venues, marketing and promotions, Jacobs has found plenty of support from the boxing community.

Top Rank, one of the biggest promotional companies in the sport, has lent some guidance, and Jacobs is teaming with longtime manager Pat Lynch, who helped guide the career of former champ and popular brawler Arturo Gatti.

"We're looking to sign some young fighters. We've got one on the radar screen we'll try to have under contract next week," Lynch said of their newfound partnership. "Brandon is a very knowledgeable guy in the boxing business. He knows a lot."

Jets sign Sanchez to five-year deal, including \$28M guaranteed

Mark Sanchez wanted no contract squabbles or training camp headaches.

The New York Jets' rookie quarterback got his big deal - and a huge sense of relief - before minicamp was even completed, signing a five-year deal Wednesday that could be worth up to \$60 million, including \$28 million guaranteed.

"It sends the right message," Sanchez said. "It's not in my makeup to hold out like that. That would've just been terrible for me. This just eliminates that whole factor. I'll be there Day 1, ready to go and compete. It's going to be a good time and a competitive time."

Agent David Dunn said the deal is worth "around the \$50 million mark," but could reach as high as \$60 million with incentives. That would make it the richest rookie deal ever given out by the Jets.

"This is just the beginning," Sanchez said. "I'll be working every day to justify this contract."

Detroit gave quarterback Matthew Stafford, the No. 1 overall pick and the only other first-round pick to sign, a six-year contract worth up to \$78 million, with \$41.7 million in guarantees. While Sanchez's deal falls short of that, Dunn said the contract for five years instead of the usual six for top picks satisfied both sides.

"I think from the Jets' standpoint, there's probably a little bit less money at risk," Dunn said. "And from our standpoint, I think \$28 million in guaranteed money will tide him over fine for a while. And, obviously, he reaches free agency a year sooner."

Sanchez led Southern California to a Rose Bowl victory over Penn State with a record-setting performance in his final college game. He's competing with veteran Kellen Clemens for the Jets' starting job, up for grabs after the retirement of Brett Favre.

"The one thing that really comes to my mind is, breath of fresh air and, wow, I feel now," Sanchez said. "Let's really compete for this job and let's get into camp. I'll be in on time and I have nothing to worry about there. It's time to focus on football."

New York's last two top picks, linebacker Vernon Gholston and cornerback Darrelle Revis, reported to training camp late while trying to negotiate deals.

"We had some discussions a few weeks ago," general manager Mike Tannenbaum said of Sanchez's representatives.

"I give them a lot of credit. We were trying to create a sense of urgency, even though it's still early... We didn't think there was any need to wait if both sides could create that sense of urgency and if both sides could come up with a deal that was good for both sides."

Tannenbaum said the contract, drawn up by Dick, Andrew Kessler and Nick Sanchez, Mark's brother, was 47 pages long. Sanchez was headed to Tannenbaum's office to finish signing all six copies of the contract.

"It's only the tip of the iceberg," Sanchez said. "There's so much more I want to accomplish. This doesn't assume that you're going to be successful. It's going to take a lot of hard work."

Sanchez has impressed at times during organized team

activities and minicamp practices, showing poise, confidence and good decision-making skills. He and Clemens have been about even in their competition. Dunn represents both quarterbacks, which could be a potentially uncomfortable situation for an agent.

"Kellen and Mark are two great players and they're two great competitors," Dunn said. "I think that'll make it both good for them and for the Jets."

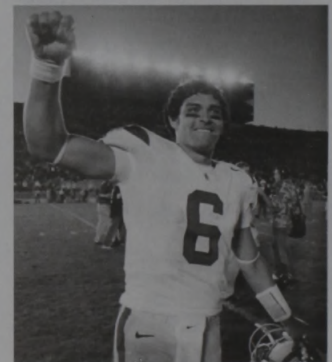
The Jets made a bold draft-day move to get Sanchez, acquiring the fifth overall pick from Cleveland, and former coach Eric Mangini, for their first-round pick, their second-round (No. 52), and

defensive end Kenyon Coleman, safety Abram Elam and quarterback Brett Ratnam.

"Sanchez went 14-2 as a starter with the Trojans. His lack of experience - he had only one full season as a starter - had some questioning whether he was ready for the NFL, but the Jets loved what they saw of him in private workouts and a classroom session in a hotel room at the owners' meetings in California in March."

After drafting Sanchez, coach Rex Ryan said there would be an open competition for the quarterback job.

"From here on out, it's about football," Ryan said. "He's a great young man who has been working hard since he got here and I'm excited that we have him in the fold."



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